



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA *STATEWIDE BROADBAND PLAN*

Welcome, and thank you for joining us!

Please type your name and organization in the chat for the purposes of capturing attendance, questions and comments.

PENNSYLVANIA BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



- Established by Act 96 of 2021
- Aims to serve as a single point of contact for entities wishing to engage in broadband development and deployment.
- Responsible for:
 - Developing a statewide broadband plan
 - Applying for and distributing monies for broadband expansion projects
 - Maintaining a centralized database of all broadband deployment activities within state agencies

PENNSYLVANIA BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

- *“The authority shall develop a statewide broadband plan in collaboration with local and regional entities to advance broadband buildout, including equitable access and digital literacy components, for the benefit of residents of this Commonwealth and as necessary to facilitate access of applicants to funding opportunities from the Federal Government...”*
- Must be in effect no later than one year from December 22, 2021.

PENNSYLVANIA'S BROADBAND PLAN

- The Plan will:
 - Address immediate needs and long-term objectives for broadband expansion
 - Outline goals and objectives toward achieving universal broadband access
 - Provide a roadmap to success
- The Plan is NOT:
 - Specific to the federal infrastructure law
 - A detailed five-year plan as will be required under the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program

WHY BROADBAND FOR ALL?

To foster economic growth and innovation

To grow workforce development and educational achievement opportunities

To provide adequate, reliable emergency services

To enhance community wellbeing and quality of life

FOUR CORE OPPORTUNITIES

- 1 **Broadband Service Infrastructure and Availability**
- 2 **Device and Technology Access**
- 3 **Digital Equity and Affordability**
- 4 **Digital Literacy and Technical Support**

BROADBAND SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE AND AVAILABILITY

1. Maintain current and accurate data on unserved and underserved populations
 - a. *Ensure grants require geo-information*
 - b. *Conduct GAP analysis to identify unserved/underserved populations using special data analysis*
 - c. *Ongoing refining of the definition of unserved and underserved*
 - d. *Identify populations who do not want to be served*

BROADBAND SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE AND AVAILABILITY

2. Create sustainable and resilient operations and networks
 - a. *Maximize investments over specified time period*
 - b. *Consider environmental events*

3. Protect infrastructure against nefarious forces and threats
 - a. *Apply industry best practices to ensure security of data and infrastructure*

BROADBAND SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE AND AVAILABILITY

4. Develop an interconnective and interoperable hybrid network
 - a. *Identify different types of technology to create a mesh/hybrid network*
 - b. *Skilled workforce for build and maintenance*
 - c. *Availability of materials (supply chain)*

5. Ensure no negative impact to natural resources or communities
 - a. *Identify assets already in place*
 - b. *Leverage existing infrastructure to facilitate broadband network deployments*
 - c. *Institute a dig-once policy requiring coordination of infrastructure projects*

DEVICE AND TECHNOLOGY ACCESS

1. Prioritize device funding according to need and return on investment (ROI)
 - a. Identify and leverage additional funding partners to provide devices*
 - b. Assess currently available programs and identify remaining gaps in funding and program type*
 - c. Determine eligibility for device assistance*

2. Ensure that secure devices are made available and affordable

- a. Clarify responsibility and community ownership of devices*
- b. Leverage anchor institutions to provide community internet service*
- c. Prioritization of funding and utilize additional funding partners for devices*
- d. Investigate the use of refurbished devices from unused surplus sources*

DIGITAL EQUITY AND AFFORDABILITY

1. Ensure that multiple affordable service options are available

- a. Collect data on current service options and rates*
- b. Collect data on income levels across the commonwealth*
- c. Clearly define affordability looking at a variety of factors – income, region, user, etc.*
- d. Determine role of the state in setting rate standards.*

DIGITAL EQUITY AND AFFORDABILITY

2. Ensure that affordable options are sustainable
 - a. *Leverage private sector funding*
 - b. *Create a sustainability model/long-term plan for when federal funding is no longer available.*
 - c. *Incentivize regional collaboration and aggregation of demand*

3. Ensure transparency
 - a. *Understand full costs including short-term, long-term, and ongoing usage*
 - b. *Define and clearly communicate affordability standards*

DIGITAL LITERACY AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

1. Provide training so every person can meet digital literacy competencies
 - a. Understand/address challenges associated with different types of technology (mobile and desktop skills, etc.)*
 - b. Devices are accessible for the users and users can use them*
 - c. Define digital literacy*

2. Strive to ensure that the population feels comfortable and secure using technology
 - a. Resources for data security and safe use are identified and communicated*
 - b. Quantify ways digital autonomy and internet access increases human dignity and improves quality of life*

DIGITAL LITERACY AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

3. Develop a digital literacy plan

- a. Align deployment plan as a facet of the infrastructure build*
- b. Digital equity scorecard*

4. Develop a technical support network

- a. Resource map for support – where they are, who can provide it, who needs them, and demand*
- b. Technical support for the institutions obtaining infrastructure and end user device usage*

QUESTIONS AND OPEN DISCUSSION

NEXT STEPS

- Survey
- Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority contact and website:

Email: pabroadbandauthority@pa.gov

Webpage: <https://dced.pa.gov/broadband-resources/pennsylvania-broadband-development-authority/>

THANK YOU!