

Federal BEAD and Digital Equity funding aligns with Connect Illinois programs, adding impact to existing work

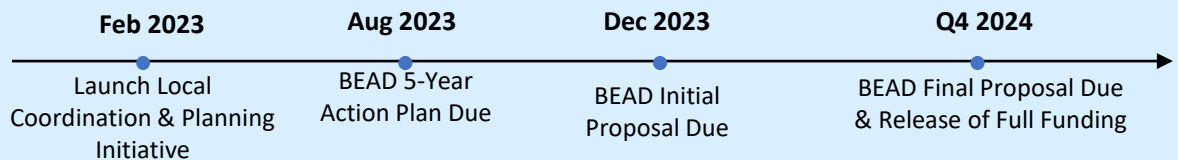


Two new grant programs for states provide a generational opportunity to close the digital divide in Illinois!

The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program

- Allocates **\$42.45B** focused on **broadband infrastructure deployment** to all states
- Illinois is expected to receive an estimated **\$1B+ on top of other funding sources**
- States must prioritize funds for:
 1. Unserved service projects
 2. Underserved service projects
 3. Connecting community anchor institutions
 4. Installing Wi-Fi infrastructure within residential buildings
 5. Data collection
 6. Broadband adoption
- States must **coordinate with local stakeholders** in the planning process
- States must **extend access to ALL unserved** locations

Timeline of BEAD Program



The Digital Equity Programs

- Provides **\$2.75B for digital literacy, computer access, and internet adoption** initiatives via formula-based and competitive grants to states
- Example use of funds:
 - Develop, implement, and oversee comprehensive digital equity plans
 - Make awards to other entities to help in developing digital equity plans
 - Improve the online accessibility and inclusivity of public resources
 - Implement digital equity plans and digital inclusion activities
 - Provide digital literacy and skills education to covered populations

Timeline of DE Programs



To learn more about local coordination, outreach, and engagement efforts for the statewide BEAD and Digital Equity planning, visit <https://broadband.illinois.edu/>