NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL

DigitalCommons@NYLS

6-2023

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

New York Law School

A GUIDE TO FEDERAL BROADBAND FUNDING PROGRAMS

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

June 8, 2023

The following sets forth estimates of the 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	State	Est. Allocation
Alabama	$1,379,073,048	Montana	$503,697,269
Alaska	$440,555,004	Nebraska	$350,043,368
Arizona	$784,794,273	Nevada	$272,017,294
Arkansas	$932,693,925	New Hampshire	$198,837,919
California	$1,308,176,063	New Jersey	$263,656,254
Colorado	$677,209,123	New Mexico	$533,148,211
Connecticut	$144,859,972	New York	$643,154,781
Delaware	$107,924,644	North Carolina	$1,521,674,156
District of Columbia	$100,710,592	North Dakota	$130,845,093
Florida	$1,148,876,047	Ohio	$801,338,705
Georgia	$1,228,423,714	Oklahoma	$679,657,575
Hawaii	$145,053,068	Oregon	$572,555,164
Idaho	$413,714,715	Pennsylvania	$1,177,801,769
Illinois	$1,006,193,838	Puerto Rico	$339,573,724
Indiana	$864,971,432	Rhode Island	$108,917,155
Iowa	$424,775,231	South Carolina	$561,799,738
Kansas	$415,468,023	South Dakota	$209,639,688
Kentucky	$1,098,053,282	Tennessee	$829,183,092
Louisiana	$1,246,308,230	Texas	$3,101,149,907
Maine	$262,926,352	Utah	$260,389,076
Maryland	$270,055,442	Vermont	$225,091,198
Massachusetts	$147,841,368	Virginia	$1,574,524,424
Michigan	$1,318,889,008	Washington	$1,007,630,469
Minnesota	$620,778,861	West Virginia	$1,148,883,770
Mississippi	$1,135,977,260	Wisconsin	$1,050,466,800
Missouri	$1,401,479,862	Wyoming	$251,441,025

_____

Methodology

Counts of unserved locations in each state were calculated using the Fixed Broadband Availability Data files provided by the FCC as part of the Broadband Data Collection (BDC) program.[1] Each file lists all locations served by a given technology and provider.

For example, "bdc_01_Cable_fixed_broadband_123122.csv" lists all instances in the state of Alabama where a cable internet provider serves a location. The first row of the file (out of about 1.8M rows) shows that the location listed has both residential and business 1000/50 Mbps service available from Sparklight. Several of these files (up to nine) are available for each state, depending on which technologies are present.

To count unserved locations, we processed 440 of the Fixed Broadband Availability Data files. For each state, a location was marked served if 25/3 Mbps or faster service was available via wired or licensed fixed wireless technologies.

As of the most recent revision of the latest December 2022 BDC data, we calculated the following served/unserved location counts:

State	Served	Unserved	State	Served	Unserved
AL	1,846,434	331,202	MT	376,772	104,533
AK	187,630	88,183	NE	726,871	64,746
AZ	2,426,776	177,320	NV	939,028	44,542
AR	1,140,068	215,617	NH	488,928	25,593
CA	9,826,585	312,844	NJ	2,530,843	42,377
CO	1,798,380	149,462	NM	740,518	112,159
CT	1,073,627	11,616	NY	4,551,804	140,644
DE	385,071	2,052	NC	3,881,264	368,127
DC	122,472	184	ND	338,417	7,987
FL	7,017,984	271,595	OH	4,319,022	181,604
GA	3,461,769	292,193	OK	1,513,057	150,096
HI	297,571	11,666	OR	1,380,379	122,363
ID	636,694	81,233	PA	4,592,197	279,085
IL	3,934,137	234,649	PR	1,086,249	62,035
IN	2,521,847	198,081	RI	333,056	2,309
IA	1,285,157	84,097	SC	2,006,487	119,578
KS	1,121,741	81,687	SD	371,676	28,390
KY	1,603,117	258,435	TN	2,521,147	188,814
LA	1,573,142	296,824	TX	9,039,406	777,115
ME	600,432	42,188	UT	965,592	41,531
MD	1,804,016	44,034	VT	244,063	32,391
MA	1,931,408	12,388	VA	2,532,618	381,812
MI	3,711,975	315,618	WA	2,292,877	235,021
MN	1,943,889	134,850	WV	628,811	271,597
MS	1,044,438	268,255	WI	2,058,048	246,113
MO	2,151,315	337,004	WY	221,805	39,214

Estimated BEAD allocations were then calculated using those unserved locations counts as follows:

- The total amount allocated to BEAD in the IIJA is $42,450,000,000.

- We deduct $4,245,000,000, representing the 10% of BEAD funds that will be immediately allocated to high-cost areas (data regarding the location of those areas remains unavailable as of this writing).

- An additional 2% is deducted for administrative purposes.

- $100,000,000 is set aside for the U.S. territories (not including Puerto Rico).

- The remaining $37,342,900,000 is divided amongst the 50 states, D.C., and Puerto Rico.

- Each state, D.C., and Puerto Rico receives a minimum allocation of $100,000,000.

- The remaining pool of $32,142,900,000 is divided proportionally among the states, D.C., and Puerto Rico based on each's share of the nation's total unserved locations.

Qualifications

These estimates are based on the best available data and will soon 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: As detailed above, our calculation of unserved locations is based on the Fixed Broadband Availability Data files provided by the FCC. As of this writing, official counts of the total number of Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) in each state have not been released by the FCC for the latest December 2022 vintage of the BDC data.

Since no official total is available, our counts of locations are based solely on the availability data files, which only list out locations with some type of service. Any "unserved" locations have to have some type of internet connection available to appear in the data files – a location that has absolutely no form of internet connection would not be included and would thus escape our counts.

Thanks to geostationary satellite internet service, which is reported by its providers as being available near-ubiquitously across the entire continental U.S, Alaska, and Puerto Rico, it is a relatively safe assumption that most, if not all, BSLs would appear at least once in the data files. As such, these locations would be properly counted and accounted for in respect to served/unserved locations.

To the extent that there are locations that are not included in any of the data files and are completely unserved by any form of internet connection, they would increase the number of unserved locations in their respective states. While this could potentially affect the balance of funding, we expect that any such effects are likely de minimis.

Qualification #2: The data used in our calculation stems from a broadband map that will continue to change as the Commission navigates an ongoing challenge process.[2] According to the FCC, "75% of those challenges [submitted thus far] have already been resolved," resulting in "a net increase of more than one million new serviceable locations [for the latest map], as compared to the November 2022 pre-production draft."[3] The FCC had been updating the first version of the map on a rolling basis, and we expect that further changes will occur before the Commission finalizes the map for official funding allocations.

Qualification #3: 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 discussed 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.

* * * * *

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

Notes & Sources

[1] Data Download, FCC National Broadband Map, December 31, 2022 data, updated as of May 24, 2023, https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/data-download/nationwide-data?version=dec2022.

[2] Fabric Challenge Process, FCC, December 6, 2022, https://help.bdc.fcc.gov/hc/en-us/articles/8554187214107-Fabric-Challenge-Process

[3] National Broadband Map: It Keeps Getting Better, FCC, May 30, 2023, https://www.fcc.gov/national-broadband-map-it-keeps-getting-better.