### Expand Broadband Deployment and Reform FCC Mapping Methodology

**Issue and Background:**

- As the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic quickly forced the vast majority of America’s workforce into a remote and virtual setting, the importance of reliable and affordable broadband has never been more of a paramount issue facing our nation.
- COVID-relief legislation (CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan Act) and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) have provided unprecedented federal resources to improving broadband across the country.
- The IIJA includes $65 billion for broadband, including $42.45 billion in grants directly to the states. This represents the largest investment in broadband in American history. The IIJA also contains provisions requiring the FCC to reform their mapping methodology.
- State CIOs understand the importance of broadband in supporting nearly every initiative in their portfolio – from improving digital government services to supporting remote work solutions to providing education and healthcare opportunities for their citizens, as well as participation in the 21st century economy.
- In this year’s [State CIO Top 10 Priorities](#), broadband was ranked by the state CIOs as their #3 priority, which includes strengthening statewide connectivity, implementing rural broadband expansion and 5G deployment.
- Currently, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) collects and maps all data on current broadband availability and service speeds, which result in inaccurate and outdated broadband coverage maps. This creates a significant issue that needs to be addressed to improve connectivity across the country.
- In a November 2021 Congressional hearing, FCC Chairwoman Rosenworcel backed up this assertion by stating that her agency’s maps simply “stink.”

**Recommendation:**

- **Leverage state-led broadband mapping strategies.** Congress and the FCC should look to leverage broadband mapping strategies that have been deployed in state broadband offices, including Georgia’s Broadband Deployment Initiative, to challenge and amend the FCC’s broadband data collection processes. A more accurate mapping process will result in improved tools to inform citizens and measure the progress of broadband programs.
- **Increase partnerships between state and federal governments.** Congress and the FCC should increase and enhance these partnerships to resolve the numerous challenges associated with broadband expansion in rural and low-income areas across the country. These challenges include lack of economic incentive for internet providers and lack of competition that keep broadband prices too high.