

Rural Capacity

Identifying capacity gaps & solutions in Montana



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**Community
Partnerships**

**Economic
Research**

**Data
Tools**



**HEADWATERS
ECONOMICS**

Independent Nonpartisan Research



Working with communities to reduce wildfire risks through improved land use planning

What we do



CPAW Updates



The unequal impacts of wildfire

See where wildfire risk intersects social and economic factors that can make it



Helping communities
decrease flood risk

FloodWise Community Assistance is a free technical assistance program to decrease flood risk and strengthen communities. FloodWise provides communities with:

- **Project planning.** We identify mitigation solutions and help develop funding strategies to support community goals.
- **Capacity building.** Our team helps with stakeholder coordination, facilitates trainings, and creates peer-to-peer learning opportunities.
- **Customized research.** We provide economic analyses, data visualizations, and policy audits to answer community questions.

WHAT WE DO



Reducing flood risk, strengthening communities

The FloodWise Community Assistance program provides free technical assistance and

Community Assistance





Some challenges are uniquely rural.



How
widespread
are capacity
issues?



Indicators of rural capacity



Local
Government Staff



Institutional
Capacity

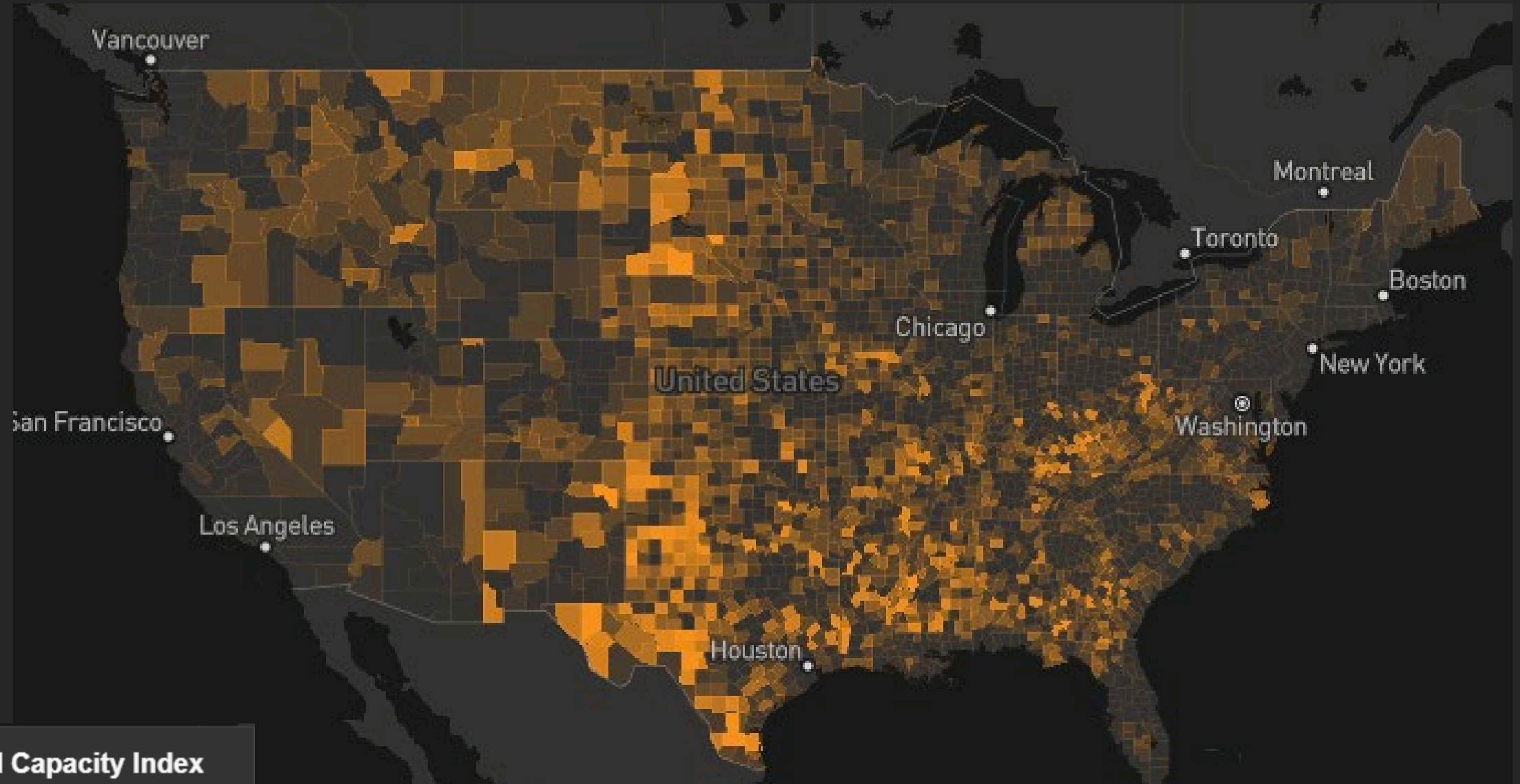


Economic
Opportunity



Education &
Engagement

Rural Capacity Index



Rural Capacity Index

Lower

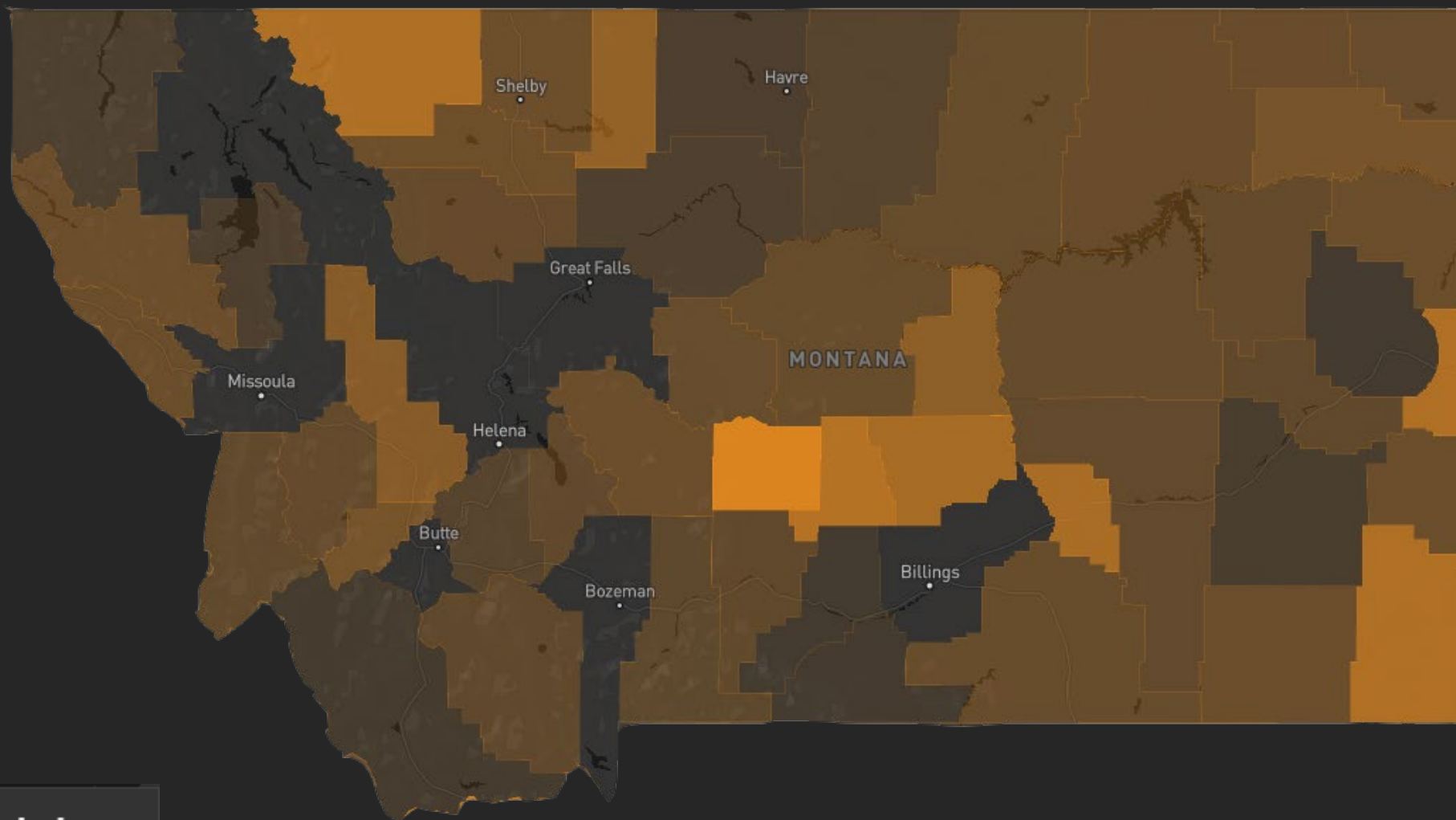


Higher

<https://headwaterseconomics.org>

headwaterseconomics.org/equity/rural-capacity-map/

Montana Rural Capacity



Rural Capacity Index

Lower

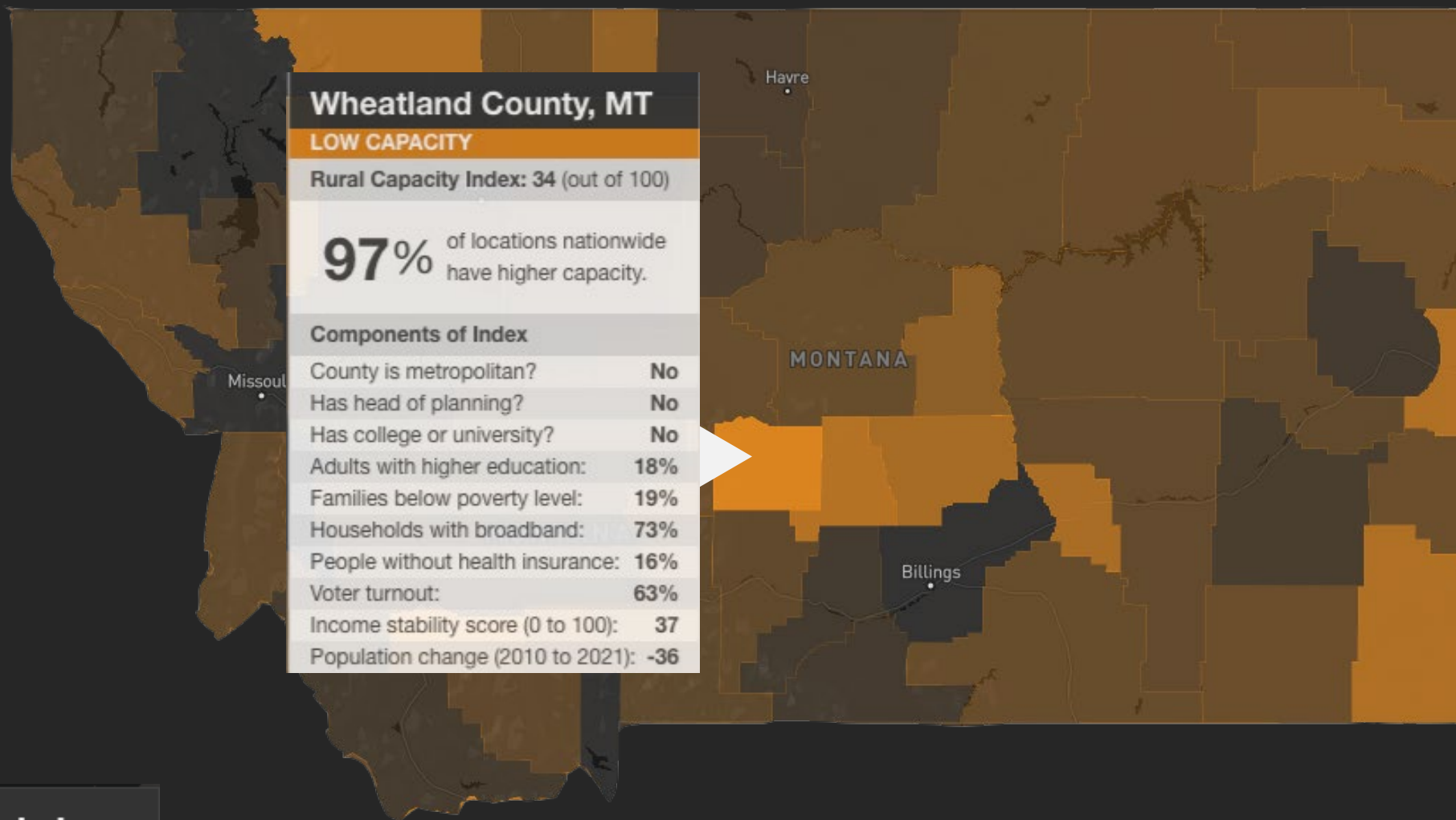


Higher

<https://headwaterseconomics.org>

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Montana Rural Capacity



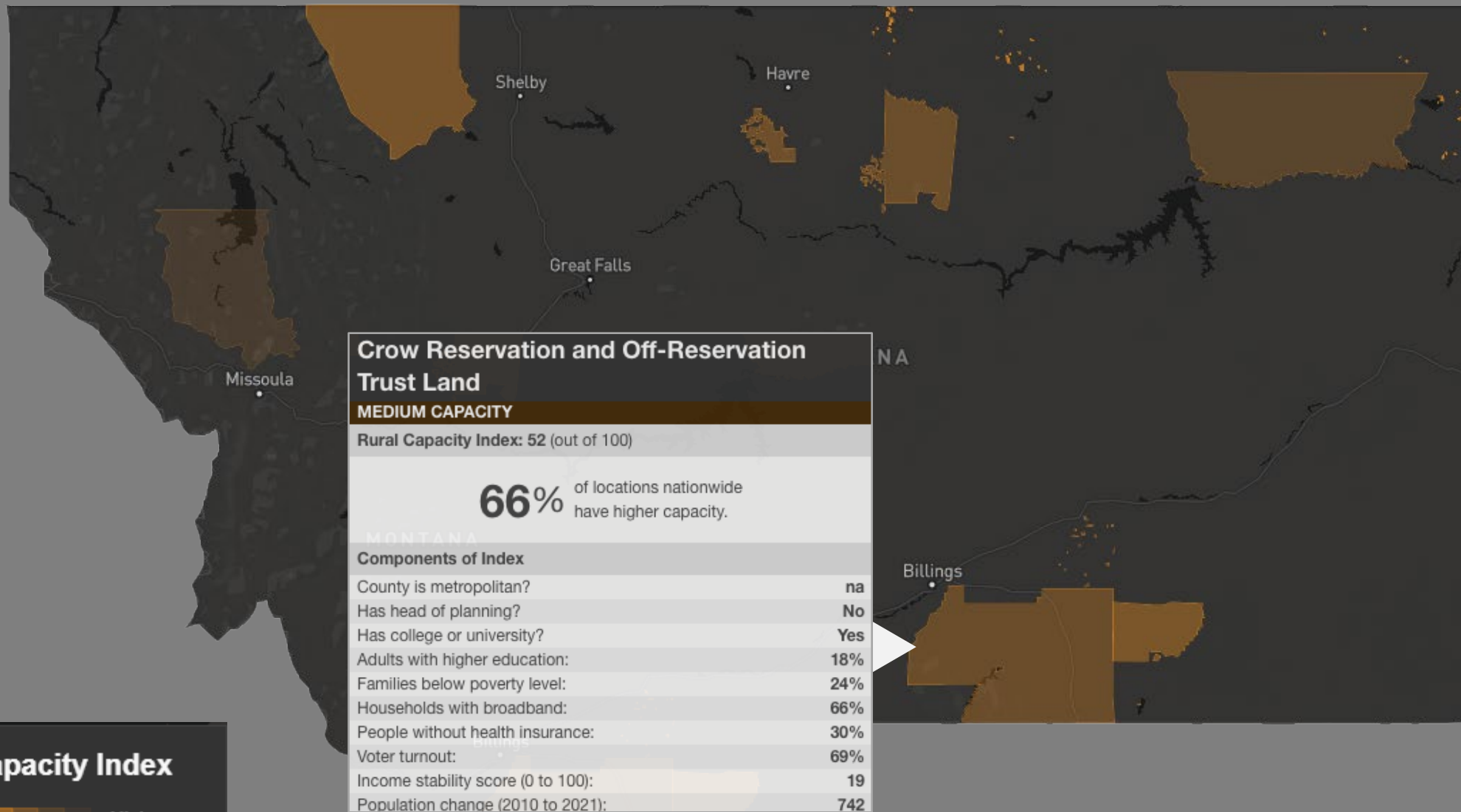
Rural Capacity Index

Lower  Higher

68%

of Montana counties
lack capacity to pursue
federal funding

Montana Tribal Areas



3 strategies for building capacity in rural Montana

1. **Staff up**
2. Coordinate regionally
3. Speak with one “rural voice”



1. Staff up
2. **Coordinate regionally**
3. Speak with one “rural voice”



1. Staff up
2. Coordinate regionally
3. **Speak with one “rural voice”**



We have the data to address capacity gaps.



Learn more

Newsletter

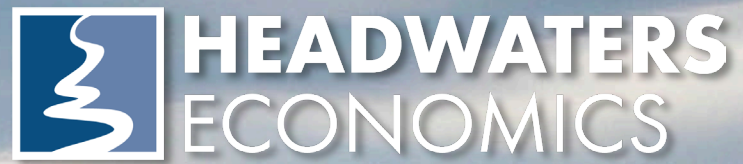


headwaterseconomics.org/contact

Rural Capacity Map



[headwaterseconomics.org/
equity/rural-capacity-map/](https://headwaterseconomics.org/equity/rural-capacity-map/)



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