



INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT *NEW FUNDING INITIATIVES*

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION



OUTLINE

- 1 **Overview** of IIJA funding
- 2 Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment (**BEAD**) Program
- 3 Enabling **Middle Mile** Broadband Infrastructure
- 4 **Digital Equity** programs
 - State Digital Equity Planning Grant program
 - State Digital Equity Capacity Grant program
 - Digital Equity Competitive Grant program
- 5 **Tribal** Connectivity Technical Amendments

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

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

BEAD

\$42.45B

Title I - Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment Program

MIDDLE MILE

\$1.00B

Title IV - Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure

DIGITAL EQUITY

\$2.75B

Title III - Digital Equity Act

TRIBAL

\$2.00B

Title II - Tribal Connectivity Technical Amendments

FCC to administer ~\$14B

\$14.2B

Affordable Connectivity 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

* 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/III) | 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/III) | STATES AND U.S. TERRITORIES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING, WITH LEGISLATION SPECIFYING ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

"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)

\$100,000,000 shall be allocated to, and divided equally among, the United States 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

Planning / pre-deployment funds (no more than 5% of min. allocation) up to \$1.25 million for the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

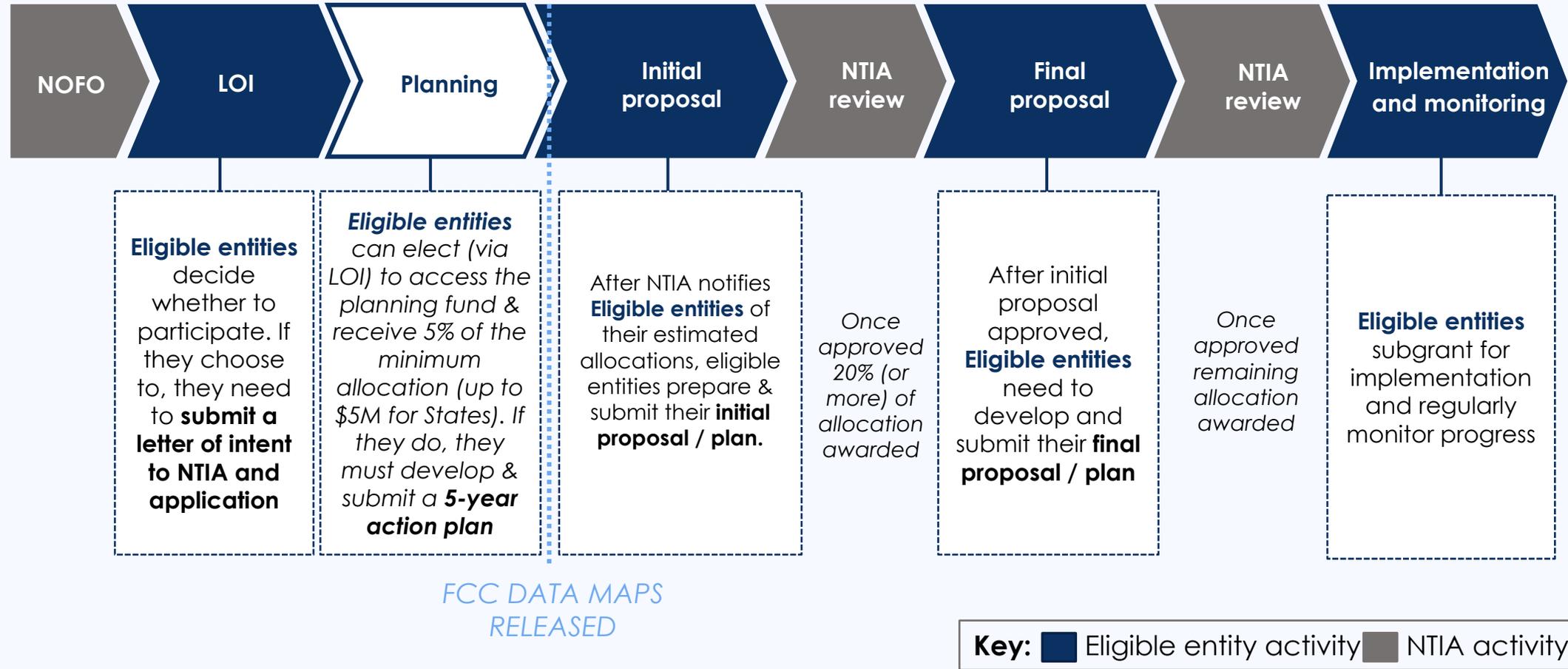
- Research & data collection
- Budget development
- Publications, outreach & communication support
- Provision of technical assistance
- Employee training for eligible entity or political subdivision staff
- Establishing capacity in the eligible entity's office responsible for program

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

BEAD (III/III) | THERE ARE THREE KEY (AND ONE OPTIONAL) STEPS FOR ELIGIBLE ENTITIES TO RECEIVE FUNDING ALLOCATION



Note: funding amounts inclusive of all administrative set-asides



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

OVERVIEW

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

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

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

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

DIGITAL EQUITY (I/V) | 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

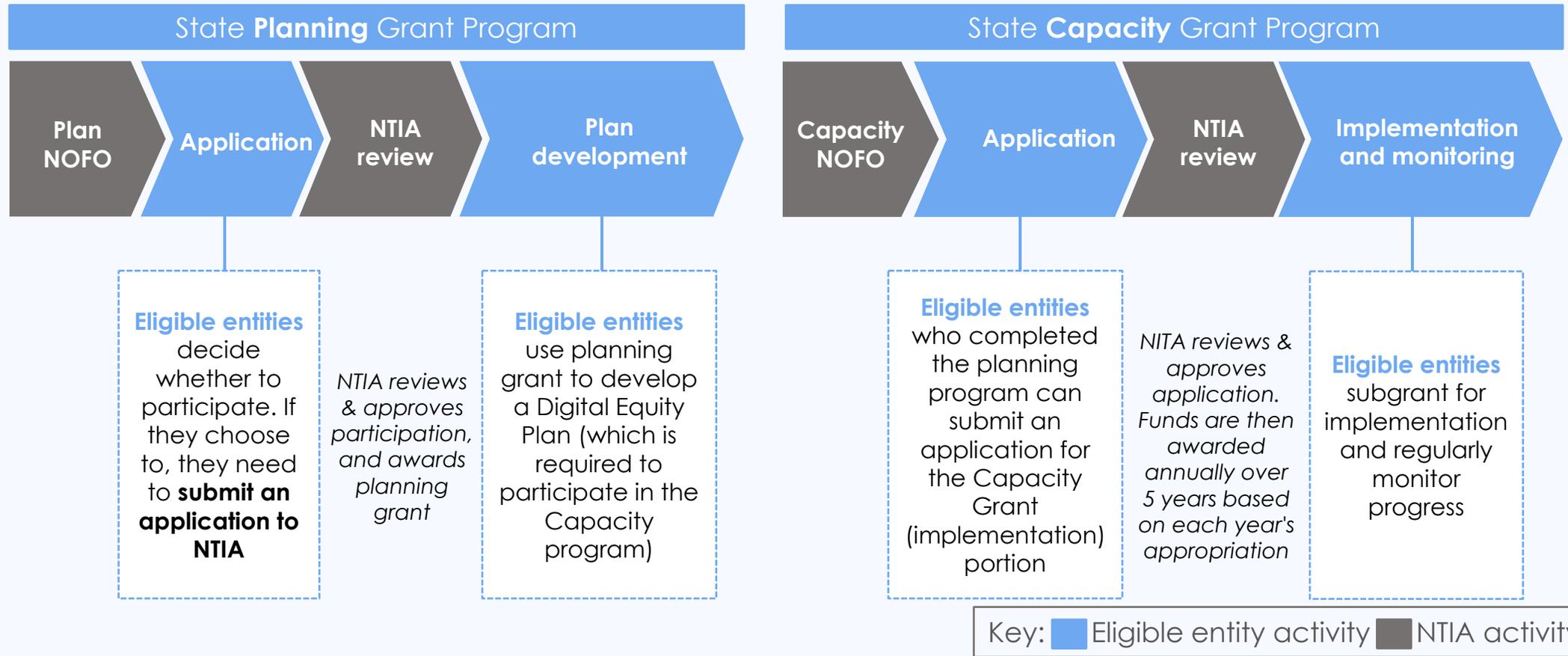
Competitive Grant Program (\$1.25B)

Created once state implementation grants begin being awarded

Note: funding amounts inclusive of all administrative set-asides



DIGITAL EQUITY (II/V) | STATE PROGRAM HAS TWO DISTINCT FUNDING STREAMS - COMPLETING THE FIRST IS KEY FOR SECOND



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

State Capacity Grant Program

The act authorizes \$240M to be appropriated for FY 2022, and \$300M per year for FY 2023 – FY 2026. From these amounts at least 1% would be set aside for grants for territories.

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

DIGITAL EQUITY (V/V) | 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

State Broadband Leaders Network

One-stop shop for resources on state broadband efforts

Active network of state leaders leading state-level broadband efforts

Channel for communication and review of policies between federal agencies and states

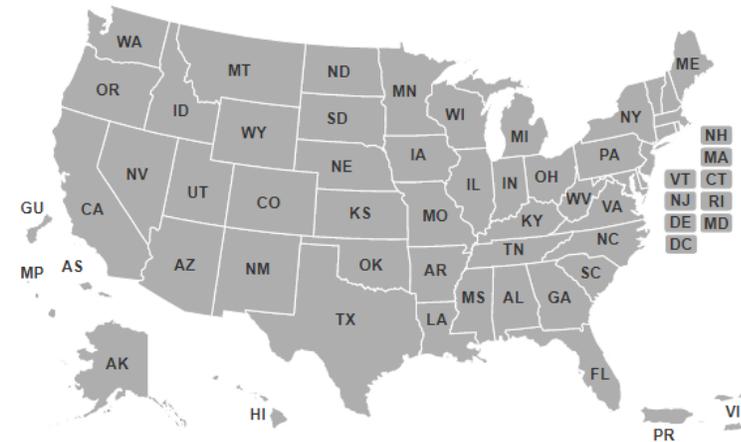
State Broadband Leaders Network (SBLN)

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) BroadbandUSA program convenes and facilitates the State Broadband Leaders Network (SBLN), a community of practitioners who work on state broadband initiatives. SBLN participants share priorities and best practices and discuss emerging telecommunications policy issues. The network also provides a forum to strengthen policy and program connections among states, local jurisdictions and federal agencies.

For more information on the SBLN, consult the [SBLN Fact Sheet](#)

State Broadband Programs

Select 'state' to review State Broadband Programs



Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 Grant Programs Overview

1

\$288
million

Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Grants:

Grants for covered broadband projects, defined as competitively and technologically neutral projects for the deployment of fixed broadband service in a census block with at least one household or business that does not have access to 25/3: \$288 million.

Application Deadline: August 17, 2021

The Government of Guam Department of Administration was awarded \$12,770,692.18 designed to bring qualifying broadband to 10,000 unserved households.

[Infrastructure NOFO Link](#)

**Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021*

2

\$268
million

Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program:

Grants to eligible recipients in anchor communities for the purchase of broadband internet access service or any eligible equipment, or to hire and train information technology personnel: \$268 million.

Application Deadline: December 1, 2021

[CMC NOFO Link](#)

3

\$980
million

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grants:

Grants to expand access to and adoption of: (A) broadband service on Tribal land; or (B) remote learning, telework, or telehealth resources during the COVID-19 pandemic: \$980 million.

Application Deadline: September 1, 2021

[Tribal NOFO Link](#)