September 29, 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR: Members of Congress and Staff

FROM: Robert Johnston
Chief of Staff

RE: Broadband: A Data Stroll

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Office of Inspector General's (OIG's) Office of Analytics and Innovation and the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) OIG's Data Analytics team have partnered to develop a dynamic new data presentation that provides a unique opportunity to examine the national broadband landscape. This interactive tool, entitled [Broadband: A Data Stroll](), empowers users with functionality allowing on-demand review and contextualization of publicly available broadband information. As a joint venture between OIGs, this data stroll represents a model of collaboration that minimizes duplication of analytical efforts and facilitates oversight of programs that span agencies. By presenting big data in an easily accessible format, the data stroll enhances transparency of broadband-related funding and provides context of the broadband program in service of OIG's oversight mission.

The compilation of data—drawn from public sources published by USDA, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and DOC—includes current national broadband coverage as well as broadband funding information provided by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Specifically, users can see individual awards granted through USDA Rural Development's ReConnect Loan and Grant Program and DOC National Telecommunications and Information Administration's Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program, and Digital Equity Act programs. Users can also learn about the different types of broadband technologies and their availability across the United States and its territories. This information is supplemented with population demographics and other broadband-related statistics captured in the U.S. Census Bureau's American Communities Survey and FCC's Form 477. Though the FCC revised its data collection efforts for the National Broadband Map in 2022, it is currently reviewing challenges submitted by stakeholders as part of their initial challenge periods and therefore that information is not presented in the data story at this time.

We used public data from USDA, DOC, and FCC to source the dashboards and data visualizations. We present this data, unaltered. Neither USDA OIG or DOC OIG is responsible for the collection or publication of the source data, and we render no recommendations or conclusions based on the data.

The data stroll is available through USDA OIG's website (https://usdaoig.oversight.gov/infrastructure) and DOC OIG's website (https://www.oig.doc.gov).

If you have further questions, please contact me at (202) 793-3301.