# Governor's Task Force on Broadband

St. Michael, MN | November 2023

# About Pew

Celebrating its 75th anniversary, The Pew Charitable Trusts uses data to make a difference. Pew addresses the challenges of a changing world by illuminating issues, creating common ground, and advancing ambitious projects that lead to tangible progress.

The Pew Charitable Trusts' broadband access initiative works with state and federal lawmakers, researchers, and other partners to accelerate the nation's progress to universal, affordable high-speed internet service.

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# The Broadband Access Initiative

*Working with state and federal lawmakers, researchers, and other partners to accelerate the nation's progress to universal, affordable high-speed internet service.*

## Federal and state policy

- State leadership
- Improved accountability
- Prioritization of fiber
- Affordability

## Addressing research gaps

- Drivers of affordability and cost of service
- Alternative models of deployment
- Trends in state broadband policy and future needs

## Direct support to states

- Broadband Education and Training Initiative (BETI)
- Educating state officials

# Where are we now?

- **Almost all states have received their Capital Projects Fund allocations** and must account for other sources of federal funds (i.e., RDOF) in their BEAD plans.

- **States have a Dec. 27 deadline** to submit BEAD plans and then 365 days (upon approval) to select awardees.

- **They are drafting digital equity plans** but waiting on implementation rules from NTIA.

# State of the states

**States are using Capital Project Funds in different ways.**

*States are leveraging CPF monies to amplify the reach of their existing state broadband programs, complement with new initiatives such as line extensions, improve anchor institution connectivity, and address the unserved/underserved challenge.*

**BEAD is a complex program and will look different than CPF and state programs.**

*States are responsible for meeting a complex set of federal funding requirements that may not always align with state priorities. However, the BEAD processes should offer clarity on the remaining gaps to affordable access and the long-term funding required to achieve and sustain it.*

**States face unique barriers to implementing BEAD, but it presents opportunities as well.**

*Although BEAD has more specific funding and administrative requirements, states have a degree of flexibility to design programs to meet their needs. This includes reflecting priorities through their challenge process and grant requirements, targeted efforts in workforce development, and more.*

**Start planning for the future now.**

*Federal and state funding will help narrow the digital divide, but there is more to be done. That includes funding, such as for digital equity initiatives and maintaining state broadband offices, as well as policy change, which could include universal service mechanisms.*

# Contact information

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