Rural Alabama
38 counties
24% of the population
Workforce and Education Attainment Goal Development Goal:

500,000 additional Alabamians will earn postsecondary degrees, certificates, and credentials by 2025.
How do we get there?
I. Develop skills necessary for a student to pursue a career.

II. Connect those students to career opportunities in growing in-demand industries.
Statewide Obstacles

- Teacher shortage especially in STEM fields
- Misalignment between career and technical education programs and regional industry demand
- Lack of employability skills and job experience among youths and young adults
Rural Obstacles

- All the same statewide obstacles
- Transportation
- Less work-based learning opportunities
- Higher unemployment rates
- Lack of access to broadband internet speeds
Rural Workforce Development

- Career and technical education center in every county
- Professional development for educators.
- Broadband Deployment
- Career exploration for 5th-7th grade students
- Target regionally in-demand careers through LMI data and feedback from the Alabama Workforce Council
Career and Technical Education Centers

• In 2015, the Alabama State Department of Education set out to build a CTE center in every county.
• Each of center contains a simulated workplace.
• Provides students with a place to develop employability skills.
Teacher Professional Development

- Develop pathways for existing teachers to earn certificates for computer science
- Combine computer science professional development funding streams and focus on training, not equipment
- Fully funding our CTE directors
Career Exploration

• Use Perkins funds for 5th-7th grade for career exploration.
• Allocate WIOA title I funds for career development
• Adopt technology to allow students to explore different career paths