

Trinity County is a small rural County in Northern California. With a land area of 3208 Square Miles, a population according to the 2000 Census of 13022 and a population density of 4.1 persons per square mile Trinity County is among the more rural areas in California. Less than 25% of the population has potential access to Broadband with an average data transmission speed of less than the current standard of 768 kilobits. Most of the residents are limited to dial up access to the internet.

A rural broadband strategy should be implemented much like the rural electrification that occurred in the 1930's. Most of Trinity County did not receive access to electricity until the Rural Electrification Act. The same conditions exist today regarding broadband. While it is considered an essential service by many, including the Federal Government, the citizens of Trinity County will not benefit from access to broadband without a program designed to reach the most remote portions of the County.

Policies should include requiring that investor owned utilities allow access to existing fiber optic cable where it exists. Policies should also consider the middle mile and last mile of infrastructure in order to insure actual access by the citizens.