



**COLORADO**

Department of  
Regulatory Agencies

Executive Director's Office



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Governor's Office of  
Information Technology

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July 21, 2021

House Transportation & Local Government Committee  
House Business Affairs & Labor Committee  
House Energy & Environment Committee  
Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee  
Senate Business, Labor, & Technology Committee  
Senate Transportation & Energy Committee  
State Capitol Building  
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Committee Members:

The attached report by the Broadband Deployment Board is hereby submitted in accordance with section 40-15-509.5 (9) C.R.S. This is a joint submission from the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) and the Governor's Office of Information Technology (OIT) because HB21-1109 (Representatives Titone & Soper and Senators Bridges and Coram) signed on July 7, 2021, transfers the Broadband Deployment Board to the Governor's Office of Information Technology (OIT) effective in late July, 2021. In addition to transferring the Broadband Deployment Board and its administrative office, the legislation modifies the composition of the board and develops a request for proposal to deploy broadband into critically unserved areas, giving additional consideration to proposed projects that would include discounted service for low income households in the state (see full legislative summary below).

If further information is needed please contact Brian Martin, Board Administrator at [brian.martin@state.co.us](mailto:brian.martin@state.co.us).

Sincerely,

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Patty Salazar  
Executive Director  
Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies

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Anthony Neal-Graves  
Chief Information Officer & Executive Director  
Governor's Office of Information Technology

## Legislative Summary for the 2021 Session

### HB21-1109- Broadband Board Changes To Expand Broadband Service

Prime Sponsors: Representatives Titone & Soper, Senators Bridges & Coram

- Broadband Deployment Board (BDB) moves from DORA to OIT, previous statute 40-15-509.5 becomes 24-37.5-118
- Beginning September 1, 2021 the size of BDB decreases 16 to 11 members
- When applicants submit maps and data to prove they are unserved, they may provide the written certification created in HB20-1137 OR submit Speed Tests performed in accordance with requirements
- Requires the BDB to initiate a Request For Proposal (RFP) process for Critically Unserved Areas including Tribal Nations, using up to 60% of the grant year appropriations
- Establishes that if an applicant or an appellant submits speed testing data to the board, such speed tests shall be performed in accordance with industry-standard speed-test protocols as identified by the FCC
- Establishes that grant recipients must provide a low income qualifying tier of service
- Establishes required annual reporting until grant money is fully expended to include:
  - the number of homes and businesses that the applicant's grant-supported broadband network serves;
  - the number of additional homes and businesses that the applicant expects to serve through the grant-supported broadband network within the following year
  - the speed tiers, advertised rates, and services that the applicant offers to customers through the grant-supported broadband network, including speed tiers, rates, and other services that the applicant offers to low-income households;
- Establishes that after the grant is fully expended, the grantee must provide third-party performance-testing certification, based on FCC-approved performance-testing protocols, that the project meets the original design of, and provides the measurable speeds, rates, and services set forth in the application
- Identifies the requirement for all applicants and appellants to submit mapping data defined by the FCC as granular data until such later date when the FCC issues a new ruling
- Establishes BDB processes for distributing federal funding (if received)

### HB21-1289-Funding For Broadband Deployment

Prime Sponsors: Representatives Kennedy & Baisley, Senators Bridges & Priola

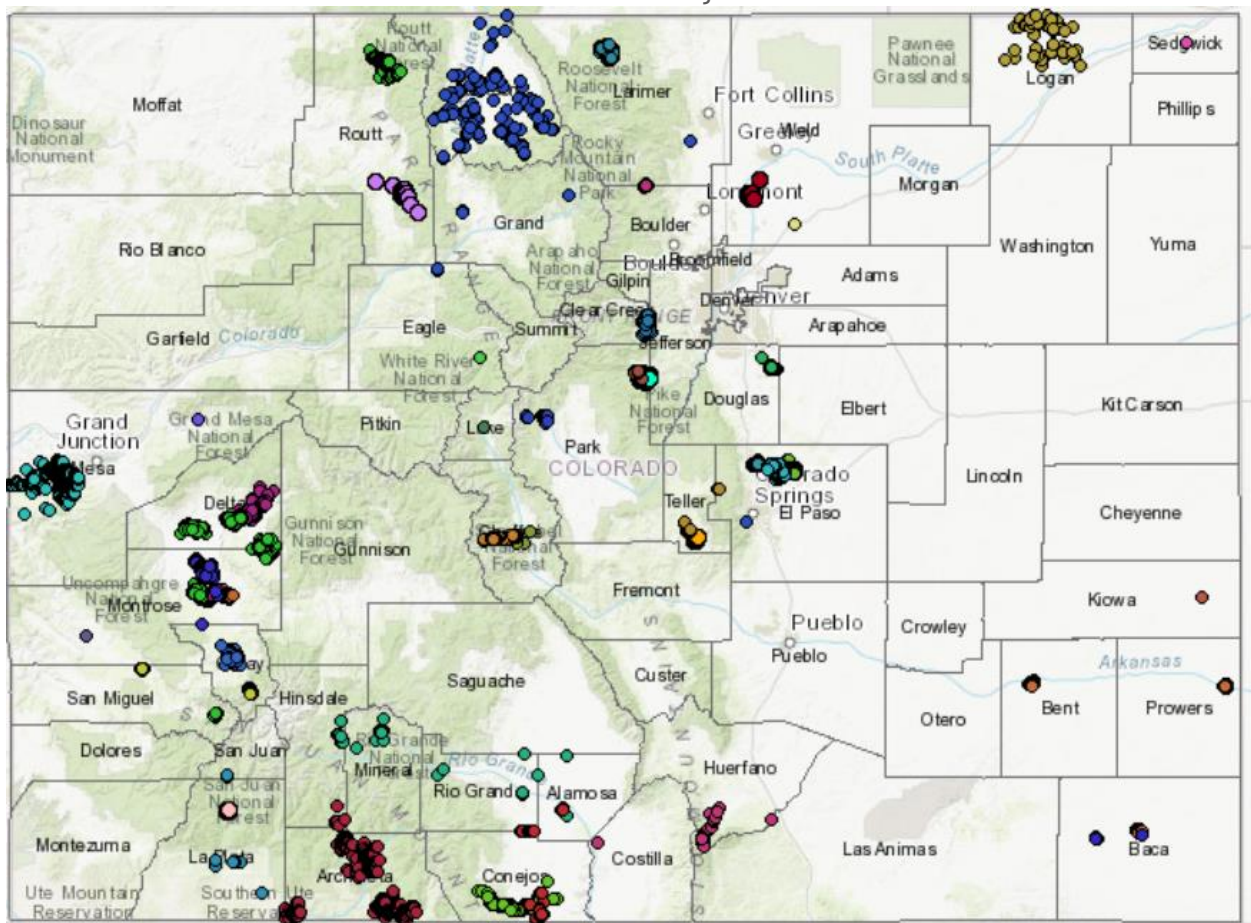
- Amends statute to extend the time frame for spending the Connecting Colorado Grant
- Creation of Colorado Broadband Office Roles and Responsibilities
- Creates the Colorado Digital Inclusion Grant Fund and provides \$35M from ARPA
- Creates The Broadband Stimulus account in the Broadband Administrative Fund at Broadband Deployment Board
  - \$35M for Broadband Deployment Grants that meet the criteria in statute and comply with Treasury Department interim regulations
    - The Broadband Deployment Board is encouraged to fund applications within the previous five years, who have met all of the award criteria but were denied grants due to the insufficiency of grant money available at the time of application, and, continue to meet all of the award criteria
      - a previously submitted application with or included in a new application should include an income-qualified pricing plan
- Adds requirement to Interconnectivity Grant Program (existing in statute) in DOLA that, DOLA submit to the CBO for review and recommendations a copy of each application that DOLA received if the applicant seeks grant money for broadband planning or infrastructure

- Creates The Interconnectivity Grant Program Fund in DOLA  
**2020-2021 Joint Annual Report of the  
Broadband Deployment Board’s activities to the General Assembly during the transition to the  
Office of Information Technology**

Pursuant to section 40-15-509.5 (9) C.R.S. the Broadband Deployment Board (Board) is required to report annually on the projects supported by the Broadband Fund including the number of projects; the location of each project; the amount of funding received for each project; and a description of each project.

The Broadband Deployment Board has awarded \$40,971,207.97 in grants from the Broadband Fund to 52 rural broadband infrastructure deployment projects. When complete, the projects will provide broadband access to over 21,000 households.

Broadband Fund Grant Project Locations



## Broadband Fund Grants

<b>W-2020-02</b>	Jade Communications - Hwy 12 Corridor
<b>Project Status</b>	Active
<b>Funds Awarded</b>	\$2,607,763.46
<b>Project Cost</b>	\$3,544,915.28
<b>Project Summary</b>	This project aims to bring FTTH service to 386 addresses (366 households, 20 commercial), or 918 people, to addresses south of La Veta, along the Hwy 12 corridor, and the village of Cuchara in Huerfano County.
<b>W-2020-03</b>	Delta Montrose Electrical Association - North Mesa
<b>Project Status</b>	Active
<b>Funds Awarded</b>	\$1,431,083
<b>Project Cost</b>	\$2,862,165.99
<b>Project Summary</b>	This project aims to bring FTTH service to 438 households (427 residential, 11 commercial), or 1,426 people, to the area of North Mesa in Montrose County.
<b>W-2020-06</b>	Yampa Valley Electric Association - Hanhs Peak and Seedhouse Road
<b>Project Status</b>	Active
<b>Funds Awarded</b>	\$1,455,112
<b>Project Cost</b>	\$2,425,186.67
<b>Project Summary</b>	This project aims to bring FTTH service to 280 households (260 residential, 0 vacant, 20 commercial), or 657 people, to the area of Hahns Peak Village, the greater area around Steamboat Lake State Park, and Seedhouse Road in Routt County.
<b>W-2020-08</b>	Colorado Central Telecom - Chalk Creek Canyon
<b>Project Status</b>	Active
<b>Funds Awarded</b>	\$542,790
<b>Project Cost</b>	\$723,720.00
<b>Project Summary</b>	This project aims to bring FTTH or Fixed Wireless service to 48 households (48 residential, 0 vacant, 0 commercial), or 105 residents in Deer Valley in Chaffee County.
<b>W-2020-14</b>	Force Broadband - Black Forest Two
<b>Project Status</b>	Active
<b>Funds Awarded</b>	\$858,269.97
<b>Project Cost</b>	\$1,144,359.95
<b>Project Summary</b>	This project aims to bring FTTH service to 612 households (579 residential, 0 vacant, 33 commercial), or 1511 residents in the Black Forest in El Paso County.

**S-2020-01**  
**Project Status** Delta Montrose Electrical Association - Beaver Hill  
**Funds Awarded** Active  
**Project Cost** \$854,865.00  
**Project Summary** \$1,554,300.00  
 This project aims to bring FTTH service to 217 addresses (205 households, 12 commercial), or 482 people to the area of Beaver Hill in Montrose County.

**S-2020-05**  
**Project Status** Delta Montrose Electrical Association - Cedar Mesa  
**Funds Awarded** Active  
**Project Cost** \$1,179,022.16  
**Project Summary** \$1,813,880.25  
 This project aims to bring FTTH service to 217 addresses (205 households, 12 commercial), or 482 people to the area of Beaver Hill in Montrose County.

**S-2020-07**  
**Project Status** Peak Internet - Pine Bluff & Meadow Park  
**Funds Awarded** Active  
**Project Cost** \$284,511.95  
**Project Summary** \$379,349.27  
 This project aims to bring FTTH service to 144 addresses (142 households and 2 commercial), or 473 people, to the area of Pine Bluff & Meadow Park in Teller County.

**S-2020-09**  
**Project Status** Stratus IQ - FTTH for North Meridian  
**Funds Awarded** Active  
**Project Cost** \$731,498.00  
**Project Summary** \$1,075,732.00  
 This project aims to bring FTTH service to 291 addresses (291 households and 0 commercial), or 473 people, to an area of El Paso County.

**S-2020-10**  
**Project Status** Brainstorm Internet - Deer Valley  
**Funds Awarded** Active  
**Project Cost** \$277,050.25  
**Project Summary** \$369,401.00  
 This project aims to bring FTTH service to 48 addresses (48 households and 0 commercial), or 105 people, to the Deer Valley area in La Plata County.

**S-2020-11**  
**Project Status** Visionary Broadband - Marble Broadband Project  
 Active

**Funds Awarded** \$650,301.92  
**Project Cost** \$890,824.55  
**Project Summary** This project aims to bring FTTH service to 413 addresses (400 households and 13 are commercial), or 917 people, to the area of Marble in Gunnison County.

**S-2020-13**  
**Project Status** Clearnetworx - Hwy 145 Fiber Project  
**Funds Awarded** Active  
**Project Cost** \$2,240,011.06  
**Project Summary** \$3,200,015.80  
This project aims to bring FTTH service to 476 addresses (434 households and 37 commercial), or 1,428 people, to the area in San Miguel + Montrose County.

**S-2020-14**  
**Project Status** Force Broadband - Black Forest 1  
**Funds Awarded** Active  
**Project Cost** \$754,916.21  
**Project Summary** \$1,509,832.42  
This project aims to bring FTTH service to 376 addresses (350 households and 26 commercial), or for an estimated population between 1350-1750 (1245 as of 2010) in El Paso County.