



# Alabama Digital Expansion Division Annual Report

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# Topics

## Annual Report

- History
- Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund Basics
- Funded Projects
- Current Applications

## Technical Assistance Program, BEAD and Digital Equity

## Middle Mile

## Mapping



# History

Governor Ivey issued Executive Order 704, establishing ADECA as the agency to assume all powers, duties, responsibilities, authority, and obligations belonging to the Office of Broadband Development

Governor Ivey signed Act #2019-327, amending the original Alabama Broadband Accessibility Act

Governor Ivey signed amendments to both the Alabama Broadband Accessibility Act and the Connect Alabama Act

2017

2018

2019

2021

2022

Governor Kay Ivey signed the Alabama Broadband Accessibility Act establishing the Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund (ABAF)

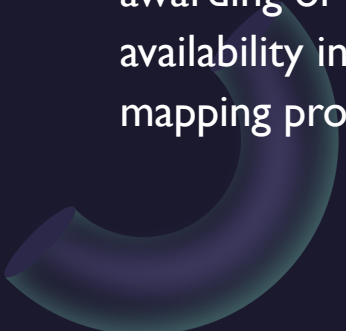
Governor Kay Ivey signed the Connect Alabama Act that created the Alabama Digital Expansion Authority and the Alabama Digital Expansion Division of ADECA



# Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund Basics



## ELIGIBILITY

- Eligible Areas - Unserved with broadband speeds greater than 100/20 in rural areas outside any incorporated city or town with a population of greater than 25,000.
  - Eligible Entities - Entities that are cooperatives, corporations, limited liability companies, partnerships, other private business entities, or units of government, which provide broadband services. An entity is not eligible for a grant unless the entity has submitted, within the one-year period preceding the awarding of the grant, the entity's broadband service availability information to Alabama's broadband mapping program.
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## ACCOUNTABILITY

- Progressive Completion: Measured on not more than a quarterly basis, of the approved project. Grants for projects not showing progress may be rescinded.
- Reimbursement Program: ADECA awards funds to the successful applicants before the project commencement; however, ADECA only disburses funds after the project is completed and verified.
- Time Requirement: Recipients must complete projects within two years of award. Recipients who demonstrate that the project is progressing may request an extension for up to one year for project delays beyond their control.

# Funded Projects

Year	Applications Funded	Grant Amount	Match Amount	Total Passings	Grant Cost per Passing
2018	13	\$2,225,918.20	\$8,903,672.82	2,933	\$758.92
2019	2	\$137,234.68	\$548,938.72	237	\$579.05
2020	38	\$17,183,136.58	\$37,170,528.11	21,713	\$791.38
2021	38	\$17,954,128.34	\$42,009,313.52	21,434	\$837.65
2022	9	\$26,468,966.18	\$36,994,116.33	13,589	\$1,947.82
Total	100	\$63,969,383.98	\$125,626,569.5	59,906	\$1,067.83



# Funded Projects (continued)

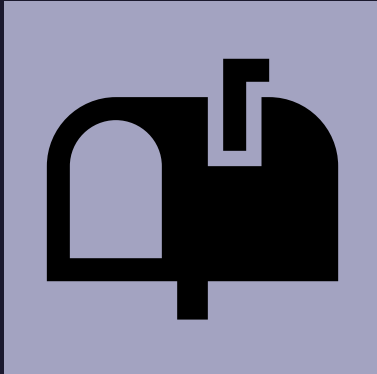
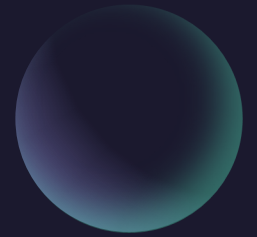
- In order to promote the deployment of grant funds in an inclusive manner that is consistent with the racial, gender, geographic, urban, rural, and economic diversity of the state, ADECA gave additional scoring consideration (10 points) to applicants that provided documentation of certification by the Office of Minority Business Enterprise or otherwise as a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise. **To date, five projects have been awarded points in this category.**
- Additionally, to encourage grant applicants to use vendors and subcontractors that have been certified by the Office of Minority Business Enterprise or that are Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, ADECA provided additional scoring consideration (10 points) for applicants identifying such businesses as part of the project. **To date, two projects have been awarded points in this category**

# Funded Projects (continued)

<b>48 Completed Projects</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
Grant Costs	\$15,637,051.18	\$13,839,562.54	-11.50%
New Services	20,710	22,433	8.32%
Grant Cost/Service	\$755.05	\$619.93	-18.29%



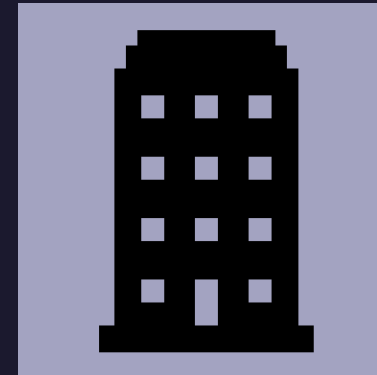
# Current Applications



**Letters of Intent:**  
The deadline for submitting letters of intent was November 3, 2022. We received 105 eligible LOIs.



**Applications:**  
The deadline for submitting applications was January 3, 2023. We received 61 applications by the deadline.

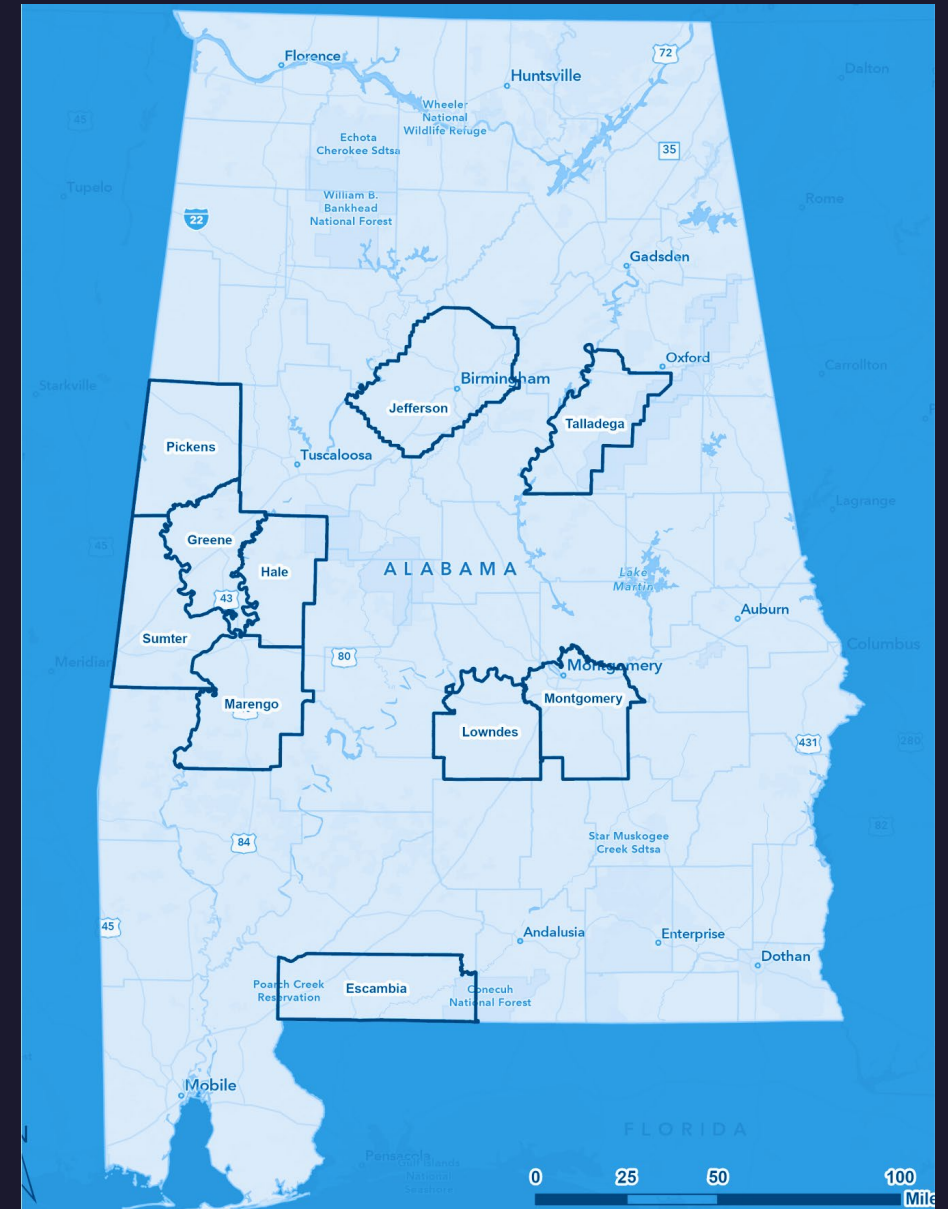


**Internet Service Providers:**  
Applications were received from 22 different ISPs. Awards for the \$25 million are expected in the first week of March



# Technical Assistance Program, BEAD and Digital Equity

- ADECA received a \$1 million grant from EDA to provide broadband technical assistance to 10 counties and their cities and towns. Through the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program and the Digital Equity Program funds from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, we will reach the remaining 57 counties. These activities will result in county profiles that will inform our required planning documents to NTIA and will allow us to access 100s of millions in additional funding.





# Middle Mile

Additionally, Governor Ivey announced the award of \$82.45 million for Alabama's Statewide Middle Mile Network program.



# Mapping

CTC has completed the 2022 update of the Alabama Broadband Map. Some additional updates will be added by the end of this month. We have a new layer that shows unserved addresses. We leveraged the hard work on the map to assist in challenging the new FCC map.



# Mapping and the BEAD Allocation Process

The number of unserved addresses relative to other states will determine how much funding Alabama receives

## Alabama Broadband Map

- Updated on December 31
- Will continue with twice-yearly updates to enable informed grant-making
- Widespread, helpful participation by ISPs
- Important tool for vetting the FCC map

## FCC map challenge process

### FCC Broadband Map

- Released in the fall, with considerable challenges
  - Missing addresses
  - Incorrect (overstated) data regarding broadband service
- Even with inaccuracies, the map appears to favor Alabama

### Challenges to the missing addresses in the “fabric”

- Challenges had to be submitted by October 30 to impact allocations
- ADECA submitted 6,331 challenges in unserved areas, based on review of satellite data
- The FCC informed us that most of these were accepted into the updated fabric

### Challenges to incorrect data regarding service

- Challenges must be submitted by Friday to (possibly) impact allocations
- Many states have asked for extensions

# Summary of TAP, BEAD, & Digital Equity Timelines



The full annual report can be found on the ADECA website.

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<https://adeca.alabama.gov/broadband/>

**Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund  
2022 Annual Report  
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