

Federal Broadband Funding Opportunities



Uses Key

- Access** Deployment and improvement of infrastructure
- Affordability** Consumer subsidies, provision of free or low-cost devices
- Adoption** Digital inclusion, navigators, literacy, and tech support
- Planning** Staffing, data collection, mapping, community engagement
- Awareness** Marketing, consumer outreach

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)
Signed into law November 15, 2021.
\$1.2 trillion total

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
Signed into law March 11, 2021.
\$1.9 trillion total

Other Broadband Programs

Program Name	Agency	Type	Amount	Recipients	Timeline	Uses	Resources
Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD) Grants primarily for infrastructure. 3 tiers of eligible uses. Tier 1: deploy in "unserved" areas where 80% of residents lack 25/3 or rely on satellite/unlicensed wireless service. Tier 2: deploy in "underserved" areas where 80% of residents lack 100/20. Tier 3: deploy gigabit service to anchor institutions and/or fund non-deployment projects (e.g. devices, adoption, cybersecurity). Recipients must have a plan to complete each tier before progressing to the next. Projects must prioritize: fiber; minimal BEAD outlays; service affordability; and fair labor practices. Networks must offer: 100/20 speeds to everyone in served area; a low-cost service option; and the ACP/other subsidies. Subgrants require a 25% match, but in-kind or CARES/ARPA funds accepted.	NTIA	Formula allocation	\$42,450,000,000	States (governor or their designee), tribes, and territories. Funds may be competitively subgranted, and process may not exclude public entities.	7/18/22 - Letter of Intent 8/15/22 - request Planning Funds (PF) Receive PF + 270 days - 5 Year Plan Maps + 180 days - Initial Proposal (IP) IP approved - 20% of funds IP + 365 days - Final Proposal (FP) FP approved - 80% of funds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affordability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adoption <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Awareness	NTIA NOFO NTIA Overview NDIA NOFO Webinar Benton Analysis Pots & Pans
State Digital Equity Planning and Capacity Grant Program Grants to create and then implement digital equity programs. First, recipients receive funds (i.e. Planning Grants) to create Digital Equity Plans. After Plans approved by NTIA, recipients receive funds (i.e. Capacity Grants) to implement those Plans. Plans must include: the recipient's vision for digital equity; a strategy for coordinating with stakeholders; an identification of barriers to connectivity in the state; measurable goals for internet adoption in covered (i.e. vulnerable) populations; and estimates of social and economic impacts.	NTIA	Formula allocation	\$1,500,000,000	States (governor or their designee), tribes, and territories. Both planning and capacity funds may be subgranted.	7/12/22 - Planning Application Sept '22 - receive Planning Funds (PF) Receive PF + 365 days - Submit Plans Spring '24 - Capacity Funding begins.	<input type="checkbox"/> Access <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affordability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adoption <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Awareness	NTIA NOFO NTIA Overview NDIA NOFO Webinar Benton Analysis Telecompetitor
Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program Grants for digital inclusion activities. Eligible uses include: digital navigators; workforce training programs; low-cost devices; and deployment of public broadband. NTIA will prioritize projects that: expand access and adoption among vulnerable populations; represent geographically diverse regions; do not duplicate other programs. Awardees must submit regular program evaluations to NTIA.	NTIA	Competitive grant	\$1,250,000,000	Public entities, private companies, nonprofits, and cooperatives. State entities that receive State Digital Equity Capacity grants are ineligible.	Mid-2024 - Applications begin 2025 - Awards begin \$250M available per year. Awardees must submit annual evaluation reports. Grants must be spent within four years of receipt.	<input type="checkbox"/> Access <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affordability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adoption <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Awareness	Benton Analysis NDIA Webinar Telecompetitor
Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program (MMBI) Grants to deploy middle mile infrastructure. Infrastructure must: promote affordable internet service; reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas; and/or improve network resiliency. Priority is given to projects that: adopt fiscally sustainable strategies; offer non-discriminatory interconnection to last-mile providers; collaborate with partners that will provide financially sustainable last-mile service; utilize other forms of support (e.g. waived permitting fees); and benefit national security and the DoD. Requires 30% match, but in-kind contributions accepted.	NTIA	Competitive grant	\$1,000,000,000	State/local governments, tribes, private companies, public utilities, nonprofits, cooperatives, consortia.	9/30/22 - Applications due 3/1/23 - Earliest date of award Funds available until Sep. 30, 2026	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access <input type="checkbox"/> Affordability <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Awareness	NTIA NOFO NTIA Overview Benton Analysis K&H Analysis
Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) A consumer benefit to make internet service and devices more affordable to low-income households. Discounts internet service by \$30/mo (\$75/mo on tribal lands) and eligible devices by \$100 (one time). Households use the the ACP by completing the federal enrollment process and providing their enrollment number to their ISP (if their ISP participates in the ACP). The ISP then applies the ACP discount to the household's bill and submits a reimbursement request to the FCC. Participating ISPs must: promote the benefit; allow the benefit to be applied to any service offering; and notify subscribers of program changes. The ACP is an extension and modification of Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program.	FCC	Consumer subsidy	\$14,200,000,000	Consumers and participating ISPs. Devices must be purchased through ISPs (note: some ISPs do not offer devices).	ACP lasts until funds exhausted. Transitioned from EBB to ACP on Dec 31, 2021.	<input type="checkbox"/> Access <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affordability <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Awareness	GetInternet.gov Common Sense Page NDIA Explainer Benton Analysis UCC Sign-up Help
Affordable Connectivity Program Outreach Grants (ACP) Planned grant program for ACP awareness and enrollment activities. The program will likely: have annual grant cycles; fund a variety of localized awareness and enrollment activities; prioritize grants that reach geographically and demographically diverse populations; and require recipients to track and submit performance metrics. *IIJA allows the FCC to spend up to \$100M on this program, but the amount has not been finalized.	FCC	Competitive grant	\$100,000,000*	Currently undefined but may include governments, tribes, public institutions, nonprofits, and private entities	Currently undefined. Proposed rules envision a multi-year program with annual grant cycles.	<input type="checkbox"/> Access <input type="checkbox"/> Affordability <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Awareness	FCC R&O/FNPRM FCC Press Release CETF Example
Private Activity Bonds (PAB) State and local government private activity bonds may now be used to fund broadband deployment projects. Projects must target areas where 50% of residents lack access to fixed, terrestrial 25/3. Bond issuer must notify and solicit information from ISPs that serve the target area. Completed projects must offer 100/20. *The limit for each state is the greater of (i) \$110 multiplied by the state's population or (ii) \$335,000,000. Publicly-owned projects do not count against the limit; privately-owned projects do (but only 25% of their amount).	IRS	Tax exempt bond	≥\$335,00,000*	State and local governments issue bonds. Eligible bond recipients vary by state but may include private, public, and nonprofit entities.	Timelines vary by state and locality. Bonds are subject to state-specific annual bonding limits.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access <input type="checkbox"/> Affordability <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Awareness	Benton Analysis H&K Analysis CRS Introduction
Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund Flexible grants for connectivity related projects. Eligible uses include: deploying in areas that lack reliable wireline speeds of 100/20; deploying in areas where service is unaffordable for a majority of residents; fostering adoption with low/no-cost devices, free wi-fi, digital literacy training, and tech support; and building or improving community anchor institutions to enable public internet access. Deployment projects must: accept ACP/Lifeline; deliver 100/100 where possible; and prioritize last mile connections; and they are encouraged to offer a low-cost option. Treasury encourages use of public, nonprofit, and cooperative networks. No matching requirements. 5% of allocation may be used for planning.	Treasury	Formula allocation	\$10,000,000,000	Grants to states (or administering agency selected by governor), territories, and tribes. Funds may be subgranted.	12/27/21 - Submit funding request (6/1/22 for Tribes) 6/6/22 - Awards begin 9/24/22 - Submit grant plan and all program plans 12/31/26 - Funds expended	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affordability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adoption <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Awareness	Treasury Overview State Allocations Sample Grant Plan Treasury Rules Benton Analysis
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) Block grants to state/county/city governments for general COVID-19 relief, but recipients may use funds on broadband infrastructure, digital literacy training, and other programs that promote access to the internet. Projects should: prioritize areas with an identified need for additional broadband infrastructure investment (note: there is no specific speed requirement); prioritize last mile connections; deliver speeds of 100/100 and use fiber technology wherever feasible; offer low-cost service options; and encourage public, nonprofit, and cooperative service providers. RDOF and other grant areas are eligible for funding.	Treasury	Formula allocation	\$350,000,000,000	Block grants to states, territories, tribes, metropolitan cities, and counties. Funds may be subgranted.	Treasury is accepting requests 12/31/24 - Funds incurred 12/31/26 - Funds expended	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affordability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adoption <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Awareness	Treasury Overview Treasury Rules NCSL Tracker Pots & Pans ILSR Projects List
Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) Intended to support remote education. Eligible schools and libraries apply to be reimbursed for costs associated with providing devices, hotspots, and internet service (including service to student homes) between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2023. *Spending on infrastructure is allowed only where infrastructure not otherwise available.	FCC	Competitive grant	\$7,170,000,000	Schools, libraries, consortia that qualify for E-Rate and/or the Libraries Services and Technology Act.	The third and final application window closed on May 13, 2022. The FCC is evaluating applications and prioritized awards based on applicant's E-Rate discount rate.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affordability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adoption <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Awareness	FCC Overview Common Sense Page Misconceptions Approved Grants
Community Project Funding Process (CPF) (i.e. "Earmarks") Funding in the Congressional budget for specific projects (bypassing a competitive grant process), including broadband and connectivity projects. Each member of Congress is responsible for identifying his or her own projects requests. Each member will then submit his or her requests to the Appropriations Committees for review and inclusion in the budget process.	Congress	Budget earmark	Project specific	Congressionally designated local governments, public entities, or nonprofit. Ban on for-profit recipients.	Each member will have their own process and timeline for selecting projects. Member must submit projects to be included in Congressional appropriations bills, which typically occur in the Spring.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affordability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adoption <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Awareness	House Process Senate Process H&K Analysis H&K Explainer
Lifeline Monthly subsidy to help low-income consumers afford telephone and broadband bills. Provides \$5.25/mo for telephone or \$9.25 /mo for broadband (and up to \$34.25 for those living on Tribal lands). Only one benefit allowed per household. Program funded by the USF.	FCC	Consumer subsidy	N/A	Consumers and participating ISPs.	Eligible consumers may apply by contacting their ISP.	<input type="checkbox"/> Access <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affordability <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Awareness	FCC Overview USAC Overview Companies Near Me Eligibility Criteria