

PRESS RELEASE

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Sabine Parish Police Jury

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High Speed Broadband Service Expanding in Sabine Parish

MANY, LA - One objective of the national COVID recovery response was to increase the availability of broadband to underserved rural areas of the country. The Sabine Parish Economic Development Committee (EDC) and the Sabine Parish Police Jury have been working diligently with broadband service providers to implement high speed internet in Sabine Parish. In late 2021 the State of Louisiana announced the availability of funds through the GUMBO Program that could be obtained on a competitive basis, leveraging American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds used as a matching source. On July 27, 2022 the state announced that Sabine Parish won competitive bids for \$20,730,735 in broadband projects. The awards went to two broadband service providers. The projects will make broadband available to 4,561 homes and businesses. These service providers were also awarded grants from the FCC Rural Digital Opportunity Fund for projects in Sabine Parish totaling \$17,795,000 and estimated to service 8,606 homes and businesses. By partnering with state, federal and private business the Sabine Parish EDC and the Sabine Parish Police Jury will make it possible for more than 13,000 homes and businesses in Sabine Parish to have access to broadband in the future.