

An outline map of the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii, serving as a background for the text.

State Connections

The broadband working group for state legislators

Third Friday of Every Month

12:00 ET / 11:00 CT / 10:00 MT / 9:00 PT

April 2026

Agenda

Recording meeting

State Legislative Update - Rep. Louis Riggs

- *Legislating state broadband standards and oversight*

Broadband Office Update - Brian Thorn, Rhode Island Broadband Director

- *Empowering the state broadband office*

What Can We Do For You? - Updates from Your State

Federal Broadband News

- *BEAD Non-Deployment*
- *Digital Equity Act*
- *Preemption of Local Permitting Authority*
- *FCC to Change Lifeline Program*

An outline map of the United States, showing the borders of all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The map is centered on the page and serves as a background for the text.

Legislative Update

Rep. Louis Riggs (MO-05)

An outline map of the United States, showing state boundaries. The map is light gray and serves as a background for the text.

Broadband Office Update

*Brian Thorn,
Rhode Island Broadband Director*



Updates from Attendees

What's On Your Mind?

How Can We Help You?

- *Broadband activity in your state?*
- *Questions we can answer?*
- *Topic suggestions for next meeting?*
- *Provide research or witnesses?*

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Federal Broadband News

Drew Garner & Gigi Sohn

Benton Institute for Broadband & Society

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BEAD Non-Deployment

When & How Can States Use The “Leftover” Money?

BEAD

\$42 Billion

Use of Funds:

1. connect un- and underserved locations;
2. connecting eligible community anchor institutions;
3. broadband mapping, planning, data collection;
4. improving internet service quality/affordability in MDUs
5. broadband adoption, including devices programs
6. any use to facilitate the goals of the program

Deployment

\$20 Billion

Use of Funds:

1. connect un- and underserved locations;
2. connecting eligible community anchor institutions;
3. broadband mapping, planning, data collection;
4. improving internet service quality/affordability in MDUs
5. broadband adoption, including devices programs
6. any use to facilitate the goals of the program

Deployment

\$20 Billion

Non-Deployment

\$22 Billion

Use of Funds:

1. connect un- and underserved locations;
2. connecting eligible community anchor institutions;
3. broadband mapping, planning, data collection;
4. improving internet service quality/affordability in MDUs
5. broadband adoption, including devices programs
6. **any use** to facilitate the goals of the program

When & How Can States Use Non-Deployment Money?

Timeline of Events

Dec 11: **Trump AI E.O.**

- States with “onerous” AI laws ineligible for ND money
- Further guidance by March 11th

Feb 10/11: **NTIA Listening Sessions**

March 6: **Guidance Delayed**

- No updated timeline

When & How Can States Use Non-Deployment Money?

Remaining Questions, Speculative Answers

When will guidance come out?

Which states have “onerous” AI laws?

- target a “*handful*” of states laws that “*directly impact the development and success of AI.*” - [NTIA Donilon \(CoS\)](#)

How can states use money?

- “*permitting... workforce... public safety communications... remaining unserved locations*” - [NTIA Roth \(Asst. Sec.\)](#)

Top (TX)
\$2,054,940,883

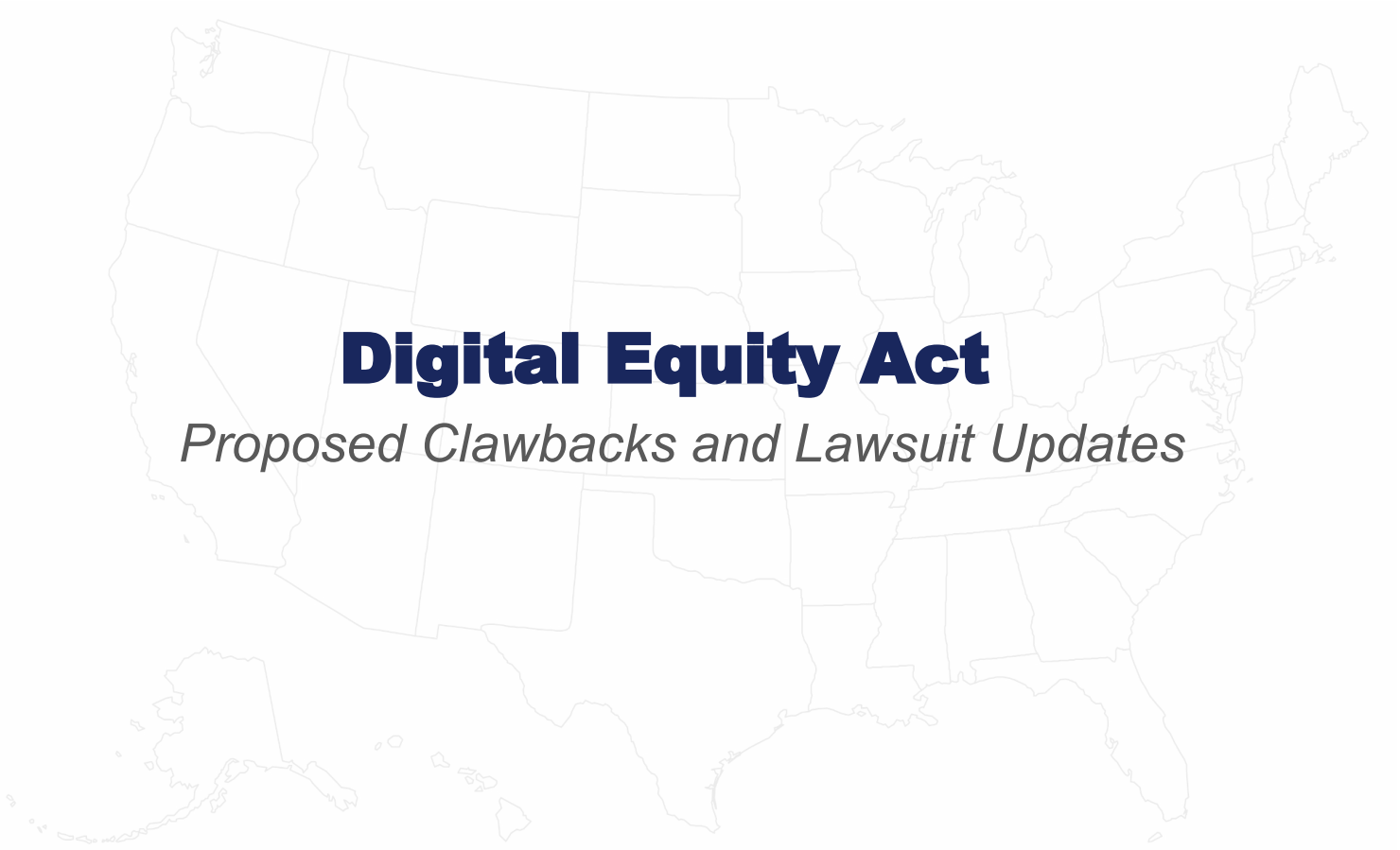
Median
\$342,259,279

Bottom (IL)
\$49,775,618

Table 1: State BEAD Non-Deployment Estimates (March 2026)*

| State | Non-Deployment | State | Non-Deployment | State | Non-Deployment |
|-------|-----------------|-------|-----------------|-------|-----------------|
| AL | \$936,959,556 | LA | \$856,790,466 | OH | \$533,058,450 |
| AK | \$387,966,720 | ME | \$223,608,437 | OK* | \$304,117,127 |
| AZ | \$546,988,872 | MD | \$188,672,888 | OR | \$101,063,114 |
| AR | \$718,812,149 | MA | \$128,586,998 | PA | \$450,482,429 |
| CA* | \$289,270,000 | MI | \$642,756,541 | RI | \$98,152,671 |
| CO | \$405,918,148 | MN | \$272,975,221 | SC | \$510,177,594 |
| CT | \$136,965,043 | MS | \$695,208,358 | SD | \$134,411,464 |
| DE | \$94,231,644 | MO | \$945,777,136 | TN | \$611,416,949 |
| FL | \$940,285,246 | MT | \$325,287,271 | TX | \$2,054,940,883 |
| GA | \$1,002,575,665 | NE | \$360,725,514 | UT | \$109,955,136 |
| HI | \$118,811,744 | NV | \$246,015,967 | VT | \$136,067,270 |
| ID | \$157,017,687 | NH | \$177,936,962 | VA | \$936,319,162 |
| IL* | \$49,775,618 | NJ | \$201,505,313 | WA | \$491,422,701 |
| IN | \$384,867,442 | NM | \$293,404,234 | WV | \$665,108,716 |
| IA | \$233,028,891 | NY | \$377,377,986 | WI | \$359,231,286 |
| KS | \$285,120,978 | NC | \$1,214,261,811 | WY | \$149,447,360 |
| KY | \$719,046,263 | ND | \$124,028,847 | | |

*Amounts subject to change based on state updates and NTIA modifications to state BEAD Final Proposals



Digital Equity Act

Proposed Clawbacks and Lawsuit Updates

Digital Equity Act

Program to Boost Broadband Adoption and Digital Skills

May 8th 2025: President Trump “terminated” DEA. (Anniversary soon)

Since then:

- Over \$2 billion in grants cancelled.
- The National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA) sued the Trump administration. Litigation is proceeding.
- The White House budget proposes to clawback remaining DEA funds.

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American Broadband Deployment Act (HR 2289)

Federal Preemption of State and Local Permitting Authority

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FCC's Proposed Lifeline Changes

Harder to Access, Fewer People Eligible

What is Lifeline?

Like the ACP but Older, Smaller, and Still Around

\$9.25*/mo to help low-income households buy phone/internet service

- *\$5.25/mo voice only; tribal recipients get +\$25/mo
- Eligibility: Medicaid, SNAP, SSI, Federal Public Housing, Veterans/Survivors Benefits, ≤135% FPL, Tribal programs.

Enrollment

- National: 21% enrollment (8m/38m). MO: 17% (116k/664k)
- Long term decline (18m in 2012, 12m in 2016)

Limits

- Major ISPs don't participate (only "ETCs")
- Enrollment challenges (automatic vs document)

FCC Lifeline Reform 2026

Targetted at fraud but will impact legitimate users

Larger Context

- Cuts to qualifying programs (i.e. SNAP, Medicaid) = fewer people eligible
- Eliminating states' ability to "opt-out" of federal system (CA, OR, TX)

Proposed Changes (not exhaustive)

- Limit to citizens and legal immigrants w/ 5 year wait
- Revise one-per-household rule (financial unit vs address)
- Full SSN (instead of last 4)
- Secondary consent (confirm enrollment via text/email)
- Usage requirements (use once every 30 days or lose benefit)

FCC Lifeline Reform 2026

Targetted at fraud but will impact legitimate users

Timeline

- Currently open for public feedback (comments May; replies April 2)
- Notice of Proposed Rulemaking available [here](#)

What's Missing?

- Questions about the size of the benefit
- Questions about how to improve enrollment

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Next Meeting

May 15th

12:00 ET / 11:00 CT / 10:00 MT / 9:00 PT

Contact Information



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