

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, D.C. 20510**

October 22, 2025

Assistant Secretary Arielle Roth  
Administrator  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230

Assistant Secretary Roth:

We write to request that the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) allow Colorado to retain its full allocation of Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) funding to conduct complementary broadband infrastructure deployment activity. The Colorado Broadband Office (CBO) has worked hard to adhere to NTIA guidance; consistently and proactively engaged subgrantees; and conserved taxpayer dollars while delivering high-speed, affordable internet to unserved and underserved communities across the state. Following the Benefit of the Bargain Round, Colorado plans to use only \$420.6 million of its original BEAD allocation. As a result, Colorado has a significant amount of BEAD funding left in reserve. We urge the NTIA to allow Colorado to put these funds to work to further construct, improve, and acquire facilities and telecommunications equipment to enhance this administration's investment in broadband deployment, including infrastructure for backhaul, middle- and last-mile networks.

In 2021, bipartisan majorities in both chambers of Congress established the BEAD Program as part of the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (P.L. 117-58).<sup>1</sup> It remains the largest investment in broadband in this country's history – connecting Americans to modern, high-speed internet infrastructure and preserving U.S. national security and economic competitiveness. In June 2023, the NTIA announced allocation amounts for all 56 states and territories, providing Colorado with \$826.5 million.<sup>2</sup> Colorado immediately began implementing their state BEAD program. Following the NTIA's Benefit of the Bargain Round, CBO has provided 92 awards to 25 companies.

The Colorado Broadband Office is ready to use excess BEAD funds to undertake a series of important infrastructure activities that adhere to the eligible use requirements identified by the NTIA. As detailed in the agency's Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), states and territories have the flexibility to employ BEAD funds for a variety of uses, including:<sup>3</sup>

- Construction, improvement, and/or acquisition of facilities and telecommunications equipment required to provide qualifying broadband service, including infrastructure for backhaul, middle- and last-mile networks, and multi-tenant buildings;
- Long-term leases of facilities required to provide qualifying broadband service, including indefeasible right-of-use agreements;

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<sup>1</sup> *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*, Pub. L. No. 117-58, <https://www.congress.gov/117/plaws/publ58/PLAW-117publ58.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> National Telecommunications and Information Administration, "[State Allocations](#)," Press Release, June 26, 2023.

<sup>3</sup> National Telecommunications and Information Administration, [Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program](#), Notice of Funding Opportunity, May 2022.

- Deployment of internet and Wi-Fi infrastructure within an eligible multi-family residential building;
- Engineering design and permitting;
- Network software upgrades, including, but not limited to, cybersecurity solutions; and
- Training for cybersecurity professionals who will be working on BEAD-funded networks.

Colorado is prepared to use the over \$332 million in remaining BEAD funding to pursue eligible deployment projects that will strengthen and expand the state's broadband infrastructure, deliver significant improvements to reliability and resiliency, and ensure Colorado remains at the forefront of innovation and entrepreneurship. Among other things, the CBO has proposed establishing a Middle Mile Infrastructure Development Program, which would build shared infrastructure and make last-mile costs more effective; a Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) Mobile Service Coverage Initiative to extend licensed FWA mobile broadband coverage to underserved areas by constructing neutral host towers and linking them with fiber to increase capacity; a Middle Mile Infrastructure Redundancy and Hardening Program to develop resilient state-owned networks and a concomitant Last Mile Infrastructure Hardening Program to provide private sector funding to protect against unexpected cuts, cyberattacks, and adverse weather events such as wildfires, floods, hurricanes, and ice storms.

Other proposals, such as the Multi-Dwelling Unit Retrofitting and Rewiring Program or the Public Wi-Fi Deployment Program stand to drastically increase Coloradans' access to affordable internet, while the Public Safety Facilities Connectivity Program would ensure secure, high-speed connectivity for public safety facilities and government buildings – critical infrastructure supporting Colorado's law enforcement and other first responders.

The BEAD Program was established to connect every American to high-speed internet. It draws inspiration from our most ambitious public endeavors, like the transcontinental railway, rural electrification, and the Eisenhower administration's Interstate Highway System. Allowing Colorado to retain and deploy excess BEAD funding would advance this program's primary objective and preserve U.S. preeminence in the digital age. We appreciate your consideration of our request.


Sincerely,



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator

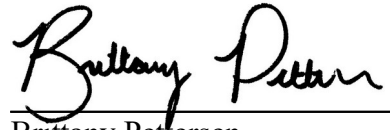


John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator



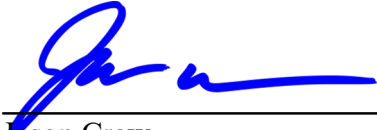
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Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress



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Brittany Pettersen  
Member of Congress



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Jason Crow  
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