

BroadbandOhio Community Accelerator

July 8, 2025



**Department of
Development**

BroadbandOhio Community Accelerator Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Broadband 101
- Progress and current initiatives that are expanding internet access across Ohio
- Federal Funding: Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Deep Dive
- Q&A

Ohio's Broadband Vision

Bring reliable, affordable, high-speed internet to every Ohioan, in their home and in their community.

Promote the creation of world- class broadband networks throughout the state, via the use of best-in-class technologies.

Enable participation in the modern economy.

Empower Ohioans through training and digital skills.

BroadbandOhio Team

- Chief: Peter Voderberg
- Assistant Chief: Amy Elbaor
- Senior Financial Analyst: LaShana Smith
- Grants Manager: Matt Taylor
- Manager of Digital Equity and Inclusion: Anna Miller
- Grants Administrator: Grace Clucas



Broadband 101

Definitions

Last Mile

The physical infrastructure of a broadband network that serves as the last leg of connection to a home or business from an internet service provider (ISP).

Middle Mile

The physical infrastructure of a broadband network needed to enable internet connectivity; connects last mile (local) networks, like ISPs, to the greater internet.

Underserved

The IIJA defines “underserved” locations as one without broadband service offering speeds of 100/20 Mbps.

Unserved

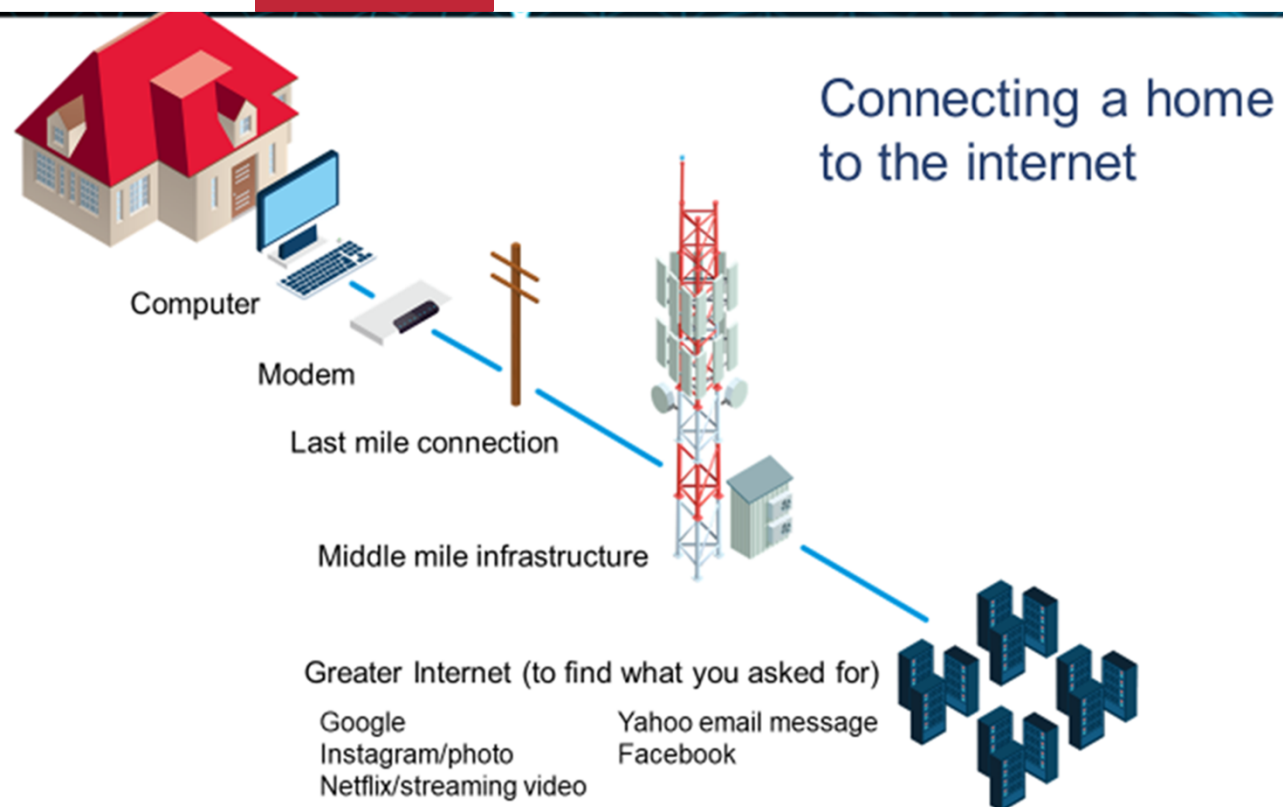
The IIJA defines an “unserved” location as one without any broadband service at all or with internet service offering speeds below 25/3 Mbps.

Technologies

- Fiber optic: Converts electrical signals carrying data into light and sends the light through transparent glass fibers approximately the diameter of a human hair. Fiber transmits data at speeds typically hundreds of Mbps, almost at the speed of light.
- Fixed Wireless: Transmits and receives radio signals between the tower and a user's device. The tower, equipped with antennas and transceivers, acts as a bridge, converting digital data into radio waves for transmission and vice versa.
- Copper: Copper internet utilizes existing phone lines to transmit internet data by sending electrical signals through twisted pair copper wires.
- Satellite: Satellite broadband transmits signal from orbit to a user's installed receiver. It is another form of wireless internet and is useful for serving remote or sparsely populated areas. Download and upload speeds depend on several factors, including the provider and service package purchased, the consumer's line of sight to the orbiting satellite, and the weather.

Why don't I have internet access?

- Accessibility
- Affordability





Ohio's progress on achieving universal internet access

BroadbandOhio





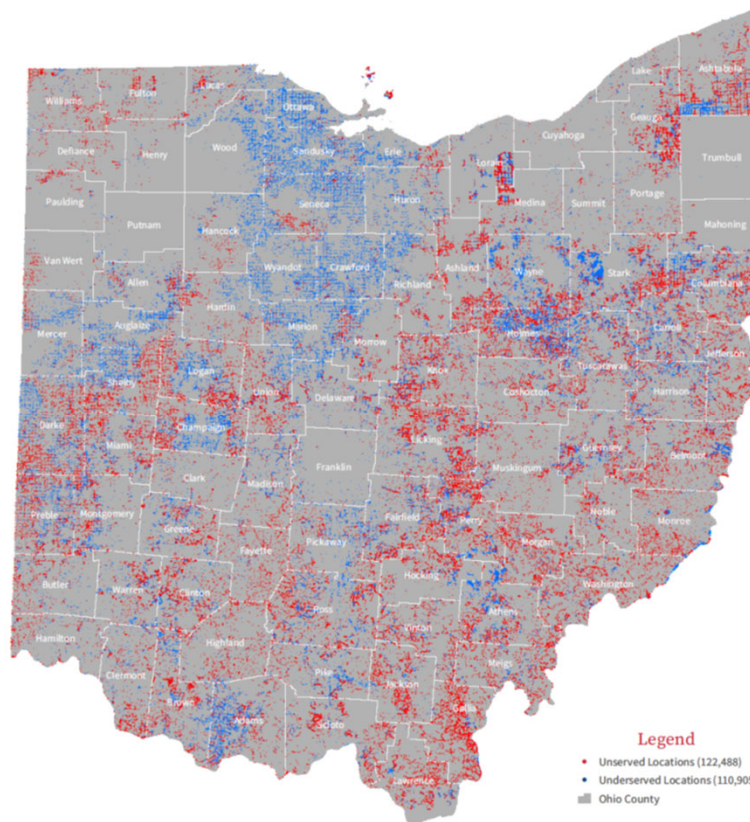
Identifying the need

BroadbandOhio is working to identify households and businesses that still need broadband access.

BroadbandOhio has worked on multiple challenge processes to:

- Correct inaccurate coverage data
- Ensure funding reaches the communities most in need
- Identify **unserved** and **underserved** locations across Ohio

BroadbandOhio
Unfunded Locations
 Unserved and Underserved Categories



This map shows the locations in Ohio lacking adequate broadband service that have not been touched by the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF), Connect America Fund II (CAF II), or the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant (ORREG) programs. Any location with broadband service slower than 25/7 (mbps download/upload speeds) is unserved. A location with broadband service of at least 25/7 but lower than 100/20 is underserved.

Funded Locations*	89,585
CAF II	3,238
ORREG	36,406
RDOF	48,941
Unfunded Locations	233,293
Unserved	122,488
Underserved	110,905

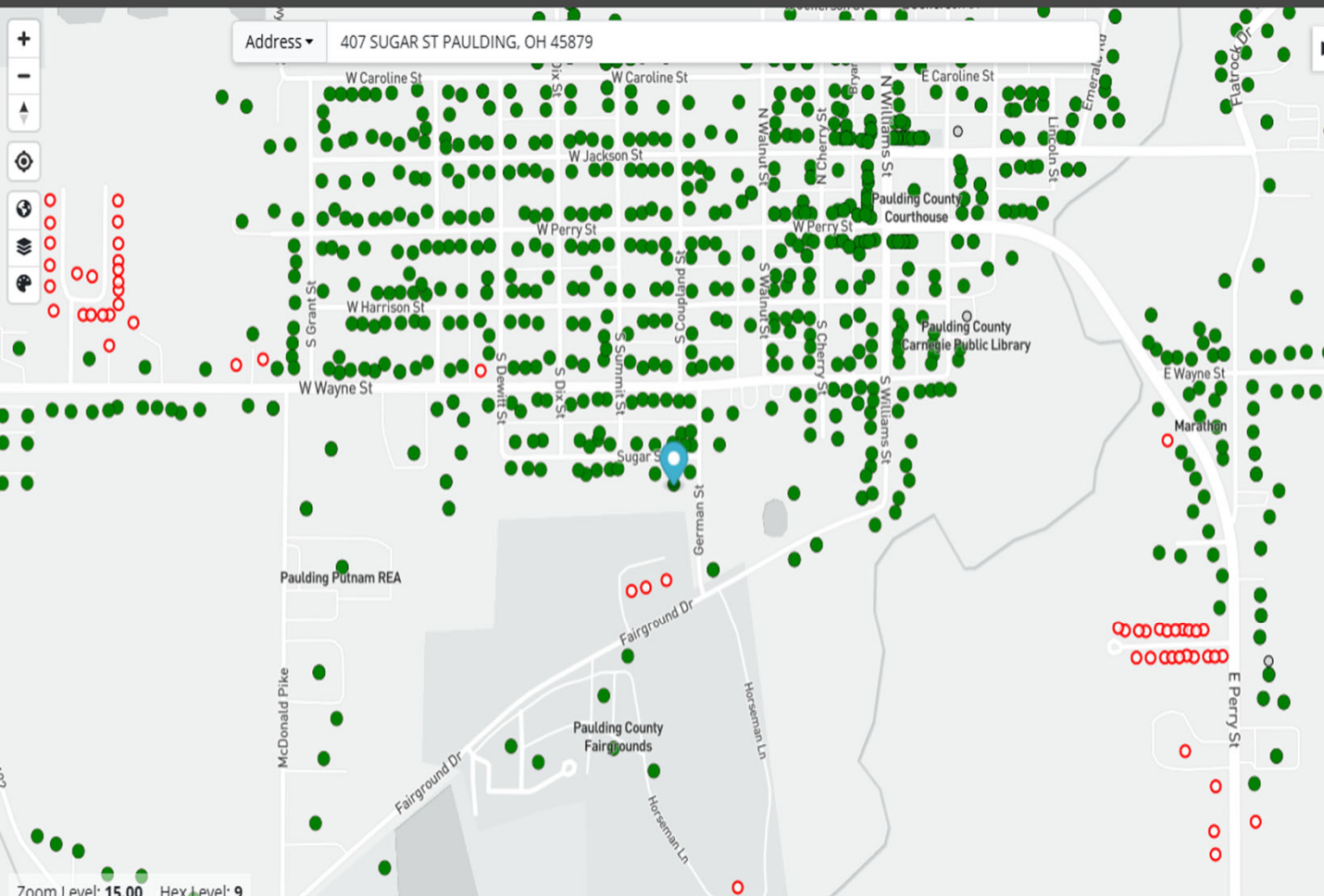
*Not shown on map



Service: Residential Technology: Any Technology Speed: $\geq 1000/100$

Service Filters

Data As Of Jun 30, 2024 (latest) (Last Updated: 4/15/25)



Fixed Broadband Mobile Broadband

Selected Location

Location Challenge

407 SUGAR ST
PAULDING, OH 45879

Status: Served Residential Unit Count: 1

Broadband Availability

Availability Challenge

Provider	Technology	Down (Mbps)	Up (Mbps)	Chall.
Agile Networks	LBR Fixed Wireless	25	5	
HughesNet	GSO Satellite	100	5	
MetaLINK Technologies Inc.	Licensed Fixed Wireless	100	25	
SAA bright.net Inc.	Licensed Fixed Wireless	100	25	
Spectrum	Cable	1000	35	
Starlink	NGSO Satellite	220	25	
Viasat Inc.	GSO Satellite	100	3	
Windstream Ohio, Inc.	Copper	100	20	
Windstream Ohio, Inc.	Fiber to the Premises	1000	1000	

Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant (ORBEG) Program

- + Provides grants to internet service providers to build out internet infrastructure **for eligible locations identified in the challenge process**
- + \$232M awarded in 2021; \$94.5M awarded in 2024 to connect unserved/underserved addresses





Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Deep Dive

BroadbandOhio

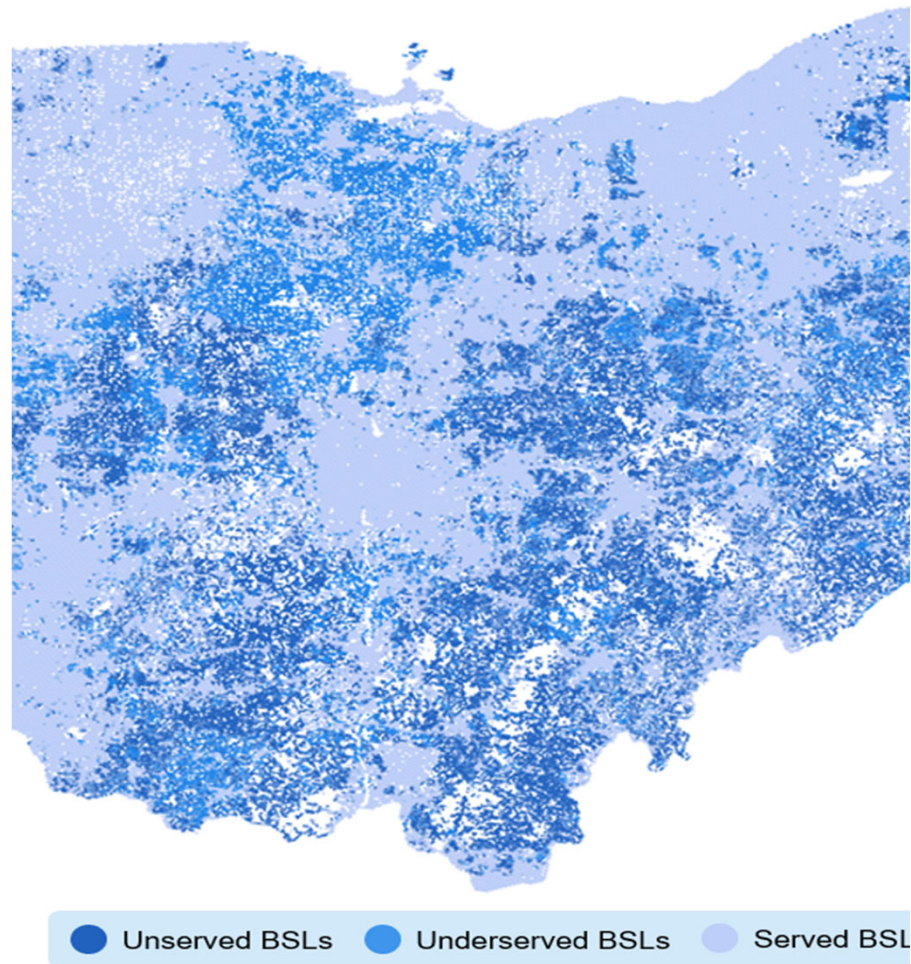


BEAD Program Facts

- Established through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (November 2021)
- Represents the largest federal investment to date in broadband infrastructure
- Aims to close the digital divide by 2030
- Includes a \$42.5 billion national investment
- Ohio awarded \$793 million in funding

Ohio BEAD Program Overview

- **Total Allocation:** \$793 million
- **Primary Focus:** Broadband infrastructure deployment to connect approximately 117,000 locations across the state.



Slide 16

TMO

update map?

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Changes to the Original Program

Changes in the June 6th Policy Notice for Scoring:

- **Prioritization of Priority Projects:** State Broadband Offices must prioritize priority projects, unless they are deemed too expensive.
- **Minimal BEAD Program Outlay:** State Broadband Offices must select the combination of project proposals with the lowest overall cost to the Program.

Additional Changes

Secondary Criteria:

- **Speed to Deployment:** The subgrantee agreeing to complete service to a proposal are prior to 4 years after receiving funding from the State of Ohio.
- **Speed of Network and Technical Capabilities:** Weighted scoring based on speed, latency, and technical capabilities of the technologies proposed by the applicant.
- **Preliminary/ Provisional Subgrantees:** The State of Ohio may give additional weight to providers provisionally selected to service proposed BSLs in the Benefit of the Bargain Round.

Application Process Overview

- Single round of applications
- Prequalification and application round will be combined
- Shortened time window: July 21 through August 8
- No pre-set project areas
- Ability to match lowest bids
- Negotiated round will occur for any locations that have no application
- Engineering stamp will be due once initial winners are determined

Looking Back and Moving Forward!

- **November 2021:** The Investment in Infrastructure and Jobs Act signed into law and established the BEAD Program
- **July 2022:** BroadbandOhio/Department of Development received \$5 million in initial planning funds to establish a 5 Year Action Plan
- **June 2023:** Ohio's 5 Year Action Plan was submitted to the NTIA. The NTIA announced that Ohio would be allocated \$793 million once plans were approved.
- **September 2023:** Ohio submits Initial Proposal Volume 1 (plan for a challenge process)
- **December 2023:** Ohio submits Initial Proposal Volume 2 (plan to run the grantee selection process)
- **April 2024:** Initial Proposal Volume 1 approved by the NTIA
- **October 2024:** Initial Proposal Volume 2 approved by the NTIA
- **Summer 2025:** Ohio will run the BEAD Subgrantee Selection Process
- **Thursday, ^{TM0} August 21:** Post Final Proposal for Public Comment
- **Friday, September 4:** Submit Final Proposal to NTIA

Slide 20

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Resources and Partnerships

BroadbandOhio
Website



EXPLORE
BROADBAND

VIEW
MAPS

GRANT
OPPORTUNITIES

DISCOVER
NEWS & EVENTS

? Help

Search

**Bridging the digital divide
for all Ohioans**



**Ohio BEAD
Challenge Process
and Grant Program**



**Ohio Residential
Broadband
Expansion Grant**





Questions?



Thank you

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