

SHOW ME BROADBAND

Dedicated to ensuring that every home, farm, and business in Missouri has fast, reliable, and affordable internet.

April 2025

AGENDA

- BJ Tanksley, Director, Missouri Office of Broadband
 - All Things Relating to the BEAD Process – Updates
- Adam Thorpe, Missouri Office of Broadband
 - All Things Relating to the BEAD Process - Updates
- D’Mitri Farthing, Missouri Office of Broadband
 - What is the latest on Digital Equity Grants and State Capacity Grants
- Drew Garner, Benton Institute
 - What are we hearing on the federal front on BEAD and DE?
- Janie
 - What is happening in Missouri

BJ Tanksley, Director Missouri Office of Broadband & Staff

BJ and Adam reported the following:

- Acknowledged appreciation for the BEAD/DO Letter of support sent to Commerce and NTIA
- Believes there will be changes and already seeing interruptions in the timeframe but they are optimistic they will get through the process

BJ Tanksley, Director Missouri Office of Broadband & Staff

DO Programs

- State Capacity grant applications are all reviewed, sent to NTIA, through the curing process and waiting on NTIA approval
- Selected contingent awardees have been notified (14 sub grantees selected)
- Applicants not notified of contingent award were not selected
- This application cycle included both state-wide and local applicants. State-wide applicant amounts are higher due to area served.
- Next two cycles will only be for local applicants.

BJ Tanksley, Director Missouri Office of Broadband & Staff

BEAD Program

- OBD staff continue to review the applications – good coverage of areas unserved at a good cost so they are optimistic
- Close to having all applications scored but still working on some BAFO & subround 1 apps so must wait until these are scored as well
- Ahead of timeframe for getting this piece completed
- Some applications are above what can be funded so we will not reach all of the 90% locations with applications – they will go into round 2
- Hearing that mid-May is when to expect changes from NTIA. This will drive timing for round 2 and how they are able to communicate all of the results
- Appreciate the patience and support during this time of uncertainty.

Drew Garner, Benton Institute

- State Connections BEAD/DE Letter
 - 115 Bipartisan Signatories
 - 28 States Represented
 - Press Coverage
- Miscellaneous Federal Updates
 - Hearing for Arielle Roth nomination to NTIA held – she was non-committal in discussing changes. She would not even commit to the state’s allocations being left alone.
 - West Virginia is done with their BEAD process but decided to request a 90-day extension rather than send in their final report and relook at processes. This is confusing as their results would have brought fiber to every location at a good cost.

Drew Garner, Benton Institute

- Miscellaneous Federal Updates

- We are hearing that mid-May is when the changes are anticipated but we are hearing different things about the extent of the changes.
- Main change we are hearing that concerns us the most is the possibility that a price cap allowable for each location will be put in place which would probably be very low. If so, it allows the government to set the technology awarded
- Consistently hearing getting rid of labor requirements, revision or elimination of affordability requirements
- Recent article that NTIA paused the Digital Equity grant process – we cannot substantiate this from anyone but the link to the article is:

[Trump Administration Freezes \\$2.7 Billion in ‘Equity’ Grants](#)

Janie, Show Me Broadband

- Show Me Broadband BEAD/DE Letter
 - 60+ Signatures
- Interviews with media and organizations on BEAD and DE, RDOF report and spreadsheet and latest AG Letter
- Rep Riggs has been busy too
 - AG Bailey Letter – has received lots of national attention
 - Interviews and op eds
- **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**
 - Need suggestions on what returned RDOF funds should be used for IF they are returned to the state. Send ideas to Janie.

Janie to Send You:

- One pager on broadband information in MO
- Information on the economic benefits of broadband for talking points
- Suggestions for conducting advocacy from your organization

SHOW ME BROADBAND

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