



Digital Equity Act (DEA)

DEA Federal Funding

The [Digital Equity Act \(DEA\)](#) is a \$2.75 billion federal funding program established by the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The DEA aims to promote digital inclusion and advance equity for all through three planning and implementation grant programs administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

The following federal programs are designed to ensure all communities have access to affordable, reliable high-speed internet to meet their needs and improve their lives. The [Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority \(PBDA\)](#) works with the NTIA to apply for and receive funds that support Pennsylvania's digital equity plans and programs in Pennsylvania.



Digital Equity Planning Program

The Digital Equity Planning Program is a \$60 million formula grant program to help U.S. states and territories develop digital equity plans. *The NTIA awarded \$1.6 million to the PBDA.*

Digital Equity Capacity Program

The Digital Equity Capacity Program is a \$1.44 billion formula grant for the U.S. states and territories that received Digital Equity Planning grants and produced approved state digital equity plans. Funds will be used to support digital equity projects and the implementation of digital equity plans. *Based on the formula for this grant, PBDA is eligible to receive up to \$25 million under the first tranche of the Digital Equity Capacity Program.*

Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program

The Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program is a \$1.25 billion competitive grant program. Details about eligibility have not been announced, but this is expected to fund annual grant programs for five years to implement digital equity projects.

Pennsylvania's Broadband Plans

To guide decisions about how to spend federal broadband funds, the PBDA has published two plans. The [Pennsylvania Statewide Broadband Plan](#) outlines challenges and opportunities for universal broadband access in the Commonwealth. The [Statewide Digital Equity Plan](#) identifies existing resources, community engagement efforts, and five goals for equitable access to high-speed internet in every community.

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