## Agenda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Presenter(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welcome / Roll Call</td>
<td>Jim Stritzinger, Co-Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review &amp; Approve Minutes</td>
<td>Anna Berger, Co-Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New BBAC Members</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC Broadband Office Update</td>
<td>Jim Stritzinger, ORS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC Digital Equity Office Introduction</td>
<td>Mike Shealy, SC Admin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sara Pincelli, SC Admin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Business</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next Meeting – Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2023</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjourn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
McMaster, Clyburn celebrate milestone of 100K homes provided high-speed internet access

BY SEANNA ADCOX SADCOX@POSTANDCOURIER.COM
OCT 3, 2022

Rural Broadband Grant Program  (As of 6/30/22)

1) 17 Internet Service Providers / 18 Counties (11 Eligible / 7 Contiguous)

2) $30M State Money / Collaboration w/ SC Department of Commerce

3) 1,245.9 miles of Fiber Construction

4) Access for 9,164 Housing Units (54% of funded HU)

5) Of the 31 projects
   • Complete – 9
   • > 75% and < 99% Complete – 13
   • > 50% and < 74% Complete – 6
   • < 50% Complete – 3
   • 3 Relinquished

6) $42,034,672 Project Expenses Incurred

7) Most Construction Complete By Oct. 31, 2022
# AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

**H. 4408** $400 Million for SC Broadband Infrastructure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Fiscal Recovery Fund</th>
<th>Capital Projects Fund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• $214.2 Million</td>
<td>• $185.8 Million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The funds in the ARPA Broadband Account shall be used to expand broadband infrastructure to households, businesses, and communities in the State that are **unserved** or **underserved** by broadband services.

Enacted
May 13, 2022
SC BROADBAND INVESTMENT ROADMAP

- **Mar. 2022 Maps**
  - FCC Dec. 31, 2021
  - Ookla Mar. 31, 2022
  - Publish Jun. 2022

- **Sep. 2022 Maps**
  - FCC Jun. 30, 2022
  - Publish by Dec. 2022

- **Mar. 2023 Maps**
  - FCC Dec. 31, 2022
  - Publish by Jun. 2023

- **Sep. 2023 Maps**
  - FCC Jun. 30, 2023
  - Publish by Dec. 2023

- **H.4408 Signed**
  - May 13, 2022

**Q2 2022**

- 2022

**Dec 2024**

- 2023
- 2023
- 2024

ORS.SC.GOV/Broadband
2022 SC BROADBAND GRANT PROGRAMS

H.B. 4408 Enacted May 13

Last Mile Pilot
SC Funds
Construction concludes by Dec. 31, 2022

Priority Area Grant
ARPA SFRF
Construction concludes by Dec. 31, 2024

Accelerated Project Grant
ARPA SFRF
Construction began on/after March 15, 2021 and concludes by June 30, 2022

* All dates are pending approval and are subject to change without notice.
Last Mile Grant Pilot Program

1) Direct Support for “I Need Internet” Survey Respondents
2) Targeting “Donut Holes” in Served Census Blocks
3) Applications Opened April 20 / Closed May 6
4) Awarded ~$1.3M, to connect 569 Residential Homes
5) Six Internet Service Providers
   • CarolinaConnect
   • Charter
   • Comporium
   • Horry Telephone Cooperative
   • TruVista
   • WC Fiber
6) Construction Complete By Dec. 31, 2022
What are Accelerated Projects? (Preliminary)

1) Broadband construction to unserved areas that was initiated on/after **March 15, 2021** and was operational by **June 30, 2022**.

2) Unserved Areas are defined by Sep 2021 SC Eligibility Map
   ✓ This map represents FCC Form 477 June 30, 2021 status and excludes DSL

3) ORS will award up to **$25,000,000** of the allocated ARPA funds

4) ORS will likely accept applications in Q4 2022

5) Applications must document operational status

6) Applications will require complete financial submission

Source: H.4408, Section 7B: The grant program may include an opportunity to reimburse a portion of construction costs, incurred on or after March 15, 2021, related to the expansion of broadband during the pandemic.
What are Priority Areas?

Unserved 2020 Census Blocks with:

1) More than 20 public K-12 student households; or,
   ✓ Broadband maps include data from 785,000 public school students that was provided by SC Department of Education

2) Difficult Development Areas as identified by US Housing and Urban Development (HUD); or,
   ✓ Defined geographies that are updated annually by HUD and are the basis for deploying Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) in the United States.

3) No Internet Service Provider
   ✓ FCC Form 477 data shows null value for ISP as of Dec. 31, 2021.

Source: H.4408, Section 9: Priority must be given to unserved areas with no current Internet Service Provider, Difficult Development Areas as identified by U.S. Housing and Urban Development, and census blocks that have a high concentration of unserved public K-12 student households as documented by the South Carolina Department of Education.
How much will ORS invest in Priority Areas?

Depending on the number of qualified applications, ORS may award approximately $180,000,000 of the allocated ARPA funds.

What are the match requirements?

Applicant May Define Their Own Match For Priority Areas!
### Priority Grant Program Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eligibility Map Published on the ORS Website</td>
<td>6/20/2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Challenge period to eligibility map opens</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application Period Opens</td>
<td>6/30/2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Challenge period to eligibility map closes</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map Challenge accepted and posted to ORS Website</td>
<td>7/15/2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application Period Closes</td>
<td>8/31/2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submitted Applications Posted on the ORS Website / Comment Period Opens</td>
<td>9/6/2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comment Period Closes</td>
<td>10/3/2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application Review / Selection</td>
<td>11/1/2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Agreements Sent to the Companies</td>
<td>11/14/2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding Agreements Returned to the ORS</td>
<td>12/22/2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notices to Proceed Issued</td>
<td>12/30/2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarterly Progress Report Due</td>
<td>4/17/2023 - 10/14/2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Completion</td>
<td>12/31/2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Reporting Due</td>
<td>1/30/2025</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All dates are pending approval and are subject to change without notice.*
Locating Documents

Sign up for all notifications!

Pathway for Grant Docs

State Investment Programs

American Rescue Plan Act - State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

On May 13, 2022, Governor Henry McMaster signed H.448, which includes an allocation of $400 million to the Office of Regulatory Staff – South Carolina Broadband Office for the purpose of deploying broadband infrastructure. All American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds must be awarded through competitive grant processes, and the Broadband Office is working quickly to announce the first program in June/July of 2022.
The funds in the ARPA Broadband Account shall be used to expand broadband infrastructure to households, businesses, and communities in the State that are unserved or underserved by broadband services.
1. Add Main Street Priority Areas
   - Main St + 2mi buffer
2. Requires 100/100 Symmetric
3. “Dig Once” Opportunities
   - Water & Sewer (RIA)
   - Roads (SCDOT)
The Infrastructure Act* creates ~$65B in broadband funding. Here are the key programs:

### BEAD
- **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.
  - **$42.45B**

### DIGITAL EQUITY
- **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.
  - **$2.75B**

### TRIBAL
- **Title II - Tribal Connectivity Technical Amendments**
  - Furthers current Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program by investing an additional $2B to fund broadband adoption and infrastructure projects.
  - **$2.00B**

### MIDDLE MILE
- **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.
  - **$1.00B**

### Administration
- **NTIA** will administer ~$48B of this new funding.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BEAD</td>
<td>~$48B</td>
<td>Three programs under this program to close the access gap for unserved &amp; underserved areas of the country.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEAD - Digital Equity</td>
<td>~$2.75B</td>
<td>Three programs to promote digital equity, support digital inclusion activities, and build capacity related to broadband adoption.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEAD - Tribal</td>
<td>~$2.00B</td>
<td>Furthers the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program by investing an additional $2B to fund broadband adoption and infrastructure projects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEAD - Middle Mile</td>
<td>~$1.00B</td>
<td>Provides funding to extend middle mile capacity to reduce cost of serving unserved and underserved areas and enhance network resilience.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Private Activity Bonds**
- **$600M**
  - USDA to administer $2B via the Rural Utilities Service.
  - Authorizes State/local governments to use private activity bonds for rural broadband.

**Note**: Funding amounts inclusive of all administrative set-asides.

*Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Division F, Pub. L. 117-58 (Nov. 15, 2021)*
# BEAD (I/II) | 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*
## ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

"Eligible entity" for this program refers to **all 50 U.S. States and U.S. Territories** (including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands).

## ELIGIBLE COSTS & ACTIVITIES

**Planning Funds**

1) Research & Data Collection
2) Publications, Outreach & Communication Support
3) Employee Training for SCBBO
4) Operating and Increasing Capacity in the SCBBO
5) Asset mapping broadband-related activities
6) Conducting surveys of unserved, underserved, and underrepresented communities to better understand barriers to adoption.
**DIGITAL EQUITY (I/IV) | THE DIGITAL EQUITY ACT CREATES 3 SEQUENCED PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE DIGITAL INCLUSION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OVERVIEW</th>
<th>PROGRAM/S PRIORITIES</th>
<th>PROGRAMS CREATED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Official name:</strong> Title III – The Digital Equity Act</td>
<td>Veterans</td>
<td>State program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Funding pool:</strong> $2.75B</td>
<td>Individuals living in households earning at or below 150% of the poverty line</td>
<td>Competitive Grant Program ($1.25B)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Programs’ objective:</strong> support the closure of the digital divide &amp; promote equity and digital inclusion, so that &quot;individuals and communities have the information technology capacity that is needed for full participation in the society and economy of the United States.&quot;</td>
<td>Aging individuals</td>
<td>State Planning Grant Program ($60M)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Incarcerated individuals</td>
<td>State Capacity Grant Program ($1.44B)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Individuals with disabilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Individuals with a language barrier</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Individuals who are members of a racial or ethnic minority group</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Individuals who primarily reside in a rural area</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: funding amounts inclusive of all administrative set-asides
# 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 State 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
BEAD / DEA Survey Process

270-Day Shot Clock from Fund Receipt!

Survey Instrument
- USC
- Clemson
- MUSC
- Commission for Minority Affairs

Survey Distribution & Collection
Goal of 30,000 Surveys

Statistical Results

Final Report

BEAD / DEA Planning Funds Received ??

OCT ??

NOV ??

NOV ??

DEC 2022

MAR 31

APR 1

APR 30

OCT 2022

MAY 2023

ORS.SC.GOV/Broadband
Digital Equity Dashboard
October 2022

Ryan Palmer
Global Digital Equity Strategist
ryanpalmer@microsoft.com
Digital equity data dashboard

A public-facing tool that empowers state agencies and broadband thought leaders with data to target digital equity funds efficiently and maximize resources and investments in communities of highest need.

[aka.ms/digitalequitymaps]
## Data Sources

### 2019 American Community Survey
- 25+ years old without graduating high school
- No internet subscription: broadband such as cable, fiber optic or DSL
- No broadband internet subscription in households < $20,000
- No broadband internet subscription in households $20k - $74,999
- No broadband internet subscription in households $75,000+
- 25+ years old without an associate’s degree or higher
- 25+ years old without a bachelor’s degree or higher
- Below poverty level in the past 12 months
- Below 150% poverty level in the past 12 months
- Below 200% poverty level in the past 12 months
- Disability status
- Households without a desktop or laptop
- Without an internet subscription: broadband of any type

### FCC 14th Broadband Report
- Without access to broadband of any type
- Without broadband: DSL
- Without broadband: cable
- Without broadband: fiber
- Without broadband: terrestrial fixed wireless

### BroadbandNow
- % of annual median income spend on broadband

### Code.org
- % of high schools without a foundational CS course

### Microsoft
- % of people not using the internet at broadband speed
Inputs to determine digital equity

Select the “home” icon to navigate back to the Welcome screen.

Select up to 5 different inputs to help determine areas with the highest digital inequities.

Select “Clear selections” button to remove all inputs.

Select “Reset” button to revert to the default list of 5 inputs.

Select “County” to drill down into single or multiple counties.

Title includes the number of census tracts in the selected geographic area.

Each dot in the scatter plot represents a census tract. The vertical scale represents the Index value (the higher the dot, the higher the digital inequities and the horizontal scale is the number of people...
This tool helps state agencies identify areas with the highest digital inequities using a data-driven approach, to maximize resources and investments in the communities most impacted by the digital divide.

Digital equity by census tract

If the user sorts the "Details by census tract table" to reveal the census tracts with the lowest index values, they will see the census tracts with the lowest number of residents over 25 without a high school diploma, which have a value of 0.

Data sources and attributions:
- All other census tracts receive index values relatively from 0-1.
- High index value = high digital inequity, or high need for digital equity funding/interventions.

Details by census tract shows the highest number of residents over 25 without a high school diploma an index value of 1.
Thank you!