December 2024

COLORADO
Governor's Office of Information Technology

Colorado Broadband Office Updates

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Broadband Acronyms Defined

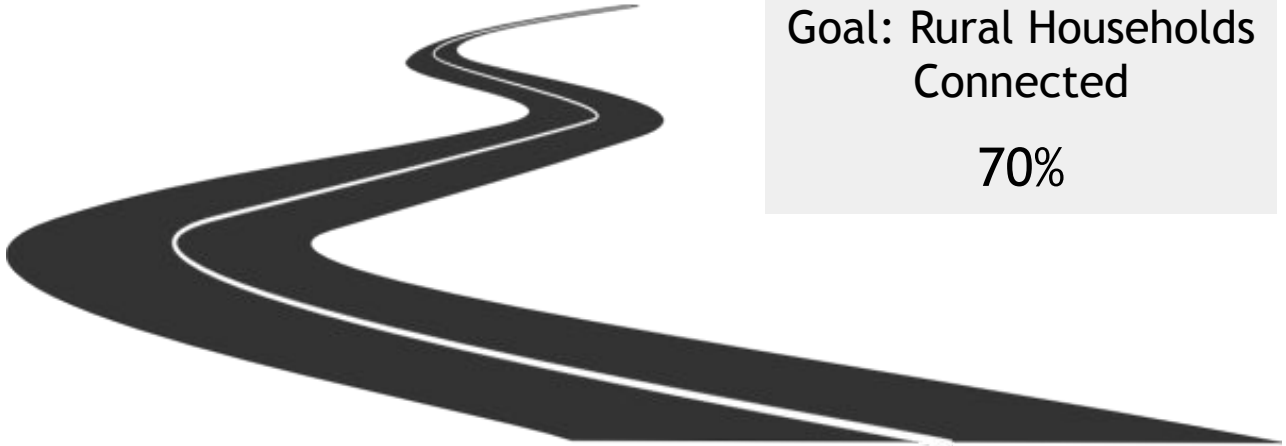
CPF - *Capital Projects Fund*	**HCSM** - *High Cost Support Mechanism*
CBO - *Colorado Broadband Office*	**FCC** - *Federal Communications Commission*
NTIA - *National Telecommunications and Information Administration*	**BDB** - *Broadband Deployment Board*
BEAD - *Broadband, Equity, Access, Deployment*	**ILEC** - Non-incumbent local exchange carrier
ISP - Internet Service Provider	**DE** - *Digital Equity*
EHCPLT - Extremely High Cost Per Location Threshold	**Mbps** - *Megabytes Per Second*

On the road to 99%

On the road to 99%: Broadband coverage as of Nov. 2024*

131,000 Colorado households lack access to quality high-speed internet

(previously reported 160,000 households)



Goal: Households Connected	Current Status:
94.8%	95.4%

Goal: Rural Households Connected	Current Status:
70%	75.2%

ADVANCE COLORADO BROADBAND
Broadband Equity, Access, & Deployment

Colorado's BEAD Applications Summary

Funding Requested

$1.78 billion total BEAD funding requested
+ More than **$500 million** in matching funds
= **$2.3 billion in total for the proposed projects**

Impact to Coloradans

- Total number of eligible locations applied for: 111,896
- No of unserved locations: 67,559
- No of underserved locations: 44,337

Every Colorado county has at least one application!

Technology

- Priority Broadband Project Application: 139
- Other Last-Mile Broadband Project Application: 46

Who Applied

- Non-Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC) service provider 76%
- Other 8%
- Municipality/Local Government 5%
- Public or Private Utility 5%
- Tribal Government 3%
- ILEC service provider 3%
- Electric Cooperative 1%

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment

Next Steps

- CBO will review every application to find the best fit for each community's unique needs and obstacles
- Approved BEAD Initial Proposal Volume 2 (Section 2.4, starting on page 41) outlines how the CBO will facilitate the Deployment Subgrantee Selection process
  - Note that the application review phase will take up to 160 days
- Round 2 open to everyone, same rules and regulations as Round 1
- Amendments to rules to make it easier are in progress with NTIA

Interactive Maps on Broadband Mapping Hub offer more detail on BEAD applications

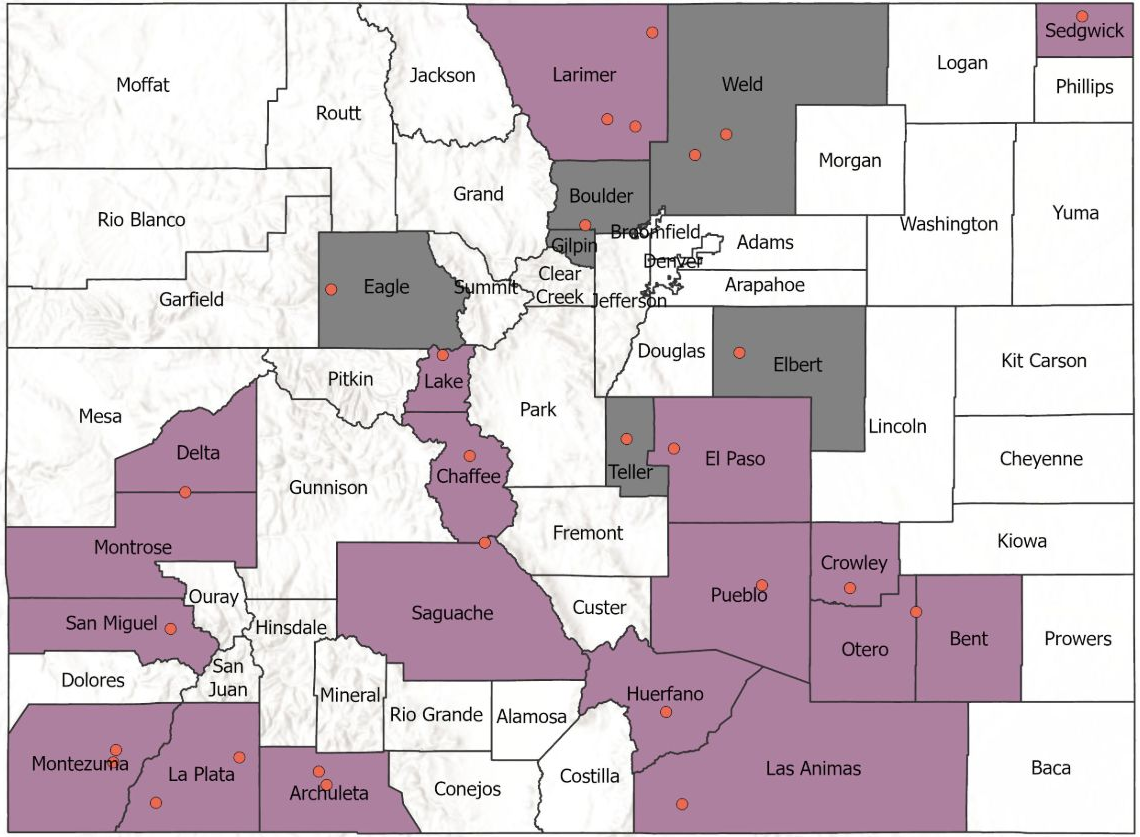
BEAD Program Next Steps

	Next Steps	BEAD Program Activities
1	Review Round 1 Applications	• Reach out to ISPs adjacent to Project Areas with no-bids and request that they serve those remaining areas • Remediate high cost areas from current applications based on EHCPLT
2	Update Project Area Maps	• Create a new Project Area Map that includes remaining Project Areas and EHCPLT locations • Map will be available for ISPs to bid on
3	Second Grant Round: Alternative Technology	• Open second grant round with Project Area Map for 30 days
4	Second Grant Evaluation	• Open to all applicants using the same scoring criteria • Expecting to cover the remaining Project Areas
5	Develop and Submit Final Proposal to NTIA	• Select and make preliminary awards for inclusion in the Final Proposal to the NTIA • Initiate public comment process

Capital Projects Fund (CPF) Updates

- Earlier this year, we awarded $113,500,000
- Additional funding awarded to the Southern Colorado Economic Development District in Crowley County to connect 1,753 homes and businesses in some of the most rural and underserved communities in Colorado
- Award details are on the Advance-CPF website
- First Coloradans connected to high-speed internet in Kiowa and Elizabeth

Advance-CPF Awards



- $113 million awarded from Capital Projects Fund (CPF)
- 26 broadband projects
- Projects will connect more than 18,000 households in 24 counties
- All grant agreements are executed and projects are underway
- Projects must be completed by the of 2026

Legend

- Awarded Project
- Tier 1 County
- Tier 2 County

ADVANCE
COLORADO BROADBAND
State & Local Dollars

Advance State & Local Dollars Grant Program

HB24-1336 was enacted on May 22, 2024

- Repeals the Broadband Deployment Board
- Requires the CBO to establish a grant program criteria and guidelines for awarding HCSM funding:
  - A two tier grantmaking structure:
    - Tier One - 60 percent of funding
      - Broadband Middle Mile Projects
    - Tier Two - 40 percent of funding
      - Other unfunded broadband and telecommunication needs
  - Solicit input from the general public and various stakeholders
  - Create a work group
  - Establish a formal appeals process

Advance State & Local Dollars Grant Program

- NEW grant program under the Advance Colorado Broadband Grant Program, called State & Local Dollars, or Advance-Local for short
- Award money from a state-funding program called the High-Cost Support Mechanism (HCSM) Fund to middle mile, last mile, short-term construction, and non-deployment projects
- Fill the gaps left by federal funding
- CBO published the Program Guidelines and Appeal Policy with a 30 day public comment period closed on Dec. 6

Advance State & Local Dollars Grant Program

Public Comments

- Application Process & Requirements
- Open Access
- Match
- Low-Cost Option
- Scoring
- Minimum Requirements Scoring
- Challenge & Appeal Process
- Tiered Funding Approach
- General Feedback

Advance Colorado Broadband State & Local Dollars Timeline

Draft Guidelines to be completed

Oct. 1, 2024

Open for Public Comment

Nov. 5-Dec. 6, 2024

Publish Grant Guidelines

Dec. 20, 2024

Implementation Begins

Jan. 1, 2025

Stakeholder Work Group Launches

Fall 2025

Digital Equity Program Timeline

- Colorado's Digital Access Plan approved by NTIA in April 2024
- Application for Digital Equity Act Capacity funds submitted May 28
- Colorado receives $12 million in funding in by end of 2024
- Implementation begins early 2025
- Additional funding opportunities expected in 2025 & 2026

Stakeholder Outreach

- Community & Industry Leaders Roundtable Calls
- Weekly Broadband Legislative Stakeholder Calls
- Advance Consult Group
- CBO Advance-Local Program Webinar
- BEAD Weekly Office Hours

Thank you