



Pennsylvania  
Broadband Development Authority

# Broadband Programs & Resources

Investing in Internet for All



Herndon, PA



Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority  
Honorable, Uri Monson, Chairman  
Brandon Carson, Executive Director  
[broadband.pa.gov](http://broadband.pa.gov)





## PA Broadband Development Authority (PBDA)

The Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority (PBDA), signed into law on December 22, 2021, is an independent agency under the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED).

The PBDA is responsible for creating a statewide broadband plan and distributing federal and state monies for broadband expansion in unserved and underserved areas of the Commonwealth. Its primary goal is to bridge the digital divide in Pennsylvania and ensure that all Pennsylvania residents have access to affordable and reliable high-speed internet, whether at home, work, or while traveling.

### Board of Directors

The PBDA is governed by an 11-member board. Representation from each legislative caucus, five Secretaries across five commonwealth agencies, the Chair of the PUC, and the Executive Director of the Center for Rural PA.

- **Uri Monson**, PBDA Chairman, Secretary of the Budget
- **Kristin Phillips-Hill**, PBDA Board Secretary, PA Senate, District 28
- **John Kane**, PBDA Board Assistant Secretary, PA Senate, District 9
- **Robert F. Matzie**, PA House of Representatives, District 16
- **Carl Metzgar**, PA House of Representatives, District 69
- **Stephan DeFrank**, Chairman, PA Public Utility Commission
- **Dr. Kyle Kopko**, Executive Director, The Center for Rural Pennsylvania
- **Reggie McNeil**, Secretary, Department of General Services
- **Dr. Khalid Mumin**, Secretary, Department of Education
- **Russell Redding**, Secretary, Department of Agriculture
- **Rick Siger**, Secretary, Department of Community and Economic Development



## Federal & State Programs

### Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program

The [Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment \(BEAD\)](#) program aims to help everyone in America get affordable, reliable high-speed internet by funding infrastructure deployment programs. In June 2023, Pennsylvania received \$1.16 billion in BEAD funding to assist in the expansion of high-speed broadband infrastructure across the state.

- **BEAD Challenge Process**

As a recipient of BEAD funds, Pennsylvania is required to conduct a [challenge process](#) to validate and finalize the Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) and Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) eligible to be served by BEAD funded networks. Any changes made to BSL data during this challenge process will be based on evidence submitted by qualified participants.

### Broadband Ready Communities (BBRC)

The [Broadband Ready Communities \(BBRC\)](#) program is intended to increase investment and opportunity for broadband infrastructure investment in Pennsylvania. This program aims to reduce procedural, policy, and permitting barriers to broadband deployment at the municipal level and to encourage broadband infrastructure investment within participating communities.

### Digital Equity Act (DEA)

The [Digital Equity Act \(DEA\)](#) aims to promote digital inclusion and advance equity for all through planning and implementation programs. These programs are designed to ensure all communities have access to affordable, reliable high-speed internet to meet their needs and improve their lives. *PBDA is eligible to receive up to \$25 million under the first tranche of the Digital Equity Capacity Program.*

### Capital Projects Fund (CPF)

The U.S. Department of Treasury awarded \$279 million to Pennsylvania for critical capital projects. In June 2022, the Pennsylvania General Assembly appropriated this funding to the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority (PBDA), which is using the [Capital Projects Fund \(CPF\)](#) to establish grant programs that identify eligible projects that meet program guidelines and federal requirements.

- **CPF: Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP)**

Through the [Broadband Infrastructure Program \(BIP\)](#), \$205 million in federal funding was made available for businesses, non-profits, local governments, and economic development organizations. This funding will help to facilitate the deployment of high-speed internet service infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas of the Commonwealth. *Applications for BIP funding closed in 2023.*

- **CPF: Multi-Purpose Community Facilities (Facilities)**

The [Multi-Purpose Community Facilities \(Facilities\)](#) program will offer \$45 million in competitive grants to community anchor institutions and units of local government for projects to construct, acquire, or improve facilities that are, or will be open to the public and will directly enable work, education, and health monitoring at the respective facility. *Applications for Facilities funding closed in April 2024.*

- **CPF: Digital Connectivity Technology (Technology)**

The [Digital Connectivity Technology \(Technology\)](#) program will offer \$20 million in competitive grants to increase access to technology devices where affordability has been identified as a barrier to broadband adoption and use. *PBDA posted guidelines and anticipates opening the program in late June/early July 2024*

# PBDA Milestones

The following timeline shows key milestones for PBDA activities from May 2022 to December 2024.

## May 2022

- BEAD Program Opened
- Digital Equity Program Opened

## July 2022

- BEAD Letter of Intent
- Digital Equity Planning Funds Application, Submitted

## August 2022

- BEAD Planning Funds Application, Submitted

## November 2022

- Digital Equity Planning Funds Application, Approved
- BEAD Planning Funds Application, Approved

## November 2022 - August 2023

- BEAD 5-year Action Plan Design

## May 2023

- CPF-Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP), Opened

## August 2023

- CPF-BIP Program Application Window, Closed
- BEAD 5-year Action Plan, Submitted

## October 2023

- BEAD 5-year Action Plan, Approved
- BEAD Initial Proposal Vol. I, Submitted

## December 2023

- BEAD Initial Proposal Vol. II, Submitted and under review
- Statewide Digital Equity Plan Design

## January 2024

- CPF-Multi-Purpose Community Facilities (Facilities) Program Opened

## February 2024

- BEAD Initial Proposal Vol. I, Approved
- Statewide Digital Equity Plan, Submitted and under review

## March 2024

- Statewide Digital Equity Plan, Approved

## April 2024

- BEAD Challenge Submission Process Begins and Portal Rollout
- Broadband Ready Communities (BBRC) Program Launch
- CPF-BIF Award Announcements

## May 2024

- BEAD Initial Proposal Vol. II, Approved

## June 2024

- CPF-Digital Connectivity Technology (Technology) Program Opened

## July 2024

- BEAD Challenge Submission Process Ends
- CPF-Facilities Award Announcements

## December 2024

- BBRC Program registration closes

## Contact Us

Get the latest on grant programs, challenge and map updates, and community engagement events by visiting the PBDA website and signing up for the Broadband Newsletter.



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