Delaware Broadband

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Presented by Marcia Jones, Senior Project Manager
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Our Mission

CONNECTIVITY	DIGITAL EQUITY
Making sure every home and business in Delaware has the physical infrastructure to connect to high-speed internet.	Lower barriers to Delawarean's ability to gain all the benefits of access to high-speed internet. Also called Digital Opportunity, Digital Inclusion

Delaware is well positioned to be the first state in the country to be fully connected to reliable, affordable, high-speed internet.

The Programs

Currently Unserved BSLs: 11,600	BSL Verification Pending: ~9,000	Deployment in Progress: 9,297

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

$33 million
6,172 unserved BSLs

Contracts awarded to Comcast, Verizon, and Mediacom.

Project ongoing, estimated completion in Q1 2024.

Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF)

$13 million
3,125 unserved BSLs

Administered directly by the FCC, award given to Talkie Communications.

Full award is for 7,749 BSLs.

Groundbreaking this month, estimated completion in 2028.

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)

~$100 million
All remaining unserved and underserved BSLs

Connecting unserved homes and/or to upgrade connections to homes with a lower-speed connection.

Expected RFP release in Q2 2024. Estimated completion in 2028.

Digital Equity Act

~$12 million

For access, inclusion, opportunity, and equity. Potential projects include:
- Digital skill building
- Cyber security
- Device access
- Education and research infrastructure

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028

ARPA — Planning · Implementation

BEAD — Planning · Implementation
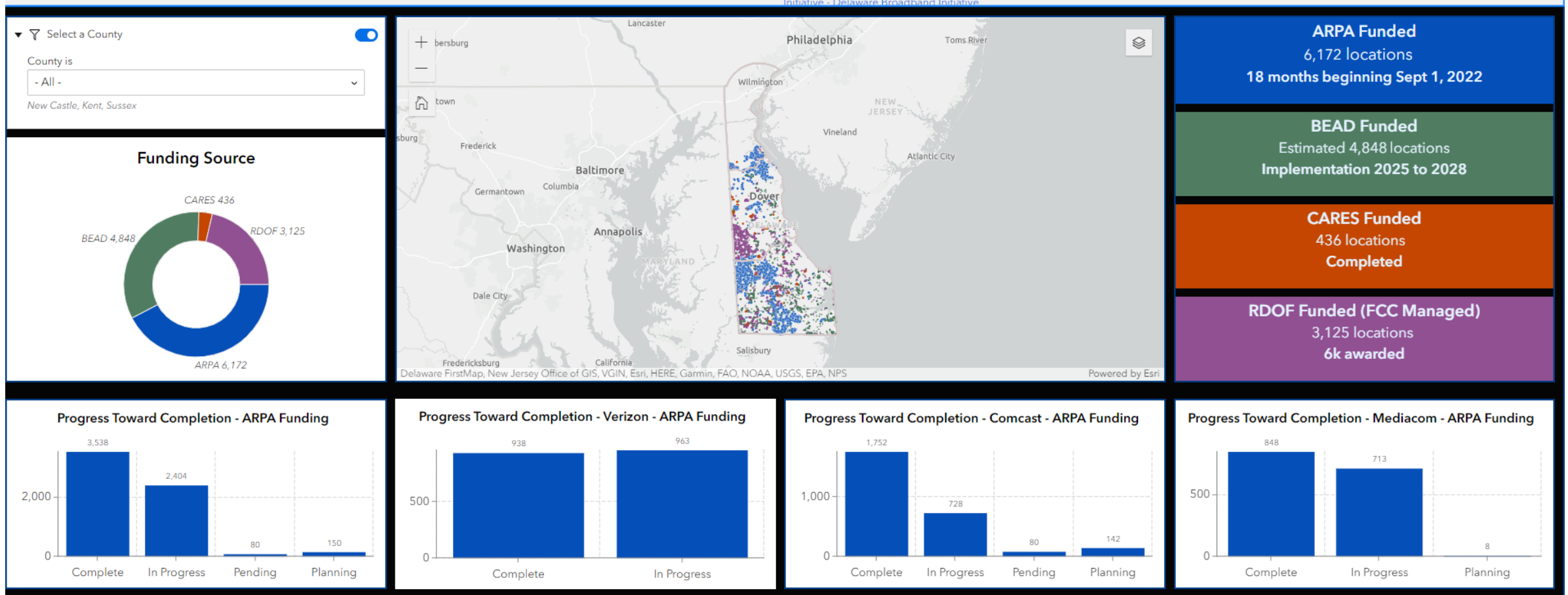
Digital Equity — Planning · Implementation

RDOF — Auction and Planning · Implementation

Broadband Strategy for Delaware

BEAD Priorities

1. **Unserved BSLs:** those that cannot get internet service at least 25/3 Mbps

2. **Underserved BSLs:** those that get internet service between 25/3 and 100/20 MBPS

3. **Community Anchor Institutions:** Schools, libraries, hospitals, community centers that cannot get 1 Gbps internet

4. **Digital Equity**

BEAD Subgrant Scoring: Federal Requirements

- **Technical Capacity:** To deliver 100/20 MBPS internet via a fiber-to-the-home network
- **Financial/Business Stability:** Letter of Credit, 25% matching, operational capacity
- **Build America, Buy America**
- **Fair Labor Practices:** Compliance with federal labor and employment laws
- **Low-Cost Subscription Option(s)**
- **Speed to Deployment**

DTi
DELIVERING TECHNOLOGY
THAT INNOVATES

BEAD Subgrant Scoring: Optional Criteria

In addition to the requirements on the previous slide, the Delaware Broadband Office may add additional scoring criteria to it's subgrant scoring rubric.

- **Workforce Protections:** Wages, whether the ISP uses contractors or FTE, whether they use local workers

- **Evidence of local support** – What ISP does a community want to serve them?

- **Alternative Technologies –** When to exempt a BSL from fiber-to-the-home requirements, what other technologies to use

- **Open Access** – Fair, equal, and neutral market access to other ISPs

Digital Equity Act

"Digital Equity" is a broad category that encompasses all the barriers that people face in fully taking advantage of the opportunities the internet has to offer.

Possible types of initiatives the Delaware Broadband Office could support:
- Workforce Development
- Devices and Tech Support
- Digital Literacy and Skills
- Accessible and Inclusive Content
- Privacy and Security

Covered Populations:
- Rural residents
- Low-income individuals
- Veterans
- Seniors
- Individuals with disabilities
- English learners
- Racial and ethnic minorities
- Incarcerated individuals

Workforce Development

DEPLOYMENT

Is there a need for Delaware to develop a stronger workforce for the immediate work of building high-speed internet infrastructure to every BSL?

EXAMPLE

Providing funding to a Delaware adult educational institution to grow a low-voltage electricity training program? Funding could go towards marketing/recruitment, hiring instructors, and materials.

DIGITAL EQUITY

What are Delaware's workforce needs for improving digital opportunity?

EXAMPLES

Creating/expanding a training program for cyber security professionals, who can help make Delaware's internet ecosystem safer.

Creating/expanding a training program for digital navigators, who could be hired by the state, non-profits, or ISPs to assist Delawareans will skill building.

Delaware Broadband Office

Team Contacts

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- **Tammy Shelton, Program Manager - tammy.shelton@delaware.gov**

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Additional Resources

- **Team Email – Broadband@Delaware.gov**

- **Team Voice Mail – 302 739 739 9701**

- **Delaware Broadband Initiative - https://broadband.delaware.gov/**

- **State of Delaware Broadband Maps - https://gis.broadband.delaware.gov/**
  - Broadband Funding Map
  - Unserved Map