



# INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT *NEW FUNDING INITIATIVES*

Alaska State Legislature  
House Labor & Commerce Committee Hearing  
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NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

# IIJA BROADBAND PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

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1. Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment (BEAD) Program
2. Digital Equity Programs
3. Tribal Connectivity Technical Amendments
4. Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure

# 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**

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

**DIGITAL EQUITY**

**\$2.75B**

**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.

**TRIBAL**

**\$2.00B**

**Title II - Tribal Connectivity Technical Amendments**

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

**MIDDLE MILE**

**\$1.00B**

**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.

**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*

\* Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Division F, Pub. L. 117-58 (Nov. 15, 2021)  
Note: funding amounts inclusive of all administrative set-asides.



# BEAD | 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*



# 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

**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

- 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

- 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

#### **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

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

# MIDDLE MILE | \$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*



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

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