

State and Federal Broadband Funding

The American Rescue Plan and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act included billions of dollars in broadband funding across a number of programs. To track these programs and the timelines for Ohio to receive funds, this matrix outlines new programs from the federal government, as well as Ohio's two broadband funding programs.

Funding Source	Funding Program and Source	Funding Amount to Ohio and Type of Grant	Funding Description	Eligible Recipient(s)	Allocation Requirements and Deadlines	Current Status in Ohio
Federal Funding – American Rescue Plan Act	Capital Projects Fund	\$274,341,871 to Ohio by formula grant	Eligible projects: 1) Broadband Infrastructure Projects; 2) Digital Connectivity Technology Projects; 3) Multi-Purpose Community Facility Projects.	States	States had to submit a grant plan to Treasury by September 24, 2022 to receive funds. Must be used by December 31, 2026.	On August 14, 2023, Treasury announced a \$162.5 million award to Ohio for Capital Projects. Of this amount, \$77.5M will go to the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program.
	Emergency Connectivity Fund	\$1 billion nationwide	Costs of laptops and tablets, Wifi hotspots, modems, routers, broadband connectivity purchases for off-campus use by students, school staff and library patrons.	Schools and libraries	Applications closed 5/13/2022.	Over the course of three application periods, Ohio entities requested \$170,709,154.20 of ECF funding and are set to receive \$154,201,971.42 . Applications can no longer be submitted for ECF funding. Data on recipients available HERE.
Federal Funding – Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act	Affordable Connectivity Program	\$14.2 billion nationwide, Monthly benefit to consumers	Provides discount of up to \$30/month toward internet services. Households can receive	Provided directly to participating ISPs.	ACP funding will be exhausted in April 2024, and the program will end in	Weekly ACP enrollment data is reported HERE.

			a one-time discount up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop or tablet if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward purchase price. One monthly service discount and device discount per household. Applications are submitted directly to U.S. Treasury and benefits are paid from Treasury directly to ISPs	Eligible households must meet one of the following criteria: 1) 200% FPL or less; 2) Participates in SNAP, Medicaid, SSI, WIC, or select other programs; 3) Participates in National School Lunch or Breakfast Program, including through community eligibility; 4) Current Pell Grant recipient; 5) Eligible for participating ISP low-income internet program.	May 2024. No new program enrollments are currently being accepted.	
	Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program	\$42.45 billion nationwide - At least \$100 million per state, formula grant. Ohio is set to receive \$793,688,107.63.	Broadband deployment to households and businesses that lack current access. Can be used for data collection and mapping, device affordability, and others. First priority is areas under 25/3 Mbps, second priority is areas under 100/20 Mbps.	States receive formula grants and distribute funds through competitive grants.	State Letters of Intent were due to the NTIA by July 18, 2022. Initial planning funds must have been requested by August 15, 2022.	Ohio received \$5 million to create a five-year action plan, due within 270 days of Ohio's receipt of initial planning funds. Once the plan is approved, additional BEAD funds will be released to Ohio, and infused into the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program. The State Operating Budget included a \$105 million appropriation for this

						program in Fiscal Year 2024. View the BEAD plan and proposal here.
	State Digital Equity Planning Grant	\$60 million nationwide formula grant. Ohio received \$1,470,550.00.	To develop digital equity plans	States	Applications were due on July 12, 2022.	Ohio has been awarded a Digital Equity Planning grant. A final Digital Equity Plan is due in September 2023. The draft equity plan is available here.
	State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program	\$1.44 billion nationwide formula grant. Ohio's tentative allocation is \$23,291,991.74.	To implement digital equity projects and support the implementation of digital equity plans created through the State Digital Equity Planning Grant	States	Applications due by May 28, 2024.	Ohio has completed the Digital Equity Planning Grant, a pre-requisite to Capacity Grants. Notice of Funding Opportunity available here.
	Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program	\$1 billion nationwide, competitive grants	Construction, improvement and acquisition of middle mile infrastructure. Expand and extend middle mile infrastructure to reduce cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas.	States, counties, cities/townships, public utility districts, economic development authorities, regional planning councils, tech and telecom companies, electric utilities, electric co-ops and nonprofits	Applications were due by September 30, 2022.	Horizon Telecom received \$27.5M for the Appalachian Ohio Middle Mile Expansion project.
	Broadband ReConnect Program	\$2 billion nationwide, competitive grants	Administered by the Rural Utilities Service at USDA. Grants and loans towards costs of construction,	States, Companies, Political subdivisions	Applications for the current round of funding are open now. Applications are due on May 21 st at	The following applicants were awarded loans under the program for FY23:

			improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment to provide broadband service in rural areas.		11:59pm. Loans, grants, and combination applications available.	-Sycamore Telephone Company received \$5M -Amplex Electric received \$21M
	Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program	\$1.25 billion nationwide, competitive grants	Implement Digital Equity projects	Local Education Agencies, state governments, political subdivisions, non-profits	Program will be established 30 days after State Digital Equity Capacity Grants are awarded.	Currently waiting for federal government announcement of formula grants before this competitive program can be established.
	Affordable Connectivity Program Outreach	\$70 million nationwide in competitive grants, target minimum of \$500,000 per state	Grants to outreach partners to educate consumers about the ACP	State and local governments, public housing agencies, social service providers, education organizations, non-profits, community-based institutions, public service organizations, workforce development training organizations. Broadband providers are NOT eligible.	Applications due January 9, 2023. Grants awarded March 10, 2023.	7 Ohio entities received ACP Outreach grants totaling \$1.9M: Ashtabula County Community Action Agency, United Way of Greater Cincinnati, Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio, Cuyahoga County, Famicos Foundation (Cleveland), University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center, City of Columbus.
State Funding	Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program (ORBEG)	Competitive grants, Round 1 awarded \$232 million across 33 projects.	Grants to ISPs to fund the construction of grant projects in unserved and underserved areas of the state. Projects	Internet service providers	Round 2 applications were due on January 5, 2024. Awards expected to be announced soon.	View list of addresses covered by round 1 projects.

			should provide service of at least 25/3 Mbps.			Read the grant program's 2022 year-end report. The As-Introduced operating budget did not include funding for this program for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025. Funding from the Capital Projects Fund (ARPA) and the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program (IIJA) will both flow through ORBEG.
	Ohio Broadband Pole Replacement and Undergrounding Program	\$50,000,000 in competitive grants	Grants to provide broadband services to residents and businesses in unserved areas through reimbursements for pole replacements, mid-span pole installations, and undergrounding.	Internet service providers	Applications now being accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis. Find application and additional information here.	The Ohio Department of Development will administer this program. Funding available until exhausted or until the June 1, 2029 sunset date.

Current Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant projects:

Applicant	Geographic Location of Services by County
JBNets	Lawrence and Gallia
Spectrum	Lawrence
Spectrum	Coschocton

Spectrum	Pike
Spectrum	Perry
Spectrum	Gallia
Southern Ohio Communications Services, Inc	Adams, Highland, Pike, Scioto
Spectrum	Morgan
Spectrum	Trumbull
Spectrum	Highland
Spectrum	Clark
Spectrum	Hardin
Windstream Western Reserve	Trumbull
Telephone Services Company	Hardin
Spectrum	Washington
Comcast Cable Communications, LLC	Belmont, Columbiana, Harrison, Jefferson
Windstream Ohio	Licking
Windstream Western Reserve	Athens, Meigs, Washington
Windstream Western Reserve	Guernsey and Noble
Spectrum	Richland
Windstream Western Reserve	Licking
Windstream Ohio	Licking and Muskingum
Spectrum	Huron
Spectrum	Muskingum
South Central Power Communications	Belmont, Carroll, Jefferson, Harrison, Monroe, Noble
The Chillicothe Telephone Company	Fayette
Spectrum	Carroll
The Chillicothe Telephone Company	Fayette, Highland, Ross
Frontier	Harrison and Jefferson
Spectrum	Fayette

South Central Power Communications	Adams, Brown, Clermont, Fayette, Highland, Pike, Ross, Scioto
Spectrum	Brown
North Coast Wireless	Huron