



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

URI Z. MONSON
SECRETARY
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF THE BUDGET

March 25, 2025

The Honorable Josh Shapiro
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

The Honorable Kim L. Ward
President Pro Tempore
Senate of Pennsylvania
Senate Box 203039
Harrisburg, PA 17120

The Honorable Joe Pittman
Majority Leader
Senate of Pennsylvania
Senate Box 203041
Harrisburg, PA 17120

The Honorable Jay Costa
Democratic Leader
Senate of Pennsylvania
Senate Box 203043
Harrisburg, PA 17120

The Honorable Joanna E. McClinton
Speaker of the House
House of Representatives
House Box 202191
Harrisburg, PA 17120

The Honorable Matthew D. Bradford
Majority Leader
House of Representatives
House Box 202070
Harrisburg, PA 17120

The Honorable Jesse Topper
Republican Leader
House of Representatives
House Box 202100
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Shapiro and Leaders of the General Assembly:

The Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority (PBDA) hereby submits its annual report, as mandated by Act 96 of 2021. PBDA has made substantial progress in the past year and has several updates to share.

In April 2024, PBDA's Board of Directors approved \$204,168,889 for [53 Capital Projects Fund \(CPF\) Broadband Infrastructure Program \(BIP\) grants](#), impacting 43 counties and providing funds to connect approximately 50,000 homes and businesses across the Commonwealth. The CPF BIP grant program funds extensions of existing last-mile cable modem and fiber-to-the-premise broadband networks as well as large-scale regional projects to provide reliable, high-speed internet to unserved and underserved areas. The awarded projects are currently in various stages of planning, permitting, and construction with internet services to launch later this year, with all projects slated for completion by December 31, 2026.

An additional \$45 million in CPF funding was approved by the PBDA Board through the Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program in October 2024. [Grant approvals were awarded to Community Anchor Institutions \(CAIs\) and units of local government](#) for community 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 each facility. PBDA anticipates high impact from the funds approved for these community development and broadband access initiatives.

The third CPF program implemented in 2024, the Digital Connectivity Technology Program, will increase access to technology devices where affordability is a barrier to broadband adoption and use. PBDA partnered with HP Inc. to distribute \$20 million in laptop systems to public-facing CAIs and units of local government. Through its first application round, [117 entities were approved to receive 9,122 laptops](#), impacting 42 counties throughout the Commonwealth. A second application round will open in 2025.

PBDA commenced its serviceable location Challenge Process in April 2024, in accordance with NTIA guidance. Fifty-one entities participated in the Challenge Process, which resulted in 155,910 Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) and 5,026 Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) eligible for BEAD investments.

In May 2024, The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) approved Volume II of PBDA's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Initial Proposal. Pennsylvania was one of the first 10 out of 56 states and territories to complete this stage of the federal approval process. Volume II outlines PBDA's proposed process for implementing its subgrantee selection and grant management processes. NTIA also approved PBDA's Initial Proposal Funding Request, which details PBDA's proposed programmatic and administrative use of the \$1.16 billion it was allocated to connect Pennsylvanians.

Throughout the BEAD planning process, stakeholder engagement and public outreach have remained top priorities for PBDA. Multiple webinars and public meetings were conducted to inform and engage stakeholders, including local governments, internet service providers, and community organizations. The sessions provided detailed information and obtained feedback regarding the BEAD program, application procedures, and timelines, fostering collaboration and ensuring that all stakeholders are well-prepared to participate in the program.

Comprehensive BEAD program guidelines were developed and made publicly available in September 2024, ensuring transparency and providing potential applicants with the necessary information to prepare for funding opportunities. PBDA formally began its BEAD subgrantee selection process by opening the program for applications on November 22, 2024. The first BEAD application round closed on February 7, 2025. Submitted applications are currently under review with a second application round to follow. Formal BEAD awards will be granted following NTIA's approval of PBDA's Final Proposal, which will summarize subgrantee selection and review processes and will detail compliance with processes PBDA committed to undertake in its Initial Proposal. The timeline for awarding BEAD grants is unclear as potential changes to the program are being discussed at the federal level. PBDA is closely monitoring this and is prepared to adjust as needed to meet federal requirements while remaining focused on the goal of ensuring all Pennsylvanians have access to reliable, high-speed internet.

With more than \$250 million in investments in 2024 and an additional \$1.16 billion anticipated in 2025 and beyond, PBDA's initiatives are having an impact. Public and private investments have significantly reduced the number of unserved and underserved locations in Pennsylvania from approximately 330,000 in 2022 to 255,000 in 2024. **These figures represent a reduction of over 20% in the number of Pennsylvanians that lack internet access.** Of the remaining 255,000 locations that lack high-speed internet today, nearly 95,000 are in areas with projects already underway in various stages of planning, permitting, engineering, and construction. PBDA will now focus on the approximately 160,000 remaining locations that are eligible for BEAD funding in 2025 and beyond.

While PBDA continues to invest in broadband infrastructure to ensure Pennsylvanians have the access they need, it is also working to enhance digital skills and promote broadband adoption. Through funds from the federal Digital Equity Act, Pennsylvania was granted \$25 million in December 2024 to implement the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program.

To increase support and opportunity for broadband infrastructure investment within the Commonwealth, PBDA has developed the Broadband Ready Communities (BBRC) Program. The BBRC Program encourages the reduction in procedural, policy, and permitting barriers to broadband deployment at the municipal level. It enables municipalities to review relevant policies, procedures, and permitting to reduce barriers for both local governments and the internet service providers working to connect communities. BBRC also aims to foster relationships and drive clear communication between these entities, as well as with PBDA. Participation is optional for municipalities but strongly encouraged.

PBDA continues to hold quarterly meetings with its board of directors, as well as its four sub-committees, made up of experts in Data & Mapping, Outreach & Education, Workforce & Supply Chain, and Technical, focusing on specific aspects of broadband development. All meetings are open to the public and are an opportunity for PBDA to gain professional input from key stakeholders. To further its public engagement efforts, PBDA releases a monthly newsletter. Throughout 2024, PBDA also offered a variety of webinars and training sessions, particularly to inform prospective applicants on the technical aspects of its grant programs and to equip its subgrantees with the knowledge and tools to manage successful projects. Similar training opportunities will be available in the coming year.

PBDA's efforts over the last year demonstrate its commitment to a deliberate and strategic approach to connecting all Pennsylvanians with reliable, high-speed internet and ensuring individuals have the skills needed to fully participate in the digital economy. PBDA remains dedicated to transparency and collaboration with all stakeholders as it continues to invest in communities across the Commonwealth. PBDA is well-positioned and prepared for the work in the year ahead. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Uri Z. Monson', written in a cursive style.

Uri Z. Monson
Chairman, Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority