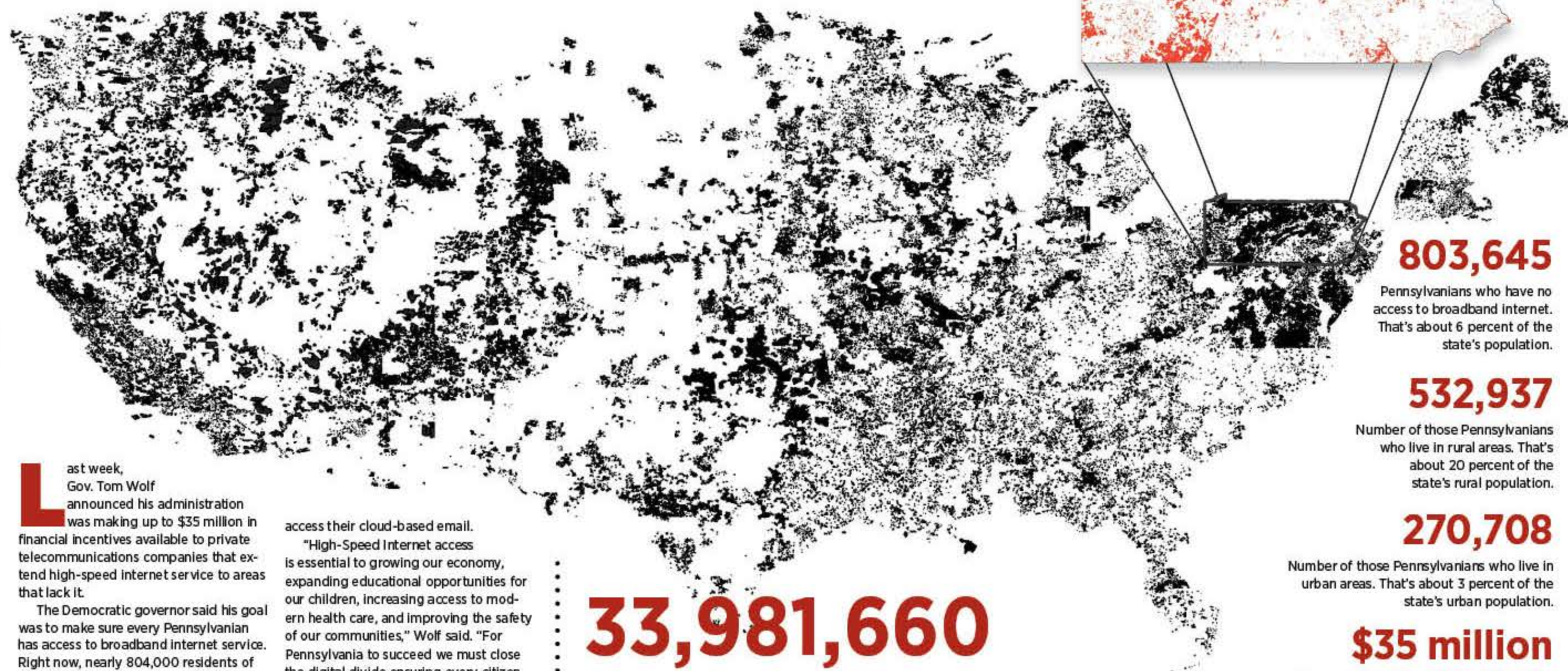


DISCONNECTED

Nearly 34 million Americans have no access to broadband internet. This is where they live.



THE MAP

Last week, Gov. Tom Wolf announced his administration was making up to \$35 million in financial incentives available to private telecommunications companies that extend high-speed internet service to areas that lack it.

The Democratic governor said his goal was to make sure every Pennsylvanian has access to broadband internet service. Right now, nearly 804,000 residents of the state do not have access to high-speed internet, about 6 percent of the population, according to the Federal Communications Commission.

Two-thirds of those who lack service live in rural Pennsylvania — parts of the northern tier counties, for example, and the Appalachians. Residents in sparsely populated areas say it's next to impossible to stream TV shows, telecommute, do videoconferencing or consistently

access their cloud-based email.

"High-Speed Internet access is essential to growing our economy, expanding educational opportunities for our children, increasing access to modern health care, and improving the safety of our communities," Wolf said. "For Pennsylvania to succeed we must close the digital divide ensuring every citizen and business has the access it needs to connect to the ever-expanding digital world in which we live and work."

The Pennsylvania Broadband Incentive Program is offering the financial incentives to private providers bidding on service areas within Pennsylvania in the Federal Communications Commission's upcoming Connect America Fund Phase II Auction.

33,981,660

Americans who have no access to broadband internet, or "fixed advanced telecommunications capability" — 10 percent of the U.S. population.

23,430,037

Those without access to broadband who live in rural areas. That's 39 percent of all rural Americans.

10,551,623

Those without access to broadband who live in urban areas — only 4 percent of urban Americans.

803,645

Pennsylvanians who have no access to broadband internet. That's about 6 percent of the state's population.

532,937

Number of those Pennsylvanians who live in rural areas. That's about 20 percent of the state's rural population.

270,708

Number of those Pennsylvanians who live in urban areas. That's about 3 percent of the state's urban population.

\$35 million

The amount Gov. Tom Wolf's administration says it's making available to encourage companies to extend high-speed internet service to areas in Pennsylvania that lack it.

2022

The year Wolf has set to expand high-speed internet service to every area of Pennsylvania.

SOURCE: FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION; GRAPHIC BY ABBY RHOAD | FOR THE CAUCUS