



# Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority

The **Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority (PBDA)** was established in 2021 through Act 96, which was passed unanimously by the PA General Assembly. The PBDA was established as an independent Authority and housed within the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). It was created to accomplish the following:

- To identify and coordinate federal and state funding opportunities to expand broadband access within the commonwealth.
- To create and implement a statewide broadband plan.
- To maintain a centralized database of all broadband deployment activities occurring within Pennsylvania agencies and departments.

The PBDA is governed by an **11-member Board of Directors**, including:

- Secretaries from PA departments of Community and Economic Development, Agriculture, Education, General Services, and Budget.
- Four legislative members:
  - Senator Kristin-Phillips-Hill
  - Senator John Kane
  - Representative Robert Matzie
  - Representative Carl Metzgar
- The Chairwoman of the Public Utilities Commission
- The Executive Director of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania

## **Pennsylvania's Statewide Broadband Plan:**

- Adopted in November - will inform the BEAD 5-year Action Plan and Digital Equity Plan. Four main components:
  1. Broadband Service Infrastructure and Availability
  2. Device and Technology Access
  3. Digital Equity and Affordability
  4. Digital Literacy and Technical Support

## **Upcoming Grant Programs:**

### **ARPA Capital Projects Fund (CPF):**

- PA was allocated \$279 million from the U.S. Treasury for broadband-related programs.
- CPF will include three programs that benefit unserved and underserved areas of the commonwealth, specifically:
  - \$200M will go toward the **Broadband Infrastructure Program**
  - \$45M for **Multi-Purpose Community Facility Projects**
  - \$20M for **Digital Connectivity Technology Projects**

### **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Funding:**

- Administered by U.S. Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)
- Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) - \$42.5B nationally with each state receiving at least \$100M (*Anticipate \$1.3 Billion+ for PA*). PBDA will allocate funding through a competitive grant program.
- Digital Equity Act

Questions? Contact the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority at [pabroadbandauthority@pa.gov](mailto:pabroadbandauthority@pa.gov)