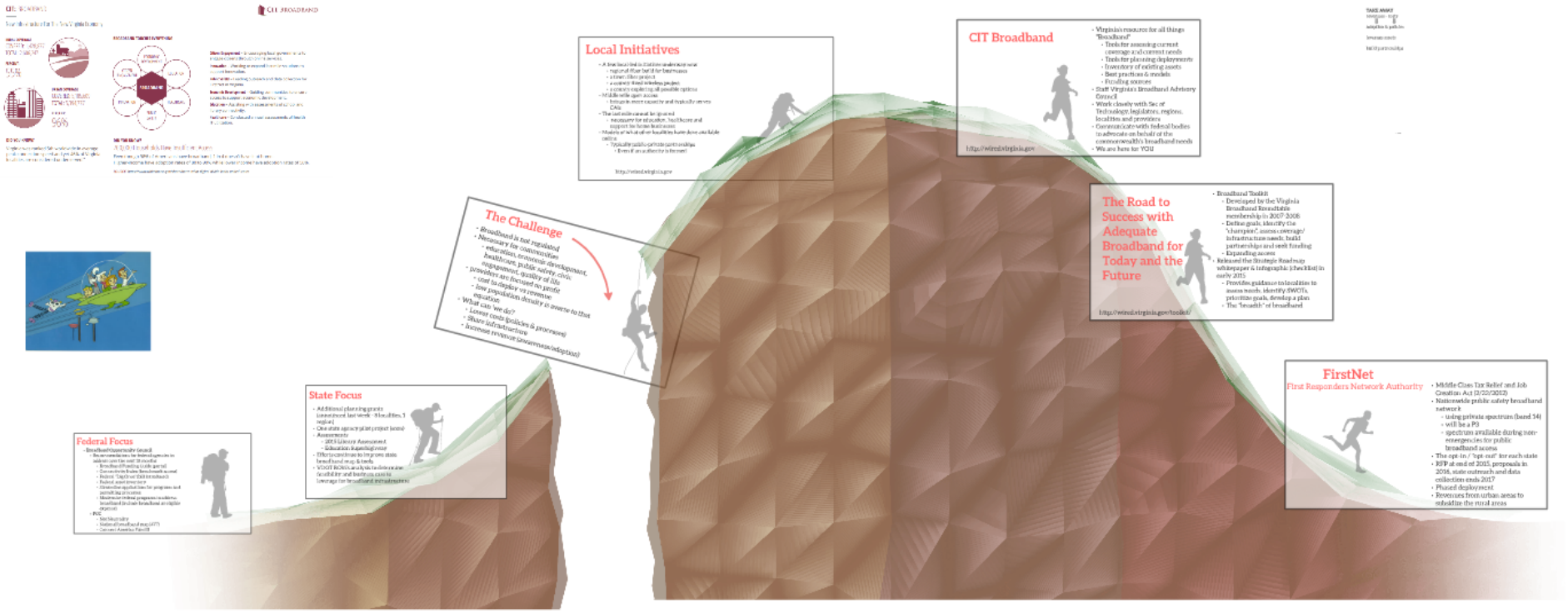
The Digital Divide

CIT BROADBAND
CENTER FOR INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

What is happening to bridge the divide?



http://www.wired.virginia.gov

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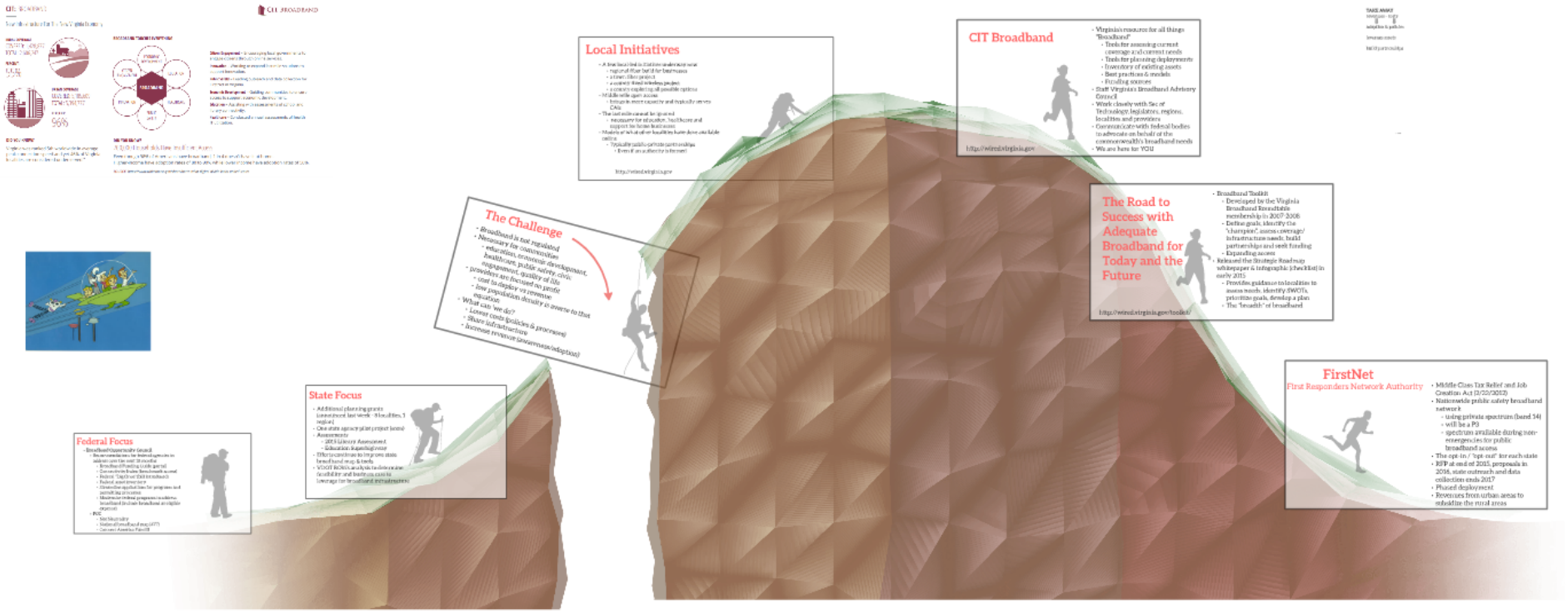

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CIT: BROADBAND

CIT BROADBAND

New Infrastructure For The New Virginia Economy

RURAL COVERAGE

COVERED: 1,428,877
TOTAL: 2,606,247

PERCENT:

55%

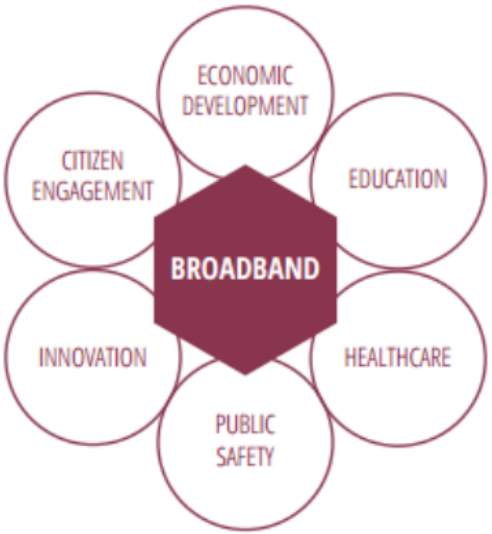
URBAN COVERAGE

COVERED: 5,185,609
TOTAL: 5,394,777

PERCENT:

96%

BROADBAND TOUCHES EVERYTHING



Citizen Engagement – Encouraging local governments to engage citizens through online services.

Innovation – Working to expand last mile solutions to support innovation.

Public Safety – Leading outreach and data collection for FirstNet in Virginia.

Economic Development – Guiding communities to ensure access to support economic development.

Education – Assisting with assessments of school and library connectivity.

Healthcare – Conducted annual assessments of health IT utilization.

DID YOU KNOW?

Virginia was ranked 5th worldwide in average peak connection speed and yet 46% of Virginia localities are considered underserved."

DID YOU KNOW?

700,000 Households Have Insufficient Access

Even though 98% of Americans have broadband, 1 in 4 doesn't have it at home.
Higher-income have adoption rates of 80 to 90% while lower income have adoption rates of 50%.

SOURCE: https://www.whitehouse.gov/share/heres-what-digital-divide-looks-united-states

Federal Focus

- **Broadband Opportunity Council**
  - Recommendations for federal agencies to address over the next 18 months
    - Broadband Funding Guide (portal)
    - Connectivity Index (benchmark access)
    - Federal "Dig Once" (bill introduced)
    - Federal asset inventory
    - Streamline applications for programs and permitting processes
    - Modernize federal programs to address broadband (include broadband as eligible expense)
  - **FCC**
    - Net Neutrality
    - National broadband map (477)
    - Connect America Fund II

State Focus

- Additional planning grants (announced last week - 8 localities, 1 region)
- One state agency pilot project (soon)
- Assessments
  - 2015 Library Assessment
  - Education Superhighway
- Efforts continue to improve state broadband map & tools
- VDOT ROWs analysis to determine feasibility and business case to leverage for broadband infrastructure

The Challenge

- Broadband is not regulated
- Necessary for communities
  - education, economic development, healthcare, public safety, civic engagement, quality of life
- providers are focused on profit
  - cost to deploy vs revenue
  - low population density is averse to that equation
- What can 'we do'?
  - Lower costs (policies & processes)
  - Share infrastructure
  - Increase revenue (awareness/adoption)

Local Initiatives

- A few local-led initiatives underway now
  - regional fiber build for businesses
  - a town fiber project
  - a county fixed wireless project
  - a county exploring all possible options
- Middle mile open access
  - brings in more capacity and typically serves CAIs
- The last mile cannot be ignored
  - necessary for education, healthcare and support for home businesses
- Models of what other localities have done available online
  - Typically public-private partnerships
    - Even if an authority is formed

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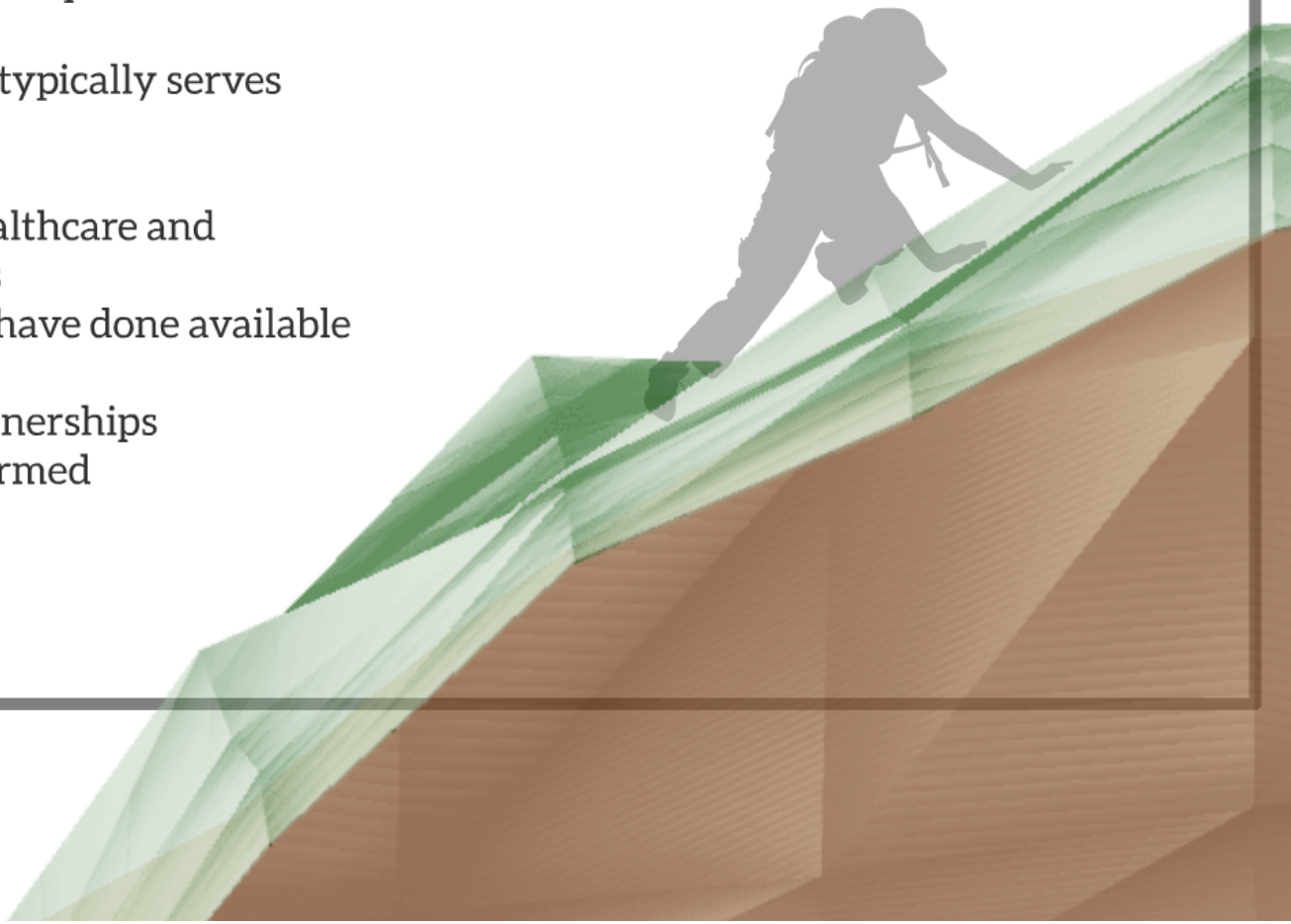

CIT Broadband

- Virginia's resource for all things "Broadband"
  - Tools for assessing current coverage and current needs
  - Tools for planning deployments
  - Inventory of existing assets
  - Best practices & models
  - Funding sources
- Staff Virginia's Broadband Advisory Council
- Work closely with Sec of Technology, legislators, regions, localities and providers
- Communicate with federal bodies to advocate on behalf of the commonwealth's broadband needs
- We are here for YOU

http://wired.virginia.gov

The Road to Success with Adequate Broadband for Today and the Future

- Broadband Toolkit
  - Developed by the Virginia Broadband Roundtable membership in 2007-2008
  - Define goals, identify the "champion", assess coverage/ infrastructure needs, build partnerships and seek funding
  - Expanding access
- Released the Strategic Roadmap whitepaper & infographic (checklist) in early 2015
  - Provides guidance to localities to assess needs, identify SWOTs, prioritize goals, develop a plan
  - The "breadth" of broadband

http://wired.virginia.gov/toolkit/

FirstNet

First Responders Network Authority

- Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act (2/22/2012)
- Nationwide public safety broadband network
  - using private spectrum (band 14)
  - will be a P3
  - spectrum available during non-emergencies for public broadband access
- The opt-in / "opt-out" for each state
- RFP at end of 2015, proposals in 2016, state outreach and data collection ends 2017
- Phased deployment
- Revenues from urban areas to subsidize the rural areas

TAKE AWAY

revenues - costs

adoption & policies

leverage assets

build partnerships

Thank You!

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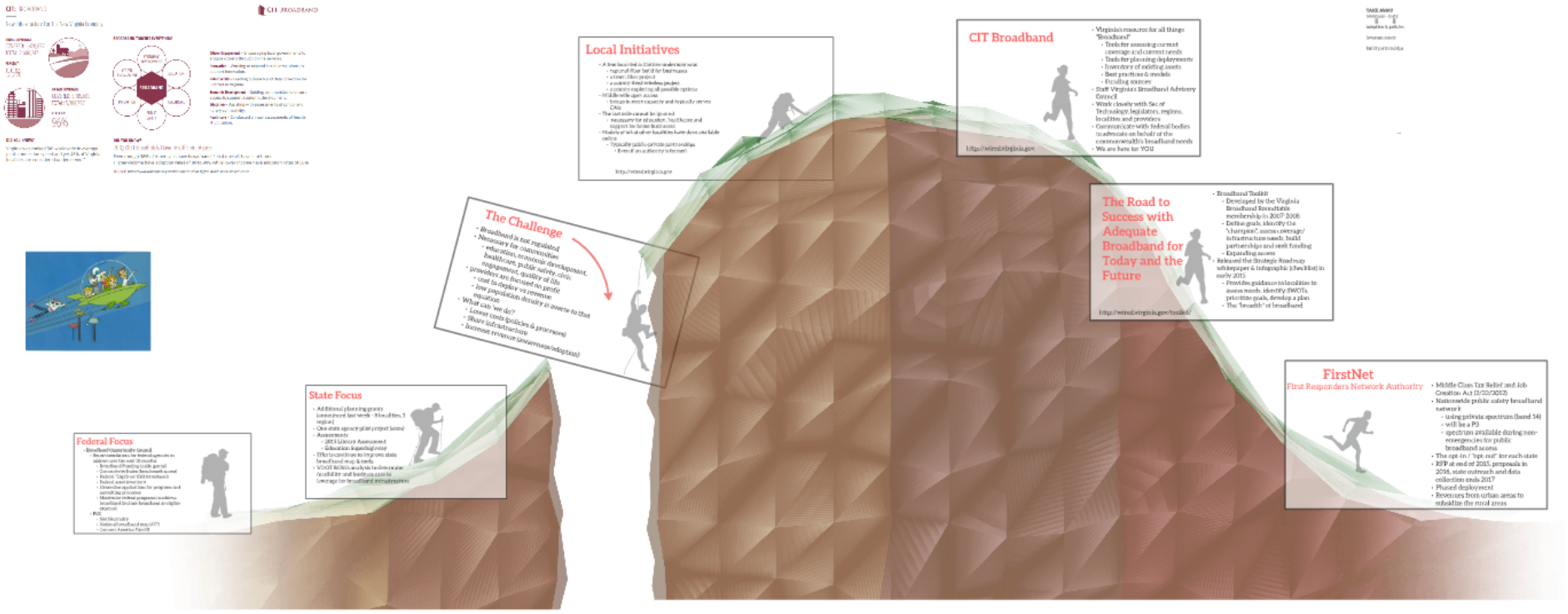

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