



**OKLAHOMA**  
Broadband Office

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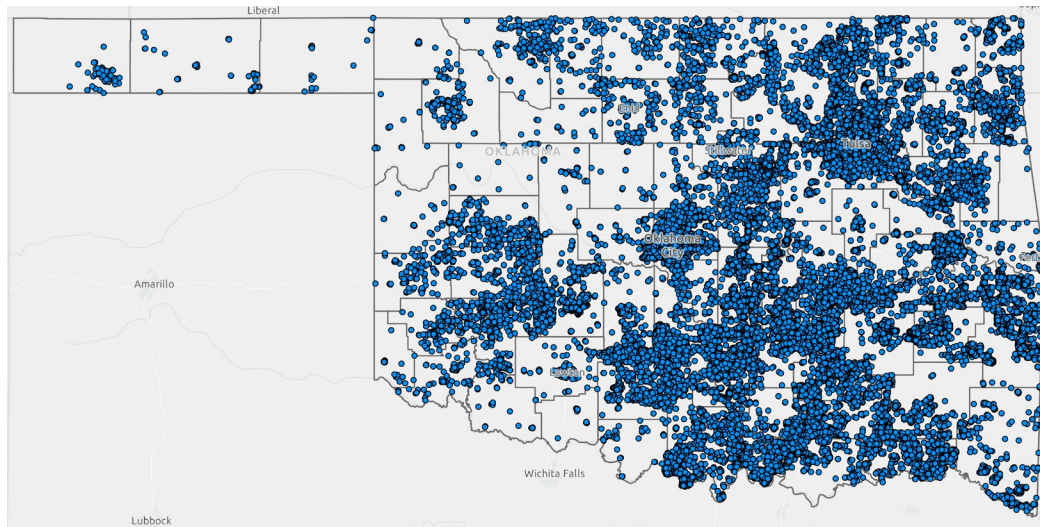
# THE BROADBAND BULLETIN

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Your source for broadband news, updates, and impact

October 30, 2025

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## Standing Up for Oklahoma

The Oklahoma Broadband Office (OBO) is currently in the BEAD curing process with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). The federal agency has final approval authority and is requiring changes to the Final Proposal to align with its priorities.

All states must work with NTIA to create plans that balance the needs of local communities with the priorities of the federal administration.

Since the OBO's submission on September 4, NTIA has thus far dictated changes to

the Final Proposal six times. The changes include locations being excluded from the program.

As of this publication, eight projects, 300 locations, and 2,243 Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) have been removed from the state's Final Proposal. NTIA has also engaged the office in potentially removing projects with a cost per passing higher than \$20,500.

However, the OBO is coordinating closely with ISPs that may be affected to keep as many eligible locations as possible in the Final Proposal.





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# BUILDING CONNECTIONS

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## Not cutting corners

*By Mike Sanders, Executive Director,  
Oklahoma Broadband Office*

As Oklahomans, we know the measure of a promise isn't in the talking — it's in the doing. From the day I stepped into this role, my commitment has been simple: to make sure every Oklahoma family, farmer, and small business can connect to the modern economy through reliable, high-speed internet.

The BEAD program is the largest investment in broadband in our state's history, and our office has worked relentlessly to ensure those dollars are used wisely, fairly, and in a way that strengthens our communities for generations to come.

Throughout the process, our north star has been universal access — not “good enough coverage,” but meaningful connectivity that reaches the rancher down a gravel road the same as the teacher in town. That required thoughtful planning, careful review, and a willingness to push back when competing priorities threatened to leave rural Oklahomans behind.

When federal guidance changed midstream and areas were reevaluated, we fought to retain as much eligible funding as possible for unserved homes and businesses. Every dollar we protected means more miles of connectivity and more lives impacted.

Partnership has been essential to getting this right, especially with local businesses and Tribal governments. Local businesses know their communities and will stay invested long after these grants are awarded. Oklahoma has more sovereign

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“*Rural families shouldn't have to settle for bargain-bin service that costs more in the long run.*”

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Tribal nations than any other state, and their voices matter in shaping how broadband expansion is delivered. At the same time, we have been cost-conscious stewards of taxpayer dollars.

The lowest initial price isn't always the best value. What matters is building networks that are reliable, future-proof, and built to last — because rural families shouldn't have

See CONNECTIONS, next page



## Connections

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to settle for bargain-bin service that costs more in the long run.

We are building for today's needs, but also for tomorrow's — the student logging in for college courses, the rancher livestreaming a sale, or the entrepreneur starting a business from a kitchen table in a town that has never had the chance to compete online.

The finish line still lies ahead, but we are closer than ever before to closing the digital divide in Oklahoma. When the work is done, I want our children and grandchildren to look back and see that we didn't cut corners — we built something worthy of them. That is the promise of BEAD for Oklahoma, and it's a promise I intend to keep.

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## BITS AND BYTES

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### OBO & The Junction Internet launch expansion projects



The OBO and The Junction Internet officially launched two broadband expansion projects in Craig and Nowata counties on October 24 in ceremonies near Welch.

The projects, funded by \$2.7 million in grant funds and dollar-for-dollar match spending by The Junction, will connect 337 homes

and businesses in northeastern Oklahoma.

The event was held at Annabelle's Fun Farm, a family-owned agritourism business near Welch. The location was chosen because high-speed internet service is essential to its operations.

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### Next Public Meeting

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The Oklahoma Broadband Governing Board is scheduled to meet at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, November 13, in the Commission Room of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, 200 N.E. 2nd Street, Oklahoma City.

Members of the public are invited to attend in person or watch via live stream.

Link to the meeting agenda and webcast will be posted on the [board's meetings page](#) on the Oklahoma Broadband Office website at least 24 hours beforehand.

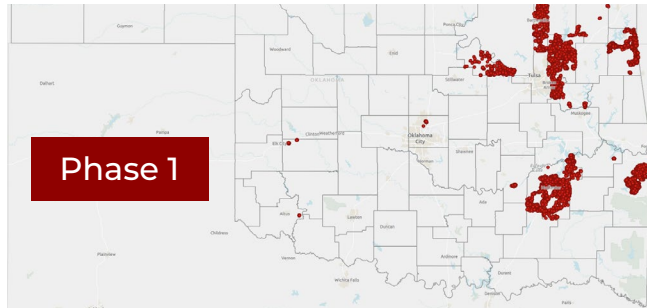
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# BROADBAND BY THE NUMBERS

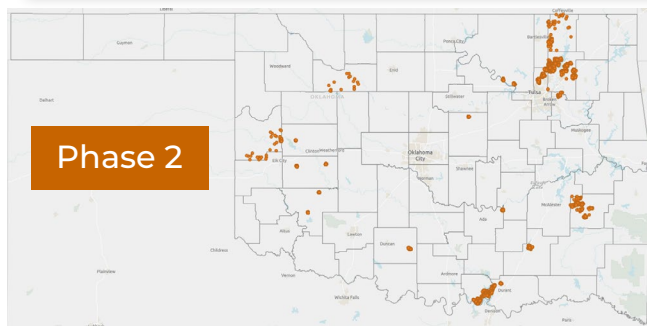
## Status Update

### ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds & Capital Projects Fund



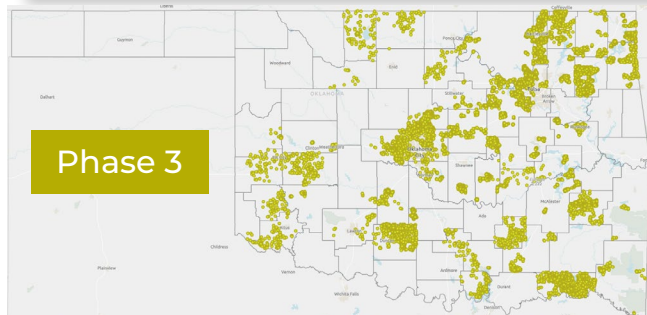
#### Engineering underway

- 19 projects
- 8 companies
- 19,960 locations
- 12% of projects
- 22% of overall award amount



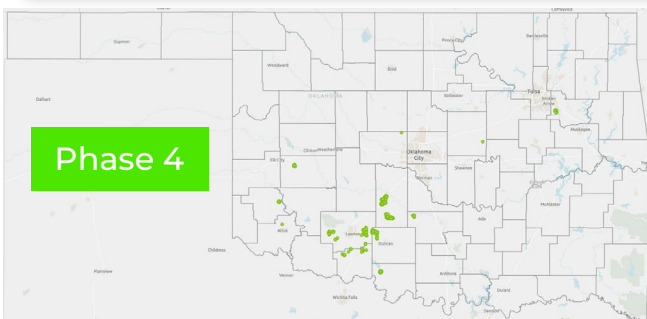
#### Preparing construction

- 26 projects
- 8 companies
- 9,505 locations
- 16% of projects
- 10% of overall award amount



#### Construction underway

- 99 projects
- 28 companies
- 36,158 locations
- 62% of projects
- 64% of overall award amount



#### Construction complete, closeout started

- 15 projects
- 6 companies
- 1,033 locations
- 9% of projects
- 4% of overall award amount



The Broadband Bulletin is produced by the Oklahoma Broadband Office.

