Funding for Broadband: Indiana & Beyond

The need for, and benefits, of aggregating high-speed Internet access for public libraries

Polls: Who are you?

- Does your library have adequate Internet connectivity speed?

- Are you the local advocate/expert for increasing broadband?

Today's presentation

- Need for broadband

- Funding and aggregation

- Indiana research

- Role of the library in society

- Federal broadband initiatives

- BTOP & BIP

Is there any doubt libraries need broadband?

- Think of all the ways public libraries and their patrons use the Internet
  - Computer training
  - Career or employment counseling
  - Small business counseling
  - Others?

Libraries need reliable broadband

- Scholarly research

- Anecdotal articles and reports

- ALA's *Libraries Connect Communities*
  - Public Library Funding and Technology Access Study (McClure & Bertot)

Recognizing the need in Indiana

- Previous aggregation attempt
- More efficiency & cost effectiveness needed
- Public Library Internet Consortium (PLIC)

PLIC Structure

- Opt-in
- Single Internet Service Provider
- E-rate optional

Replicable

Assumed Benefits

- Stable fees
- Lowered costs
- Guaranteed connection speeds
- Added technical & consulting support

Costs & Challenges

- Leadership need
- Additional hoops
- Vendor chances

- Shrinking budgets
- Greater needs
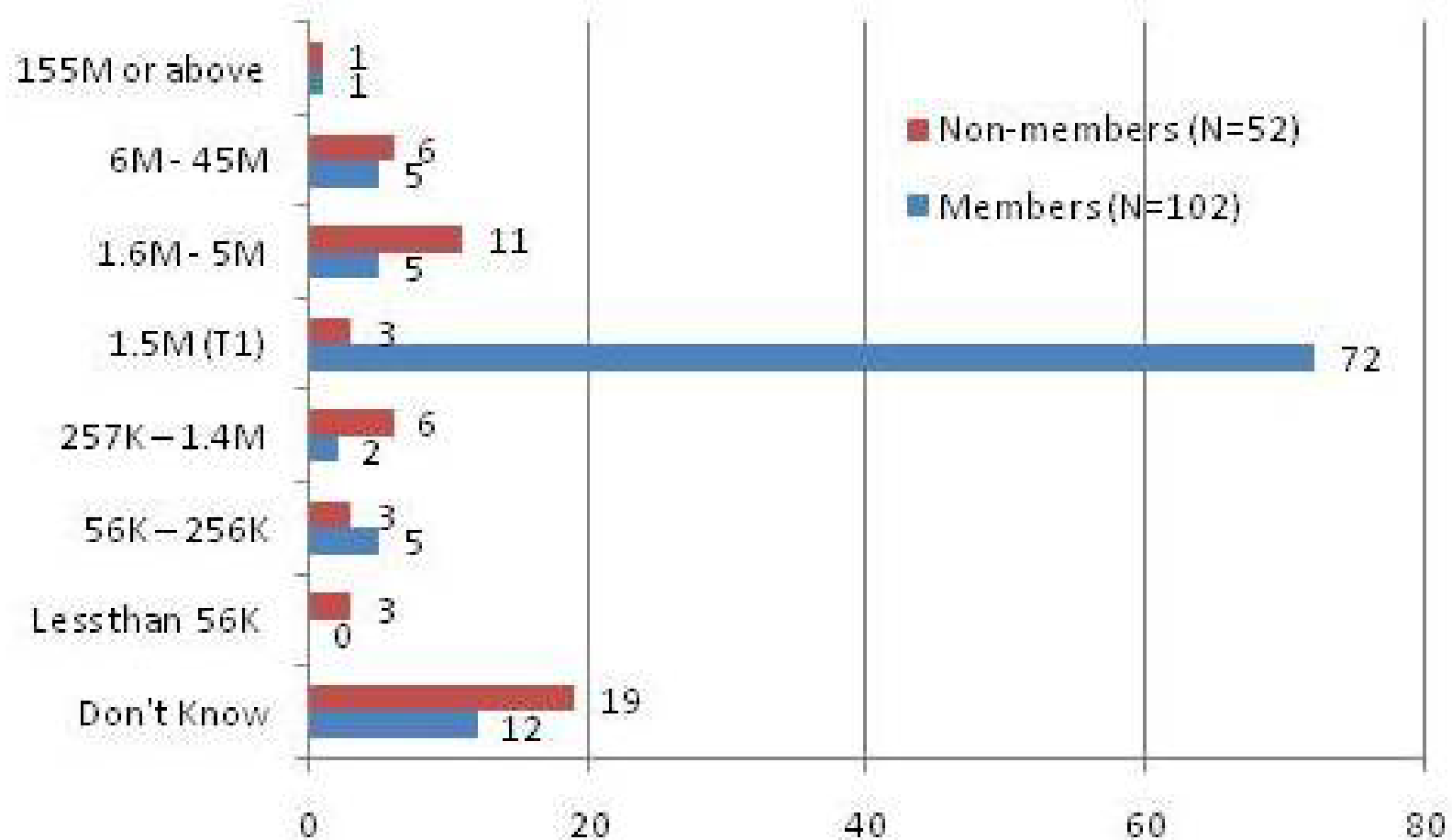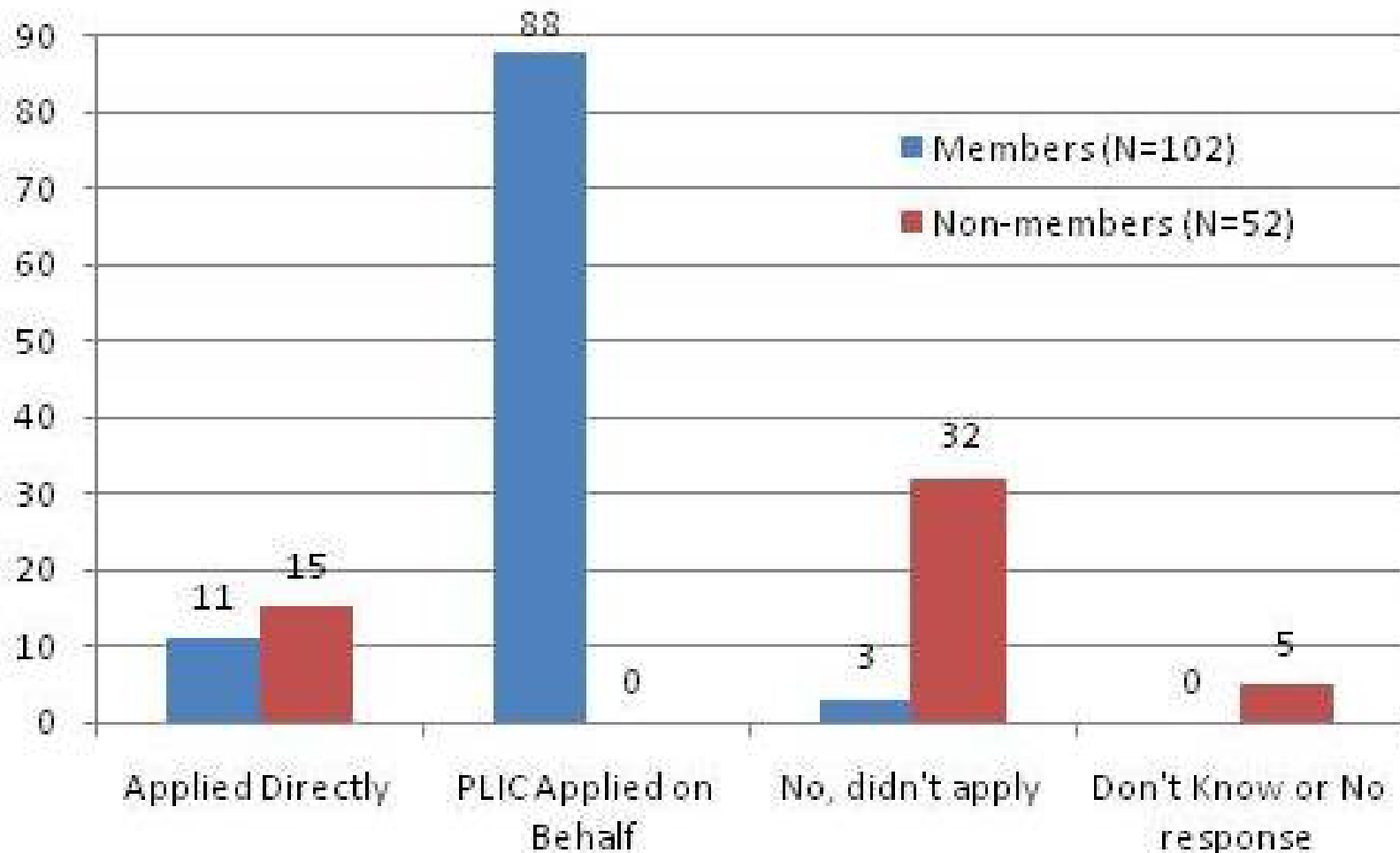- Defining Broadband

PLIC Review

- SLIS proposal to ISL – survey

- Is aggregation worth the money?

- Connectivity details not a priority for directors

- Published Fall of 2009
  - *Government Information Quarterly*
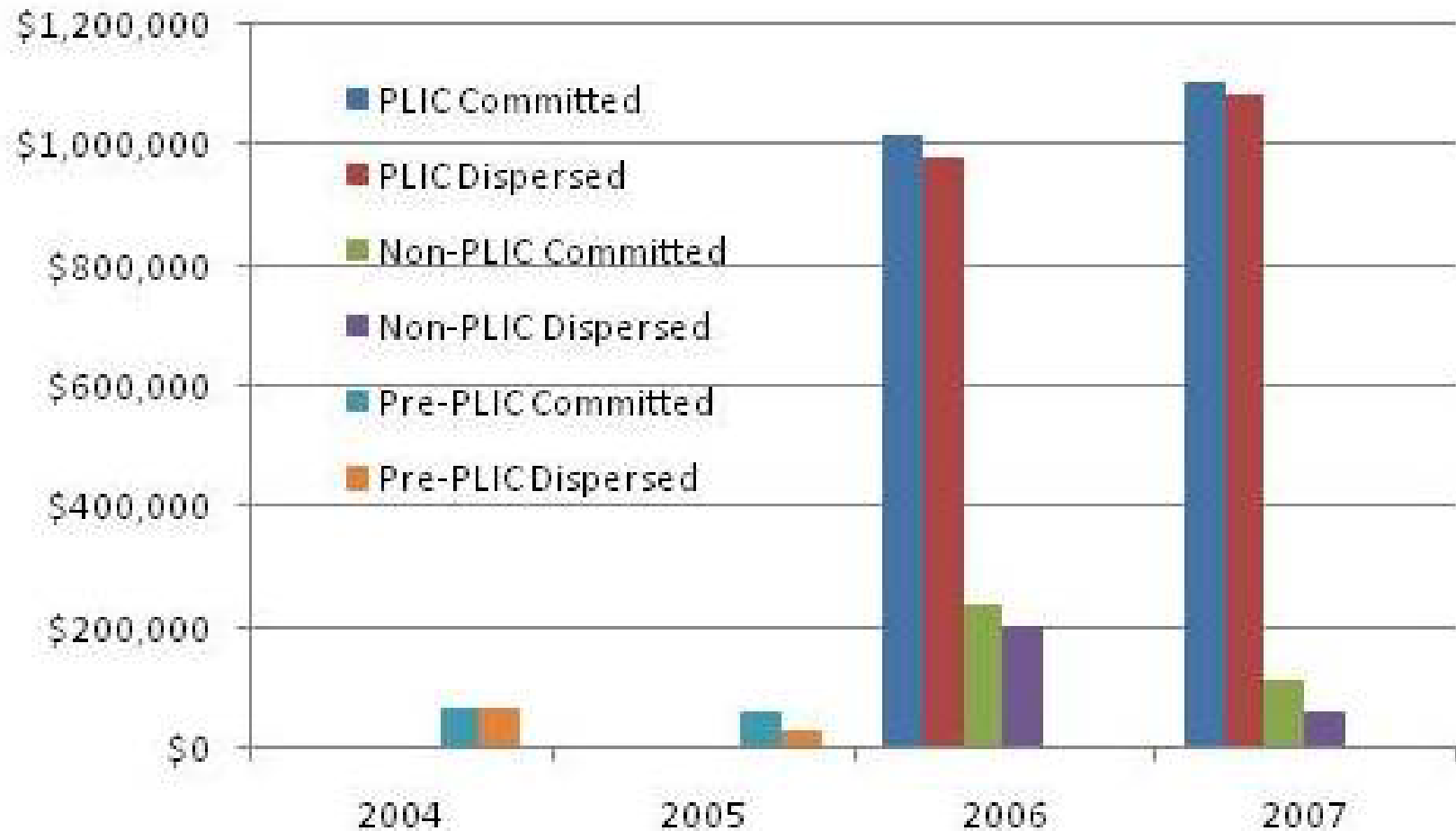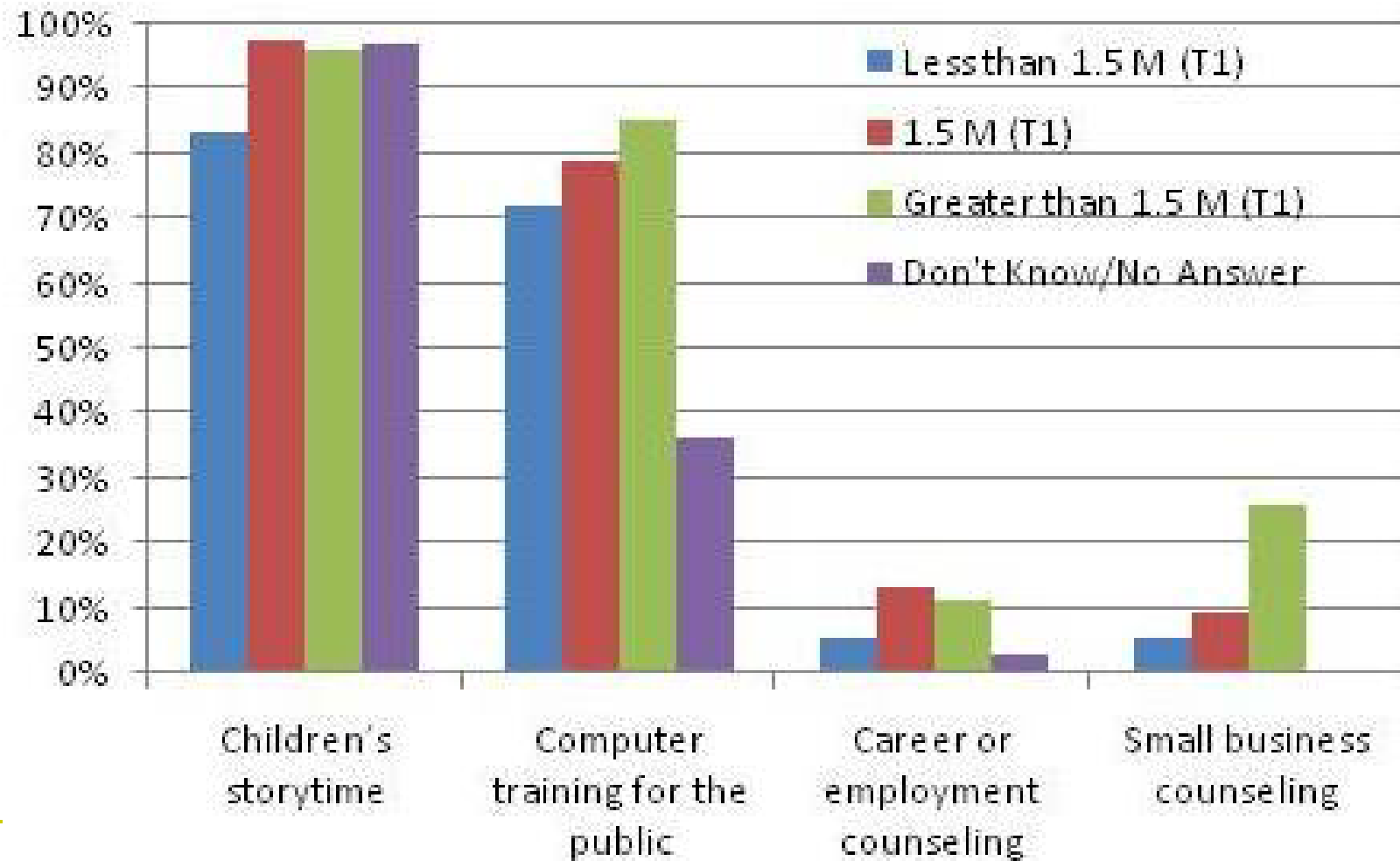 - *Public Libraries*

Member/non-member bandwidth

E-rate applications & PLIC status

SLD funding of internet access

Program offerings by bandwidth

Role of Library in Society

- Successfully Networked Public Library
    - Bertot, McClure, Jaeger, and Ryan
- Network Infrastructure
- Networked services include the equipment
- Virtual Branch
    - More than just a website
- Community engagement

The Broadband Initiatives

- National Broadband Plan
- Broadband map
- Funding – Commerce & Agriculture
  - Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
  - Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP)
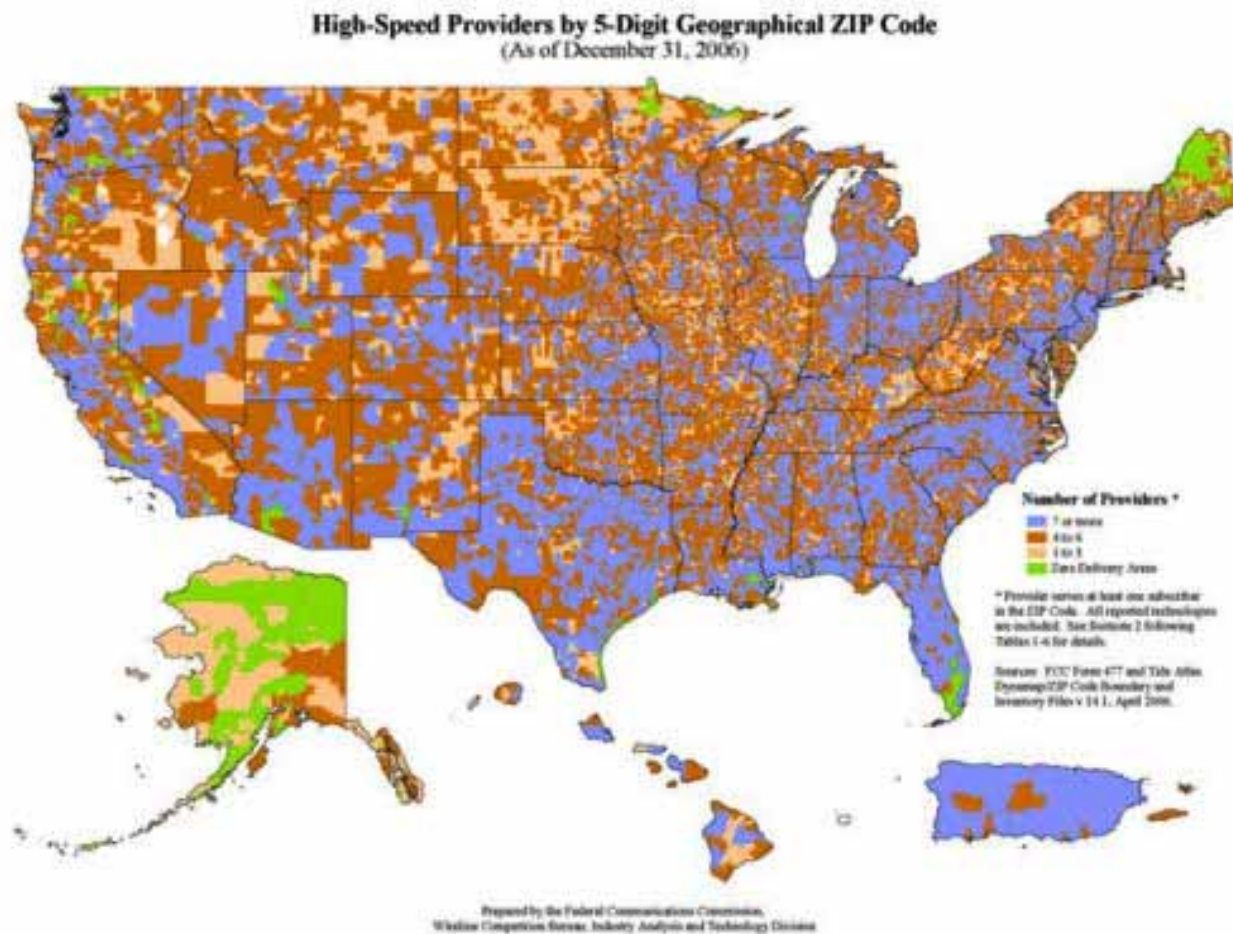
  http://www.broadbandusa.gov/

National Broadband Plan

- FCC: 768 Kbps   ALA: 1.5 Mbps
- National focus for services in:
  - Education
  - Healthcare
  - Energy independence
  - Job creation and economic growth
- Reduce redundancy
- Formal report to Congress: March 17

Broadband Map

- What is it?
- Why do libraries care?

High-Speed Providers by 5-Digit Geographical ZIP Code
(As of December 31, 2006)

Poll: Where are you?

- Rural (population of 20,000 or under)

- Suburban

- Urban

BTOP & BIP

- RUS (BIP) - $2.5 billion
- NTIA (BTOP) - $4.7 billion
- One-time funding (not for operations)

- Broadband infrastructure
- Public Computing Centers
- Sustainable Broadband Adoption

BTOP Round 2 ($2.6 billion)

- Comprehensive Community Infrastructure
  - $2.35 billion
- Public Computing Centers
  - $150 million
- Sustainable Broadband Adoption
  - $100 million
- Favor Community Anchor Institutions
  - Libraries, Schools, Community colleges
  - Hospitals, Public Safety, Community Support

BIP Round 2 ($2.105 billion)

- **Specially designated funding**
  - Last Mile projects: $1.7 Billion
    - 75% grant & 25% loan
  - Middle Mile projects: $300 Million
    - 75% grant & 25% loan
  - Satellite projects: $100 Million
    - 100% grant
  - Rural Library Broadband: $5 Million
    - 100% grant
    - Separate Regional Library Broadband grants ???

A word about E-rate

- E-rate cannot be used as matching funds for BTOP grants

- E-rate is a great resource to assist libraries as they struggle to finance their connectivity

How can you leverage funding?

- Look first for partners
  - Other libraries
  - Other government units
  - Any organization with common interests
- What funding opportunities are out there
  - E-rate
  - BTOP
  - BIP

ALA Resources

- ## Know Your Stimulus

  www.ala.org/knowyourstimulus/

- ## Webinar series:
  - January 22: Round Two: Get Connected
  - February 5: BTOP & BIP: How to Connect
  - Sometime shortly after February 15 (Feb 19th?)

Thank you

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