

Julie Sande
Commissioner

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STATE OF ALASKA

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Alaska's Broadband Deployment Allocation Announced

Monday, June 26, 2023 (Anchorage, AK) – Alaska's funding allocation was announced today under the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program. Over \$1 billion of the total \$42.5 billion BEAD funding will be used to connect Alaskan communities currently unserved or underserved by broadband. The BEAD program, administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), will be essential in bringing high speed internet to the more than one in three homes in Alaska that cannot access adequate internet.

"Connecting every Alaskan to high-speed internet at an affordable price is a top priority for my administration," said **Governor Mike Dunleavy**. "Having lived and worked in rural Alaska, I know firsthand the transformative opportunities broadband access can bring to our most remote communities."

Through close coordination with the State and the advocacy of Alaska's Congressional delegation, Alaska's unique circumstances as a remote state is reflected in this funding allocation. The delegation was instrumental in shaping the NTIA's development of "High-Cost Area" definition necessary to ensure Alaskan needs are met.

Over the next several months, the Alaska Broadband Office (ABO) will develop, with close consultation from the NTIA, a robust and fair grant program to distribute the BEAD funding. Grant applicants may apply for funding to construct broadband infrastructure to locations lacking reliable, high-speed service. Awards will be prioritized to projects providing service to the state's unserved locations (lacking service of 25/3 Mbps), followed by projects to the underserved locations (lacking 100/20 Mbps).

"Bringing service to Alaska's remote communities will open up unlimited online education and career opportunities for our rural residents," said **Julie Sande, Commissioner of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development**. "The efforts of the Alaska Broadband Office will help to increase access while providing quality broadband service at a lower cost. Our hope is that every Alaskan will have the opportunity to participate and be competitive across a global community."

“This allocation, in conjunction with other federal opportunities through the NTIA and USDA, represents the initial step to equitable inclusion of all Alaskans in the digital economy,” commented **Thomas Lochner, Director of the Alaska Broadband Office.**

For more information, and the schedule of public listening sessions, please visit the Alaska Broadband Office website at www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/abo.

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Media Contact: Victoria Caltagirone, victoria.caltagirone@alaska.gov (907) 269-7396