

# DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY PLAN SUMMARY



Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity  
UTAH BROADBAND CENTER

## VISION

To guide the State of Utah in facilitating increased availability, accessibility, and affordability of high-speed internet for the benefit of all Utahns.

## GOALS & OBJECTIVES

- 1 Expand broadband to unserved and underserved areas throughout the state.
- 2 Identify and mitigate obstacles and barriers preventing broadband expansion.
- 3 Support internet service providers (ISPs) in navigating federal funding requirements.
- 4 Maximize funding to provide the most value to unserved and underserved communities.
- 5 Encourage expansion of broadband to community anchor institutions.
- 6 Strengthen Utah's economy for new and existing business opportunities.



APPROXIMATELY  
**41,531**  
UNSERVED UTAHNS\*

### UNSERVED

Available speeds less than 25 Mbps download/3 Mbps upload

### UNDERSERVED

Available speeds less than 100 Mbps download/20 Mbps upload



APPROXIMATELY  
**27,820**  
UNDERSERVED UTAHNS\*

## KEY BARRIERS

Cost of Deployment

Supply Chain Constraints

Weather and Climate

Cybersecurity Threats

Third Party Infrastructure Approval

Permitting or Regulatory Challenges

Labor Force Challenges

Lack of Supporting Infrastructure

### BROADBAND EQUITY, ACCESS, AND DEPLOYMENT (BEAD) PROGRAM

Aims to ensure that all Americans have access to affordable and reliable high-speed internet.

The Utah Digital Connectivity Plan serves to meet the requirements of the BEAD Program and also outlines goals and priorities to provide a framework for statewide broadband expansion.

To view the full plan, scan the QR Code:



[www.connectingutah.com/broadband-plans](http://www.connectingutah.com/broadband-plans)

\*Numbers generated from FCC Broadband Availability Map subject to change

# KEY STRATEGIES

|  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| Work with the Department of Transportation and ISPs to close middle mile gaps through program funds or sharing of infrastructure | Analyze threshold for ISPs to recoup construction costs and set variable threshold for high-cost and extremely high-cost areas, based on location density | Prioritize the establishment of public-private partnerships through sharing of resources                                | Ensure no funding programs are awarded to the same areas                          |
| Develop programs promoting digital literacy and device availability  | Establish priorities for the statewide broadband grant program  | Coordinate closely with ISP leaders, organizations, and companies on deployment challenges                              | Create workforce recommendations for subgrantees to adopt as part of BEAD funding |
| Develop BEAD-specific checklists and guidelines to distribute to all applicants  | Work with state and local agencies and chambers of commerce to disseminate program specifics  | Collaborate with federal, state, and local agencies; Tribal Nations; and other entities regarding permitting challenges | Work with ISPs to implement cybersecurity measures                                |

# TIMELINE

**LEGEND**  
Step  
Objective  
Strategy



## Statewide Digital Connectivity Plan

### Identify unserved/underserved Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs)

Utilize Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Fabric data

#### Collect data

Collaborate and gather data from ISPs and agency partners

#### Validate data

Challenge FCC data; validate with speed tests

## First Grant Round

### Implement the selection process

Accept and review sub-grantee proposals

## Final Proposal

### Determine subgrantees for BEAD funds

Review and select subgrantee applications off scoring criteria

### Address any remaining unserved homes not included in subgrantee applications

Negotiate with subgrantees to expand proposed areas or look at alternative methods to reach all unserved

### Award and gather required information from subgrantees

Review project timeline, workforce, environmental, and planning documentation

### Develop the audit process

Determine processes for oversight and accountability

Jun '22 – Aug '23

Jun '23 – Dec '23

Jan '24 – Dec '24

Dec '23 – Dec '24

Jan '25 – Jan '28

## Initial Proposal

### Determine network deployment type

Establish a high-cost threshold for fiber vs. fixed wireless service

### Identify and prioritize middle mile needs to reach unserved areas

Determine which middle mile routes are still needed to reach unserved areas

### Group unserved homes in project areas

Identify geographical challenges, middle mile access, and typical project size

### Establish subgrantee process for BEAD funding

Develop scoring criteria for the entire subgrantee process

### Validate data

Set up a statewide challenge process

## Implementation

### Project construction

Review engineered plans and costs from subgrantees

### Project auditing

Submit semiannual report to National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA)

**To submit feedback for the Digital Connectivity Plan, scan the QR Code:**

