

Alaska Broadband Office

Alaska Broadband Grant Program Update



Thomas Lochner, Director

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

House State Affairs Committee

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Background

The Alaska Broadband Office (ABO) was created by HB 363 in 2022, to attend to the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program and Digital Equity Act.

The ABO consists of five positions and is partnering with other agencies in the department and in other departments to achieve the program.

- Grants and mapping support from the Division of Community and Regional Affairs
- Administrative and financial support from the Division of Administrative Services
- Permitting support and facilitation from the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Transportation, and the Department of Fish and Game



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Benchmarks

1. Initial Federal Allocation – Summer 2023

- Federal allocation of \$1,017,139,672.42 to the State of Alaska to build Broadband on June 1, 2023

2. Federal Proposal Submission – Fall and Winter 2023

- Submission of the State of Alaska’s “Initial Proposal Volume 2” (the structure for the Alaska Broadband Grant Program) in December 2023
- ABO managed eight separate “cure” requests from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and a negotiation about footnote 70

3. Mapping Efforts – Spring 2024

- Parallel to the federal proposal submission, ABO ran “Initial Proposal Volume 1” (the mapping challenge process) from March through June 2024

4. Federal Approval – Fall 2024

- Both Initial Proposal Volumes 1 and 2 were approved by the NTIA in October 2024

5. State Grant Program – Winter 2024

- The ABO posted the Alaska Broadband Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NoFO) for a 90-day posting in mid-December 2024



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Benchmarks (continued)

6. Federal Administration Change – Winter 2025

- The ABO, based on feedback from the new administration, put a pause on the NoFO in early 2025

7. Federal Program Restructured – Summer 2025

- The NTIA published the BEAD Restructuring Policy on June 6, 2025, giving states 90 days to complete the program

8. Alaska Grant Program Advertised – Summer 2025

- The ABO restructured the NoFO and re-opened it on July 3, 2025

9. Federal Review of Provisional Awards – Fall 2025

- The ABO reviewed the submissions and submitted provisional awards to the NTIA on October 16, 2025

10. Federal Program Cures – Fall 2025

- The NTIA required additional curing
- Two of the cures were to justify projects between 65th and 85th percentile (five projects) and projects that are above the 85th percentile (an additional five projects)
- The ABO sent the justification in November 2025



Benchmarks (continued)

11. Federal Program Grant Negotiations – Winter 2026

- In early January 2026, the NTIA required the ABO to run an additional “Best and Final Offer” round on the top seven cost per location projects
- This required two separate rounds of evaluation to arrive at a solution that the NTIA would accept

12. Grant Program Resubmission – Winter 2026

- On February 13, 2026, the ABO re-submitted the suite of subgrantee projects for the NTIA to review and approve

13. Federal Approval of Grant Program – Winter 2026

- On February 24, 2026, the NTIA approved the State of Alaska’s Final Proposal and Alaska Broadband Grant Program subgrantees

14. Grant Program Issuance – Spring 2026

- The Alaska Broadband Office and the Division of Community and Regional Affairs will issue grants to recipients April through September 2026



Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Allocation Details

Total Allocation	\$1,017,139,672	100.0%
Planning Grant Amount	\$5,000,000	0.5%
Remainder	\$1,012,139,672	99.5%
2% Administration Allocation	\$20,342,793	2.0%
Available for Subgrants	\$991,796,879	97.5%

Alaska Broadband Grant Program Award and Non-Deployment Amounts

Available for Subgrants	\$991,796,879	100.0%
2% NTIA-Approved Grants	\$629,172,952	63.0%
Funds Not Yet Planned for Deployment	\$362,623,927	37.0%



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Alaska Broadband Grant Program Awards

Row #	Project ID	Awardee	Alaska Broadband Grant Award Amount	Broadband Serviceable Locations and Community Anchor Institutions
1	CM61-BEAD-AK-032	Alaska Communications Systems Holdings Inc.	\$39,501,762.02	5,558
2	CM61-BEAD-AK-076	Alaska Communications Systems Holdings Inc.	\$15,432,652.60	1,895
3	CM61-BEAD-AK-149	Alaska Communications Systems Holdings Inc.	\$69,613,730.34	1,630
4	CM61-BEAD-AK-161	Alaska Connects	\$11,399,997.72	228
5	CM61-BEAD-AK-162	Alaska Connects	\$18,949,996.21	379
6	CM61-BEAD-AK-046	Alaska Telephone Company	\$414,048.00	24
7	CM61-BEAD-AK-050	Alaska Telephone Company	\$907,591.30	254
8	CM61-BEAD-AK-063	Alaska Telephone Company	\$2,850,036.20	220
9	CM61-BEAD-AK-065	AP&T Wireless Inc.	\$485,791.19	61
10	CM61-BEAD-AK-062	Bristol Bay Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	\$14,814,814.50	459
11	CM61-BEAD-AK-152	Bush Tell Inc.	\$16,451,116.92	510
12	CM61-BEAD-AK-154	Bush Tell Inc.	\$12,855,222.00	369
13	CM61-BEAD-AK-159	Bush-Tell Inc.	\$48,837,600.00	1,008
14	CM61-BEAD-AK-057	Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative Inc.	\$11,758,544.23	337
15	CM61-BEAD-AK-145	Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative Inc.	\$1,393,744.28	29
16	CM61-BEAD-AK-148	Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative Inc.	\$1,076,873.93	38

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Alaska Broadband Grant Program Awards (continued)

Row #	Project ID	Awardee	Alaska Broadband Grant Award Amount	Broadband Serviceable Locations and Community Anchor Institutions
17	CM61-BEAD-AK-052	GCI Communications Corp.	\$3,395,700.00	693
18	CM61-BEAD-AK-157	GCI Communications Corp.	\$2,370,236.00	206
19	CM61-BEAD-AK-160	GCI Communications Corp.	\$115,435,432.00	2,328
20	CM61-BEAD-AK-078	Igiugig Village	\$25,825,371.44	524
21	CM61-BEAD-AK-058	Matanuska Telecom Association Inc.	\$221,743.44	12
22	CM61-BEAD-AK-070	Matanuska Telecom Association Inc.	\$85,157,194.11	8,963
23	CM61-BEAD-AK-155	Matanuska Telecom Association Inc.	\$23,054,680.00	1,510
24	CM61-BEAD-AK-142	Native Village of Atka	\$4,913,442.72	432
25	CM61-BEAD-AK-060	Nushagak Electric and Telephone Cooperative Inc.	\$13,993,800.00	281
26	CM61-BEAD-AK-055	Quintillion Subsea Operations LLC	\$28,339,280.00	637
27	CM61-BEAD-AK-151	Quintillion Subsea Operations LLC	\$19,500,000.00	391
28	CM61-BEAD-AK-156	Space Exploration Technologies Corp.	\$23,614,500.00	15,388
29	CM61-BEAD-AK-150	SpitwSpots Inc.	\$16,608,050.68	1,828
Grand Totals			\$629,172,951.83	46,192



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Next Steps

1. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Approval and Amendment

2. NIST Amendment Review and Grant Agreement Finalization

3. Implementation (estimated)

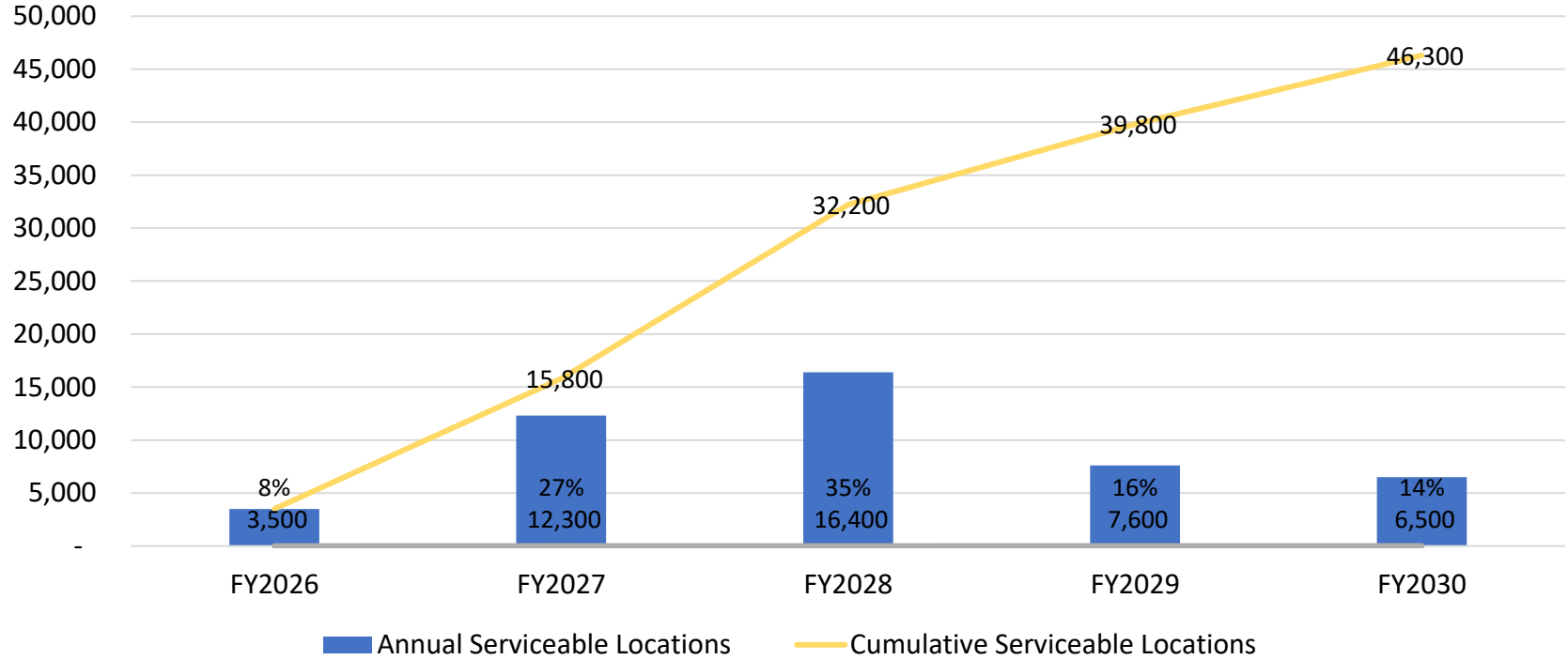
- NIST Amendment Review
 - The State will have 30 days to review and sign the amendment
- Subgrantee Agreement negotiation
 - The ABO will have six months to negotiate agreements with the fifteen subgrantees.
 - Negotiations are anticipated to take a different amount of time for each subgrantee. Some will take all six months, and some will take less time.
- FY2026 (late): Initial groundbreaking, approximately 8% of BSLs connected
- FY2027: Approximately 27% of BSLs connected, for a total of 35% served
- FY2028: Approximately 35% of BSLs connected for a total of 70% served
- FY2029: Approximately 16% of BSLs connected, for a total of 86% served
- FY2030: The remaining 14% of BSLs connected, for a total of 100% served



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Estimated Broadband Serviceable Locations Implementation Timeline



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Thomas Lochner
Director

(907) 269-4048

Thomas.Lochner@Alaska.gov



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