



# IACC Presentation

June 10, 2021



# INTRODUCTION

To position Indiana as a national leader in broadband expansion and digital inclusion, Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch created the Office of Broadband Opportunities (OBBO) in 2018. Recently, that name has been modified to the Indiana Broadband Office (IBO).

*More than ever before, communities demand high-speed, reliable and affordable internet connectivity to enhance community development, enable businesses to grow and equip Hoosiers with the necessary tools.*

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# QUESTIONS?

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CONVENIENCE



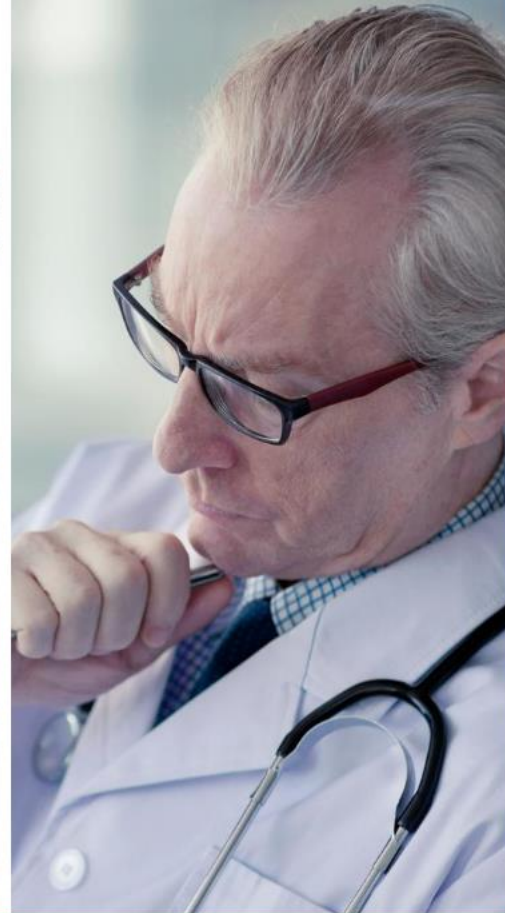
ECOMMERCE



LEARNING



HEALTH



AGRICULTURE



Indiana Broadband

*Broadband is ...*  
**CONNECTING.**



# MISSION & VISION

## MISSION:

The mission of the Indiana Broadband Office is to assist residents in need of affordable and reliable broadband connectivity. This mission of reaching Hoosiers where they live, work and play is accomplished by communicating with stakeholders, providing resources to a diverse audience and leveraging established relationships with elected officials, associations and providers.

## VISION:

The vision of the Indiana Broadband Office is to become the one-stop-shop for all things broadband and to strive for affordable broadband coverage to all Hoosiers







# OTHER BROADBAND RELATED PROGRAMS

1. Federal: ReConnect (USDA)
2. Federal: RDOF (FCC)
3. Next Level Connections
4. COO and ARPA funding
5. Private investments



# Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB)

**Emergency Broadband Benefit:** local advocacy for this program is very important

- The Emergency Broadband Benefit is an FCC program to help families and households struggling to afford internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic. This new benefit will connect eligible households to jobs, critical healthcare services, virtual classrooms, and so much more.
- The Emergency Broadband Benefit will provide a discount of up to \$50 per month towards broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price.



# NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Grant

- **\$288 Million in Funding Available to States to Build Broadband Infrastructure**
- for the deployment of broadband infrastructure. Grants will be awarded to covered partnerships between a state, or political subdivisions of a state, and providers of fixed broadband service.
- NTIA's Broadband Infrastructure Program was established by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021. In the priority order defined by the Act, NTIA will accept applications for projects that are designed to:
  - Provide broadband service to the greatest number of households in an eligible service area;
  - Provide broadband service in an eligible service area that is wholly within any area **other than** a county, city, or town with more than 50,000 inhabitants and the urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to a city or town of more than 50,000 inhabitants;
  - Be the most cost-effective, prioritizing such projects in areas that are the most rural;
  - Provide broadband service with a download speed of at least 100 Mbps and an upload speed of at least 20 Mbps;
  - Meet the requirements of this NOFO.

# Other Funds of Note

## Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA)

- \$54.3B for Elementary and Secondary School Emergency (ESSER) fund
- \$4.1B for Governors Emergency Education Relief (GEER) fund
- \$22.7B for Higher Education Emergency (HEER) fund

## Other programs (ARPA)

- ESSER Fund \$122.775B will be allocated to State Education Agencies (SEAs) which will then allocate not less than 90 percent of the funds to local educational agencies (LEAs)
- \$7.17B in Funding for E-Rate support for Emergency Educational Connections and Devices




# BROADBAND READY • COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

- The Broadband Ready Communities Program was created as a tool to *encourage broadband development* throughout Indiana by serving as an information resource and certifying local communities as being broadband ready. The program was established by IC 5-28-28.5.
- Currently there are over 40 Communities that have been designated as Broadband Ready. These consist of counties, cities and towns.
- Previously the program was administered by IEDC. As of July 1, 2020 legislation shifted the administration of the program to OCRA and the IBO has been tasked with the day to day facilitation.



# MINIMUM STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

*In order to comply with statutory requirements, a unit seeking the Broadband Ready Community certification must institute procedures that provide for:*

1. The appointment of a single point of contact for all matters related to broadband development projects
  2. The establishment of procedures to allow for the electronic submission of all forms, applications, and documentation required for a broadband development project
  3. A requirement that all permit applications are approved or denied within 10 business days after they are filed
  4. An assurance that all inspections related to a broadband project will be completed in a timely and expeditious manner
- 



# MINIMUM STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

*These procedures must also prohibit the unit from:*

1. Requiring the designation of a final contractor to complete a broadband project
2. Imposing a fee to review an application or to issue a permit on a broadband project
3. Imposing a seasonal moratorium on the issuance of permits for a project
4. Discriminating among communications service providers





# HOW TO APPLY

1. Convene a group of stakeholders / decision-makers who understand the needs within the community for reliable, affordable high-speed internet
2. Arrive at a consensus as to the purpose for the program for your community and MOST importantly, what you will do, post-designation
3. Decide upon your single point of contact
4. Create and pass a resolution (modeled after the example provided on the IBO website)
5. Submit your application online via a link on the IBO website



# WHAT CAN THIS DESIGNATION DO FOR YOUR COMMUNITY?

- Signals to providers that your community is serious about broadband infrastructure buildout and is committing to working alongside of them to make the process as seamless as possible
- Highlights to the residents of your community that you are actively working towards a solution to their underserved connectivity needs



# WHAT CAN YOUR COMMUNITY DO TO ATTRACT BROADBAND?

- Create a Broadband Task Force
- Economic Development / Incentives
- Broadband Ready Community Designation
- Infrastructure Development Zone
- Open Right of Ways, towers, public buildings.
- Assistance programs / Discounts for families to decrease broadband monthly costs
- Digital Readiness and adoption initiatives
- Surveys & Data collection



THANK  
YOU!

