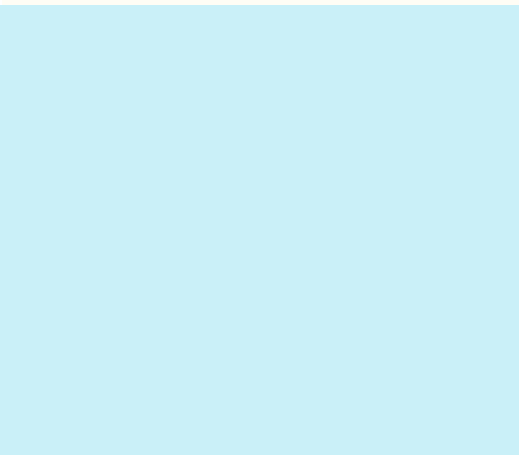# OICG

Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth

2023

Annual Report

Department of Commerce

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Internet for All - Welcome Letter

The Internet is now the essential tool for communication in our modern world. It is essential for access to work, access to education, access to healthcare, and access to public services and justice. And yet today millions of people throughout America remain unconnected.

We have been talking about the digital divide in this country for more than 20 years. Thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), we finally have the resources to do something serious about it.

The BIL provided a nearly $65 billion investment for a simple, but very ambitious, mission: to connect everyone in America to affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet service. At the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), we refer to this initiative as "Internet for All," and we've made considerable progress already.

NTIA spent 2022 meeting this historic moment by crafting program rules and policies, engaging with stakeholders, and awarding billions in planning, infrastructure, and adoption and use grants through programs to support states, territories, Tribes, minority-serving higher education institutions, for profit and not-for-profit service providers — including over $1.8 billion awarded to connect Tribal communities that year alone.

In 2023, NTIA supported states and territories as they prepared to receive a historic level of federal funding through the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program and to administer previously funded projects. By working with the states, territories and the District of Columbia, NTIA is laying the foundations necessary to ensure that America can successfully close the digital divide.

Implementing the BIL and Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (CAA) programs over the past two years has been both challenging and rewarding. By effectively targeting our resources, partnering with other federal agencies, employing individualized oversight, and engaging with local stakeholders, NTIA and the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth (OICG) are building upon years of experience and partnerships to lay the strong foundations needed for states, territories, and Tribal governments to deliver on the promise of Internet for All.

Thanks to the foresight of Congress, our country is making an unprecedented investment in connectivity over the next few years, and we are pleased to provide this report detailing the progress we are making to ensure that everyone in America has the connections and the tools they need to thrive in the modern digital economy.

Sincerely,

Alan Davidson
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information and Administrator
National Telecommunications and Information Administration

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REPORT INTRODUCTION

Since the advent of the Internet age, Americans have struggled to overcome the **"digital divide,"** the gap between those with and without access to the Internet.

In 1998, the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) identified a "persisting 'digital divide'" finding that despite the significant growth in computer ownership and usage, the "digital divide" between certain groups of Americans had increased between 1994 and 1997.[1] Nearly 30 years later, the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth (OICG), an office within NTIA, is leading the charge to connect everyone in America to the Internet and close the digital divide.

Access to affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet service is a necessity, and is vital to work, learn, and prosper in the 21st century. As of 2022, approximately one in five, or 24 million, U.S. households do not have a high-speed Internet service connection, preventing them from fully participating in modern life.[2] The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), committed $65 billion to bring affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet service to everyone in America.[3] OICG oversees the administration of $48.2 billion of this historic investment, as well as $1.7 billion in broadband programs funded by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (CAA). OICG also fulfills its other duties as outlined in the ACCESS BROADBAND Act, including connecting with communities that need access to high-speed Internet, holding regional workshops across the country to promote broadband access and adoption, and developing training and publications to promote strategies to expand broadband access and adoption in a variety of communities, among other legislatively mandated responsibilities.[4]

As digital technology has become a necessity of everyday life, the need to provide high-speed Internet for All is imperative. The digital divide continues to be based on race, age, income, location, and other demographic characteristics. OICG is closing the digital divide by strategically deploying its grant programs and working with states and territories to use those funds to address the many unique obstacles to

providing affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet service for everyone in America. This report will cover OICG's efforts throughout 2023 to connect the country and close the digital divide.

About this Report

The ACCESS BROADBAND Act requires OICG to submit to relevant congressional committees and publish on its website an annual report that contains a description of OICG's work for the previous year and the number of U.S. residents connected to broadband through federal broadband support programs and the Universal Service Fund Program.[5] The OICG Annual Report describes the work of OICG, fulfilling the statutory requirement of the ACCESS BROADBAND Act.

The 2023 OICG Annual Report provides an overview of the work accomplished by OICG across its initiatives over the prior calendar year as it administers the BIL and CAA federal broadband grant programs. This is the third report prepared under the requirements of the ACCESS BROADBAND Act.

The ACCESS BROADBAND Act also mandates that OICG report on "how many residents of the United States were provided broadband by which universal service mechanism or which Federal broadband support program," and include an "estimate of the economic impact of such broadband deployment efforts on local economies, including any effect on small businesses or jobs."[6] NTIA's forthcoming Federal Broadband Funding Report fulfills the remaining ACCESS BROADBAND Act requirements. Detailed data on broadband investments made by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the rest of the Federal government will be available in NTIA's forthcoming Federal Broadband Funding Report. This data will also be available as an interactive dashboard on NTIA's website. The 2022 Report and Dashboard can be found on NTIA's website.

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[1] See FALLING THROUGH THE NET II: NEW DATA ON THE DIGITAL DIVIDE, https://www.ntia.gov/report/1998/falling-through-net-ii-new-data-digital-divide, (last accessed Feb. 5, 2024).

[2] See NTIA blog post "Switched Off: Why Are One in Five U.S. Households Not Online?" https://www.ntia.gov/blog/2022/switched-why-are-one-five-us-households-not-online

[3] Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Pub. L. No. 117–58 (Nov. 15, 2021), https://www.congress.gov/117/plaws/publ58/PLAW-117publ58.pdf

[4] Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-260, Division FF, Title IX, Sec 903(c)(1), (Dec. 27, 2020), https://www.congress.gov/116/plaws/publ260/PLAW-116publ260.pdf

[5] See id.

[6] Id.

AGENCY OVERVIEW

The Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth (OICG), which is housed within the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), strives to achieve digital equity and ensure universal broadband access. OICG embodies this commitment through four interconnected core pillars: funding broadband infrastructure and digital inclusion efforts; leveraging data to make informed program management decisions; facilitating broad stakeholder coordination to enhance understanding beyond data; and building the capacity of communities to actively shape their connected future.

OICG prioritizes data-driven decision-making, employing resources to ensure federal broadband infrastructure grants benefit unserved and underserved areas, as directed by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). OICG furthers the deployment and use of broadband technology, which lays the groundwork for sustainable economic growth, improved education, public safety, health care, and the advancement of other national priorities.

OICG's Vision

OICG envisions an equitable and inclusive future where everyone in America is connected to affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet service; enabling each person to fully participate in the modern, digital society by accessing opportunities and information only available online.

OICG Pillars

Four interconnected core pillars drive OICG's initiatives, strategy, and key accomplishments: 1) Fund Broadband Infrastructure and Digital Inclusion Efforts; 2) Leverage Data for Decision Making; 3) Facilitate Interagency, State, Tribal, and Private Sector Coordination; and 4) Build Capacity of Communities.

Fund Broadband Infrastructure and Digital Inclusion Efforts

Leverage Data for Decision Making

Facilitate Interagency, State, Tribal, and Private Sector Coordination

Build Capacity of Communities
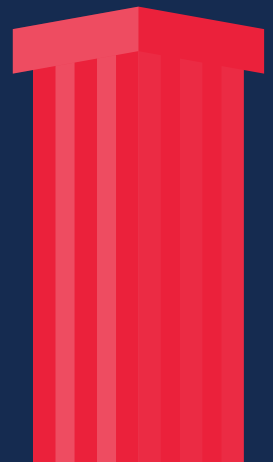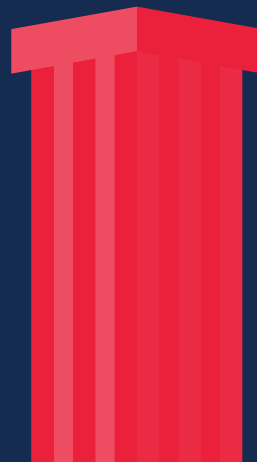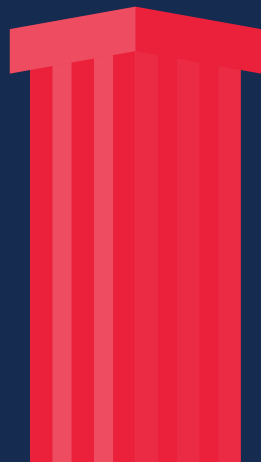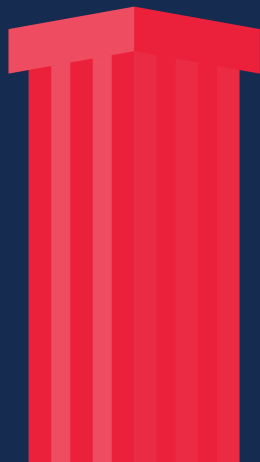
Fund Broadband Infrastructure and Digital Inclusion Efforts

OICG funds broadband infrastructure and digital inclusion efforts to empower a variety of stakeholders including states, territories, Tribes, unserved and underserved populations, community anchor institutions, and service providers to invest directly in their communities. These funds support tailored approaches to provide infrastructure and access to affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet service. They also support digital inclusion projects and the tools and resources needed for full participation in our 21st century economy and society. OICG also provides eligible entities and subgrantees with technical assistance that supports their participation in NTIA broadband grant programs and success in awarded grant applications. These technical assistance resources include tools, materials, one-to-one and one-to-many direct support, and public-facing tools and resources.

Leverage Data for Decision Making

Using an inclusive and data-driven method, OICG devotes significant resources to ensure that federal dollars are invested wisely. This approach is especially important to ensure adequate investment in unserved and underserved areas. OICG works directly with federal and state partners to coordinate interagency activities and to obtain and share data for grant awards and pending application areas (as appropriate) in common mapping tools, including the FCC's Broadband Funding Map. These mapping efforts allow federal agencies to identify potential areas of duplication and make informed funding decisions.

Facilitate Interagency, State, Tribal, and Private Sector Coordination

OICG coordinates efforts amongst federal agencies, states, Tribes, and the private sector through information sharing to enhance the availability, adoption, and use of high-speed Internet service. These facilitated interactions can lead to more accurate understandings of where unserved and underserved communities are and how to overcome digital divide barriers in those communities. This coordination is central to a holistic deployment of federal and private resources that address connection deficiencies and close the digital divide.

Build Capacity of Communities

OICG builds the capacity of communities through outreach and communications efforts, including holding regional workshops and local coordination events, publishing tools and guides on effective strategies to expand broadband access and digital equity, and convening stakeholders. OICG continues to provide support to different communities of stakeholders to promote impactful and efficient education and knowledge sharing.

OICG facilitates several cohort groups including the Federal Funding Workstream (FFWS), the State Broadband Leaders Network (SBLN), the Digital Equity Leaders Network (DELN), the Connecting Minority Communities Learning Network (CMC-LN), and the Tribal Broadband Leaders Network (TBLN). OICG also develops technical assistance and informational resources and leads outreach efforts to assist states, territories, and Tribal governments with developing plans to provide affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet service for all.

INTRODUCTION TO FUNDING PROGRAMS

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (CAA) and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) authorized eight broadband grant programs, providing investments to bring affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet service to everyone in the country and to promote the adoption and meaningful use of high-speed Internet service.

The BIL authorized $65 billion in broadband initiatives of which the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth (OICG) oversees five, totaling $48.2 billion.

These include...

- **The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program,**

- **3 Digital Equity Act programs,**

- **The Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure (Middle Mile) Program,**

- **And additional funding for the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP).**

In addition, the CAA provided over $1.5 billion in funding for three broadband grant programs managed by OICG:

- **The initial TBCP investment,**

- **The Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP),**

- **And the Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program.[7]**

$48.2 Billion
Total Funding OICG oversees
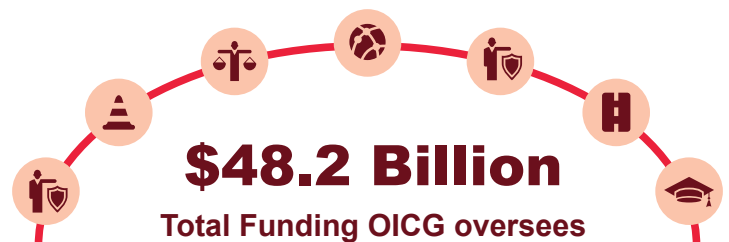
[7] *Total appropriated funds may differ from total grant funding due to administrative set asides and budgetary rescissions.*

As of December 2023, OICG has awarded and allocated over $2.5 billion in funding across five programs with an additional $3.6 billion to be awarded through the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program, the Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program, and the remaining TBCP funds. In 2023, OICG announced allocations for all 56 states and territories as part of the $42.45 billion in BEAD funding.

All 50 states, five territories, and the District of Columbia received a portion of the $254.5 million in available BEAD Program planning funds to develop individualized Five-Year Action Plans and a portion of the $53.7 million available in Digital Equity Planning Grant Funding to develop digital equity plans.

States and territories are required to develop digital equity plans to access their portion of the

$1.44 billion funding available through the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant program. These plans collectively highlight how the state or territory intends to use funding to close the digital divide and address a variety of other challenges such as improving State Broadband Office capacity, asset mapping, outreach, and providing technical assistance to potential subgrantees.

To find the most up-to-date information on the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) programs, award recipients, and progress on state and territories plans please visit the BroadbandUSA website.

Supporting States

In 2023, OICG prioritized its on-the-ground and local approaches to entities receiving federal broadband funding by building on its previous work in 2022 and setting the foundations of the BIL and CAA programs in the states.

Recognizing the benefit of closely partnering with states, territories, and local communities to understand their specific needs,
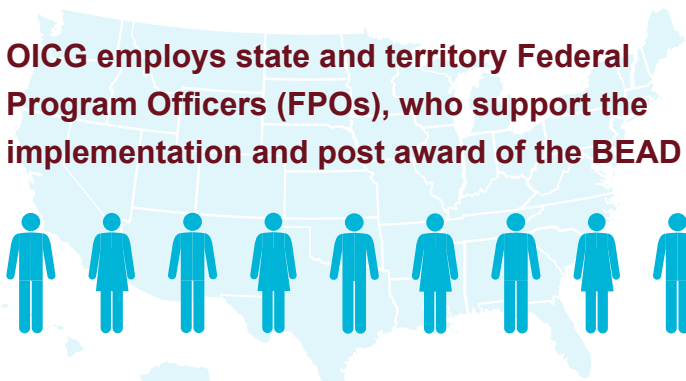
OICG employs state and territory Federal Program Officers (FPOs), who support the implementation and post award of the BEAD

and Digital Equity programs in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and the territories.

NTIA also employs other teams of FPOs to assist in the implementation and post-award of its other CAA and BIL grant programs, including specific digital equity, infrastructure, and other programmatic FPOs. In recognition of the unique and separate needs of Tribal governments, OICG employs Tribal-specific FPOs, of which the majority are enrolled Tribal Citizens. These FPOs assist Tribal entities with OICG-specific funding and topics through engagements such as Tribal Consultations and dedicated technical assistance to support Tribes' navigation of these programs.

FPOs across all grant programs serve as liaisons between NTIA, states, territories, Tribes, and awardees. They also work to encourage community engagement and serve as subject matter experts and points of contact between local stakeholders and NTIA. In addition, they monitor grant awards in their jurisdiction, create relationships, and act as a conduit to the federal government for OICG grant programs.

"BIL authorized $65 billion in broadband initiatives…"

NTIA organized and hosted two FPO Broadband Academies in 2023 to provide state and territory FPOs with consistent and universal quality training, which ensured they provide the best assistance to applicants and grant recipients.

The training gave state and territory FPOs the tools and resources needed to continue building relationships with state and local stakeholders and advance the Agency's effort for an on-the-ground approach to the Internet for All programs. NTIA hosted the February Academy in conjunction with the State Broadband Leaders Network (SBLN) Winter Summit in Washington, D.C. The August Academy took place as a stand-alone event in Washington, D.C. focused on interactive exercises, tabletop training, and preparation for BEAD Initial Proposal and Digital Equity Plan submissions. These events provided an opportunity for state and territory FPOs physically located in the states and territories, as well as NTIA staff and OICG leadership in Washington, D.C., to interact with each other, creating a cohesive team environment and establishing a common understanding of the Agency, program rules, and its approach to its broadband programs.

OICG's partnership with all 56 states and territories, as well as its other grantees, provides the opportunity for entities receiving federal broadband funding to tailor the foundations of the grant programs they need to bring affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet service to their communities. OICG's targeted resources and individualized oversight are laying the foundations necessary in achieving Internet for All.

Broadband Grant Programs

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program

The BEAD Program provides $42.45 billion to expand access to affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet by funding planning, infrastructure deployment and adoption programs in all 50 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, and the additional U.S. territories. It prioritizes funding for connecting unserved locations, specifically those that have no Internet access, lack reliable broadband service, or access to speeds under 25/3 Megabits per second (Mbps), and underserved locations that only have access to speeds between 25/3 and under 100/20 Mbps. In June of 2023, NTIA announced allocations for all 56 states and territories. Program rules required states and territories to submit Initial Proposals describing how they propose to engage with their communities and subgrant funds to address the unserved and underserved locations by December 27, 2023. All 56 Eligible Entities met this deadline, and their proposals will be reviewed for approval through 2024. The program's rules required that each state and territory include plans for a BEAD "state challenge process" in

their Initial Proposal. In the challenge process, a unit of local government (including Tribal governments), nonprofit organizations, or Internet Service Providers may challenge whether a location or community anchor institution is eligible for BEAD funding, including whether a location has limited (underserved) or no qualifying Internet service (unserved). On November 1, 2023, NTIA released a programmatic waiver that modifies the requirement of an irrevocable standby Letter of Credit (LOC). This waiver promotes inclusivity by encouraging competition among Internet service providers of all sizes and allows credit unions to issue LOCs, permits the use of performance bonds as an alternative to LOCs, and provides flexibility in reducing the LOC requirement over time to address concerns and promote broader participation in the BEAD program.

Digital Equity Act Programs

The Digital Equity Act of 2021 established three grant programs, totaling $2.75 billion. These programs focus on providing the skills, technology, and capacity needed for all people and communities to reap the benefits of the digital economy.

The State Digital Equity Planning Grant is a $60 million formula grant program for recipients to develop Digital Equity plans. Of the eligible state and territory Digital Equity applicants that submitted applications for Digital Equity planning funds, 56 grants have been awarded totaling approximately $54 million.

The State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program is a $1.44 billion formula grant program for states, territories, and Native Entities. It will fund an annual grant program for Fiscal Years 2022 through 2026 in support of Digital Equity projects and the implementation of State and Territory Digital Equity Plans. NTIA will allocate funds for states and territories based on the formula provided in the Digital Equity Act. Awardees will use these funds to implement the plans developed through the State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program. Grant awards to Native Entities will be awarded on a competitive basis under criteria outlined in the forthcoming Capacity Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). OICG will release the NOFO for the Digital Equity Capacity Grant in March 2024.

The Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program is a $1.25 billion grant program that will fund annual grant programs in Fiscal Years 2022 through 2026. This program will develop and implement digital inclusion activities and Digital Equity projects. The program will be open to certain entities, such as political subdivisions of states, Native Entities, nonprofits, community anchor institutions, local educational agencies and workforce development organizations. OICG expects to release the NOFO for the Digital Equity Competitive Grants in 2024, after the first State Digital Equity Capacity Grant is awarded.

Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program

The Middle Mile Program provided nearly $1 billion to expand middle mile Internet infrastructure and reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas. NTIA received over 235 applications totaling over $5.5 billion in funding requests during the application window. The Middle Mile program is key to increasing the resilience of Internet infrastructure in the United States by promoting the creation of alternate network connection paths designed to prevent single point broadband network failures. All projects use future proof fiber as the primary technology.

In 2023, OICG awarded $980 million to expand middle mile high-speed Internet infrastructure covering more than 370 counties across 40 states and Puerto Rico. These projects will deploy more than 12,500 miles of new fiber that will pass within 1,000 feet of 7,125 community anchor institutions.

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

The TBCP is a $3 billion grant program dedicated to Tribal governments to be used for broadband deployment on Tribal lands, as well as for use and adoption activities such as expanding and increasing telehealth, distance learning, broadband affordability, and digital inclusion. The TBCP was created by the CAA as a $1 billion program. In the initial application window, OICG received over 300 applications requesting over $5 billion from the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program. In recognition of the overwhelming need shown by TBCP applications, the BIL provided $2 billion in additional funding.[8] As of 2023, OICG has awarded more than $1.86 billion to 226 Tribal entities. Construction on these projects is ongoing and expected to connect approximately 140,000 unserved Native households and 1,000 Native community anchor institutions. Use and adoption projects are also ongoing and have distributed more than 4,000 digital devices and pre-paid broadband services for more than 5,000 Tribal homes.

OICG also announced the second TBCP NOFO in July 2023 to distribute the remaining approximately $980 million in funding. In this second NOFO, NTIA will award funding for broadband infrastructure deployment projects on Tribal Lands, targeting projects between $1 million and $50 million and Internet adoption projects between $100,000 to $2.5 million. Over the course of 2023, the TBCP team focused on preparing and supporting eligible Tribal entities for the second round of grant applications. The application window for the second NOFO will close in March 2024. NTIA anticipates announcing awards beginning in 2024. The TBCP FPO's also provided post-award oversight and Technical Assistance to its 226 awardees to support their compliance with federal award conditions, project success and to monitor for waste, fraud and abuse of federal funds.

Broadband Infrastructure Program

The Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP) is a $300 million program to support infrastructure deployment in areas lacking broadband, especially rural areas. The application window for this program closed August 17, 2021, with more than 275 applications submitted requesting over $2.8 billion in grants. BIP granted 14 awards in 2022, totaling over $282 million.[9] The 14 awards allocated all grant funds appropriated for the program. BIP recipients partnered with 38 different service providers to execute their projects. Construction on these projects is ongoing and expected to connect more than 140,000 unserved households, 6,700 businesses, and 585 community anchor institutions by deploying over 4,500 new miles of fiber across 13 states and one territory. By the end of 2023, BIP infrastructure deployment made service available to more than 33,500 households. The BIP FPOs also provided post-award oversight and Technical Assistance to its awardees to support their compliance with federal award conditions, project success, and to monitor for waste, fraud and abuse of federal funds.

[8] *Total appropriated funds may differ from total grant funding due to administrative set asides and budgetary rescissions.*
[9] *Total appropriated funds may differ from total grant funding due to administrative set asides and budgetary rescissions.*

The Office of Minority Broadband Initiatives and the Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program

NTIA established the Office of Minority Broadband Initiatives (OMBI) within OICG, as directed by the CAA. Through OMBI, NTIA directly addresses the lack of broadband access, connectivity, adoption and equity among Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) and Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), and in their surrounding anchor communities in the United States. To make this happen, OMBI collaborates with federal agencies that carry out broadband Internet access service support programs; state, local and Tribal governments; and stakeholders in the communications, education, business, and technology fields.

OMBI oversees the administration of the Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program. CMC is a $285 million grant program for HBCUs, HSIs, TCUs, and MSIs to purchase broadband Internet service and eligible equipment, and to hire and train information technology (IT) personnel. During the application window, which closed December 1, 2021, NTIA received more than 200 applications requesting over $833 million in funding for the CMC Pilot Program. In 2023, CMC awarded more than $262 million to 74 colleges and universities in 30 states and four territories.[10] With these grants, NTIA awarded all available funding from the CMC Pilot Program. OICG ensured the final allocation of grant funds satisfied the statutory requirement to distribute at least 40 percent of funds to qualifying HBCUs, with at least 20 percent of funds distributed to applicants that provide high-speed Internet access service and/or eligible equipment to their students. In total, CMC awarded funds to 93 colleges and universities, including 43 HBCUs, 31 HSIs, 21 MSIs, and 5 TCUs.[11] Through CMC funding, over 37,000 computers and 18,000 hotspots were distributed; 35,000 staff received professional training and over 200,000 received digital literacy

and/or workforce training.

As a part of the CMC Pilot Program, OMBI launched the CMC Learning Network (CMC-LN), a forum where CMC awardees interact and collaborate on a regular basis to share ideas and discuss best practices as they work through their grant projects, as well as receive Technical Assistance from the CMC FPOs, and OICG's Grants and Compliance Division. In 2023, OMBI held three webinars for the CMC-LN membership, educating attendees on procurement and tangible property management, environmental and historic preservation compliance and the Build America, Buy America Act. Additionally, OMBI facilitated five Meet and Share meetings in 2023, which provided grantees the opportunity to talk about their own projects, ask each other questions and participate in related discussions. The CMC FPOs also provided post-award oversight and Technical Assistance to its more than 90 awardees to support their compliance with federal award conditions, project success and to prevent waste, fraud and abuse of federal funds.

To learn more about OMBI and the CMC program see the forthcoming 2023 OMBI Annual Report which can be found on ntia.gov.

[10] *Total appropriated funds may differ from total grant funding due to administrative set asides and budgetary rescissions.*
[11] *This designation count reflects universities that hold multiple designations (e.g., TCU and MSI). This multiple designation is reflected in the individual designation count listed, the number of CMC recipients is 93.*
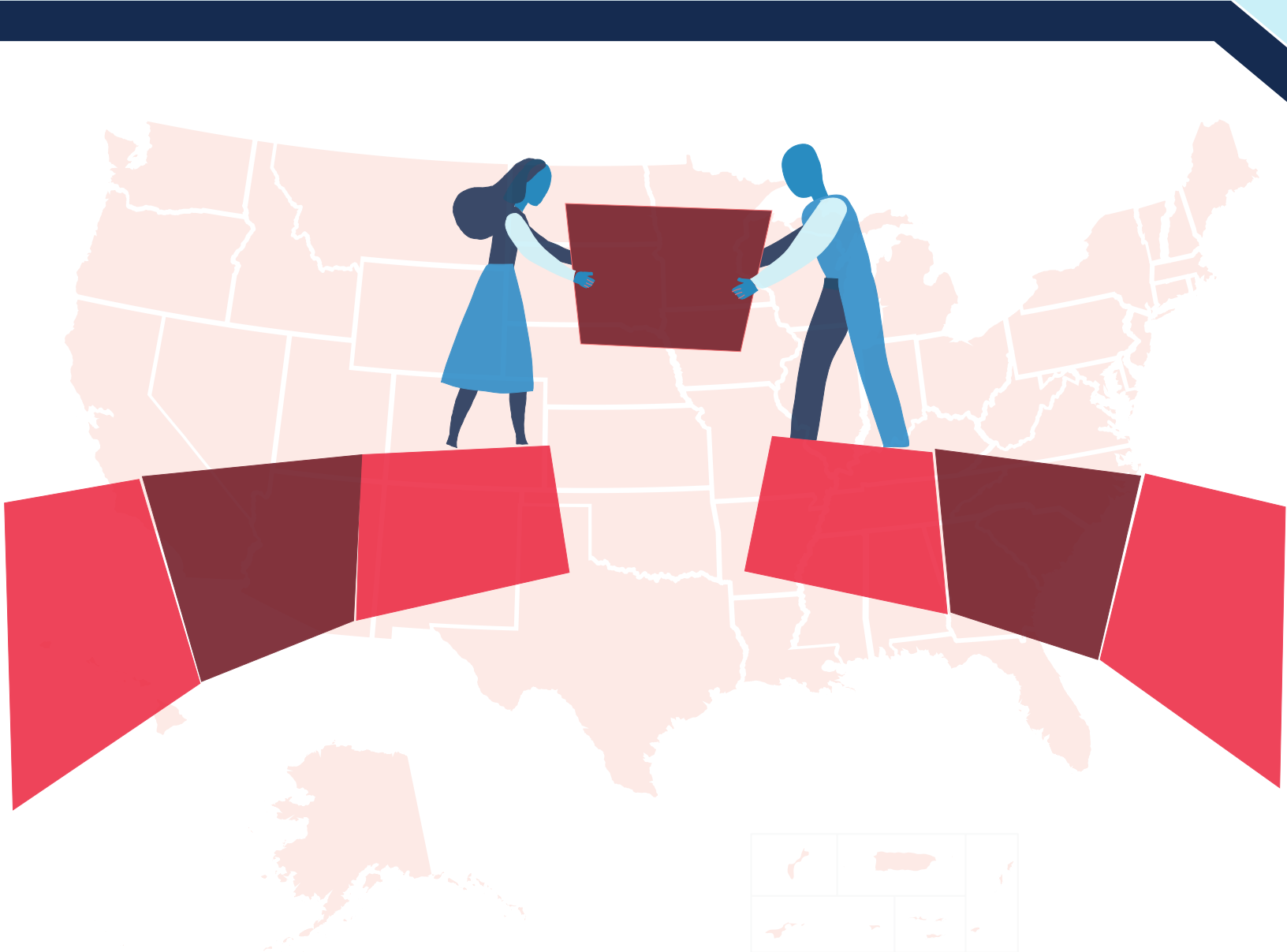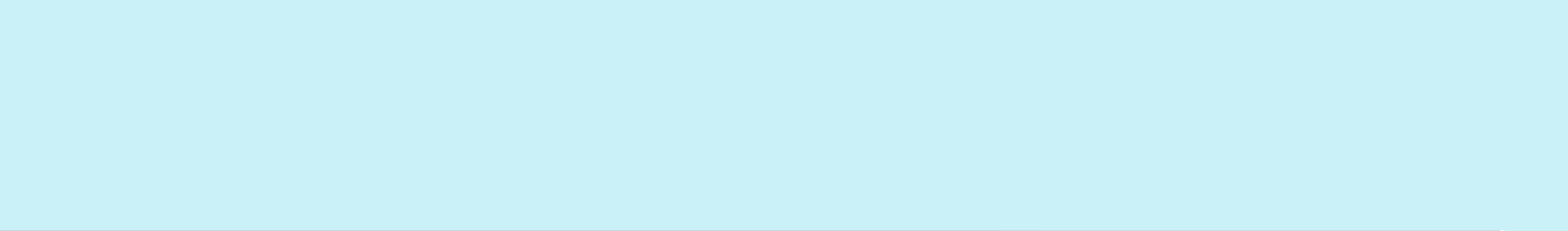
THE WORK OF OICG:
FOUNDATIONS LAID - PART 1

Introduction

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) established the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth (OICG) with a dedicated purpose to realize digital equality and universal broadband access. OICG's efforts are supported by tools like the National Broadband Availability Map (NBAM). Furthermore, OICG collaborates with over 25 federal agencies, convening stakeholders across various sectors to inform program priorities and design. Through its work, OICG promotes digital equity and invests in partner communities by providing outreach, communications, Technical Assistance, and resources to expand broadband access. OICG's multifaceted approach contributes to the deployment and utilization of broadband technology, underpinning sustainable economic growth, improved education, public safety, healthcare, and the advancement of national priorities.

Technical Assistance

OICG facilitated

- **Development of solution-neutral guides and resources**

- **Technical guidance**

- **Programs and funding through Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs)**

- **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

- **Webinars**

- **Mapping and online tools**

- **Model guidance**

This also includes a myriad of other resources through 2023. OICG also facilitated several one-on-one meetings to assist eligible entities through the process of successfully applying for funding and implementing their awards and meeting programmatic goals.

The Technical Assistance Program provides guidance to grantees on how to use their funding efficiently and promote project implementation success, as well as providing federal grants compliance support. Over the last year, OICG consolidated its Technical Assistance resources for grantees and eligible entities into a one-stop-shop in a Technical Assistance Hub on the BroadbandUSA website. This resource hub includes information such as FAQs, NOFOs, and programmatic resources. The BroadbandUSA website is maintained by OICG and provides programmatic information to stakeholders seeking to expand Internet connectivity and promote digital equity and inclusion. OICG also hosts local and regional coordination workshops that offer opportunities to convene broadband stakeholders across the country and share information and best practices.

Webinars

To efficiently distribute information to large groups of interested parties, OICG consistently engaged with a range of stakeholders including states, territories, Tribal governments, community anchor institutions, industry members, and underserved and minority communities and institutions on issues relevant to them. Throughout 2023, OICG designed and hosted a variety of webinars to provide concise information on program-related aspects of broadband infrastructure and policy and programs relevant to the general public. These resources assist states and localities in navigating the NTIA grant programs and inform stakeholders of important steps NTIA is taking to support and implement the vision of Internet for All.

OICG held a total of 30 webinars for stakeholders throughout 2023 with a cumulative total of 8,856 registrants and 4,880 attendees. These OICG-hosted stakeholder webinars were a combination of public meetings, meetings for awarded grantees and those held specifically for groups representing potential grant program applicants. Topics varied widely across OICG's scope of work, including closing the digital skills divide; cybersecurity and supply chain risk management; leveraging digital equity Technical Assistance resources; BIP one-year anniversary celebration; subrecipient monitoring; how local governments can get involved in the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) and Digital Equity programs; and how schools and libraries are partnering on digital equity for students.

OICG held

30 Webinars for Stakeholders throughout 2023	**8,856** Cumulative total of registrants	**4,880** Attendees

Highlights Included:

- The Internet for All Public Webinar Series, Introduction to the BEAD Challenge Process, recorded the highest attendance for a webinar this year. This event provided critical information about the BEAD state challenge process and how local governments, nonprofit organizations, and broadband service providers may participate. This hour-long webinar had a total of 1,316 registrants and 763 live attendees.

- The Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) Round 2 Webinar Series began in August 2023 to educate all potential eligible applicants about the new NOFO and how they can prepare high-quality applications. Across eight webinars, this series covered the following: a general overview of the NOFO, mapping requirements, project narratives and budget narratives. There was a total of 678 registrants and 365 live attendees throughout the series.

NTIA Requests for Comment

On March 2, 2023, NTIA issued a Request for Comment (RFC) that sought broad input and feedback from interested stakeholders on the Digital Equity Act Programs. NTIA specifically solicited comments on the design and implementation of two components of that grant program: the $1.44 billion State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program and the $1.25 billion Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program.[12] Through the RFC process, NTIA received more than 250 submissions reflecting the voices of more than 400 stakeholders.

To help bolster participation in the Digital Equity Act RFC, the Digital Equity team held four public virtual listening sessions in April 2023.

These virtual listening sessions drew in over...

790 CUMULATIVE REGISTRANTS

420 LIVE ATTENDEES
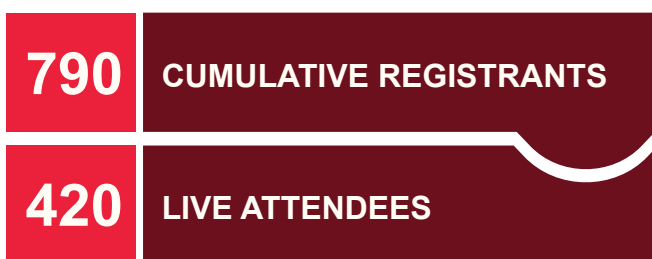
who provided general feedback on the Digital Equity Act programs, as well as specific comments on the following topics: assessing digital equity plans; ensuring equity in the BEAD program; workforce and subcontracting opportunities; measuring for success and transformative impact; and the State Digital Equity Competitive grant program.

In April 2023, NTIA sought feedback from the public on the BEAD Challenge Process Policy Notice to provide Eligible Entities with additional guidance on how to design and conduct their BEAD challenge process and a Model BEAD Challenge Process. Sixty-one stakeholders filed comments.[13]

On July 5, 2023, NTIA issued an RFC that invited all interested stakeholders to provide input on any exemptions from the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (2 CFR Part 200) (Uniform Guidance) that might help facilitate the implementation of the BEAD Program.[14] This allowed stakeholders to voice comments on issues and questions relating to the relationship between the Uniform Guidance and the BEAD Program.

On June 2, 2023, NTIA issued an RFC for the public and other federal agencies to add 65 questions to the November 2023 edition of the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS).[15] This collection of questions is known as the NTIA Internet Use Survey and is referred to as the CPS Computer and Internet Use Supplement. NTIA has sponsored 16 such surveys since 1994. Data from the NTIA Internet Use Survey informs policies aimed at achieving digital equity so that the Internet's benefits are accessible to everyone in America.

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[12] *See 88 Fed. Reg. 13101, March 2, 2023,* https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/03/02/2023-04242/digital-equity-act-of-2021-request-for-comments

[13] *See National Telecommunications and Information Administration, BEAD Challenge Process, Policy Notice, April 2023,* https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/2024-02/BEAD_Challenge_Process_Policy_Notice_v1.3.pdf

[14] *See 88 Fed. Reg. 42918, July 7, 2023,* https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/07/05/2023-14114/tailoring-the-application-of-the-uniform-guidance-to-the-bead-program-request-for-comments

[15] *See 88 Fed. Reg. 36282, June 2, 2023,* https://www.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/publications/2023-11726.pdf; *See November 2023 NTIA Internet Use Survey Draft for Public Comment, can be found here* https://www.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/publications/2023-ntia-internet-use-survey-public-comment.pdf

Program Evaluation Framework

In 2023, NTIA developed a program evaluation framework for the BEAD, Digital Equity and Middle Mile Programs. The program evaluation strategy builds on a logic model, conceptual framework, evidence review, and dashboard of economic indicators developed in response to the ACCESS BROADBAND Act and presented in Federal Broadband Funding Reports. This body of work identifies the metrics and methods used in research and practice to evaluate the economic impacts of broadband expansion over the last two decades. OICG also relies on feedback from the March 2023 RFC which presented a specific series of questions focused on program measurement, evaluation and reporting that received over 230 comments. Informed by the ACCESS BROADBAND Act work and feedback from the RFC, OICG is identifying key performance indicators (KPIs) across broadband access, affordability, equity, adoption and sustainability for broadband programs. These KPIs will help assess

desired outcomes and impacts over a program's period of performance across categories that include, but are not limited to, digital equity and inclusion, economic and workforce development, education, healthcare, civic and social engagement, and delivery of other essential services.

Received over 230 comments

RFC - March 2023

OICG is identifying KPIs across broadband programs
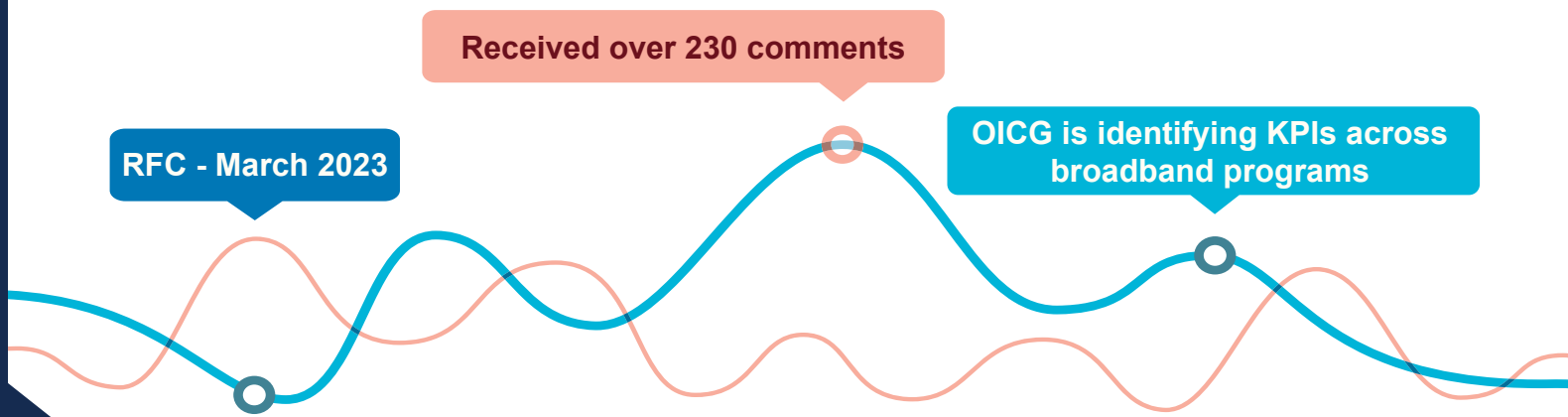
Interagency Coordination

OICG staff led the federal government's interagency coordination efforts to promote a whole-of-government approach to connect everyone to affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet; align on common policies and practices; and fulfill statutory coordination activities.

Maximizing federal support, reducing duplication, and promoting efficient use of funding:

To promote the effective use of federal funds, NTIA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury), and the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) met regularly under the auspices of interagency coordination Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) signed in 2021 and 2022.[16] NTIA led the development of a standard high-level deduplication process across projects funded by the parties to the MOU, and continues its policy of information sharing to assist in the most effective deployment of federal broadband dollars.

NTIA also coordinated with FCC as they developed the Broadband Funding Map to reduce or prevent duplication of federal funding with NTIA's obligations under the ACCESS BROADBAND Act. This interagency coordination also ensured that federal agencies were aware of their obligations to contribute relevant data to the map. This map supports BEAD and other federal funding programs by providing a public facing tool that overlays information about federal funding commitments to deploy broadband services onto

the broadband availability data being collected as part of the FCC's Broadband Data Collection.

NTIA · Treasury · FCC · USDA

Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) signed in 2021 and 2022.

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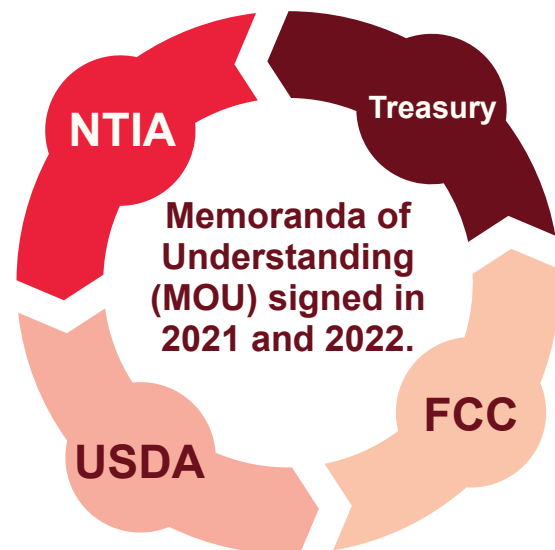
[16] *See Interagency Agreement Between The Federal Communications Commission, U.S. Department Of Agriculture, And The National Telecommunications And Information Administration Of The U.S. Department Of Commerce, June 25, 2021, https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/ default/files/bicasection904iaafcc_ntia_usdasigned.pdf; MOU between The Federal Communications Commission, U.S. Department Of Agriculture, And The National Telecommunications And Information Administration Of The U.S. Department Of Commerce, and the U.S. Department of the Treasury, May 9, 2022, https://www.ntia.gov/sites/ default/files/publications/interagency_broadband_mou.pdf*

Supporting the success of NTIA's grant programs and stakeholders by serving as a liaison with interagency colleagues:

To promote greater coordination across the country with regional and state-level federal counterparts, OICG scheduled "meet and greets" between regional or state-level agencies, NTIA regional staff, and Federal Programs Officers (FPO) to build relationships and support states and territories in developing their BEAD and Digital Equity plans. This included facilitating interagency briefings and inviting federal agencies to participate in stakeholder gatherings, including the local coordination events. OICG also answered questions from federal agencies about NTIA's grant programs and processes to promote awareness and encourage consistency.

Collecting interagency data for Federal Broadband Funding Report and Dashboard:

To promote awareness of federal broadband funding trends and economic impacts, OICG published the annual "2022 Federal Broadband Funding Report and Dashboard," which highlights investments in federal broadband and Universal Service Fund (USF) programs in 2021. OICG began development of the forthcoming 2023 report in coordination with 12 federal agencies covering over 68 programs that funded broadband in 2022. The report summarizes the federal broadband investment landscape, outlines the current state of measuring investments and connection across federal broadband and USF programs, provides recommendations to improve efforts to track broadband spending and outcomes, and provides a framework for analysis of economic impact. The development of the annual Federal broadband Funding Report and Dashboard supports OICG's overall program evaluation work and identifies

the metrics and methods used in research and practice to evaluate the economic impacts of broadband expansion over the last two decades.

NTIA also partnered with the Census Bureau to develop the ACCESS BROADBAND Dashboard, which includes a series of maps showing different broadband access and adoption measures as well as local and regional economic outcomes that research suggests could be influenced by expanding access to broadband.

In April 2023, OICG facilitated the annual update of the BroadbandUSA Federal Funding Website. The Federal Funding Website is a "one-stop" site for federal broadband funding opportunities across the federal government. The site includes over 80 programs across 13 agencies. The information collected as part of the annual update informs the development of the Federal Broadband Funding Report.

Permitting:

NTIA has significantly increased its capacity to address environmental and other permitting requirements associated with its actions. Over 2023, NTIA reviewed and revised its environmental compliance approach, and proposed new streamlining measures and programmatic tools to increase efficiency and reduce permitting risks to broadband deployment. The Department of Commerce is grateful for the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council's (FPISC) support and funding for its permitting and environmental review priorities for its offshore wind, broadband, and semiconductor manufacturing programs.

NTIA received FPISC Environmental Review Improvement Fund (ERIF) funding for hiring and data-sharing efforts supporting broadband permitting. FPISC funds supported the addition of environmental and permitting staff, including National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) specialists that started in November 2023, permitting coordinators, and geospatial information system (GIS) permitting specialists. NTIA also received ERIF funding to distribute National Broadband Availability Map (NBAM) licenses to federal permitting agencies, Tribes, and states, and developed a suite of GIS permitting tools to support federal agency colleagues in planning for anticipated surges in broadband permit applications. In addition, NTIA has developed permitting and environmental templates within NBAM to help users to identify potential permit requirements and environmental factors for NEPA reviews.

In 2023, NTIA laid the groundwork for a significant permitting win early in 2024. In October 2023, NTIA requested that the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation amend its 2017 Broadband on Federal Lands program comment to enable its application for Internet for All grant projects – and use by all other federal agencies – both on and off Tribal lands. NTIA supported the Council in conducting December consultation meetings and incorporating public comments into a March 2024 amendment that retitled it as the "Federal Communications Projects Program Comment."

NTIA also developed and began implementing an Interagency Broadband Permitting Coordination strategy to promote awareness of anticipated surges in permitting applications and to establish relationships and protocols to handle project-specific issues as they arise. Since September of 2023, NTIA has held interagency broadband permitting meetings in each BEAD region with the federal permitting agency real estate and environmental review staff for each state, to discuss implementing state (or territory) based "broadband permitting roundtables" as BEAD progresses. These meetings have ensured awareness of Internet for All programs and infrastructure types and introduced NTIA's state FPOs to the federal officials permitting projects in their states.
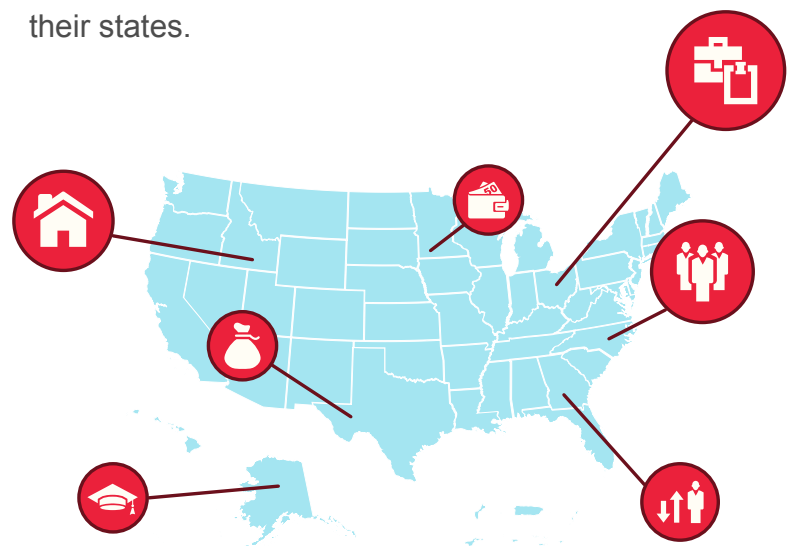
Mapping

Over the past year, NTIA connected data sets across the NBAM, NTIA Internet Use Survey, the American Community Survey, and the Census Bureau to create the ACCESS BROADBAND Dashboard. Released in February 2023, the ACCESS BROADBAND Dashboard shows indicators of broadband availability and adoption alongside economic indicators that research suggests could be impacted by broadband expansion. The map displays statistics on employment, small businesses, wages and income, poverty, home values, population change and migration, educational attainment, and gross domestic product.

Over the past year, NTIA developed and published tools in the NBAM to support its programmatic implementation. As of December 2023, 48 states and five territories used the NBAM platform. The tools within the NBAM include the NTIA Public GIS Data Site, the BEAD broadband availability map, Permitting and Environmental templates, and the Eligible Entity Planning Toolkit.

- The NTIA Public GIS Data Site provides geospatial data published by NTIA including data, web maps, and applications covering grant awards from NTIA.

- The BEAD Broadband Availability Map, hosted within the secure NBAM platform, reflects data from the FCC's National Broadband Map with an overlay of the BEAD definition of reliable broadband. This map enables NTIA to better understand where unserved and underserved broadband serviceable locations are across the country.

- The Permitting and Environmental templates created using public sources allow NBAM users to understand their potential permitting and environmental and historic preservation requirements for broadband projects. The templates are not exhaustive and are meant to be an initial starting place to identify what may be required for a potential project.

- The Eligible Entity Planning Toolkit includes multiple capabilities that directly support Eligible Entities in completing their BEAD Initial Proposal requirements. This toolkit allows users to obtain the total number of unserved and underserved locations based on a select version of the FCC's National Broadband Map, identify potential broadband serviceable locations recently funded by other federal grant programs and explore the cost to deploy broadband to unserved and underserved locations in each Eligible Entities' jurisdiction. The toolkit is hosted within the secure NBAM platform and is only available to Eligible Entities.

Local Coordination and Engagements

Under the requirements for the BEAD and Digital Equity programs, states and territories are required to coordinate with a variety of stakeholder groups and must document their local coordination and outreach activities. NTIA supported 17 state and territory broadband offices in meeting this requirement by co-hosting day-long workshops to convene key stakeholders from the state or territory, local governments, community groups, and industry. These workshops were intended to open lines of communication between the state and territories and local stakeholders as they conducted programmatic planning. The events were also meant to launch a process for ongoing communications, outreach, engagement, and coordination strategies with these stakeholders in the development of these plans.

NTIA outlined the following requirements to jointly co-host these workshops with the state and territory broadband offices:

1. Secure the support of the state's county, municipal and/or township associations.

2. Build an inclusive invite list.

3. Develop a relevant agenda.

4. Create an event that encourages participation.

5. Maintain ongoing communication.

Between August 2022 and July 2023, NTIA co-hosted local coordination events in 16 states and in the U.S. Virgin Islands with 48 different co-hosts. NTIA offered to co-host events with all state broadband offices and were able to host these 17 events due to interest and logistics. Additional states held similar events and while NTIA was not a co-host, NTIA did participate when invited. Altogether, these engagements connected NTIA with thousands of local and regional broadband stakeholders with representation from the following key partner groups: federal, state, and territory government, Tribal corporations/communities, academic institutions, community development groups, nonprofit organizations, telecommunications service provider and equipment industry members, media, and others. These events covered a range of topics and panels including: Workforce Development, Planning for Connectivity, Local Coordination: How to Get Involved, Telehealth, Why Digital Equity Matters, Strategies for Broadband Infrastructure Development, State Broadband Office Overview, Mapping Update, Tribal Coordination and more.

In 2023, NTIA also held over 4,000 stakeholder engagements. An engagement is when NTIA interacts with one or more external stakeholders in one of any number of events, including one-on-one meetings, Tribal consultations, public webinars, speaking at a national conference, and many others. NTIA staff participated in approximately 600 public speaking engagements, where NTIA staff were given an opportunity to educate, inform, and promote awareness of the Internet for All programs and other OICG activities. Staff held over 3,200 group sessions, which are planned, real-time gatherings with individuals from one or more external organizations to offer stakeholders the chance to meet NTIA representatives and ask questions, give feedback, or share experiences related to broadband connectivity and deployment amongst the individuals or groups they represent. Additionally, NTIA held more than 140 listening sessions for NTIA representatives to attend and listen as individuals or organizations expressed their views, challenges, needs, and ideas related to ensuring everyone in their area has access to affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet.

Impact of Local Coordination Events

The infographic below outlines the impact of the 17 local coordination events NTIA co-hosted.

5,045
Stakeholders Engaged

- **39%** Government (Federal, State, & Local)
- **5%** Tribal Corporations/ Communities
- **3%** Community Development Groups
- **12%** Nonprofit Organizations
- **6%** Academic Institutions
- **31%** Industry
- **4%** Other

24
Technical Assistance resources shared

5
Federal partners participating as presenters

- Federal Communications Commission
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of the Treasury
- U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development
- U.S. Department of the Interior

Several of these events are featured in-depth in the State Pages.

Leadership Networks, Federal Partners, and Industry Engagement

State Broadband Leaders Network

The State Broadband Leaders Network (SBLN) is a community of practitioners who work on increasing Internet deployment and access at the state level. OICG coordinates the group and convenes participants to share priorities and best practices, discuss emerging telecommunications policy issues, link states and local jurisdictions to federal agencies and funding sources, and address barriers to collaboration across states and agencies. OICG also worked with the SBLN to deliver technical assistance in support of states and territories participating in the BEAD and Digital Equity programs. This included facilitating interactions with communities, businesses, and organizations at the state and local levels.

In 2023, SBLN hosted two in-person summits and 26 virtual meetings, including bi-monthly virtual meetings and ad hoc special topic sessions. OICG hosted the 2023 Winter SBLN Summit at its headquarters in Washington, D.C., and brought together 141 state and territory broadband staff from 51 states and territories to share priorities, receive technical assistance, and discuss best practices and emerging telecommunications policy issues. OICG held the 2023 Summer SBLN Summit in Indianapolis, Indiana, and brought together 187 state and territory broadband staff from 51 states and territories. This event focused on technical assistance of the Digital Equity and BEAD Programs and the submissions of required

documentation, specifically requirements associated with the announcement of BEAD state allocation amounts and next steps with the Initial Proposals as well as the submission of State and Territory Digital Equity Plans. In addition to the summits and virtual meetings, OICG delivered approximately 30 weekly newsletters for SBLN participants. These newsletters, "SBLN Scoop," were sent via email to SBLN and NTIA staff and include information on programmatic updates, new Technical Assistance resources, details about upcoming events, and external resources and events that might be of interest to the SBLN.

Digital Equity Leaders Network

The Digital Equity Leaders Network (DELN) is a community of practitioners focused on increasing digital equity, digital inclusion, and access at the local, county, state, regional, and community levels. Participants include primarily government staff from local, regional, Tribal, and state digital equity and broadband offices. DELN provides a monthly forum to strengthen policy and program connections among local and state jurisdictions and federal agencies to improve funding coordination, align policies and strengthen collaboration across stakeholders. In 2023, the DELN hosted 15 virtual meetings representing 390 local, regional, state, and Tribal governments.

DELN hosted joint meetings throughout 2023 with SBLN and the Tribal Broadband Leaders Network (TBLN) to encourage cross network engagement and best practice sharing with other cohorts. In addition to the virtual meetings,

DELN hosted Deep Dive sessions focused on specific digital equity topics raised by attendees. These topics included digital equity in rural and smaller communities, health equity and digital equity, digital equity in Tribal communities, and a series of DELN sessions focused on covered populations. From these meetings, OICG developed Technical Assistance resources to help digital equity leaders understand issue areas, provided federal, state, local, and national resources, and examples of best practices that can help digital programs as they develop their programs. NTIA staff also created the monthly "DELN Download" newsletter which featured meeting topics, resources, news articles, and events on digital equity. As a result of these efforts, NTIA staff completed 40 "digital equity scans" of local cities and counties and created a digital equity contact directory to help attendees connect with each other.

Tribal Broadband Leaders Network

The Tribal Broadband Leaders Network (TBLN) is a community of Tribal practitioners dedicated to expanding connectivity on Tribal lands. The TBLN allows NTIA to receive ongoing feedback on the TBCP and provide pre- and post-award technical assistance support for NTIA's grant programs, including those not specifically focused on Tribal governments. The TBLN connects Tribal leaders and their staff across the country to address common barriers and present potential solutions and best practices; discuss emerging telecommunications policy issues; and identify engagement strategies with state broadband leaders. OICG also sent out the monthly Tribal Broadband Newsletter to the TBLN which featured meeting topics, notes from the previous meeting, Tribal resources, and upcoming events. The TBLN hosted its first in person Summit in Phoenix, Arizona, in March 2023, with over 200 Tribal Broadband Leaders in attendance. This forum provided a space for Tribal entities to interact with OICG and other Tribal broadband leaders from across the country.

Interagency Engagement

Federal Funding Workstream meetings

NTIA hosted over 20 Federal Funding Workstream (FFWS) meetings in 2023, bringing together over 20 federal agencies with broadband initiatives to share and learn about the work being done to expand high-speed Internet access. NTIA co-chairs the FFWS with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Coordination and collaboration to achieve Internet for All require timely and accurate knowledge and data about federal broadband funding programs to inform decision making. After each meeting, NTIA drafted an email summarizing the updates, which was shared with representatives from over 20 federal agencies, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and other Executive Office of the President staff. These interagency updates are also shared with NTIA's FPOs and other NTIA staff, who use the information in their engagements with State Broadband Offices (SBOs).

Interagency Stakeholder Engagement

OICG invited its interagency partners to participate in SBLN Winter and Summer Summits, virtual meetings, and Office Hours for SBOs to learn about updates to federal programs and additional funding sources. Over the course of the year, NTIA FPOs facilitated hundreds of meetings with interagency partners including USDA, the FCC, United States Department of Treasury, Economic Development Administration, and many others to promote local engagement and help states and local communities learn how to blend various sources of federal funding, leverage federal resources regarding cybersecurity, workforce development, telehealth and begin to coordinate with federal agencies involved in permitting.

Industry Engagement

Through 2023, OICG also continued to engage with industry, unions, community organizations, and workforce training providers to create a diverse broadband workforce. This engagement also helps to prepare the domestic supply chain to support infrastructure deployment projects and prepare Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to pursue BEAD network deployment grants to foster a competitive process that will result in the best and most affordable service for all consumers. These efforts can be seen in NTIA's Communications Supply Chain Risk Information Partnership (C-SCRIP) that helps identify potential risks for local providers and suppliers so they can make informed investment decisions, helping to stabilizable the domestic supply chain and prevent future "rip and replace" programs.

To meet the workforce needs of the Internet for All programs, OICG continued to inform states, territories, and industry stakeholders on best practices to develop a skilled, diverse workforce for high-speed Internet deployment projects. OICG conveyed this information through the release of the [Workforce Planning Guide](#) that provided strategies to meet BEAD program requirements, examples, and next steps for establishing a diverse broadband workforce. In addition to the Guide, OICG developed workforce-focused technical assistance resources for BEAD Eligible Entities, including state-specific workforce data analysis that

supported Eligible Entities as they anticipate potential labor gaps and a childcare resource which provides strategies and best practices to promote childcare access to reduce barriers to employment in telecommunications. OICG convened a panel of industry associations during the 2023 Summer SBLN Summit to address emerging workforce and permitting topics to support BEAD implementation. In early 2023, OICG also launched a monthly industry newsletter to deliver critical Internet for All programmatic updates, new technical assistance materials, and information on upcoming events.

Build America Buy America (BABA) Act

The Build America Buy America (BABA) Act, enacted as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, established a domestic content procurement preference for all federal financial assistance obligated for infrastructure projects after May 14, 2022. The domestic content procurement preference requires that all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in covered infrastructure projects are produced in the United States. The U.S. Department of Commerce is working with the OMB Made in America Office to coordinate compliance with these procurement requirements.

NTIA is strictly enforcing BABA requirements outlined in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the Internet for All NOFOs. On August 22, 2023, NTIA published a limited and targeted draft BABA waiver for the BEAD Program. This proposed waiver was the result of months of careful analysis of market conditions and sustained outreach to industry and stakeholders. The draft waiver was open to public comments for 30 days and closed on September 21, 2023. NTIA received comments from 66 unique stakeholders including manufacturers, Internet service providers, trade associations, and labor groups. Following several months of additional analysis, research, and engagement, NTIA released the final version of the Buy America waiver for the BEAD Program on February 23, 2024. This limited waiver proposes a firm approach to enforcing BABA requirements while balancing the realities of complex supply chains. This limited waiver has already spurred $100 million in new domestic manufacturing investment and the creation of thousands of new jobs. It's NTIA's expectation that this domestic investment will continue following the release of the final draft of the waiver.
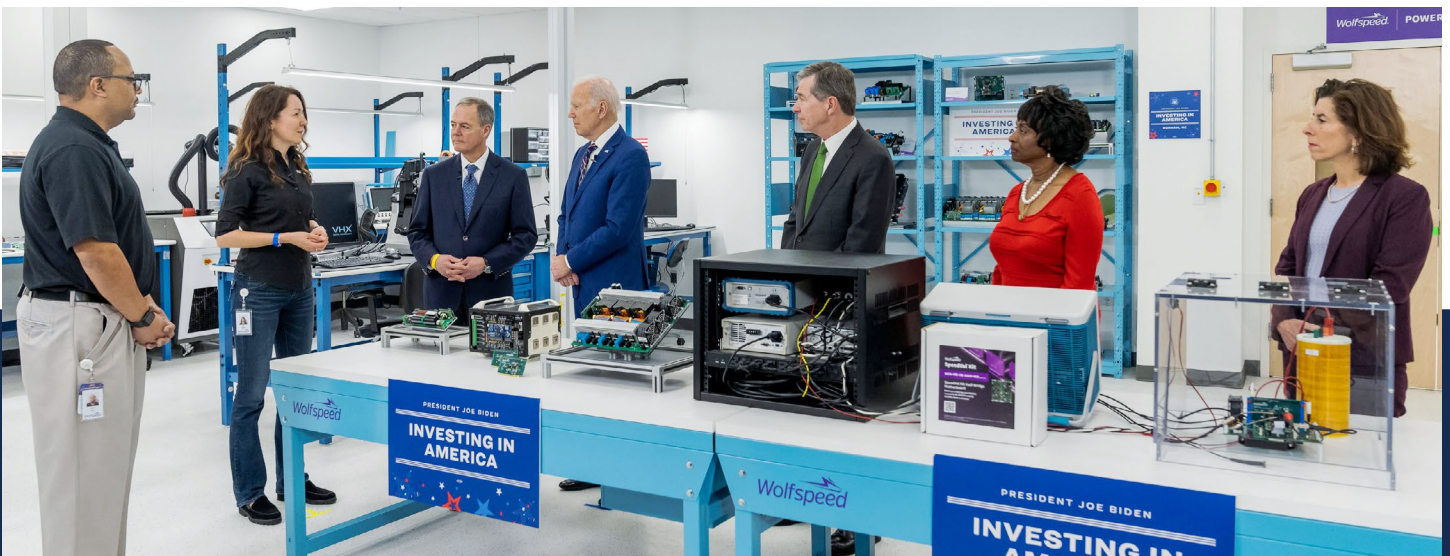
On April 19, 2023, NTIA issued a [BABA waiver](#) for the Middle Mile Grant program. In drafting the waiver, NTIA reviewed and addressed the 11 comments received during the public comment period. The waiver is effective for the period of performance of all Middle Mile program grants awarded from March 1, 2023, until March 1, 2024, beginning on the date of issuance for each award.

The investment in broadband infrastructure combined with the BABA requirements has spurred many companies to expand or move manufacturing and jobs to the United States. In 2023, communities across the country are seeing these investments up close; some are listed in the state pages in the following section. A selection of these investments is listed below as well as captured in this [map:](#)

- In March, Corning officially opened its newest optical cable manufacturing campus in Hickory, North Carolina, which will help accelerate U.S. buildouts of high-speed fiber broadband networks. This campus will add hundreds of jobs to Corning's existing North Carolina workforce of more than 5,000.

- In June, Prysmian invested $30 million to transition its Jackson, Tennessee, plant from copper cables to fiber-optic cable. Prysmian remained dedicated to its workforce, retaining nearly 90 percent of employees. Prysmian expects to hire an additional 40 workers to meet the projected demand for fiber-optic cable driven by the BEAD Program.

- At an August event in Kenosha, Wisconsin, Nokia announced that it will move production of key fiber-optic broadband electronics to the United States to comply with the Buy America requirements. This investment will result in up to 200 new workers being hired.

- In August at their global HQ in Huntsville, Alabama, Adtran announced it will expand domestic production of key broadband electronics and move additional manufacturing from Asia back to the United States. This is expected to result in the creation of close to 250 new jobs in Huntsville.

- In November, Belden's PPC Broadband Solutions Business announced an investment of nearly $10 million to reshore production of fiber-optic cable to their Syracuse, New York facility. This reshoring will drive close to 200 new jobs in central New York.

- In November, Ciena announced an investment in U.S. electronic manufacturing to support BEAD-funded projects. This investment will drive close to 200 new jobs.

11

NTIA reviewed and addressed the 11 comments received during the public comment period.

BUILDING
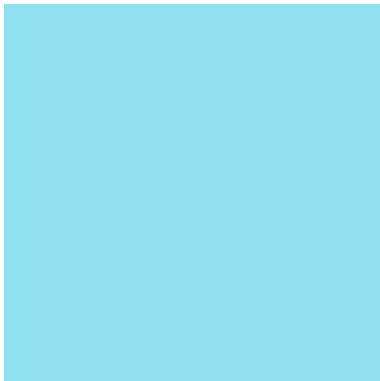
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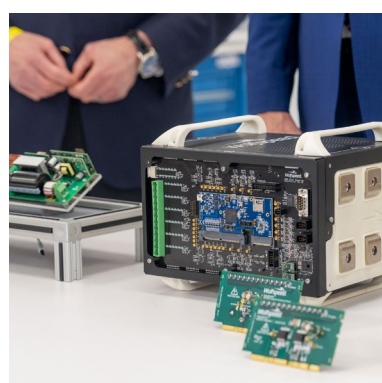
State Pages

Connecting everyone in America, by its very nature, requires the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to support Internet connectivity efforts in every state and territory. The work of the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth (OICG) takes place across the country, in states, territories, towns, rural communities, and on Tribal lands. The following section highlights some of the tailored support that OICG has provided as a foundation to states and territories over 2023. OICG's goal continues to be assisting states on an individualized level to help them effectively connect their populations to affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet.

While most information included in these state and territory pages focuses on work conducted in 2023, due to overlap and continued impact of funding information from previous years may also be included. The following section provides a selection of highlights from each state and territory and will be updated yearly. These highlights do not represent a comprehensive list of all of the awards and funding in each state or territory supported by NTIA. To learn about all awards and funding and to find the most up-to-date information, please visit the BroadbandUSA and Internet for All websites.

For information on NTIA's Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) and regional highlights related to Tribes and Tribal entities, please see Tribal Regional Summaries.

Table Of Contents

ALABAMA

Public Engagement

Alabama used State Digital Equity Planning Grant funds to visit all 67 counties

and hear from local citizens, Internet Service Providers (ISPs), elected officials and other community leaders. These meetings were critical in identifying each community's unique challenges in achieving the goal of Internet for All.
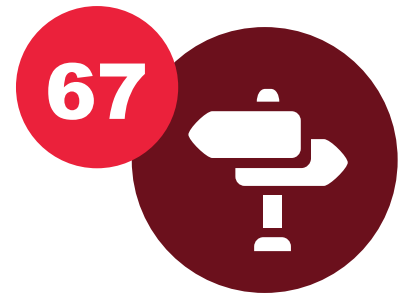
Amplifying Digital Equity and BEAD Investments

In August 2023, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Assistant Secretary Alan Davidson and Senior Advisor to the President and Infrastructure Coordinator Mitch Landrieu visited an Adtran facility in Huntsville, which is increasing production capacity to meet the demand created by Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program's (BEAD) Build America, Buy America (BABA) obligations. The expansion means millions of new dollars in the economy and hundreds of new, high-paying jobs for North Alabama.

Assistant Secretary Davidson and Senior Advisor Landrieu also met with a small group of local educators, pastors, and other leaders from the African American community in Huntsville. The Alabama BEAD Federal Program Officer (FPO) facilitated the small group session and focused on access and affordability, as well as the importance of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP).[17]

[17] *While the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) stopped accepting applications in February 2024 and anticipates the end of the program in Spring 2024 due to lack of funding, OICG wanted to recognize the importance of the program's impact in States and Territories in 2023.*

Connecting Minority Communities through Education

The Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program awarded seven grants to Alabama Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs), which allowed them to upgrade infrastructure and improve connectivity and network resiliency for students, faculty, staff, and the surrounding community.

Future Proofing Alabama with Partners

In June 2023, NTIA announced the funding of two middle mile networks in Alabama through its Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure (Middle Mile) Program. **The Connect Alabama program of Troy Cablevision Inc. will build a 677.1-mile route through 28 of Alabama's 67 counties. The Zayo Dallas to Atlanta Middle Mile project will improve existing fiber in five states along an 822-mile route that passes through 10 counties in Alabama.**

Zayo Dallas to Atlanta Middle Mile Project

822 Route Miles

10 Alabama Counties

677.1 Route Miles

28 Alabama Counties

Connect Alabama Program
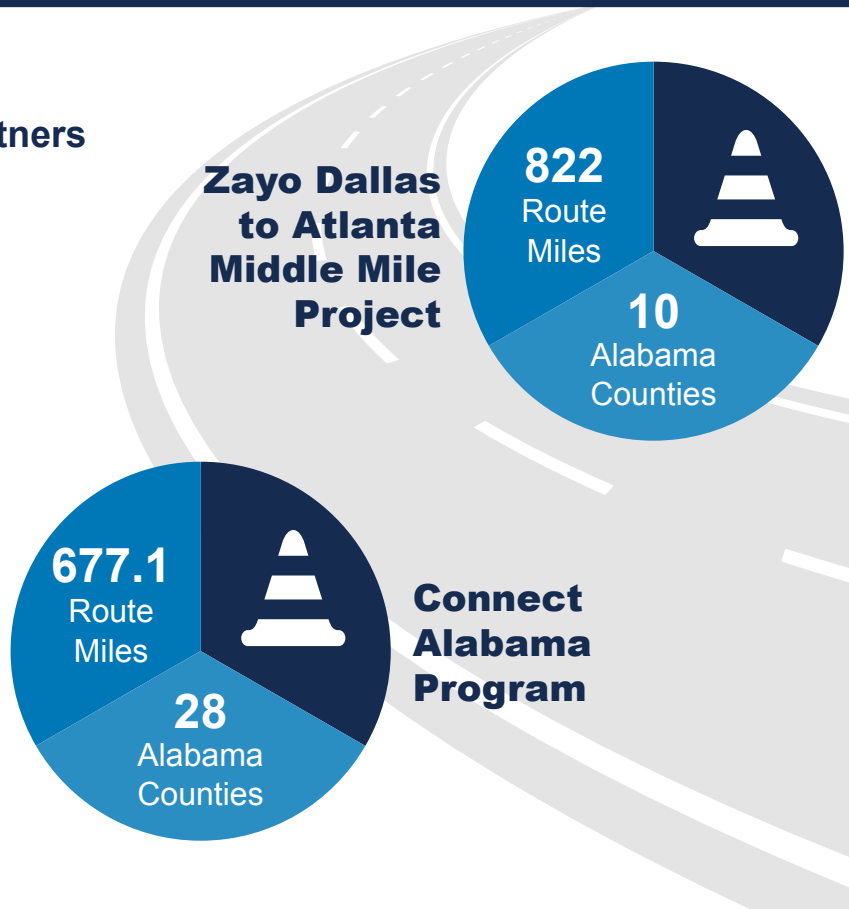
Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$1,401,221,901.77
BEAD Planning Grant	$5,000,000.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$981,081.00
Middle Mile Program	$39,988,201.63
CMC Pilot Program	$18,439,768.54

State Broadband Office:
The Alabama State Broadband Office is housed within the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs.

Website:
https://adeca.alabama.gov/broadband/

ALASKA

Amplifying Investments through Relationship Building

Permitting in "the Last Frontier" is a challenge like no other. National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) staff traveled to Alaska throughout 2023 to meet with state and federal partners, build relationships, and explore opportunities to streamline permitting. As a result, multiple efforts are underway to coordinate and ease permitting challenges in Alaska.

Connecting Alaska Native Communities

As of December 2023, over $400 million has been awarded to Alaskan Tribes through NTIA's Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP), funding Tribal broadband projects across Alaska. Innovative "tundra lay" and riverbed fiber projects are connecting Alaska Native communities that have been left behind for too long.

Local Public Engagement

The Alaska Broadband Office conducted extensive Tribal consultations that brought both Tribal governments and Alaska Native Corporations to the table to better inform

Alaska's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program planning. Organizations funded through the BEAD and Digital Equity Act programs conducted hundreds of technical assistance sessions, engagements and listening sessions in some of the most remote places on Earth.

Laying Foundation for Tech Career Creation

The University of Alaska Fairbanks received $2.9 million through NTIA's Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program to purchase hardware and software and to boost Internet speeds at rural campuses. In recent years, rural campuses in communities like Nome and Kotzebue benefited from access to fiber connections but have been unable to afford speeds greater than 10 Mbps. The upgrades will allow low-income Alaska Native and disadvantaged students to pursue technology careers through online classes.

> " The University of Alaska Fairbanks recieved $2.9 million...to purchase hardware & software..."

Future Proofing Fiber Lines

NTIA's Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure (Middle Mile) Program made history by greenlighting QSH Parent Holdco LLC's $150 million Nome to Homer Express Route. This subsea fiber project will complete the circle of redundant fiber that rings Alaska's 600,000 square miles of wilderness and harsh seas. For tens of thousands of Alaskans who are currently vulnerable to months of outages when fiber lines break, future downtime will be measured in milliseconds instead of months.

BEAD Funding Advancing Mapping Initiatives

NTIA's BEAD planning funds enabled the Alaska Broadband Office to analyze satellite imagery and accurately locate tens of thousands of additional homes not included in existing broadband mapping efforts. Through the hard work of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), plus advocacy from countless partners, Alaska saw one of the largest broadband serviceable locations increases in the nation. Broadband maps now more closely reflect the diverse locations Alaskans call home.

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$1,017,139,672.42
BEAD Planning Grant	$5,000,000.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$567,800.00
Middle Mile Program	$88,896,493.83
CMC Pilot Program	$2,976,837.00

State Broadband Office:
The Alaska State Broadband Office is housed within the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.

Website:
https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/abo/

ARIZONA

Fostering Technical Careers

The Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program provided over $12 million to four Arizona colleges that serve minority and Tribal communities to hire and train IT and digital literacy personnel.

Staffing Arizona with BEAD and DE Funding

The State Broadband Office (SBO) increased staff capacity for Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) and Digital Equity planning and execution through a mix of full-time employees, contractors, and interagency coordination with the Governor's Office.

"**CMC provided over $12 million to 4 Arizona colleges.**"

$12M
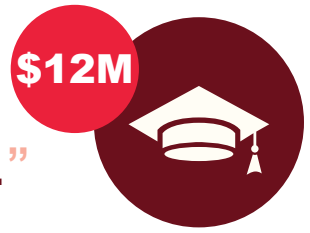
Executive Declarations

Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs declared broadband a priority and issued a call to Public Engagement for Arizona. In 2023, Governor Hobbs established the Interagency and Community Broadband Advisory Council to help support strategic broadband deployment in Arizona.

Arizona Tribal Consultation

In 2023, the Governor's Administration held its first Tribal consultation, which focused on broadband and digital equity.

Connecting Unserved and Underserved Homes

The SBO awarded $100 million in Capital Project Fund (CPF) broadband grants from the U.S. Department of the Treasury, which will serve an estimated 100,000 unserved and underserved locations.

This additional funding formed an integral component of the diverse range of measures used by the federal government to tackle the digital divide. These measures are part of the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth's (OICG) overall strategy to connect everyone in America to high-speed Internet.

Resiliency In the Home or Making the Home Connection Affordable

As of June 2023, 423,299 eligible households in Arizona were enrolled in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP).[18] In addition, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) awarded four National and Tribal Competitive Outreach Grants to organizations in Arizona for a total of $1.8 million.

The FCC's ACP formed an integral component of the diverse range of measures used by the federal government to tackle the digital divide. These measures are part of OICG's overall strategy to connect everyone in America to high-speed Internet.

423,299
Eligible Households

4
Awarded National & Tribal Competitive Outreach Grants

$1.8 million
to organizations in Arizona

[18] While While the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) stopped accepting applications in February 2024 and anticipates the end of the program in Spring 2024 due to lack of funding, OICG wanted to recognize the importance of the program's impact in States and Territories in 2023.

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$993,112,231.37
BEAD Planning Grant	$5,000,000.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$1,116,110.00
Middle Mile Program	$30,281,277.00
CMC Pilot program	$12,146,598.12

State Broadband Office:
The Arizona State Broadband Office is housed under the Arizona Commerce Authority.

Website:
https://www.azcommerce.com/Broadband

ARKANSAS

Building Understanding through Committees

The 75 Counties Tour, conducted between February 15 and June 9, 2023, improved understanding of broadband serviceability and digital equity challenges in the state. It helped identify local stakeholders, including nonprofits and umbrella organizations, to include in the development of the state's Five-Year Action Plan, Initial Proposal, and Digital Equity Plan. The Southwest Regional Director for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) and Digital Equity Programs accompanied the Arkansas State Broadband Office (SBO) on their 75 County Tour for one week in April 2023.

Following the 75 County Tour in Arkansas, the SBO encouraged the creation of County Broadband Committees and organized an Arkansas Broadband Leaders Network to share relevant information with these committees.

Between Feb. 15

75 County Tour conducted

and June 9
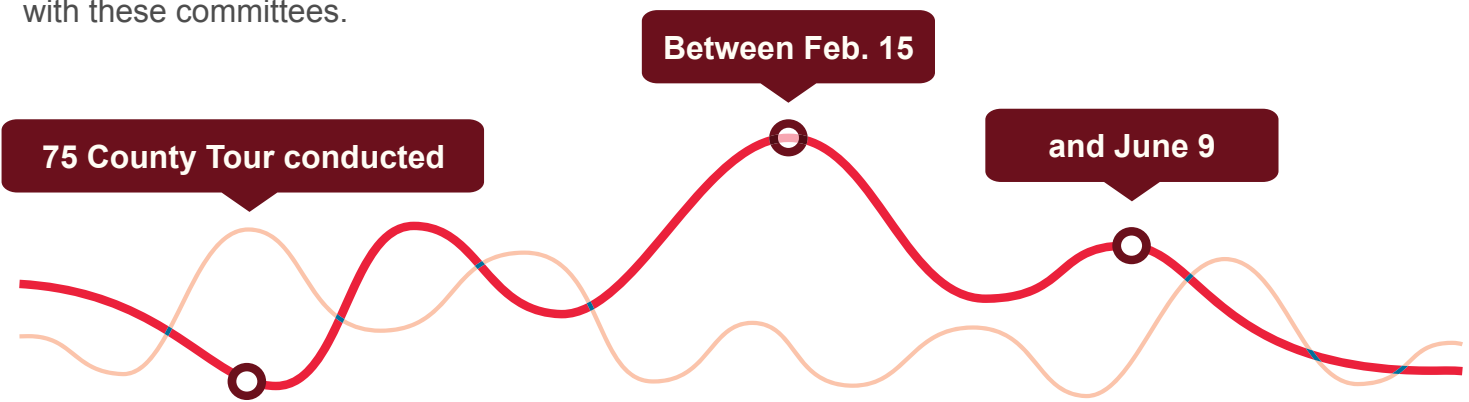
Connecting Little Rock, Arkansas

The Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program awarded a $3 million grant to Philander Smith College, a Historically Black University in Little Rock, Arkansas. The awardee will use these funds to modernize the college's digital infrastructure and provide broadband service, devices, and training to help prepare the future workforce. The goal of this effort is to improve, upgrade, and expand the use of technology on campus with a focus on innovation to enhance the learning process of the students and provide more effective administrative functions for the faculty and staff.

Stakeholder Engagement on a 75 County Tour

Arkansas used BEAD and Digital Equity planning funds to execute a robust stakeholder engagement strategy, visiting all 75 counties in Arkansas. It conducted focus groups to directly engage with covered populations (aging individuals, Veterans, rural residents, etc.) and pillar-specific roundtables, such as workforce development and agriculture.

"...visiting all 75 counties in Arkansas. It conducted focus groups..."

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$1,024,303,993.86
BEAD Planning Grant	$4,999,998.75
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$843,673.00
CMC Pilot Program	$2,999,903.00

State Broadband Office:
The Arkansas State Broadband Office is housed under the Arkansas Economic Development Commission in the Department of Commerce.

Website:
https://broadband.arkansas.gov/
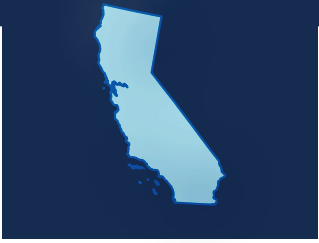
CALIFORNIA

Amplifying Investment through Community Platforms

Using Digital Equity and Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) planning funds, California engaged with over 50,000 California residents and entities through 48 virtual Statewide Planning Group and Outcome Area Working Group meetings, 20 in-person regional planning workshops and Tribal consultations, statewide surveys, webinars, presentations, and individual consultations and interviews.

Connecting Minority and Tribal Serving Communities

California received nine Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program grants, for a total of over $26.4 million, which will help colleges and institutions that serve minority and Tribal communities.

Department of Commerce Celebrating Investments

National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Assistant Secretary Alan Davidson and U.S. Representative Anna Eshoo (CA-16) joined federal, state, and local officials gathered at the Cabrillo Unified School District headquarters to announce and celebrate the allocation of $1.86 billion from the Biden Administration's Internet for All Initiative. They listened to constituents discuss the next steps for improving the coastside's access to the Internet.

" **California received nine Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program grants, for a total of over $26.4 million** "

$26M

Future Proofing and Supporting Hoopa Valley or Hoopa Valley Tribe Leads Major Build

Through the California Middle Mile Initiative, Golden State Net, and NTIA's Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) grant to Hoopa Valley Public Utilities District (HVPUD), the State of California signed a groundbreaking agreement to construct a 23-mile section of the state's middle mile network. This Joint Build Agreement maximizes state and federal funding to provide regional fiber-optic infrastructure in an unserved, remote area. These project funds complement and support each other to construct middle mile and last mile infrastructure to more than 1,000 homes on the reservation.
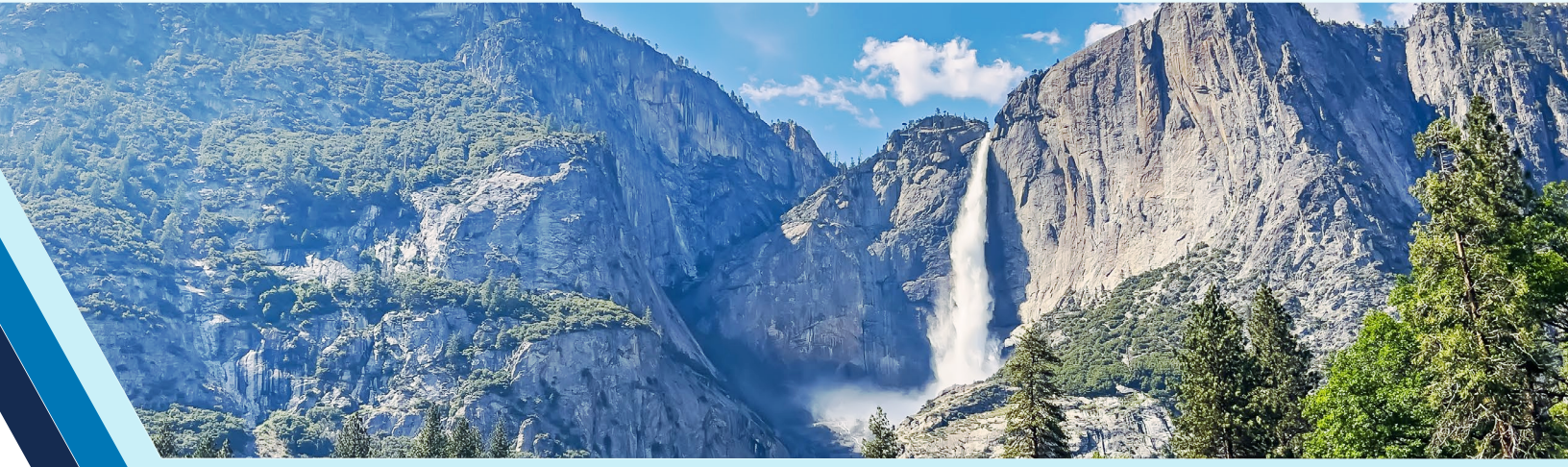
Future Proofing through a Statewide Network

California's Department of Technology received an award of $73 million through NTIA's Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure (Middle Mile) Program for the construction of 680 miles of middle mile fiber across 37 spurs, which are part of the larger statewide middle mile network. This brings the network within five miles of 288,000 unserved addresses and 14 Tribal entities, and within 1,000 feet of 1,124 anchor institutions.

Connecting Tribal Lands and Governments

Tribal governments in California received 36 TBCP grants, totaling $167.5 million, to bring high-speed Internet to Tribal lands, including initiatives around telehealth, distance learning, affordability, and digital inclusion.

36 Grants totaling $167.5 Million

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$1,864,136,508.93
BEAD Planning Grant	$4,996,502.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$4,001,520.00
Middle Mile Program	$97,059,784.00
CMC Pilot Program	$26,410,034.00

State Broadband Office:
The California State Broadband Office is housed under the California Department of Technology for Digital Equity and the California Public Utilities Commission for infrastructure.

Websites:
https://broadbandcouncil.ca.gov/
https://broadbandforall.cdt.ca.gov/
https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/broadband-implementation-for-california/broadband-caseworkers/broadband-funding-and-programs

COLORADO

Amplifying Investments with Colorado State Officials

In June 2023, Colorado Governor Jared Polis hosted an allocation celebration with Senator Michael Bennet, U.S. Representative Joe Neguse (CO-2), and State Representative Brianna Titone to highlight the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Notification of Allocation Announcement. The funds will be used to connect the 129,000 unserved broadband serviceable locations in Colorado.

Funding Community-Based Organizations

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Digital Equity Planning Grant has enabled the Office of Future of Work to award research dollars to over 20 community-based organizations conducting research in covered populations. This helped inform Colorado's Digital Equity Plan.

Connecting the Southern Ute Indian Tribe

NTIA's Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) awarded the Southern Ute Indian Tribe $43.7 million to install fiber connecting over 500 unserved Native American households and anchor institutions.

Connecting the Ute Mountains

NTIA's TBCP awarded the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe $22.7 million to install two middle mile routes across non-contiguous Tribal lands in two states. The project will build last mile fiber to connect over 800 homes and Tribal community anchor institutions.

> " NTIA's Digital Equity Grant has enabled the Office of Future of Work to award research dollars to over 20 community-based organizations "

20

Connecting with the Colorado Coalition for Indian Affairs

In partnership with NTIA and the Colorado Coalition for Indian Affairs, the Colorado Broadband Office successfully hosted Tribal Consultations with both the Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe in August. These consultations materially affected the information in both the Digital Equity Plan development and the Initial Proposal for the BEAD grant.

Local Coordination Kick-Off

In April 2023, the Colorado Broadband Office, in partnership with NTIA, hosted a Local Coordination event, kicking off the BEAD and Digital Equity programs in Colorado. The two-day event was attended both online and in person by over 400 stakeholders across the state, with content ranging from workforce development to best practices for reviewing and identifying potential challenges to improve the accuracy of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) National Broadband Map.

Future Proofing with Aerial and Trenched Fiber

In June 2023, NTIA's Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure (Middle Mile) Program awarded BIF IV Intrepid Opco LLC to deploy 78,129 feet of aerial fiber and 29,173 feet of trenched fiber. This will create a protected ring from the Pueblo, Colorado datacenter to six remote cabinets, connecting 41,074 homes and small businesses.

78,129 ft of aerial fiber & **29,173 ft** of trenched fiber
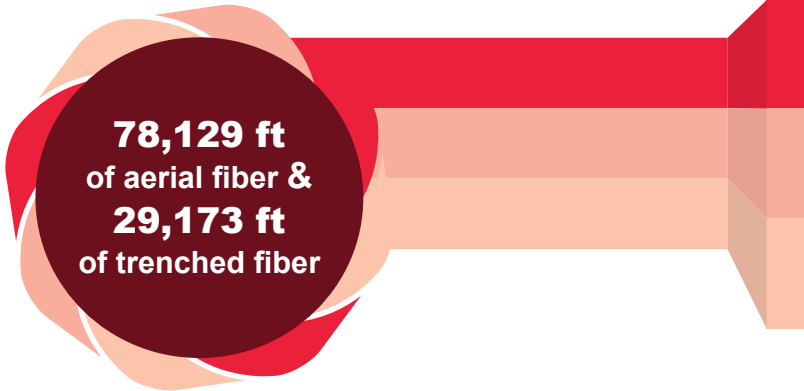
Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$826,522,650.41
BEAD Planning Grant	$4,999,997.43
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$897,119.00
Middle Mile Program	$2,710,970.97
CMC Pilot Program	$2,999,023.00

State Broadband Office:
The Colorado State Broadband Office is housed under the Governor's Office of Information Technology.

Website:
https://broadband.colorado.gov/

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Local Coordination

The Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Affairs launched a series of local coordination meetings in late fall 2023. These in-person listening sessions solicited feedback and launched a statewide listening tour to gather further input on the Initial Proposal draft.

Breaking Down Barriers to Broadband through Public Engagement

The Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology held in-person digital equity listening sessions to identify non-connectivity barriers to broadband adoption in communities across the state of Connecticut.

Public Engagement Partnership with Nonprofits and Advocacy Groups

Connecticut held quarterly roundtable meetings with nonprofit and digital equity advocacy groups to obtain a better understanding of barriers to connectivity for vulnerable and underserved populations in Connecticut.

Public Engagement of Connecticut's Five-Year Action Plan

Connecticut held several roundtable meetings virtually with local government partners to solicit feedback and receive input for the development of Connecticut's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Five-Year Action Plan and Initial Proposal. These engagements ensured quality local coordination in Connecticut's BEAD deployment efforts. The state continued these meetings to maintain engagement.

Connecting the Private and Public Sectors

Connecticut held quarterly roundtable meetings virtually with Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and other industry partners. These roundtables served as a forum for developing strong partnerships between the state of Connecticut and potential BEAD subgrantees and ensured dialogue at every step of the BEAD program.

Connecting Tribal entities and State Governments

The Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Affairs engaged with Tribal entities such as the Mashantucket Pequot Indian Tribe to ensure connectivity to Tribal communities in Connecticut's BEAD Initial Proposal.

" **...held quarterly roundtable meetings virtually with Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and other industry partners.** "

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$144,180,792.71
BEAD Planning Grant	$5,000,000.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$736,567.00
CMC Pilot Program	$2,864,285.00

State Broadband Office:
The Connecticut State Broadband Office is housed under the Office of Consumer Council.

Website:
https://portal.ct.gov/OCC/Services/Broadband

DELAWARE

Amplifying Investments through Local and Regional Governments

With the help and participation of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Northeast Regional Director and Federal Program Officer (FPO), the State of Delaware hosted a series of "sprints" to help stakeholders and potential subgrantees navigate the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) and Digital Equity Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs). The state engaged with local and regional governments, community anchor institutions, Internet Service Providers (ISPs), covered populations, workforce leaders, and business and economic development leaders through a total of 12 sessions — two specifically tailored to each stakeholder group — to solicit feedback on the state's broadband plans and guide each group through the Internet for All grants process. Each session yielded responses to the needs and assets survey that the state is using to plan its BEAD and Digital Equity subgrantee programs.

Amplifying Voices through Town Hall Meetings

With the support of the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth (OICG), the State of Delaware hosted five broadband town halls attended by over 200 people to hear public commentary on their Internet for All agenda. Each of the state's three counties hosted one meeting, with two virtual follow-ups.

5 **Broadband Town Halls**

200 **Attended**
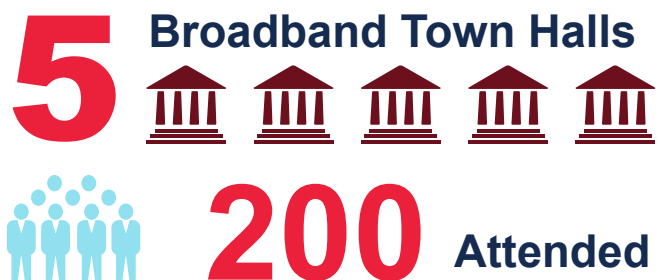
Trailblazing to Public Comment

Delaware was one of the first states to post its BEAD Initial Proposal Volume 1 for public comment. Despite its small size and, at the time, limited grants office capacity, the state produced a coherent first draft with several provisions that other states used as an example in creating their own Initial Proposals. OICG conducted a pre-review of Delaware's Initial Proposal Volume 1 in which over 10 staffers — from the entry to leadership levels — edited the draft and shared constructive feedback with the State Broadband Office's (SBO). OICG also administered a three-hour, one-on-one technical assistance session with the state for Initial Proposal Volume 2 on September 15.

State Broadband Office Staffing Capacity

The State of Delaware used its BEAD and Digital Equity planning funds to expand the SBO's staff capacity by over 50 percent. Originally run by only two program managers, the SBO is now led by Broadband Executive Director Roddy Flynn, whose salary comes directly from the BEAD planning grant. Flynn recently completed the hiring and onboarding of a grants manager and a digital equity coordinator, ending a year-long process to shore up the state's grants capacity to deliver Internet for All. In doing so, the state fulfilled its budgetary commitments for the planning grants. On numerous occasions, the state used OICG's State Broadband Office Creation Checklist to vet candidates, review applications, and prepare for interviews.

Exapanded staff capacity
OVER
50%

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$107,748,384.66
BEAD Planning Grant	$4,995,113.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$516,096.00

State Broadband Office:
The Delaware State Broadband Office is housed under the Department of Technology and Information.

Website:
https://broadband.delaware.gov/

FLORIDA

Connecting Florida's Education

The Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program awarded grants to Florida A&M University, Broward College, and Miami Dade College to upgrade infrastructure and improve connectivity as well as network resiliency for students, faculty, staff, and their respective surrounding communities. The grants totaled over $10.8 million.

Connecting Seminole Tribe of Florida Across Lands

The Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) awarded the Seminole Tribe of Florida a grant for $499,000. This funding will help the Tribe improve digital inclusion for Tribal members by establishing and implementing a Tribal-wide digital training program and providing equipment to support schools, libraries, and workforce development.

TBCP awarded
$499 Thousand

to the Seminole Tribe of Florida

Amplifying Investment through Technological Initiatives

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Assistant Secretary Alan Davidson visited Miami in July 2023. During this visit, he toured the AI Center at CMC grant recipient Miami Dade College, met, and provided remarks to the Principals for Latino Digital Success and received a briefing from Tech Equity Miami. Tech Equity Miami is a funding consortium that plans to deploy $100 million over five years into initiatives to remove barriers into the tech industry and to help create opportunities for underrepresented groups.

Future Proofing Rural Florida

In June 2023, NTIA's Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure (Middle Mile) Program awarded WANRack LLC a grant to build middle mile infrastructure in a rural area of Florida. The grant will fund 44.8 miles of open-access middle mile infrastructure through three counties to create consistent connectivity options and improve affordability in the communities of Polk, Pasco, and Hernando Counties.

44.8 Miles
of open access middle mile infrastrucutre

For the Next 3 counties
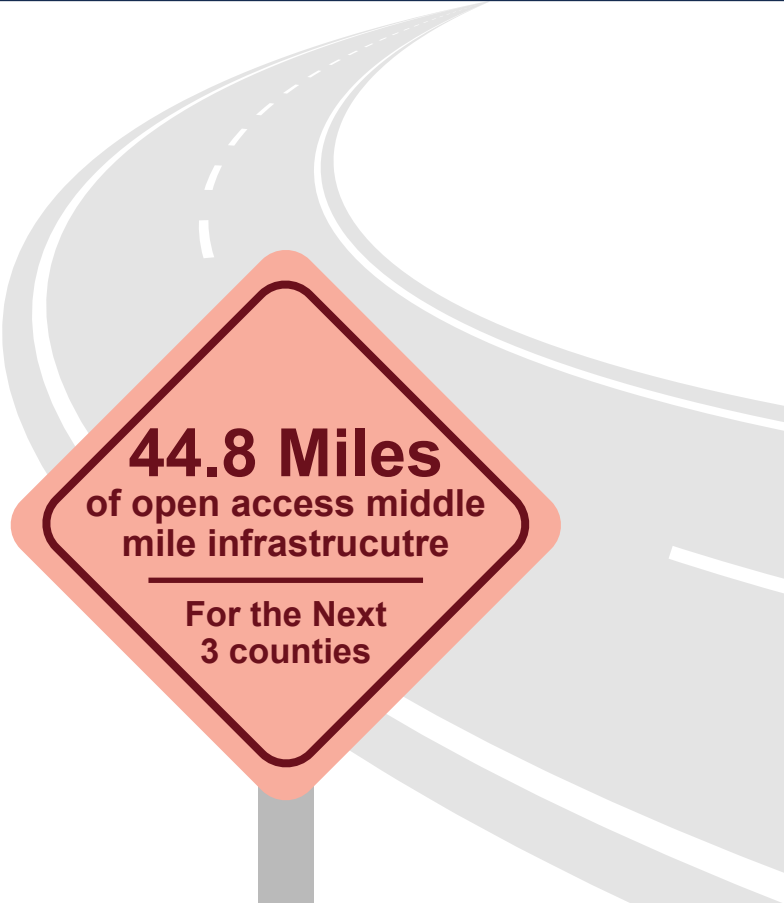
Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$1,169,947,392.70
BEAD Planning Grant	$4,999,976.99
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$2,407,220.00
Middle Mile Program	$2,812,086.07
CMC Pilot Program	$10,809,667.77

State Broadband Office:
The Florida State Broadband Office is housed under the Florida Department of Commerce.

Website:
https://www.floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/broadband/office-of-broadband
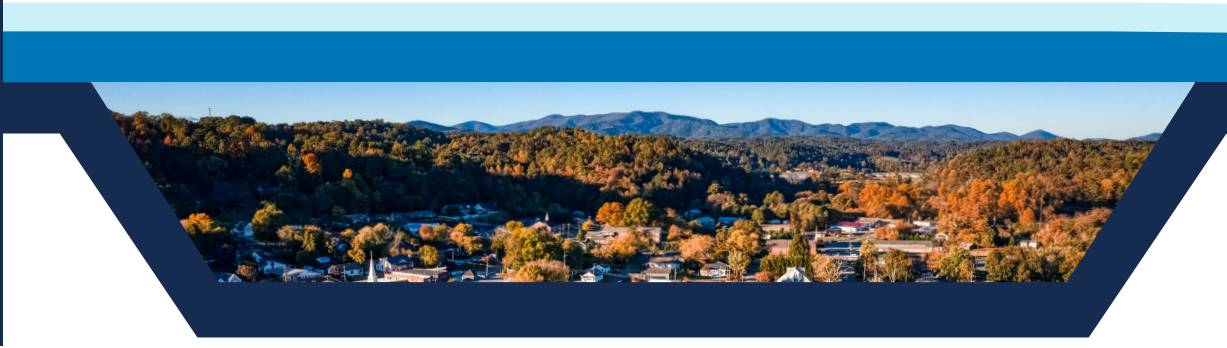
GEORGIA

Industry Engagement

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) engaged with industry in many ways, including assistance with Build America, Buy America (BABA) compliance. NTIA toured OFS Fiber's manufacturing facilities, Georgia's largest fiber plant in Carrollton, and the optical cable plant in Norcross. In addition to addressing supply chain concerns, NTIA led meetings focused on maximizing efficiency, including a meeting with state legislators and agency staff to discuss permitting best practices and preparation for workforce training and curricula.

Working with State Partners

NTIA worked closely with the Georgia Technical Authority (GTA) and interagency partners over the last year as Georgia used $5 million in Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) and $1.6 million in Digital Equity planning funds to prepare Georgians for this historic infrastructure investment. The SBO received over $1.3 billion in BEAD allocations, which will be used to ensure that every Georgian has access to affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet.

Other Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth (OICG) Grants at Work in Georgia:

NTIA's Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP)	
Lumpkin County	$1.94 million
NTIA's Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program	
Dovetel Communications, LL West & NW GA Middle Mile	$12.2 million
Zayo Group, LLC Dallas to Atlanta Middle Mile	$13.7 million
NTIA's Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program	
Morehouse School of Medicine	$4.2 million
Fort Valley State University	$3 million
Albany State University	$3 million
Atlanta Technical College	$3 million

State Broadband Office

The Georgia State Broadband Office (SBO), led by GTA, met regularly with NTIA to workshop programmatic development and policy questions. Often GTA and NTIA would convene specific technical assistance sessions. This coordination among federal and state partners worked to improve the rapid and accountable deployment of grant funds.

Books and Football:
Local Engagement with the Public Libraries and University of Georgia

NTIA partnered with the Georgia Public Library System and University of Georgia (UGA) Athletics to host an Internet for All public outreach meeting before the Dawgs spring G-Day football game. More than 70 northeast Georgians attended the Internet for All event at Athens-Clarke County Library, including UGA Athletic Director Josh Brooks, Center and Captain Sedrick Van Pran, and Defensive Tackle Warren Brinson to discuss their "Dawgs for Pups" digital equity work to bridge the digital divide in Athens.

Public Engagement

The GTA hosted more than 50 official public meetings, from local roundtables to regional conferences. Public engagement was robust and reached all corners of the state. These community meetings increased public awareness and brought depth to Georgia's Initial Proposal and Digital Equity Plan. The meetings allowed local citizens to participate in identifying and addressing local broadband infrastructure needs.

Aside from these public outreach meetings, NTIA and GTA participated in hundreds of one-on-one meetings ranging across all sectors of society, including industry leaders, small businesses, Internet Service Providers (ISPs), cable companies, Energy Management Control Systems (EMCs), construction companies, local school boards, higher education, technical and community colleges, healthcare providers, and workforce training organizations.

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$1,307,214,371.30
BEAD Planning Grant	$4,999,994.65
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$1,429,210.00
Middle Mile Program	$25,922,591.00
BIP Program	$3,236,198.00
CMC Pilot Program	$13,223,625.00

State Broadband Office:
The Georgia State Broadband Office is housed under the Georgia Technology Authority.

Website:
https://broadband.georgia.gov/

HAWAII

Funding from Federal Partners

On September 6, 2023 Waimanalo Hawaiian Homestead Association, a native Hawaiian organization, was awarded over $300,000 from the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grant Program (ACP Outreach Grant Program) Tribal Competitive Outreach Program (TCOP). This grant allows the Homestead Association to work with other native Hawaiian leaders on the homestead to promote enrollment in the ACP.[19]

The Federal Program Officer (FPO) for Hawaii was invited to walk through the FCC's ACP Outreach Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) with native Hawaiian leaders in the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands in collaboration with the Digital Equity State Broadband Office (SBO) at the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism.

The FCC's ACP Outreach Grant Program forms an integral component of the diverse range of measures used by the federal government to tackle the digital divide. These measures are part of OICG's overall strategy to connect everyone in America to high-speed Internet.

[19] *While the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) stopped accepting applications in February 2024 and anticipates the end of the program in Spring 2024 due to lack of funding, OICG wanted to recognize the importance of the program's impact in States and Territories in 2023.*

"**The Broadband Hui is … an association of stakeholders who have used resources from OICG to help shape the BEAD and Digital Equity initiatives…**"

2023 Broadband HōʻIke Kauai County Stakeholder Event

On October 1 through 3, 2023, the island of Kauaʻi hosted the first ever Broadband HōʻIke in coordination with the Kauaʻi Economic Development Board and the Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office to celebrate the release of the state's Digital Equity Plan draft, and to receive feedback from community members and organizations around Kauaʻi, other Hawaiian Islands, and the mainland. Groups visited new network deployments, resiliency hubs, and community organizations on the first day as well as presented several panels on the state of broadband in Hawaii and the plans for connecting all Hawaiians.

Hawaii's Broadband Hui

The Broadband Hui is in its 178th weekly session and is an association of stakeholders who have used resources from the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth (OICG) to help shape the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) and Digital Equity initiatives and craft the organization of its stakeholder community networks. Specifically, OICG provided technical assistance and outreach training to the involved stakeholders. Hawaii is leveraging the Hui to move towards its Digital Equity goals by using community input from the Hui to help guide its Digital Equity plan statewide.

Information on Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) awards made in Hawaii can be found in the Tribal Regional Summaries.

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$149,484,493.57
BEAD Planning Grant	$5,000,000.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$570,883.00
Middle Mile Program	$37,356,955.00

State Broadband Office:
The Hawaii SBO is shared between two separate entities. The Digital Equity team is led by Burt Lum and is housed under the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism. The BEAD program is led and organized by the University of Hawaii Information Technology Department and its Vice President/CIO Garret Yoshimi.

Website:
BEAD: Broadband for Hawaiʻi | Connecting everyone, everywhere, all the time (hawaii.edu)
Digital Equity: https://broadband.hawaii.gov

IDAHO

Future Proofing the Treasury Valley

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure (Middle Mile) Program awarded a $6.2 million grant to Syringa Networks, LLC. This grant impacts Canyon, Owyhee, and Ada counties. This project will help address gaps in the rural Treasury Valley and connect eight cities across a 76-mile fiber backbone and, like all middle mile projects, will be required to use 'future proof' technology like fiber.

76 mile fiber backbone to connect across 8 cities

$6.2 million to impact counties in Idaho

Library Listening Sessions

As part of the Digital Access Planning Grant, the Idaho Commission for Libraries hosted 17 listening sessions attended by over 90 Idahoans from the communities of Grangeville, Burley, Lemhi County, and others. These sessions brought awareness of digital access needs across Idaho and provided an opportunity to hear concerns around availability, affordability, and cybersecurity.

Promoting Digital Access in Idaho

As part of the grant for Digital Access Planning activities, the Idaho Commission for Libraries, in conjunction with the Idaho Department of Commerce, worked with the University of Idaho to hold multiple Readying Rural Idaho Workshop meetings in Ketchum, Moscow, and Twin Falls.

Local Engagements to Promote Broadband

NTIA hosted a local coordination event with the State of Idaho on November 15 and 16, 2023. Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth (OICG) Deputy Associate Administrator for Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Evan Feinman kicked off proceedings, which included more than 150 people in attendance from across Idaho and NTIA. Sessions addressed broadband infrastructure, telehealth, workforce, covered populations, and community planning.

Connecting the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation and Nez Perce Tribe

NTIA's Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) awarded the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation a $22.48 million grant to connect over 400 unserved households. The TBCP also awarded $500,000 to the Nez Perce Tribe. NTIA and the state engaged with and presented to Idaho Tribes to keep them informed about the TBCP program and opportunities to improve Internet access on Tribal lands.

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$583,256,249.88
BEAD Planning Grant	$4,376,087.09
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$564,706.00
Middle Mile Program	$6,209,732.74

State Broadband Office:
The Idaho State Broadband Office (SBO) is housed under the Department of Commerce.

Website:
https://commerce.idaho.gov/broadband/

ILLINOIS

Engaging the Public through Listening Tours

As part of their Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) and Digital Equity local coordination, the Illinois Broadband Lab (IBL) and Illinois Office of Broadband (IOB) conducted a statewide listening tour, holding 54 listening sessions across 40 cities, including all 10 economic development regions. In those sessions, IBL heard from residents, local government leaders and broadband and digital equity practitioners.

Engagement via the Web

With the full participation of Illinois's broadband provider community and the BEAD funding that supports the Connect Illinois Broadband Grant Program, the state held two webinars for providers and sought feedback via a survey. Illinois will continue to seek provider input on broadband mapping in general and Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) in particular.

Connecting Illinois HBCUs and MSIs

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program awarded three grants totaling nearly $8.5 million to Illinois's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs): St. Augustine College, Chicago State University, and Dominican University.

These grants will allow the schools to

- Expand their course offerings,
- Improve campus technology,
- Promote digital literacy in students and community members,
- And provide devices to students and surrounding community.

Engagement with the Mapping Challenge Process

Illinois released their Five-Year Action Plan in the summer of 2023. This document serves as a data-driven guidepost to assess the state's current connectivity and path to universal broadband coverage and adoption. The state drafted Volumes 1 and 2 of the BEAD Initial Proposal, which describe how Illinois intends to administer its requisite mapping challenge process and grant process for the $1 billion Round 4 of the "Connect Illinois Broadband Grant Program." Both Volumes were subjected to formal public comment.

Amplifying Investments in Tech Leadership at Kennedy King College

In July of 2023, U.S. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Don Graves and Senator Dick Durbin visited Kennedy King College on Chicago's South Side to learn about the Tech Launchpad program that trains the next generation of tech leaders. During the visit, Deputy Secretary Graves held a press conference celebrating Illinois's BEAD allocation of $1.04 billion, which will connect every home and business in Illinois with affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet.

Future Proofing with Electric Grid Resilience

In June 2023, NTIA announced a $14.5 million grant through its Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure (Middle Mile) Program to Commonwealth Edison Company to build out fiber and increase electric grid resilience and reliability in Chicago's South and West Sides. This funding will help expand Internet access to under-resourced communities and expand affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet offerings to the area.

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$1,040,420,751.50
BEAD Planning Grant	$5,000,000.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$1,515,350.00
Middle Mile Program	$14,557,740.21
CMC Pilot Program	$8,497,531.84

State Broadband Office:
The Illinois State Broadband Office is housed under the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

Website:
https://dceo.illinois.gov/connectillinois/ilofficeof-broadband.html

INDIANA

Amplifying Voices through Listening Sessions

As part of Indiana's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Five-Year Action Plan development, the Indiana Broadband Office hosted 19 regional listening sessions, including at least one listening session in each congressional district from May through July 2023. The state received crucial input from local Broadband Task Forces, local elected officials, and community members. The state used this feedback to create Indiana's Five-Year Action Plan.

Industry Partner Engagement

The Indiana Federal Program Officer (FPO) attended and presented at numerous Internet Service Provider (ISP) industry events, including the Indiana Rural Broadband Association meeting, the Indiana Cable and Broadband Association, Indiana Electric Cooperatives, and Indiana WISPA conference.

Future Proofing Internet Service Providers

The Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure (Middle Mile) Program awarded a $11.6 million grant to the Indiana Michigan Power Company Inc. The grant will help build 252 miles of fiber to reduce barriers for last mile ISPs and increase connectivity opportunity for Hoosiers in Grant and Delaware counties.

252 Miles of fiber to reduce barriers

Fort Wayne Public Engagement

Indiana participated in Comcast's ProjectUp Digital Equity Roundtable in Fort Wayne in conjunction with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Fort Wayne. The state also participated in the opening of AT&T's Connected Learning Center in Indianapolis with the Indianapolis Urban League. The office supported industry efforts to bridge the digital divide in advance of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Digital Equity Act State Capacity Grant Program.

Indiana Partnering with OCRA and PCRD to Begin Solutioning

During Indiana's State Digital Equity Plan development, the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA), in conjunction with the Purdue Center for Regional Development (PCRD) hosted six Digital Equity regional solutions sessions from July through August 2023. OCRA and PCRD received critical feedback from Hoosiers on the non-infrastructure barriers to connectivity facing communities in both urban and rural Indiana.

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$868,109,929.79
BEAD Planning Grant	$4,960,351.60
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$842,235.00
Middle Mile Program	$11,684,088.90

State Broadband Office:
The Indiana State Broadband Office is housed under the Office of Community and Rural Affairs.

Website:
https://www.in.gov/indianabroadband/indiana-broadband-office/

IOWA

Future Proofing with a New Fiber-Optic Line

In June 2023, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announced more than $49 million across three grants through its Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure (Middle Mile) Program to build out Iowa's middle mile infrastructure. These projects will reduce the cost of high-speed Internet by connecting local community networks to major networks and improve service to homes and businesses alike. NTIA projects that the $37.8 million Middle Mile award, made to MidAmerican Energy Company, will cross 32 counties and construct more than 700 miles of new fiber-optic line in Iowa.

Public Engagement through Town Halls

Iowa used Digital Equity planning funds to host 55 town halls between March and May of 2023.

These meetings gathered key public input on the connections, skills, devices and affordability factors essential to creating Internet for All. The state held all but one of the town halls at a community library or community college campus.

Fostering Digital Inclusion with DE Planning Grant Funds

The state used NTIA's Digital Equity planning grant to host eight separate workshops in September and October of 2023. These workshops engaged stakeholders on how best to foster digital inclusion for covered populations and rural communities — the families and individuals facing the greatest barriers to connectivity.

55 **Town Halls** between March & May of 2023.

Mapping Broadband Intervention Zones

Utilizing the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Capital Projects Fund (CPF), the Iowa Broadband Office facilitated a first-of-its-kind invitation for communities to identify geographically challenging areas for connection and potential partnership opportunities, which created Broadband Intervention Zones. These zones may help prioritize future broadband funding and establish broadband readiness for other federal programs like the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program.

Connecting on Priorities and Opportunities

Working with NTIA's Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) team, the Iowa Broadband Office held and participated in four Tribal consultations to generate feedback on the priorities, plans, opportunities, and unmet needs of neighboring Tribal lands.
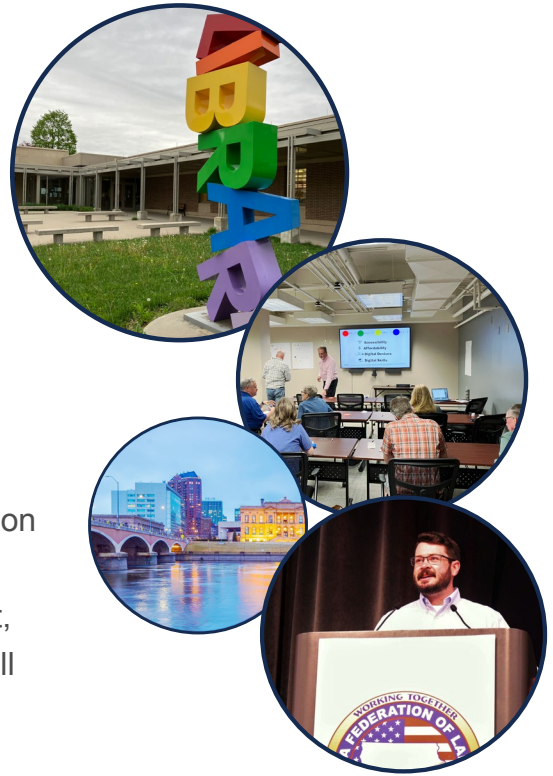
Connecting Unserved Locations

NTIA is working in partnership with the State of Iowa to plan for and deploy a historic $415 million investment in Iowa's broadband infrastructure through the BEAD Program. Allocation of these funds will result in the connection of unserved and underserved locations across the state to high-speed Internet, creating economic opportunities and jobs in communities of all sizes.

Amplifying Federal Partners

In August 2023, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced that Iowa would receive $399,000 as part of its Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grant Program (ACP Outreach Grant Program). This initiative aims to amplify outreach efforts and encourage participation in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) among eligible income limited households.[20]

The FCC's ACP formed an integral component of the diverse range of measures used by the federal government to tackle the digital divide. These measures are part of the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth's (OICG) overall strategy to connect everyone in America to high-speed Internet.

[20] *While the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) stopped accepting applications in February 2024 and anticipates the end of the program in Spring 2024 due to lack of funding, OICG wanted to recognize the importance of the program's impact in States and Territories in 2023.*

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$415,331,313.00
BEAD Planning Grant	$5,000,000.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$708,924.00
Middle Mile Program	$89,104,186.65

State Broadband Office:
The Iowa State Broadband Office is housed under the Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Website:
https://dom.iowa.gov/broadband

KANSAS

Future Proofing and Partnerships

In June 2023, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announced a more than $42.5 million investment in Kansas' middle mile infrastructure through its Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure (Middle Mile) Program. This collaborative public-private partnership, involving the Kansas Department of Commerce, Kansas Office of Broadband Development, Kansas Department of Transportation, KanREN, and industry partners, will construct a 682 mile open-access fiber network to advance last mile investment, increase competition, and reduce transport costs by connecting local community networks to major networks.

Community-Based Engagements

Kansas leveraged the $692,000 Digital Equity Planning Act Grant to host an inaugural statewide Kansas Broadband Summit in January 2023 and a statewide listening tour. These 34 community convenings engaged stakeholders across the state to capture key public input regarding the need for Internet access, digital skills training, device access, and affordability considerations while informing the state's Digital Equity plan development.

Connecting Locations to Economic Opportunities

NTIA worked with the state to create a plan on how to deploy a historic $452 million investment in broadband infrastructure through the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program. Infrastructure investments through these funds will connect unserved and underserved locations across the state to high-speed Internet, creating economic opportunities and catalyzing workforce opportunities.

Leveraging Mapping Resources

Driven by the BEAD Program priority to identify unserved and underserved locations throughout the state, the Kansas Office of Broadband Development leveraged NTIA and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) mapping resources and licensing agreements to develop a comprehensive broadband data map for the state. The state combined self-reported data from Internet Service Providers (ISPs), community stakeholders, and state assets to identify high-need areas, enable targeted broadband deployment, and inform a statewide plan to address equitable access priorities.

Building Partnerships with Sovereign Tribal Nations

Working in partnership with NTIA's Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) team, the Kansas Office of Broadband Development in partnership with the Kansas Native American Affairs Office consulted with Kansas' sovereign Tribal Nations to garner feedback on the priorities, plans, and opportunities to address unmet needs of Kansas Tribes.

Connecting Tribal Nations to High-Speed Access

NTIA awarded nearly $5 million in TBCP grants for infrastructure deployment and use and adoption to three Tribal Nations. These grants will address the high-speed broadband access needs of the Kickapoo Tribe of Indians of the Kickapoo Reservation in Kansas, the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, and the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Creating Technological Opportunities in Kansas

As the first state recipient of the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Digital Connectivity Technology (DCT) Program, Kansas received a $14.7 million funding investment emphasizing its pioneering efforts to promote equal access to high-speed Internet, including distributing devices and expanding digital skills training in Kansas communities.

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$451,725,998.15
BEAD Planning Grant	$4,999,942.61
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$692,664.00
Middle Mile Program	$42,514,219.13

State Broadband Office:
The Kansas State Broadband Office is housed under the Kansas Office of Broadband Development.

Website:
https://www.kansascommerce.gov/officeofbroad-banddevelopment/

KENTUCKY

Amplifying Investments with Secretary Gina Raimondo at Simmons College of Kentucky

On June 27, Governor Andy Beshear announced the allocation of $1 billion in Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) funding to the Commonwealth of Kentucky as part of the Internet for All program. He was joined by U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, Simmons College of Kentucky (a Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program awardee) President Kevin W. Cosby, Chief Operating Officer Frank M. Smith, Simmons College student Andrea Seay, Shaping Our Appalachian Region Executive Director Colby Hall, the Head of Governor's Office of Faith Based Initiatives & Community Involvement Charles Booker, Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg, U.S. Representative Morgan McGarvey (KY-3), AT&T of Kentucky President Carlos Sanchez, Kenergy Corp. President Tim Lindahl, and Kentucky Communications Workers of America (CWA) President Jason DeValdivielso.

$1 billion in BEAD funding to the Commonwealth of Kentucky as part of the Internet for All program
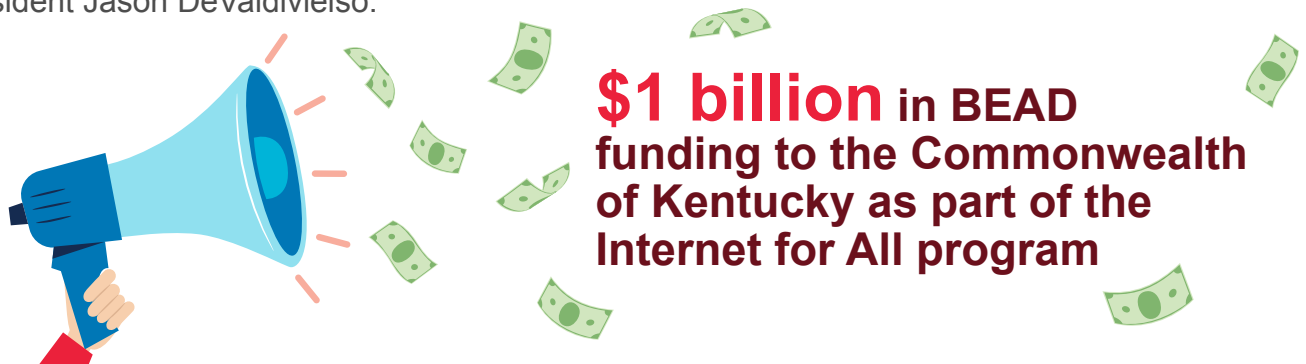
Public Engagement Events in Kentucky

The Kentucky Federal Program Officer (FPO) and the Executive Director of the Broadband Office of Development collaboratively appeared at over 20 events to discuss the Kentucky-based Better Internet grant program and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) BEAD Program. These joint appearances demonstrated solidarity between the two agencies as they strive towards a successful deployment of the Internet for All Program.

Connecting Simmons College and its Surrounding Community

NTIA's CMC Pilot Program awarded a grant to Simmons College of Kentucky, a Historically Black College and University (HBCU), in the amount of $2.7 million to upgrade infrastructure and improve connectivity and network resiliency for students, faculty, staff, and the surrounding community.

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$1,086,172,536.86
BEAD Planning Grant	$5,000,000.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$874,236.00
BIP Program	$3,123,999.00
CMC Pilot Program	$2,762,100.00

State Broadband Office:
The Kentucky State Broadband Office is housed under the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority.

Website:
https://kia.ky.gov/Pages/index.aspx

LOUISIANA

State Broadband Office Excellence

The Louisiana State Broadband Office (SBO), known as ConnectLA, led the nation in Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) and Digital Equity programmatic development. ConnectLA continues to operate on an expedited timeline for successful deployment by the spring of 2024. Louisiana was the first BEAD recipient of all 56 states and territories to receive approval of its Five-Year Action Plan and Initial Proposal.

Connecting Louisiana through BEAD

In 2023, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration NTIA worked with ConnectLA on plans for how Louisiana could use its $1.355 billion BEAD allocation to ensure that each and every Louisianan has access to affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet.

While visiting Louisiana over the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Shalonda Young and Senior Advisor to the President and Infrastructure Coordinator Mitch Landrieu joined an exciting bipartisan broadband infrastructure event at the Bayou Country Children's Museum in Thibodaux. Citizens in Terrebonne Parish are still recovering from the infrastructure damages of Hurricane Ida two years ago.

Continuing Career Training in Louisiana

Louisiana plans to use $27 million for continued workforce training and certification at the state's community and technical colleges to meet expected workforce shortages in the telecommunications and construction industry.

> "...$1.355 billion BEAD allocation to ensure that each and every Louisianan has access to high-speed, affordable Internet."

Public Bipartisan Engagement

Louisiana's statewide bipartisan support for achieving BEAD and Digital Equity Program goals is important to its successful Internet for All approach. Louisiana held its $1.35 billion BEAD allocation announcement event at the Bunkie Youth Center in Avoyelles Parish on July 6, 2023. National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Assistant Secretary Alan Davidson, Governor John Bel Edwards, dozens of local elected officials, and hundreds of in-person attendees and stakeholders representing Louisiana's diverse culture and communities from all corners of the state attended the announcement.

Louisiana Federal Program Officer (FPO) Builds a Community of Grantees

NTIA meets regularly with representatives from Louisiana's other NTIA broadband grant recipients. This includes recipients of four Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program grants, two Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) grants and one Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP) grant:

Grambling State University	**$2.2 million**	**CMC**
Southern University Law Center	**$3 million**	**CMC**
Southern University at New Orleans	**$3 million**	**CMC**
Southern University and A&M College	**$6.2 million**	**CMC**
Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana	**$365 thousand**	**TBCP**
Tunica-Biloxi Indian Tribe	**$2.5 million**	**TBCP**
Acadia Parish, Evangeline Parish, and St. Landry Parish	**$29.9 million**	**BIP**

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$1,355,554,552.94
BEAD Planning Grant	$2,000,000.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$941,542.00
Middle Mile Program	$13,688,241.00
BIP Program	$29,940,612.00
CMC Pilot Program	$14,475,380.79

State Broadband Office:
The Louisiana State Broadband Office is housed under the Louisiana Division of Administration.

Website:
https://connect.la.gov/

MAINE

Celebrating Progress

Maine held a stakeholder and press event announcing its Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) allocation and its Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure (Middle Mile) Program grant. Over 60 community, business, and state government stakeholders attended the event. Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth (OICG) Associate Administrator Doug Kinkoph, Governor Janet Mills and U.S. Senator Angus King spoke at the announcement.

Amplifying Voices

To better inform the BEAD and Digital Equity Plans, the Maine Connectivity Authority held 13 focus groups and 16 community meetings, with National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) support. The state complemented the focus groups with 651 interviews and a survey translated into 12 languages. Over 3,200 people completed the survey. The robust stakeholder engagement focused on Maine's covered populations most impacted by the Digital Divide. Maine's early focus on stakeholder engagement led it to be the first state in the nation to submit its Digital Equity Plan to NTIA.

Maine Broadband Summit

The state held a November Maine Broadband Summit 2023 in Waterville with participation by OICG Deputy Associate Administrator for BEAD Evan Feinman and Maine's BEAD and Digital Equity Federal Program Officer (FPO).

13 Focus Groups,

16 Community Meetings,

651 Interviews &

A Survey Translated Into **12** Languages

Investing in Rural Communities

In June 2023, NTIA announced a $30 million Middle Mile grant to the Maine Connectivity Authority to fund a middle mile network in rural Maine. The Maine Online Optical Statewide Enable Network (MOOSE Net) will be a state-owned open-access middle mile fiber network that will stretch 530 miles and cross 131 communities, representing 11,000 unserved homes and businesses and 200 community anchor institutions, such as schools, hospitals and libraries. This grant will leverage $23 million in state and private funding and is supported by more than 40 partners across Maine.

Connecting Tribes to Infrastructure Planning

With tailored support from NTIA, Maine Connectivity Authority held collaborative and productive Tribal Consultations for BEAD and Digital Equity with the Chiefs of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik, the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Indian Township, and the Mi'kmaq Nation to ensure their priorities will be reflected in Maine's Five-Year Action Plan and Digital Equity Plan.

Public Engagement and Sharing Resources

Maine's FPO for BEAD and Digital Equity hosted an NTIA table at Maine Broadband Day at the State House to foster connections, answer questions, and share resources about Internet for All with state policymakers and community partners.

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$271,977,723.07
BEAD Planning Grant	$5,000,000.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$542,222.00
Middle Mile Program	$30,016,472.13
BIP Program	$28,097,295.00

State Broadband Office:
The Maine State Broadband Office is the Maine Connectivity Authority.

Website:
https://www.maineconnectivity.org/

MARYLAND

Amplifying Investments in Annapolis

Maryland was the first state in the nation to hold a Digital Equity conference in Annapolis, featuring Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller, members of Maryland's General Assembly and leaders from Maryland's nonprofits, foundations, and community-based organizations. The event sponsored by Baltimore's Digital Equity Coalition was attended by over 250 attendees.

Creating Resiliency in Future Tech Careers

Coppin State University, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and Morgan State University received Connecting Minority Community (CMC) Pilot Program grants totaling $11.1 million. These grants will equip more students with the skills and technology needed to be competitive in an increasingly digital economy.

Public Outreach Engagement

Maryland held six outreach conferences, from the mountainous region of Maryland in the west to Maryland's eastern coastal plains. The conferences focused on Internet for All and featured leaders and experts from the broadband industry, as well as state and local officials. Input from stakeholders will be incorporated into the Digital Equity Plan as well as the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Final Proposal. Maryland's State Broadband Office conducted numerous webinars focused on closing the digital divide in Maryland.
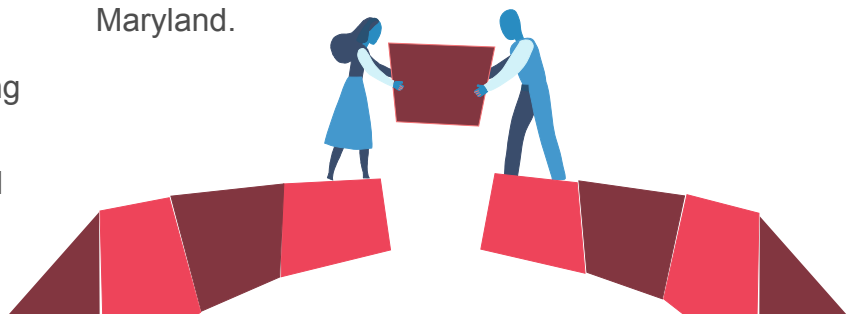
BEAD Allocation Event

Maryland hosted a stakeholder and press event announcing its BEAD allocation, which was attended by over 75 community, business, and state government stakeholders. U.S. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Don Graves, along with Governor Wes Moore and Lt. Governor Aruna Miller spoke at the event.

Industry Engagement

To prepare for the implementation of the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth's (OICG) BEAD and Digital Equity programs, Maryland hosted several workshops attended by Internet Service Providers (ISPs). OICG provided technical assistance to assist with the development of the workshops, which were well received and greatly increased stakeholder engagement and awareness of the programs.

Public Engagement and Sharing Resources

Maryland's Federal Program Officer (FPO) for BEAD and Digital Equity, Maryland's State Broadband Office, and the City of Baltimore hosted a conference at Coppin State University to raise awareness of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) programs, foster connections, answer questions, and share resources about Internet for All with state policymakers and community partners. The event featured NTIA's Deputy Assistant Secretary April McClain-Delaney and Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott.

Community Interaction

NTIA staff attended a state-held community conversation with the Rural Maryland Council and government officials in Annapolis, Maryland. The all-day event was attended by over 250 stakeholders and featured both national and local experts focused on closing the digital divide. NTIA staff listened to firsthand accounts of the issues and opportunities related to broadband adoption in the state.

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$267,738,400.71
BEAD Planning Grant	$5,000,000.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$966,659.00
Middle Mile Program	$15,438,845.47
CMC Pilot Program	$11,106,495.89

State Broadband Office:
The Maryland State Broadband Office is housed under the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development.

Website:
https://dhcd.maryland.gov/Broadband

MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts Digital Equity Summit

On June 13, 2023, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Broadband Institute at the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative co-hosted the Massachusetts Digital Equity Summit in Worcester. Over 250 people attended this highly energizing and interactive event in-person that had 120 virtual participants.

Following the well-attended Digital Equity Summit, the Commonwealth launched a seven-stop regional listening tour. As Massachusetts has a very diverse geography, the stops ranged from its most densely populated urban areas to its most sparsely populated rural areas. As required by the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) and Digital Equity Programs, the data collected from the tour will inform the development of plans. These plans will help Massachusetts access broadband and digital equity funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

Community Conversation

In Boston, NTIA staff attended a state-held community conversation with Worcester Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and government officials, as well as a session entitled "Broadband in Public Housing." At these meetings, NTIA listened to firsthand accounts of the issues and opportunities related to broadband adoption in the state.

Digital Equity Working Group

The state established a Digital Equity Working Group to guide and advise planning efforts, including statewide stakeholder engagement. The Working Group is composed of leaders from across Massachusetts who offer specific topic area expertise and represent target populations, as defined by federal funding guidelines and Massachusetts Broadband Institute's (MBI) programs.

Massachusetts also conducted and released a community survey on understanding the barriers to Internet access, affordability, and adoption to help close the digital divide. Several thousand community members participated in the survey.

Addressing Digital Access Gaps in Boston

The University of Massachusetts Boston received a Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program grant for $2.9 million to equip more students with the skills and technology needed to be competitive in an increasingly digital economy.

Connecting Tribal Lands

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe received a $9.1 million Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) grant to construct a high-speed fiber network that will improve access to education, jobs and healthcare on Tribal lands.

$9.1 million
to construct a high speed fiber network

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$147,422,464.39
BEAD Planning Grant	$4,999,996.99
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$1,003,760.00
CMC Pilot Program	$2,970,106.00

State Broadband Office:
The Massachusetts State Broadband Office is housed under the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, which is part of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative.

Website:
https://broadband.masstech.org/

MICHIGAN

Middle Mile Connections through BIP

Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth (OICG) awarded a $10.5 million Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP) grant to Michigan State University and MERIT Network for the Michigan Open Optical Network (MOON-Light) project, an open-access middle mile network. This will provide additional capacity for Michigan and directly increase access to high-speed Internet for 17,000 Michiganders.

Connecting Communities through Additional OICG Grants

NTIA's Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program awarded $3 million to the Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) to promote digital literacy and inclusion for students and anchor communities serviced by WCCCD.

Seven of Michigan's federally recognized Tribes received over $4 million in grants from the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) to improve connectivity for Tribal members, including Bay Mills Indian Community, Michigan; Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Michigan; Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Michigan; Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Michigan; Match-e-be-nash-she-wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians of Michigan; Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi, Michigan; and Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Michigan. Nottawaseppi has successfully completed their grant and has provided Broadband Adoption and Use activities to their Tribal Members.

> " **OICG awarded a $10.5 million Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP) grant to…directly increase access to high-speed Internet for 17,000 Michiganders.** "

Industry Engagement Build American

In September 2023, Calix, a leading provider of broadband electronics, announced an initial investment of $6 million and plans to hire over 100 new workers as it moves broadband electronics manufacturing from overseas to Michigan.

Mapping Michigan

The Michigan High Speed Internet (MIHI) Office worked to ensure that as many unserved and underserved locations as possible were included for grant eligibility. Efforts included a statewide infrastructure audit with network engineering teams traveling more than 57,000 road miles and resulting in challenges to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) National Broadband Map.

Increasing Capacity and Resiliency with Undersea Cables

In Michigan, Peninsula Fiber Network LLC received a $61.2 million grant through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure (Middle Mile) Program to place 535 miles of new middle mile fiber through underserved and unserved communities, as well as undersea routes across the Great Lakes. This will help improve the resiliency of Michigan's broadband network by ensuring undersea cables are less impacted by severe weather patterns and other catastrophic events. This project will also provide fiber connectivity to Beaver Island, the Great Lakes' most remote inhabited island.

Public Engagement

The MIHI Office conducted a statewide listening tour including 41 stops with more than 1,000 stakeholders in attendance. This tour provided the MIHI Office with invaluable data and drove the creation of the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Five-Year Action Plan and Digital Equity Plan. MIHI Office staff traveled an estimated 25,000 miles to hear from every corner of the state. Michigan's Federal Program Officer (FPO) joined most of these events to support the state and engage with stakeholders.

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$1,559,362,479.29
BEAD Planning Grant	$4,998,701.52
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$1,327,950.00
Middle Mile Program	$61,256,705.72
BIP Program	$10,500,000.00
CMC Pilot Program	$2,999,591.00

State Broadband Office:
The Michigan High Speed Internet Office is housed under the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity.

Website:
https://www.michigan.gov/leo/bureaus-agencies/mihi

MINNESOTA

Public Engagement

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), the Minnesota Office of Broadband Development (MN OBD), the Association of Minnesota Counties, the League of Minnesota Cities, and the Minnesota Association of Townships co-hosted the Internet for All: Connecting One Minnesota Workshop in Prior Lake on January 25, 2023. Attendees included critical stakeholders, including local Tribal and government leaders, community anchor institutions, nonprofits and providers, all committed to furthering the border-to-border expansion of broadband across the state.

The workshop provided an overview of available federal funding along with a focus on creative solutions to the broadband deployment challenges in rural Minnesota. There were over 360 attendees, with over 170 joining in-person and over 190 joining virtually.

Digital Equity Regional Events

From August 29 through September 27, 2023, MN OBD hosted digital opportunity listening sessions in 16 cities and two online sessions.

August 29   September 27

The state hosted this series of digital opportunity listening sessions to convene digital opportunity supporters, solicit feedback on their Digital Opportunity (Equity) draft, plan and hear about Minnesotans' digital opportunity ideas, concerns, experiences and solutions.

Amplifying Investments

U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, U.S. Senators Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith, U.S. Representative Angie Craig (MN-2), and Minnesota Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan held an Investing in America press conference to announce the Minnesota Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program allocation.

Connecting Communities through Technology, Training, and Certifications

NTIA's Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program awarded a grant to Red Lake Nation College (RLNC). The project upgraded on-site Internet service and security, upgraded laptop and desktop computers, increased learning software options at RLNC and provided digital devices and broadband service plans for RLNC students to enable access on- and off-campus. The project also provided professional development and capacity building opportunities for RLNC IT staff, cybersecurity training for RLNC faculty, staff and students and drone training and certification for community members, including a youth drone camp.

Out of the adult participants, 16 became certified pilots after taking the drone pilot certification exam, one of which was hired by RLNC's Tribal Engineering Department as their new Drone Specialist. Shortly after the program was completed, the drones (and newly certified specialists) were used to find a missing person who was lost in the woods.

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$651,839,368.20
BEAD Planning Grant	$5,000,000.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$881,905.00
Middle Mile Program	$14,890,077.79
CMC Pilot Program	$1,924,280.00

State Broadband Office:
The Minnesota State Broadband Office is housed under the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

Website:
https://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/

MISSISSIPPI

Public Engagement

Mississippi used the Digital Equity Planning Grant to conduct over 80 community engagement events, including events in the most rural parts of the state. The state tailored each event for its community, which helped Mississippi determine the needs of its constituents beyond maps and numbers. Stakeholder engagement and local event participation included:

Connecting through College:

Stakeholder engagement and local event participation included working with the state's community colleges to conduct in-person workshops and gather information on existing digital skills programs in their respective counties.

Resourcing Nonprofits:

Fostered relationships with nonprofits in the state to guarantee that small communities (which are mostly economically distressed) will have access to the resources they need during the challenge process and to assess the need of their communities.

Working with Mississippi State University:

Developed a partnership with Mississippi State University Extension Service to catalog existing digital skills training programs, device loan programs, and other important digital asset programs.

Promoting Federal Partnerships

The State of Mississippi received $151.4 million through the Capital Projects Fund (CPF). The state received over 100 applications during the challenge period. This funding, coupled with Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program funding, will help the state reduce the number of unserved locations and achieve Internet for All Mississippians.

Mapping

With Ready.net's support, Mississippi built a user-friendly map for Mississippians to use and conduct speed testing. Constituents can enter their address and test their Internet speed. Over 1,200 people have taken the speed test so far.
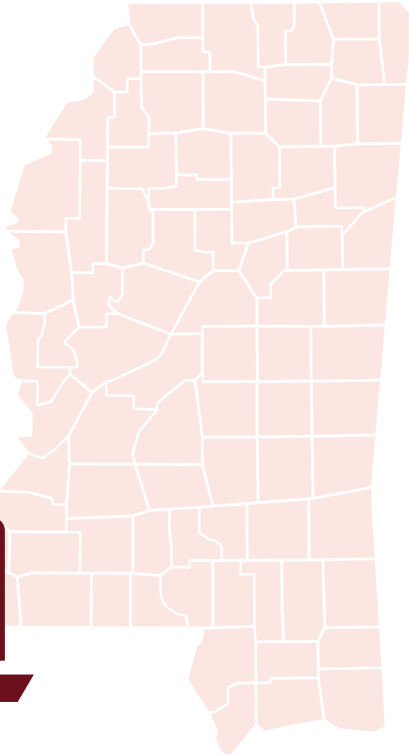
Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$1,203,561,563.05
BEAD Planning Grant	$5,000,000.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$875,586.00
Middle Mile Program	$13,688,241.00
BIP Program	$32,696,322.55

State Broadband Office:
The Mississippi State Broadband Office is housed under the Broadband Expansion and Accessibility of Mississippi, which is under the Department of Finance and Administration.

Website:
https://www.beam.ms.gov

MISSOURI

Connecting Missouri through BIP and CMC

The 19 Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP) funded projects in Missouri are in various stages of construction and pre-construction, with several project areas starting to connect end-users to broadband services. The projects will serve over 13,000 unserved households, 300 businesses, and 30 community anchor institutions across the state of Missouri.

The Lincoln University of Missouri (LU) Connect LU project will provide laptops and hotspots to all Lincoln University students with funding from the Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program. Students will receive extended technology support through the addition of a full-time student technology coordinator. This position will manage the student laptop program and manage extended hours of service for student technology support.

These projects will serve over:

13,000
Unserved Households

300
Businesses

30 Community Anchor Institutions

Public Engagement through Listening Sessions

Stakeholder engagement activities designed to create actionable Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program Initial Proposal and Digital Equity plans included: two rounds of statewide listening sessions, visiting 43 towns and cities and hearing from over 1,000 Missourians; monthly stakeholder update calls; and audience-specific stakeholder calls for Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Workforce Development providers.

Expanding Internet Access through Middle Mile Network

In June 2023, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure (Middle Mile) Program awarded Missouri Network Alliance LLC (dba Bluebird Network), a grant for $26.4 million. The Missouri Network Alliance project is located within unserved and underserved areas in Missouri. It will deploy 325 miles of fiber across 21 counties to support advancements in new wireless technologies. These routes will eventually bring fiber connectivity to farms, enabling next generation farm devices to be employed across the state.
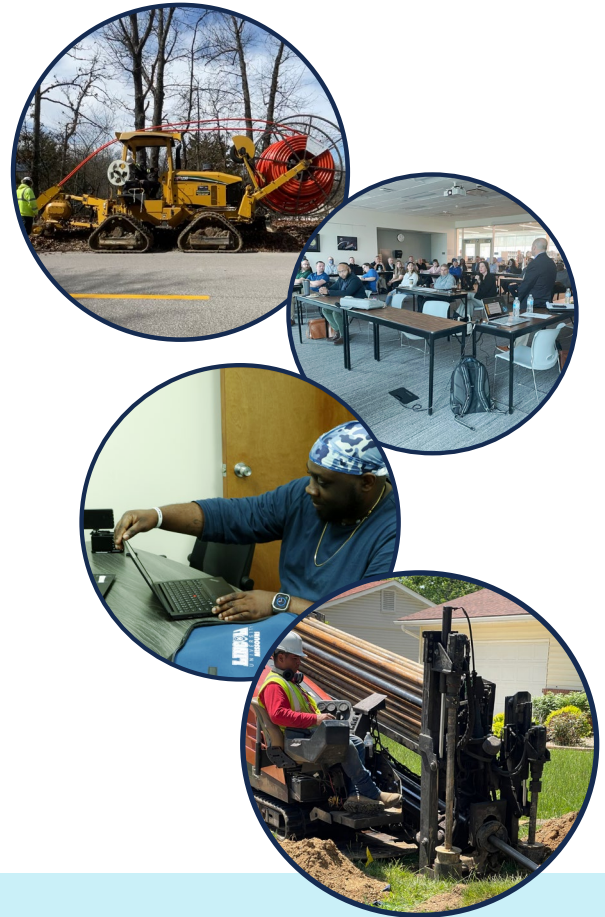
Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$1,736,302,708.39
BEAD Planning Grant	$2,147,304.59
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$827,338.00
Middle Mile Program	$41,026,065.93
BIP Program	$42,241,427.11
CMC Pilot Program	$2,980,070.84

State Broadband Office:
The Missouri State Broadband Office is housed under the Missouri Department of Economic Development.

Website:
https://ded.mo.gov/office-broadband-development

MONTANA

Connecting through Federal Grant Programs

The state also received $43.1 million in funding for schools and libraries from the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program and grants from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), $601,301 from the Digital Equity Act, and $15.5 million from the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP).[21]

The Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) ACP and other federal funding forms an integral component of the diverse range of measures used by the federal government to tackle the digital divide. These measures are part of the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth's (OICG) overall strategy to connect everyone in America to high-speed Internet.

The Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) awarded four grants totaling $142.9 million to four Tribes: Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana ($33.2 million); Chippewa Cree Indians of the Rocky Boy's Reservation, Montana ($15.3 million); Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation ($41.5 million), and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern Cheyenne Reservation, Montana ($52.8 million).

The Chairmen, Presidents, and Council Members for all Montana Tribes were invited to the two-day Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Tribal consultation and forum, which took place in late September 2023. In addition to the Tribes present, the Montana Director for Administration (who oversees the Montana Broadband Office) and National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) employees attended and presented, as well as answered questions.

> "The Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) awarded four grants totaling $142.9 million to four Tribes"

$142.9 million

[21] *While the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) stopped accepting applications in February 2024 and anticipates the end of the program in Spring 2024 due to lack of funding, OICG wanted to recognize the importance of the program's impact in States and Territories in 2023.*

Public Engagement

The Montana State Broadband Office completed public comment periods for its Five-Year Action Plan, Digital Equity Plan, and Initial Proposal Volume 1, and Initial Proposal Volume II. Monthly, the state convened a public session of its Communications Advisory Commission to provide the public with the opportunity to learn about and comment on the state's progress and policy decisions being considered.

In August 2023, the Montana Broadband Office led a robust public comment session with members of the state's rural telecom association. Small, rural Internet Service Providers (ISPs) from across the state asked questions and provided feedback related to Initial Proposal planning, particularly about how the subgrantee selection process can ensure BEAD Program funding reaches all unserved and underserved Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs).

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$628,973,798.59
BEAD Planning Grant	$5,000,000.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$601,301.00
Middle Mile Program	$11,756,500.00

State Broadband Office:
The Montana State Broadband Office is housed under the Department of Commerce.

Website:
https://connectmt.mt.gov

NEBRASKA

Amplifying Investments

Governor Jim Pillen traveled to Clay Center Public Library on April 26, 2023, to announce his library fiber initiative to connect 150 rural, public libraries to fiber over the next three years using E-rate Special Construction Matching Funds. Inspired by Footnote 52 of the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), this initiative may enable some providers to expeditiously reach unserved villages and towns and potentially lower their future BEAD project costs.

Digital Opportunity Listening Sessions

The Nebraska Broadband Office used the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Digital Equity planning funds to conduct 26 digital opportunity listening sessions for BEAD and Digital Equity covering all corners of the state, logging over 7,500 miles from April to July 2023, and involving hundreds of citizens. These meetings gathered key public input on the connections, skills, devices, and affordability factors essential to creating an Internet for All.

Improving Resiliency in Nebraska

In June 2023, NTIA announced more than $36 million to develop the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska's middle mile infrastructure. This project will deploy a fiber-based middle mile network to cover currently unserved and underserved Tribal and adjacent rural areas in eastern Nebraska and western Iowa.

The total combined funding awarded to Nebraska's four federally recognized Tribes from NTIA's Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure (Middle Mile) Program, Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP), and Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program exceeded $70 million and will enable thousands of new fiber connections for Tribal members and the technical skills to use high-speed Internet to its fullest potential.

Digital Equity Workshop

Using guidance from the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth's (OICG) Local Event Planning, the Nebraska Digital Equity Manager, Economic Development Districts, and Tribal Representatives conducted a Digital Equity Workshop on August 8, 2023, which involved over 60 stakeholders with the purpose of developing the goals and objectives to support the state's Digital Equity Plan.

The Nebraska Broadband Office used OICG's BEAD planning funds for travel support and led or participated in six different Tribal Consultations in March and April 2023. This generated dozens of valuable comments and identified unmet needs from Tribal leaders. NTIA's TBCP staff and the Nebraska Federal Program Officer (FPO) also attended.

Connecting Nebraska through BEAD

In partnership with the Nebraska Broadband Office, NTIA planned and allocated a historic $405 million investment in Nebraska's broadband infrastructure through the BEAD Program. Allocation of these funds will result in the connection of unserved and underserved locations across the state to high-speed Internet, creating economic opportunities and jobs in communities of all sizes.

Mapping Challenges

After attending jointly sponsored webinars by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and OICG Technical Assistance Team, the Nebraska Public Service Commission submitted a bulk availability challenge to the FCC in January 2023.

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$405,281,070.41
BEAD Planning Grant	$4,999,817.07
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$598,746.00
Middle Mile Program	$36,374,797.00
CMC Pilot Program	$2,938,816.00

State Broadband Office:
The Nebraska State Broadband Office is housed under the Nebraska Department of Transportation.

Website:
https://broadband.nebraska.gov/

NEVADA

Future Proofing

The State of Nevada received a $43.5 million National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) grant through the Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure (Middle Mile) Program, matched by $43.5 million in state funds, to design, build, operate, and maintain a buried, multi-innerduct route from a major Internet exchange in Las Vegas to an interconnect point in Wells.

Nevada Office of Science Innovation and Technology (OSIT) published a request for proposal for the Fiber Marketing and Construction Partner for high-speed Nevada Phase II Nevada Middle Mile Network.

Community Engagement

The Nevada Federal Program Officer (FPO) attended and addressed the audience at the September Rural Partners event in Pahrump.

$43.5 Million NTIA
grant through the Middle Mile Program

$43.5 Million State
funds, to design, build, operate, and maintain a buried, multi-innerduct route

Public Engagement

NTIA worked closely with OSIT to put forward a strong plan with respect to both the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) and Digital Equity programs.

Connecting Tribes in Nevada

The Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) awarded $500,000 to the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians of Nevada: Battle Mountain Band to provide affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet via fiber to the home to over 30 Tribal households and community anchor institutions.

TBCP also awarded $500,000 to the South Fork Band Council to deploy a single tower to provide fixed wireless to the Tribal community center and all houses within line of sight. The community center houses the Tribal council chamber, administrative offices, and medical services. This tower will provide access to the uppermost section of the reservation land.

The Winnemucca Indian Colony of Nevada received a $500,000 TBCP grant to deploy a tower and distribute fiber to approximately 40 homes and community anchor institutions on Colony trust lands.

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$416,666,229.74
BEAD Planning Grant	$5,000,000.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$754,459.00
Middle Mile Program	$67,607,243.38
BIP Program	$7,350,000.86
CMC Pilot Program	$2,488,048.00

State Broadband Office:
The Nevada State Broadband Office is housed under the Governor's Office of Science, Innovation and Technology.

Website:
https://osit.nv.gov/Broadband/Broadband/

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Amplifying Investments

Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth (OICG) Deputy Associate Administrator Susannah Spellman was the keynote speaker at the Technology Association of New England's Annual Meeting in Portsmouth in October 2023. She engaged with Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and other stakeholders throughout New Hampshire and provided updates on the Internet for All initiatives.

Future Proofing

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure (Middle Mile) Program awarded Grafton County $11.9 million in funding to build a 222-mile middle mile and backbone network that will support Internet access for up to 6,100 unserved Broadband

Serviceable Locations (BSLs) in the county. It will benefit 27 K-12 education facilities, 41 licensed childcare facilities, five higher education institutions, two career technology centers, and five hospitals.

Website for Digital Equity

New Hampshire used Digital Equity planning funding to create a website for aggregating information on digital equity events across the state: Home - New Hampshire Digital Equity (nhdigitalequity.org)

To find more info on
New Hamphire's Digital Equity Events
check out:
http://nhdigitalequity.org

Public Engagement

The New Hampshire Federal Program Officer (FPO) assisted and participated in a series of public listening sessions and virtual stakeholder roundtable events during September and October 2023. The FPO also attended and participated in ongoing one-on-one engagements.

Additionally, the OICG team, through its local FPO and leadership, assisted New Hampshire in grant administration support, technical assistance, and stakeholder engagement, including assistance with preparing extensions and lifting funding restrictions.

Webinar for BEAD Information

NTIA, the New Hampshire Office of Broadband Initiatives, and the New Hampshire Municipal Association hosted a webinar to provide information on the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program and state challenge process for New Hampshire's 234 cities and towns on October 13, 2023. Learn About the Federal BEAD Broadband Program Webinar | New Hampshire Municipal Association (nhmunicipal.org)
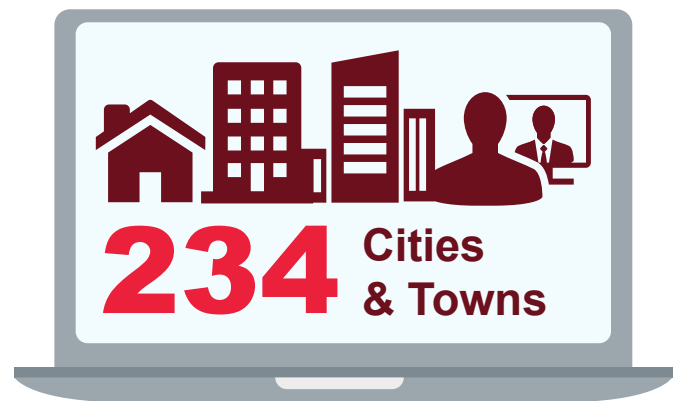
Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$196,560,278.97
BEAD Planning Grant	$5,000,000.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$525,034.00
Middle Mile Program	$11,969,00.00

State Broadband Office:
The New Hampshire State Broadband Office is housed under the Department of Business and Economic Affairs.

Website:
https://www.nheconomy.com/office-of-broadband-initiatives

NEW JERSEY

Connecting New Jersey

Rutgers University at Newark and Felician University each received Connecting Minority Community (CMC) Pilot Program grants of $2.7 million and $2.3 million, respectively. These grants are being used to reach covered populations and to inform the universities' work around digital equity and workforce development, standardized working practices and barriers to workplace development, which include digital skills.

Rutgers University at Newark has been particularly instrumental in their outreach with previously incarcerated individuals (through the New Jersey Scholarship and Transformative Education in Prisons [STEP] Program) and working on getting them into apprenticeship programs in the Newark community (as seen through partnerships with TeknoGrid). Introductory meetings were held in the spring of 2023, following the Broadband Summit, and

relevant individuals joined the state's monthly Workforce Development working group.

Felician University's Project FELICE: Fostering Equity in Learning Through Inclusion, Connectivity, and Engagement, aims to expand the university's broadband capacity and improve broadband access, adoption, and digital skills for students, other university stakeholders, and anchor communities. The university is improving broadband connectivity on campus by working with a local business, Glencom Inc., and using new, high quality, American fiber. Felician also worked with Apple to distribute over 800 iPads to eligible undergraduate and graduate students. Finally, one of its most innovative projects is training a cohort of students from the counseling psychology department on best practices for telemedicine.

Public Outreach on OICG Programs

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the New Jersey Office of Broadband Connectivity (OBC) cohosted monthly public outreach meetings starting in February 2023 (12 as of December 2023), which have averaged 85 participants per meeting. At the meetings, NTIA and OBC gave the public timely updates on Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) and Digital Equity program next steps.

Public Engagement

The NTIA, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, New Jersey OBC, and New Jersey League of Municipalities co-hosted an Internet for All Broadband Summit in New Brunswick on April 17, 2023. The workshop highlighted the need for collaboration among all stakeholders, the critical challenges New Jerseyans face regarding broadband adoption and deployment, and the importance of including digital skills in workforce development. The event raised awareness of OBC's mission and deepened their stakeholder engagement. Over 200 people attended, both in-person and virtually.

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$263,689,548.65
BEAD Planning Grant	$4,922,089.90
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$1,176,740.00
Middle Mile Program	$24,176,692.13
CMC Pilot Program	$5,078,942.00

State Broadband Office:
The New Jersey Office of Broadband Connectivity is housed under the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities.

Website:
https://www.nj.gov/connect

NEW MEXICO

New Mexico Broadband Summit

The Internet for All: New Mexico Broadband Summit occurred on May 24, 2023, in Santa Fe. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), the New Mexico Office of Broadband Access and Expansion, Connect New Mexico Council, New Mexico Association of Counties, and New Mexico League of Municipalities co-hosted this collective endeavor. NTIA Assistant Secretary Alan Davidson attended and held a private Tribal roundtable after the event, during which Tribes voiced their concerns. Over 260 in-person attendees and 112 virtual attendees attended this local coordination event.

Stakeholders included state and local government leaders, Tribal government representatives, and community and industry members, all of whom were dedicated to advancing the state's broadband connectivity efforts. The event emphasized the necessity for comprehensive coordination at all levels to ensure the successful roll-out of the broadband initiative across the state. Sessions ranged from high-level strategy discussions to technical updates on the progress made in the connectivity and mapping efforts. The event spotlighted the importance of collective action in addressing digital equity challenges and fostering state-wide broadband development.

" **Over 260 in-person attendees and 112 virtual attendees attended** "

372

Public Engagement

The Office of Broadband Access and Expansion completed over 130 virtual or in-person events. These events included listening sessions, webinars, local engagements, and information sharing sessions. Topics included addressing broadband connectivity and digital equity via the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, workforce development, mapping, and more. NTIA supported these events, which were led by the efforts of New Mexico's Federal Program Officers (FPOs), who attended and answered stakeholder questions about the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth's (OICG) grant programs and processes.

NTIA worked closely with the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion to complete their Tribal consultations, which are required under BEAD. New Mexico has 23 federally recognized Tribes. The New Mexico FPOs attended all Tribal consultations.

Connecting Minority Communities in New Mexico

The Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program awarded four grants totaling $8.1 million to New Mexico colleges and universities. These grants target upgrades to infrastructure, as well as improved connectivity and network resiliency for students, faculty, staff, and the surrounding community.

Amplifying Investments

In June 2023, NTIA announced the funding of one middle mile network in New Mexico via the Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure (Middle Mile) Program. ENMR Telephone Cooperative received $49.8 million to expand broadband connectivity along a 150-mile corridor in rural central New Mexico. This corridor will cover State Highway 14 and State Highway 33, also known as Old Route 66. The New Mexico Office of Broadband Access and Expansion, along with U.S. Senators Martin Heinrich and Ben Ray Luján, held a joint press conference on July 7, 2023, in Tijeras. Also in attendance was Senior Advisor to the President and Infrastructure Coordinator Mitch Landrieu and NTIA FPOs.

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$675,372,311.86
BEAD Planning Grant	$5,000,000.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$740,535.00
Middle Mile Program	$49,858,624.00
CMC Pilot Program	$8,178,485.64

State Broadband Office:
The New Mexico State Broadband Office is housed under the Department of Information Technology.

Website:
https://www.doit.nm.gov/programs/broadband/

NEW YORK

Public Engagements via Statewide Regional Listening Session

With the support of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) planning funding grants, NY ConnectAll Office (NY CAO), NTIA, and digital coalitions partnered together. This partnership included the following activities across New York:

- Hosted 10 Regional Internet and Digital Equity events across the state.
- Hosted listening sessions connecting with over 1,200 residents.
- In partnership with the regional digital coalitions, engaged with covered populations to identify barriers to the Internet, opportunities for success, and the critical needs related to accessing affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet.
- Conducted Internet and Digital Equity Listening Sessions in all five New York City boroughs: Brooklyn, Bronx, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island.

Focused Engagements with Emphasis on Leveraging Experts

NY CAO and NTIA's strategic partnership led to successful identification of engagement with covered populations and helped amplify public awareness of Internet for All initiatives. Some of the achievements from this partnership were:

- Regional digital equity coalitions led over 40 focus groups across the state, which engaged with unserved and underserved populations including low-income households, veterans, aging individuals, formerly incarcerated individuals, people with disabilities, people with language barriers, racial and ethnic minorities, and rural residents.
- NY CAO regional partners helped to contributed to the development of a statewide needs assessment and asset inventory.
- A Virtual Stakeholder Forum Series convened stakeholders in an effort to educate more groups about the NY CAO's latest initiatives. This series also served as an opportunity to educate various stakeholders about how their organizations could participate in other NY broadband initiatives and the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) and Digital Equity programs. Examples of stakeholder forums include the Internet Service Provider (ISP) and Community Anchor Institutions forums, where NTIA provided briefings on the BEAD and Digital Equity programs and participated in question-and-answer sessions.

Connecting Higher Learning Institutions

NTIA, through the Office of Minority Broadband Initiatives (OMBI) and its BEAD and Digital Equity teams, successfully worked in New York to provide resources to Connecting Minority Community (CMC) Pilot Program grant recipients, Mercy University and Dominican University New York. These institutions serve minority communities and student populations. This outreach allowed NTIA and the Universities to collaborate in the following ways:

- Mercy University hosted "Future of Opportunity: A Digital Inclusion Event," which included a planning committee consisting of Mercy University, Bronx Community Foundation, and NTIA's OMBI, BEAD, and Digital Equity teams. The event featured a day of inclusion for highschoolers as well as an evening session for adults exploring ways to break into technology, with a focus on breaking down barriers for people of color. Over 100 local residents participated in the event.
- OMBI worked with NY CAO to improve outreach to covered populations throughout New York by sharing their list of minority institutions and sending email blasts to encourage recipients to engage with NY CAO and its programs initiatives.
- NTIA worked with Dominican University New York to increase resources for the university, sharing opportunities in the state for Dominican University New York to engage with NY CAO. The OMBI, BEAD, and Digital Equity teams worked with NY CMC grantees to explore upskilling and workforce opportunities for the universities and New York.

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$664,618,251.49
BEAD Planning Grant	$5,000,000.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$2,178,650.00
Middle Mile Program	$14,547,750.00
CMC Pilot Program	$4,600,925.00

State Broadband Office:
The New York State Broadband Office is housed under the Empire State Development.

Website:
https://broadband.ny.gov

NORTH CAROLINA

Amplifying Investments

In March 2023, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) partnered with the North Carolina Department of Information Technology (NCDIT), the North Carolina Farm Bureau, and the Lincoln County Public Library System (LCPLS) to host an in-person roundtable with U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, NTIA Assistant Secretary Alan Davidson, and six unserved North Carolina residents. This crucial opportunity for Commerce Leadership to receive authentic small-group feedback inspired confidence among the participants that they will receive an affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet connection at their homes and businesses through NTIA programs. Following the roundtable, Secretary Raimondo toured two fiber plants in Hickory with North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper.

Tribal Consultations

The State of North Carolina hosted its mandated Tribal Consultation with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (Eastern Band) in May 2023. Representatives from the state, Tribe, and NTIA left the session with a strong trilateral partnership and a clear understanding of next steps. The Eastern Band's leaders will be key advisors for NCDIT's Internet for All strategy and will inform the state whether they are interested in participating in North Carolina's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) and Digital Equity grant programs.

Listening Tours

NCDIT held a series of over 20 listening sessions across the state's "prosperity zones," as defined by the North Carolina General Assembly. Through a variety of presentations, surveys, and conversations big and small, NCDIT completed the sessions with a comprehensive digital equity asset map and a strong understanding of where Internet-related needs remain highest. NTIA's North Carolina Federal Program Officer (FPO), with the help of Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth (OICG) staff, attended a number of these sessions in person to meet with unserved and underserved constituents, provide technical assistance to potential subgrantees, and support the state's outreach efforts more broadly.

Local Coordination

In May 2023, NTIA and NCDIT hosted a local coordination event for the BEAD and Digital Equity Programs, in partnership with the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and the North Carolina League of Municipalities. OICG Associate Administrator Doug Kinkoph keynoted the event, then spent the afternoon meeting one-on-one with county leaders to better understand their constituents' broadband needs. More than 100 attendees provided input that equipped the state to write the BEAD Five-Year Action Plan that was quickly approved by NTIA, which has put the state on track to reach 100 percent connectivity.
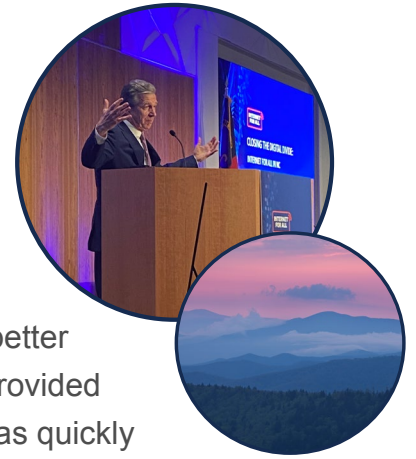
Technology Careers

Through an NTIA Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program grant awarded in October 2022, North Carolina Central University partnered with female-led nonprofit Momentum Learn to spearhead a free, 24-week digital literacy education initiative that prepares Durham adults for careers in the tech industry — specifically in software development. The program is free thanks to the CMC award. It received over 400 applications in two weeks and qualified 60 students for admission, though it could only admit 20 due to funding and capacity constraints. However, this extraordinary demand inspired Momentum Learn to expand their program. They will now be seeking additional funding and are poised to become a state and nationwide model for how digital equity can be put into practice.

Industry Engagement

In March 2023, CommScope announced a $60 million investment to expand fiber-optic cable production focused on rural applications in Hickory, North Carolina. This investment will spur the creation of at least 250 jobs over the next five years, 90 percent of which will not require a college degree.

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$1,532,999,481.15
BEAD Planning Grant	$5,000,000.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$1,415,610.00
Middle Mile Program	$11,186,162.82
BIP Program	$29,985,800.00
CMC Pilot Program	$27,107,241.00

State Broadband Office:
The North Carolina State Broadband Office is housed under the North Carolina Department of Information Technology Division of Broadband and Digital Equity.

Website:
https://www.ncbroadband.gov

NORTH DAKOTA

Strong Foundations

North Dakota built a solid foundation of successful efforts aimed at providing Internet access to all its citizens. Thanks to the dedicated long-term commitment of North Dakota's Internet Service Providers (ISPs), North Dakota is leading the nation in broadband deployment with more than 95 percent of the state's homes having access to at least 100 Megabits per second (Mbps) broadband service and more than 70 percent having access to service capable of 1 Gigabit per second (Gbps).

STAGEnet: All public section anchor tenant locations have a minimum of 1 Gbps and can acquire 100 Gbps if required. North Dakota is the first state to achieve 1 Gbps service delivered to every K-12 district.

As of December 2023, there were less than 5,000 serviceable addresses that could not acquire 1 Gbps service. Ninety-seven percent of North Dakotans had access to 100 Mbps service or faster.

Public Engagement

North Dakota's primary activities during the first year of the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) and Digital Equity Programs focused on expanding the capacity of its broadband office and completing a significant list of stakeholder engagement activities. The state also collaborated with Tribal governments to identify the most effective approach to deployment of BEAD and Digital Equity funding. The strong support of ongoing state and federal funding, in particular the current Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) programs, all work together to serve as a strong foundation for furthering North Dakota's vision of statewide broadband.

Continued Momentum

Since 2021, the state has updated its broadband goals and received a substantial boost in funding. The combination of state appropriated funds and funds from the Capital Project Fund continued the expansion of infrastructure buildout by delivering service that reliably met or exceeded symmetrical speeds of 100 Mbps fiber to the premises to each location, including homes, businesses, and community anchor institutions.

This momentum has been further strengthened with the addition of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Consolidated Appropriation Act, 2021 (CAA) program grants, from which the state and Tribal Nations have received more than $33.8 million in combined funding in 2023. Funded projects through BIL include a more than $19 million Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure (Middle Mile) Program award to DCN LLC which will complete a statewide backbone upgrade, two Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) awards totaling more than $9 million, and a combined $5.5 million in planning grants for the BEAD and Digital Equity Programs.

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$130,162,815.12
BEAD Planning Grant	$5,000,000.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$516,380.00
Middle Mile Program	$19,710,574.47

State Broadband Office:
The North Dakota State Broadband Office is housed under the North Dakota Information Technology Department.

Website:
https://www.ndit.nd.gov/about-us/broadband

OHIO

Collaboration with Regional Partners

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) immersed itself in the establishment and ongoing activities of the Regional Digital Inclusion Alliances, which consists of five regions of Ohio (Northwest, Northeast, Central, Southeast, and Southwest), that serve as collaborative partners to assist ongoing Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) and Digital Equity Program grant activities. The alliances brought together diverse stakeholders, coordinated regional planning, supported digital inclusion, and collected local feedback.

Public Education

BroadbandOhio conducted over 30 public sessions between November 2022 and January 2023, which informed and educated Ohio residents, local governments, and partners about the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) National Broadband Map challenge process and how to participate. Engagement activities also included an online Q&A webinar on the FCC challenge process. BroadbandOhio met with NTIA and the FCC to discuss the submitted challenges.

November 2022

BroadbandOhio conducted over 30 public sessions

January 2023
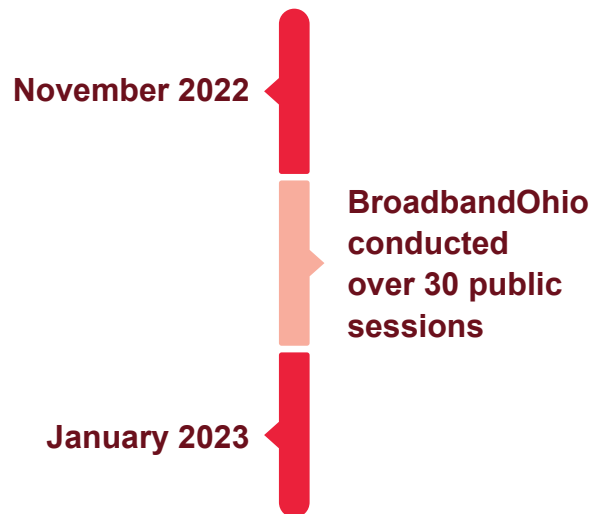
Fostering Collaboration

Throughout the BEAD and Digital Equity planning activities, BroadbandOhio continued to expand their Broadband Alliance to over 500 members comprising Internet Service Providers (ISPs), local governments, nonprofits, and interested individuals. NTIA and regional leaders continued to raise awareness and expand the alliance for discussion of the current and future status of broadband in Ohio, including BEAD and Digital Equity activities and identifying opportunities for collaborative work.

Workforce Development

Ohio has one of the most robust workforce development strategies with the Broadband and 5G Sector Partnership, founded in September 2022. The timing aligned well with the BEAD and Digital Equity grants. The design and distribution of curricula and training programs included a special focus on broadband deployment. BroadbandOhio developed strategies to use BEAD funding to expand the workforce development program, continue these synergies, and meet the growing infrastructure needs created by the BEAD grant. The statewide partnership expanded programs for tower technicians, fiber installers and splicers, pole climbers and installers, and other identified area needs. NTIA and the Governor's Office on Workforce Transformation identified and engaged with partners across the state in five private sector partnership meetings. NTIA visited training programs that serve underrepresented populations such as rural inhabitants, low-income residents, and the incarcerated to successfully bridge the digital divide.

| Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$793,688,107.63
BEAD Planning Grant	$5,000,000.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$1,470,550.00
Middle Mile Program	$27,540,553.83
CMC Pilot Program	$5,066,822.22

State Broadband Office:
The Ohio State Broadband Office is housed under the Ohio Department of Development.

Website:
https://broadband.ohio.gov/

OKLAHOMA

- 19 stops on the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) listening tour: "Let's Get Digital Community Outreach."

- Digital Equity Tour began on October 3, 2023.

- Submitted the BEAD Five-Year Action Plan to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

- Met with 36 of the 39 federally recognized Tribes.

- Hosted two biannual Internet for All stakeholder events.

- Released the first iteration of the Oklahoma State Broadband Map.

- Increased office capacity to 13.
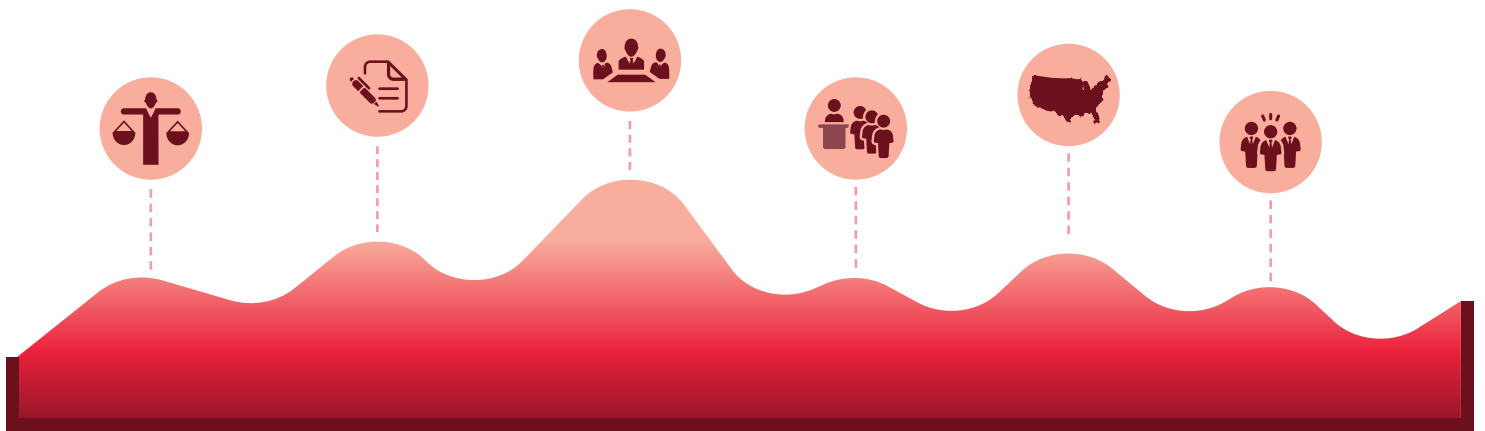
Public Engagement

The Oklahoma Broadband Office hosted the "Oklahoma's Digital Promise" tour, with stops in 10 cities and towns. The tour provided information and gathered public input for a detailed plan to help close the digital divide separating people and businesses from access to high-speed Internet.

Mapping

The Oklahoma Broadband Office created a comprehensive mapping tool with state and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) data, which provides additional information on statewide Internet access to ensure future grant-funded projects target areas of great need.

The map allowed users to:
- Search addresses;
- View unserved, underserved, and served locations;
- Distinguish between different technologies in use;
- See reported Internet speeds by location; and
- View areas receiving upgrades through federal grant funding.

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$797,435,691.25
BEAD Planning Grant	$5,000,000.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$882,088.00
Middle Mile Program	$14,547,482.42
CMC Pilot Program	$3,705,568.22

State Broadband Office:
The Oklahoma Broadband Office is housed under the Oklahoma Department of Commerce.

Website:
https://oklahoma.gov/broadband.html

OREGON

Future Proofing

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) awarded a grant to Zayo Group, LLC for $48 million through its Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure (Middle Mile) Program for infrastructure in Oregon as well as parts of Nevada and California. The project will build 645 miles of fiber and new 180-foot towers to expand fixed wireless and mobile 5G broadband.

Connecting Tribes

NTIA awarded a $15.5 million Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) grant to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to connect over 300 households, and a $6.9 million grant to the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon to connect more than 900 households and Tribal community anchor institutions.

Network Knowledge Dissemination

The State Broadband Office (SBO) used NTIA Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Initial Planning Funds to conduct an Oregon Tribal Broadband Training in Eugene on August 7 through 10, 2023, specifically for Tribes to learn from experts on building and running Tribal digital networks.

> " **Zayo Group, LLC...will build 645 miles of fiber and new 180-foot towers to expand fixed wireless and mobile 5G broadband.** "

Public Engagement

Under Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth's (OICG) BEAD Initial Planning Process, Oregon conducted 12 in-person community engagement meetings to raise awareness of BEAD and Digital Equity Programs across the state, including in the communities of Roseburg, Baker City, The Dalles, Tillamook, and Klamath Falls. More than 200 Oregon residents attended the meetings.
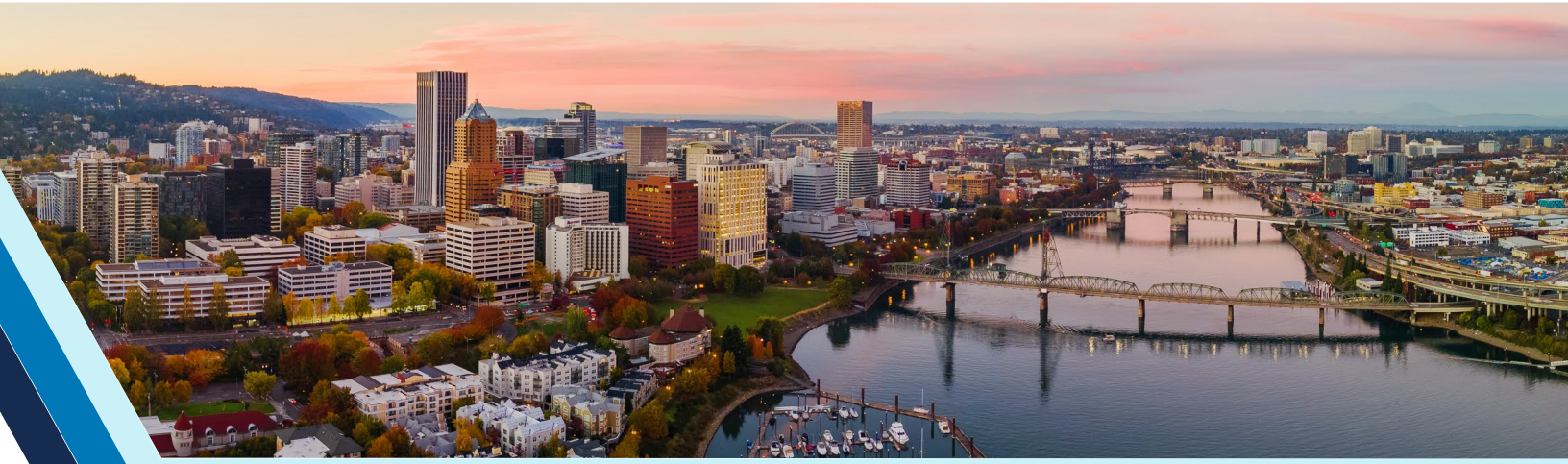
Mapping

Oregon conducted significant outreach to encourage location challenges to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) National Broadband Map. Accurately charting these locations is integral to the state's ability to accurately deploy its BEAD funding.

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$688,914,932.17
BEAD Planning Grant	$5,000,000.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$782,193.00
Middle Mile Program	$24,059,784.00

State Broadband Office:
The Oregon State Broadband Office is housed under the Oregon Business Development Department.

Website:
https://www.oregon.gov/biz/programs/oregon_broadband_office/pages/default.aspx

PENNSYLVANIA

Participation and Support of Outreach Events

The Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth (OICG) Pennsylvania Federal Program Officer (FPO) worked closely with the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority (PBDA) to provide updates, review grant documents, answer programmatic questions, and collaborate on stakeholder outreach and partnerships. The FPO participated in each of the board subcommittee meetings (Technical, Outreach, Data/Mapping, and Workforce/Supply Chain), and ...

"supported many of the over 20 community conversations"

...across Pennsylvania to ensure local input and coordination were considered as key components in Pennsylvania's broadband approach. The FPO also worked closely with the Pennsylvania Statewide Digital Equity Coalition to build new partnerships across the Commonwealth. They have also presented to several counties and regional planning commissions.

Partnering with Local Governments

On July 13, 2023, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) partnered with the PBDA and local government associations to hold an Internet for All Broadband Summit in State College. During the summit, attendees addressed challenges, best practices, and steps forward to ensure all Pennsylvanians have access to affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet. Approximately 200 in-person and 100 virtual attendees attended the Internet for All Broadband Summit.

Internet For All Webinars

OICG, in partnership with the Pennsylvania State Broadband Office (SBO), held Broadband 101 webinars for the public throughout 2023. These webinars provided relevant information on OICG grant programs and enabled partnership with community and industry associations, and addressed key questions and topics around broadband adoption, including challenge process participation. These webinars were part of a concerted effort in the Commonwealth to build a community of diverse stakeholders where the members could build trust, share challenges, and discuss future solutions for Internet accessibility.

Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program Grants

The following awards were made in PA as part of the Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program:

$ 2.9 Million
Community College of Philadelphia

$2.9 Million
Lincoln University

$2 Million
Eastern University (Esperanza College)
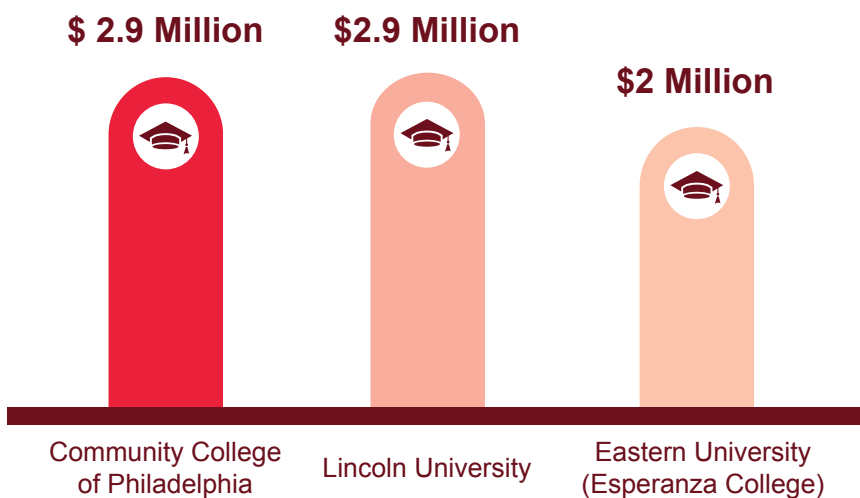
Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$1,161,778,272.41
BEAD Planning Grant	$5,000,000.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$1,604,130.00
BIP Program	$20,463,175.24
CMC Pilot Program	$7,958,318.99

State Broadband Office:
The Pennsylvania State Broadband Office is housed under the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development.

Website:
https://dced.pa.gov/programs-funding/broadband-in-pennsylvania/pennsylvania-broadband-development-authority/

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RHODE ISLAND

Amplifying Investments

On June 1, 2023, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation, and the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns co-hosted the ConnectRI Broadband Summit at the Community College of Rhode Island' Newport campus. There were 120 in-person and 49 virtual attendees at this event, who heard remarks by Governor Dan McKee, Department of Commerce Senior Advisor to the Secretary Kevin Gallagher, NTIA staff, and members of the larger state community sharing their experience and best practices.

Other highlights include:

Established the first Rhode Island State Broadband Advisory Board, which met quarterly to guide state broadband policy.

Facilitated significant interaction with local housing authorities on broadband needs.

Established a Digital Equity working group to help advise the state broadband office in Digital Equity strategy development.

Connecting Tribal Nations

NTIA awarded a $2.4 million Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) grant to the Narragansett Indian Tribe. This grant will increase broadband services and access for Tribal members who reside on ancestral lands in Washington County. Specifically, the project aims to provide distance learning capabilities and strengthen digital literacy, improve broadband speeds and affordability of services for community members, and promote workforce development and job creation.

Amplifying Investments

On June 30, 2023, U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo returned to her home state of Rhode Island to announce its Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) funding allocation of $108.7 million. U.S. Senator Jack Reed, U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, Governor Dan McKee, and several other dignitaries attended the announcement to discuss how Rhode Islanders will benefit from the funding. The event took place at Newport Housing Authority's Donovan Manor, which installed broadband Internet infrastructure in 2021 after HiLo Neighborhood Association President Tommy Sheehan and a team of local activists successfully applied through the state for a $980,000 Community Development Block Grant.
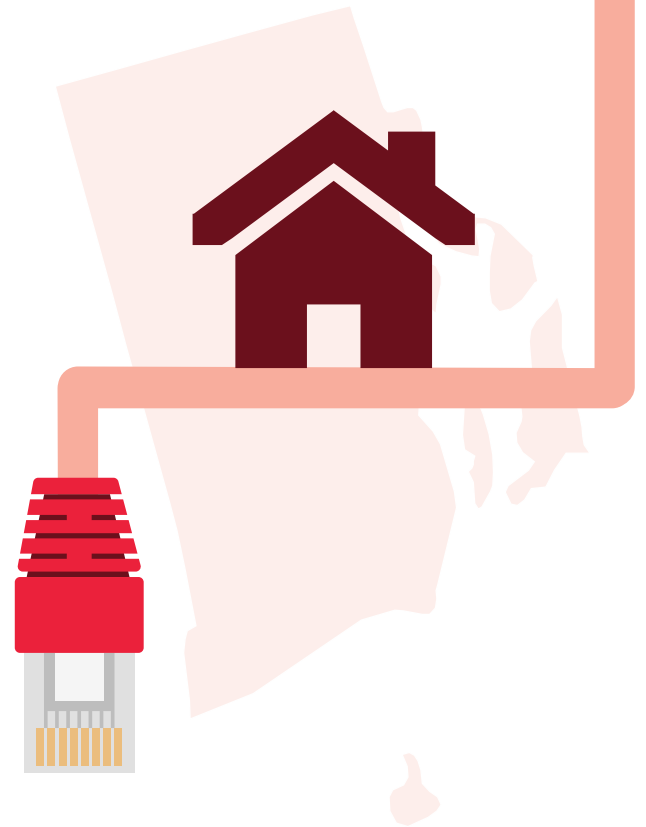
Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$108,718,820.75
BEAD Planning Grant	$5,000,000.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$506,100.07

State Broadband Office:
The Rhode Island State Broadband Office is housed at the quasi-public Rhode Island Commerce Corporation which reports to the Executive Office of Commerce.

Website:
https://commerceri.com/broadband/

SOUTH CAROLINA

Public Engagement

Get Connected SC, a consumer-facing site highlighting the various programs being offered or planned, was created to support Internet for All efforts. In order to gauge the public's perception and thoughts on the level of Internet coverage across the state, a 22-week survey campaign was conducted. The survey exerted more than 2,000 professional hours and collaborated with over 25 other entities, including the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA), University of South Carolina (USC), South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs (CMA), Clemson, South Carolina Institutes of Innovation and Information (SCIII), Riggs Partners, and many others. This campaign focused on rural, unserved communities and resulted in over 13,000 completed surveys, 48 percent of which came from the target audience of underserved and unserved residents. This analysis directly informed South Carolina's BEAD Five-Year Action Plan and will strongly influence the direction future efforts for both BEAD and Digital Equity programs in South Carolina.

22 Week Survey

2k Professional Hours

25 Entities

Amplifying Investments

At a statewide press conference in the state capital, Governor Henry McMaster and U.S. Representative Jim Clyburn (SC-6) announced NTIA's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) and Digital Equity Programs. Nannette Edwards, Executive Director of the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff, welcomed many Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and other stakeholders, and outlined each of the programs.
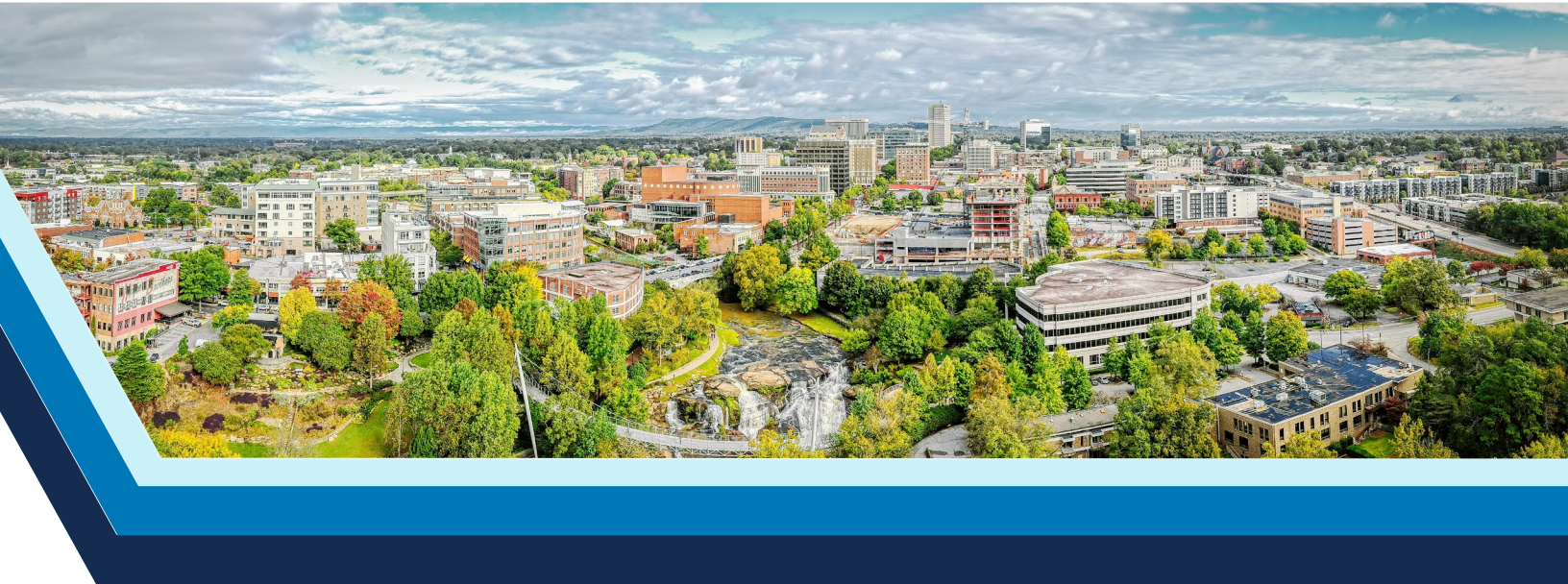
Listening Sessions

NTIA held over 17 listening sessions across the state, focusing on unserved and underserved communities in rural South Carolina and engaging community leaders, organizations, and citizens that will directly benefit from access to high-speed Internet. These meetings are ongoing.

Mapping

South Carolina created "SC Digital Drive," a repository of maps and data, to track state progress towards universal coverage and Internet for All.

17 Listening Sessions across the state

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$551,535,983.05
BEAD Planning Grant	$5,000,000.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$953,478.00
CMC Pilot Program	$5,892,897.00

State Broadband Office:
The South Carolina State Broadband Office is housed under the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff.

Website:
https://ors.sc.gov/

SOUTH DAKOTA

Connecting South Dakota

Funded projects through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) include over $77 million in awards to Tribal Nations through the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP), and a combined $3.1 million in planning grants from the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) and Digital Equity programs.

The BEAD and Digital Equity programs in South Dakota are well positioned to further expand on the significant efforts already deployed in the state. The momentum will continue to grow as deployment of additional projects funded through BIL begin in the coming years.

" The momentum will continue to **GROW** as deployment of additional projects... begin in the coming year. "

State Broadband Team Capacity

The South Dakota Broadband team grew as a result of the financial support from BEAD and Digital Equity Program planning funds, which addressed the critical need to increase broadband office capacity to administer the numerous programs currently underway. The team has grown to include a BEAD Coordinator and student intern. The Digital Opportunity program is coordinated through an interagency agreement with the state Department of Labor.

South Dakota Broadband Summit

South Dakota successfully organized the South Dakota Broadband Summit on May 3, 2023, where it engaged a wide variety of stakeholders, including members of the public on the current and future state of broadband in the state. The Summit discussed the state's existing ConnectSD State Broadband Program, BEAD funding, and Digital Equity funding with community organization representatives and Internet Service Providers, among others. Sessions on workforce needs and community broadband planning and discussion were also an important part of the Summit. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Federal Program Officer (FPO) for the state, the regional director for BEAD, and Digital Equity program leadership presented at the well-attended event.

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Programs	$207,227,523.92
BEAD Planning Grant	$2,604,218.30
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$527,052.00

State Broadband Office:
The South Dakota State Broadband Team is part of the Governor's Office of Economic Development.

Website:
https://sdgoed.com/partners/connectsd/

TENNESSEE

Amplifying Investments

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Deputy Assistant Secretary April McClain-Delaney and Senior Advisor to the President and Infrastructure Coordinator Mitch Landrieu visited Jackson to celebrate Prysmian Group, a manufacturer that invested $30 million to convert its copper cable facility into a state-of-the-art fiber-optic cable manufacturing plant. Prysmian remained dedicated to its workforce, retaining nearly 90 percent of its employees. Prysmian expects to hire an additional 40 workers to reach full capacity for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program.

Invested
$30
million

Industry Engagement

To prepare for the implementation of the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth's (OICG) BEAD program, Tennessee hosted several workshops with Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in fall 2023. OICG provided extensive technical assistance to create the workshop agendas and materials to drive engagement and share information during these sessions.

Public Engagement

Tennessee held over 50 meetings to gather feedback for the state's Five-Year Action Plan which were attended by more than 900 individual stakeholders. OICG connected the State Broadband Office (SBO) to several organizations focused on Digital Opportunity, which facilitated the collection of diverse feedback used to inform the plan.

Using NTIA's Digital Equity Planning Grant funding, Tennessee hosted its inaugural Digital Opportunity Summit, which brought together leaders and advocates from across the state to provide feedback for the first ever statewide Digital Opportunity plan.

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$813,319,680.22
BEAD Planning Grant	$4,906,138.56
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$1,083,810.00
Middle Mile Program	$20,350,934.40
CMC Pilot Program	$3,464,253.71

State Broadband Office:
The Tennessee State Broadband Office is housed under the Department of Economic & Community Development.

Website:
https://www.tn.gov/ecd/rural-development/broad-band-office.html

TEXAS

Public Engagement

With the goal of streamlining broadband expansion across the state, as well as to allow for feedback about connectivity needs, Texas instituted a robust external engagement process that fostered collaboration with local, regional, and Tribal entities. This stakeholder engagement included:

- 24 in-person regional meetings across rural, urban, and suburban Texas.

- The development of 12 regional working groups.

- Six subject area task forces on Economy and Workforce, Education, Business and Telecom, Health, Civic and Social, and Essential Services.

- The creation of the statewide working group to advise the task forces and regional working groups and assist with gathering data for the state Digital Opportunity Plan.

- Monthly industry and local government roundtables.

Gathering Input through Surveys

Texas used the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program planning funds to conduct a public survey in four languages: English, Spanish, Mandarin, and Vietnamese. At least one resident in each of Texas' 254 counties completed a survey. Feedback from this survey, plus input from the working groups and task forces, informed the Texas BEAD Five-Year Action Plan.

Stakeholder Engagement

Texas conducted meetings with hundreds of stakeholders from dozens of Texas communities to share information and resources about the BEAD and Digital Equity Programs and learn about the unique challenges in each region and community of Texas.

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$3,312,616,455.45
BEAD Planning Grant	$5,000,000.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$3,110,150.00
Middle Mile Program	$66,823,532.98
BIP Program	$12,700,959.02
CMC Pilot Program	$19,672,508.29

State Broadband Office:
The Texas Broadband Development Office is housed under the Office of the Comptroller of Public Accounts.

Website:
https://comptroller.texas.gov/programs/broadband/

UTAH

Stakeholder Engagement

The UBC, with support from the Utah Federal Program Officer (FPO) representing the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth (OICG), conducted robust stakeholder engagement across the state. This included presentations with all seven associations of governments and listening sessions with all 29 counties, which were primarily in-person.

Grants

OICG awarded $15.8 million in Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) grant funding to the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray Reservation, Utah to deploy broadband infrastructure. This project aims to install fiber to directly connect more than 1,000 unserved Native American households and anchor institutions.

Additional Outreach

The Utah Broadband Center awarded over $900,000 in planning grants to facilitate additional grassroots planning and outreach to 28 organizations, including associations of cities, counties, associations of governments, state agencies, education institutions, and community-based organizations.

"**The Utah Broadband Center awarded over $900 thousand in planning grants**"

Internet for All: Utah Broadband Confluence

On June 7, 2023, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) partnered with the Utah Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity to hold an Internet for All Broadband Confluence in Provo. At the confluence, the state broadband office became one of the first in the country to release drafts of both its Five-Year Action Plan and state Digital Equity Plan for public comment. Attendees listened to presentations on local broadband and digital equity plans, inspirational storytellers from the community, and best practices to ensure all Utah residents have access to affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet. This hybrid event had 245 in-person attendees and over 80 virtual attendees.

Tribal Consultations

Utah was one of the first states in the country to complete its Tribal consultation meetings in January 2023, attended by five of the eight Tribal nations in Utah and the Lieutenant Governor.

Mapping

The state instituted a collaborative effort between the Utah Broadband Center (UBC), Utah Geospatial Resource Center, and county geospatial information system (GIS) departments to ensure the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) National Broadband Map accurately reflected the total number of broadband serviceable locations. These mapping challenges provided more accurate data for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program and other deployment options.

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$317,399,741.54
BEAD Planning Grant	$5,000,000.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$676,684.00

State Broadband Office:
The Utah State Broadband Office is housed under the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity.

Website:
https://business.utah.gov/broadband/

VERMONT

Stakeholder Engagement

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) provided technical assistance, stakeholder engagement, and programmatic updates to the Vermont Community Broadband Board, stakeholders, and community members through the Vermont Federal Program Officer (FPO). The FPO provided continued support and attendance at ongoing meetings, stakeholder roundtables, and participation in listening sessions for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program and Digital Equity plans. In 2023, the FPO participated in 35 stakeholder meetings and events, including with advocacy groups, municipal organizations, Internet Service Providers (ISPs), and government agencies.

35 stakeholder meetings and events in 2023
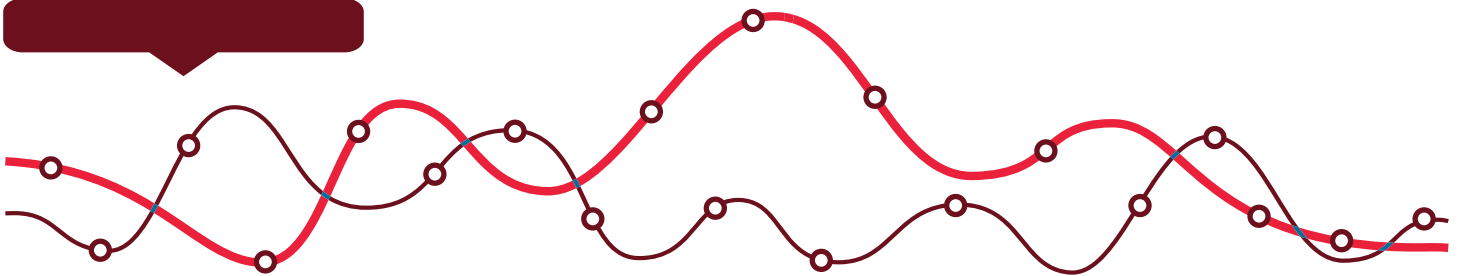
Listening Sessions

Vermont leveraged BEAD and Digital Equity Program planning funds to host four in-person public listening sessions throughout the state, two state-wide, virtual listening sessions, and 22 virtual roundtable sessions. The state also convened a bi-weekly Digital Equity Core Team of members representing covered populations. Themes that emerged from these sessions included the needs to strengthen local control of Internet infrastructure and to encourage affordability programs.

Providing Tailored Assistance

Vermont has a unique, state-wide policy framework that empowers municipalities to come together to form communications union districts (CUDs) and build publicly owned networks. The Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth's (OICG) Technical Assistance team provided specialized support to help Vermont harmonize its BEAD planning with the state's unique policy of developing regional-, municipal-, and community-owned fiber networks. To do so, OICG held three tailored one-on-one Technical Assistance sessions, which assisted in the development of Vermont's Initial Proposal Volume I and Volume II. Additionally, NTIA drafted written responses to 30 questions regarding the BEAD Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

LISTENING SESSIONS AHEAD

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$228,913,019.08
BEAD Planning Grant	$5,000,000.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$518,154.00

State Broadband Office:
The Vermont State Broadband Office is housed under the State of Vermont Department of Public Service.

Website:
https://publicservice.vermont.gov/telecommunica-tions-and-connectivity

VIRGINIA

Engaging with Local Partners

Virginia hosted several workshops with Internet Service Providers (ISPs), local governments, and community interest groups in the spring and summer to gather feedback on how the state will structure their Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program proposals.

Stakeholder Engagement

Virginia engaged with the Commonwealth's community action agencies across the state by utilizing its Digital Equity Planning Grant funding to provide feedback on the first-ever statewide Digital Opportunity Plan.

Mapping

In partnership with Virginia Tech, the Virginia Office of Broadband identified both missing locations and incorrect provider reported availability data on the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) National Broadband Map. This collaborative participation in the challenge process helped to identify a higher number of eligible locations that may be served through the BEAD program.

Amplifying Investments

In June 2023, U.S. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Don Graves hosted a roundtable with small business, ISPs, and community leaders in Loudoun County. The small group session focused on access and affordability, as well as the importance of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP).[22]

The FCC's ACP forms an integral component of the diverse range of measures used by the federal government to tackle the digital divide. These measures are part of the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth's (OICG) overall strategy to connect everyone in America to high-speed Internet.

[22] *While the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) stopped accepting applications in February 2024 and anticipates the end of the program in Spring 2024 due to lack of funding, OICG wanted to recognize the importance of the program's impact in States and Territories in 2023.*
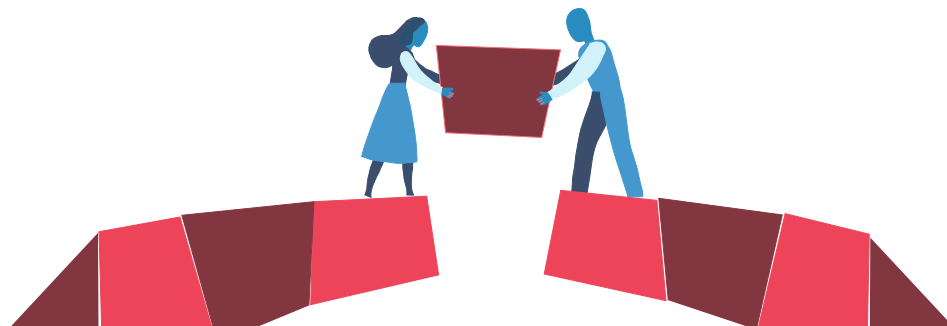
Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$1,481,489,572.87
BEAD Planning Grant	$4,999,975.50
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$1,222,080.00
Middle Mile Program	$36,746,499.60
CMC Pilot Program	$9,685,734

State Broadband Office:
The Virginia State Broadband Office is housed under the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Website:
https://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/broadband

WASHINGTON

Monthly Internet for All Washington State Awareness Webinars

The Washington State Broadband Office (SBO), in partnership with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), implemented a monthly webinar series that ran through December 2023. The webinars provided direct engagement with communities to ensure stronger outcomes on the state and local level. Specifically, they provided updates on the state's planning process and the federal funding used to bring high-speed broadband infrastructure to unserved and underserved communities.

BIP Funding Project

NTIA's Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP) supported the deployment of broadband networks in five of Washington State's most rural counties: Ferry, Jefferson, Kittitas, Okanogan, and Stevens. The funding will result in approximately an additional 7,196 homes, 210 businesses, and 50 community anchor institutions connected to modern broadband services.

Personnel and Capacity

The SBO, housed within the Washington State Department of Commerce, focused its efforts on building capacity and staff to meet its increased responsibilities for planning and execution.
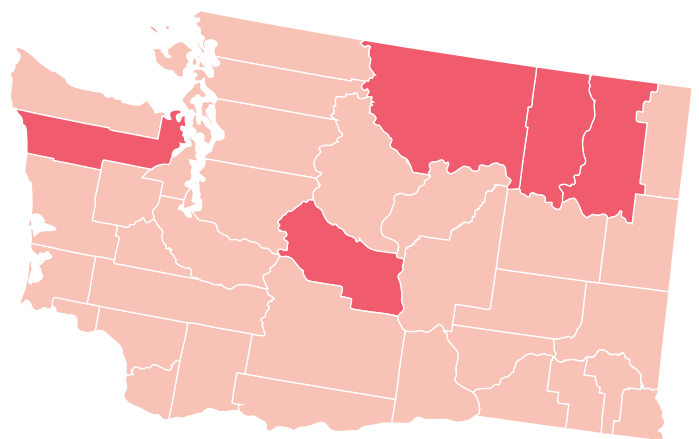
Outreach Engagement

The Washington SBO instituted outreach efforts using the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) map and challenge process to represent the number of unserved locations, increasing the total more accurately by approximately 71,000 locations. Washington was awarded $1.23 billion in Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program funding to address the needs of these locations, among other needs.

Connecting Minority Communities

The Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth (OICG) awarded a Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program Grant to the University of Washington Tacoma's (UWT) "Connect Across Tacoma: devices, skills, and service expansion for digital equity" project. This project enabled UWT to develop county community plans to address digital divides in Tacoma. Project activities included the distribution of tablets and laptops to students and patrons by the Black Brilliance Research (BBR) team, enrolling households who would not otherwise have home broadband service with Internet subscriptions, training students and patrons as Digital Stewards, and those Digital Stewards completing a 14-week internship to deliver digital literacy training, user support, and broadband adoption support to the broader student and anchor community.

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$1,227,742,066.30
BEAD Planning Grant	$5,000,000.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$1,076,250.00
Middle Mile Program	$11,782,208.20
BIP Program	$30,000,000.00
CMC Pilot Program	$2,963,813.00

State Broadband Office:
The Washington State Broadband Office is housed under the Washington State Department of Commerce.

Website:
https://www.commerce.wa.gov/building-infrastructure/washington-statewide-broadband-act/

WEST VIRGINIA

Listening Tour across West Virginia

The West Virginia Department of Economic Development (WVDED) used its Digital Equity Program planning grant funds to hear from residents in all 55 Counties, as part of the WVDED listening tour. This tour enabled the WVDED to hear from local citizens, Internet Service Providers (ISPs), elected officials, and other community leaders. These meetings were critical in identifying the unique challenges to meet in each community to achieve the goal of Internet for All.
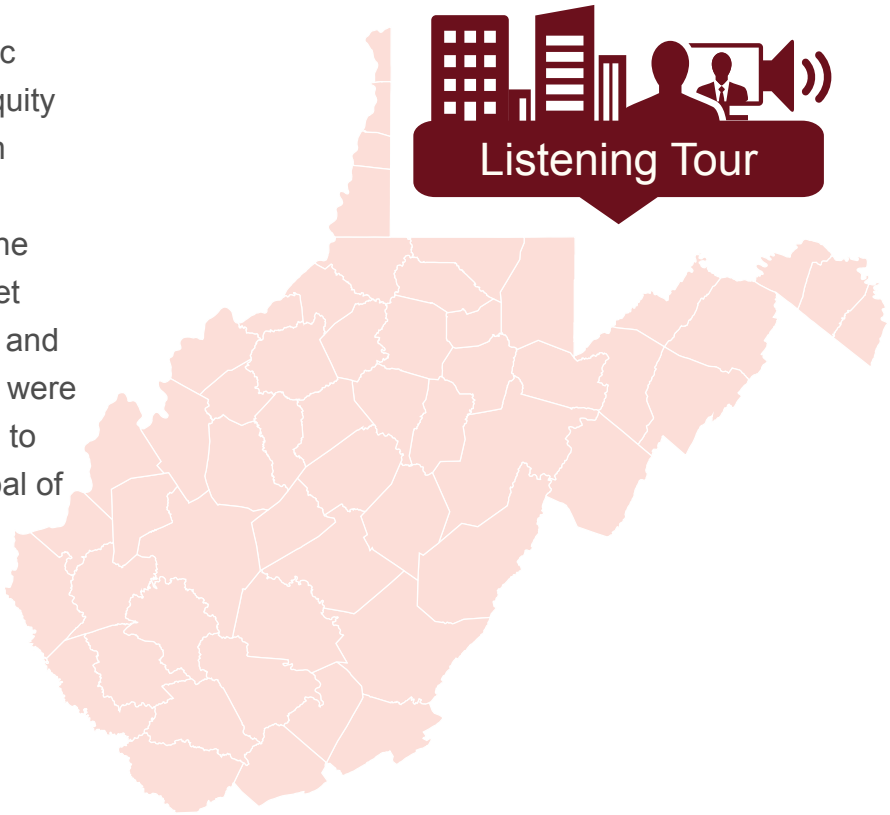
Extending Service in West Virginia

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure (Middle Mile) Program awarded $25 million to Appalachian Power Company to expand and improve broadband services in southern West Virginia. The funding will help provide broadband service to approximately 22,000 households in Raleigh, Wyoming, McDowell, Mercer, and Summers counties. This funding builds on $19.6 million in previous funding provided through NTIA's Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP) for Appalachian Power to expand service to more than 12,000 households in Logan and Mingo Counties.

Stakeholder Engagement

Between March 1 and June 30, 2023, the WVDED and its partners hosted more than 148 virtual and in-person events such as kick-off meetings, broadband summits, and listening sessions. The WVDED office ran a statewide survey from June 28, 2023, through August 16, 2023, and received 2,436 responses.

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$1,210,800,969.85
BEAD Planning Grant	$5,000,000.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$728,065.00
Middle Mile Program	$25,054,092.63
BIP Program	$19,678,779.52

State Broadband Office:
The West Virginia State Broadband Office is housed under the West Virginia Department of Economic Development.

**Website:**
https://broadband.wv.gov/

WISCONSIN

Listening Tour

In May and June 2023, Wisconsin successfully implemented the Internet for All Wisconsin Listening Tour. The tour consisted of nine in-person meetings across the state, and two statewide virtual sessions. State representatives listened to input from Wisconsin stakeholders on broadband use, accessibility, and affordability. Stakeholders from across Wisconsin shared insight and perspectives that are critical to the expansion of high-speed Internet to communities.

Local Grant Creation

Wisconsin used $1.5 million of its Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) planning funds to create the BEAD Local Planning Grant. The grant allocated funding to Wisconsin's counties and Tribal nations

that applied to the program. These resources supported local engagement and planning for the future deployment of broadband. As a result, many counties created broadband committees to further engage their residents in the planning process. The Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth's (OICG) Wisconsin Federal Program Officer (FPO) served as a resource for a number of these committees by sharing program guidance and information.

Listening Tour

May - June

9 in-person & 2 virtual
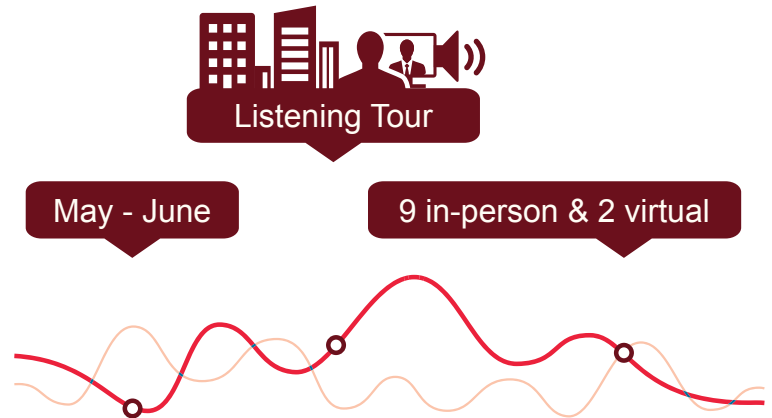
Internet for All Wisconsin Kick Off

Wisconsin collaborated with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to successfully plan and execute the Internet for All Wisconsin Kickoff event in October 2022 in Wausau, Wisconsin. NTIA staff traveled to the event to present information about the Internet for All initiative, and Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Commerce Kevin Gallagher participated in an opening panel moderated by the Chair of the Governor's Task Force on Broadband Access. The panel included Wisconsin Public Service Commission Chair Rebecca Cameron Valcq and then President of the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin Marlon WhiteEagle.

Future Proofing Wisconsin

Dairyland Power Cooperative received a grant from NTIA's Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure (Middle Mile) Program in June 2023. The 240-mile project will provide expanded opportunities for unserved and underserved residents in rural Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa.

Amplifying Investments

In August 2023, Vice President Kamala Harris, U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, and U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin announced a new collaboration between Sanmina and Nokia to manufacture fiber-optic broadband electronics while visiting the Sanmina Corporation facility in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin. In addition to now producing these materials in the United States, the partnership will also create up to 200 new jobs in the state. Secretary Raimondo and Senator Baldwin met with a group of residents who currently lack reliable Internet service to hear how lack of access impacts their daily lives and businesses. NTIA staff, including Senior Advisor Gallagher, then traveled to a nearby site to view a fiber installation project that is funded by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars.

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$1,055,823,573.71
BEAD Planning Grant	$5,000,000.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$952,198.00
Middle Mile Program	$14,890,077.79

State Broadband Office:
The Wisconsin State Broadband Office is housed under the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin.

Website:
https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/ServiceType/Broadband.aspx

WYOMING

Connecting Gillette

In August 2023, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announced a grant of $1.2 million through its Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure (Middle Mile) Program to Visionary Communications-Oriva Hills and Wright Middle Mile to provide infrastructure outside of Gillette. The 11.5-mile project will bring critical fiber backhaul to the main tower site. This project will augment two new tower sites, upgrade microwave backhaul, high-capacity microwave links, and fiber backhaul for providers to support the deployment of the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program in Wyoming.

Utilizing Expertise

The Wyoming Business Council used BEAD and Digital Equity planning funds to hire outside experts to help draft the Wyoming's Digital Access Plan and Five-Year Action Plan.

Listening Sessions for the Public

The Wyoming Business Council used BEAD planning funds and its Digital Equity Planning Grant to conduct 15 in-person and 10 virtual listening sessions with a wide variety of stakeholders to gather feedback on both Wyoming's BEAD Initial Proposal and Digital Access Plan. These sessions resulted in the early release of Wyoming's Digital Access Plan and Initial Proposal Volume 1 for public comment.

11.5 Mile Project

$1.2 Million Grant

This project will augment two new tower sites, upgrade microwave back haul, high-capacity microwave links, and fiber backhaul.

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$347,877,921.27
BEAD Planning Grant	$4,899,999.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$530,006.00
Middle Mile Program	$1,261,170.90

State Broadband Office:
The Wyoming State Broadband Office is housed under the State of Wyoming's Economic Development Agency, also known as the Wyoming Business Council.

Website:
https://wyomingbusiness.org/communities/broadband/

WASHINGTON D.C.

Washington D.C. Broadband Office

The District of Columbia's Office of the Chief Information Technology Officer (OCTO) used its Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program Initial Planning Funds and Digital Equity Planning Grant to build capacity in the office. OCTO brought on staff and contract support to conduct stakeholder outreach and to develop its BEAD Five-Year Action Plan, Initial Proposal, and Digital Equity Plan. The Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth (OICG) provided technical assistance on best practices for conducting stakeholder outreach and building a broadband office.

Stakeholder Assistance

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) provided targeted technical assistance on plan development at a one-year checkpoint with OCTO, increasing coordination between the BEAD and Digital Equity programs.

Industry Engagement – ISP Summit

OCTO hosted an Internet Service Provider (ISP) summit with NTIA's BEAD planning funds. OCTO used this summit to inform ISPs about BEAD funding and uses and ways to further engage on the planning and subgranting process. OCTO also used this event to receive input from providers on broadband connectivity and affordability needs in D.C.

Public Outreach – Tech Together

With funding from NTIA's BEAD and Digital Equity Planning awards, OCTO relaunched its TechTogether outreach program. TechTogether helps OCTO engage with stakeholders to best understand the broadband and digital equity needs of the District of Columbia.
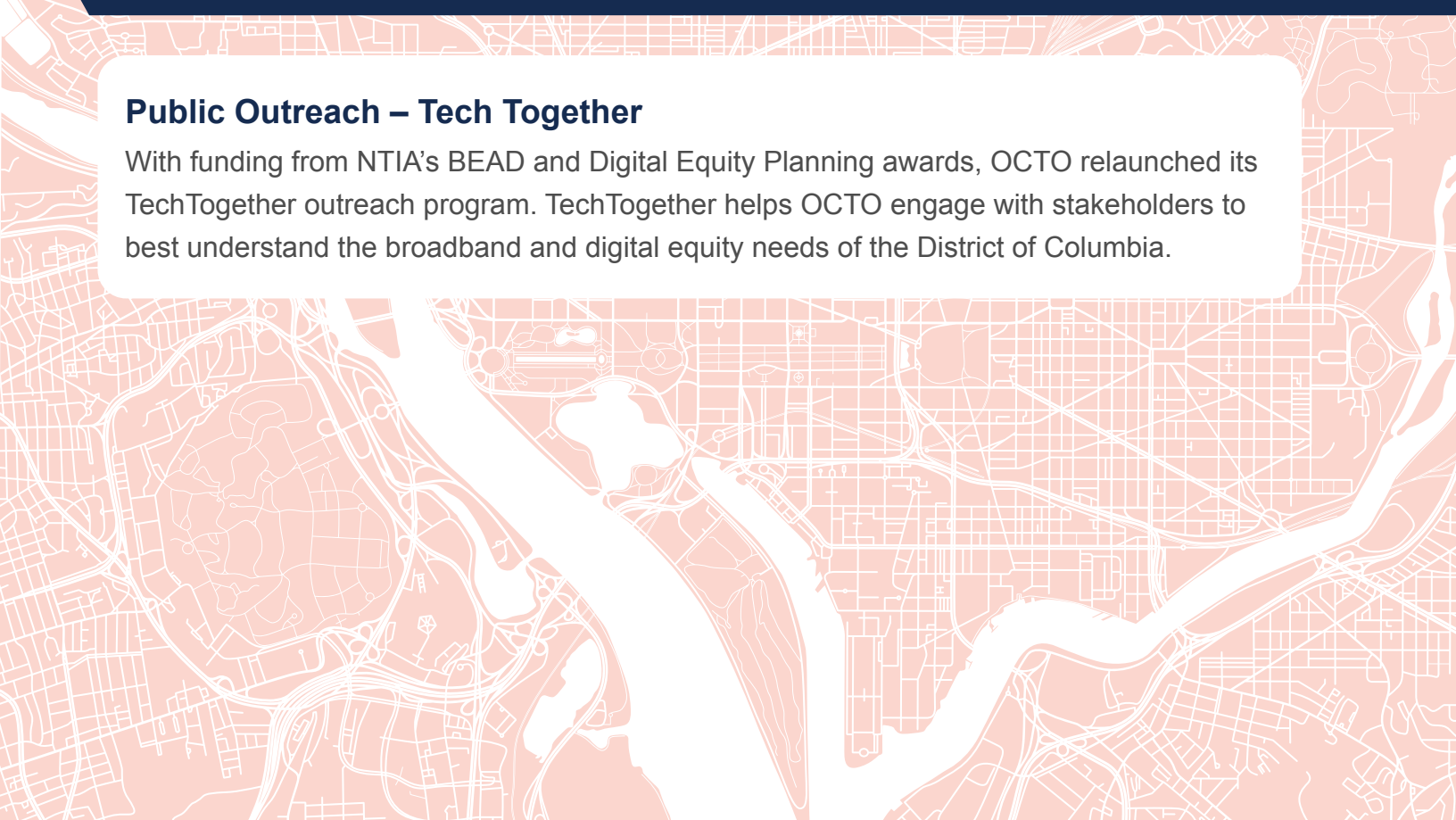
Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$100,694,786.93
BEAD Planning Grant	$5,000,000.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$463,126.00

Territory Broadband Office:
The Washington, D.C., Broadband Office is housed under the State Broadband and Digital Equity Office, Office of the Chief Technology Officer.

Website:
https://octo.dc.gov/

PUERTO RICO

Broadband Summit

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), in collaboration with Puerto Rico's Broadband Office, held a Broadband Summit at the Puerto Rico Convention Center in April 2023. During the Summit, the Broadband Office engaged with stakeholders and received feedback regarding the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) and Digital Equity Programs. Over 280 stakeholders attended in person or virtually.

Puerto Rico Roundtables

NTIA convened four Broadband Roundtables in Puerto Rico monthly from June through August 2023. Over 200 attendees participated in the roundtables. NTIA shared program information at the roundtables including updates and deadlines with stakeholders.

In August 2023, NTIA provided technical assistance and program information about BEAD and Digital Equity to mayors across Puerto Rico.

Puerto Rico Establishes Broadband Program

Governor Pedro Pierluisi established the Puerto Rico Broadband Program under Executive Order 2022-40, which addressed the pressing digital divide within the region. Both local and federal funds were earmarked for Puerto Rico, which bolstered the deployment of essential broadband infrastructure necessary to close the digital divide that exists on the island.

" **Over 200 attendees participated in the roundtables.** " **200**

Broadband Office

The Broadband Office staff created a website (smartisland.pr.gov) with information, media, press releases, job postings, and more. The office also established sub-committees, the Digital Equity Committee, and the Broadband Advisory Committee. The committees contain a diverse group of stakeholders who assist the State Broadband Office (SBO) in gathering input and conducting planning for the programs, as well as creating collaborative agreements with American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and local agencies to hold listening sessions around the island.

Mapping

The SBO hired a geographic information system (GIS) analysis firm to help with their mapping capabilities. This resulted in the development of a Broadband Visualization Tool that the office used to create a precise asset map of broadband infrastructure, unserved and underserved locations, and community anchor institutions.

Amplifying Investments

Puerto Rico received a BEAD allocation of $334.6 million. Puerto Rico and the White House both held press conferences to announce the allocation. The SBO Executive Director, Enrique Volckers, attended the White House press conference where President Biden announced the BEAD allocations.

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Programs	$334,614,151.70
BEAD Planning Grant	$5,000,000.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$781,987.00
Middle Mile Program	$9,303,468.52
CMC Pilot Program	$4,489,128.00

Territory Broadband Office:
The Puerto Rico Broadband Office is housed under the Puerto Rico Office of Management & Budget.

Website:
https://www.smartisland.pr.gov

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

Personnel and Capacity

The Broadband Office for the United States Virgin Islands (USVI) is located within the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Through 2023, OMB worked to increase the capacity of its broadband office. Virgin Islands Next Generation Network (viNGN) will administer the state Digital Equity Planning Grant Program and hired a new Director of Digital Equity and Inclusion.

Town Hall Meetings

ViNGN kicked off a series of nine Town Hall meetings in Saint Croix, Saint John, and Saint Thomas. ViNGN designed the Town Hall meetings to educate and encourage public participation to guide the execution of the Digital Equity Program in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Through 2023, OMB worked to INCREASE the CAPACITY of it broadband office

Local Coordination Event

The U.S. Virgin Island's Office of Management and Budget and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) co-hosted a local coordination event in the USVI to facilitate discussions among key stakeholders about how best to achieve digital equity and Internet for All in the USVI. The event set the stage by providing an overview of federal broadband programs and discussed critical issues for the Island such as strategies for broadband connectivity, workforce development, telehealth, cybersecurity, and online protection. Federal agencies, including the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), attended the event.

Improving Higher Education

In February 2023, NTIA awarded the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) $2.9 million from the Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program. The grant will be used to improve UVI's broadband and IT infrastructure and implement new, innovative teaching strategies. Project activities include replacing fiber-optic cable for faster data transmission speeds and more robust bandwidth, replacing faulty electronics, commissioning architectural drawings of residential facilities for optimizing placement of Wi-Fi access points, and creating a pilot community cloud. This pilot program will help ensure that students and faculty using the specialized lab environment remain connected for teaching and learning during the intermittent power grid and service provider disruptions common to the USVI territory.

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$27,103,240.86
BEAD Planning Grant	$1,249,952.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$150,000.00
CMC Pilot Program	$2,990,594.00

Territory Broadband Office:
The Broadband Office for the United States Virgin Islands, connectVI, is located within the Office of Management and Budget.

Website:
https://connectvi.net/

PACIFIC TERRITORIES

Federal Program meets with Territory Broadband Offices at the Territorial Climate and Infrastructure Workshop 2023

The Pacific Territories Federal Program Officer (PT FPO) participated in the 2023 Territorial Climate and Infrastructure Workshop (TCIW), hosted by the Department of the Interior (DOI). This significant workshop brought together Territory Broadband Offices (TBOs) from Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa, along with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) PT FPO, and addressed critical issues related to climate and infrastructure in the Pacific Territories.

A primary focus of the TCIW was the discussion of broadband connectivity in these territories and how two key initiatives, the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) and Digital Equity Programs, could play pivotal roles in achieving the overarching goal of Internet for All. The PT FPO and TBOs held in-depth

conversations regarding strategies to enhance broadband infrastructure, extend Internet access to underserved regions, and promote digital literacy and inclusion.
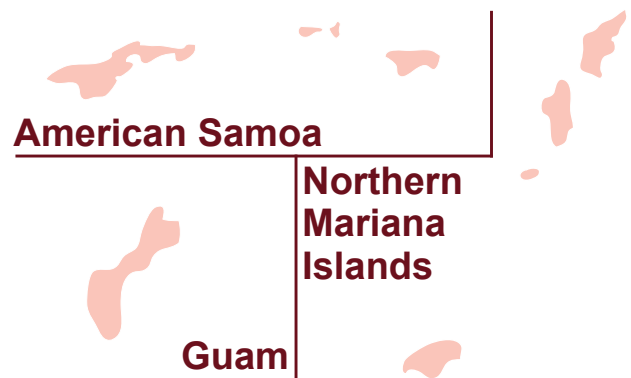
The workshop served as a collaborative platform where the PT FPO and TBOs shared insights, experiences, and best practices related to broadband deployment and digital equity efforts specific to their respective territories. By aligning

their efforts with BEAD and Digital Equity Programs, the TBOs aimed to leverage federal resources and support to make high-speed Internet more accessible and affordable for all residents in Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa.

The TCIW provided a valuable opportunity for stakeholders to work together toward the common goal of ensuring equitable access to the Internet, particularly in the context of addressing climate challenges and infrastructure needs in the Pacific Territories. The discussions and collaborations during the workshop are expected to drive progress and positive outcomes in the realm of broadband connectivity and digital inclusion for the communities in these territories.

Federal Program Officer Starts First of its Kind — Weekly Broadband Brunches for Pacific Territories

The Pacific Territories Broadband Offices representing Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands held several Broadband Brunch meetings with the PT FPO to provide a weekly platform to discuss and share issues and concerns they might have around federal funding. This meeting was by necessity a "brunch" to accommodate the significant differences in time zones for the various territories; the meeting took place at 8 a.m. for Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, 11 a.m. for American Samoa, and 6 p.m. for Washington D.C., the headquarters for NTIA.

After several months of success with weekly Broadband Brunch meetings, the idea expanded to include all of the island stakeholders, including Internet Service Providers (ISPs), carriers, nonprofits, and government entities. These weekly meetings continued providing a great opportunity for everyone to collaborate and share ideas, concerns, and thoughts.

GUAM

Federal Program Officer Visits Guam

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Pacific Territories Federal Program Officer (PT FPO) visited Guam with a primary goal to focus on the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program and Digital Equity initiatives. During this visit, the PT FPO engaged with a wide spectrum of stakeholders, including local Internet Service Providers (ISPs), various government departments, government leadership, and educational institutions like schools and libraries.

The main purpose of these meetings was to strategize and collaborate on efforts to strengthen broadband infrastructure, expand Internet access to underserved areas, and promote digital literacy and inclusion in Guam. These discussions revolved around tailoring solutions to Guam's unique needs and challenges in the digital landscape.

A core theme of the visit was the commitment to Internet for All, underscoring the dedication to ensuring that every resident of Guam has access to affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet services. This commitment aligned federal resources and programs, administered by NTIA, with Guam's digital development objectives.

The visit served as a valuable platform for stakeholders to come together, exchange insights, and jointly address specific obstacles and opportunities related to digital equity and broadband deployment on the island. These collaborative efforts contributed to the advancement of Guam's digital connectivity and fostered a more inclusive and digitally empowered community.

" **The visit served as a valuable platform for stakeholders to come together, exchange insights, and jointly address specific obstacles and opportunities related to digital equity and broadband deployment on the island.** "

Guam Secures $383 Thousand Grant to Boost Affordable Connectivity Outreach

On August 18, 2023, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced that Guam was awarded $383,000 as part of its Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grant Program (ACP Outreach Grant Program). This initiative aims to amplify outreach efforts to enhance awareness about and encourage participation in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) among eligible low-income households.[23]

The ACP Outreach Grant Program operates under the umbrella of the $14.2 billion ACP FCC benefit initiative, designed to assist states and territories in furnishing affordable Internet service to eligible low-income households, addressing their needs for work, education, healthcare, and more. The ACP Outreach Grant Program formed an integral component of the diverse range of measures used by the federal government to tackle the digital divide. These measures are part of the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth's (OICG) overall strategy to connect everyone in America to high-speed Internet.

[23] *While the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) stopped accepting applications in February 2024 and anticipates the end of the program in Spring 2024 due to lack of funding, OICG wanted to recognize the importance of the program's impact in States and Territories in 2023.*
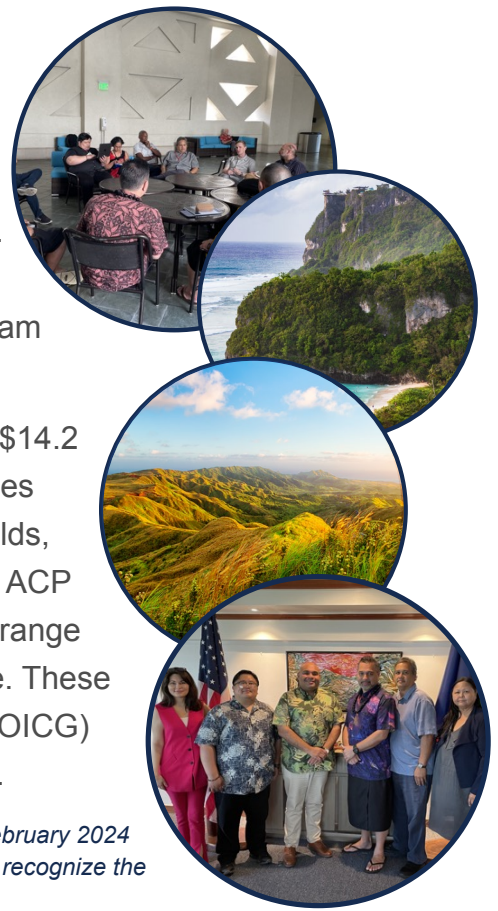
Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$156,831,733.59
BEAD Planning Grant	$1,250,000.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$150,000.00
BIP Program	$12,770,692.18

Territory Broadband Office:
The Guam Broadband Office is housed under the Office of Infrastructure Policy and Development.

Website:
https://notices.guam.gov/notices?department_id=98#notices_start

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Broadband Office Submits Five-Year Action Plan

The Northern Mariana Islands Broadband Policy and Development Office (BPD) received an award of $81 million from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program. The BPD was established by the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Office of the Governor.

Governor Arnold I. Palacios, championing the establishment of the BPD, said, "This broadband initiative doesn't just enhance our global connections between the Marianas and the world — it will also lead to more affordable and accessible services that directly influence our lifestyle. As CNMI forges ahead in this digital age, we aspire to elevate public consciousness about our Internet security stance, build strategic resilience, provide clear direction for our network's future expansion, and importantly, lay the groundwork for a flourishing digital ecosystem within the Marianas that will enrich the education system, enhance health services, stimulate economic growth, and invest in our future workforce. Our future generations deserve nothing less."

CNMI submitted its BEAD Five-Year Action Plan to NTIA. This plan aims to improve Internet services in the Commonwealth by outlining strategies for enhancing Internet accessibility and affordability for all members of the CNMI community.

Federal Program Officer Visits Northern Marianas

NTIA's Pacific Territories Federal Program Officer (PT FPO) visited the Northern Marianas and provided support and engagement on the BEAD and Digital Equity Programs. The primary objective of this visit was to engage with a wide array of island stakeholders, fostering collaboration to enhance Internet accessibility and to bridge the digital divide.

During the visit, the PT FPO held strategic meetings with a diverse group of stakeholders, including local Internet Service Providers (ISPs), several government departments, schools, libraries, and government leadership. These discussions revolved around developing strategies to fortify broadband infrastructure, extend Internet access to underserved areas, and promote digital literacy and inclusion within the local community.

The visit served as a platform for collaborative problem-solving and information sharing among these diverse stakeholders. It provided an opportunity to identify specific challenges and foster solutions to advance digital equity and broadband deployment throughout the Northern Marianas, ultimately contributing to a more connected and inclusive community.

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$80,796,709.02
BEAD Planning Grant	$1,250,000.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$150,000.00

Territory Broadband Office:
The Northern Mariana Islands Broadband Office is housed under the Broadband Policy & Development Office.

Website:
https://opd.gov.mp/internet/index.php

AMERICAN SAMOA

BCORD Office Awarded Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grant

The Broadband Coordination, Opportunities, Redevelopment, and Deployment (BCORD) Office received Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grant Program (ACP Outreach Grant Program) funding (National Competitive Outreach Program - NCOP) and Round 2 funding from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

The BCORD Office was awarded $342,000 in funding under the ACP Outreach Grant NCOP Round 2 program, of which $4.3 million was available to eligible entities.

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) subsidy ensures families can afford broadband services needed for work, school, and their daily lives.[26] The FCC established the ACP Outreach Grant Program to support outreach efforts that encourage engagement and participation in local communities for the ACP. The ACP gives eligible households a discount on their monthly Internet bills. The program also offers a one-time discount on a device purchased at a participating Internet Service Provider.

The FCC's ACP forms an integral component of the diverse range of measures used by the federal government to tackle the digital divide. These measures are part of the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth's (OICG) overall strategy to connect everyone in America to high-speed Internet.

ASCC Awarded Connecting Minority Communities Grant

The American Samoa Community College (ASCC) received a Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program grant for its A'oa'oga Aso Nei Initiative ("Education of Today"). The initiative will bring major new improvements to the campus Internet service, technology loaning capabilities, and technical curriculum. CMC project activities include upgrading the campus Internet connection to a Gigabit-speed connection, creating an equipment lending program, developing a modern curriculum that will deliver both a plan for the coming decade, as well as a working pilot adding Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and/or computer science classes for both postsecondary and adult learners.

ASCC prepared the CMC grant with assistance from the American Samoa Department of Commerce and its BCORD Office under the supervision of Assistant Director Michael McDonald.

Establishing the Broadband Coordination Office

On March 7, 2023, Governor Lemanu P.S. Mauga issued an executive order to formally establish the BCORD Office under the American Samoa Department of Commerce. The BCORD Office is responsible for administering American Samoa's allocation via the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program.

[24] *While the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) stopped accepting applications in February 2024 and anticipates the end of the program in Spring 2024 due to lack of funding, OICG wanted to recognize the importance of the program's impact in States and Territories in 2023.*

Award Type	Amount Awarded
BEAD Program	$37,564,827.53
BEAD Planning Grant	$1,244,300.00
Digital Equity Planning Grant	$150,000.00
CMC Pilot Program	$2,994,869.00

Territory Broadband Office:
The American Samoa Broadband Office is housed under the American Samoa Government Department of Commerce.

Website:
https://www.doc.as.gov/

Tribal Regions

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is committed to increasing high-speed Internet access for Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities. The Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) is a $3 billion program directed to eligible Tribal entities to be used for broadband deployment on Tribal lands, as well as for telehealth, distance learning, broadband affordability, and digital inclusion. These awards are part of the Administration's commitment to nation-to-nation engagement and an effort to connect everyone in America, including Native Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Alaska Natives, to affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet service. As of the end of 2023, the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth (OICG) has awarded more than $1.86 billion to 226 Tribal entities.

In 2023, TBCP announced the remaining awards closing out the first TBCP Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). Examples of these awards are included in the Tribal Regional Summaries below. Included in awards are those covered under TBCP's equitable distribution process in recognition of the federal Indian trust responsibility and fiduciary obligation to Tribal governments. This process, also laid out in statute and in NTIA's first TBCP NOFO, is intended to ensure that program funding is available to all eligible, federally recognized, Tribal governments who had a qualifying application.

Additional examples of the required Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Tribal Consultations and selected TBCP awards can be found in the previous "State Pages" section. The following section provides a selection of highlights from each Tribal Region and will be updated yearly. These highlights do not represent a comprehensive list of all awards and funding in each Tribal Region supported by NTIA. To learn about all awards and funding and to find the most up-to-date information, please visit the BroadbandUSA and Internet for All websites.

In 2023, OICG also announced the second TBCP NOFO, which will distribute the remaining approximately $980 million in available TBCP funding. Over the course of 2023, the TBCP team focused on preparing and supporting eligible Tribal entities for the second round of grant applications. The application window for the second NOFO ends in March 2024 and award announcements will begin later this year.

As a continued part of NTIA's commitment to work towards closing the digital divide, NTIA, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2022 to coordinate responsibilities to deploy high-speed Internet service quickly and to safeguard Native lands and interests.[25] Additionally, to help enable NTIA to meet its obligations under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) to engage in Tribal

Consultation prior to the construction of broadband infrastructure, the FCC and NTIA entered into an agreement that provides NTIA access to the FCC's Tower Construction Notification System (TCNS).[26] Given the Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) role in the permitting processes and as the executive branch's intermediary with Tribal entities, NTIA and BIA meet regularly to ensure effective coordination. The FCC has also been an active partner in supporting Tribal participation in the National Broadband Map

challenge processes and deduplication for TBCP awards. NTIA held a total of four Tribal Consultations in 2023. The consultations welcomed a cumulative 170 participants. In addition, NTIA held a total of 10 TBCP-specific webinars with a cumulative total of 365 registrants to help prospective applicants understand the grant program and prepare high-quality grant applications. Additional webinars will be offered to continue outreach efforts and provide support to prospective applicants for the second TBCP NOFO.

[25] *Memorandum Of Understanding Among The U.S. Department Of The Interior And The Federal Communications Commission And The U.S. Department Of Commerce National Telecommunications And Information Administration, https://www.bia.gov/sites/default/ files/dup/inline-files/mou_esb46-009818_doi-fcc-ntia_electromagnetic_spectrum_on_tribal_lands_2022-11-23_final_fcc_ntia_doi_ signed_508.pdf*
[26] *See NTIA TCNS Outreach Dear Tribal Leader Letter, November 12, 2021, https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/ files/2021-11/NTIA%20TCNS%20Outreach%20Letter%2011-5-2021.pdf. NTIA is using TCNS to identify tribes that might be interested in the broadband infrastructure projects that require review, inform interested Tribes of each proposed project, and consult with them regarding potential project effects. TCNS is the most current and accurate database available in the federal government for notifying federally recognized Indian Tribes of proposed construction of projects that may involve historic preservation.*

Tribal Regional Summaries

The 13 Tribal Regions below mirror the BIA Regions. Each region is assigned a TBCP Tribal Federal Program Officer (FPO) to act as a subject matter expert and liaison between NTIA and the Tribal Representatives.

Table Of Contents

ALASKA REGION

TBCP Awards

The Village of Clarks Point concluded their use and adoption project and successfully provided computing equipment to Tribal members. They also provided pre-payment for monthly Internet service to achieve a reliable Internet connection for telework, school, communication, and/or telemedicine.

Metlakatla Power and Light completed their Environmental Assessment and received a Finding of No Significant Impact from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). Therefore, Metlakatla Power and Light began to install 2.1 miles of electric and fiber-optic submarine cable and 14 miles of overhead fiber lines within the Annette Island Reserve and to and from the mainland community of Ketchikan. When complete, this project will connect more than 500 unserved Alaska Native homes.

Events

In May 2023, **Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) staff** attended the Indigenous Connectivity Summit 2023 in Anchorage, where they met with and provided technical assistance to Alaska Native Tribal leaders and other stakeholders in the Alaska region.

TBCP staff assisted in the planning of U.S. First Lady Jill Biden's visit to the Bethel Region in May 2023, where she highlighted TBCP awards to multiple eligible entities including the Hoonah Indian Association.

$448 Million

36 awards totaling more than $448 million

33,000 Tribal Homes

These awards will connect more than 33,000 Tribal homes.

90 Tribal Community Anchor Institutions

These awards will connect more than 90 Tribal community anchor institutions.

ALASKA REGION

TBCP Awards will benefit the following Tribal Governments in this region:

- Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove
- Akiachak Native Community
- Akiak Native Community
- Alatna Village
- Pribilof Islands Aleut Communities of St. Paul & St. George Islands
- Allakaket Village
- Alutiiq Tribe of Old Harbor
- Asa'carsarmiut Tribe
- Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indan Tribes
- Cheesh-Na Tribe
- Chevak Native Village
- Chickaloon Native Village

- Chignik Bay Tribal Council
- Native Village of Chignik Lagoon
- Chignik Lake Village
- Chilkat Indian Village (Klukwan)
- Chinik Eskimo Community (Golovin)
- Chuloonawick Native Village
- Craig Tribal Association
- Curyung Tribal Council
- Village of Dot Lake
- Douglas Indian Association
- Egegik Village
- Emmonak Village

- Evansville Village (aka Bettles Field)
- Gulkana Village Council
- Healy Lake Village
- Hoonah Indian Association
- Huslia Village
- Hydaburg Cooperative Association
- Igiugig Village
- Ivanof Bay Tribe
- Kasigluk Traditional Elders Council
- Kenaitze Indian Tribe
- Ketchikan Indian Community
- King Island Native Community

- King Salmon Tribe
- Klawock Cooperative Association
- Knik Tribe
- Kokhanok Village
- Levelock Village
- Lime Village
- Manley Hot Springs Village
- Manokotak Village
- Mentasta Traditional Council
- Metlakatla Indian Community, Annette Island Reserve
- Naknek Native Village
- Native Village of Deering

- Native Village of Ambler
- Native Village of Afognak
- Native Village of Akutan
- Native Village of Aleknagik
- Native Village of Atka
- Native Village of Belkofski
- Native Village of Brevig Mission
- Native Village of Buckland
- Native Village of Chenega
- Native Village of Chuathbaluk
- Native Village of Council
- Native Village of Diomede

- Native Village of Eagle
- Native Village of Eek
- Native Village of Ekwok
- Native Village of Elim
- Native Village of False Pass
- Native Village of Gambell
- Native Village of Georgetown
- Native Village of Goodnews Bay
- Native Village of Hamilton
- Native Village of Hooper Bay
- Native Village of Kanatak
- Native Village of Kiana

- Native Village of Kipnuk
- Native Village of Kivalina
- Native Village of Kluti Kaah
- Native Village of Kobuk
- Native Village of Kongiganak
- Native Village of Kotzebue
- Native Village of Koyuk
- Native Village of Kwigillingok
- Native Village of Kwinhagak
- Native Village of Larsen Bay
- Native Village of Marshall
- Native Village of Mary's Igloo
- Native Village of Mekoryuk
- Native Village of Minto
- Native Village of Nanwalek
- Native Village of Napaimute
- Native Village of Napaskiak
- Native Village of Nelson Lagoon

- Native Village of Nightmute
- Native Village of Nikolski
- Native Village of Noatak
- Native Village of Nunam Iqua
- Native Village of Nunapitchuk
- Native Village of Ouzinkie
- Native Village of Paimiut
- Native Village of Perryville
- Native Village of Pilot Point
- Native Village of Port Graham
- Native Village of Port Heiden
- Native Village of Port Lions
- Native Village of Savoonga
- Organized Village of Saxman
- Native Village of Scammon Bay
- Native Village of Selawik
- Native Village of Shishmaref
- Native Village of Shungnak

- Village of Solomon
- Native Village of Saint Michael
- Native Village of Tazlina
- Native Village of Teller
- Native Village of Tuntutuliak
- Native Village of Tununak
- Native Village of Unalakleet
- Native Village of Unga
- Native Village of Wales
- Native Village of White Mountain
- Nenana Native Association
- New Koliganek Village Council
- New Stuyahok Village
- Newhalen Village
- Newtok Village
- Ninilchik Tribe
- Nondalton Village
- Noorvik Native Community

- Northway Village
- Nunakauyarmiut Tribe
- Organized Village of Kasaan
- Organized Village of Kwethluk
- Orutsararmiut Traditional Native Council
- Oscarville Traditional Village
- Pauloff Harbor Village
- Pedro Bay Village
- Pilot Station Traditional Village
- Pitka's Point Traditional Council
- Platinum Traditional Village
- Portage Creek Village
- Qagan Tayagungin Tribe of Sand Point
- Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska
- Salamatof Tribe
- Sitka Tribe of Alaska
- Skagway Village
- South Naknek Village

- Stebbins Community Association
- Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak
- Native Village of Tanacross
- Tangirnaq Native Village
- Traditional Village of Togiak
- Tuluksak Native Community
- Twin Hills Village
- Ugashik Village
- Village of Alakanuk
- Village of Chefornak
- Village of Clarks Point
- Village of Crooked Creek
- Village of Iliamna
- Village of Kalskag
- Village of Kaltag
- Village of Kotlik
- Village of Lower Kalskag
- Village of Ohogamiut

- Village of Red Devil
- Village of Sleetmute
- Village of Stony River
- Wrangell Cooperative Association
- Yakutat Tlingit Tribe
- Beaver Village
- Rampart Village
- Native Village of Fort Yukon
- Native Village of Stevens
- Native Village of Tanana

EASTERN REGION

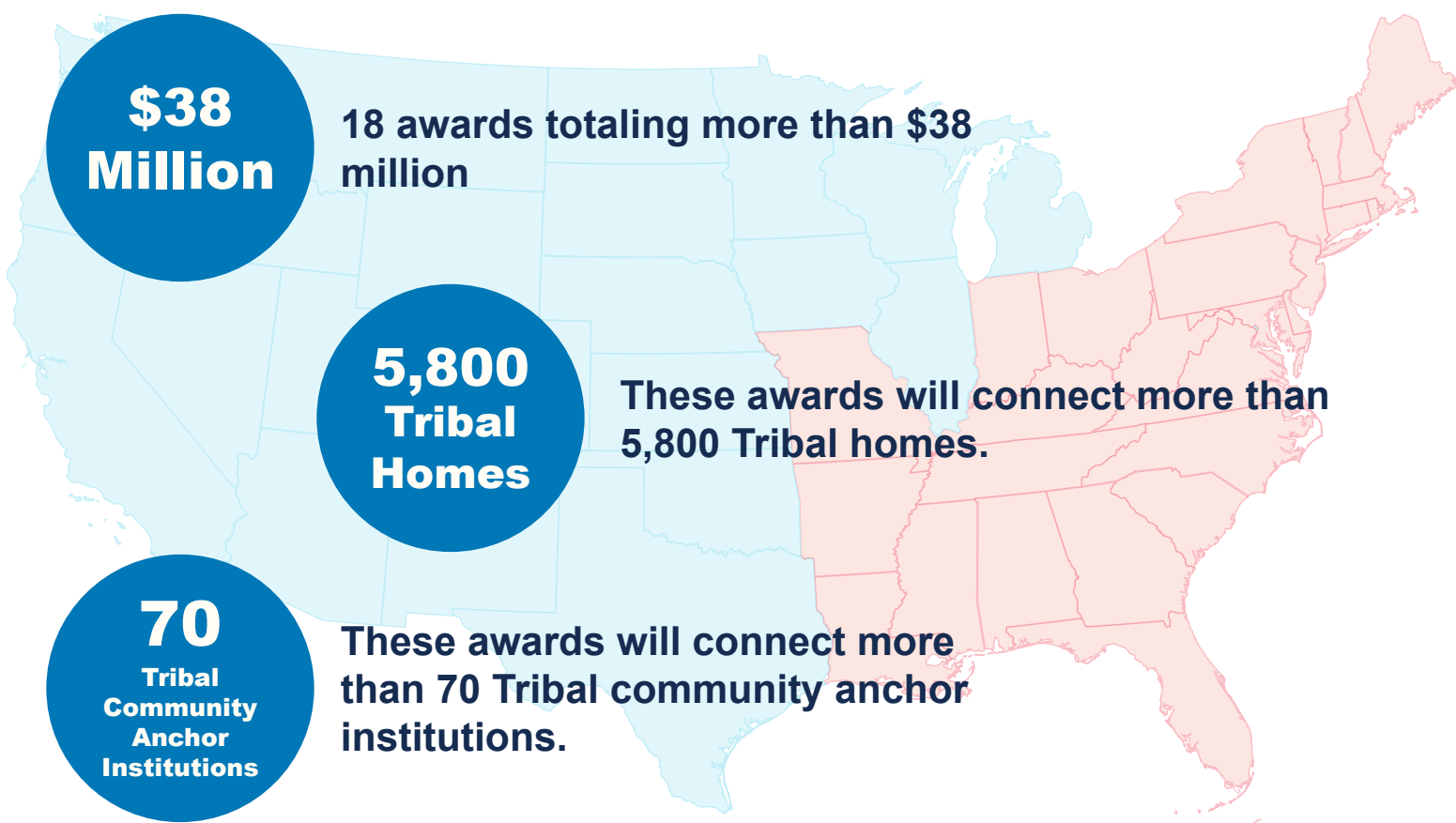## (Comprises 27 States)

TBCP Awards

The Upper Mattaponi Tribe received $473,000 to provide affordable broadband services through payment assistance programming and laptop distribution to citizens. As of December 2023, they have assisted at least 20 Tribal homes through the payment assistance program and have distributed 200 laptops to Tribal citizens.

Events

The State of New York's ConnectALL office conducted government-to-government consultation with two Tribal Nations in Syracuse, New York. TBCP staff presented at this event and assisted with its coordination.

The Maine Connectivity Authority (MCA) conducted government-to-government consultations with both the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point, and Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indian Township. Representatives from the Broadband Equity, Access, and Development (BEAD) and Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) Programs also attended the consultation and provided technical assistance for existing TBCP awards.

$38 Million

18 awards totaling more than $38 million

5,800 Tribal Homes

These awards will connect more than 5,800 Tribal homes.

70 Tribal Community Anchor Institutions

These awards will connect more than 70 Tribal community anchor institutions.

TBCP Awards will benefit the following Tribal Governments in this region:

- Upper Mattaponi Tribe
- Mashantucket Pequot Indian Tribe
- Narragansett Indian Tribe
- Tunica-Biloxi Indian Tribe
- Catawba Indian Nation

- Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
- Shinnecock Indian Nation
- Tuscarora Nation
- Pamunkey Indian Tribe
- Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe

- Passamaquoddy Tribe
- Seminole Tribe of Florida
- Chickahominy Indian Tribe
- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
- Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe

- Seneca Nation of Indians
- Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians

EASTERN OKLAHOMA REGION
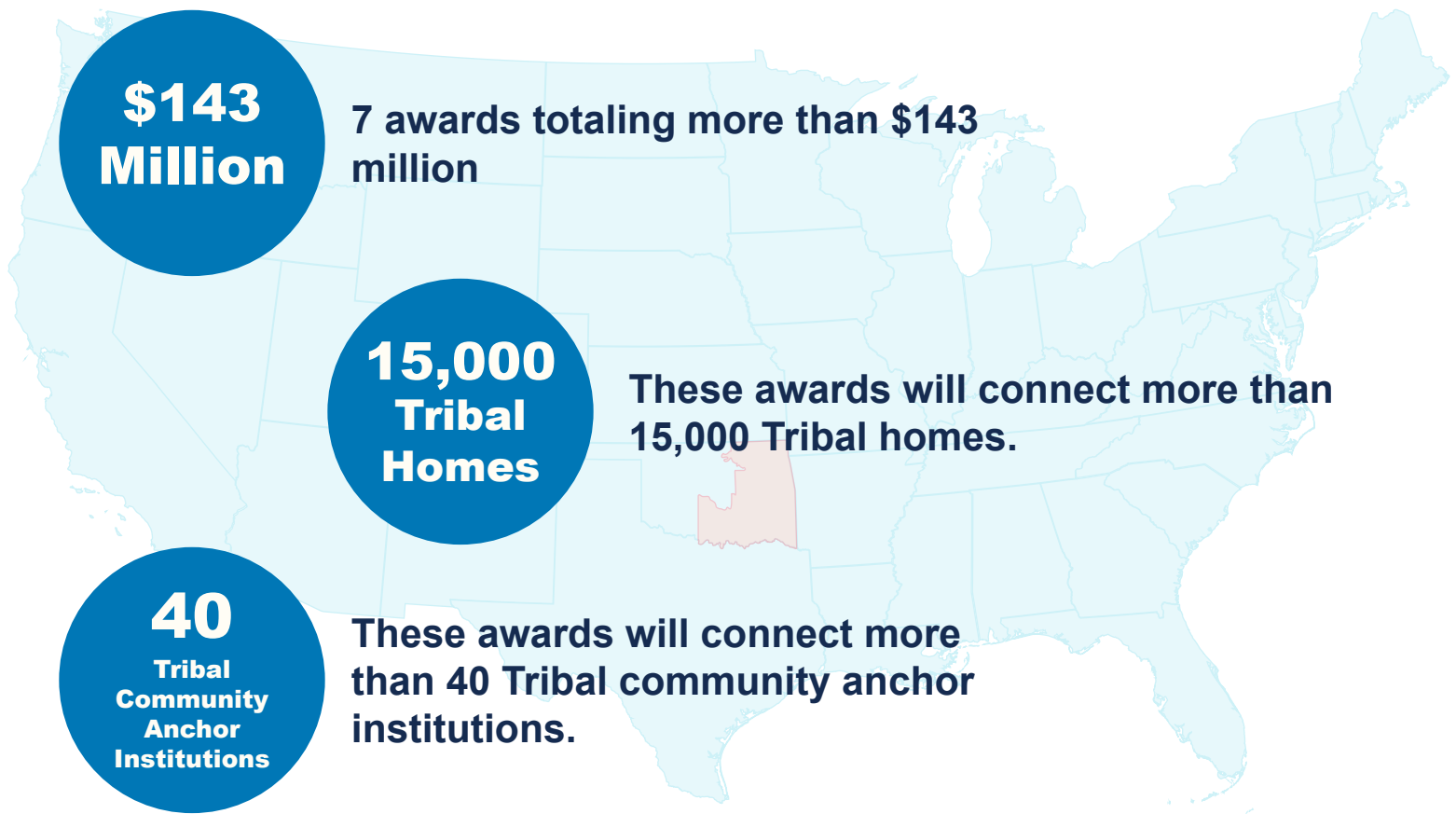
(Eastern Oklahoma)

TBCP Awards

The Osage Nation began the environmental review work for its $40 million broadband infrastructure deployment project. When complete, the project will directly connect more than 300 unserved Tribal households via fiber to the premise or fixed wireless.

Events

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) staff assisted in coordinating numerous consultations between the State of Oklahoma and the Tribal governments that share their continuous borders to ensure Tribal priorities are heard by the state's broadband office.

TBCP leadership and staff attended and presented at "The Internet for All: Oklahoma Local and Tribal Nation Coordination Workshop" in Oklahoma City. This event brought together critical stakeholders from federal, state, Tribal, and local governments to discuss coordination on broadband efforts as the state prepares to receive signification broadband funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

$143 Million

7 awards totaling more than $143 million

15,000 Tribal Homes

These awards will connect more than 15,000 Tribal homes.

40 Tribal Community Anchor Institutions

These awards will connect more than 40 Tribal community anchor institutions.

TBCP Awards will benefit the following Tribal Governments in this region:

- The Osage Nation
- The Chickasaw Nation
- The Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
- Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
- The Muscogee (Creek) Nation
- Seneca-Cayuga Nation
- Shawnee Tribe
- Cherokee Nation

GREAT PLAINS REGION

(Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota)

TBCP Awards

Standing Rock Telecommunications, Inc., which serves the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of North & South Dakota, started their infrastructure project to upgrade 15 existing towers. These upgrades will ensure that approximately 300 Tribal homes have access to high-speed Internet. Standing Rock Telecommunications is also in the final stages of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance activities for the remaining portion of their project, which will construct four new towers to expand the network to serve additional Tribal households.
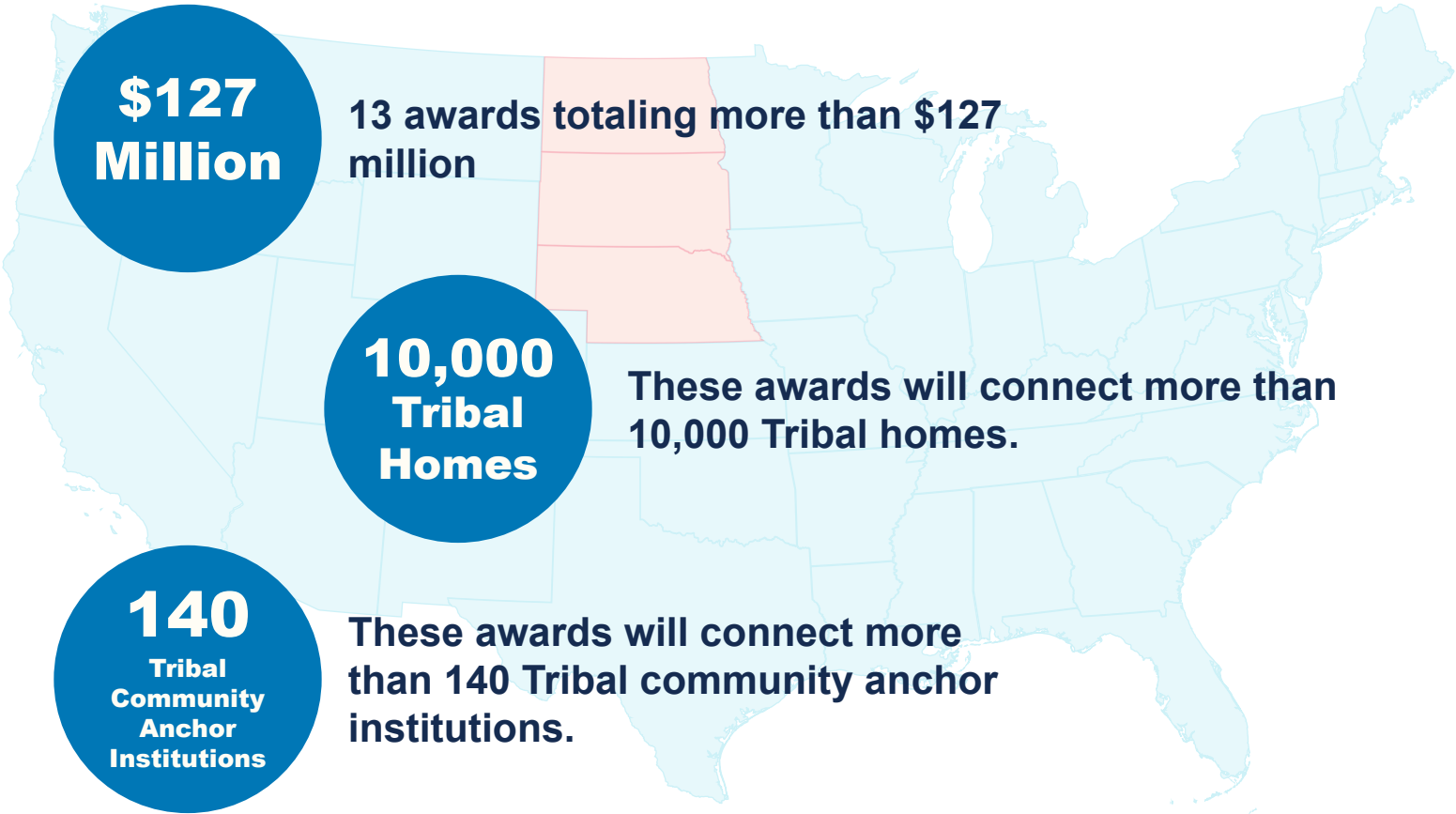
The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority (CRSTTA) provided discounted Internet service to more than 1,300 Tribal households, including more than 70 newly-connected Tribal homes. Additionally, CRSTTA published five YouTube videos promoting digital literacy skills to their customers and the general public.

The Omaha Tribe of Nebraska began the environmental review work for its $3.7 million broadband infrastructure deployment project, which will connect more than 700 Tribal households and 19 community anchor institutions via fiber and fixed wireless.

Events

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) staff participated in and presented at the Office of the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission's "Strengthening Government to Government Conference" in Bismarck. At this event, TBCP staff discussed Tribal funding opportunities within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). Additionally, TBCP staff met with TBCP awardees and eligible entities and provided technical assistance on topics including, but not limited to, reporting requirements and permitting.

TBCP staff participated in and presented to the "Great Plains Tribal Chairmans Association" in Pierre, South Dakota. At this event, TBCP staff met with TBCP awardees and their project directors. They also discussed NTIA funding opportunities with Tribal leaders.

$127 Million

13 awards totaling more than $127 million

10,000 Tribal Homes

These awards will connect more than 10,000 Tribal homes.

140 Tribal Community Anchor Institutions

These awards will connect more than 140 Tribal community anchor institutions.

TBCP Awards will benefit the following Tribal Governments in this region:

- Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation, South Dakota
- Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South DakotaOglala Sioux Tribe
- Rosebud Sioux Tribe of the

- Rosebud Indian Reservation, South Dakota
- Omaha Tribe of Nebraska
- Santee Sioux Nation
- Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of North & South Dakota

- Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
- Lower Brule Sioux Tribe
- Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
- Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, North Dakota

HAWAII REGION

(Hawaii)

TBCP Awards

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) received $17.2 million for a dual broadband use and adoption and planning, engineering, feasibility, and sustainability studies project. This project will develop programs and resources to address technology gaps and build capacity to use broadband services. Additionally, once complete, DHHL will have materials and information to use in a future broadband infrastructure deployment project.

Events

The DHHL held monthly coordination meetings with Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) and other the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) business units to address barriers and coordinate progress on their current use and adoption and planning project as well as plan for the second TBCP Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).
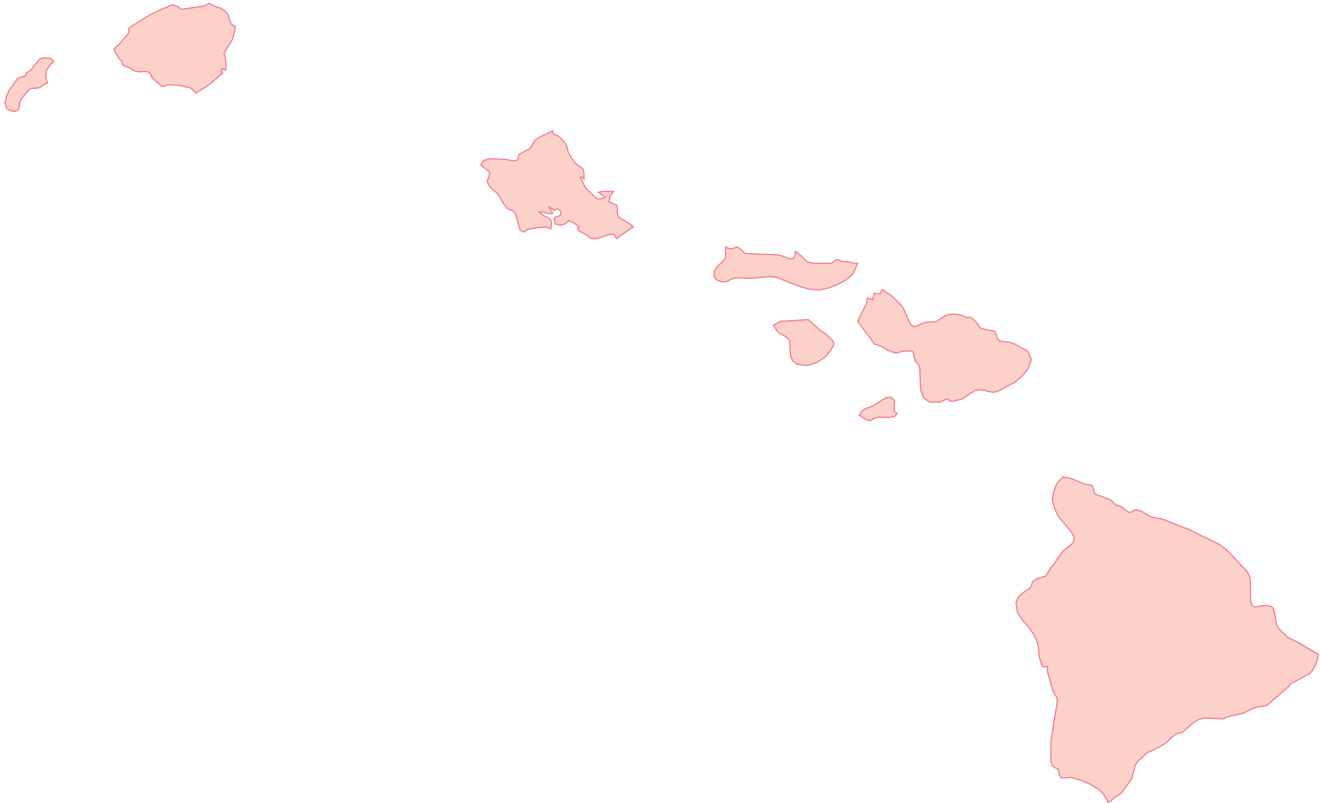
TBCP Leadership and staff travelled to the Hawaiian Islands to meet with the DHHL to provide in-person technical assistance with respect to the second TBCP NOFO.

DHHL's TBCP Award will provide direct benefits to Native Hawaiians that reside across the Hawaiian Islands.

$17 Million

1 award totaling more than $17 million

MIDWEST REGION

(Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Michigan)

TBCP Awards

The Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of the Lac du Flambeau Reservation of Wisconsin began the environmental review work for its $25.6 million broadband infrastructure deployment project. When complete, the project will directly connect more than 2,300 unserved Tribal households and 19 community anchor institutions. The Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians also held a public unveiling of its Tribal-owned Internet Service Provider (ISP), Eighth Fire Communications.

The Forest County Potawatomi Community, Wisconsin (the Tribe), completed their Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) grant activities, which include providing reliable Internet to the Tribe's large solar arrays. This allows the Tribe to collect data from their solar power in real time, supporting the Tribe's economic and workforce development capacity in addition to improving the Tribe's resilience through increased telework capabilities.
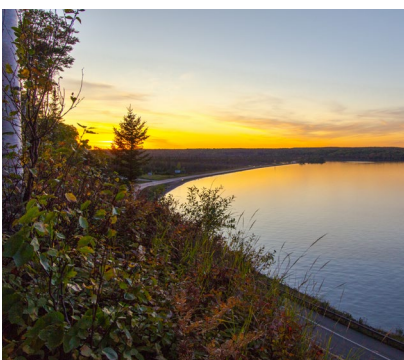
Events

TBCP staff assisted in the coordination of Michigan's Tribal consultations, in Lansing, between the state and the Tribal governments that share continuous borders to ensure Tribal priorities are heard by the state's broadband office.
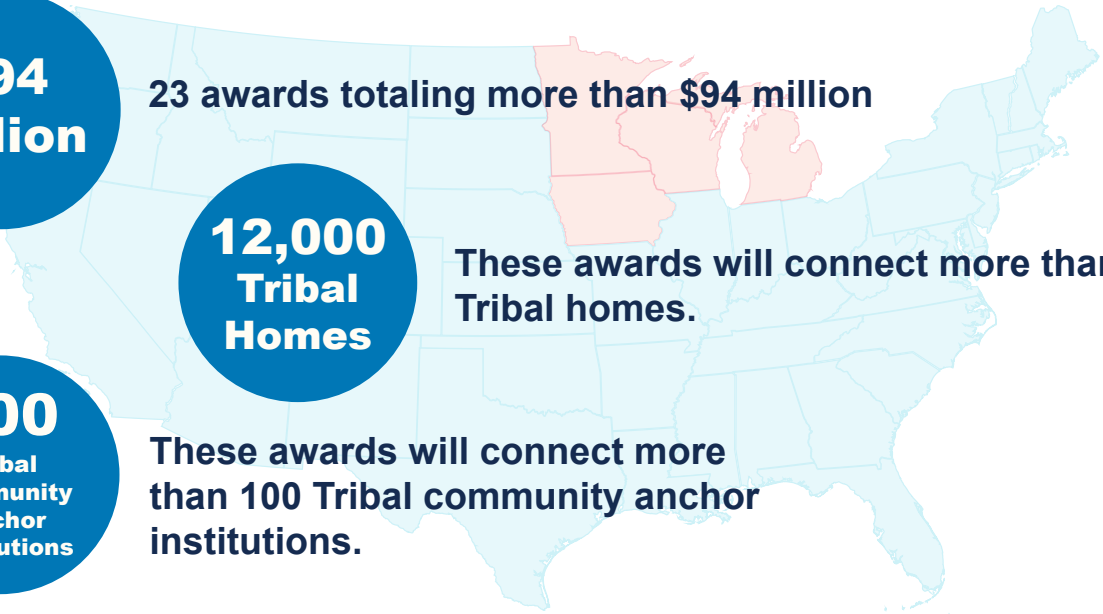
$94 Million

23 awards totaling more than $94 million

12,000 Tribal Homes

These awards will connect more than 12,000 Tribal homes.

100 Tribal Community Anchor Institutions

These awards will connect more than 100 Tribal community anchor institutions.

TBCP Awards will benefit the following Tribal Governments in this region:

- Sokaogon Chippewa Community, Wisconsin

- Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Michigan

- Oneida Indian Nation

- Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin

- Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Minnesota (Six Component reservations: Bois Forte Band (Nett Lake); Fond du Lac Band; Grand Portage Band; Leech Lake Band; Mille Lacs Band; White Earth Band)

- St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin

- Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin

- White Earth Band of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

- Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of the Lac du Flambeau Reservation of Wisconsin

- Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians of Michigan

- Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi

- Forest County Potawatomi Community, Wisconsin

- Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Michigan

- Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Michigan

- Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Michigan

- Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin

- Stockbridge Munsee Community, Wisconsin

- Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota

- Bay Mills Indian Community, Michigan

- Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa

- Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Michigan

NAVAJO REGION

(Portions of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah)

TBCP Awards

The Navajo Tribal Utility Authority began the environmental review work for its $50.8 million broadband infrastructure deployment project. The completed project will directly connect more than 17,000 unserved Tribal households and community anchor institutions.

The Dilkon Chapter began site surveys and environmental and biological reviews for its $33.2 million broadband infrastructure deployment project. Once this project is complete, it will connect over 2,000 unserved homes and remote hogans.

Events

Representatives from the Navajo Nation Council's Law and Order Committee as well as the Health, Education and Human Services Committee met with TBCP staff and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) leadership to discuss barriers to Internet service and opportunities under NTIA programs.

TBCP Awards in this four-state region of Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado will benefit the Navajo Nation.

$84 Million

2 awards totaling more than $84 million

24,000 Tribal Homes

These awards will connect more than 24,000 Tribal homes.

45 Tribal Community Anchor Institutions

These awards will connect more than 45 Tribal community anchor institutions.

NORTHWEST REGION

(Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Portions of Montana)

TBCP Awards

The Cowlitz Indian Tribe received approximately $7.5 million for use and adoption activities and has distributed laptops to Tribal members for remote work, telehealth, and remote education purposes. The Cowlitz Indian Tribe also distributed a survey to its Tribal citizens regarding use and adoption, Internet accessibility and challenges, and device usage.

Events

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) Staff assisted in the coordination of Tribal consultations between the State of Washington and Tribal governments that share their continuous borders to ensure Tribal priorities are heard by the state's broadband office (SBO).

TBCP staff attended and presented at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Mid-Year Convention hosted by the Coeur D'Alene Tribe in Worley, Idaho. At this event, TBCP staff along with SBO personnel from Washington, Oregon, and Idaho discussed state Tribal coordination with the Tribal governments present.

$187 Million

29 awards totaling more than $187 million

9,100 Tribal Homes

These awards will connect more than 9,100 Tribal homes.

260 Tribal Community Anchor Institutions

These awards will connect more than 260 Tribal community anchor institutions.

TBCP Awards will benefit the following Tribal Governments in this region:

- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon
- Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
- Samish Indian Nation
- Suquamish Indian Tribe of the Port Madison Reservation
- Cowlitz Indian Tribe
- Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation
- Spokane Tribe of the Spokane Reservation
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

- Lummi Tribe of the Lummi Reservation
- Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
- Upper Skagit Indian Tribe
- Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation
- Burns Paiute Tribe
- Nisqually Indian Tribe
- Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe of the Shoalwater Bay Indian Reservation
- Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon

- Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe
- Hoh Indian Tribe
- Nez Perce Tribe
- Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
- Makah Indian Tribe of the Makah Indian Reservation
- Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians
- Quileute Tribe of the Quileute Reservation
- Lower Elwha Tribal Community
- Klamath Tribes

- Skokomish Indian Tribe
- Nooksack Indian Tribe
- Quinault Indian Nation
- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation

PACIFIC REGION

(California)
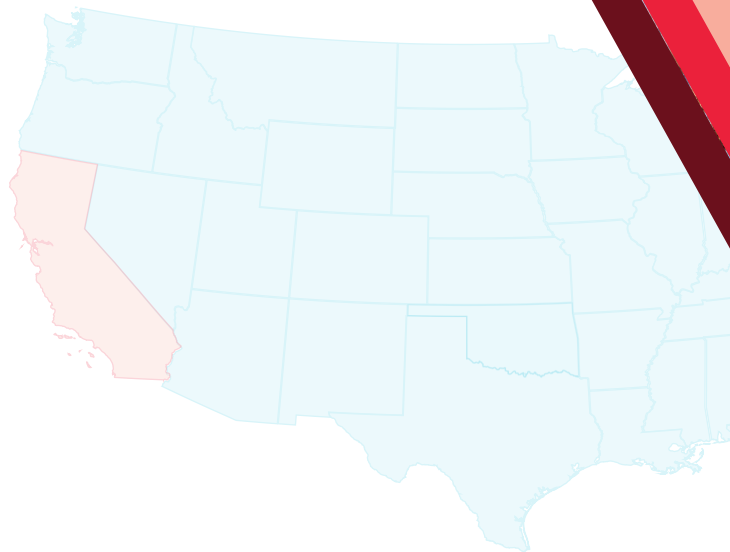
TBCP Awards

The Pinoleville Pomo Nation, California received approximately $500,000 for its use and adoption project. In 2023, Pinoleville Pomo Nation accomplished all objectives and closed out their award. Accomplishments include, but are not limited to, delivering workshops to increase basic broadband knowledge and digital skills in the Tribal community, and training Tribal interns, who will offer digital skills training to Tribal elders and disabled individuals.

The Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians (the Tribe) received $2.7 million for an infrastructure project. Once complete, the project will connect over 45 unserved Tribal homes and community anchor institutions with high-speed Internet. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) issued an Environmental Categorical Exclusion for the entire project and the Tribe is preparing for construction activities.

Events

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) staff helped coordinate and subsequently attended four Tribal consultations between the State of California and Tribal governments that share continuous borders to ensure that Tribal priorities are heard by the California Public Utilities Commission.

$167 Million — 36 awards totaling more than $167 million

5,500 Tribal Homes — These awards will connect more than 5,500 Tribal homes.

110 Tribal Community Anchor Institutions — These awards will connect more than 110 Tribal community anchor institutions.

TBCP Awards will benefit the following Tribal Governments in this region:

- Cabazon Band of Cahuilla Indians
- Pinoleville Pomo Nation
- Capitan Grande Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of California (Barona Group of Capitan Grande Band of Mission Indians of the Barona Reservation, California; Viejas (Baron Long) Group of Capitan Grande Band of Mission Indians of the Viejas Reservation, California)
- Pauma Band of Luiseno Mission of the Pauma & Yuia Reservation, California
- Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians
- Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians
- Rincon Band of Luiseno Mission Indians
- Ione Band of Miwok Indians
- Yurok Tribe of the Yurok Reservation, California
- Hoopa Valley Tribe
- Round Valley Indian Tribes,

- Round Vally reservation, California
- Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians of the Big Valley Rancheria, California
- Susanville Indian Rancheria
- Big Sandy Rancheria Band of Western Mono Indians of California
- Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe
- La Jolla Band Of Luiseno Indians, California
- Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, Shingle Springs Rancheria
- Fort Independence Indian Community of Paiute Indians
- Blue Lake Rancheria
- Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria, California
- Resighini Rancheria, California
- Bridgeport Indian Colony
- Wiyot Tribe

- Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians, California
- Guidiville Rancheria of California
- Ewiiaapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians, California
- Karuk Tribe
- Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation
- Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake, California
- Cachil DeHe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community of the Colusa Rancheria, California
- Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians of the Santa Ynez Reservation, California
- Bishop Paiute Tribe
- Tule River Indian Tribe of the Tule River Reservation
- Table Mountain Rancheria
- Fort Bidwell Indian Community of Fort Bidwell Reservation of California
- Manzanita Band of Diegueno

- Mission Indians of the Manzanita Reservation, California
- Ramona Band of Cahuilla, California
- Campo Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of the Campo Indian Reservation, California
- San Pasqual Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of California
- La Posta Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of the La Posta Reservation, California
- Mesa Grande Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of the Mesa Grande Reservation, California
- Inaja Band of Diegueno Mission Indians of the Inaja and Cosmit Reservation, California
- Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians, California
- Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION
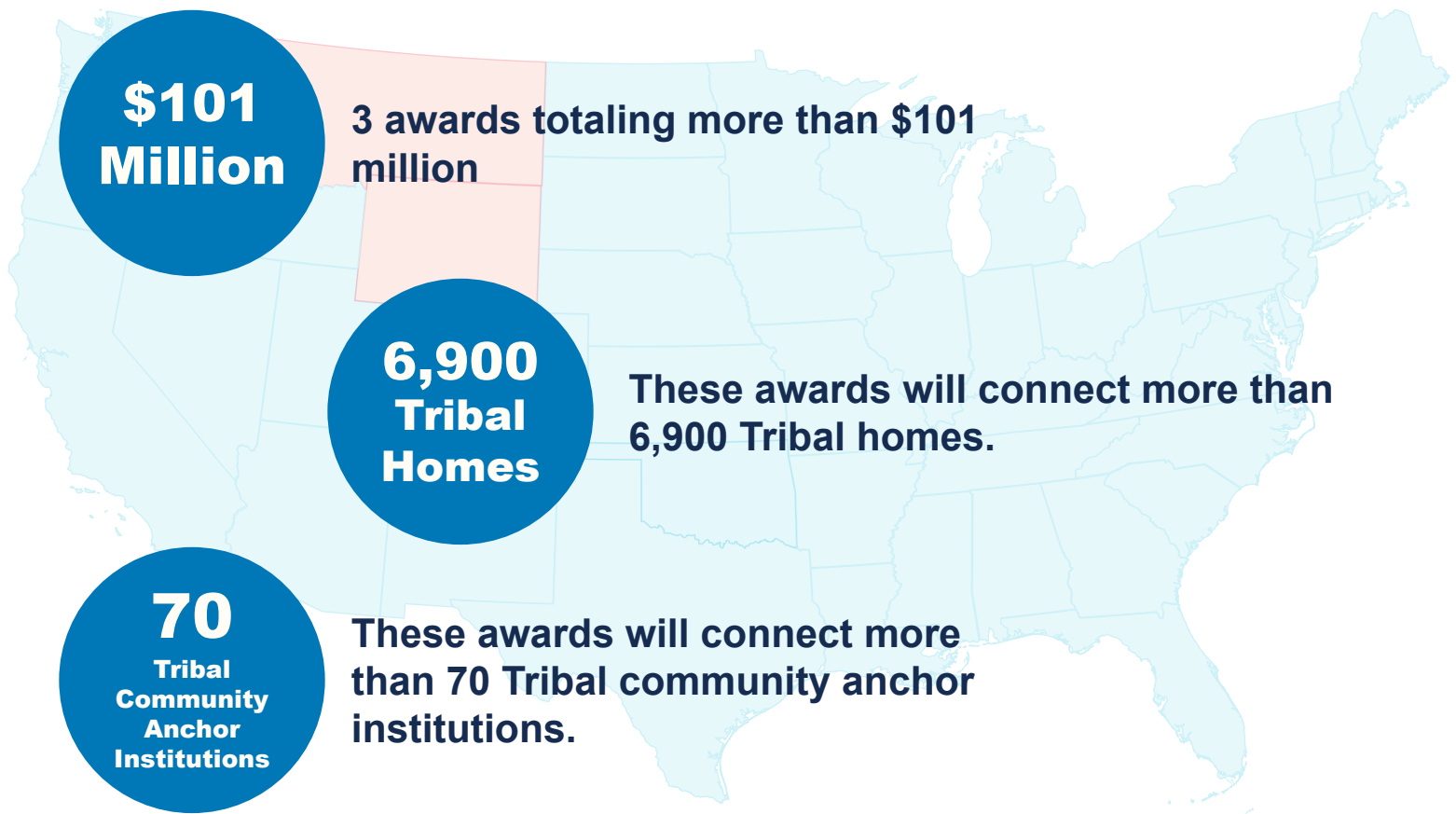
(Montana, Wyoming)

TBCP Awards

The Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana (the Blackfeet Tribe) began construction on aspects of its infrastructure project. These activities included replacing outdated copper infrastructure with a fiber solution. Simultaneously, the Blackfeet Tribe continues to complete environmental review for the remainder of the project area. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) awarded the Blackfeet Tribe $33.2 million dollars for its infrastructure project; once complete, it will connect over 4,400 unserved Tribal homes.

The Chippewa Cree Indians of the Rocky Boy's Reservation (Chippewa Cree Tribe) was awarded $15.3 million for an infrastructure project to connect more than 750 unserved Tribal homes with high-speed Internet. NTIA issued an Environmental Categorical Exclusion for the entire project, resulting in the Chippewa Cree Tribe preparing for construction activities.
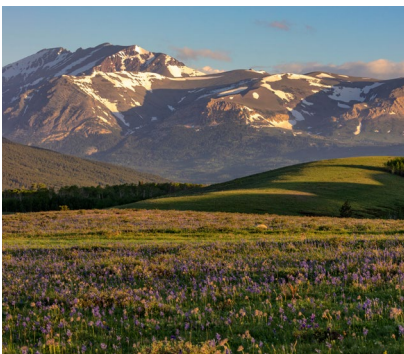
Events

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) staff assisted in the coordination of and attended Tribal consultation between the State of Montana and the Tribal governments that share continuous borders with the state to ensure Tribal priorities are heard by the Montana Governor's Office of Indian Affairs and the Montana Department of Administration.

$101 Million

3 awards totaling more than $101 million

6,900 Tribal Homes

These awards will connect more than 6,900 Tribal homes.

70 Tribal Community Anchor Institutions

These awards will connect more than 70 Tribal community anchor institutions.

TBCP Awards will benefit the following Tribal Governments in this region:

- Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana

- Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern Cheyenne Indians

- Chippewa Cree Indians of the Rocky Boy's Reservation

SOUTHERN PLAINS REGION
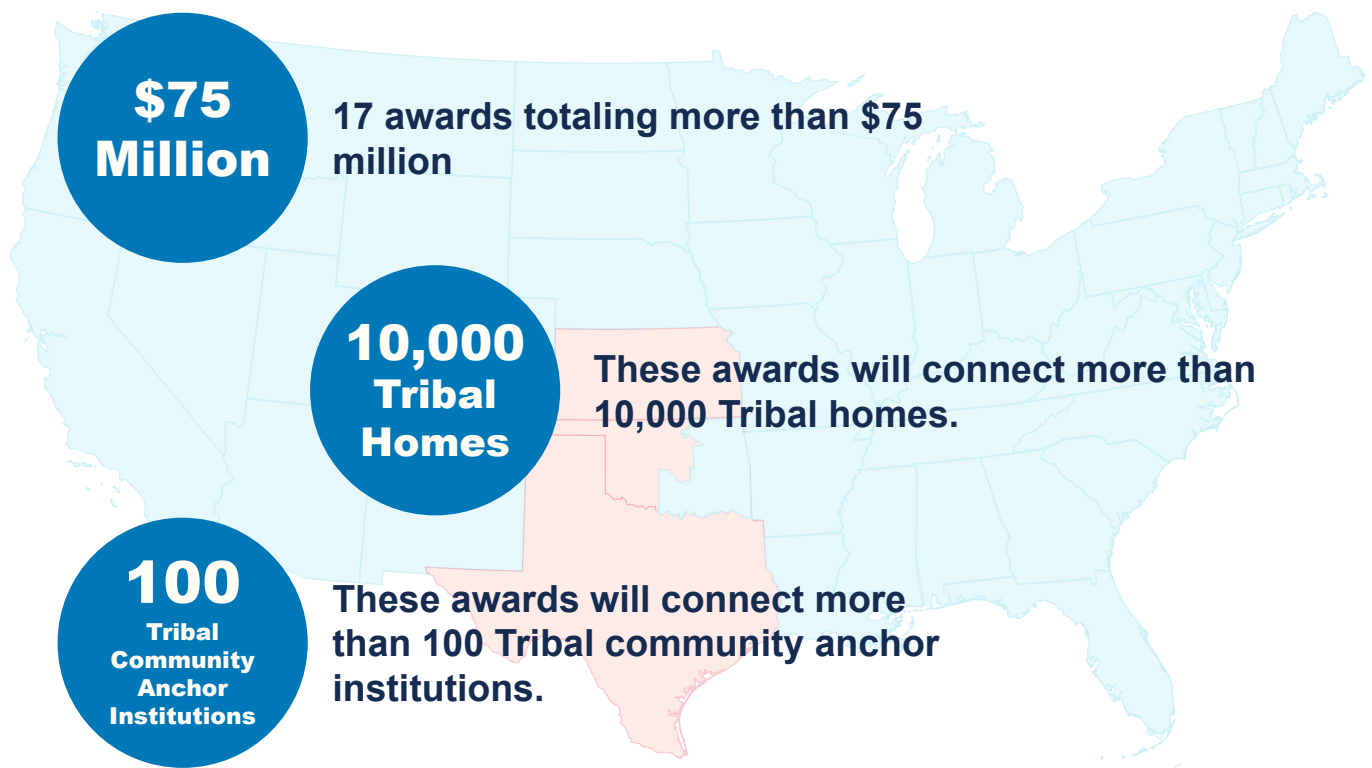
(Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas)

TBCP Awards

The Delaware Nation, as a part of their adoption and use project, distributed more than 250 computer devices to Tribal citizens for them to engage in remote education, workforce opportunities, and telehealth appointments. Additionally, the Delaware Nation distributed 700 Bluetooth-enabled health device kits for Tribal citizens to take advantage of telehealth opportunities. Finally, the Delaware Nation provided Internet subsidies to more than 60 Tribal homes to assist with the high cost of Internet service in the respective area.

The Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas began its environmental review work for its $2.6 million broadband infrastructure deployment project. When complete, the project will directly connect more than 350 unserved Tribal households via fiber to the premises.

Events

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) staff assisted in the coordination of numerous Tribal consultations between the states of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas, and the Tribal governments that share their continuous borders to ensure Tribal priorities are heard by each state's broadband office.

$75 Million

17 awards totaling more than $75 million

10,000 Tribal Homes

These awards will connect more than 10,000 Tribal homes.

100 Tribal Community Anchor Institutions

These awards will connect more than 100 Tribal community anchor institutions.

TBCP Awards will benefit the following Tribal Governments in this region:

- Kickapoo Tribe of Indians of the Kickapoo Reservation in Kansas
- Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
- Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska
- Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma
- Kaw Nation
- The Chickasaw Nation
- The Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

- Delaware Nation, Oklahoma
- Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas of Indians of the Kickapoo Reservation in Kansas
- Sac and Fox Nation, Oklahoma
- Kaw Nation
- Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas
- Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
- Comanche Nation, Oklahoma

- Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
- Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
- Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
- Wichita and Affiliated Tribes (Wichita, Keechi, Waco, & Tawakonie), Oklahoma
- Tonkawa Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
- Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma

- The Muscogee (Creek) Nation
- Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma
- Seneca-Cayuga Nation
- Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma

SOUTHWEST REGION

(Colorado, New Mexico)

TBCP Awards

The San Ildefonso Services, which serves the Pueblo of San Ildefonso, New Mexico, began its environmental review work for its $4.9 million broadband infrastructure deployment project, that when complete will directly connect more than 250 Tribal households via fiber and fixed wireless.
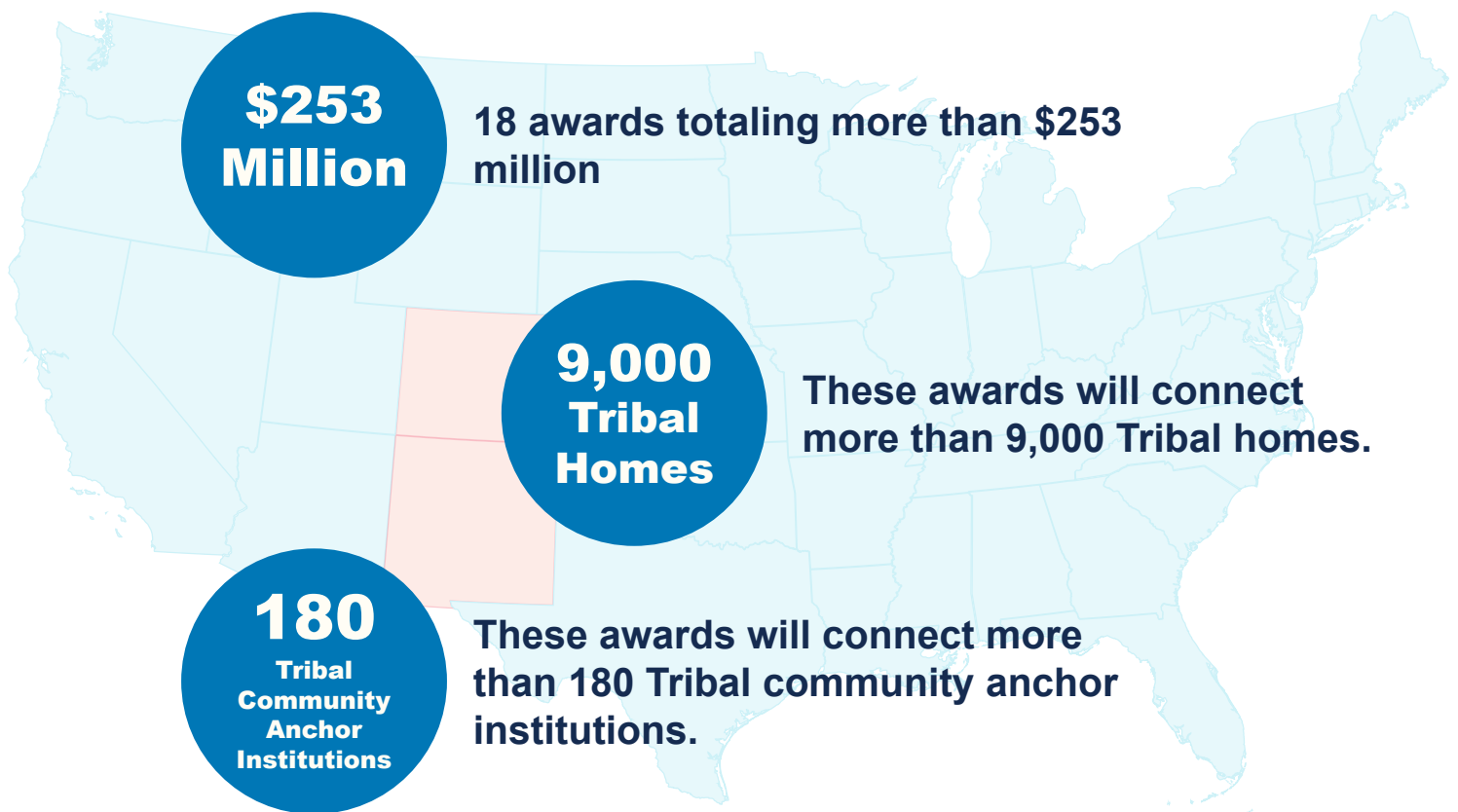
The Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado began the environmental review work for its $43.7 million broadband infrastructure deployment project. When complete, this project will directly connect more than 500 unserved Tribal households and community anchor institutions via fiber to the premises.

Events

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) staff assisted in the coordination of more than 20 Tribal consultations between the State of New Mexico, the State of Colorado, and the Tribal governments that share their continuous borders to ensure Tribal priorities are heard by each state's broadband office.

National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Assistant Secretary Alan Davidson joined TBCP staff in visiting numerous Pueblos, including but not limited to, the Pueblo of Santa Clara (the Pueblo). At the Pueblo, Assistant Secretary Davidson met with elected Tribal leadership to discuss broadband barriers and solutions. The Pueblo of Santa Clara received a TBCP award to install fiber, directly connecting around 600 unserved Native American households with fiber to the home service of 1 Gigabit per second symmetrical and 50/10 Megabits per second wireless service.
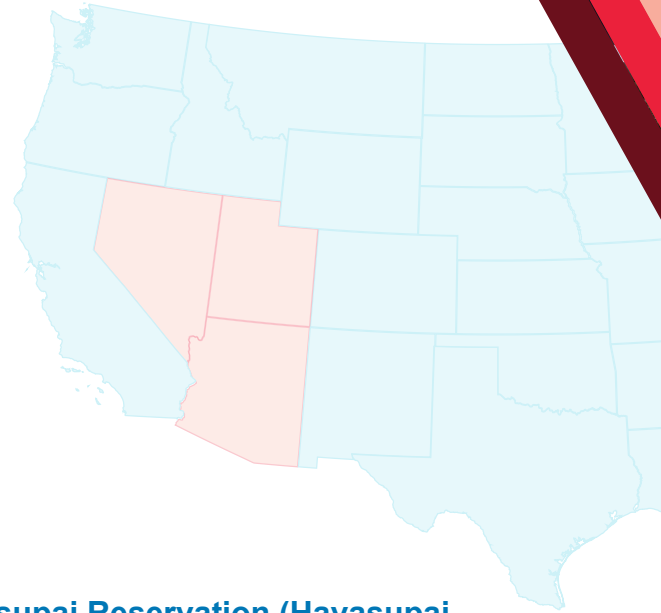
$253 Million

18 awards totaling more than $253 million

9,000 Tribal Homes

These awards will connect more than 9,000 Tribal homes.

180 Tribal Community Anchor Institutions

These awards will connect more than 180 Tribal community anchor institutions.

TBCP Awards will benefit the following Tribal Governments in this region:

- Pueblo of Taos, New Mexico
- Jicarilla Apache Nation, New Mexico
- Mescalero Apache Tribe of the Mescalero Reservation, New Mexico
- Pueblo of Isleta, New Mexico
- Zuni Tribe of the Zuni Reservation, New Mexico

- Kewa Pueblo, New Mexico (previously listed as Pueblo of Santo Domingo)
- Pueblo of Picuris, New Mexico
- Pueblo of Zia, New Mexico
- Pueblo of Santa Clara, New Mexico
- Pueblo of San Ildefonso,

New Mexico
- Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado
- Pueblo of Acoma, New Mexico
- Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
- Pueblo of Tesuque, New Mexico

- Ohkay Owingeh, New Mexico
- Pueblo of Jemez, New Mexico
- Pueblo of Nambe, New Mexico
- Pueblo of Pojoaque, New Mexico

WESTERN REGION

(Nevada, Utah, Arizona)

TBCP Awards

The Havasupai Tribe of the Havasupai Reservation (Havasupai Tribe) began the environmental review work for its $7 million broadband infrastructure deployment project. The Havasupai Tribe's project, when complete, will install fiber to directly connect more than 100 unserved Tribal homes in the Grand Canyon.

The Yavapai-Apache Nation of the Camp Verde Indian Reservation, Arizona (Yavapai-Apache Nation) procured a contractor, who began work on their network design. This included meeting with the Nation several times to ensure their needs and priorities are met. This work will position the Yavapai-Apache Nation to have a cost-effective approach to expand broadband connectivity for their community in future funding opportunities.

Events

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) Leadership attended the National Tribal Telecommunications Association's Tribal Broadband Summit at the Gila River Indian Community in Chandler, Arizona. During this Summit, TBCP leadership offered technical assistance to current TBCP awardees and eligible entities in addition to meeting with Tribal officials on broadband related topics and concerns.

TBCP staff assisted in the coordination of Tribal consultations between the States of Utah, Arizona, and Nevada and the Tribal governments that share their continuous borders to ensure Tribal priorities are heard by each state's broadband office.

$127 Million — 23 awards totaling more than $127 million

19,000 Tribal Homes — These awards will connect more than 19,000 Tribal homes.

220 Tribal Community Anchor Institutions — These awards will connect more than 220 Tribal community anchor institutions.

TBCP Awards will benefit the following Tribal Governments in this region:

- Yavapai-Apache Nation of the Camp Verde Indian Reservation
- Gila River Indian Community of the Gila River Indian Reservation, Arizona
- Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation
- Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California, Carson Colony
- Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California, Dresslerville Colony
- Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California, Woodfords Community
- Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California, Stewart Community
- Yerington Paiute Tribe of the

Yerington Colony & Campbell Ranch
- Yomba Shoshone Tribe of the Yomba Reservation
- Lovelock Paiute Tribe of the Lovelock Indian Colony
- Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians of Nevada, Elko Band
- Summit Lake Paiute Tribe of Nevada
- Timbisha Shoshone Tribe
- White Mountain Apache Tribe of the Fort Apache Reservation, Arizona
- Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona
- San Calos Apache Tribe of the San Carlos Reservation, Arizona

- Hopi Tribe
- Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray Reservation
- Ely Shoshone Tribe of Nevada
- The Havasupai Tribe of the Havasupai Reservation, Arizona
- Cocopah Tribe of Arizona
- Duckwater Shoshone Tribe of the Duckwater Reservation, Nevada
- Walker River Paiute Tribe of the Walker River Reservation, Nevada
- Paiute-Shoshone Tribe of the Fallon Reservation and Colony, NevadaAk-Chin Indian Community
- Te-Moak Tribe of Western

Shoshone Indians of Nevada
- Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians of Nevada, Battle Mountain Band
- Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians of Nevada, South Fork Band
- Winnemucca Indian Colony of Nevada
- Tohono O'odham Nation of Arizona
- Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes of the Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation, Nevada and Oregon
- Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, Shivwits Band of Paiutes

CONCLUSION

The Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth (OICG) is a mission-driven office working to connect everyone in America to affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet service. It coordinates with federal agencies, states, territories, Tribal governments, the private sector, educational institutions, nonprofits, and other stakeholders to implement its programs. OICG made funding decisions, constructed evaluation frameworks, developed dashboards and mapping tools, and continued to solicit feedback and received input from a wide range of stakeholders to inform design elements and management decisions for its grant programs. As OICG continues to work with stakeholders to make impactful decisions and tackle the challenges of digital inequity, its relationships with states, territories, and Tribes continue to get stronger, reinforcing the foundation to successfully close the digital divide. It further advanced connectivity and digital equity by making funding decisions and allocations for Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) and Digital Equity based on inclusive data methodologies. It continued its work on prior high-speed Internet grant programs, including the Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP), the Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program, and the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP).

In the years ahead, OICG will continue to lead the way in closing the digital divide, funding broadband initiatives, and using data to improve digital equity and inclusion. OICG will expand coordination with organizations such as states, territories, localities, Tribal governments, industry, community organizations, and nonprofits to build toward achieving universal access to high-speed Internet networks. OICG will continue to work toward a future where everyone in America can access and use affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet service, connecting people to broadband's engine of opportunity while fostering inclusive growth in the modern economy.

To follow OICG's work and continued progress managing its federal high-speed Internet grant programs, please visit BroadbandUSA and InternetForAll.gov.

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