

THE BIG PICTURE

- More than 80 federal programs across 14 federal agencies have been allocated funding that can be used for broadband-related purposes, including E-Rate (FCC/USAC), Reconnect (USDA), Community Connect Grant Program, Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF), and more.
- In 2020, the Broadband DATA Act required the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to collect granular service availability data from wired, fixed wireless, and satellite broadband providers. The new broadband coverage map data will be required for upcoming federal grants.

THE BREAKDOWN:

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA):

- **State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLRF) (Treasury)**
 - \$350 billion to states, cities, counties
 - Allowable use includes broadband infrastructure
- **Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (Treasury/ State Grant Plan through DEO)**
 - \$10 billion total, with \$366 million for Florida
 - Focused on symmetrical 100Mbps/100Mbps broadband

IIJA Broadband Programs:

- **Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program (NTIA)**
 - \$42.45 billion to states for broadband infrastructure
 - Each state will receive a minimum allocation of \$100 million with additional funding to be distributed upon completion of mapping
- **Digital Equity Act (NTIA)**
 - \$2.75 billion to promote digital equity and inclusion grant programs for the 21st Economy
- **Middle Mile Program (NTIA)**
 - \$1 billion designated to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas. Middle mile infrastructure broadly refers to the mid-section of Internet infrastructure that carries large amounts of data at high speeds over long distances
- **ReConnect Loan and Grant Program (USDA RUS)**
 - \$2 billion additional funding to RUS providing funds for the construction, improvement, and acquisition of facilities and equipment

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill:

- Signed by President Biden on November 15, 2021, provides \$973 billion from Fiscal Years 2022 to 2026. The bill includes \$550 billion in new investments for all modes of transportation, water, power and energy, environmental remediation, public lands, resilience, and broadband

State Funding

- **Opportunity Grant Program—\$400 million in FY 22-23 award grants for the installation or deployment of infrastructure to benefit unserved areas**
 - Local governments are eligible recipients to provide broadband where ISPs have not deployed service to an unserved area.
 - DEO Office of Broadband is currently undergoing rulemaking for grant criteria
- **Rural Infrastructure Fund (RIF)**
 - \$31.6 million available to initiate the planning, preparing, and financing of infrastructure projects in rural communities which will encourage job creation, capital investment, and the strengthening and diversification of rural economies. Now includes broadband
- **Regional Rural Development Grants**
 - Grant program created to facilitate innovation and economic development through the support of rural leaders in Florida.
 - An organization may receive up to \$50,000 or \$250,000, if representing two or more rural counties, in a rural area of opportunity, and must be matched each year by nonstate resources in an amount equal to 25 percent of the state contribution



BROADBAND

UPDATE

JANUARY 2023



PROGRAMS & FUNDING

STATE

Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)

JUNE 2020

Rural Infrastructure Fund

- Expanded to include Broadband access and availability projects

DEO Office of Broadband Created

- Lead State Entity designation

- Tasked with creating Strategic Plan

- Build and Facilitate Local Technology Planning Teams (LTPTs)

- Provide technical and planning assistance to Rural Communities

- Establish a Broadband Opportunity Grant Program

Local Technology Planning Teams (LTPTs)

- Play critical role with the State Office to identify grant funding
- DEO has resources including the LTPT Toolkit to identify needs
- LTPT directives include: location, unserved/underserved residents and businesses, identifying assets, building partnerships, cross-section of community
- DEO hosts monthly LTPT leaders meetings

JUNE 2020

HB 1239 Passes

Strategic Plan Complete

June 30, 2022

→ Biennial updates 6/30/24

LTPT Toolkit Launch

September 2021

LTPT Leaders Meetings Begin

March 2022

State Broadband Map

- \$1.5 million for availability map by June 30, 2022

FY 22-23

- Appropriated \$400 million for FY 22-23
- Rulemaking currently underway (June-->)

2020

2021

2022

2023

Approximately end of 2022

Broadband DATA Act

- New Federal Communications Commission broadband mapping ongoing through end of 2022
- Federal funding will be directed to unserved and underserved regions from mapping results

MARCH 2021

American Rescue Plan Act

- Signed into law includes: \$10 Billion for capital projects that directly enable work, education and health monitoring

Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (US Treasury Program)

- Florida received \$366 million for State Grant Plan
 - December 2021 - Florida applies for \$366 million

Plan submission deadline

September 2022

State Grant Plan from DEO must:

- Address critical needs related to work, education, and health monitoring AND address a critical need made apparent and exacerbated by

DECEMBER 2020

Rural Digital Opportunity Fund

- FCC awards \$191.8 million in reverse action

Federal Speed Definitions

- Unserved: 25/Mbps down, 3 Mbps up
- Underserved: 100 Mbps down, 20 Mbps up

NOVEMBER 2021

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act “Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill”

- provides \$65 billion to connect all Americans to affordable, reliable high-speed internet

Broadband Equity, Access, and Development (BEAD Program)

- \$42 billion --> \$100 million per state (floor). FL could receive as much as \$2 billion
- Supports infrastructure deployment, mapping and adoption

BEAD Notice of Funding Opportunity

- May 13 - Application Opens
- July 18 - Letter of Intent Due
- Aug 15 - Initial Planning Funds Application Due

Middle Mile Program (NTIA)

- \$1 billion designated to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas

FEDERAL