

2023

ACLP - Updated Estimates of State BEAD Allocations - as of January 2023

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A GUIDE TO FEDERAL BROADBAND FUNDING PROGRAMS

Updated Estimates of State Allocations via the Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment (BEAD) Program

January 2023

The following sets forth estimates of the substantial funding each state will receive from NTIA's BEAD Program. These rough estimates are subject to a number of important qualifications which, along with our methods, are set forth below.

State	Est. Allocation
Alabama	\$1,313,771,904
Alaska	\$353,433,904
Arizona	\$626,832,411
Arkansas	\$944,169,437
California	\$1,197,554,990
Colorado	\$686,124,339
Connecticut	\$169,828,248
Delaware	\$119,490,732
D.C.	\$101,192,602
Florida	\$1,739,826,411
Georgia	\$1,330,393,582
Hawaii	\$201,507,101
Idaho	\$466,160,501
Illinois	\$893,577,608
Indiana	\$910,342,699
Iowa	\$340,722,938
Kansas	\$322,759,826
Kentucky	\$1,148,260,705
Louisiana	\$1,052,691,838
Maine	\$249,760,083
Maryland	\$288,131,435
Massachusetts	\$245,181,109
Michigan	\$1,560,701,162
Minnesota	\$663,541,651
Mississippi	\$875,681,080
Missouri	\$1,262,702,774

State	Est. Allocation
Montana	\$538,969,921
Nebraska	\$190,050,772
Nevada	\$283,182,501
New Hampshire	\$188,148,494
New Jersey	\$179,630,469
New Mexico	\$503,065,778
New York	\$839,688,703
North Carolina	\$1,308,860,566
North Dakota	\$218,193,198
Ohio	\$1,191,193,130
Oklahoma	\$677,116,710
Oregon	\$428,503,030
Pennsylvania	\$1,079,614,415
Puerto Rico	\$854,096,407
Rhode Island	\$110,020,439
South Carolina	\$784,711,193
South Dakota	\$285,531,778
Tennessee	\$832,000,563
Texas	\$3,399,842,231
Utah	\$297,315,775
Vermont	\$221,089,181
Virginia	\$1,172,956,196
Washington	\$766,584,250
West Virginia	\$688,366,969
Wisconsin	\$972,843,910
Wyoming	\$249,462,087

Calculation Methodology. The above estimates were calculated as follows:

- The total amount allocated to BEAD in the IIJA: \$42,450,000,000
- Minus \$4,245,000,000, representing 10% of BEAD funds that will be immediately allocated to high-cost areas (data regarding the location of these areas remains unavailable as of this writing)
- Minus 2% allocated for administrative purposes
- Minus \$100,000,000 to U.S. territories (not including Puerto Rico)
- *The remaining \$37,342,900,000 is to be divided amongst the 50 states, D.C., and Puerto Rico based on the number of unserved “locations” in those areas relative to all unserved locations in the U.S.*
- Each state receives a minimum of \$100,000,000. In calculating the estimates above, each state receives that minimum amount, and the remaining funding is allocated based on each state’s relative proportion of the nation’s total unserved households.

Qualifications

These estimates are based on the best available data and will eventually be supplanted by NTIA’s official figures. Limitations on the above estimates are discussed below. However, with these limitations, our projections offer a reasonable estimate of the forthcoming distribution of BEAD funds among the states.

Qualification #1: Our calculation estimates total unserved households based on a “pre-production draft” of the FCC’s new “fabric” map.¹ Specifically, the figures used are the reported “percent of units covered” by “all wired and licensed fixed wireless,” as shown on the FCC’s National Broadband Map webpage.²

As of this writing, the FCC does not provide an official count of unserved households; instead, it only provides the “percent of units.”³ The raw map data, as currently available, does not allow for an accurate count of unserved households, as there is ambiguity both regarding multi-unit dwellings and between business and residential premises.

Given those issues, and the fact that BEAD allocations are based on relative proportions of unserved households, we compute household counts by multiplying the FCC’s “percent of units” figure with statewide household counts from the U.S. Census Bureau’s most recent American Community Survey.⁴

While this method should provide a suitably accurate estimate of household counts, this will not match one-to-one with the official figures that will be used by NTIA to allocate funding. Since the allocations are based on a relative share of households, the absolute count of households is not critical to the accuracy of funding estimates, so long as the balance of those households between states is relatively unchanged.

Qualification #2: The data used in our calculation stems from a draft broadband map that will likely change as the Commission navigates an ongoing challenge process.⁵

Several states, including New York⁶ and Colorado,⁷ have indicated that they plan to submit challenges to the maps, and others, including leadership of the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee,⁸ have pushed for postponement of the challenge deadline and final map release.⁹ Officials in at least one state, Texas, have signaled that they may not challenge the current maps.¹⁰

How the challenges will affect the distribution of funding depends on the extent to which successful challenges alter the balance of unserved households between states. Any large change in the unserved household count in a given state alters not only that state's allocation of BEAD dollars, but that of all other states, as funding is based on the relative balance of such households. This incentivizes states to prioritize challenges that may boost their total number of unserved households. We expect that the challenge process will shift the balance of funding, though the magnitude of those changes is impossible to predict.

Additional Considerations

Along with the expected differences due to the challenge process and release of official figures, actual funding amounts will differ from the estimates above due to the additional \$4,245,000,000 that will be disbursed to states based on their relative proportion of unserved high-cost locations. As detailed above, this amount was excluded from the calculation of estimated state allocations since data regarding the number of such high-cost "locations" is not currently available.

It should also be noted that BEAD funds are meant to supplement and not supplant funds made available for broadband via the CARES Act, the CAA, and ARPA. It remains to be seen whether and to what extent broadband projects being built with those funds might impact BEAD allocations.

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Please do not hesitate to send questions, comments, and other feedback to ACLP@nyls.edu.

Notes & Sources

¹ FCC Releases Pre-Production Draft National Broadband Map, FCC, November 18, 2022, <https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-releases-pre-production-draft-national-broadband-map>.

² National Broadband Map, FCC, data as of June 30, 2022, updated as of 12/20/22, https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/area-summary/fixed?zoom=4&br=r&speed=25_3&tech=1_2_3_7.

³ *Id.*

⁴ Households and Families (S1101), 2021 ACS 1-Year Estimates, US Census Bureau, <https://data.census.gov/table?q=households&tid=ACSST1Y2021.S1101>.

⁵ Fabric Challenge Process, FCC, December 6, 2022, <https://help.bdc.fcc.gov/hc/en-us/articles/8554187214107-Fabric-Challenge-Process>

⁶ *Governor Hochul Issues New York State Challenge to FCC Broadband Data*, New York State, October 31, 2022, <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-issues-new-york-state-challenge-fcc-broadband-data>.

⁷ *Colorado challenging 13,000 speed inaccuracies in the new federal broadband map*, The Durango Herald, December 6, 2022, <https://www.durangoherald.com/articles/colorado-challenging-13000-speed-inaccuracies-in-the-new-federal-broadband-map/>.

⁸ *Hill Asks FCC to Allow for More Broadband Map Challenges*, Multichannel News, December 23, 2022, <https://www.nexttv.com/news/hill-asks-fcc-to-allow-for-more-broadband-map-challenges>.

⁹ *States contend with short timeline to correct broadband map*, AP News, December 21, 2022, <https://apnews.com/article/biden-federal-communications-commission-internet-e37970e10a43cbb6a88367afa27b649>.

¹⁰ *State office may not challenge broadband maps, risking hundreds of millions of federal funds for Texas*, Texas Public Radio, December 20, 2022, <https://www.tpr.org/government-politics/2022-12-20/state-office-may-not-challenge-broadband-maps-risking-hundreds-of-millions-of-federal-funds-for-texas>.