Oklahoma Broadband Governing Board Meeting

Friday, July 1, 2022
Agenda

- Approval of Minutes
- Opening Remarks – Mike Fina, Chairman
- Discussion and Possible Action regarding Committee Structure
- Accessing Broadband Funding – Clay Holk, Grants Management Office
- Update on Broadband Director Job Posting – Jacob Smith, Human Capital Management
- Executive Summary of Broadband Current State Assessment – Shawn Fernando and Emily Toland, Guidehouse
- Demonstration of Broadband Map – Aldwyn Sappleton and Mike Sexton, Department of Commerce
- Next Meeting Schedule and Location
- Possible Agenda Items for Next Meeting
- Closing Remarks and Announcements
- Adjournment
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DEA and BEAD Planning Funds available for State Broadband Office

**State Digital Equity (DEA) Planning Grant**
- Planning Funds Available: $882,087
- Project Narrative, Planning Budget required
- Planning Funds used to produce State Digital Equity Plan, due a year after receiving funds
- Digital Equity Plan focuses on covered populations (aging individuals, incarcerated individuals, veterans, individuals with disabilities, individuals with a language barrier, members of a racial or ethnic minority or rural communities)
- Oklahoma will receive a share of $2.75B - $1.4B (formula) and $1.3B (competitive)

**Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program**
- Planning Funds Available: $5M
- Letter of Intent required
- Planning Funds can be used for research, mapping, communications, technical assistance, hiring, etc. to increase Broadband Office capacity
- Five-Year Action Plan required within 270 days of receiving funds
- Based on unserved/underserved populations, Oklahoma will receive proportionate share of $42.5B
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Guidehouse has been working with OMES to develop an understanding of the current state of broadband and digital equity in Oklahoma

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Today, we will walk through a few slides from the Executive Summary from the Current State Broadband Assessment (final version provided to OMES later today)

Executive Summary

Summarizes the current state of broadband and digital equity in Oklahoma and 4 opportunity areas

Key Findings

Key findings across legislation and policy, market structure, infrastructure, and socioeconomic factors

Broadband Index

Evaluation of broadband availability and adoption potential for each county in Oklahoma

Leading Practices & Case Studies

Leading practices analysis, benchmarking, and case studies from aspirational peer states
Broadband is critical for daily activities and services, but 18% of households in Oklahoma lack a broadband subscription

- Oklahomans without a broadband subscription reside throughout the state and face different barriers to access depending on location
- In less densely populated counties (green above), anywhere between 20-50% of households lack a broadband subscription

*The USDA uses various factors to define urban areas including 500 persons per sq. mi. An average density of more than 500 persons per square mile does not necessarily mean an entire county is urban

Source: Census Bureau 2020 Data
Geography and population density are primary drivers of ROI for internet service providers (ISPs); customer budget also plays a role.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Broadband Typology Key</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low Availability + Low Adoption Potential (4.6% of population)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Low Availability (7.0% of population)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Adoption (7.6% of population)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium Availability (26.9% of population)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Availability + High Adoption Potential (53.9% of population)</td>
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</table>

**Availability:** Measure of quality and reliability of internet access in a geographic area (e.g., Is broadband available at an adequate speed for work, school, healthcare, etc.?)

**Adoption Potential:** Measure of digital equity (e.g., How well can all households afford and adopt available broadband?)

Based on our analysis, 19% of Oklahomans face significant broadband access barriers related to availability and/or adoption potential. Counties with low population density, difficult terrain, and difficult socioeconomic conditions face the most significant challenges and are concentrated in the Southeast.
Oklahoma can learn from peers to redress these challenges through strategic investments in service provision and infrastructure.

1) Centralized operations through technically-knowledgeable state broadband offices

2) Develop policies that encourage building on existing networks, competition, and streamline access, permitting, and construction

3) Stand out for federal grants with a strong, comprehensive broadband strategy and leverage awarded funding to incentivize investment

4) Identify regions to prioritize for market interventions by monitoring performance metrics, sharing data, and creating comprehensive coverage maps

5) Lower investment costs through public-private partnerships (P3s) and incorporate community voices into planning and implementation

6) Frame broadband access as a social equity consideration to ensure targeted strategies reach the right groups
The current state assessment identifies four opportunity areas to improve access to broadband and digital equity in Oklahoma.

1. Buildout of middle-mile infrastructure
2. Expansion of last-mile infrastructure
3. Increasing adoption potential
4. Alignment between state, local, and Tribal jurisdictions
Oklahoma should take advantage of the federal funding rapidly becoming available to close its broadband access gaps

### Oklahoma’s Opportunities

1. **Buildout of middle-mile infrastructure**
2. **Expansion of last-mile infrastructure**
3. **Increased adoption potential**
4. **Alignment between state, local, and Tribal jurisdictions**

### Federal Funding

**Capital Projects Fund**
- **Middle Mile**
  - Building out middle-mile fiber infrastructure
- **BEAD**
  - Deploying last-mile broadband infrastructure to unserved areas

**Digital Equity Act – Capacity**
- Facilitating the adoption of high-speed internet

**Digital Equity Act – Planning**
- Developing digital equity plans and making awards to support plan creation

### Next Steps

1. **Data Gathering and Mapping**
   - Develop granular maps to validate/contest FCC data
   - Convene stakeholders and gather lived experience data from Oklahomans to verify gaps

2. **Strategy and Program Development**
   - Develop a strategy to address availability, adoption, and affordability gaps
   - Prepare for robust community engagement across the state

### Upcoming Deadlines

- **July 12, 2022**: DEA Planning application due
- **July 18, 2022**: BEAD Letter of Intent (LOI) due
- **Aug. 15, 2022**: BEAD initial planning funds application due
- **Sep. 24, 2022**: Deadline to submit CPF Grant Plan
- **Sep. 30, 2022**: Middle Mile applications close
Appendix
Additional Federal Funding Details
The Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund makes $167.7M available to Oklahoma for eligible broadband, connectivity, and community projects

Oklahoma allocation: $167.7M

Description: The American Rescue Plan Act allocated $10 billion to U.S. Treasury for payments to states, territories, and tribal governments “to carry out critical capital projects directly enabling work, education, and health monitoring, including remote options, in response to the public health emergency”

Eligible projects must meet all the following criteria:
- Capital assets designed to directly enable work, education, and health monitoring
- Addresses a critical need that results from, revealed, or was exacerbated by COVID-19
- Critical need of the community to be served

Presumptively Eligible Projects Include:
- Broadband Infrastructure Projects
- Digital Connectivity Technology Projects
- Multi-purpose Community Facility Projects

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

ESTIMATED TIMELINE

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified

Projects must reach substantial completion before 12/31/2026

Grant Plan and Program Plans Due to Treasury 9/24

Grant and Program Plan Approval, Quarterly Reporting, Project Implementation

Treasury reviews Plan Submissions

It is not known how quickly Treasury will approve the State’s submissions

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BEAD program will provide ~$42.5B for infrastructure planning and implementation

Total Funding Pool: ~$42.5B
OK Amount: TBD
(Minimum $100M)

Description: A program to get all Americans online by funding partnerships between states or territories, communities, and stakeholders to build infrastructure for un(der)served areas and to increase adoption of high-speed internet

Entities eligible to apply include:
- All 50 states
- The District of Columbia and Puerto Rico
- Other Territories: U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Example eligible uses of funds include:
- Planning for high-speed internet deployment
- Deploying or upgrading high-speed internet
- Installing high-speed internet in multi-tenant buildings
- Implementing adoption and digital equity programs
- Workforce and job training

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

ESTIMATED TIMELINE

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified

Source: NTIA 16-May-2022 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Overview Webinar
Digital Equity Act created three programs to promote digital equity and inclusion

The Digital Equity Act created three programs:

**State Planning**
- $60M formula funding program to develop digital equity plans

**State Capacity**
- $1.44B formula funding program to implement plans & promote digital inclusion

**Competitive**
- $1.25B to implement digital equity and inclusion activities

Examples of eligible uses of funds include:

- Developing digital equity plans; states must develop a plan to be eligible for state capacity grants
- Making awards to other entities to help make digital equity plans
- Implementing digital equity plans and related activities
- Providing digital literacy and digital skills education
- Improving accessibility and inclusivity of public resources
- Facilitating the adoption of high-speed Internet

**ESTIMATED TIMELINE**

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>NOFO live 5/13 Due 7/12</td>
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<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>1-year state planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>2024</td>
<td>State cap. app</td>
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<tr>
<td>2025</td>
<td>Competitive Program launches within 1 month of first Capacity awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2026+</td>
<td>5-year state capacity implementation 4-year competitive implement.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Source: NTIA 18-May-2022 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Overview Webinar

Funding pool

$2.75B

Est. OK amount for planning: ~$880K

Description: Three programs that provide funding to promote digital inclusion and advance equity for all. They aim to ensure that all communities can access and use affordable, reliable, high-speed internet to meet their needs and improve their lives.
Middle Mile Grant Program will invest in the construction, improvement or acquisition of middle mile infrastructure

Funding pool: $980M
OK Amount: Grant awards est. $5M-$100M

Middle mile infrastructure refers to the mid-section of Internet infrastructure that carries large amounts of data at high speeds over long distances and connects the "backbone" of Internet infrastructure to the "last mile"

Entities eligible to apply include a wide variety of entities, incl. but not limited to govt. entities, utilities, companies, & non-profits that provide Internet services

Example uses of funds:
- Construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment
- Engineering design, permitting, and work related to projects
- Personnel costs, including salaries and benefits
- Other costs necessary to program’s activities

Next Steps:
NTIA plans to host more webinars once the application opens, and proposal templates will be made available at that time. In the meantime, prospective applicants can prepare by familiarizing themselves with the NOFO.

ESTIMATED TIMELINE

Source: NTIA 19-May-2022 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Overview Webinar, California Department of Technology, "What is the middle mile"? And NTIA Webinar

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