State Connections

The broadband working group for state legislators

First Friday of Every Month 4:00 ET / 3:00 CT / 2:00 MT / 1:00 PT

WE WILL BEGIN SHORTLY!

Agenda

Please offer suggestions! (in chat or out loud)

State Connections Introduction

- Welcome & overview
- Your topic of interest?

Update on Broadband in 2025

- BEAD for infrastructure
- DEA for technology adoption
- Both at risk

Should We Take Action?

Letter from State Legislators.





Rep. Louis Riggs (R - MO)

Rep. Matt Pierce (D - IN)

State Connections Introduction

State Connections Membership

- · 230 members (legislators or staff)
- 44 states represented

State Legislators in U.S.

- Total legislators 7,300+
- New legislators 15%



Rep. Aftyn Behn @AftynBehn

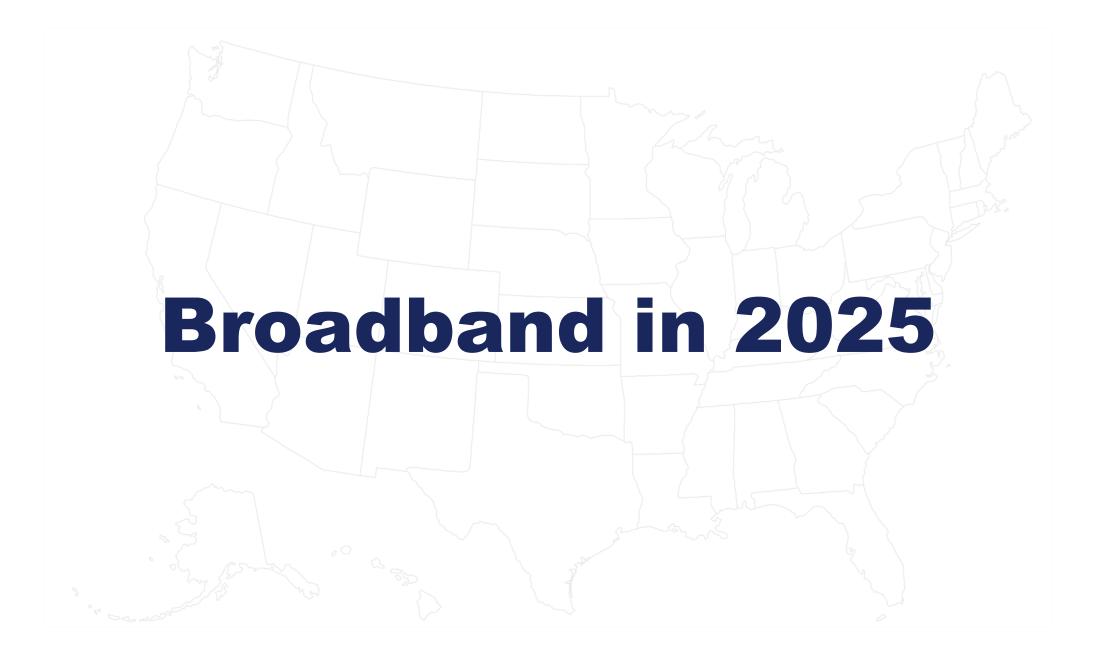
love my "state connections" legislative call with legislators from across the country who care about broadband democracy

...

one of the many perks of this job is meeting other people who care just as loudly about the issues I care about! 💝

4:28 PM \cdot Sep 6, 2024 \cdot **465** Views

We hope you will all feel this way!



Broadband Infrastructure in 2025

1 in 4 rural Americans lack broadband

BEAD - Connecting Every Person In America

- \$42 billion.
- Rural focused, mostly.
- States currently selecting ISPs.
- Issues: slow, regulation, permitting, maps.

Early results are promising

- Competitive bidding.
- Mostly fiber + efficient mix of other tech.
- Affordable, universal, long-term.
- States ready to go.





Technology Adoption in 2025

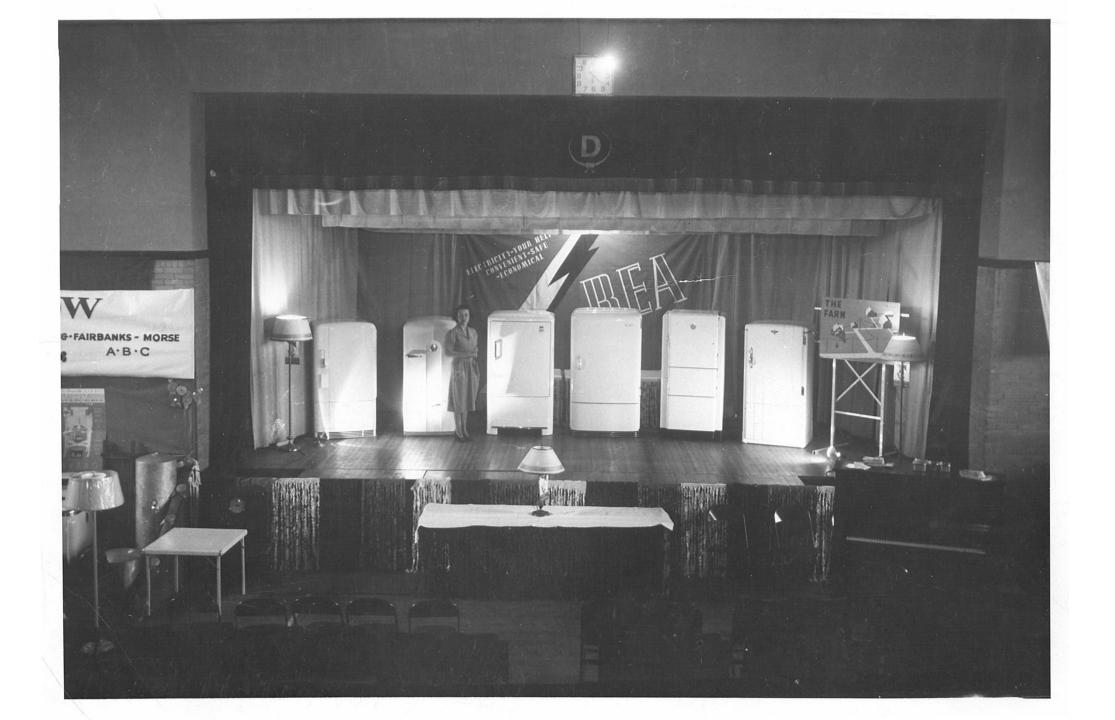
90% of job postings require digital skills.

Digital Equity Act - Getting The Most Out Of Broadband

- \$2.7 billion.
- Focus on vulnerable populations.
- States selecting grantees (governments, nonprofits).
- Issues: "equity," limited funding.

Early results are promising

- Overwhelming demand.
- Diverse array of programs ag training to scam awareness.
- States ready to go.



New Direction?

"An outrageous waste of taxpayer money." -Elon Musk

Changes

- Increase satellite, decrease fiber.
- Remove affordability.
- Cut labor and climate.
- Remove technology adoption.

Clawbacks

Revert funds to Treasury.

Actions

- SPEED for BEAD Act
- Dept. Commerce Action
- Admin. Roth Nomination
- Texas Pauses DEA
- WSJ: \$20b to Starlink?

Potential Consequences

"Delay broadband deployment for years." - Sarah Morris, formerly NTIA

Expectation

- Delay state programs.
- Decrease funding for states.
- Reduce quality of broadband service.
- Save money (short term)
- Give ISPs more flexibility.

Uncertainty

• Are changes mandatory or optional?

"While I am all for improving the program, I do not want to see West Virginia wait longer than is necessary or have to redo their proposals and application."

-Sen. Capito (R-WV)



Letter to NTIA

Co-signed by as many state legislators as possible!

Position

- Voluntary not mandatory changes.
- States are doing good work, don't disrupt it.

Your Action

- Review and sign letter.
- Circulate among colleagues.
- CC your federal delegation.

March X, 2025 National Telecommunications and Information Administration U.S. Department of Commerce ation lead 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20230 RE: BEAD and DE Implementation Dear Administrator Roth Congratulations on your confirmation as Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). We look forward to working with you to bring fast, reliable, affordable broadband to every last one of our constituents. We, the undersigned group of X bipartisan state legislators from Y states, respectfully request that NTIA allow state Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) and Digital Equity (DE) programs to proceed without delay. If NTIA would like to change program rules, we ask that the changes be optional rather than mandatory (e.g. allow states to request exemptions from certain requirements via waivers). We are concerned that mandatory changes would delay our states' programs, many of which are already well underway, and undermine states' authority, which is a central feature of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's broadband programs After three years of preparation, our states are just now beginning to implement the BEAD and DE programs. And, so far, it is going very well. For BEAD, initial grant rounds have resulted in nearly universal coverage, widespread competition, and substantial winnings for local and regional providers.¹ The flexibility to prioritize fiber while still incorporating wireless and satellite is allowing us to achieve high quality coverage at a reasonable price.² For DE, our states are creating programs that address the full range of digital needs-skills for agricultural workers, use of telehealth, personal finance and entrepreneurship, online safety, and government efficiency.¹ In our states, these two programs—BEAD and DE—are designed to work together to ensure that all people can access and reap the full benefit of these taxpayer funded networks. immary of state results to date Landoy of Louisian

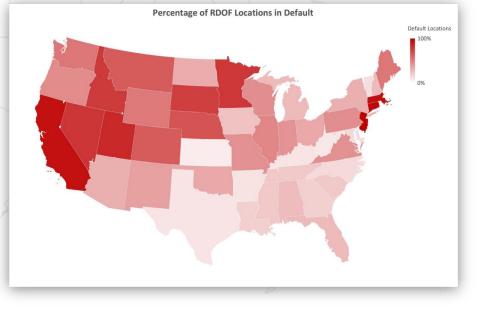
General Updates & Discussion

Discussion

- What are you working on?
- What topics should we address in the future?

Resources

- BEAD's Groundhog Day Moment
- RDOF Defaults on Each State
- NCSL Toolkit



Contact Information

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