State Broadband Leaders Network

What is the State Broadband Leaders Network (SBLN)?

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) **BroadbandUSA program** convenes and facilitates the State Broadband Leaders Network (SBLN). a community of state and territory practitioners who work on increasing high-speed Internet deployment and access at the state level.

SBLN participants meet virtually each month and in-person two times a year. They share priorities and best practices and discuss emerging telecommunications policy issues at the federal and state level. SBLN provides a forum to strengthen policy and program connections among states, local jurisdictions and federal agencies, providing opportunities to improve funding coordination, align policies and address barriers to collaboration across states and agencies. NTIA's Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth (OICG) works with SBLN participants to support state and territory government staff with technical assistance on effectively implementing the BEAD and Digital Equity grant programs and sharing suggestions and best practices on how to work and partner with communities, businesses, and organizations within their jurisdictions.

Who participates?

More than **400 state and territory government staff from all fifty states, American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands** actively participate in SBLN. Because each state and territory approaches broadband access and deployment differently, a variety of state level offices participate in the SBLN. Participants are affiliated with a dedicated broadband office in their state or territory or have broadband identified as a specific responsibility. The offices generally reside in the governor's office, economic development or commerce office, the CIO's office, or the public utility/public service commission.

What broadband activities happen in states and territories?

The SBLN serves as a space for trainings, conversations, and technical assistance for states and territories during all stages during rollout of the following programs:

- The **Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program** provides $42.45 billion to expand high-speed Internet access by funding planning, infrastructure deployment and adoption programs in all 56 states and territories.
- **The Digital Equity Act** provides $2.75 billion to establish three grant programs that promote digital equity and inclusion.

The BroadbandUSA website lists broadband programs in each state and territory Including BEAD, Digital Equity, mapping, technical assistance, policy developments, and others. Click on a state in the map to learn more.

If you are interested in contacting your state broadband office, the SBLN page has the contacts listed. For more information, contact Zoë Meeken: zmeeken@ntia.gov.