

Completing the Mission

Annual Report 2025



OKLAHOMA
Broadband Office



December 19, 2025

Governor of Oklahoma J. Kevin Stitt
Oklahoma Speaker of the House Kyle Hilbert
Oklahoma Senate President Pro Tempore Lonnie Paxton

Thank you for the opportunity to present the 2025 Oklahoma Broadband Office Annual Report in accordance with the statutory requirements set forth in 74 O.S. § 9204(F).

This year reflected meaningful progress toward the broadband objectives established by the Legislature. State law directs that broadband service be available to 95 percent of Oklahoma locations by the conclusion of the Oklahoma Broadband Office's authorized operations. Through sustained planning, investment, and coordination among state and local partners, Oklahoma continued advancing toward that benchmark in 2025, making measurable gains in expanding access to reliable broadband service across the state.

Building on that progress, the Oklahoma Broadband Office continued advancing its work throughout 2025, with most projects funded through the American Rescue Plan Act's State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds and Capital Projects Fund now under construction, several approaching completion, and some residents already receiving new broadband service.

The Office remains focused on responsible stewardship of public funds and close coordination with partner agencies, internet service providers, and local stakeholders. These efforts help ensure projects move forward efficiently and that broadband investments translate into lasting, practical results for Oklahoma communities.

Looking ahead, the Oklahoma Broadband Office is preparing for the next phase of broadband expansion and is awaiting final approval of the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. BEAD will build upon the foundation already established and support continued progress toward serving remaining unserved locations, moving Oklahoma closer to the statewide availability envisioned by statute.

It is a privilege to submit this report and to serve the people of Oklahoma. The following pages reflect steady progress and a continued commitment to connecting communities throughout the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Sanders', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mike Sanders
Executive Director


Executive Summary

During 2025, the Oklahoma Broadband Office (OBO) continued translating planning into large-scale, on-the-ground progress, moving the state closer to universal access to reliable, high-speed broadband. Building on the foundation established in earlier years, the OBO remained focused on implementation—overseeing construction, resolving challenges in real time, and ensuring that public investments are delivering tangible results for Oklahomans.

Broadband expansion funded through the American Rescue Plan Act’s State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) and Capital Projects Fund (CPF) advanced significantly throughout the year. Of the 159 projects currently supported by these programs, more than 75 percent are either under construction or preparing for closeout.

Collectively, these projects represent more than \$700 million in combined public and private investment, reflecting strong participation and financial commitment from internet service providers across the state.

These investments are already reshaping broadband availability in communities that have historically lacked dependable service.



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Construction activity continued across rural and underserved areas, with multiple projects nearing completion and some residents already experiencing new or improved broadband connections because of this work. As projects transition from buildout to closeout, the OBO’s emphasis has increasingly shifted toward accountability, performance verification, and long-term sustainability of the networks being deployed.

Looking ahead, 2026 will mark a pivotal transition. While ARPA-funded projects move toward completion, OBO is preparing to administer the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program—the final federal broadband grant program assigned to the office.

Final determination from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is anticipated in the new year. In the meantime, OBO continues to work closely with providers, communities, and federal partners to ensure Oklahoma is positioned to implement BEAD efficiently and effectively once approval is finalized.

As the state enters this next phase, the Oklahoma Broadband Office remains focused on delivering results: finishing projects already underway, stewarding public resources responsibly, and laying the groundwork for the last major push to connect every Oklahoman to reliable, high-speed internet.

Program Highlights

ARPA SLFRF and Capital Projects Fund Progress

During 2025, the Oklahoma Broadband Office (OBO) made substantial implementation progress on broadband expansion projects funded through the American Rescue Plan Act’s State and Local Fiscal

Recovery Funds (SLFRF) and Capital Projects Fund (CPF).

These programs continue to represent the core of Oklahoma’s near-term broadband buildout, shifting the focus from planning and awards to active construction and delivery.

By the end of 2025, 75 percent of ARPA-funded broadband projects were either under construction or preparing for closeout, reflecting steady momentum across the statewide portfolio.

In total, 159 ARPA projects are underway, supported by approximately \$450 million in grant funding and \$278 million in matching investments from participating internet service providers. Together, these projects are expected to deliver new or improved high-speed broadband access to more than 66,000 locations across Oklahoma.

Construction activity expanded throughout the year, with projects advancing in rural and underserved communities in every region of the state. All ARPA-funded broadband projects remain on track for completion by the end of 2026.

Once these projects are fully built and operational, broadband availability in Oklahoma is expected to approach 95 percent, representing a transformative improvement in statewide access.



The OBO and the Junction Internet launched expansion of high-speed internet in ceremonies near Welch in Craig County.

“As the state enters the next phase, the OBO remains focused on delivering results.”

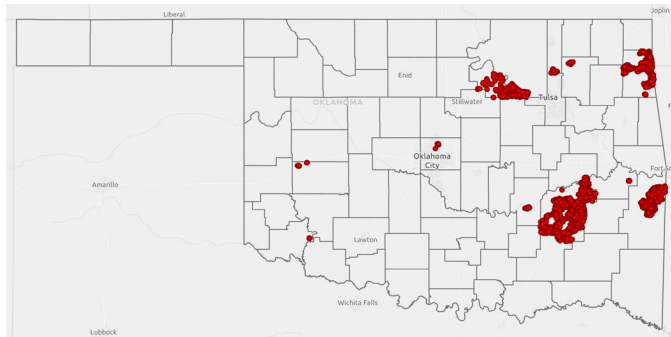
To mark progress and maintain strong partnerships with providers and local communities, the OBO has hosted 19 groundbreaking events in coordination with internet service providers.

These events highlighted the geographic reach of ARPA investments, with project sites spanning all four quadrants of the state—from Arapaho to near Hugo, and from Welch to Lone Wolf.

Each groundbreaking underscored the collaborative effort required to translate federal funding into lasting infrastructure that will serve Oklahomans for decades.

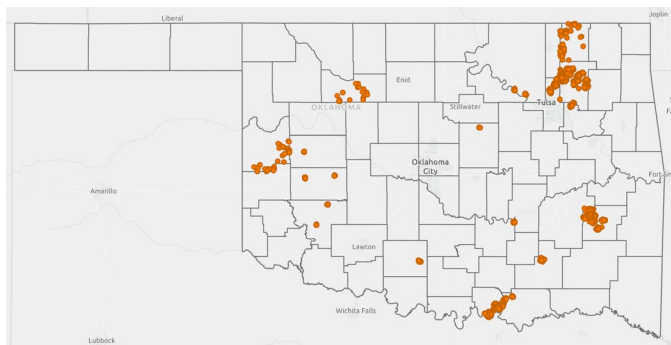
As ARPA SLFRF and CPF projects continue moving toward completion, the OBO remains focused on oversight, accountability, and timely delivery—ensuring these historic investments result in reliable, high-speed broadband service for communities that have long lacked access.

ARPA SLFRF and Capital Projects Fund Progress



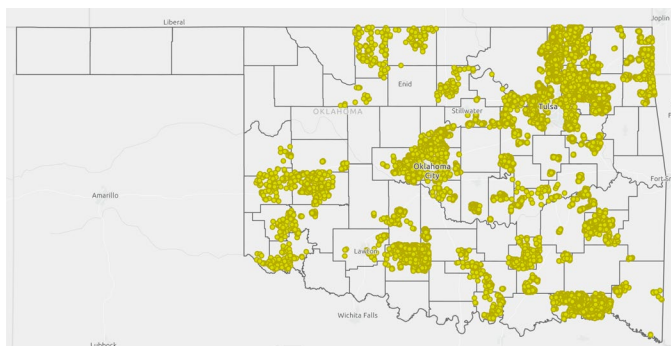
Engineering underway

- 14 projects
- 6 companies
- 14,560 locations
- 9% of projects
- 13% of overall award amount



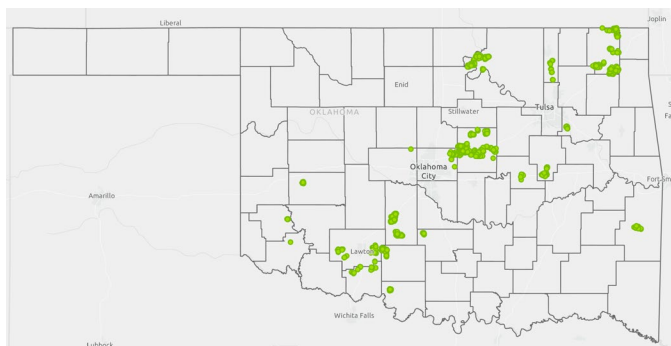
Preparing construction

- 26 projects
- 8 companies
- 9,505 locations
- 16% of projects
- 11% of overall award amount



Construction underway

- 94 projects
- 27 companies
- 39,555 locations
- 59% of projects
- 68% of overall award amount



Closeout started

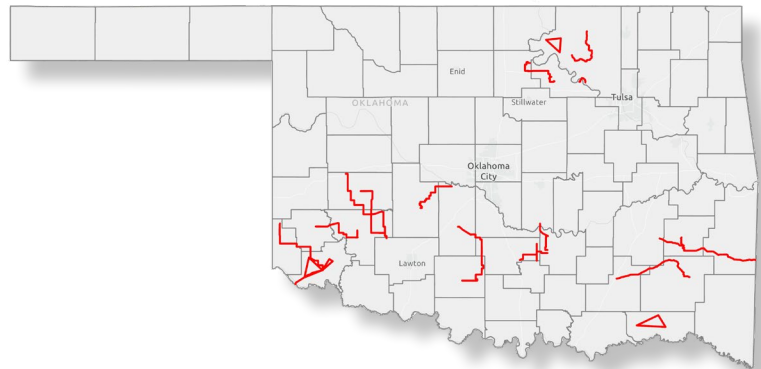
- 25 projects
- 15 companies
- 3,036 locations
- 9% of projects
- 8% of overall award amount

Middle-Mile Infrastructure Program

In 2025, the OBO advanced a critical component of the state's broadband strategy through targeted investment in middle-mile infrastructure.

In May, the Oklahoma Broadband Governing Board awarded \$53.4 million in federal grants to five internet service providers for 19 middle-mile projects designed to strengthen the backbone of broadband connectivity across the state.

When combined with \$36.2 million in matching funds from participating providers, total investment in the program is expected to reach \$89.6 million.



The Oklahoma Broadband Governing Board approved 19 middle-mile projects in May.

Funded through the American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, the middle-mile program focuses on infrastructure that connects major internet hubs to local networks.

Much like a highway system for data, middle-mile networks bring high-capacity connectivity closer to communities, enabling providers to complete last-mile connections to homes, businesses, and Community Anchor Institutions—particularly in hard-to-serve and rural areas.

Demand for middle-mile funding underscored the need for this type of strategic investment. Competitive applications were accepted in March and April, generating 72 proposals requesting approximately \$224 million. Due to the volume and quality of applications, awards ultimately totaled about 24 cents for every dollar requested. Awarded providers have until October 2026 to complete construction, aligning with the broader timeline for ARPA-funded broadband deployment.

Middle-mile investments complement Oklahoma's larger broadband expansion portfolio by lowering long-term costs, increasing network resilience, and improving the feasibility of last-mile projects in areas where service has historically been difficult to deliver. These projects are expected to play a foundational role in extending access to unserved locations and supporting economic development, education, healthcare, and public services across the state.

The middle-mile program reflects the OBO's continued emphasis on strategic, long-term infrastructure investment and statewide collaboration.

Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program

Throughout 2025, the Oklahoma Broadband Office continued preparing for implementation of the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, the final federal broadband grant program assigned to the office. BEAD represents the last major opportunity to complete the buildout of high-speed broadband infrastructure in Oklahoma, particularly in locations that will remain unserved or underserved after the completion of ARPA-funded projects.

During the year, the OBO worked closely with the National Telecommunications and Information

Administration (NTIA) as Oklahoma's BEAD proposal progressed through federal review. This process required careful coordination and flexibility, as NTIA issued updated guidance and rule changes that affected program structure, eligibility, and implementation requirements nationwide.

These federal adjustments introduced additional sensitivity into the review process and necessitated

“Oklahoma is awaiting final approval of its BEAD proposal from NTIA, with a decision anticipated in the new year.”

revisions to ensure Oklahoma's proposal remained fully compliant while continuing to reflect the state's priorities and practical deployment realities.

The OBO took a deliberate and measured approach in responding to these changes, balancing federal requirements with the need to preserve program efficiency, provider participation, and meaningful outcomes for communities.

Throughout this period, the office remained in regular communication with internet

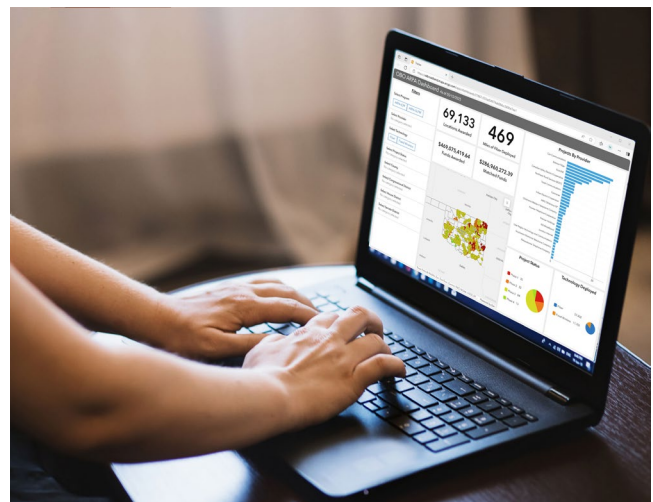
service providers, local stakeholders, and federal partners to manage expectations and reinforce that final program decisions rest with NTIA.

As of the end of 2025, Oklahoma is awaiting final approval of its BEAD proposal from NTIA, with a decision anticipated in the new year. Once approved, the BEAD program will build upon the substantial progress already underway through ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds and Capital Projects Fund investments. Together, these efforts are intended to close the remaining gaps in broadband availability and move Oklahoma closer to achieving the statewide connectivity goals established by statute.

The Oklahoma Broadband Office remains committed to administering the BEAD program responsibly once authorized, applying lessons learned from earlier grant programs and maintaining transparency, accountability, and collaboration as the state enters the final phase of broadband expansion.

OBO Broadband Dashboard

Transparency and public accountability remained central priorities for the OBO in 2025. Because the Office administers broadband grant programs funded by taxpayer dollars, ensuring that Oklahomans can easily access clear, timely information about how those funds are being used is a core responsibility. To support that goal, the Oklahoma Broadband Office launched the OBO Broadband Dashboard in June.



The OBO Broadband Dashboard was launched on the agency website in June.

Embedded on the agency's website at broadband.ok.gov, the dashboard provides a centralized, user-

friendly view of broadband expansion activity statewide.

The dashboard offers high-level summary data while also allowing users to track individual projects from the earliest stages of permitting and engineering through construction and, ultimately, when new service becomes available to customers.

The dashboard is designed to support a wide range of users, including residents, local officials, providers, and policymakers. Project information can be filtered by awarded grant program, technology type, and current project status. Geographic views are available by county, congressional district, state house district, and state senate district, offering multiple ways to understand how broadband investments are distributed across the state. Search tools allow users to explore project activity by address and other criteria.

The Oklahoma Broadband Office will continue to update the dashboard regularly as projects advance, ensuring the information remains current and accurate. By providing an accessible, interactive tool to monitor progress, the Broadband Dashboard strengthens public trust and reinforces the Office's commitment to transparency as broadband infrastructure is built across Oklahoma.

Mission and Overview

OBO is dedicated to ensuring every Oklahoman has access to reliable and affordable broadband. The office leads planning, funding, and coordination efforts to expand connectivity and ensure effective use of state and federal investments.

Organization of the Office

The Oklahoma Broadband Office is governed by the Broadband Governing Board and advised by the Broadband Expansion Council. (74 O.S. § 9204), see also 74 O.S. § 9202 and § 9203.

Oklahoma Broadband Governing Board

The OBGB is composed of nine members: the lieutenant governor, state treasurer, three appointees by the governor, two by the Speaker of the House and two by the Senate President Pro Tempore. The board oversees the Oklahoma Broadband Office and its executive director, who, with the approval of the board, creates and implements an annual budget and implements grant incentive programs.

Additionally, the board oversees the development of the State Broadband Plan, which describes how the state will achieve 95 percent high-speed internet coverage by June 2028.

Members of the board include:

- Jim Meek, Chair, former District 9 Director and Treasurer, Oklahoma Farm Bureau, Inc. – Okmulgee. Appointed by Speaker of the House
- Amanda Mullins, Vice Chair, Managing Attorney, Amanda Mullins, PLLC – Chickasha. Appointed by Governor
- The Honorable Matt Pinnell, Lieutenant Governor – Oklahoma City. Ex Officio
- The Honorable Todd Russ, State Treasurer – Cordell. Ex Officio
- Mike Bradford, Owner, Sky Tech LLC – Tuttle. Appointee of Senate President Pro Tempore
- Mike Erhart, Managing Partner, Erhart & Associates LLC – Oklahoma City. Appointed by Senate President Pro Tempore
- Dwight R. Hughes, Superintendent/CEO, Autry Technology Center – Enid. Appointed by Governor
- Fob Jones, Attorney, Fob F. Jones Law – Sulphur. Appointed by Speaker of the House
- Russ Teubner, Distinguished Engineer, Broadcom – Stillwater. Appointed by Governor

Oklahoma Broadband Expansion Council

The OBEC acts in an advisory capacity to the OBO. The council is composed of community leaders, Tribal leaders, and industry professionals to provide a well-rounded and forward-thinking viewpoint. Specifically, the OBEC advises the OBO on the State Broadband Plan to ensure industry and community perspectives are considered.

Members of the council include:

- Dr. Brian Whitacre, Chair, Professor of Agricultural Economics, Oklahoma State University – Stillwater. Appointed by Senate President Pro Tempore
- Mark Argenbright, Vice Chair, Director, Public Utility Division & Consumer Services, Oklahoma Corporation Commission - Oklahoma City. Appointed by Corporation Commission
- Darlene Brugnoli, Vice President Governmental Affairs, Verizon. Appointed by Speaker of the House
- Jason Constable, Director, Regulatory Affairs, AT&T Corp. - Oklahoma City. Appointed by Speaker of the House
- Sachin Gupta, Director of Government Business and Economic Development, Centranet, LLC – Stillwater. Appointed by Senate President Pro Tempore
- Mike Hilliary, Chief Administrative Officer, Hilliary Communications – Lawton. Appointed by Governor
- Ernie Martens, Mayor, City of Sallisaw – Sallisaw. Appointed by Governor
- Stacie Sober, Associate Director, Canopy HealthTech – Owasso. Appointed by Speaker of the House
- Mike Sanders, Executive Director, Oklahoma Broadband Office – Kingfisher
- Josh Snow, President, Trace Fiber Networks, LLC. Appointed by Senate President Pro Tempore
- Robbie Squires, Director of Government & Regulatory Affairs, Cox Oklahoma Telecom, LLC. Appointed by Speaker of the House
- Billy Frank Staggs, President, Chickasaw Holding Company – Sulphur. Appointed by Speaker of the House
- Daniel Webster, CEO, Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative – Vinita. Appointed by Senate President Pro Tempore
- Jerry Whisenhunt, General Manager, Pine Telephone Company, Inc. - Broken Bow. Appointed by Senate President Pro Tempore

Looking to the Future

The progress documented in this report reflects a pivotal period in Oklahoma’s broadband expansion effort—one defined by construction, coordination, and measurable results. In 2025, the Oklahoma Broadband Office moved decisively from planning to implementation, overseeing historic levels of investment while maintaining a clear focus on accountability, transparency, and long-term outcomes for communities across the state.

Through ARPA-funded last-mile and middle-mile projects, broadband infrastructure is being built in every region of Oklahoma, with work underway or nearing completion on the majority of awarded projects. These efforts are already improving access for thousands of homes and businesses and are on track to deliver near-universal availability of high-speed broadband service once construction concludes. At the same time, investments in middle-mile infrastructure are strengthening the backbone of the network, reducing barriers to service expansion in rural and hard-to-serve areas.

As ARPA programs move toward completion, the office is preparing for its final phase of work through the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program. While final approval from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration remains pending, the groundwork laid through

earlier programs positions Oklahoma to act efficiently and responsibly once authorization is granted. Lessons learned from project delivery, provider engagement, and oversight will inform the OBO's approach as it works to close the remaining gaps in service.

The OBO's mission—to ensure every Oklahoman has access to reliable, affordable broadband—remains unchanged. Guided by the Broadband Governing Board, the office will continue stewarding public resources carefully, working collaboratively with providers and communities, and maintaining transparency through tools such as the OBO Broadband Dashboard.

The work ahead is focused and finite, but its impact will be lasting. The infrastructure being deployed today will support economic growth, education, healthcare, and public services for decades to come. As Oklahoma enters the final stages of its statewide broadband buildout, the Oklahoma Broadband Office remains committed to delivering results that meet statutory goals and serve the long-term interests of the state and its people.

