

## INTRODUCTION

Broadband is defined as high-speed Internet access that is always functioning and faster than traditional dial-up access (FCC, 2019). As the world further develops into a more interconnected community, broadband is crucial to individuals who wish to participate in society, or even the economy. In 2011, the United Nations stated internet access as a human right (United Nations, 2011). Even so, many nations and communities still struggle to provide broadband to citizens in rural or underserved areas. North Carolina, a state defined by its wide-ranging geographical features, is one state in the U.S. that struggles to have complete internet connectivity. This paper is an encyclopedic conglomeration of North Carolina's overall experience with broadband, including its personal history with an internet connection and the people in the state working to get more people connected.

## PROBLEM STATEMENT

There is a lack of broadband access to underrepresented communities in North Carolina, specifically in rural and low-income areas. Part of this stems from state policies blocking various initiatives. Rural and low-income areas are greatly disadvantaged in obtaining broadband access and the resources to utilize broadband effectively. As of 2013, only 47% of families in North Carolina with incomes \$15,000 or less reported adopting broadband (NC DIT, 2017). Additionally, in 2017, the North Carolina Department of Information Technology released a report highlighting broadband access. It indicates that 10% of North Carolinians statewide still lack broadband access. Of this 10%, only 1% of these individuals reside in urban areas. This confirms that rural areas are disproportionately affected by a lack of connectivity (NC DIT, 2017).