

Broadband Opportunities

Category

Broadband, Community Engagement

Overview

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provides [\\$65 billion dollars](#) to strengthen the nation's broadband infrastructure. In today's society, broadband is an essential element of business operations, education, and communications, and this investment will improve broadband access, affordability, and equity. The Broadband Opportunities bootcamp will introduce participants to a number of funding opportunities and will help cities understand and develop solutions to the multifaceted challenge of internet access: connectivity, affordability, digital literacy, and devices.

Grants Covered (non-exhaustive list)

[Broadband Equity Access and Deployment](#)

\$42.45 billion formula grant program to states and U.S. territories for expanding expands high-speed internet access. Local governments will have opportunities (expected in late 2023 or 2024) to apply for funding through their states to expand broadband access, adoption, and equity.

[ReConnect Program](#)

Since 2018, this program has invested \$3.13 billion to deploy broadband in rural areas of the United States. Local governments, states, territories, and Tribal governments, in addition to cooperatives and corporations, are eligible to apply for grants and loans through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The next round of funding for this program is anticipated in Fall 2023.

[Digital Equity Act Grants](#)

\$1.25 billion in competitive grants to implement digital equity projects and \$1.44 billion in formula grants to states, territories, and tribal governments for implementing digital equity plans. These programs are still being developed and are expected to be released soon.

Opportunities for Climate and Racial Wealth Equity

According to the Federal Communications Commission, approximately 19 million Americans lack access to high-speed broadband, including almost 25% of Americans living in rural areas. Even when access is available, affordability remains a challenge: approximately [1-in-4 Hispanic and American Indian or Alaskan Native](#) households, and [1-in-5 African American](#) households cite affordability as a barrier to reliable broadband access. This bootcamp will provide cities with an opportunity to understand these inequalities in their communities and will prepare cities to develop creative solutions to these equity challenges using funding through the IIJA.