Money for Local Fiber Projects: A Funding Guide and Mapping Case Study

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Broadband Funding
Priority Broadband Infrastructure Funding Programs - $105 Billion+

Primary Federal Funding Sources – Approx. 72 Billion
(infrastructure is primary purpose of program)

1. FCC - Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF)
   Up to $20.4 billion in 2 or more funding rounds

2. USDA – 1.3 billion in direct grant/loan programs
   (including Reconnect)

3. NTIA Grant Programs – Approx. $50 billion including:
   • $45b of BEAD program – distributed through States
   • Tribal Connectivity
   • Middle Mile
   • General Infrastructure Grants (last mile)
   • Connecting Minority Communities Pilot

Secondary Federal Funding Sources – Approx. 33 Billion
(infrastructure projects are permissible use of funds)

1. Dept. of Treasury – ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) - $350 billion
distributed to states/locals – spending is discretionary within program rules; $20B dedicated to BB

2. Dept of Treasury – Capital Projects Fund - $10B – may be used for infrastructure, digital equity or connecting anchor institutions. States must apply for funds; funds allocated to states by formula.

3. Other FCC Programs - 2.6 billion (E-Rate, Rural Health, etc.)

4. Other IIJA Programs TBD (i.e., ports, electric grid, cyber, or transportation)

5. Existing state-funded broadband grant programs may overlap with federal funding programs
Key Funding Program Timelines 2022

BEAD Timeline

Happens before FCC publishes DATA MAPS

May 22 – NTIA Issues NOFA to STATES on program eligibility rules and requirements.
  • States to submit Letters of Intent (due approx. 60 days after NOFA issued)
    • States can request planning money in LOI but if granted – they must complete and submit an Action Plan to NTIA on back end

Sept 1 – Carriers must submit coverage data to FCC maps; other entities with data (states, localities, etc with mapping data must also submit at this time.

Sept 1 – June 2023
  • FCC compiles mapping data
  • FCC publishes Initial maps for challenge process
  • FCC Finalizes maps following challenge process

CANNOT Happen until FCC Publishes DATA MAPS –

• NTIA notifies states of eligibility amounts.
• NTIA releases 100M to each state
• States submit an Initial Proposal (states have opportunity to correct and resubmit)
• Once NTIA approves Initial Proposal – states then move on to Final Proposal. (states have opportunity to correct and resubmit
• Once NTIA approves Final Proposal – remaining funding is released

*Note: It is unclear whether the $100M would be released after the initial maps are published or if it would happen after final maps are published. These dates are estimates only.
Anticipated Bead Amounts by State as of 3/16/22

Red = $1B+
Pink = $800M - $1B
Blue = $500M - $800M
Yellow = Under $500M

14 Priority States (Red/Pink)

*Puerto Rico is blue (not pictured)

Data estimates by Broadband.Money and is subject to change
Timeline of State Activity – ARPA/CPF/BEAD

ARPA – 2021/2022

States that awarded ARPA $$ in 2021
Delaware
Maine
Maryland
Ohio

States to award $$ in 2022 (more could be added)
Alabama
Arizona
Arkansas
California
Colorado
Georgia
Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Kansas
Kentucky
Minnesota
Missouri
Montana
Nevada
New Hampshire
New Mexico
New York
North Carolina
Oregon
Pennsylvania
South Carolina
Tennessee
Texas
Virginia
Washington
Wisconsin

CPF – 2022/2023

September 24, 2022
• State applications for CPF funding are due to US Treasury
• Treasury must approve State Plans before releasing funds

BEAD - 2022/2023

End of May 2022
• NTIA issues Notice of Funding Opportunities
• States prepare and submit a Letter of Intent – date TBD
• Begin comprehensive planning process

December 2022 (after initial maps are published)
• States may receive initial 100M
• NTIA notifies States of amounts available for each state

January – June 2023
• States complete Initial and Final Proposal for NTIA
• Receive full funding
Sample – Kentucky Profile

ARPA - $250 million for broadband
First Round Size: $50 million (Note: Kentucky General Assembly limited funding to $50 million before April 1, 2022)

Maximum Grant Award per Application: $5 million

Match Requirement: Minimum of 50%

Speed Threshold: Provide a minimum speed of 100/100 Mbps; or 100/20 if not practicable with ability to scale to 100/00

Update as of 3/11/2022: The Commonwealth received more than 17,000 challenged addresses from the Broadband Deployment Fund Grant Request for Proposals. The final deadline for challenges was on January 6th and the reviewers are exercising due diligence to ensure that the challenge determination process results in a final product that is valid, relevant, and consistent with the scope of the RFP.

Capital Projects Fund Allocated Amount: $182,769,205
BEAD Anticipated Amount: $692,821,013 (Broadband Money)

End of May 2022
• NTIA issues Notice of Funding Opportunities which will be the BEAD program rules for the states

Summer 2022
• Prepare and submit a Letter of Intent for BEAD and begin to prepare Initial Proposal

September 24, 2022
• Deadline for applying to US Treasury for CPF money

December 2022 (after initial maps are published)
• States may receive initial 100M (BEAD)
• NTIA notifies States of BEAD amounts available for each state

January – June 2023
• States complete Initial and Final Proposal for NTIA
• Receive full funding
Sample – Maine Profile

Capital Projects Fund Allocated Amount: $128,245,250
BEAD Anticipated Amount: $302,312,307  (Broadband Money)

End of May 2022
• NTIA issues Notice of Funding Opportunities which will be the BEAD program rules for the states

Summer 2022
• Prepare and submit a Letter of Intent for BEAD and begin to prepare Initial Proposal

September 24, 2022
• Deadline for applying to US Treasury for CPF money

December 2022 (after initial maps are published)
• States may receive initial 100M (BEAD)
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About Us

VETRO, Inc. delivers *Internet Infrastructure Intelligence* through a unique mapping platform.

- Founded 2008 in Maine
- VETRO FiberMap launched 2016
- Broadband Intelligence Platform launched 2020
- We are building the Digital Home for the Physical Internet
Who We Serve

Hundreds of happy customers, including...

- ISPs
- Electric co-ops
- Engineering firms
- WISPs
- Rural telcos
- Dark Fiber
- Municipalities
- and more...

Who We Serve
The Journey of 1,000 Miles Begins With the First Steps
The Money is Calling
And I Must Qualify For It

Grant letting requirements often resemble a Jedi mind puzzle
- Choose your area of interest
- Determine your cost
- Explain your value
- Show your schedule
- Wait

Competition for the funding is fierce
- Non-compliance to the grant rules lessen your chances for award
- Go into the application assuming that you will need to defend against challenges
The Vision

Evotel has begun to bring Fibre to Kathu

How a rural electric co-op connected a community

By expanding into broadband, Kit Carson Co-op provides high-speed Internet to thousands.
Specific data analysis is critical to your application

- Where to apply?
- Why?
- ROI

Effective data presentation tells a stronger story than a long narrative
Data Inputs - Simplified

**VETRO FiberMap**

**Feature Info**

**SPEED_TEST**

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**Map View**

Layers of data from multiple sources displayed in map for view of BB in the geo data.
Dots indicate Served, Underserved and Unserved homes and business locations.

Green polygon represents areas selected by provider grant applicant.
I Won! Now What?

Internet Infrastructure Intelligence

Smart, modern fiber management from strategy to splice

Auto Design

Demand Aggregation

design.

plan.

operate.

build.

Construction Management

OSS/BSS Provisioning
Market & Funding Analytics

Map Theme: Grant Application Categorized

- July 2021 NTIA RFI Responses
- NTIA Indicators of Need
- CQA Service Classification
- Broadband Investment Zones

Layers:
- Unserved
- May Be Unserved
- Unserved or May Be Unserved

Adjacent Network Scenario

NTIA-preferred target areas
Technology Forward

- Analytics/Dashboards
- Shared Map Views
- Visual Grant Tracking
- National and State Data Packages
- Real time data accuracy
- Reporting/Compliance automation
- Robust Fiber Management
- Comprehensive Asset Management long term
Summary

- Regardless of your state, funding requirements require specificity for success
- Data is power
  - Accuracy in unserved and underserved populations is critical
  - Detailed analysis improves your ROI potential
- BEAD funding demands mapping and reporting for the life of the award

Map now-win now-build soon-report often