Federal Broadband Funding Opportunities

https://www.commonsensemedia.org/sites/default/files/featured-content/files/federal_broadband_funding_guide.pdf

by **common sense**

Uses Key

Deployment	Construction and improvement of infrastructure
Devices	Provision of computers and tablets
Affordability	Cost support programs, provision of free/reduced cost connectivity
Inclusion	Digital literacy training, digital skills training, tech support

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

Program Name	Agency	Type	Amount	Recipients	Timeline	Uses	Resources
Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD)	NTIA	Formula allocation	$42,450,000,000	Block grants to states (or administering agency selected by governor), territories, and tribes. Funds may be subgranted.	NOFO likely by end of May 2022. Initial planning funds available after NOFO; remainder likely available in 2023 and after FCC releases new maps.	☑ Deployment ☑ Devices ☑ Affordability ☑ Inclusion	Benton Analysis, K&H Analysis, MDU Uses, NCTA FBA Playbook, ACAC/NCTA Tracker
Block grants to states; each will get at least $100 million (most get much more). Eligible uses include: deploying infrastructure to un/underserved areas and anchor institutions; providing affordable devices; installing/providing wifi for multifamily residential buildings; mapping and planning; and other projects determined by NTIA. Deployment must: first prioritize areas where 80% residents lack 25/3, then areas where 80% lack 100/20, then anchor institutions; offer 100/20 speeds; provide a low-cost option; and not exclude municipal and cooperative providers. Subgrants should use 25% matching funds, but in-kind or CARES/ARPA funds are acceptable. States can initially access $5 million for planning and coordination with local stakeholders.							
State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program	NTIA	Formula allocation	$1,500,000,000	Block grants to states (or administering agency selected by governor), territories, and tribes. Funds may be subgranted.	$60m for planning available in FY2022. $1.4b available between FY 2022-2026. States have 5 years to spend awards.	☑ Deployment ☑ Devices ☑ Affordability ☑ Inclusion	Benton Analysis, NDIA Webinar, Telecompetitor
This program consists of two subprograms: one $60 million program to support the development of state digital equity plans, and a second $1.4 billion program to fund the implementation of those plans. To be eligible for the second program, a state must have its digital equity plan be approved by the NTIA. These plans must include: measurable objectives for promoting internet adoption in vulnerable populations; assessments of plan's impact on state goals for the economy, workforce, education, health, and civil society; and identification of and collaboration with stakeholders.							
Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program	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.	$250m available per year FY 2022-2026. Awardees will submit annual evaluation reports. Grants must be spent within four years.	☑ Deployment ☑ Devices ☑ Affordability ☑ Inclusion	Benton Analysis, NDIA Webinar, Telecompetitor
Public and private entities (except for those state agencies that receive allocations from the above program) may apply to the NTIA for grants from this program. Eligible uses include: digital inclusion activities; 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; and do not duplicate other programs. Awardees must submit regular program evaluations to NTIA.							
Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program (MMBI)	NTIA	Competitive grant	$1,000,000,000	State/local governments, tribes, private companies, public utilities, nonprofits, cooperatives, consortia.	NOFO likely by end of May 2022. Funds available until Sep. 30, 2026	☑ Deployment ☐ Devices ☐ Affordability ☐ Inclusion	Benton Analysis, K&H Analysis
Funds middle mile projects that reduce the cost of connecting un/underserved areas and/or promote resiliency by creating redundant network connections. 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.							
Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)	FCC	Consumer subsidy	$14,200,000,000	Consumers and participating ISPs. Devices must be purchased through ISPs (note: some ISPs do not offer devices).	Transition from EBB to ACP on Dec 31, 2021. ACP lasts until funds exhausted.	☐ Deployment ☑ Devices ☑ Affordability ☐ Inclusion	Benton Analysis, Common Sense Page, Telecompetitor
This is an extension and modification of Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program. It makes the EBB permanent, decreases the benefit amount from $50/mo to $30/mo, and changes some eligibility criteria. Participating ISPs must: promote the benefit; allow the benefit to be applied to any service offering; notify subscribers of the transition; and implement new consumer protections.							
Continuation and Modification of Emergency Broadband Benefit (CCA21)							
Tribal Broadband Connectivity Funding	NTIA	Competitive grant	$2,000,000,000	Tribal governments, organizations, and universities	Not currently accepting applications. First awards made in Nov. 2021, and remainer expected by Spring 2022.	☑ Deployment ☑ Devices ☑ Affordability ☑ Inclusion	Benton Analysis, Original NOFO, NTIA Page
Adds funds to the Tribal Broadband Connectivity program and modifies the program's rules to relax the original emergency timeline. The additional funding may be used for projects that were not funded in the first round of awards and to potentially open another window for applications. The program's rules are modified to allow: 18 months to commit funds (rather than the original 6 months); 4 years to expend funds (rather than the original 1 year); and additional spending on planning and feasibility studies. NTIA can extend deadlines if necessary.							
Continuation of Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (CAA21)							

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

Program Name	Agency	Type	Amount	Recipients	Timeline	Uses	Resources
Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund	Treasury	Formula allocation	$10,000,000,000	Block grants to states (or administering agency selected by governor), territories, and tribes. Funds may be subgranted.	Request funding from Sep. 24 – Dec. 27, 2021 (Tribes Oct. 1 – June 1, 2022). Submit grant plan by Sept. 24, 2022. Funds must be expended by Dec. 31, 2026.	☑ Deployment ☑ Devices ☑ Affordability ☑ Inclusion	Treasury Overview, State Allocations, Treasury Rules, NDIA Analysis, Benton Analysis, Pots and Pans
Block grants to states; each state will get at least $100 million. Eligible uses include: deploying infrastructure to areas that lack reliable wireline speeds of 100/20 and/or 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 should: offer a low-cost option; accept ACP/Lifeline; deliver 100/100 where possible; and prioritize last mile connections. Treasury encourages use of public, nonprofit, and cooperative networks. No matching requirements.							
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF)	Treasury	Formula allocation	$350,000,000,000	Block grants to states, territories, metropolitan cities, and counties. Funds may be subgranted.	Treasury is accepting submissions. Funds should be incurred by Dec. 31, 2024. Projects should be completed by Dec. 31, 2026.	☑ Deployment ☑ Devices ☑ Affordability ☑ Inclusion	Treasury Overview, Treasury Rules, NCSL Tracker, Pots and Pans, ILSR Projects List, ILSR Analysis
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.							
Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF)	FCC		$7,170,000,000	Schools, libraries, consortia that qualify for E-Rate and/or the Libraries Services and Technology Act.	The first two application windows have closed. A third window may be announced for the remaining ~$1 billion.	☑ Deployment* ☑ Devices ☑ Affordability ☐ Inclusion	FCC Overview, Common Sense Page, Misconceptions, Approved Grants
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, 2022 (future funding rounds may expand this window). *Spending on infrastructure is allowed only where infrastructure not otherwise available.							
Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF)	Treasury	Formula allocation	$9,900,000,000	States, territories, and Tribes.	The application windows have closed.	☐ Deployment ☐ Devices ☑ Affordability ☐ Inclusion	Treasury Overview, Treasury Guidane
Intended to help mid- and low-income homeowners who have experienced financial hardship after January 21, 2020. Each state receives a formula-determined allocation and may use it to help homeowners with eligible expenses. May be used to help homeowners pay for internet service.							
Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III)	OESE	Title I formula	$122,700,000,000	State educational agencies (SEAs) and then subgrants to local educational agencies (LEAs).	All funds awarded as of Sept. 30, 2021. Funds must be obligated by Sept. 30, 2022.	☑ Deployment ☑ Devices ☑ Affordability ☐ Inclusion	OESE Overview
Intended to help educational agencies and school districts operate safely and address the impact of the pandemic. Funding distributed to state educational agencies (SEAs) via formula, and SEAs provide subgrants to local educational agencies (LEAs). Funds may be used on hardware, software, and connectivity for students.							

Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021 (CAA21)
Signed into law December 27, 2020. $2.3 trillion total

Program Name	Agency	Type	Amount	Recipients	Timeline	Uses	Resources
Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBB)	FCC	Consumer subsidy	$3,200,000,000	Participating ISPs. Devices must be purchased through ISPs (note: some ISPs do not offer devices).	Enrollment began May 2021. Program was transitioned into the Affordable Connectivity Program on Dec. 31, 2021.	☐ Deployment ☑ Devices ☑ Affordability ☐ Inclusion	FCC Overview, NDIA Explainer, Common Sense Page, Provider Finder
Provides eligible low-income households with a monthly benefit up to $50 for broadband service ($75 on Tribal lands) and a one-time benefit of $100 for purchase of a device (if the recipient also contributes $10–$50). Households eligible if they: fall below 135% of federal poverty level; receive certain federal assistance (Lifeline, Medicaid, SNAP, free/reduced-price lunch, Pell Grant, certain Tribal programs, etc), or participate in an ISP's low-income program.							
Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program	NTIA	Competitive grant	$288,000,000	Partnerships between governments and fixed broadband providers, including public, nonprofit, and cooperative providers.	Not currently accepting applications. Awards pending.	☑ Deployment ☐ Devices ☐ Affordability ☐ Inclusion	NTIA Overview, NTIA Guidance, Benton Analysis
Grants for broadband infrastructure in predominantly rural areas with less than 25/3 and in which no entity is receiving federal or state funding to build infrastructure.							
Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program	NTIA	Competitive grant	$1,000,000,000	Tribal governments, organizations, and universities	Not currently accepting applications. First awards made in Nov. 2021 and remainder expected by Spring 2022.	☑ Deployment ☑ Devices ☑ Affordability ☑ Inclusion	NTIA Overview, Benton Analysis, Original NOFO
Funding is flexible and can be used for deployment (last mile and middle mile), affordability, adoption, distance learning, telehealth, and digital inclusion on tribal lands. Grants may be up to $50m for infrastructure and up to $2.5m for affordability and inclusion. Matching funds not required.							
Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program (CMC)	NTIA	Competitive grant	$285,000,000	Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), Tribal Colleges Universities (TCU), Minority Serving Insts. (MSI), consortia.	Not currently accepting applications. Awards pending.	☐ Deployment ☑ Devices ☑ Affordability ☑ Inclusion	NTIA Overview, NTIA Rule, Benton Analyses, Entity Definitions, Funding Requests
Funds internet services, equipment, and IT personnel for minority-serving institutions, their students, and surrounding communities. Also funds daily operations for minority businesses and nonprofits.							
Governors Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER II and EANS)	OESE	Formula allocation	$4,053,060,000	State governors. Funds may be subgranted to LEAs, IHEs, and/or education-related entities.	Governor must have awarded funds by Jan. 2022. Funds must be obligated by Sept. 30, 2023.	☐ Deployment ☑ Devices ☑ Affordability ☑ Inclusion	OESE Overview
Additional funding for the GEER program, which was started in the CARES Act to assist public schools, and for a new Emergency Assistance to Non-Public School (EANS) program. Funds are flexible but should be used to assist with COVID response, such as on technology infrastructure and professional development that will improve capacity to provide high quality, accessible, distance education, or remote learning.							

Other Broadband Programs

Program Name	Agency	Type	Amount	Recipients	Timeline	Uses	Resources
ReConnect Grant Program	RUS	Competitive grant	$1,150,000,000	Private companies, cooperatives, nonprofits, state and local governments, tribes, territories	Accepting applications until Feb. 2, 2022.	☑ Deployment ☐ Devices ☐ Affordability ☐ Inclusion	USDA Overview, Benton Analysis
Eligible projects must serve areas that lack speeds of 100/20 (was previously 10/1) and provide service of 100/100 to ever location in its service area. Projects will be prioritized if they: target low-density and/or low-income rural areas that lack speeds of 25/3; offer low-cost service options; agree to strong labor standards; are submitted by a local or tribal government, nonprofit, or cooperative. ReConnect offers multiple types of awards, including 100% funded grants, 75% grants, loan/grant combinations, and loans. RDOF and other grant areas are eligible for funding.							
Good Jobs Challenge	EDA	Competitive grant	$500,000,000	State, local, and tribal governments, nonprofits, and educational institutions.	Accepting applications until Feb. 10, 2022.	☐ Deployment ☐ Devices ☐ Connectivity ☑ Adoption	EDA Overview, NOFO
Grants for projects that bring together employers and workforce trainers to develop and implement programs that train workers in the digital skills that lead to good-paying jobs. EDA prioritizes projects that reach historically underserved populations.							
Lifeline	FCC	Consumer subsidy	N/A	Consumers and participating ISPs.	Eligible consumers may apply by contacting their ISP.	☐ Deployment ☑ Devices ☑ Affordability ☐ Inclusion	FCC Overview, USAC Overview, Companies Near Me, Eligibility Criteria
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.							