

Utilize our 20 years of broadband experience to lead the way in closing **your state's** Digital Divide



Connected Nation is a mission-driven nonprofit that has been a leader in helping states close the Digital Divide for the past 20 years. Our team of telecommunications engineers, researchers, data analysts, geospatial professionals, digital inclusion specialists, policy analysts, community relations leaders, digital literacy experts, and professional planners thoroughly understands the funding landscape, technology, policy, and business of broadband expansion.

With the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Congress has entrusted **the states** with the leading role in closing the Digital Divide.

Connected Nation's broadband experience includes:

Broadband Mapping

- Pioneer and market leader in broadband mapping
- Developed maps and analyses across 16 states and one territory
- Mapped 48% of U.S. land mass for connectivity

Stakeholder Engagement

- Facilitated 12 state-level broadband task force groups
- Conducted outreach to over 1,500 ISPs

Digital Equity

- Provided 60,000+ internet enabled devices
- Provided digital and job skills training for 70,000+
- Partnered with 1,300 community entities on digital equity programs

Grants Administration

- Supported broadband grant design and/or implementation in three states
- Administered \$87 MILLION in federal broadband grants

Broadband Planning

- Created statewide internet connectivity plans in 12 states and one territory
- Engaged 650+ communities with planning and technical assistance

Technical Services

- Verified broadband coverage over 250,000 road miles
- Developed federally recognized broadband coverage validation methodology

Learn how Connected Nation can help you implement the IIJA to boost your state's digital access and economy.



CONTACT US TODAY:

Chris Pedersen, EVP Development & Planning
cpedersen@connectednation.org | 202.255.6098
www.connectednation.org



Congress is providing more broadband funding than ever before.

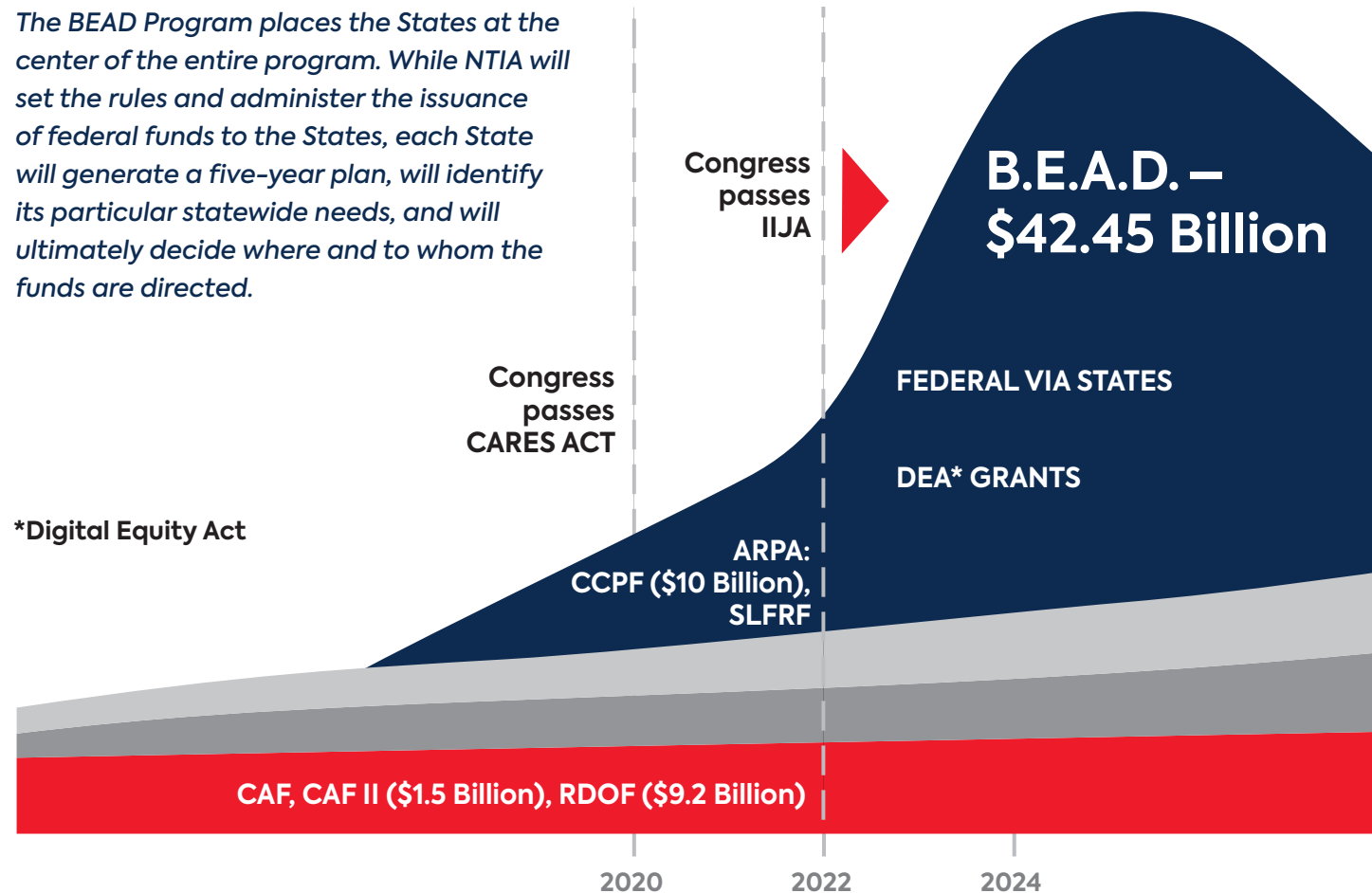
With the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, most broadband funding will funnel directly to states through the \$42.45 billion Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) grant program. With oversight from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), states will be required to develop plans to close the Digital Divide.

How Connected Nation can help.

Leverage our national nonprofit's 20-plus years experience in broadband planning and implementation to navigate this complicated landscape.

Learn more at www.connectednation.org

The BEAD Program places the States at the center of the entire program. While NTIA will set the rules and administer the issuance of federal funds to the States, each State will generate a five-year plan, will identify its particular statewide needs, and will ultimately decide where and to whom the funds are directed.



*Digital Equity Act

Broadband Funding Sources:

■ Federal Via States ■ State & Local ■ USDA ■ FCC

How to close **your state's** Digital Divide with help from Connected Nation

THE OPPORTUNITY	WHAT STATES MUST DO	HOW CN CAN HELP
Expand high-speed internet access to ALL residents, businesses, and institutions across your state States will have at minimum \$100 MILLION and must decide how to award competitive grants for broadband infrastructure deployment, mapping, and adoption.	Apply for funding after NOFO is posted in May 2022: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit LOI, initial and final proposal Plans are subject to NTIA approval 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help states analyze options, prioritize actions, and create viable plans Check feasibility, estimate resource requirements Align with IJA criteria, ongoing federal guidance
	Develop 5-year Action Plan informed by demonstrable collaboration with local and regional entities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$5 MILLION per state in planning funds are provided 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead stakeholder engagement efforts OR play a “back-office” role, compiling inputs Ensure stakeholder engagement meets federal requirements
	Design and implement state broadband grant programs that show how a state will competitively award funds for deployment and achieve universal access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop state maps of unserved locations to inform or challenge funding levels Define evaluation criteria to achieve policy goals Review applications, recommend awards, and conduct field validation to ensure actual deployment
Improve digital equity so ALL residents can participate in the societal and economic benefits of broadband and related technology The Digital Equity Act requires NTIA to administer the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program that includes \$1.5 BILLION to states and other eligible entities.	Develop a State Digital Equity Plan and implementation strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support states in collecting and analyzing data for decision support Provide outreach and education Serve as a neutral, reliable resource for broadband technology and policy information
	Ensure plan implementation and compile lessons learned for sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serve as designated entity OR subcontractor Provide grants administration and program monitoring Provide digital workforce training and job placement program

CONTACT US TODAY:

Chris Pedersen, EVP Development & Planning
 cpedersen@connectednation.org | 202.255.6098
www.connectednation.org

