



# INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT *NEW FUNDING INITIATIVE*

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION



# INFRASTRUCTURE ACT\* CREATES ~\$65B IN BROADBAND FUNDING

**NTIA will administer ~\$48B of this new funding**

**FCC to administer ~\$14B**

**\$14.2B**

*For Affordable Connectivity Program, which will replace the EBB program*

**USDA to administer \$2B**

**\$2.0B**

*Via the Rural Utilities Service*

**Private Activity Bonds**

**\$600M**

**\$600M**

*Authorizes State/local gov'ts to use private activity bonds for rural broadband*

**BEAD**

**DIGITAL EQUITY**

**TRIBAL**

**MIDDLE MILE**

**\$42.45B**

**\$2.75B**

**\$2.00B**

**\$1.00B**

***Title I - Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment Program***

Formula-based grant program for U.S. states and territories. BEAD aims to close the access gap for unserved & underserved areas of the country.

***Title III - Digital Equity Act***

Three programs, established for planning & implementation of programs that promote digital equity, support digital inclusion activities, and build capacity related to the adoption of broadband.

***Title II - Tribal Connectivity Technical Amendments***

Furthers current Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program by investing an additional \$2B to fund broadband adoption and infrastructure projects.

***Title IV - Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure***

Provides funding to extend middle mile capacity to reduce cost of serving unserved and underserved areas and enhance network resilience.

\* Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Division F, Pub. L. 117-58 (Nov. 15, 2021)

Note: funding amounts inclusive of all administrative set-asides.



# BEAD (I/II) | THE "BEAD" PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE ~\$42B FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

## OVERVIEW

**Official name:** Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program

**Funding pool:** \$42.45B

**Type of program:** State and Territory formula program

**Program objective:** to close the availability gap, as Congress finds that "access to affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband is essential to full participation in modern life in the United States."

## PROGRAM PRIORITIES

- 1 Unserved locations  
*No access to 25/3 Mbps*
- 2 Underserved locations  
*No access to 100/20 Mbps*
- 3 Community anchor institutions  
*Without gigabit connections*

### Eligible entity must also prioritize

- Persistent poverty / high-poverty areas
- Speed of proposed network
- Build time
- Demonstrated record on compliance with federal labor & employment laws

## OTHER KEY FEATURES

### Quality requirements

Specific network requirements are included e.g., speeds of at least 100/20 Mbps

### Matching requirement

Eligible entities must ensure that they or a subgrantee provide at least 25% match (*unless waiver granted*)

### Low-cost plan requirement

Required to offer a low-cost plan to eligible subscribers (*to be determined by NTIA*)

Note: funding amounts inclusive of all administrative set-asides



# BEAD (II/II) | STATES AND U.S. TERRITORIES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING, WITH LEGISLATION SPECIFYING ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

## ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

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"Eligible entity" for this program refers to **all 50 U.S. States and U.S. Territories** (including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands)

*If an eligible entity fails to submit, or fails to gain approval for, a 'covered application' (LOI, initial proposal or final proposal) by the relevant deadline, a **political subdivision, or consortium of political subdivisions** of the entity, may submit a covered application*

## ELIGIBLE COSTS & ACTIVITIES

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### Planning / pre-deployment funds (no more than 5% of min. allocation)

- Research & data collection
- Budget development
- Publications, outreach & communication support
- Provision of technical assistance
- Employee training for eligible entity or political subdivision staff
- Establishing capacity in the eligible entity's office responsible for program

### Grant / deployment funds

- Unserved & underserved area service projects
- Connecting eligible community anchor institutions
- Data collection, broadband mapping & planning
- Broadband adoption (incl. affordable device provision)
- Installing internet/Wi-Fi infrastructure (or providing reduced cost broadband) in multi-family residential building

***Eligible entities can use no more than 2% for administrative purposes***

# DIGITAL EQUITY (I/IV) | THE DIGITAL EQUITY ACT CREATES 3 SEQUENCED PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE DIGITAL INCLUSION

## OVERVIEW

**Official name:** Title III – The Digital Equity Act

**Funding pool:** \$2.75B

**Programs' objective:** support the closure of the digital divide & promote equity and digital inclusion, so that "individuals and communities have the information technology capacity that is needed for full participation in the society and economy of the United States."

## PROGRAM/S PRIORITIES

- **Veterans**
- Individuals living in households **earning at or below 150% of the poverty line**
- **Aging** individuals
- **Incarcerated** individuals
- Individuals with **disabilities**
- Individuals with a **language barrier**
- Individuals who are members of a **racial or ethnic minority group**
- Individuals who primarily reside in a **rural area**

## PROGRAMS CREATED

### State program

State Planning Grant Program (\$60M)



State Capacity Grant Program (\$1.44B)

### Comp. program

Competitive Grant Program (\$1.25B)

*Created once state implementation grants begin being awarded*

Note: funding amounts inclusive of all administrative set-asides



# DIGITAL EQUITY (II/IV) | THE FIRST PROGRAM CREATES \$60M FOR STATE DIGITAL EQUITY PLANNING

## State Planning Grant Program

### OVERVIEW

**Official name:** State Digital Equity Planning Grants

**Funding pool:** \$60M

**Type of program:** State and Territory formula program

**Programs' objective:**  
Ensure States have the capacity & appropriate plans to achieve digital equity & support digital inclusion

### ELIGIBILITY

**"Eligible entities"** for this program are any U.S. State, the District of Columbia & Puerto Rico. State Governors must appoint an 'administering entity', which can be one, or a partnership of:

- The State, political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of State
- An Indian Tribe, Alaska Native entity or Native Hawaiian organization located in the State
- A foundation, corporation, institution, association, or coalition that is a not-for-profit, not a school, and is providing services in the State;
- A community anchor institution (not a school) located in the State.
- A local educational agency that is located in the State.
- An entity located in the State that carries out a workforce development program.
- An agency of the State that is responsible for administering or supervising adult education and literacy activities in the State.
- A public or multi-family housing authority that is located in the State.

### ELIGIBLE COSTS

**Grant funds awarded for planning can only be used for the following purposes**

- To develop the Stage Digital Equity Plan
- To make subgrants to any eligible entities to assist in the development of the State Digital Equity Plan

*Note: funding amounts inclusive of all administrative set-asides*



# DIGITAL EQUITY (III/IV) | FOLLOWING PLANNING PROGRAM, STATES CAN APPLY FOR CAPACITY GRANTS TO IMPLEMENT

## State Capacity Grant Program

### OVERVIEW

**Official name:** State Digital Equity Capacity Grants

**Funding pool:** \$1.44B

**Type of program:** State and Territory formula program

**Programs' objective:**  
To support the implementation of State Digital Equity Plans and digital inclusion activities

### ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility and administering entity options are **consistent with the planning program**

*Note, in order to apply for Capacity Grants, States must have participated in and completed the planning program*

### ELIGIBLE COSTS & ACTIVITIES

**Funds awarded under this program can only be used for the following purposes:**

- To update or maintain the State's Digital Equity Plan (no more than 20% of amount awarded)
- To implement the State's Digital Equity Plan
- To award sub-grants to 'eligible entities' to assist in implementation of the State's Plan
- To pursue digital inclusion activities in the State consistent with the Plan
- To report back to the State on related activities
- To determine the efficacy of efforts (no more than 5% of awarded funds can be used)

*No more than 3% can be used for administrative purposes*

*Note: funding amounts inclusive of all administrative set-asides*



# DIGITAL EQUITY (IV/IV) | ONCE NTIA BEGINS AWARDING STATE CAPACITY GRANTS, COMPETITIVE PROGRAM WILL BE LAUNCHED

## Competitive Grant Program

### OVERVIEW

**Official name:** Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program

**Funding pool:** \$1.25B

**Type of program:** Competitive grant

**Programs' objective:** Support efforts to promote digital inclusion, achieve digital equity & improve adoption of broadband

### ELIGIBILITY

**Any of the following, if they are not serving / have not served, as administering entity under state program**

- A political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of a State, including an agency of a State that is responsible for administering or supervising adult education and literacy activities, or for providing public housing, in State
- Indian Tribe/ Alaska Native entity / Native Hawaiian organization
- A foundation, corporation, institution, or association that is a not-for-profit and not a school
- A community anchor institution
- A local educational agency
- Entity that carries out a workforce development program
- A partnership between any of the entities described above, and any additional entities approved by NTIA

### ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

**Must support at least one of the following, to benefit covered population/s**

- Develop & implement digital inclusion activities
- Facilitate broadband adoption to provide educational and employment opportunities
- Implement training and/or other workforce development programs
- Make equipment, instrumentation, networking capability, hardware and software, or digital network technology available at low/no cost
- Construct, upgrade, expend, or operate new or existing public access computing centers through CAIs

*Max 10% for administration; Max Federal share of any project is 90%; Max 10% for evaluation*

*Note: funding amounts inclusive of all administrative set-asides*





# TRIBAL (I/II) | TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS AND NEW FUNDING WILL STRENGTHEN CURRENT TRIBAL CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

## OVERVIEW

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**Official name:** Tribal Broadband Connectivity Technical Amendments

**Funding pool:** \$2.00B

**Type of program:** Grants to eligible entities with approved applications

**Program objective:** providing new funds and extending expenditure deadlines for the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (established by Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Div. N, Tit. IX, Sec. 905(c))

## KEY AMENDMENTS TO PRIOR PROGRAM

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- 1 Adding \$2 billion for NTIA to distribute to eligible entities, including to fund previously-proposed programs
- 2 Relaxing time requirements of original program—after receipt of funding, eligible entities now have up to
  - 6 months to submit applications
  - 18 months to commit the funds to projects
  - 4 years to fully expend the grant funds
- 3 Allowing infrastructure grantees to expend up to 2.5% total project cost for related planning, feasibility and sustainability studies
- 4 Preserving unused allocated funds for other Tribal broadband projects instead of reverting back to the Treasury

*Note: funding amounts inclusive of all administrative set-asides*



# TRIBAL (II/II) | NO NEW RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN IMPOSED ON ELIGIBLE ENTITIES OR USES

## ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

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- A Tribal Government
- A Tribal College or University
- The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands on behalf of the Native Hawaiian Community, including Native Hawaiian Education Programs
- A Tribal organization
- A Native Corporation

## ELIGIBLE USES

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### **As outlined in prior legislation**

- Broadband infrastructure deployment, including support for the establishment of carrier-neutral submarine cable landing stations
- Affordable broadband programs including
  - Providing free or reduced cost broadband service
  - Preventing disconnection of existing broadband service
- Distance learning
- Telehealth
- Digital inclusion efforts
- Broadband adoption activities

*Eligible entities can use no more than 2% of funds for administrative purposes*

## PRIORITY

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Eligible entities shall prioritize projects that deploy broadband infrastructure to **unserved households**

# MIDDLE MILE (I/II) | \$1 BILLION ALLOCATED TO MIDDLE MILE GRANT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT EXPANSION OF NETWORKS

## OVERVIEW

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**Official name:** Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure

**Funding pool:** \$1.00B

**Type of program:** Direct competitive grant on technology-neutral basis

**Program objective:** "Encourage the expansion and extension of middle mile infrastructure to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas ... and to promote broadband connection resiliency"

## PROGRAM PRIORITIES

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- 1 For eligible entities meeting **at least two of five conditions:**
  - Adopt "fiscally sustainable middle mile strategies"
  - Commit to offering non-discriminatory interconnect
  - Identify specific, documented and sustainable demand for middle mile interconnect
  - Identify conditions/resources to speed up project
  - Demonstrate benefits to national security interests
  
- 2 **Eligible entities must also:**
  - Agree to prioritize connecting to unserved areas, connecting to non-contiguous trust lands, or offering wholesale carrier-neutral service at reasonable rate
  - Offer interconnection "in perpetuity ... on reasonable rates and terms"

*Note: funding amounts inclusive of all administrative set-asides*



# MIDDLE MILE (II/II) | LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE IS BROAD WITH REGARDS TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES AND ELIGIBLE USES

## ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

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**Can be one or a partnership of multiple:**

- State or its political subdivisions
- Tribal government
- Tech company
- Electric utility, utility cooperative or public utility district
- Telecom company or cooperative,
- Nonprofit foundation, corporation, institution, or association
- Regional planning counsel
- Native entity
- Economic development authority

## ELIGIBLE COSTS & ACTIVITIES

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Middle mile grants can be used for "**the construction, improvement, or acquisition of middle mile infrastructure**"

**Middle mile infrastructure** broadly means "*any broadband infrastructure* that does not connect directly to an end-user location, including an anchor institution," **and includes:**

- Leased dark fiber, interoffice transport, backhaul, carrier-neutral internet exchange facilities, carrier-neutral submarine cable landing stations, undersea cables, transport connectivity to data centers, special access transport, and other similar services
- Wired or private wireless broadband infrastructure, including microwave capacity, radio tower access, and other services or infrastructure for a private wireless network, e.g., towers, fiber, and microwave links

To ask questions about IJA broadband programs or provide additional feedback:

[BroadbandForAll@ntia.gov](mailto:BroadbandForAll@ntia.gov)

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Please join us for our upcoming broadband program public virtual listening sessions!

January 12, 2022

January 26, 2022

February 9, 2022

February 23, 2022

For more information about upcoming listening sessions:  
<https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/events/latest-events>

