INTERNET FOR ALL

FUNDED BY THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW
ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE'S NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

SEPTEMBER 2022
The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests ~$65B to ensure everyone in America has access to high-speed Internet

Goal is to build infrastructure that provides reliable high-speed Internet access to all Americans for today and tomorrow…

...with a focus on making high-speed Internet affordable and reliable so everyone can participate in the economy...

... and providing the resources needed to equitably expand the adoption and use of the Internet so everyone can experience the benefits.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Act invests roughly $65B into high-speed Internet efforts through 7 federal programs:

Administered by NTIA
- Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program ($42.45B)
- Digital Equity Planning, Capacity and Competitive Grants ($2.75B)
- Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program ($2.00B)
- Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program ($1.0B)

Administered by other federal agencies
- Affordable Connectivity Program ($14.2B)
- Rural Broadband Programs at the Department of Agriculture ($2.0B)
- Private Activity Bonds ($0.6B)
Affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet has remained elusive for too long

The "digital divide" refers to the gap between those who have access to high-speed Internet and those who have limited or no access, driven by three key barriers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access</th>
<th>Affordability</th>
<th>Adoption and Digital Literacy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Many Americans live in areas that are not covered by high-speed Internet service providers or where service is not reliable</td>
<td>Many American households cannot afford to pay for the costs of devices or monthly service</td>
<td>Many Americans are not aware of available service offers or lack the digital skills to participate online</td>
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This gap is particularly acute for communities of color, Tribal nations, lower-income areas, and both urban and rural communities
NTIA will administer ~$48B through four programs that drive high-speed Internet access, affordability, and adoption

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Program Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broadband Equity, Access &amp; Deployment Program</td>
<td>$42.45B</td>
<td>A program to get all Americans online by funding partnerships between states or territories, communities, and stakeholders to build infrastructure where we need it to and increase adoption of high-speed Internet.</td>
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<td>Digital Equity Act</td>
<td>$2.75B</td>
<td>Three programs that provide funding to promote digital inclusion and advance equity for all. They aim to ensure that all communities can access and use affordable, reliable high-speed Internet to meet their needs and improve their lives.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tribal Connectivity Technical Amendments</td>
<td>$2.00B</td>
<td>A program to help tribal communities expand high-speed Internet access and adoption on tribal lands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure</td>
<td>$1.00B</td>
<td>A program to expand middle mile infrastructure, to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas.</td>
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</table>

FCC to administer $14.2B
For Affordable Connectivity Program, which replaced the EBB program

USDA to administer $2.0B
Via the Rural Utilities Service

Private Activity Bonds $0.6B
Authorizes State and local governments to use private activity bonds for rural broadband
The BEAD program will provide ~$42.45B for infrastructure planning and implementation.

**Funding pool**

$42.45B

A program to get all Americans online by funding partnerships between states or territories, communities, and stakeholders to build infrastructure where we need it to and increase adoption of high-speed Internet.

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

Entities eligible to apply for this program include:

- All 50 States
- The District of Columbia and Puerto Rico
- Other Territories: U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Example eligible uses of funds include:

- Planning for deployment of Internet
- Deploying or upgrading Internet
- Installing Internet in multi-tenant buildings
- Implementing adoption and digital equity programs
- Workforce and job training

**ESTIMATED TIMELINE**

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified.

- **2022**
  - NOFO live 5/13
  - Due 7/18
- **2023**
  - LOI
  - 5-year plan
  - Due 270 days after planning funds received
- **2024**
  - 4-year implementation
  - Initial proposal
  - Due 180 days after new DATA maps and notice of fundings amounts issued
- **2025**
  - Final proposal
  - Due 365 days after initial proposal approval
- **2026+**
Digital Equity Act created three programs to promote digital equity and inclusion

**Funding pool**

$2.75B

Three programs that provide funding to promote digital inclusion and advance equity for all. They aim to ensure that all communities can access and use affordable, reliable high-speed Internet to meet their needs and improve their lives.

**The Digital Equity Act created three programs:**

- **State Planning**
  - $60M formula funding program to develop digital equity plans
- **State Capacity**
  - $1.44B formula funding program to implement plans & promote digital inclusion
- **Competitive**
  - $1.25B to implement digital equity and inclusion activities

**Example eligible uses of funds include:**

- Developing digital equity plans; states must develop a plan to be eligible for state capacity grants
- Implementing digital equity plans and related activities
- Making awards to other entities to help make digital equity plans
- Providing digital literacy and digital skills education
- Improving accessibility and inclusivity of public resources
- Facilitating the adoption of high-speed Internet

**ESTIMATED TIMELINE**

- **2022**
  - NOFO live 5/13
  - Due 7/12
  - Planning app
- **2023**
  - 1-year state planning
- **2024**
  - State cap. app
  - 5-year state capacity implementation
  - Competitive Program launches within 1 month of first Capacity awards
- **2025**
  - Comp. app
  - 4-year competitive implement.
- **2026+**

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified
Technical amendments and new funding will strengthen current Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

Funding pool
$2.00B

A program to help tribal communities expand high-speed Internet access and adoption on tribal lands.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

New funding will be used for additional new grants and to fully fund grants from first round of awards

Amendments to original program:

• Relaxes time requirements of original program
• Allows infrastructure grantees to spend up to 2.5% of the total project cost for related planning, feasibility and sustainability studies
• Preserves unused allocated funds for other Tribal broadband projects instead of reverting to the Treasury

ESTIMATED TIMELINE

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified

Funding pool
$2.00B

A program to help tribal communities expand high-speed Internet access and adoption on tribal lands.
Middle Mile Grant Program will invest in the construction, improvement or acquisition of middle mile infrastructure

**Funding pool**

$1.00B

A program to expand middle mile infrastructure, to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas.

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

Middle mile infrastructure refers to the mid-section of Internet infrastructure that carries large amounts of data at high speeds over long distances and connects the "backbone" of Internet infrastructure to the "last mile", which connects to end users.

Entities eligible to apply include a wide variety of entities, incl. but not limited to government entities, utilities, companies, and non-profits that provide Internet services.

Example uses of funds:

- Construction, improvement or acquisition of facilities and equipment
- Engineering design, permitting and work related to projects
- Personnel costs, including salaries and benefits
- Other costs necessary to program’s activities

**ESTIMATED TIMELINE**

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified

Source: California Department of Technology, "What is the middle mile"?
Additional resources about the programs

1. Visit the InternetForAll.gov for additional information on federal funding programs

2. Engage with your State or territory regarding their plans to improve high-speed Internet access

3. Submit questions to InternetForAll@ntia.gov

4. Attend future NTIA webinars, including program-specific application guidance webinars for applicants