EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FY25 Office of Broadband Development Annual Report

As required by Minn. Stat. § 116J.39

January 23, 2026

Contact Information

Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

Great Northern Building

180 East 5th Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

Bree Maki

Executive Director
bree.maki@state.mn.us

651-259-7289

As required by Minnesota Statute 3.197: This report cost approximately $2,248.31 to prepare, including staff time, printing and mailing expenses.

Upon request, this material will be made available in an alternative format such as large print, Braille, or audio recording. Printed on recycled paper.

Table of Contents

Contents

Executive Summary

The Minnesota Office of Broadband Development (OBD) was created by statute in 2013 to improve access to broadband service that meets the state's speed goals, serve the needs of anchor institutions, and expand the skills and knowledge needed to use these services.

To date, OBD has awarded $418.9 million in grant dollars for state broadband infrastructure programs with a matching investment of over $512.7 million from partners. The programs administered by OBD have provided over 120,480 locations across Minnesota with broadband access. Since December 2022, OBD has closed 58 projects, has 58 projects pending, and has 52 active grants.

For the federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program in Minnesota, upon approval of the Final Proposal by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), Minnesota has been initially approved for $378,864,146.54 in sub-grant awards across 94 projects to 23 subgrantees for 74,739 locations. With $189,968,693.57 in local and private match dollars, the total BEAD funding expended in Minnesota is expected to be $568,832,840.11.

2025 Milestones

- Across broadband grant programs, 58 projects were closed out in 2025, expanding connectivity to thousands of locations across Minnesota
- The second round of the Line Extension Connection Program saw 13 projects with a total of 687 locations built by June 30, 2025, and the third round will see all 16 projects for a total of 1,088 locations built by December 31, 2025
- A bidding window for the fourth round of the Line Extension Connection Program ran from September 26 to November 25, 2025. OBD expects to award over $5 million in grants to 20 providers with 1,300 locations across 20 counties prior to the 2026 new year
- Minnesota's Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) draft Final Proposal was submitted to the NTIA September 4, 2025. OBD completed 18 rounds of curing since submitting and was notified of approval by NTIA on December 19, 2025. The draft of the Final Proposal was submitted after the state navigated the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice (issued 6/6/2025) which required a Restructured Round of subgrantee selection (ran 7/14—7/24/2025)
- OBD launched updated, interactive mapping platforms that provide information on broadband programs across the state and summary metrics on state program broadband availability
- OBD's mapping vendor, Connected Nation, completed field validation for over 70 grant projects, confirming broadband construction at more than 35,000 locations
- OBD collected letters of support from statewide partners emphasizing the importance of fast, reliable broadband in their communities. In total, OBD received 53 letters representing over 110 individuals and agencies from cities, counties, hospitals, regional groups, other government agencies, a labor union and Tribal entities
- Continued to provide technical, administrative and staff support for the annual activities of the Broadband Task Force, including administrative support at 10 meetings throughout the year
- Facilitated nine meetings of the Broadband Permitting/Land Use Charter Group. This group was created at the end of 2024 to enhance coordination with other Minnesota state government agencies and continue

review of the adequacy, effectiveness and expedience of the permitting process for broadband deployment projects

- Created a Broadband Environmental and Land Use Coordinator position on the team to assist internet service providers with federal, state and local permitting challenges by collaborating with other agencies, proactive review of projects, training and outreach, and defining a process to streamline permitting
- Recognized a total of 50 Telecommuter Forward! Communities

Program Overview

OBD is in the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). OBD was created by statute in 2013 to improve access to broadband service that meets the state's speed goals, serve the needs of anchor institutions, and expand the skills and knowledge needed to use these services.

Pictured above: August 2025 site visit to Acentek project in Canton Township, with trucks hauling and installing main line fiber conduit.

Responsibilities of OBD are outlined in Minn. Stat. § 116J.39, and the state broadband speed goals are articulated in Minn. Stat. § 237.012. The first goal calls for achieving border-to-border access by all homes and businesses in the state to a service that offers speeds of at least 25 megabits per second (Mbps) download by 3 Mbps upload by the year 2022. A second goal, to be achieved by 2026, sought to have broadband service offering 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload from at least one provider available to all homes and businesses.

OBD connects communities, policy makers, providers, regional support organizations, and state and federal programs with each other and the resources they need to improve broadband access and use in Minnesota.

Residents and businesses rely on broadband connectivity to access telehealth services, for remote learning, to telework, to engage in commerce, agricultural management and advancement, to participate in government, and to remain connected to family and friends. Minnesota employers are looking for workers with digital skills. Many Minnesotans do not have the opportunity to access digital needs when it comes to internet connectivity, devices and digital skills.

State Grant Programs

Border-to-Border Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program:

Pictured above: Fiber cabinet from site visit August 2025, Round 10 Mediacom project, Lakewood South

Established in 2014, the Border-to-Border Broadband Infrastructure (B2B) Grant Program provides financial incentive to applicants to deploy broadband service in unserved and underserved areas. On a reimbursement basis, the program pays for up to 50% of eligible expenditures with a $10 million cap per award. The cap increased from $5 million in the 2023 legislative session. See Minn. Stat. § 116J.39.

- **Outcomes**: Increase the number of homes, businesses, farms and community anchor institutions with broadband access at or above speeds of at least 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload (100 Mbps download by 100 Mbps upload if funded by ARPA Capital Projects Fund).
- See *Border-to-Border Program* below for more information.

Lower Population Density Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program:

Established in 2022, this grant program provides financial incentive to applicants to deploy broadband service in unserved and underserved areas where a 50% match is not sufficient. On a reimbursement basis, the program pays for up to 75% of eligible expenditures with a $10 million cap per award. See Minn. Stat. § 116J.3952

- **Outcomes**: Increase the number of homes, businesses, farms and community anchor institutions with broadband access at or above speeds of at least 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload (100 Mbps download by 100 Mbps upload if funded by ARPA Capital Projects Fund).
- See *Lower-Population Density Programs* below for more information.

Line Extension Connection Grant Program:

Established in 2022, this program awards grants to eligible bidders, such as internet service providers or ISPs, to extend their existing broadband infrastructure to unserved locations identified by homes and businesses registering with OBD. See Minn. Stat. § 116J.3951.

- **Outcomes**: Increase the number of homes, businesses, farms and community anchor institutions with broadband access at or above speeds of at least 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload (100 Mbps download by 100 Mbps upload if funded by ARPA Capital Projects Fund). Incentivize providers to edge expand their service offering to adjacent locations and/or address situations where an excess construction charge to connect to broadband serves as a barrier to adoption.
- See *Line Extension Connection Program* below for more information.

Pictured above: August 2025 site visit to Johnson Telephone Company project, awarded $125,000 in the third round of LECP

Federal Grant Programs

Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program:
The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) created a federal grant program that is administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). The BEAD program provides funding for broadband infrastructure and the preparation of a plan by each eligible entity (state) for how to achieve "Internet for All." Additional information on the federal BEAD program is available on the NTIA webpage.

- **Outcomes**: "Internet for All" applies to BEAD eligible locations. Locations are ineligible for BEAD if a Reliable Broadband Service (defined as service at speeds at or above 100 Mbps download by 20 Mbps upload, including service available from noncellular (Licensed/Licensed-by-Rule Fixed Wireless).
- See *Federal Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program in Minnesota* for more information.

Digital Opportunity:
This federal program was created by Congress in 2024 as part of the Digital Equity Act with the goal of reducing gaps in broadband access and to expand digital skills and technology. Under the program, Minnesota's Digital Opportunity Plan was approved by the U.S. Department of Commerce and a $12 million grant awarded. However, in May 2025 Minnesota, along with all states that had been awarded funding under the program, received notifications that the grant funding was terminated.

- See Appendix D: Tribal-Specific Broadband Grants and Appendix E: Connectivity at Community Anchor Institutions, Broadband Affordability, and Funding Programs.

State Activities and Programs

Minnesota Broadband Mapping Program:
Since 2008, Minnesota has operated a state program to map broadband availability. In partnership with OBD's mapping vendor, Connected Nation, data is collected from providers, verified by individuals and communities, confirmed through field validation, and then mapped.

- **Outcomes**: Provides the initial basis for determining eligibility for grant programs and enables OBD to respond to consumer inquiries.
- See *Minnesota Broadband Mapping Program* below for more information and updated 2025 maps.

Governor's Task Force on Broadband:
OBD provides administrative, technical and staff support for the annual activities of the Broadband Task Force.

- **Outcomes**: The Broadband Task Force provides broadband policy recommendations to the Governor and Legislature in an annual report.

Telecommuter Forward!:
Established in 2019, political subdivisions may apply for certification as a Telecommuter Forward! community. Cities that receive the Telecommuter Forward! certification have adopted a model resolution that includes a statement of support and commitment to promoting telecommuting. The community appoints one employee or department as the single point of contact for coordinating telecommuting opportunities within that community. This certification expands broadband efforts by providing a way for communities to promote themselves to Minnesotans interested in telecommuting and to businesses supporting growing telecommuting workforce.

- **Outcomes**: Enables a community to be publicly recognized as a place that promotes telecommuting opportunities and options. As of January 2026, OBD has certified a total of 50 Minnesota Telecommuter Forward! communities.

State Broadband Grants Awards Data

Table 1. State Broadband Grants Awarded to Date (2014-2025)

	Grant Dollars Awarded	Local Match Dollars	Locations Served
B2B, 10 rounds since 2014	$323.9M	$476.6M	113,000+
Lower-Population Density, 3 rounds since 2023	$76.7M	$27M	6,400+
Line Extension Connection Program, 3 rounds since 2023	$18.3M	$9.1M	1,080+
Totals	**$418.9M**	**$512.7M**	**120,480+**

**Awarded funds do not always result in a grant contract. For more information by round, see Appendix A: Border-to-Border Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program Ten-Year Summary, Lower-Population Density Grant Funding Summary, and Line Extension Connection Program Grant Funding Summary.*

Border-to-Border Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program and Lower Population Density Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program

Table 2. Border-to-Border and Lower-Population Density Program Grant Awards

Round	Awarded Date	Grants closed before 2025	Grants closed during 2025	Grants pending close as of Dec. 2025	Grants active going into 2026	Total Grants
B2B Round 7	12/8/22	13	26	21	1*	61
B2B Round 8 + Lower-Population Density	6/28/23	3	0	22	5*	30
B2B Round 9 + Lower-Population Density	3/5/24	0	2	1	21	24
B2B Round 10 + Lower-Population Density	10/9/24	0	0	1	25	26
Totals		**16**	**28**	**45**	**52**	**141**
Percentage		*11%*	*20%*	*32%*	*37%*	*100%*

**Includes projects with extensions or pending extensions*

The B2B Grant Program has been funded with state general funds and federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Section 604 Capital Projects Fund (CPF). Minnesota received an allocation of $180,702,620 in ARPA Section 604 CPF funding. The Minnesota legislature directed that $130,703,000 of that funding be used for broadband infrastructure purposes, with $70 million being authorized for that purpose in the 2021 legislative session and $60,703,000 in the 2022 session. The remaining $50 million was allocated by the Governor's Office to be used for multi-purpose Community Facilities Projects. In addition to the B2B Program ($82 million in ARPA CPF funds) and Low Population Density Program ($30 million), OBD implemented the Line Extension Connection Program (see below). Prior CPF reports are available on the OBD Minnesota Reports and Resources webpage.

All funding has been allocated and exhausted for both the B2B and Lower-Population Density programs. Those two grant programs will not be offered again unless additional funding is appropriated by the state legislature. The latest information is available online on the OBD Broadband Grant Program webpage. A ten-year summary of grant rounds is available in Appendix A: Border-to-Border Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program Ten-Year Summary, Lower-Population Density Grant Funding Summary, and Line Extension Connection Program Grant Funding Summary.

Line Extension Connection Program

In 2022, the Minnesota Legislature created the Line Extension Connection Program (LECP) through the use of $15 million of Minnesota's ARPA CPF funding. The purpose of the program is to award grants for extensions of existing broadband infrastructure to unserved locations. An unserved location is a location that does not have a wired broadband service of at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload. Any unserved household or business can apply. For more information on the program and future rounds of funding, visit the OBD Line Extension Connection webpage.

Table 3. Line Extension Connection Program Grant Awards

Round	Awarded Date	Grants closed before 2025	Grants closed during 2025	Grants pending close as of Dec. 2025	Grants active going into 2026	Total Grants
LECP Round 1	10/6/23	4	14	1	0	19
LECP Round 2	3/29/24	1	9	3	0	13
LECP Round 3	10/10/24	0	7	9	0	16
Totals		**5**	**30**	**13**	**0**	**48**
Percentage		*10%*	*63%*	*27%*	*0%*	*100%*

There can be time between when projects are completed and when they can be reported as closed out due to the data collection required to validate. Projects for LECP have met timelines of completing the broadband line extension within one year of from the date the contract is signed as follows:

- LECP Round 1 (19 projects), all projects **were built** as of 12/31/2024.
- LECP Round 2 (13 projects), all projects **were built** as of 6/30/2025.
- LECP Round 3 (16 projects), all projects **will be built** by 12/31/2025.

In total, as of November 2025, there have been over 6,900 registrants for the LECP. Of the 6,900+ registered, 2,407 locations are built or being built, and others were removed from the list for ineligibility reasons. On that list, 1,053 are eligible as primary locations for future rounds.

As part of outreach efforts, OBD fielded 149 inquires on LECP over the phone and 32 over email. This led to 59 additional registrations for future rounds of the program, as well as over 35 additional registrations from applications submitted by mail. OBD also worked with internet service providers and other community partners, such as the League of Minnesota Cities, to notify residents and businesses of the program to raise awareness and boost registration statewide.

Line Extension Connection Program Round 4

OBD successfully ran a bidding window for a fourth round of the LECP. That timeline was as follows:

- Location addresses posted for review: September 15, 2025
- Challenges due: September 24, 2025
- Bidding window opened: September 26, 2025
- Bids due: November 25, 2025

OBD expects to make awards of over $5 million in this round to 20 providers at 1,300 locations across 30 counties. OBD will make rolling awards prior to the 2026 year and then move into signing contacts with LECP Round 4 subgrantees. During the bidding window, 26 providers requested $12.7 million in grant funding for 1,800 applications, demonstrating the strong need for the program in Minnesota.

Funding for the program originally designated from the ARPA CPF has been fully allocated. OBD hopes to be able to offer Line Extension in 2026 on a reduced scale using funding returned from prior projects that closed out under budget.

Federal Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program in Minnesota

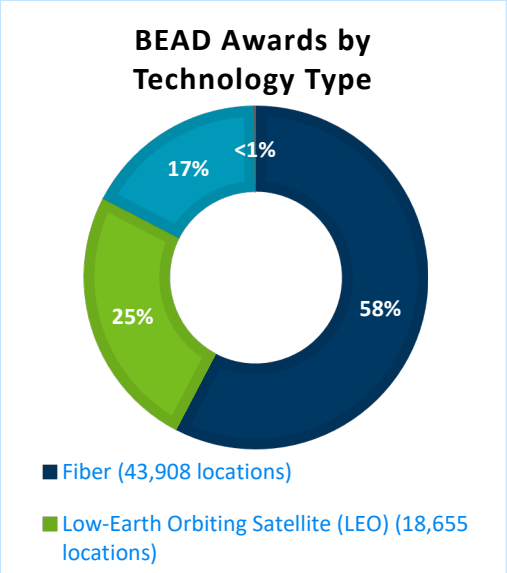
The Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program provides funding for broadband infrastructure and the preparation of a plan by each eligible entity for how to achieve *Internet for All*. Allocations to each state were announced on June 26, 2023, and Minnesota was slated to receive a total of $651,839,368. Following the June 6 BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice (RPN) from NTIA, over the course of the summer in 2025, OBD submitted a required Initial Proposal (IP) Correction Letter for approval to run the Restructured Round of the BEAD program in compliance with the Restructuring BEAD Policy Notice (RPN):

- July 8, 2025: NTIA approved Minnesota's IP BEAD Correction Letter required as part of NTIA's RPN.
- July 14 - July 24, 2025: Prequalified applicants (all technologies) submitted applications for the Restructured BEAD Round, compliant with the updated changes to the NTIA's June 6 BEAD RPN.
- August 5 - August 8, 2025: Direct Negotiation (all providers & technologies) for broadband service locations that did not receive any bids in the Restructured BEAD Round.
- August 28, 2025: Draft Final Proposal posted for a 7-day public comment period.
- September 4, 2025: Minnesota submitted its draft Final Proposal to NTIA.

The OBD completed 18 rounds of curing with the NTIA after submitting the draft of the Final Proposal. As part of the curing process, NTIA approved two of three matching fund waivers requests recommended by OBD.

Minnesota was notified of approval of the Final Proposal by the NTIA on December 19, 2025. As part of the Final Proposal, Minnesota expects for the BEAD dollars to fund:

- **$378,864,146.54** in federally funded BEAD awards
- **$189,968,693.57** in **match dollars**
- **$568,832,840.11** total has been deployed in Minnesota across:
    - **94** Projects
    - **23** Subgrantees
    - **74,739** Total Funded Locations



Following approval of the Final Proposal, NTIA will have 20 days to complete its final review and then states have 30 days to review and execute the agreement. The state currently has concerns and will review federal terms and conditions in case there may be language that impose obligations beyond statutory authority, create financial risk, or conflict with existing state laws and administrative processes, and seek clarification prior to execution. Pending future NTIA guidance, Minnesota expects $267,975,221.66 in total funds for approved non-deployment uses, which refers to how states can use leftover money from the **BEAD**, after meeting its primary goal of connecting all unserved and underserved locations. Additional information on the federal BEAD program is available on the NTIA website and updates as OBD receives them will be published to Minnesota's OBD BEAD webpage. See Appendix C: BEAD Awards by County and Technology Type in Minnesota, as of December 2025. As of December 31, 2025, OBD has received no additional guidance from NTIA on the availability and allowed use of the remaining funds of the original Minnesota allocated $651,839,368 not approved for broadband infrastructure deployment allocated to the state.

Eligibility Differences: BEAD vs. Border-to-Border/Lower-Population Density Programs

As of December 2025, 92.11% of households statewide had access to service that meets or exceeds the state's speed goal for 2026, which is 100 Mbps download by 20 Mbps upload from at least one provider. In the non-metro areas, 80.97% have that access. While the broadband grant program has largely focused on achieving the statutory speed goals, investments can only be funded under state law if they are scalable to deliver speeds at 100 Mbps download by 100 Mbps upload. The 100 Mbps symmetrical speed requirements are also included in the federal funding guidelines for the ARPA CPF funding. However, for the BEAD program, eligible locations are addressed by the state's NTIA-approved IPs and BEAD Challenge Process. The increasing demand for upload speeds faster than 20 Mbps is worth assessing since the 100 Mbps download by 20 Mbps upload speed goals were first established in state law in 2016.

Cost Analysis for Connecting All Minnesotans

In 2024, the OBD issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a consultant to perform a broadband cost gap analysis study for the state of Minnesota. The purpose of the analysis was two-fold: first, to determine the amount of funding needed to serve the state under BEAD; and second, to determine the cost if all locations in the state

were to be served with a minimum 100 Mbps download by 20 Mbps upload wireline connection, as is the goal under state law. CTC Technology and Energy, a consulting firm who has performed similar analysis for other states, was selected to complete the cost-gap analysis. CTC used CostQuest data, NTIA data and data from OBD's past state B2B and Line Extension Connection Program grant rounds to perform a set of cost modeling exercises. Findings from this are available in the 2024 Broadband Infrastructure Cost Gap Analysis and include that the grant funding required for wirelines service could range from $628 million to $2.1 billion.

Based on this analysis, the BEAD investment in Minnesota is unlikely to meet in full the 2026 broadband wireline goals set forth by the Minnesota legislature and additional work through state programs will be required.

Broadband Environmental and Land Use Coordinator

Successful broadband deployment requires grantees to navigate environmental permitting processes, which OBD has worked to support and streamline through building partnerships with other state agencies. As a result of these streamlining efforts, the Minnesota Broadband Land Use and Permitting Charter Group[1] was created to coordinate with other Minnesota state government agencies and continue review of the adequacy, effectiveness and expedience of the permitting process for broadband deployment projects.

Outside of the charter group, it was evident there was a need for additional capacity for these efforts within the OBD team to meet the needs of infrastructure projects out of the state programs (B2B, Low-Density, LECP) and that there would be further increased need with BEAD dollars, where federal funding triggers federal laws like the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), and Clean Water Act. OBD has so far worked with federal entities like NTIA and the Army Corps of Engineers on BEAD, and to implement broadband around the state will be growing its partnerships and collaborating with a variety of federal entities like the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service and others.

To proactively meet permitting and environmental compliance needs across state and federal programs, OBD created the Broadband Environmental and Land Use Coordinator position and filled this role in April 2025. The Broadband Environmental and Land Use coordinator, in addition to BEAD federal law compliance, will assist internet service providers with other state and local permitting challenges by collaborating with other agencies, proactive review of projects, training and outreach, and defining a process that will streamline permitting.

Minnesota Broadband Mapping Program

Minnesota has been independently mapping broadband access and speeds across Minnesota since 2009. This work continues to be performed through a contract with Connected Nation, a non-profit organization that has considerable experience working with Minnesota broadband providers. The requirement to conduct these mapping activities was codified into law (see Minn. Stat. § 116J.397). It should be noted that funding for mapping activities comes from the administrative allowance of the B2B Grant program per Minn. Stat. § 116J.396 at subd. 2(3).

[1] Charter Group members include: Governor's Office, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (Deputy Commissioner of Economic Development, Office of Broadband Development Executive Director, MN Business First Stop Coordinator), MN Department of Transportation, MN Department of Labor and Industry, MN Department of Natural Resources, MN State Historic Preservation Office, MN Office of the State Archaeologist, MN Indian Affairs Council, MN Office of Pipeline Safety and Gopher State One Call.

The most recent round of data collection shows that progress continues to be made towards state goals. See Appendix B: Historic Overview of Broadband Availability, Statewide and Non-metro at 2022 and 2026 Broadband Speed Goals.

In 2025, Connected Nation staff completed field validation for over 70 State and Capital Projects Fund grant projects, and in the process verified construction completeness at more than 35,000 locations. Additionally, as part of their contracted duties with the OBD, Connected Nation reached out to 135 internet service providers as part of data collection and assessment efforts used to develop the various publicly available interactive broadband service availability maps and data tables found on OBD's website.

Additional maps (updated December 16, 2025) and data are available on the OBD Minnesota Broadband Map and Data Center webpage.

Mapping Community Anchor Institutions

Community Anchor Institutions (CAI) are defined in 47 USC § 1721(6) as a public school, a public or multi-family housing authority, a library, a medical or healthcare provider, a community college or other institution of higher education, a state library agency, and any other nonprofit or governmental community support organization.

Minnesota's interactive broadband map maintained by OBD includes the locations of public safety facilities such as police and fire stations. Work remains to be done to devise a reliable means of gathering robust connectivity data for these anchor institutions. As with CAIs, OBD includes the locations of hospitals on the interactive broadband map and continues to work on locating a reliable data source to map connectivity levels to individual health care facilities. For additional information on CAI connectivity, see Appendix D: Tribal-Specific Broadband Grants.

Figure 1. 2025 Broadband Provider Service Inventory

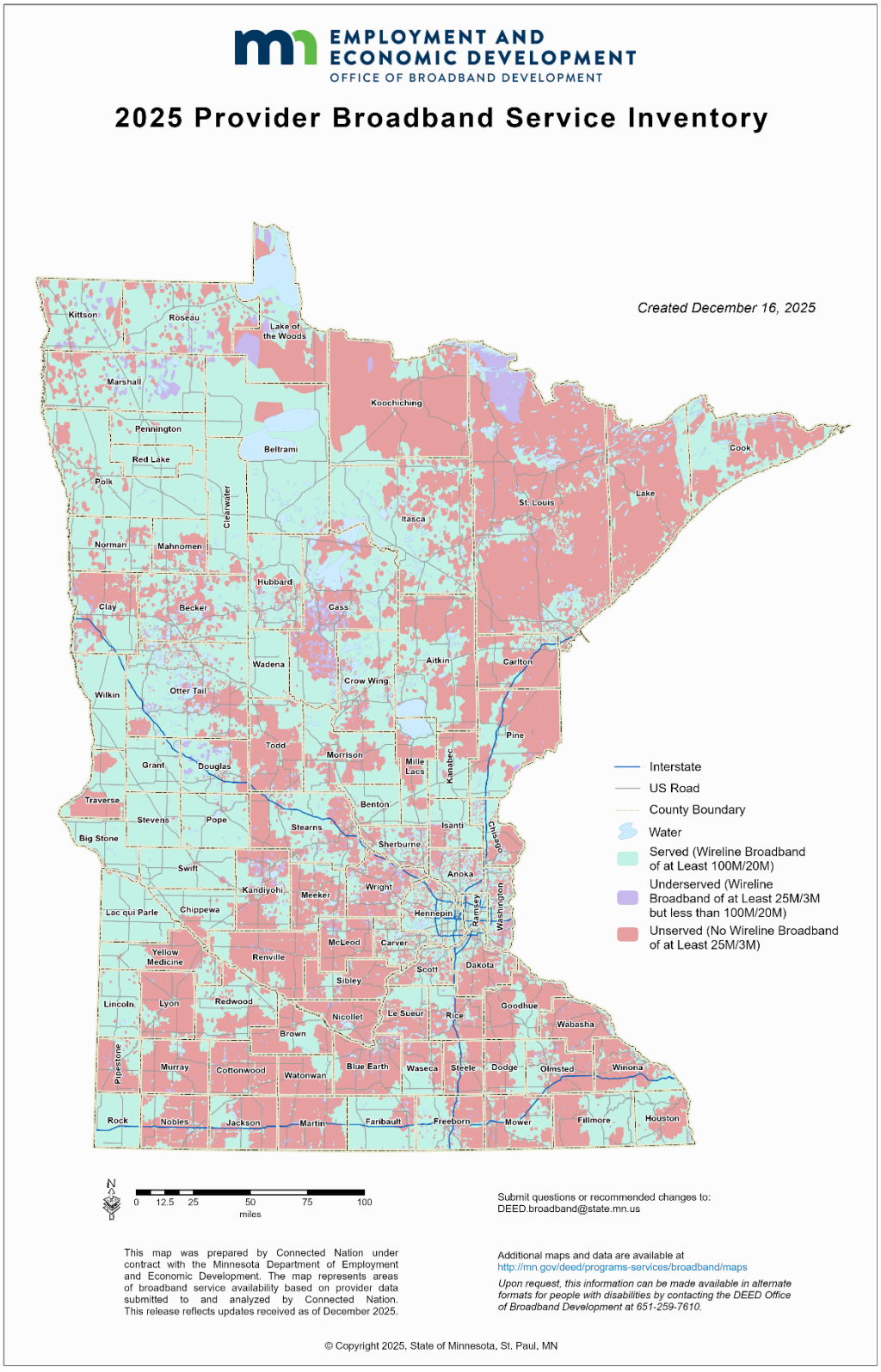


Figure 2. 2025 Broadband Availability in the State of Minnesota: Percentage of Residential Locations Served by 25/3 Mbps Wireline Broadband Service by City/Township

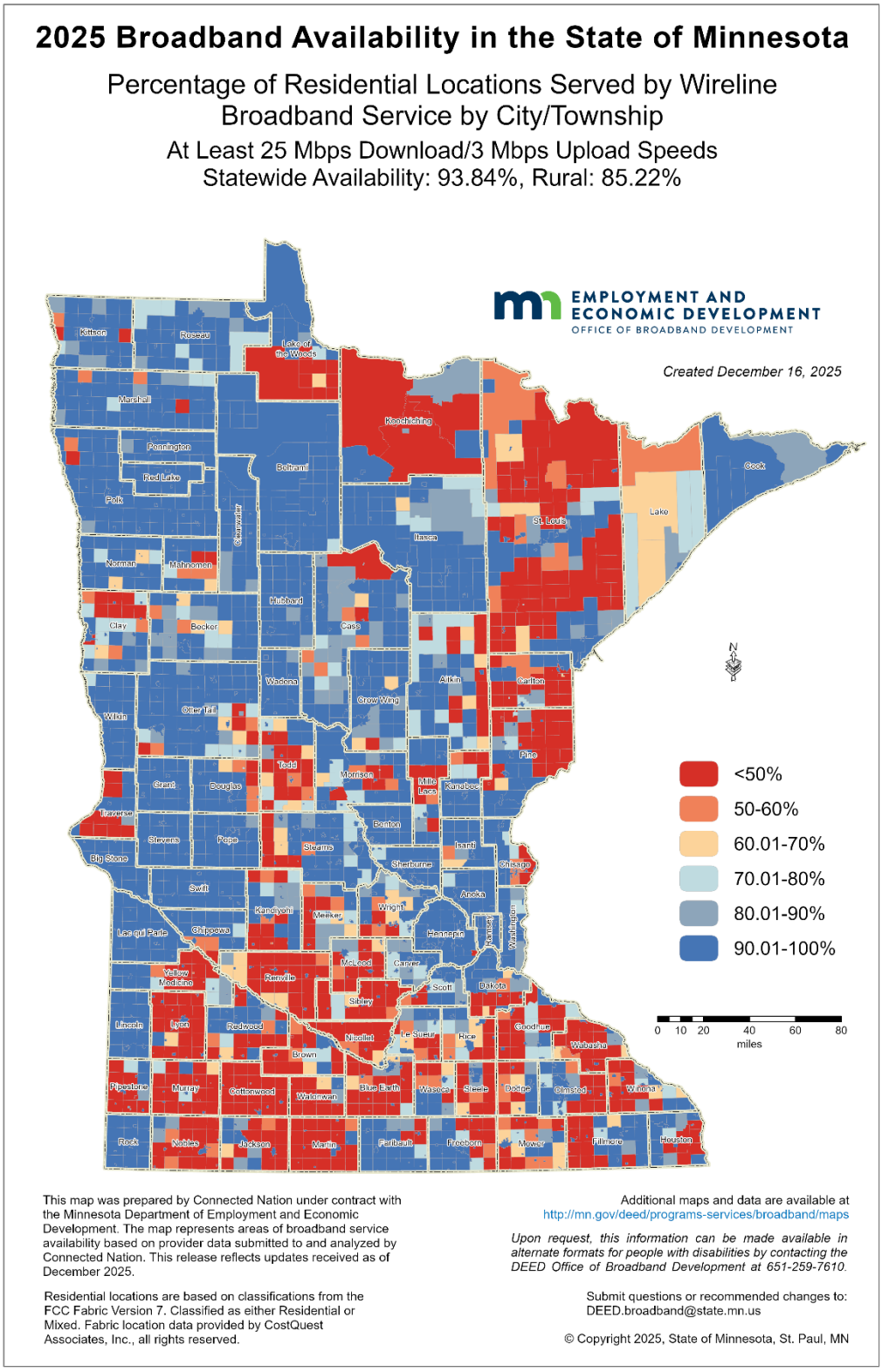
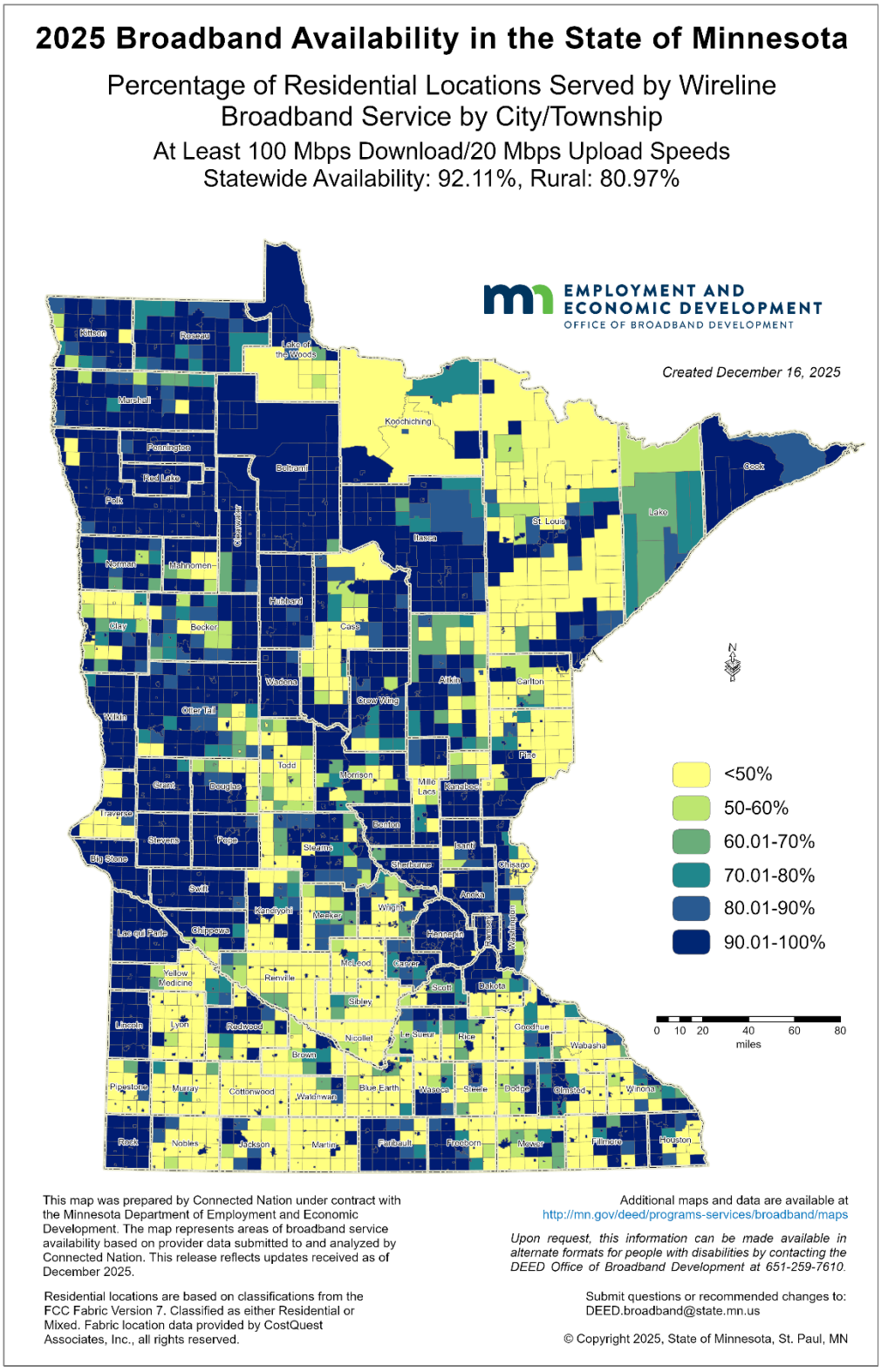


Figure 3. 2025 Broadband Availability in the State of Minnesota: Percentage of Residential Locations Served by 100/20 Mbps Wireline Broadband Service by City/Township



Proposed Legislative and Policy Initiatives

Connecting the Last Mile and the Line Extension Connection Program as a Permanent Tool: Minnesota's Broadband Line Extension Connection Program has proven to be a nimble, resident-driven mechanism to reach addresses that traditional builds miss. The program enables unserved households and businesses to submit addresses. Providers then bid via a reverse auction to deliver 100 Mbps download by 100 Mbps upload service within one year, targeting locations that do not have wired service speeds of at least 25 Mbps download by 3 Mbps upload. Making this a permanent program with stable funding will ensure Minnesota keeps filling the gaps that persist.

As Minnesota's BEAD implementation advances and maps continue to update, the Line Extension Connection Program will remain the tool that picks up the missed and new locations — small pockets that surface as networks expand, neighborhoods grow or map corrections occur. The program's reverse auction structure and explicit standard of 100 Mbps download by 100 Mbps upload speeds make it a strategic complement to larger infrastructure grants.

Appendix A
Border-to-Border Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program Ten-Year Summary, Lower-Population Density Grant Funding Summary and Line Extension Connection Program Grant Funding Summary

Border-to-Border Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program Ten-Year Summary

Year	Applications Received	Applications Awarded	% of Applications Funded	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	Number of Locations Served
2014	40	16	40%	$44,215,644	$18,670,337	6,333
2015	44	15	34%	$29,063,436	$11,008,366	4,098
2016	57	40	70%	$54,228,825	$29,040,896	16,708
2017	70	39	56%	$50,348,055	$26,475,556	12,202
2019*	80	30	37%	$67,809,312	$23,270,933	10,938
2020	64	39	61%	$42,038,097	$20,645,425	6,922
2022*	130	61	47%	$189,853,780	$99,592,711	33,091
2023	60	21	35%	$104,500,000	$36,907,763	10,464
2024 FY24	38	16	42%	$70.2M	$33,302,177	7,246
2024 FY25	40	18	45%	$46.5M	$24,963,338	5,597

**There was no grant round in 2018 as no appropriation was approved for FY19. There was no grant round in 2021 due to no appropriation and a delay in federal approval of Capital Projects Funds program plans.*

Lower-Population Density Grant Funding Summary

Year	Applications Received	Applications Awarded	% of Applications Funded	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded	Number of Locations Served
2023	28	9	32%	$80,700,000	$29,900,000	2,672
2024 FY24	31	8	26%	$85.5M	$19.7M	1,668
2024 FY25	27	8	30%	$78.3M	$26,999,984	2,104

Line Extension Connection Program Grant Funding Summary, Rounds 1-3						
Year	**Applications Received**	**Applications Awarded**	**% of Applications Funded**	**Amount Requested**	**Amount Awarded**	**Number of Locations Served**
2023	25	19	76%	$15.3M	$3,238,849.14	494
FY24						
2024	18	13	72%	$5.8M	$4,204,246.02	687
2024	21	16	76%	$13.4M	$7,554,872.31	1,088
FY25						

Appendix B
Historic Overview of Broadband Availability, Statewide and Non-metro at 2022 and 2026 Broadband Speed Goals

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022*	2023**	2024**	2025**
Statewide 25/3 % covered:	87.53% covered	88.11% covered	91.13% covered	92.79% covered	92.47% covered	91.79% covered	92.03% covered	91.56% covered	92.67% covered	93.84% covered
# without:	260,000 HH w/o	248,000 HH w/o	185,000 HH w/o	150,000 HH w/o	157,000 HH w/o	171,000 HH w/o	198,000 w/o	162,000 w/o	143,000 w/o	121,000 w/o
Rural 25/3 % covered:	72.03% covered	73.45% covered	80.07% covered	83.92% covered	83.10% covered	81.99% covered	74.42% covered	78.21% covered	81.09% covered	85.22% covered
# without:	251,000 HH w/o	238,000 HH w/o	179,000 HH w/o	144,000 HH w/o	152,000 HH w/o	161,000 HH w/o	180,000 w/o	154,000 w/o	139,000 w/o	116,000 w/o
Statewide 100/20 % covered:	68.53% covered	70.04% covered	74.11% covered	86.10% covered	87.75% covered	88.52% covered	88.29% covered	88.03% covered	90.32% covered	92.11% covered
# without:	657,000 HH w/o	625,000 HH w/o	540,000 HH w/o	290,000 HH w/o	256,000 HH w/o	240,000 HH w/o	291,000 w/o	229,000 w/o	189,000 w/o	155,000 w/o
Rural 100/20 % covered:	49.33% covered	52.88% covered	60.05% covered	68.74% covered	72.53% covered	75.05% covered	62.46% covered	68.87% covered	75.00% covered	80.97% covered
# without	455,000 HH w/o	423,000 HH w/o	358,000 HH w/o	280,000 HH w/o	246,000 HH w/o	224,000 HH w/o	264,000 w/o	220,000 w/o	184,000 w/o	149,000 w/o

HH = households

*Year calculated **housing units** covered and without. Note that the 2022 increase of those without service corresponds to housing *units* and the decision to count all habitable houses (e.g., summer cabins) instead of occupied households as was done in prior years.

Year calculated **residential/mixed locations covered and without. Note that the 2023 data show a decline in availability at the 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload speed; this is due to a decision to move to the FCC/CostQuest fabric location dataset.

Appendix C
BEAD Awards by County and Technology Type in Minnesota, as of December 2025

County	Fiber	Low-Earth Orbiting Satellite (LEO)	Fixed Wireless	Coaxial Cable
Aitkin	758	497	0	0
Anoka	194	516	717	10
Becker	1150	193	0	0
Benton	69	292	0	0
Big Stone	1	23	0	0
Blue Earth	680	14	88	0
Brown	916	1	26	0
Carlton	2879	307	153	0
Carver	166	126	168	0
Cass	42	49	0	0
Chippewa	0	4	0	0
Chisago	1046	213	0	19
Clay	17	13	0	0
Clearwater	0	8	0	0
Cook	0	83	0	0
Cottonwood	645	0	4	0
Crow Wing	934	240	0	0
Dakota	131	482	315	0
Dodge	0	94	0	0
Douglas	373	111	0	0
Faribault	0	7	0	0
Fillmore	397	224	144	0
Goodhue	359	1118	825	0
Grant	0	3	0	0
Hennepin	165	509	655	0
Houston	1082	256	211	0

Hubbard	34	40	0	0
Isanti	1732	15	137	2
Itasca	48	218	0	0
Jackson	175	0	22	0
Kanabec	969	57	0	0
Kandiyohi	342	275	0	0
Kittson	0	14	0	0
Koochiching	840	849	0	0
Lac qui Parle	0	1	0	0
Lake	26	1130	204	0
Lake of the Woods	130	199	0	0
Le Sueur	883	8	238	0
Lincoln	0	2	0	0
Lyon	0	22	0	0
Mahnomen	74	36	0	0
Marshall	0	10	0	0
Martin	50	0	0	0
McLeod	488	137	0	0
Meeker	540	14	0	0
Mille Lacs	398	52	3	0
Morrison	128	559	0	0
Mower	10	155	0	0
Murray	9	4	0	0
Nicollet	574	4	552	0
Nobles	0	0	65	0
Olmsted	43	1111	1175	0
Otter Tail	692	241	0	0
Pennington	0	86	0	0
Pine	2472	91	24	0
Pipestone	63	0	0	0
Polk	0	37	0	0

Pope	0	30	0	0
Ramsey	0	203	120	0
Redwood	198	5	170	0
Renville	0	16	201	0
Rice	1494	182	512	0
Rock	0	48	0	0
Roseau	68	24	0	0
Scott	1756	24	86	0
Sherburne	1066	102	425	8
Sibley	0	21	933	0
St. Louis	6499	3663	1516	0
Stearns	1432	51	168	0
Steele	0	178	0	0
Stevens	0	6	0	0
Swift	0	15	0	0
Todd	1006	572	800	0
Wabasha	146	1218	1622	0
Wadena	9	10	0	0
Waseca	0	0	17	0
Washington	1761	364	249	16
Watonwan	9	0	2	0
Winona	329	1134	0	0
Wright	4601	39	384	0
Totals	**43,098**	**18,655**	**12,931**	**55**

Appendix D
Tribal-Specific Broadband Grants

As articulated in a 2024 report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), "Tribal entities have historically been at a disadvantage in competing for federal broadband funding. For example, most broadband programs are not exclusively for tribal entities, so they must compete with other eligible entities with more resources and experience in applying for funding, including well-established telecommunications providers." TRIBAL BROADBAND: Additional Assistance to Recipients Would Better Support Implementation of $3 Billion in Federal Grants, published June 2024 by the United States Government Accountability Office Report to Congressional Committees, GAO-24-106541. This is complicated by disparities in access to broadband between the general population and the rural population of people identifying as American Indian or Alaskan Native (AI/AN). While over 99% of households in urban areas of the U.S. have broadband service at 25/3 Mbps, only 65% of rural AI/AN households have the broadband service at 25/3 Mbps.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has a webpage with resources for Tribal broadband funding. All state and federal programs listed below are also open to Tribal communities.

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

- Awarding Agency: NTIA
- The Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) is a $3 billion program directed to Tribal Governments, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Tribal Organizations and Native Corporations, and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to be used for broadband deployment on tribal lands, as well as for telehealth, distance learning, broadband affordability and adoption.
- The NTIA announced Tribal Broadband Program Reforms on November 12, 2025, and that there would be a new NOFO Spring 2026 for remaining tribal broadband funding.
- TBCP I awards totaled over $52.9 million awarded between 2022 to 2023 as follows:

Applicant	City/Town	Grant Funding	Project Purpose/Type	Broadband Service Speed/Details
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians	Net Lake	$19,800,704.00	Broadband Infrastructure Deployment	1 Gbps
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	Cass Lake	$18,797,452.00	Fiber and Fixed Wireless	Fiber: 100/40 Gbps Wireless: 80/20 Mbps
Lower Sioux Indian Community	Morton	$1,995,787.00	Broadband Infrastructure Deployment	10/10 Gbps
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Onamia	$11,407,585.00	Broadband Infrastructure Deployment	From 250/250 Mbps to 1000/1000 Mbps
White Earth Band of Chippewa Indians	Ogema	$500,000.00	Broadband Use and Adoption	6 Community Centers, Online Training for 3,343 Tribal Members

Previous funding opportunities include:

National Tribal Broadband Grant Program

- Administering Agency: Office of Indian Economic Development
- The National Tribal Broadband Grant Program (NTBG) is a competitive discretionary program. All federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes, bands, villages, nations and communities are eligible for NTBG funding. The NTBG grant opportunity for FY 2022 closed November 17th, 2022. FY2022 awardees are listed on the NTBG page.

Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program (2022-2025)

- Awarding Agency: NTIA
- Through the Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program, NTIA directly addresses the lack of Internet access, connectivity, adoption and equity at our nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs), and in census tracts with high levels of poverty within their surrounding anchor communities. The Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program (CMC) provided $268 million to help colleges and institutions that serve minority and Tribal communities.
- Red Lake Nation College: $1,924,280.00

State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program: Native Entities (Native Entity Capacity & Planning Grant Program)

- Awarding Agency: NTIA
- The goal of the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program for Native Entities, including Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Entities and Native Hawaiian Organizations, was to fund initiatives that help Native communities to fully access and take advantage of the digital world.

Appendix E
Connectivity at Community Anchor Institutions, Broadband Affordability, and Funding Programs

Connectivity at Community Anchor Institutions

Public Libraries

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) captures upload and download speed data of public libraries during its annual Public Library Report process. Public release of data is delayed by approximately one year. In 2023, 85 percent of 356 responding library locations indicated receiving download speeds above 50 Mbps, and 97 percent reported upload speeds above 20 Mbps. More data from the Public Library Report is available through MDE's library statistics website.

Public Safety

OBD works with both the Minnesota Department of Public Safety and AT&T to share information regarding areas that could benefit from improved FirstNet and commercial broadband service.

Construction of the nationwide first responder network, known as FirstNet, concluded its five-year contract-obligated build-out in 2023, although additional coverage continues to be built. The federal government awarded the FirstNet contract to AT&T in 2017. Minnesota's participation is coordinated by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Emergency Communication Networks (ECN) division. The purpose of FirstNet is to build, operate and maintain a high speed, nationwide wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety and operable across the country. New towers are being added to expand FirstNet coverage, based on research by AT&T. These towers are also capable of hosting commercial service which helps to expand both cellular phone and broadband coverage. In 2024, six new towers were added as well as many small cell services to increase in-building coverage in schools, hospitals and other public spaces. The FirstNet Authority also kicked off a 10-year task order to invest $8.3 billion for additional towers and a new unified, standalone 5G core dedicated to public safety across the country. More information is available through the FirstNet Authority site.

Telehealth

Telehealth continues to be an essential service in ensuring all Minnesota residents — particularly those living in rural locations far from healthcare facilities — can access the healthcare they need. As identified in the MN Department of Health's (MDH) 2024 report titled "Rural Healthcare in Minnesota: Data Highlights," rural Minnesotans were significantly more likely than their urban counterparts to be unable to schedule appointments with primary care providers in a timely manner. In rural Minnesota, there are 2.5 primary doctors for every 100,000 residents; in metropolitan areas, this ratio is 32.7:100,000.

As rural health care services become sparser, there is a greater need for telehealth appointments. However, per MDH's 2024 rural healthcare data highlights, rural Minnesotans are significantly less likely (11.3% vs. 19.5%) than urban Minnesotans to take advantage of telehealth services. While this is in part due to a lesser proportion of rural households having access to internet service robust enough to support video calls, digital skills are also identified as an area of imbalance. This complex disparity is examined further in MDH's final report on its study of telehealth expansion and payment parity.

Submitted to the state legislature on September 16, 2024, the final report offers nine recommendations designed to increase Minnesotans' access to and use of telehealth services. Recommendations of particular relevance to OBD include the following:

> Recommendation 3: Further investments in infrastructure are needed to improve access to telehealth.
>
> Recommendation 4: Broad action is needed to help people build their knowledge, skills, and comfort to use telehealth effectively
>
> Recommendation 5: Build the capacity across sectors to support equitable access to healthcare via telehealth.

Additional data from MDH on rural healthcare includes a 2025 Rural Health Care in Minnesota Chartbook is also available online as a resource for data on rural Minnesota's health care system, workforce, availability of services, use and financing.

Broadband Affordability

Affordable Connectivity Program (2021-2024)

Awarding Agency: Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) provided $14.2B from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to provide eligible households with a discount of up to $30/month ($75/month on qualifying Tribal lands) for high-speed Internet service, and up to $100 discount toward a desktop, laptop or tablet computer offered by participating Internet service providers. ACP was administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) with oversight from the FCC. The ACP began in 2022 and froze enrollment on February 8, 2024. Despite enrollment of 23 million households (more than 1 in 6 households) nationwide and being the "largest and most successful broadband affordability program in our nation's history," the ACP's funding was not renewed by Congress, and the last fully funded month of the program was April 2024. The agency officially ended the ACP on May 31, 2024. Efforts to renew or replace the program have not succeeded.

ACP Impact by State	**Total ACP Claim Amount** January 2022 – May 2024	**Households in State Enrolled in ACP** as of 2/8/2024	**Total Enrolled ACP Households** as of 2/8/2024	**Total Enrolled Lifeline Households**
Minnesota	$153,971,615.00	11%	244,916 (30.7% of eligible households)	74,642

Xfinity Internet Essentials

Xfinity's Internet Essentials plan for low-income households is $10 per month with equipment included. Expect speeds up to 50Mbps. Xfinity offers this as an option for ACP enrollees or customers who participate in an assistance program like Medicaid or SNAP. Internet Essentials also includes access to Xfinity Wi-Fi public hotspots.

Funding Programs

Universal Service Administrative Company

Universal Service Fund
The Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) is an independent, not-for-profit corporation designated by the FCC. USAC administers the Universal Service Fund (USF). Under the authority of the 1996 Telecom Act,

the FCC put USAC in charge of administering the collection and disbursement of universal service funds. The USF is almost $10 billion and is available annually thanks to the companies and institutions that make universal service possible.

The USF money is collected from telecommunications companies that provide international and interstate service based on earned revenue above a specific threshold. The companies' customers pay this FCC-mandated USF line item through a nominal charge in their monthly telephone bills. USAC currently oversees four programs that serve people in rural, underserved and difficult-to-reach areas. They are the E-Rate Program, the High-Cost Program, the Lifeline Program and the Rural Health Care (RHC) Program. Tribal communities and service providers servicing Tribal lands or Tribally-operated service providers can also access these universal service programs and support via USAC's Tribal Programs.

E-rate Program

Schools, school districts, libraries, Tribal libraries and consortia (such as Service Cooperatives) can apply for E-Rate programs to obtain discounts of 20 percent to 90 percent on broadband, internet services and related information technology equipment and systems. The funding percentage is dependent upon income levels and whether the applicant is in a rural or urban setting. Tribal libraries and Tribal college and university (TCU) libraries can receive direct support via the Tribal Library E-Rate Advocacy Program (T-LEAP). Prospective Tribal applicants can also access specific information through USAC's FAQs on E-rate for Tribal entities.

In September 2025, the FCC announced it was going to end the inclusion of school bus Wi-Fi through the E-rate program, reversing a 2023 decision permitting its use.

Rural Health Care Program

The Rural Health Care (RHC) program has funding to assist rural health care providers address connectivity needs. The RHC Program provides funding through two pathways: the Telecommunications (Telecom) Program and the Healthcare Connect Fund (HCF) Program. The Telecom program provides health care providers with discounted rates based on an urban/rural differential for voice, data and other telecom needs. The HCF provides a flat 65% discount for eligible expenses such as broadband services, network equipment and more. Rural Health Care providers can apply for funding for Voice and Data, Broadband or both.

RHC applicants must be public or nonprofit health care providers seeking to improve healthcare services through improved communications services, including broadband expansion and network equipment, etc. The RHC and HCF programs have an annual funding cap.

High Cost Program

The High Cost program provides unserved and underserved rural areas with affordable voice and broadband service through support to eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs). ETCs can be state utility commissions or carriers that self-certify. Annual ETC certification is due by Oct. 1 every year. The High Cost program distributes funding though more than a dozen active funds. According to 47 CFR Section 54.313, state utility commissions must certify that carriers under their jurisdiction are eligible to receive High Cost support in their states and used all support collected in the proceeding calendar year only to provide, maintain and upgrade the facilities for which the support was intended and will do the same in the coming calendar year.

Lifeline Program

The Lifeline program is available to participating telecom customers that meet income guidelines and other eligibility guidelines. Eligible customers can receive a benefit of up to $9.25 towards phone or internet services (up to $34.25 for those living on Tribal lands). Only one benefit is allowed per household. Tribal customers and

partners (Tribal governments, government agencies and nonprofits that serve Tribal communities) can find more information at Enhanced Tribal Benefit.

Similar to the High Cost program explained above, service providers must be designated as an ETC by their state regulatory commission or the FCC. Both service providers and customers must recertify annually

Federal Broadband Funding

Federal funding for broadband, including several longstanding programs, has received emphasis as policy makers noted the need for universal broadband availability and affordability, highlighted by the pandemic, and has been more recently underscored by the rapid advancement of technologies such as artificial intelligence. Federal appropriations for broadband have been included or allowed in laws passed to address the pandemic included the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act passed in March 2020; the Consolidated Recovery Act signed into law in December 2020; the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) approved in March 2021; and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)/Bipartisan Infrastructure Law signed by President Biden on November 15, 2021. Other federal funding programs have been in place for many years in agency budgets or as part of the Federal Communications Commission's Universal Service Fund (revenues collected from telephone ratepayers, not taxpayers). Each federal funding source or program is discussed below.

American Rescue Plan Act: State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

ARPA included broadband infrastructure as an allowed use for State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. The state did receive an overall allocation of $2.83 billion. ARPA funds were used as a match for some projects awarded in Rounds 7-10.

OBD is aware that several local units of government have used some of their Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (LFRF) for broadband infrastructure. Some of these were conceived as independent projects and others included ARPA LFRF as part of the match for a state B2B Broadband grant application.

ReConnect Loan and Grant Program

Awarding Agency: USDA

The ReConnect Loan and Grant Program is a $1.9 billion program funded through President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that provides funds for the cost of construction, improvement or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide high-speed Internet service in eligible rural areas. Broadband projects in Minnesota constructed with ReConnect funds are identified as such on the state broadband maps.

Community Connect Grants

Awarding Agency: USDA

The USDA conducts a Community Connect grant program for broadband infrastructure. The Community Connect provides financial assistance to eligible applicants that will provide broadband service in rural, economically challenged communities where service does not exist. Eligible applicants include Incorporated organizations, federally recognized Tribes, State and local units of government, and any other legal entity, including cooperatives, private corporations or limited liability companies organized on a for-profit or not-for-profit basis. Eligible areas are rural and lack existing broadband speeds of at least 10 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload. A 15% match is required.

Traditional Federal Programs for Broadband

USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine Awards (ongoing, program created in 1994)

The Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Program provides funding to improve rural access to telehealth and distance learning opportunities. This is accomplished through expanded access to telecommunications and related advanced technologies. Projects most often focus on situations where the patients or students are not in the same geographic location as the source of the healthcare or education service. The DLT program is targeted to rural areas with populations 20,000 or fewer. In 2024, USDA listed three key priorities: economic recovery, equitable access to USDA Rural Development-funded programs and addressing climate change. The DLT program is governed by 7 CFR Part 1734.

USDA Broadband Technical Assistance (uses ReConnect Funds)

USDA Broadband Technical Assistance (BTA) provides financial assistance through cooperative agreements to eligible entities to receive or deliver broadband technical assistance and training, and supports the development and expansion of broadband cooperatives.

USDA Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans & Loan Guarantees

The Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans & Loan Guarantees programs use USDA's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) funds. USDA's RUS provides a variety of loans and grants to build and expand broadband networks. Loans are used to build broadband networks, deliver service to rural households and businesses and to provide capital for rural telecommunications companies and broadband providers. Grants are reserved for communities with the highest need. The Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans & Loan Guarantees program provides financing for the construction, maintenance, improvement and expansion of telephone service and broadband in rural areas. This program is authorized by the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended in 7 U.S.C. 901 et seq. Code of Federal Regulation: 7 CFR 1735 and 7 CFR 1737.

Federal Communications Commission: Connect America Fund and Rural Digital Opportunity Fund

The FCC has transitioned its Universal Service Fund to the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF). RDOF will disburse up to $20.4 billion over 10 years to bring fixed broadband and voice service to millions of unserved homes and small businesses in rural America. Building on the success of the Connect America Fund Phase II Auction (CAF II Auction), RDOF uses a two-phase, competitive reverse auction (Auction 904) that prioritizes higher network speeds and lower latency to ensure the deployment of robust, sustainable high-speed networks that meet the needs of consumers now and in the future RDOF Phase I payments began in 2021 on a rolling basis, with support terms running 10 years. RDOF recipients have up to eight years to complete deployment and must meet interim deployment milestone.

The interactive map available on OBD's website includes the RDOF funded areas as an overlay.

Other FCC Funding: USAC High Cost, Modernized Funds

The High Cost/Connect America program consists of multiple funds that subsidize the delivery of voice and broadband service across rural America.

Modernized funds include the following, Alternative Connect America Cost Model (ACAM) I, Revised A-CAM, ACAM II; CAFA Phase II Model, CAF Phase II Auction, CAF Broadband Loop Support (BLS) for the smaller incumbent telephone companies in the state continues to aid these companies as they upgrade broadband service in their historic telephone exchange areas, and Enhanced Alternative Connect America Cost Model Support (E-ACAM). These areas can also be seen as an overlay on the online interactive map.

Enhanced ACAM

In October 2023, the FCC Announced nearly $18.3B in Enhanced ACAM (E-ACAM) funds. E-ACAM is rural broadband funding and has been awarded to 388 internet providers nationally. Infrastructure supported with E-

ACAM must meet speed minimums of 100 Mbps download by 20 Mbps upload. Providers accepting E-ACAM have four years to complete deployments during a 15-year window. Payments begin in 2024 and E-ACAM carriers have until Dec. 31, 2028, to complete deployment.

A list of providers located in Minnesota that accepted E-ACAM offers from 2024 to 2038 are as follows: Albany Mutual Telephone Association; Alliance Communications Cooperative, Inc.; Arvig Enterprises, Inc.; Benton Cooperative Telephone Company; Consolidated Telephone Company; Emily Cooperative Telephone Company; Garden Valley Telephone Company; Gardonville Cooperative Telephone Association; Halstad Telephone Company; Harmony Telephone Company; Johnson Telephone Company; Kasson & Mantorville Telephone Company; Manchester-Hartland Telephone Company; Park Region Mutual Telephone Company; Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Cooperative; Rural Communications Holding Corporation; Spring Grove Communications; Telephone & Data Systems, Inc.; US Cellular; Tri-Co Technologies, LLC; Upsala Cooperative Telephone Association; West Central Telephone Association; and Wikstrom Telephone Company, Inc.

Revised Alternative Connect America Cost Model

Revised Alternative Connection America Cost Model (Revised ACAM) provides set monthly payments based on a cost model to Rate of Return carriers to build broadband to a specific number of fixed locations in areas eligible for funding. Revised ACAM increases model-based support for existing ACAM carriers to meet expanded broadband buildout obligations. The Revised ACAM support term runs from 2019 to 2028. Revised ACAM carriers have until the end of 2028 to complete deployment and must meet interim deployment milestones.

Alternative Connect America Cost Model II

Alternative Connect America Cost Model II (ACAM II) provides set monthly payments based on a cost model to Rate of Return carriers that voluntarily elected to transition from CAF BLS funding to model-based support to build broadband to a specific number of fixed locations in areas eligible for funding. The ACAM II support term runs from 2017 to 2028. ACAM II carriers have until the end of 2028 to complete deployment and must meet interim deployment milestones.

Connect America Fund Phase II Auction

Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase II Auction provides support to entities that successfully bid in a 2018 competitive reverse auction to deploy broadband in areas where the incumbent price cap carrier did not accept CAF II Model funding and other price cap areas that are most costly to serve. CAF II Auction payments began in 2019 on a rolling basis, with support terms running 10 years. CAF II Auction carriers have until the end of 2025 to complete deployment and must meet interim deployment milestones. CAF was formerly known as “High-Cost Support.”

Connect America Fund Broadband Loop Support (CAF BLS)

Provided support based on carrier costs and other financial data to Rate of Return carriers to build broadband to a specific number of fixed locations in areas eligible for funding. The CAF BLS support term runs from 2019 to 2023, and carriers were required to complete deployment by the end of 2023.

5G Fund for Rural America

In April 2020, due to advances in technology, the Commission proposed to replace Mobility Fund Phase II with the 5G Fund for Rural America, which would make up to $9 billion available to bring 5G mobile broadband service to rural areas. To support 5G Fund Phase 1 Option, a Second Report and Order, Order on Reconsideration, and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking was adopted on August 14, 2024.

Rural Broadband Experiments (RBE)

Rural Broadband Experiments (RBE) provides funding to telecommunications carriers that successfully bid to deploy broadband in unserved price cap areas, including rural areas that are the most costly to serve. The RBE support term runs from 2015 to 2025. RBE carriers must meet interim and final deployment milestones on a rolling basis.