



Broadband Resources Guide for New Jersey Communities

**Compiled by the Office of U.S. Senator Cory Booker
January 14, 2022**

*For questions or to get help from Senators Booker's office, please visit
www.booker.senate.gov/services/help-with-a-federal-agency or contact the office directly by
emailing or calling:*

casework@booker.senate.gov | (856) 338-8922

Funding Available Through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

Program Name: Broadband ReConnect Program

Federal Agency: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Eligible Applicants Include: State and local governments or governmental agencies, for profit and nonprofit organizations

Funding Available: \$1.9 billion nationally

Description: The USDA Broadband ReConnect Program offers loans, grants, and loan/grant combinations to bring high speed internet access to rural communities in which a substantial amount of households lack sufficient broadband access. This program has been in existence since before the pandemic, and received an increase in funding through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Learn more [here](#).

Program Name: Broadband Equity, Access, and Development (BEAD) Program

Federal Agency: National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Funding Available: \$42.45 billion nationally

Eligible Applicants Include: States

Description: This is a new program for broadband deployment, mapping, and adoption projects. Each state will receive an initial allocation of \$100 million to support planning efforts including building capacity in state broadband offices and outreach and coordination with local communities. Participating states will use the initial round of funding to work in collaboration with local and regional stakeholders to create a 5 year broadband action plan. The remaining funding will be distributed based on a formula that considers the number of unserved and high-cost locations in the state, based on the maps to be published by the FCC in 2022. The first priority for funding is providing broadband to unserved areas (those below 25/3 Mbps), followed by underserved areas (those below 100/20 Mbps), and then serving community anchor institutions (1/1 Gbps). Learn more [here](#).

Program Name: Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program:

Federal Agency: National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Funding Available: \$1 billion nationally

Eligible Applicants Include: States, political subdivisions of a state, technology companies, electric utilities, utility cooperatives, public utility districts, telecommunications companies, telecommunications cooperatives, nonprofit organizations, regional planning councils, and economic development authorities.

Description: This establishes and funds a \$1 billion grant program for the construction, improvement or acquisition of middle mile infrastructure. The purpose of this program is to

expand and extend middle mile infrastructure to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas to the internet backbone. Learn more [here](#).

Program Name: Affordable Connectivity Program (Formerly known as the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program)

Federal Agency: Federal Communications Commission

Funding Available: \$14.2 billion nationally

Eligible Applicants Include: Individuals and families. See link below for additional details.

Description: The Affordable Connectivity Program will make permanent the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program. This program provides a monthly subsidy for low-income families purchasing internet service, with higher subsidies for qualifying families in high cost areas and households participating in the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program. Learn more [here](#).

Program Name: State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program

Federal Agency: National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Funding Available: \$60 million nationally

Eligible Applicants Include: States

Description: One of three new programs created under the Digital Equity Act. This is a formula grant program for states and territories to develop digital equity plans. Learn more [here](#).

Program Name: State Equity Capacity Grant Program

Federal Agency: Department of Commerce

Funding Available: 1.44 billion nationally

Eligible Applicants Include: States

Description: One of three new programs created under the Digital Equity Act. This formula funding is to be distributed to states and territories via annual grant programs over 5 years to implement digital equity projects and support the implementation of digital equity plans. Learn more [here](#).

Program Name: Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program

Federal Agency: Department of Commerce

Funding Available: \$1.25 billion nationally

Eligible Applicants Include: Specific types of political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of a state; nonprofit entities; community anchor institutions; local educational agencies; and entities that carry out workforce development programs.

Description: This is one of three new programs created under the Digital Equity Act. This discretionary funding is to be distributed via annual grant programs over 5 years to implement digital equity projects. Learn more [here](#).

Funding Available Through the American Rescue Plan Act

Program Name: Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund

Federal Agency: United States Department of Treasury

Eligible Applicants Include: States

Funding Available: \$10 billion nationally

Description: The Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund was established to address inequities in access to critical services, and was designed with a focus on broadband infrastructure projects. New Jersey is eligible to receive up to \$194,715,700.00 through this program. Learn more [here](#).

Program Name: Economic Adjustment Assistance

Federal Agency: United State Economic Development Administration

Eligible Applicants Include: State, county, and local governments or governmental organizations, District Organization of an EDA Economic Development District, non profit organizations.

Funding Available: \$500 million nationally

Description: Economic Adjustment Assistance is one of US EDA's most flexible funding programs, and can be used toward a wide range of projects including technical, planning, public works, and infrastructure projects. Learn more [here](#).

Program Name: Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Federal Agency: United States Department of Treasury

Eligible Applicants Include: All municipalities, counties, and states are receiving funding through this program.

Description: The state of New Jersey received \$6.434 billion in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, plus an additional \$189 million dedicated to expanding broadband. Broadband infrastructure is one of many eligible uses for this funding. Learn more [here](#).