Broadband Infrastructure Program

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021

April 2021

Housekeeping

Questions

- Type questions in the Q&A box on the right-hand side of the screen. Questions and answers will be available on the FAQ section of our website.
- [Overview of Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 | BroadbandUSA (doc.gov)](#)

Presentation

- The presentation along with a transcript and recording will be available on the BroadbandUSA website under Events/Past Event on or before May 5, 2021.
- [broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/events/past-events](#)

Presenters:

- Douglas Kinkoph, Associate Administrator

  Office of Telecommunications and Information Applications, NTIA

- Sarah Bleau, Broadband Program Specialist
  Office of Telecommunications and Information Applications, NTIA

- Gilbert Resendez, Broadband Program Specialist
  Office of Telecommunications and Information Applications, NTIA

- Karen Perry, Senior Policy Analyst, NTIA

Moderator:

- Laura Spining, Deputy Associate Administrator

  Office of Telecommunications and Information Applications, NTIA

Agenda

Biden Administration and Broadband	Doug Kinkoph
Broadband Infrastructure Program Overview	Sarah Bleau
Interagency & State Coordination	Gilbert Resendez
Broadband Planning Resources	Karen Perry
Questions and Answers	All

Douglas Kinkoph
Associate Administrator
Office of Telecommunications and Information Applications, NTIA

Biden Administration on Broadband

"We need to start seeing infrastructure through its effect on the lives of working people in America. What is the foundation today that they need to carve out their place in the middle class … to live, to go to work, to raise their families with dignity … no matter who they are or what zip code they live in?"

President Joe Biden, The American Jobs Plan

NTIA's Commitment to Connecting America

The Department of Commerce supports the Biden Administration's agenda and our partner agencies to ensure that every American has access to affordable and reliable broadband and has the skills and opportunities to participate fully.
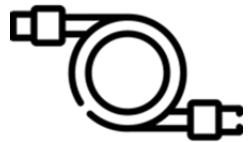
Deploy broadband infrastructure to communities with the **greatest need**.

Support job creation and workforce development by ensuring that **all Americans have broadband, devices, and digital skills**.

Collaborate with states, Tribes, industry, and federal agencies to effectively expand broadband access and digital inclusion.

Use data to inform policies and investments in broadband at all levels of government.

Millions of Americans Don't Have Reliable Broadband

- **17 million Americans do not have** basic broadband @ 25/3 Mbps.

- **20.9% of Tribal lands and 17.2% of rural lands** do not have 25/3 Mbps broadband.

- While 95.6% of household have access to 25/3 Mbps broadband, **only 68.9% of households subscribe** to service at that level or above.
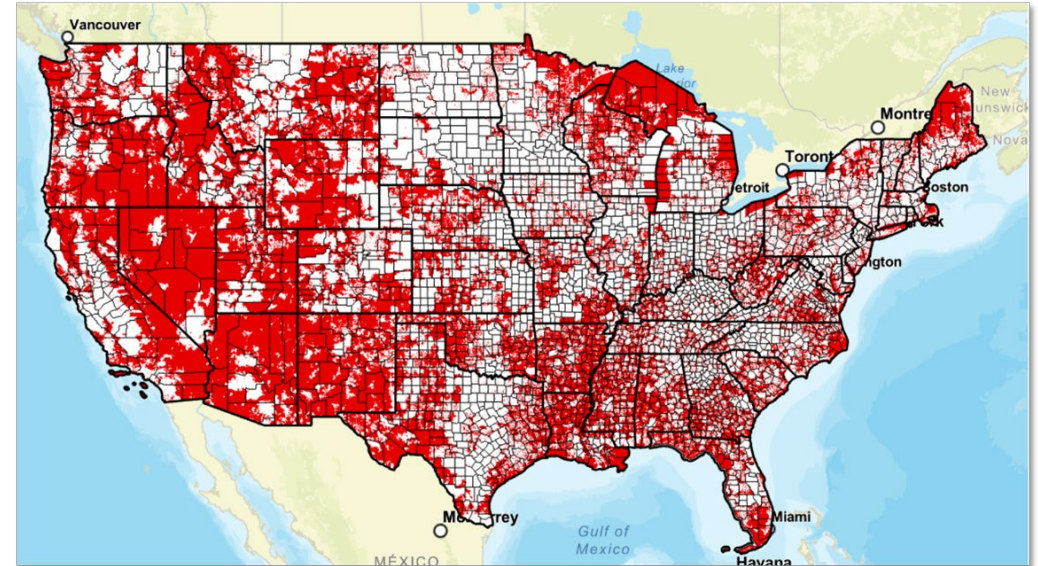
Red areas indicate where wireline broadband service is unavailable at the basic FCC benchmark speed of 25/3 Mbps based on FCC Form 477 carrier-reported data.

Visualization: NTIA National Broadband Availability Map (NBAM)
Source: FCC 2021 Broadband Deployment Report, based on ISP-reported Form 477 data

Broadband Adoption is Uneven Across Communities

- **65 million Americans** do not use the Internet at all.

- **10 million Internet users** rely solely on a mobile data plan.

- **5 Million households** not online identified **cost as their main reason** for not using the Internet.

- Under-connected Americans are disproportionally likely to be low-income, non-white, rural, Tribal, older, and differently-abled.

Source: NTIA Internet Use Survey, based on consumer 2019 surveys of 52,000 households

It's Time to Invest in the American Workforce

- **77% of all jobs** require at least some technology skills.

- **48% of hiring managers** say that candidates lack the skills needed to fill open jobs.

- **29% of students without basic digital skills** say they won't consider post-secondary studies.

- **More than 12 millions households** lack access to a computer, tablet or smartphone.

Percent of Households that Have No Computer, Smartphone, or Tablet

> 30.2
20
< 10
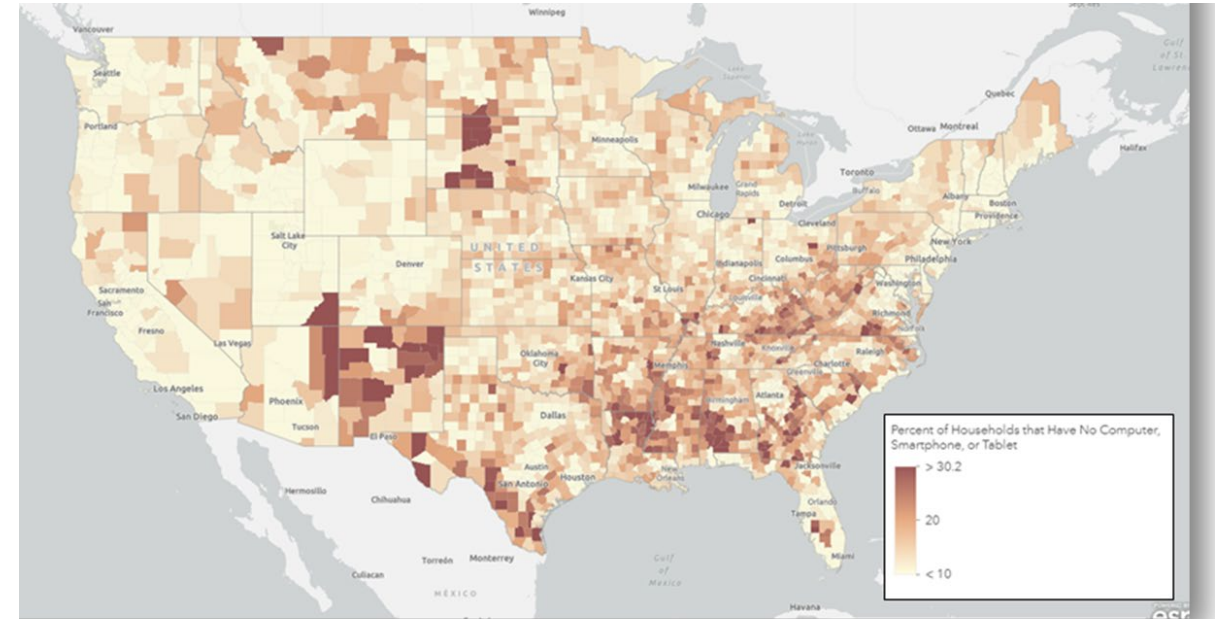
Residents without devices have fewer opportunities to hone their digital skills, access educational opportunities, and advance in the workforce.

Visualization: NTIA National Broadband Availability Map (NBAM)
Source: American Community Survey Device Ownership data 2015-2019

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 Grant Programs Overview

1

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grants:

Grants to expand access to and adoption of: (A) broadband service on Tribal land; or (B) remote learning, telework, or telehealth resources during the COVID-19 pandemic: $1 Billion.

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021

2

Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Grants:

Grants for covered broadband projects, defined as competitively and technologically neutral projects for the deployment of fixed broadband service in a census block with at least one household or business that does not have access to 25/3: $300 million.

3

Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program:

Grants to eligible recipients in anchor communities for the purchase of broadband internet access service or any eligible equipment, or to hire and train information technology personnel, $285 million.

Sarah Bleau
Broadband Program Specialist
Office of Telecommunications and Information Applications, NTIA

Broadband Infrastructure Program Overview

Broadband Infrastructure Program Overview

$300 Million

Covered Partnerships

Covered Broadband Projects

Anticipate Accepting Applications Through July 2021

Key Definitions: Qualifying Broadband Service

- A download speed of not less than 25 Mbps;

- An upload speed of not less than 3 Mbps; and

- Latency sufficient to support real-time, interactive applications.

Key Definitions: Unserved

- Household lacking access to qualifying broadband service; and

- No broadband provider has been selected to receive, or is otherwise receiving, Federal or State funding subject to enforceable build out commitments to deploy qualifying broadband service in the specific area where the household is located.

Eligibility

To be eligible for a grant under the Broadband Infrastructure Program, the covered partnership must submit an application that describes the following:

Covered Partnership	Covered Broadband Project	Proposed Service Area	Other Federal & State Support

Note:

Each Covered Partnership may submit only one application for this grant program.

Funding Priorities

Section 905(d)(4) of the Act stipulates that the Assistant Secretary will give priority, in decreasing order, for:

- Projects designed to provide broadband service to the greatest number of households in an eligible service area.

- Projects designed to provide broadband service in an eligible service area that is wholly within any area **other than** a county, city, or town with more than 50,000 inhabitants and the urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to a city or town of more than 50,000 inhabitants.

- Projects that are most cost-effective, prioritizing such projects in areas that are the most rural.

- Projects designed to provide broadband service with a download speed of at least 100 Mbps and an upload speed of at least 20 Mbps.

Application

Key Application Dates

- Complete applications must be received by www.grants.gov no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on the **date that is 90 days after publication of NOFO.**

- NTIA expects to complete its review and selection of successful applicants **90 days after application deadline**.

Deadlines & Extensions

The covered partnership must expend the grant funds within one year after receipt.

- The Assistant Secretary may grant an extension for broadband construction projects.

- To qualify for an extension, the covered partnership must certify that: it has a plan for use of the funds; the construction project is underway; or extenuating circumstances require an extension to ensure project completion.

Gilbert Resendez
Broadband Program Specialist
Office of Telecommunications and Information Applications, NTIA

Interagency & State Coordination

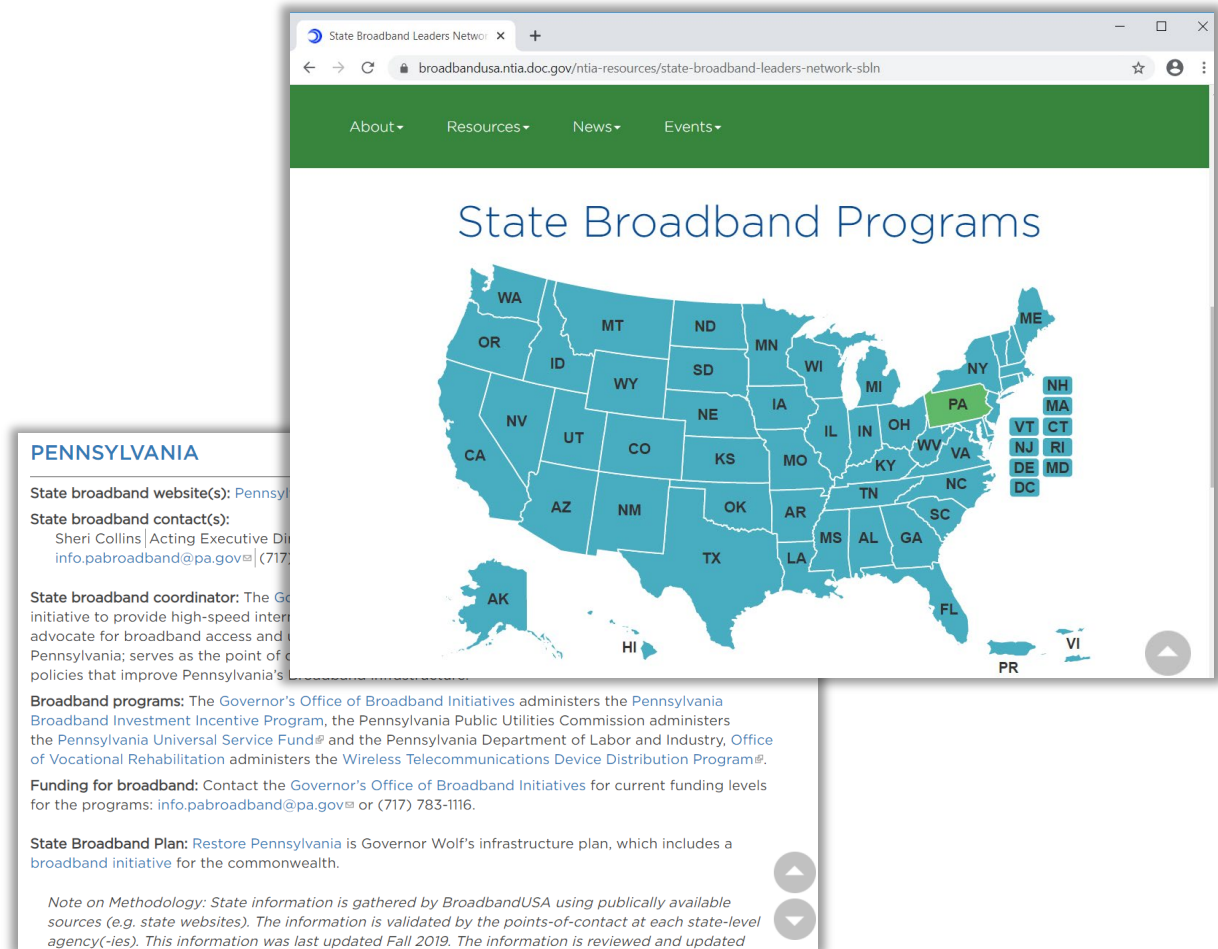# State Broadband Leaders Network (SBLN)

- SBLN: community of practitioners who work on state broadband initiatives.

- Participants share priorities and best practices and discuss emerging telecommunications policy issues.

- 50 states, the District of Columbia and 3 territories participate in the SBLN.

- Consists of broadband directors, managers, and staff from Governor's offices, Economic Development/Commerce Departments, CIO offices, University Extension programs.

- Virtual meetings monthly and twice per year in person.

- NTIA compiles information on state broadband activities, including broadband programs and plans, funding, data collection, mapping and definitions of broadband.

State Broadband Page

One-stop shop for resources on state broadband efforts

Active network of state leaders leading state-level broadband efforts

Channel for communication and review of polices between federal agencies and states

Interagency Coordination on Broadband

- Improving coordination of federal broadband programs and policies
- Promoting consistency across federal broadband programs
- Encouraging regional coordination of federal technical assistance services
- "One-stop" for information on federal broadband programs and permitting policies

broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/ntia-resources/broadbandusa-federal-interagency-work

BroadbandUSA Funding Search

- [BroadbandUSA Funding Search](#)

- One-Stop for information on broadband funding across all federal agencies through searchable database

- Search by eligible recipient, program area, or sponsoring Agency or Department

- Updated annually
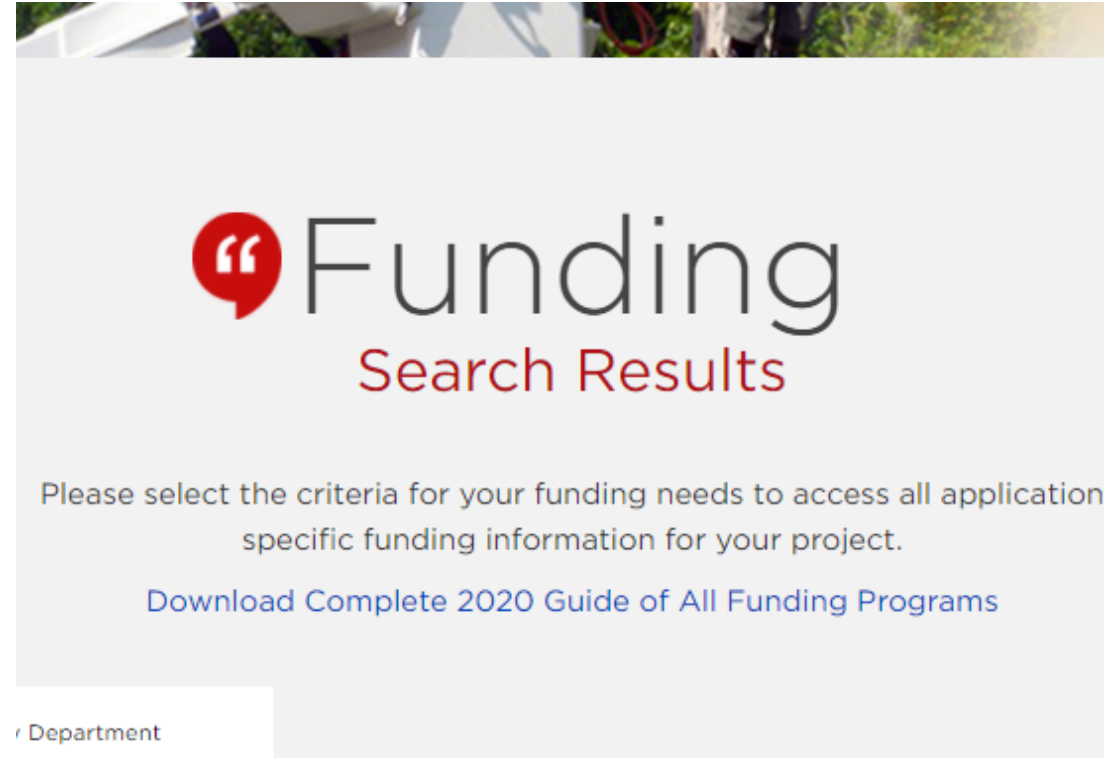
One–Stop Permitting Information

The federal government controls 640 million acres or 28% of U.S. land. Federal lands and assets play a critical role in telecom networks – through rights-of-way access.

Federal agencies collaborated to streamline processes, identify points-of-contact, and publish a one-stop shop for permitting information at BroadbandUSA.

A number of agencies are also using a common SF-299 Common Application Form for permitting applications.

Departments:
• Department of Agriculture (USDA)
• Department of Defense (DOD)
• Department of the Interior (DOI)
• Department of Transportation (DOT)
• General Services Administration (GSA)
• Department of Energy (DOE)
Relevant Agencies:
• Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council
• Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)
• Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)
• Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

NTIA Broadband Planning Roadmap

Engage Stakeholders → Assemble a Team → Identify Community Priorities → Harness the Data → Consider Infrastructure & Inclusion → Assess Resources → Engage Partners → Evaluate Solutions → Develop & Execute Strategy

[Planning a Community Broadband Roadmap:](#) A Toolkit for Local and Tribal Governments
New NTIA Broadband Planning Roadmap modules coming soon!
Check the BroadbandUSA website for the latest updates

Roadmap Considers Infrastructure and Inclusion

New NTIA Broadband Planning Roadmap has increased focus on using data as a foundation for broadband planning and integrating digital inclusion, adoption, and digital skills planning into your strategy.
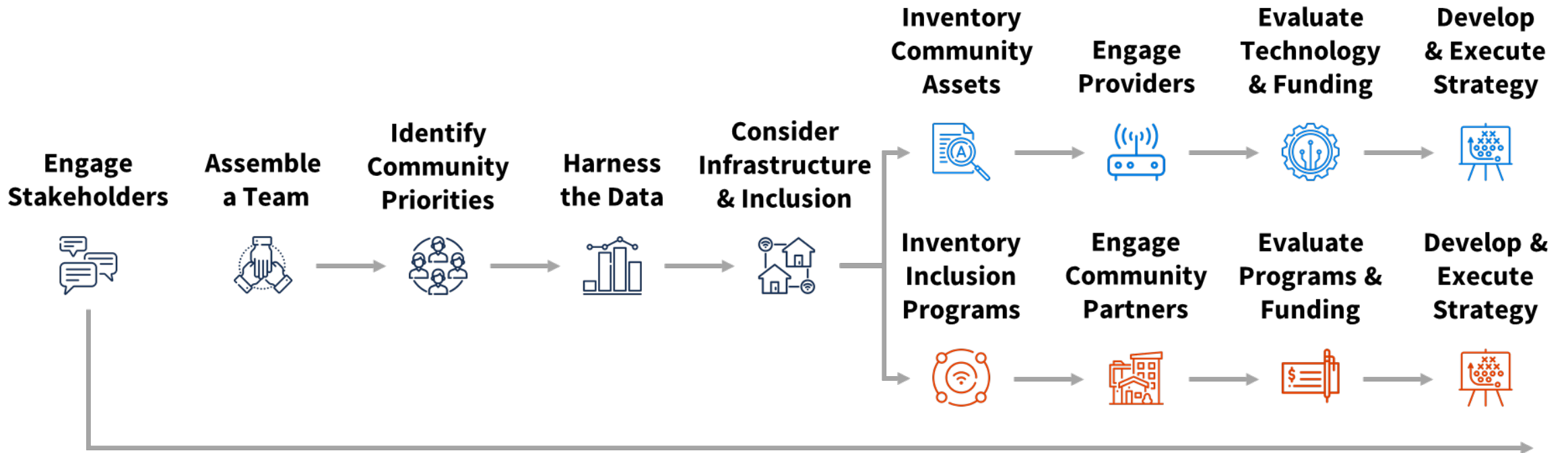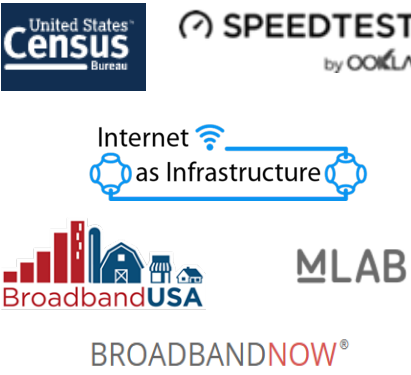
Use Data as a Foundation for Your Broadband Plan
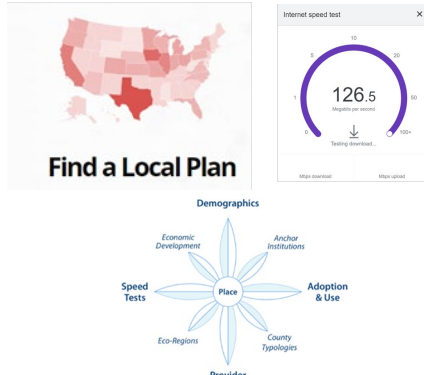
Major federal broadband data sets
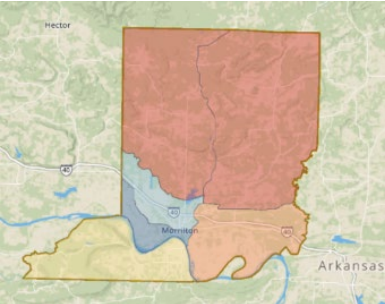
Federal and external tools to access data

Access your community data

Add local insights

See BroadbandUSA webinar archive:

February, 2021 Webinar: Data as the Foundation for Broadband Planning

June 2020 Webinar: Utilizing Federal Data to Measure the Digital Divide

Tools that Put Local Data in Your Hands

NTIA Data Explorer — ntia.doc.gov

American Community Survey — data.census.gov

QuickFacts — census.gov.quickfacts

BroadbandNow* — broadbandnow.com

Speedtest by Ookla* — speedtest.net

Measurement Lab* — speed.measurementlab.net

I3 Connectivity Explorer* — i3connect.org

*These are not federal tools. They are external tools or products, listed here because they are used frequently by our clients to access data when developing broadband plans.

Digital Inclusion Resources

One-stop shop for resources on government inclusion programs

Searchable map of national programs examples

BroadbandUSA webinar archives:

- [October 2020 Webinar: Digital Inclusion and K-12 Education: The Impact of COVID-19 on Students and Educators](#)

- [November 2019 Webinar: Building Digital Workforce Skills at the Local Level](#)

- [September Webinar: Digital Training and Workforce Development Discussion](#)

State and Local Government Digital Inclusion Programs

BroadbandUSA Toolkits and Guides

Download toolkits and guides to support your planning and implementation efforts.

- [BroadbandUSA: Broadband Glossary](#)

- [Planning a Community Broadband Roadmap: A Toolkit for Local and Tribal Governments](#)

- [Introduction to Effective Public-Private Partnerships](#)

- [Costs-at-a Glance: fiber and Wireless Networks](#)

- [What Speed Do You Need](#)

- [Speed Simulator](#)

Speed Simulator Charts

BroadbandUSA's speed demonstration tool is designed to help you make smart decisions about your data needs. For example, a family of four that regularly streams online content and has children that use the Internet for homework will likely need to make different data choices than a couple who uses the Internet mostly for web browsing and email. The same is true for business of varying sizes and types. The speed demonstration tool lists typical Internet uses and the data requirements. All examples assume a standard, minimum latency connection and are for demonstration purposes only. If you have questions, please contact us at broadbandusa@ntia.gov.

Download Data Files - 100 MB

Reset

1 Mbps	3 secs / 4 mins total
10 Mbps	3 secs / 1 mins total
4.3MB	
50 Mbps	3 secs / 32 secs total
10.6MB 11%	
100 Mbps	3 secs / 8 secs total
43.5MB 43% completed	
1 Gbps	0 secs / 0 secs total
100.0MB 100% completed	

Q & A

Join again for the grants webinar series!

Broadband Infrastructure Program	Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program	Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program
April 28 & 29	April 21 & 22	May 5 & 6
May 12 & 13	May 19 & 20	May 26 & 27
June 9 & 10	June 16 & 17	June 23 & 24
July 14 & 15	July 21 & 22	July 28 & 29

Webinars start at 2:30 pm ET

Registration is required for each webinar and is limited to 1,000

broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/events/latest-events

Thank-you for attending

The slides, transcript, and a recording will be posted on the BroadbandUSA website by May 5.

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