

OVERVIEW – INFRASTRUCTURE BILL FUNDING

PROGRAM	FUNDING	OVERVIEW	ALLOCATION
Broadband Equity, Access And Deployment Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$42 billion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formula-based grants to states to accelerate broadband deployment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administered by NTIA • Each state to receive a minimum of \$100 million • 10% set aside for underserved high-cost areas • States to submit a 5-year action plan with initial requests and are required to coordinate with local and regional entities to distribute funding • States must certify that 100% of unserved areas are met before funding deployment in underserved areas • 25% matching fund requirement will apply (with some exceptions for high-cost areas) • New networks must meet minimum quality standards of 100/20Mbps and provide at least one tier of affordable service • Proposals will likely be due in 2022
Affordable Connectivity Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$14.2 billion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expands and makes permanent the Emergency Broadband Benefit to help low-income families afford landline or mobile broadband services during pandemic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administered by FCC • Low-income families eligible for a \$30/month discount toward any broadband service plan from a participating provider (reducing benefit from \$50/month) • Expands eligibility up to 200% of FPL and to include WIC participants • ACP is open to any broadband provider
Digital equity grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2.75 billion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes 2 new grant programs to promote digital inclusion and equity in historically underserved communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administered by NTIA • State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program (formula-based): \$1.5 billion to states, or \$300 million/year from 2022-2026. 50% based on population, 25% based on the number of households below 150% of FPL, and 25% based on comparative lack of broadband adoption. Each state must submit how it plans to use funds to NTIA • Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program: Awarded directly to grant recipients, who can include a wide range of entities with rules established by NTIA. Budget is \$1.25 billion (\$250 million/year from 2022-2026)

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Tribal Broadband Connectivity program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$2 billion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers grants for broadband deployment, digital inclusion, workforce development, telehealth, and distance learning on tribal lands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administered by NTIA; created in Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 Extends the program timeline so that grantees have 18 months (instead of 6 months) to commit funds to a project and 4 years (instead of 1) to expend all their grant funding NTIA expects to complete its review, selection of successful applicants, and first-round award processing by November 29, 2021 Earliest start date for awards is expected to be December 13, 2021
USDA rural development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$2 billion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants to support rural broadband deployment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administered by US Department of Agriculture \$1.96 billion to go to USDA's existing ReConnect grant and loan program, including \$74 million for USDA's Section 601 broadband loan program and \$5 million for the development of cooperatives to provide broadband Applicants committing to net neutrality will be favored in review
Middle Mile grant program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$1 billion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitive, technology-neutral grants for the construction, improvement, or acquisition of middle mile broadband infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NTIA has 6 months to issue a notice of funding opportunity about the new program; NTIA to make grant awards 9 months after that Funds are available until September 30, 2026 Awardees must complete construction within 5 years of winning a grant Eligible entities include state, local, and tribal governments; telecommunications/technology companies; non-profits; and economic development authorities Applicants must prove that they are capable of competently carrying out a project and operating the resulting middle-mile broadband network Amount funded under the program cannot exceed 70% of project's total costs
Private Activity Bonds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$600 million 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorizes certain broadband projects as eligible activities for tax-exempt private activity bonds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issued by state and local governments to finance public-private collaboration on broadband