

BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT

Ensure the Timely Deployment of IIJA Broadband Funds

Action Needed:

Tell the House and Senate to:

(1) conduct regular oversight into the BEAD program to help ensure NTIA's timely deployment of IIJA broadband construction funds; and

(1) provide funding for broadband to continue towards the goal of universal internet access in the United States

Background:

During the pandemic when Americans were forced to work and go to school remotely, the need to further invest in broadband access became clear. Congress recognized that need by providing over \$42 billion for broadband deployment in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

On June 30, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) notified states and territories of their Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program funding allocations. Each state is guaranteed a baseline allocation of \$100 million, and each territory is guaranteed \$25 million for broadband deployment. From the IIJA funds remaining after the guaranteed allocation, additional funding is calculated based on the number of unserved and underserved locations to be connected in each state and territory divided by the nationwide total. The total allocation for each state and territory is determined by combining the guaranteed and calculated amounts.

AGC Message:

- **Provide Congressional Oversight of these Broadband Funds.** Congress passed the IIJA nearly two years ago, and states have yet to get underway with NTIA funded construction projects that will provide reliable broadband service. While we understand the need of the federal government to ensure good stewardship of taxpayer dollars, Congress must need to ensure that these funds go to actual projects.
- **Don't Let these Funds get Caught up in Red Tape.** Unfortunately, as we have seen with some IIJA construction investment programs, the Administration has gotten overly consumed with achieving other policy goals in implementation of the program which delays realization of the program's primary benefits.
- **Fund Federal Broadband Programs.** The BEAD program and other federal broadband funds are helping us take a significant step towards achieving universal internet access in the United States. Congress should continue to fund these critical programs.