

Julie Sande
Commissioner

www.Commerce.Alaska.Gov



Department of Commerce,
Community, and
Economic Development

Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

26-001

State of Alaska Receives Approval on Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Awards

Monday, March 2, 2026 (Anchorage, AK) – The State of Alaska has received formal approval from U.S. Commerce Assistant Secretary Arielle Roth on its Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program awards, a critical final step in the process for the federally funded grant program which will connect thousands of Alaskans to high-speed internet. Managed by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) within the U.S. Department of Commerce, the BEAD Program was established under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) to provide “Internet for All” with broadband speeds of 100 Megabits per second (Mbps) download and 20 Mbps upload to unserved and underserved communities nationwide.

In early June 2025 through the “Benefit of the Bargain” Program restructuring, the U.S. Department of Commerce promoted optimization of BEAD technology and savings outcomes. The State of Alaska found the perfect balance between ensuring that we met the objectives of the program to bring high quality service to all Alaskans while optimizing the savings to the American taxpayer.

Alaska’s \$1,017,139,672.42 BEAD allocation is being distributed through the Alaska Broadband Grant Program managed by the Alaska Broadband Office within the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development. A total of \$629,172,951.83 was awarded to fifteen subgrantees for twenty-nine fiber, wireless, satellite, and hybrid broadband deployment projects which will bring high speed internet to 46,192 homes and small businesses across the state. The first locations are expected to receive service as soon as June. By the end of the third year of deployment, approximately 70% of the locations slated to be served under BEAD funding will be connected. A determination of how the State can spend the remaining funds is expected to be made by the NTIA March 11, 2026.

“BEAD funding will have a transformational effect by connecting Alaskans in the most remote corners of the state to quality, high-speed internet,” **stated Governor Dunleavy**. “This will open up new opportunities for Alaskans to access jobs and education, start new businesses, and connect with healthcare providers in real time which has not been possible until now.”

“Alaska is experiencing real economic momentum. From record investment in emerging industries to expanded infrastructure and job creation across our state, we are proving that Alaska is open for opportunity. Broadband is foundational to that progress. By connecting our most remote communities to reliable, high-speed internet, we are unlocking entrepreneurship, strengthening local

economies, and ensuring Alaskans in rural communities can participate in the growth we are seeing statewide,” said **Commissioner Julie Sande**.

For a complete list of approved projects and subgrantees, visit the Alaska Broadband Office website at <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/abo/>.

###

Media Contact: Jenae Erickson, DCCED, (907) 465-8486, jenae.erickson@alaska.gov