



State Connections

The broadband working group for state legislators

First Friday of Every Month

4:00 ET / 3:00 CT / 2:00 MT / 1:00 PT

WE WILL BEGIN SHORTLY!

Introductions

Membership has grown (100+ spanning Maine to Hawai'i), so let's introduce ourselves:

If you are new to State Connections, please introduce yourself:

- Name
- State
- Role
- Topic of Interest

Topics for Discussion



Please offer suggestions! (in chat or out loud)

1. Brief FCC defaults discussion | Gigi Sohn

2. Legislative Questionnaire for State Office of Broadband

Please give us feedback on these! We will have a final document on Monday.

3. Representative Louis Riggs Updates and Interactive Questions

4. Miscellaneous topics

Affordability, coalition suggested topics, State Connections growth update



FCC Defaults Discussion

Gigi Sohn

Legislative Questionnaire Guide for State Office of Broadband (1 of 3)

Broadband Office –

- How many staff are assigned to the State Broadband Office?
- How is the State Broadband Office funded (through another state agency, line item in budget)?

State Funding –

- What funds, if any, does the state contribute to broadband (amounts and purpose, administrative or program)?
- Is the Office of Broadband only supported by federal funds or does the state contribute state funds?

Affordability –

- What is the state doing to address broadband affordability (especially without the Affordable Connectivity Program)?
- There is a requirement for the BEAD program that states have a low- cost plan. What is the requirement for your state?
- It is also required for the BEAD program that there be a middle- income plan. What is the requirement for your state?
- Is your state only relying on the BEAD low- cost plan to address affordability or are other practices in place?
- What does “affordable” mean in your state to make broadband accessible to all?
- Is urban broadband infrastructure in the states’ cities adequate? The Markup published a study on this in 2022, showing that areas in historically redlined areas often pay more for worse service than non-redlined areas.

Legislative Questionnaire Guide for State Office of Broadband (2 of 3)

Defaults –

- Have there been any provider defaults for previously funded federal or state awards? If yes, where are these defaults and what is the number of locations impacted?
- Is your Office of Broadband aware of any providers at risk of defaulting?
- How will the state address future gaps in broadband infrastructure, either from defaults, new construction, or otherwise?

BEAD Funding –

- What is the amount of BEAD funding awarded to the state for broadband infrastructure?
- Each state has a map of the state showing eligible locations for BEAD funding. This map can show you what your district/area needs are in broadband. Obtain a copy of the map and discuss your areas with the Office of Broadband.
- What is the status of the BEAD map challenge process in the state?
- Where are the areas identified as “high-cost” areas that might not have to meet the 25% match requirement?
- Has the Office of Broadband established all of the project areas?
- Does the Office of Broadband expect the BEAD funds to reach all unserved locations in the state?
- Does the Office of Broadband expect any funds remaining after reaching all the unserved locations in the state? If so, what are the planned use of the remaining funds?
- What broadband speed has been set for your state as the acceptable speed (this speed should at least match 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload to match the BEAD requirement).

Legislative Questionnaire Guide for State Office of Broadband (3 of 3)

BEAD Funding –

- What is your Office of Broadband hearing from internet service providers about issues with the BEAD infrastructure program?
- How is the Office of Broadband preparing for the Digital Equity grant programs? Do they have a plan to help provide devices and promote cybersecurity, training, and job-related skills?
- What is the amount of NTIA funding awarded to the state for Digital Equity?

Legislative Concerns and Assistance –

- What partners, nonprofits, ISPs (providers), or others that I may need to be engaged with are in my legislative district or area?
- Are there any state legislative needs that the Office of Broadband has identified; administrative, program, permitting, right of ways, easements, tax exemptions for broadband grants, and others?
- What else do you want to share with us and how else can we help make sure fast, reliable, affordable broadband is available to all in our state?



Representative Louis Riggs

Updates and Interactive Questions

Miscellaneous Topics

- Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) informational sheet – status
- Any Other Topics You Want to Discuss Today?
- State Connections Growing!
 - 41 states have legislative members
 - Only 9 states not represented
 - Missouri, Wisconsin and Ohio each have the most representation
 - About 170 members
 - Spread the word – we can make a difference for broadband!

AUGUST MEETING IS CANCELLED!

Contact Information

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