Dashboard Data Notes

Data Collection and Verification Procedure

Data for the FY22 Federal Broadband Funding Report and Dashboard were collected through the NTIA Broadband Analytics Platform (NBAP). NTIA contacted agencies about any potential errors they were able to identify. Examiners at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) cleared agency-reported data prior to publication. For fiscal years 2020 and 2021, data was submitted by spreadsheet. Due to the spreadsheet input method, some program names are not standardized leading to the same program name listed more than once.
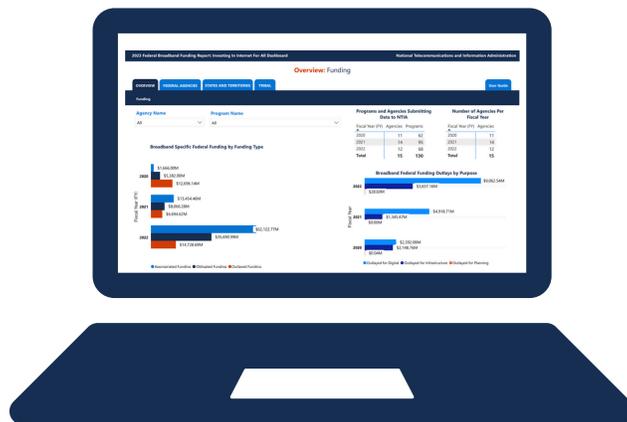
All appropriated, obligated, and outlayed funding amounts are shown in nominal dollars as reported by agencies at the time of NTIA's data collection. For this year's Federal Broadband Funding Report and Dashboard, program names are harmonized across years of data reported where possible and may not exactly match those reported in previous editions of the Federal Broadband Funding Report and associated dashboards. Projected connections are not available for all agencies and programs due to agency nonresponse.

Amounts for FY 2020 and FY 2021 were initially reported rounded in millions.

Total amounts of funding may not add up to the amounts reported for each purpose. Within a fiscal year, appropriated, obligated and outlayed amounts may not be equal because funding may have been appropriated, obligated, or outlayed in a prior year. In addition, some agencies report challenges with delineating broadband-specific funding.

Tribal

Some programs reported investments in both the state and tribal questionnaires. Tribal data includes broadband investments to federal and state-recognized Tribes, Tribal consortia, Tribal Organizations, and other recipients that received awards for broadband on Tribal lands.

Federal Broadband Funding Dashboard

Notes Specific to Federal Communications Commission Programs

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) submitted supplemental data notes, which are provided here to aid in interpreting broadband investment and outcome data pertaining to FCC broadband programs.

Tribal: Overview

Breaking down funding to Tribes for the Universal Service Fund (USF) and those appropriated funds managed by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) is a complicated, if not impossible, process. Each USF program has a unique definition or guidance for determining whether a user or applicant is tribal. Most of these tribal definitions are based on the location of the users or applicant, not tribal affiliation. In Rural Healthcare, tribal identification is self-certified and applicants may not choose to identify as tribal. Any entity in ECF and E-Rate that has self-identified as tribal is considered tribal. For the remaining ECF and E-Rate entities, as well as Lifeline, ACP/EBBP, and the High Cost ACAM II fund, tribal assignment includes areas designated by the FCC as tribal that occur in no other definition. These areas include the Cherokee Outlet in Oklahoma and the "checkerboard" area in Arizona and New Mexico. Because these are FCC designated tribal areas, they are not associated with a specific Tribe. Other funds in the High Cost program award funding for eligible areas that may be wholly or partially on tribal lands. As these funds are not distributed per build-out location, determining the amount used to support build-outs on tribal lands versus non-tribal lands is not possible. Finally, tribal lands are not Tribes. Tribal lands may be associated with one or more Tribes, and Tribes may be associated with one or more tribal lands. This is particularly the case for areas such as Oklahoma. For these reasons, it is impossible to break down funding to individual Tribes.

High Cost (all funds)

As stated in the overview, High Cost funding is distributed to carriers using different rules per fund and different methods of determining tribal status. Carrier build-out areas may be all or partially tribal, and in the case of partial areas it is not possible to determine which build-out sites lie on tribal lands versus those that do not. Carriers may also be tribal-owned or not. State breakdowns of High Cost funds are therefore an approximation—only carriers that are tribal-owned are used. Carriers with build-outs at least partially on tribal land but are not tribal-owned are not included.

Universal Service Fund (USF) Programs[1]

Connect America Fund, Lifeline, E-Rate, and Rural Health Care are considered Universal Service Fund (USF) programs. USF programs are paid for by contributions from telecommunications providers based on an assessment on their interstate and international end-user revenues. Data for the Lifeline Program were revised to include both broadband service and bundles including broadband service for all fiscal years.

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[1] FCC, Universal Service, https://www.fcc.gov/general/universal-service (last accessed February 12, 2024)