

The future of the \$1.7 trillion app economy depends on the strength and density of America's wireless and wired backhaul networks. The deployment of 5G will create 8.5 million jobs in the United States over the next five years and add over \$900 billion to U.S. gross domestic product (GDP). Moreover, 5G can provide fixed wireless service—which would compete directly with the traditional means of home internet access most consumers use now.



Broadband supports the 77 percent of Americans who own a smartphone, and more than 28.4 billion internet of things (IoT) devices depend on internet connectivity. As more Americans own smartphones and more IoT devices come online, legacy telecommunications infrastructure and frequency allocations will not be sufficient to manage this burgeoning network traffic. Recent 5G pilots have demonstrated the technology's ability to provide staggering internet speeds, more than 75 times the speed of 4G LTE.

- While 4G LTE helped make the internet more accessible on mobile devices, 5G offers ultra-low latency to its users, giving mobile infrastructure the reliability needed for the applications that depend on network integrity.
- These enhancements can provide a highly tailored service to meet specific customer needs, ranging from virtual healthcare treatments, remote working, cutting-edge consumer entertainment, and others.
- More specifically, our members can make data-rich applications that require a high-quality connection allowing faster data transfer and information sharing between workers who may be at a virtual desk, at a medical clinic, in an IoT-enabled warehouse, or with a customer in the store.

Broadband Mapping

Now more than ever, it is critically important for Americans to access the internet at home. Even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, at least 20 million Americans lacked access to reliable broadband. With Americans today relying on broadband more heavily in working, learning, and accessing healthcare from home, the sudden shift to conducting our lives on the internet is increasing the spotlight on the digital divide.

During the pandemic, everyday face-to-face interactions are mostly online. The millions of Americans who still cannot access broadband at home lack an important means of accessing work, education, and healthcare—and both internet service providers and policymakers need to know exactly where those coverage gaps are so that federal resources can support deployment to them. Accurate and granular maps are central to efforts to close the digital divide, and without them, underserved and unserved areas will remain out of reach. The App Association supports the implementation of **the Broadband Deployment Accuracy and Technological Availability (DATA) Act (S. 1822/H.R. 4229)**, which was signed into law earlier this year. This law directs the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to capture more accurately where broadband customers are receiving internet services and at what speed. But Congress must allocate sufficient funding for the FCC to carry out this task.

To support the growth and potential of the dynamic American economy, we urge Congress to:

- Require the FCC to make more “mid-band” spectrum (which is ideal for 5G) available for licensed and unlicensed use, as provided for in the **Advancing Innovation and Reinvigorating Widespread Access to Viable Electromagnetic Spectrum (AIRWAVES) Act (S. 2223)**.
- Liberate more government-owned spectrum bands for commercial IoT use, particularly in the mid-band and millimeter wave bands. Federal agencies hold nearly 60 percent of our nation’s spectrum resources, much of which is underused and could be repurposed for 5G deployment and other commercial uses. **To this end, we urge you to support the Government Spectrum Valuation Act (S. 1626)**.
- Support measures to accelerate the deployment of broadband to unserved areas, such as the **Accelerating Broadband Connectivity Act of 2020 (S. 4021)**. The legislation would accelerate the timeline for cost-effective deployment of broadband facilities to unserved parts of the United States.
- Support measures to ensure subscribers affected by the pandemic can continue to access broadband, such as the bipartisan **Keeping Critical Connections Act (S. 3569)**. The legislation would authorize and appropriate funds to cover small ISPs’ costs associated with providing free or discounted broadband service to low-income subscribers and students during the emergency period.
- Appropriate **additional funding** for the FCC to implement the provisions of the **Broadband DATA Act**.