



# 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 obligated \$26.3 million to fund two middle-mile projects covering 300 miles.

### Capital Projects Fund (CPF)

**\$120M**

These monies via the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) will be awarded in Fall 2023.

### 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](https://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](mailto: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...

**\$74M**

Awarded

**98**

Projects

**170**

Communities

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 \$74 million across 98 projects, impacting over 170 communities.

The most recent award was \$26.3 million to fund two middle-mile infrastructure projects covering a 300 mile north-south route.

## 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 broadband 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](https://LinkUp.Idaho.gov).



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