



**OKLAHOMA**  
Broadband Office

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# THE BROADBAND BULLETIN

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Your source for broadband news, updates, and impact

September 22, 2025

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## Completing the Mission: Broadband Service for All

The final proposal for complete coverage of broadband service in Oklahoma is now in the hands of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

The Oklahoma Broadband Office submitted its Final Proposal to the federal agency for the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) grant program on September 4.

Subject to modification by the NTIA, the submitted plan for the office's last grant program will finally close the digital divide for the entire state.

It will provide access to high-speed internet service to every Oklahoman regardless of their zip code.

Read more starting on page 2 and see details on the last page, *Broadband by the Numbers*.





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# BUILDING CONNECTIONS

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## Putting Oklahomans First!

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

Monica Granstaff and her family waited 12 years to get high-speed internet access to their farm near Okemah. In early September, the Oklahoma Broadband Office joined her family to witness their first fiber connection.

The Granstaff family represents the hundreds of thousands of Oklahomans that will be connected by our grant programs, improving their lives by providing better access to education, health care and job opportunities.

In my time as executive director, I have had countless conversations about the importance of bringing high-speed broadband to all of Oklahoma. Watching families like the Grandstaff's receive life-changing opportunities motivates my team and me to get the best deal for our state.

With our latest broadband expansion program, the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program, the office plans to award projects in all 77 counties. Families throughout the state will have access to internet they never had before.

The plan awards grants to connect all remaining unserved and underserved homes, businesses and community anchor

institutions. Of the tentatively awarded organizations, nearly all are Oklahoma companies and cooperatives, regional companies, or Tribal nations. The partners we have for this program know Oklahomans better than anyone.

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“*This plan delivers for all Oklahomans, ensuring their success is not limited by their zip code.*”

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BEAD was enacted in 2021 under the Biden Administration with a focus primarily on fiber-optic technology. However, after four years of bureaucratic obstruction not a single location was connected across the country.

On June 6, the Trump administration updated the program guidelines by stripping out red tape, removing the fiber preference, requiring all technologies be

**See CONNECTIONS, next page**



# Connections

## Continued from previous page

treated equally and prioritizing cost savings. If states wanted to receive any funding, they needed to open a new application round and follow the new rules.

The office did everything the administration mandated, and our plan is the best deal for Oklahoma.

The new BEAD application process, known as the Benefit of the Bargain round, resulted in two-thirds of locations being served by fiber-optic technology, with high-cost locations going to less expensive technologies like satellite and fixed wireless.

Our plan is now in the hands of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, which has authority to make modifications before they approve it.

But BEAD is just one piece of the broadband expansion puzzle.

In 2024, the OBO awarded over \$500 million in ARPA grants to kickstart the effort to connect every remaining unserved and underserved Oklahoman. With the help of our partnering internet service providers, the state will have 95 percent access to high-speed internet by the end of 2026.

The Granstaff family and thousands like them are beneficiaries of those grants.

Between ARPA and BEAD, we will close the digital divide in Oklahoma.

As a son of rural Oklahoma, I have seen firsthand how our people have been left behind for far too long, with fewer opportunities than our urban peers.

That ends now.

This plan delivers for all Oklahomans, ensuring their success is not limited by their zip code.

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## BITS AND BYTES

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### Broadband Access Leads Oklahoma's Preparedness for Artificial Intelligence

With so many industries looking to leverage the power of artificial intelligence, it's important to remember that access to high-speed internet is an essential component for ensuring companies and citizens alike can benefit from these emergent technologies.

Not surprisingly, the [Journal Record](#) is reporting that Oklahoma's level of access to ultra-high-speed internet is the state's best ranked metric in a report assessing the state's A.I. preparedness.

### Oklahoma Families Get Connected

News 9 in Oklahoma City recently featured rural families that are being connected for the first time with high-speed internet service.

Those families are receiving service thanks to federal grants administered by the office.

The story illustrates the important work being done to ensure no Oklahomans are left on the wrong side of the digital divide.

Watch and read the story by News 9's Matt McCabe [here](#).



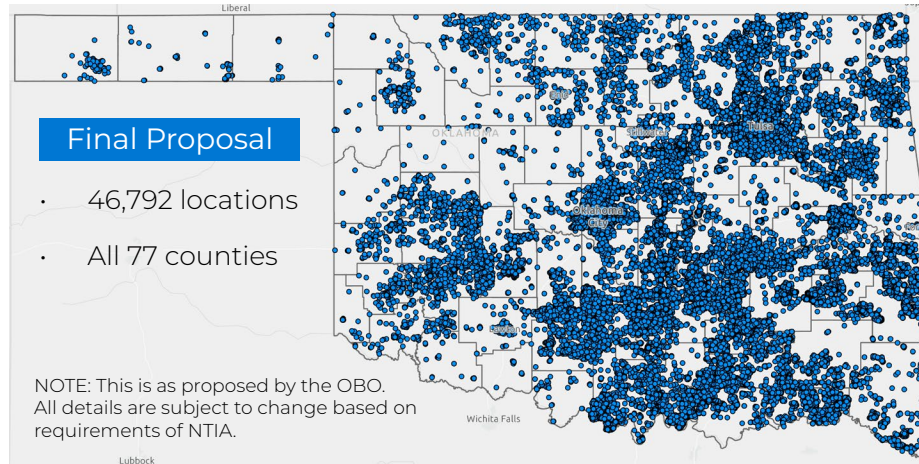


# BROADBAND BY THE NUMBERS

## Status: Proposed BEAD Projects

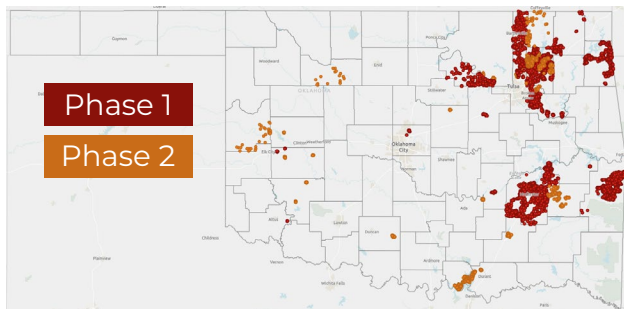
*Approved projects to be completed within four years*

- Final Proposal as submitted by OBO to NTIA on September 4.
- NTIA approval, **subject to modification**, expected around December 4.



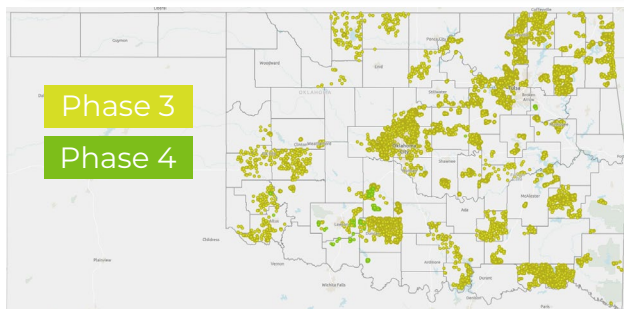
## Status: ARPA Projects

*All will be completed by end of 2026*



### Engineering and Construction preparation

- 51 projects
- 16 companies
- 32,231 locations
- 31% of projects
- 35% of grant funds
- \$252.7 million total investment



### Construction underway and closing out

- 113 projects
- 37 companies
- 36,902 locations
- 69% of projects
- 65% of grant funds
- \$503.3 million total investment



The Broadband Bulletin is produced by the Oklahoma Broadband Office.

