



Idaho Broadband

The Idaho Commerce Office of Broadband and the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board's mission is to improve broadband access across the state. Stable, reliable broadband infrastructure positions Idaho communities to attract business and enhance the quality of life for their citizens.

To help in this mission, current and future broadband funds are available to expand broadband access throughout the state.

CURRENT AND FUTURE BROADBAND FUNDS

Idaho Broadband Fund

\$8.7M

In January 2023, IBAB funded \$26.3 million for two middle-mile projects covering 300 miles.

Capital Projects Fund (CPF)

Via the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

\$120M

In December 2023, IBAB awarded \$120 million to 18 projects across the state.

Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program

\$583M

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) awarded Idaho over \$583 million under the BEAD Program.

IDAHO BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD

The Idaho Broadband Advisory Board (IBAB) was created by the Idaho Legislature in 2021 through House Bill 127. The board consists of three members from the Idaho House of Representatives, three from the Idaho Senate and three private sector Governor appointees.

The board created the broadband strategic plan for structuring, prioritizing and distributing grants from state and federal funding. This plan supports the board's vision that Idahoans have access to affordable and reliable broadband infrastructure.

MEMBERS

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN VANDER

WOUDE (CHAIR)

REPRESENTATIVE BARBARA EHARDT

REPRESENTATIVE MEGAN BLANKSMA

SENATOR DOUG RICKS (VICE CHAIR)

SENATOR JAMES RUCHTI

SENATOR TREG BERNT

MARGIE WATSON - JC Watson &

Company

ANDY EMERSON - MH Solutions

MITCH WATKINS - Watkins Distributing



For additional information, visit LinkUp.Idaho.gov or contact the State's Broadband Program Manager, Ramón S. Hobdey-Sánchez at 208.287.3153 and ramon.hobdey-sanchez@commerce.idaho.gov.



“Our historic broadband investments mean students and families across Idaho will have the tools they need to succeed. First responders will have the connection and communication they need to do their jobs, and healthcare providers can expand their utilization of telemedicine. The benefits of these completed projects are just the beginning of many more in Idaho.” — Governor Brad Little

SINCE 2020...



To continue its mission of expanding broadband access across the state, the Idaho Office of Broadband and the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board have awarded broadband projects throughout Idaho totaling \$194 million across 116 projects, connecting 69,600 Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSL's) across the state.

The most recent awards were \$120 million to fund 18 projects and connect approximately 35,000 BSL's across the State.

LINK UP IDAHO

The Link Up Idaho initiative is led by the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board (IBAB) and Idaho Department of Commerce, in coordination with the Idaho Office of Information Technology Services.

This multifaceted initiative aims to gather information about connectivity challenges in Idaho communities to provide insight into broadband availability across the state, provide outreach across Idaho to inform communities of the availability of broadband funds and through the work of the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board, disperse funds to communities to improve internet access.

Link Up Idaho's mission is to provide all Idahoans with access to affordable and reliable broadband infrastructure.

Learn more at LinkUp.Idaho.gov.

Updated: 5/14/2024



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