



**EMPLOYMENT AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**DEED Office of Broadband Development**

# **AMC Annual Conference**

**December 5, 2022**



# Border to Border Grant Program 2022

## Border to Border 2022 Updates

- Award announcements coming soon
  - Just under \$100 million in grant funding
  - Over half our Minnesota Counties will receive awards
  - 130 applications received
  - 75 challenges submitted on 64 projects
  - 44 not recommended for funding due to part or total credible challenge
  - We are projecting that over half of Minnesota's counties will see projects this round

# Border to Border Grant Program Projected 2023

## Border to Border 2023 Updates

- Announcing New Grant Round Soon
  - \$67 million in funding available
    - \$25 million State B2B
    - \$12.6 million Capital Project Funds
    - \$30 million Low Density Pilot Program
      - Cost-share 75/25
      - Applicants can only choose one or the other program to apply under
      - Same application as B2B, additional questions will be required

# Line-Extension Program

## Line-Extension Program

- Launched online and open for registration unserved address (11/29/23 – 10 applications received)
  - Online registration or by calling 651-259-7610
  - Six-month review
  - OBD will send a list of addresses to each broadband provider offering service in Minnesota
  - Providers have 10 days to notify OBD that they can provide service to addresses
  - OBD will contact people to let them know of broadband provider that can offer service
  - Addresses not served by a provider or in an area that will be built with awarded Border-to-Border Broadband grant project, OBD will hold a 60-day reverse auction
    - In their bid, providers will identify the grant amount requested to extend the broadband service.
    - Within 60 days of the auction closing, OBD will select the bids that request the least amount of financial support from the state and that are a cost-effective expenditure of state resources.
    - OBD will then enter into line extension agreements with each winning bidder.
    - Winning bidders will have one year from the date the contract is signed to complete.
    - Winning bidder must build broadband service that offers speeds of at least 100Mbps download and 100Mbps upload.

# Telecommuter Forward Certification Program

Telecommuter-friendly policies create new potential for improving the quality of life for employees, encouraging economic innovation and vitality in communities throughout Minnesota.

- Cities, townships and counties that receive the Telecommuter Forward! Certification have adopted a model resolution that includes a statement of support and commitment to promoting telecommuting.
  - The community appoints one employee or department as the single point of contact for coordinating telecommuting opportunities with that community.
  - Committing to improving the quality of life in Minnesota and encouraging economic vitality.
  - OBD provides communities a model resolution template and instructions on becoming certified below.
  - This certification expands upon border-to-border broadband efforts by providing a way for communities to promote themselves to Minnesotans interested in telecommuting and to businesses that support growing their telecommuting workforce.
  - Online map available of current communities.

<https://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/telecommuter-forward/>

# Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) aka Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

The Federal government is making approximately \$65 billion available for broadband.

- Two programs under that broadband funding include state involvement:
  - The Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (or BEAD) Program - \$42.5 billion
  - Digital Equity (or DE) Program at \$2.75 billion
  - Minnesota will receive a formula-based allocation for each program. Each program also requires the state to develop a plan for how it will spend its allocation.
  - DEED's Office of Broadband Development is working on a "Kick-Off" event for the BEAD/DE plan development for the last week in January. More information and details will be announced soon. We encourage you all to participate in this important planning event.

# Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Act Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

Focus is on infrastructure or making sure there is a connection to the internet from each home or business.

## **FCC Maps**

- If a location does not have a good internet connection as determined by new maps the FCC launched, it is eligible for funding.
- An accurate map is an important resource for targeting funding and other efforts to bring broadband to unserved and underserved communities. The map review is a key first step, as it will be used to help determine eligibility.
- Minnesota's allocation or ability to fund an internet connection will be based on those new FCC maps. We encourage everyone—providers and customers—to be reviewing those maps online to make sure the FCC has it right.
- <https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/home#/>

## **Five-year infrastructure investment plan**

- It must be submitted to the federal government by July 12, 2023.
- The five-year plan will include steps the state will take to get a good broadband connection to every home and business in Minnesota.
- Kick-Off meeting

# Digital Equity Act Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

Focus is to enable the development of a digitally inclusive ecosystem in which all residents will have the digital access and the tools necessary to thrive.

## Digital Equity Plan

- Meaningful community engagement and outreach with placeholders and partners in an effort to identify current assets, as well as identify gaps and barriers for improvement.
  - Digital Equity Lead
  - Community Engagement/Program Management Coordinator
- This work can be aligned with the BEAD Program outreach.
- Planning will take place from December 1, 2022 – November 30, 2023,
- Kick-Off meeting



# Other Broadband Programs

## Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

- **Affordable Connectivity Program**

- Funding to assist eligible households with the monthly cost of broadband service
- Administered by the FCC
- [More information is available on our website](#) and also on the [FCC's website](#)

- **ReConnect Program**

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) received funding under the IIJA for its ReConnect program.
- The ReConnect Program provides loans, grants and loan/grant combinations to facilitate broadband deployment in rural areas with up to \$1.9 billion available this round.
- Round 4 ReConnect window for submitting applications was September 6, 2022 to November 2, 2022.
- Information is on our website regarding [ReConnect](#) and on the [USDA website](#).

# Other Broadband Programs

## Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

- **Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program**

- Additional \$2 billion for NTIA's Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program.
- Direct funding to tribal governments to be used for broadband deployment on tribal lands, as well as for telehealth, distance learning, broadband affordability, and digital inclusion.
- NTIA is the administering agency for this funding and has information on its website on [how to apply and eligible uses](#).

- **Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program**

- NTIA is also administering the Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program.
- Applications for that program were due to NTIA by September 30, 2022. Awards will be announced in March.

# Questions?

- Visit OBD's website: [Office of Broadband Development / Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development \(mn.gov\)](https://www.mn.gov/office-of-broadband-development)
  - Sign up for email updates on grant program on "Contact Us" page of website.
  - Review maps and data; watch recorded webinar on how to use the interactive map.
  - See past projects funded.
  - Locate additional federal resources.
- Contact us at [deed.broadband@state.mn.us](mailto:deed.broadband@state.mn.us) or 651/259-7610

Thank you!