

# State of Alaska

## **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL): Broadband Investments** **House Labor & Commerce Committee**

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## Overview: Broadband Investments in BIL

- BIL contains \$550 billion in “new” above the line spending
- Broadband is 12% or \$65 billion of spending
- 3<sup>rd</sup> largest category of new spending

### \$550 billion by Category

Transportation:	\$284 billion
Energy & Power:	\$ 73 billion
<b>Broadband:</b>	<b>\$ 65 billion</b>
Water:	\$ 55 billion
Resiliency:	\$ 44 billion
Environmental Remediation:	\$ 21 billion
Public Lands:	\$ 8 billion



### **Broadband Investment - \$65 billion**

Broadband Infrastructure:	\$ 50.8 billion
Affordability Provisions:	\$ 14.2 billion

# Broadband investments flow through 3 federal agencies:

### National Telecommunications & Information Agency (NTIA)

#### \$48.2 billion

- Establish and administer grant programs
- Provide technical guidance
- Oversee/approve state plans

### Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

#### \$14.2 billion

- Develop “Broadband Location Fabric”
- Administer affordability subsidy
- Regulate internet access equity

### USDA – Rural Utilities Service

#### \$2.0 billion

- Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program

# Overview: Program Funding

## Funding by Agency and Program

NTIA	<b>BEAD (Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment) Grant Program**</b>	
	<i>Initial State/Territory Allocations (\$100 Mill per state)</i>	\$ 5,300.0
	<i>High-Cost Area Formula Distribution</i>	\$ 4,458.0
	<i>Formula Distribution based on Unserved Locations within US</i>	\$ 32,692.0
NTIA	<b>Middle Mile Infrastructure Grant Program</b>	\$ 1,000.0
NTIA	<b>Digital Equity Grant Program (Digital Equity Act)</b>	
	<i>State Digital Equity Initial Planning Grant (Sec 60304 c3)</i>	\$ 60.0
	<i>State Digital Equity Plan Implementation Grants (Sec 60304 d)</i>	\$ 1,440.0
	<i>Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program (Sec 60305)</i>	\$ 1,250.0
NTIA	<b>Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP)</b>	\$ 2,000.0
		\$ 48,200.0
USDA	<b>Rural Utilities Service—Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program</b>	\$ 2,000.0
FCC	<b>Broadband Affordability Provisions (Household Subsidies)</b>	\$ 14,200.0

\*\* SOA Governor's Office Estimates

# SOA Alaska Implementation

## Establish Broadband Office & Initial Planning: Funding

### Initial Funding

- \$200,000 existing EDA grant

### Mid-Term Funding

- \$5 million federal planning from the NTIA
- 5% of State's minimum \$100 mill BEAD allocation
- Available once NTIA issues Notice of Funding Opportunity (~June) and after State files Letter of Intent

### Long-Term Funding

- 2% of the total amount the State eventually receives from BEAD program allocation can be used to administer the state's program

## Deliverables & Phasing

- 1 **NTIA NOFO Issued**  
Letter of Intent Filed  
5-Year Action Plan Developed
- 2 **FCC Fabric Published**  
Initial Proposal  
Mapping Challenge Process
- 3 **Funding Deployed**  
Final Proposal  
Initial Report
- 4 **BEAD Concludes**  
Final Report

## Potential Impacts on Timeline

### NTIA Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

- Initial pre-planning money is contingent on NTIA issuing NOFO
- Agency has indicated this may be delayed from May 15 until mid-June

### FCC Fabric Mapping

- No deployment funding until Fabric is complete
- Availability of Alaska baseline geospatial data
- CostQuest contract challenged
- Provider data collection deadline is September 1
  - Delays of over a year in reviewing collected data are typical (ex. 477s)

# SOA Alaska Implementation

## Alaska Comments to NTIA's Request for Comment on BEAD

### Allow BEAD funding to be used for middle-mile

- Assumed to be eligible, but not explicit in IIJA

### Provide a small amount of funding for immediate deployment use

- Let's not make unserved areas of our state wait years for grants

### Take Alaska into account when creating "high-cost" area definition

- 10% of BEAD funding reserved for high-cost areas
- Alaska is an extreme outlier and should be prioritized

### A "broadband parity adjustment" should be an eligible use of funds

- With significant federal funds coming to Alaska, some could be made available for this purpose

### Allow BEAD funding to be used for State of Alaska Broadband Assistance Grant Program (DEED)

- Broadband Assistance Grants help schools get to 25/3 broadband speeds; BEAD funding could supplement

### Unify the BEAD and Digital Equity Act deliverables

- Reduce duplicative work and improve efficiency by combining State planning for NTIA BEAD & Digital Equity Act (DEA) programs