MAY 17, 2022



WHO WE ARE

The National League of Cities (NLC) is the voice of America's cities, towns and villages, representing more than 200 million people across the country.

About the National League of Cities

- Represents the more than 19,000 cities, towns and villages in the US
- 49 state municipal leagues
- Policy positions & priorities set by member committees & voted on annually
- Major 2022 priority advocacy issues:
 - COVID-19 Response and Recovery
 - Advancing Workforce Readiness
 - Increasing Fair and Affordable Housing •
 - Stabilizing Local Government Operations
 - Advancing Digital Equity
 - Building Sustainable Infrastructure ullet
 - Reimagining Public Health and Safety



 Provides municipal leaders with advocates in Washington, peer engagement, research on policy trends & best practices, education/training, and hands-on technical assistance

America's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

- President Biden signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), commonly known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), on November 15, 2021.
- This BIL marks historic access for local governments to federal infrastructure programs.
- BIL includes **\$1.2 trillion for America's infrastructure** - including \$550 billion in new funding.





What's In the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

- **Strengthens Water Systems**
- High-Speed Internet Access

Better Roads and Bridges

Investments in Public Transit

Upgrade Airports and Ports

@leagueofcities



Investments in Passenger Rail

Network of EV Chargers

Upgrade Power Infrastructure

Resilient Infrastructure

费 Investments in Environment

Deep Dive – Broadband and Cybersecurity

Broadband Infrastructure, Digital Equity and Affordability Over \$65 billion split across FCC, NTIA, USDA

- Policy Changes
 - Consumer Broadband Labels
 - Broadband Speed Study
 - Digital Discrimination Rule
- Cybersecurity
 - \$120 million for the Cyber Response and Recovery Act
 - \$1 billion over 4 years for the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program
 - \$250 million Rural and Municipal Utility Advanced Cybersecurity Grant and Technical Assistance Program





Broadband Funding and the BIL

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

BEAD - \$42.45B

Title I - Broadband Equity, Access & **Deployment Program**

Formula-based grant program for U.S. states and territories. BEAD aims to close the access gap for unserved & underserved areas of the country.

DIGITAL **EQUITY - \$2.75B**

Title III – Digital Equity Act

Three programs, established for planning & implementation of programs that promote digital equity, support digital inclusion activities, and build capacity related to the adoption of broadband.

TRIBAL - \$2.00B

Title II - Tribal **Amendments**

Broadband by investing an and infrastructure projects.



Connectivity Technical

- **Furthers current Tribal**
- **Connectivity Program** additional \$2B to fund
- broadband adoption

MIDDLE **MILE - \$1.00B**

Title IV - Enabling Middle Mile **Broadband** Infrastructure

Provides funding to extend middle mile capacity to reduce cost of serving unserved and underserved areas and enhance network resilience.

Federal Communications Commission

\$14.2B for Affordable Connectivity Program, which replaces the Emergency Broadband Benefit program

U.S. Department of Agriculture

\$2.0B via the Rural Utilities Service ReConnect program

Private Activity Bonds

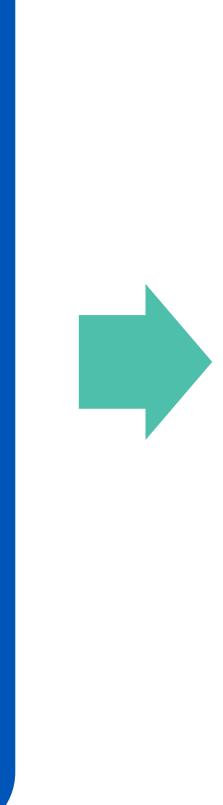
\$600M Authorization for State/local gov'ts to use private activity bonds for rural broadband



Next Steps in Intergovernmental Coordination

Federal

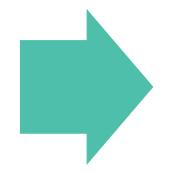
- Agency guidance
- Notices of Funding Opportunity
- Technical assistance
- Interagency coordination
- Direct competitive grants and state formula grant distribution



State

- State infrastructure coordination (executive office & agencies)
- Statewide infrastructure plans
- State advisory committees, community
 - engagement
- Subgranting of federal funds





Local

- Participation in competitive federal & subgrant application cycles
- Engagement with state on planning & advisory committees
- Compliance with federal grant standards

NLC BIL Infrastructure Resources





Hold Your Phone's Camera Up to the QR **Code to Visit NLC's Ready to Rebuild Site**

@leagueofcities





NLC Summary: What's in the **Infrastructure Bill for Cities**

- "Ready to Rebuild" Webinar **Series**
- Infrastructure Bill Insights Tool
- <u>CitiesSpeak Infrastructure Blogs</u>
- Have a Question? Submit it here!

NLC's Digital Equity Playbook

- What are the indicators of digital inequity in your city?
- How can you develop a broadband plan?
- What kinds of broadband technologies or network models are best for your community?
- How can you work with partners to close the digital divide?
- What programs are most effective in connecting residents to broadband subscriptions, devices, and skills development?
- What resources are available to help you get started?

bit.ly/digitalequityplaybook

Next webinar: Tuesday, May 24, 2-3PM ET "Connecting Older Adults and All Ages to Broadband"



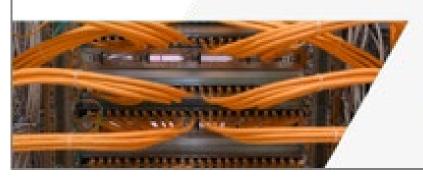


DIGITAL EQUITY PLAYBOOK

How City Leaders Can Bridge the Digital Divide

Broadband internet has evolved from being a cutting-edge luxury to an essential utility for participation in daily life. Unfortunately, not everyone benefits from this vital tool. Because of barriers in affordability, accessibility or availability, and skills, an estimated 42 million residents in the United States do not have broadband at all, and 157.3 million

live with slow or unreliable internet service.1 This must change. Cities can be proactive to bridge the digital divide. The Digital Equity Playbook helps city leaders determine causes of the digital divide in their communities, provides recommendations to address it, shares stories from local governments and suggests additional resources.



Broadband is high-speed, reliable internet access, measured in download and upload speeds.

QUESTIONS? GET IN TOUCH.



ANGELINA PANETTIERI

Legislative Director, Information Technology and Communications

panettieri@nlc.org

@LEAGUEOFCITIES

CITIES STRONG TOGETHER



