

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

**MBI**  
MASSACHUSETTS  
BROADBAND INSTITUTE



**News &  
Updates**

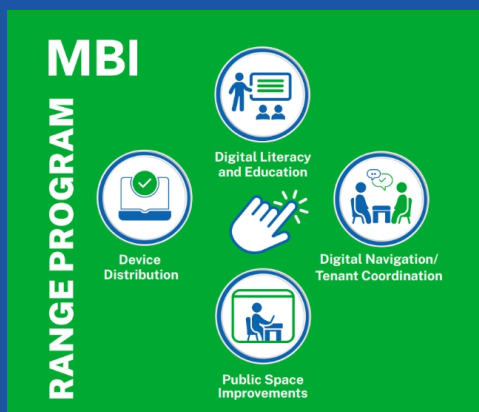
**AUGUST 2025**

## BEAD Benefit of the Bargain Round Closed

On Friday, July 11, 2025, the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) reopened the **Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program** via the Benefit of the Bargain solicitation. This round of the BEAD Program was the result of the Friday, June 6, 2025, National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) **Policy Notice** that called for significant updates to the program. The program is expected to bring \$147 million to Massachusetts with a goal of expanding high-speed internet access to unserved and underserved Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) and community anchor institutions (CAIs). The solicitation for this program closed on Thursday, July 31, 2025. All states and territories must submit their final proposals to NTIA by Thursday, Sept. 4, 2025.



[LEARN MORE](#)



## **RANGE Cycle 2 Opened Monday, Aug. 4**

The RANGE Cycle 2 application for the \$8 million [Retrofit Ancillary Grantee \(RANGE\) Program](#) opened on Aug. 4. The RANGE program, created to assist housing operators of outfitted buildings in the Residential Retrofit Program, ensures residents can fully benefit from the improved broadband service. Only housing operators currently enrolled in the Residential Retrofit Program may submit an application to receive funding for devices, digital literacy courses, resident coordination, digital navigators, and additional resources. The RANGE Cycle 2 application will close on Friday, Sept. 26 at 5 p.m.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## **Digital Ecosystem Award Nominations Open**

MBI opened the nominations for its 2025 Digital Ecosystem Awards. These awards are dedicated to recognizing the outstanding efforts of individuals and organizations making a significant impact through their work. The awards will spotlight exceptional contributions in the categories of Digital Access Champion and Excellence in Community Impact. Award nominations opened on Friday, Aug. 8, 2025, will close on Wednesday, Sept. 10 at 11:59 p.m. Awards will be presented at the [MA Goes DigitALL](#) event on Wednesday, Oct. 8.

[SUBMIT NOMINATION](#)

## **Second Massachusetts Lead For America Cohort Graduates**

For the second year, MBI partnered with the American Connection Corps (ACC) to place six members in host sites across Massachusetts for ACC's **Lead For America (LFA) Program**. The LFA program places individuals with community connections in roles that provide support for digital access. The service term of up to 12 months concluded with a graduation ceremony that took place on Thursday, Aug. 7 in Kansas City, MO. Congratulations, and thank you to the following Massachusetts LFA members for their dedication to the community and efforts to bridge the digital divide across the state:

- Nadifo Ibrahim, who served at Tech Foundry
- Jessica Kamin, who served at the Boston Medical Center
- Kristy Louie, who served at the Action for Boston Community Development, Inc.
- Isaac Carrasco Ortiz, who served at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs
- Aleesha Siddiqui, who served at the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
- Emily Wazner, who served at the Metropolitan Area Planning Council

[READ MORE](#)

## **Duffy Health Center Strengthens Community Digital Confidence and Trust with Digital Navigator**



*Duffy Health Center in Hyannis, MA. Photo courtesy of Duffy Health Center.*

In 2023, the [Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers](#) (Mass League) joined MBI's (MBI) Digital Equity Partnerships program. Through this \$3.75 million investment, Mass League connected with its subgrantee [Duffy Health Center](#) (Duffy), a community-based provider of primary care, mental health and psychiatry services in Hyannis.

With this partnership, Duffy was able to focus on a holistic approach to digital care which led to the creation of a full-time digital navigator role, now held by Ashli Grant. Grant helps drive the health center's work to foster a culture focused on meeting patients.

Click below to read the full story.

[READ MORE](#)

## Do You Have a Story to Share?

The MBI team is proud to celebrate its digital empowerment ecosystem partners. We invite organizations to share their community impact stories. These stories could highlight a person, project or community group. If your organization receives MBI funding and has helped individuals bridge the digital divide, MBI wants to hear from you.

Email MBI at [broadband@masstech.org](mailto:broadband@masstech.org) and share your story.

---

## Ecosystem Updates / Events

**Gap Networks Grant Program to Reopen Through CAI Program**

Subject to U.S. Department of Treasury approval, MBI

**Register Today: Massachusetts Goes DigitALL**

For the second year, MBI will celebrate those

**Over 100 Municipalities Finalize Digital Equity Plans**

The [Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program](#),

expects to launch a separate community anchor institution (CAI) -focused grant round as part of the [Gap Networks Grant Program](#) later this fall. This timeline is subject to change. This funding opportunity is suited for entities whose projects require no or minimal make-ready work and can substantially complete construction by Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2026. More updates will be announced as they become available.

[LEARN MORE](#)

---

working to increase access to digital resources through initiatives and programming. The event, *Massachusetts Goes DigitALL*, will take place on Wednesday, Oct. 8 at [Top of the Tower](#) in Worcester. Registration and other event details can be found below.

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

launched in 2022, was established to help municipalities across Massachusetts engage in planning activities to help bridge the digital divide. As of July 18, 2025, more than 60 plans representing nearly 100 municipalities had been finalized. The MBI team is proud to recognize this important milestone for the municipalities.

[READ PLANS](#)

## In the News

### **New Bedford Launches Free Tech Classes for Beginners**

WBSM covered the city of New Bedford receiving free digital literacy and skills training through MBI's Municipal Implementation Program.

[READ STORY](#)

### **Gateway Fiber Begins Expansion to Pittsfield**

iBerkshires highlighted Fiber expanding broadband access in Pittsfield, supported through MBI's Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program.

[READ STORY](#)

---

## On Social Media

**MBI**  
MASSACHUSETTS  
BROADBAND INSTITUTE

**\$31.5M**

to upgrade internet access in 13K+ units across MA

aerivo      Community Broadband Networks  
archtopfiber      COMCAST



### \$31.5M to Upgrade Internet Access in Over 13K Units Statewide

The Healey Driscoll administration and MBI awarded \$31.5 million to increase internet access for affordable and public housing resident across the state.

[VIEW POST](#)

### MBI Hosts Civic Action Program Fellow to Support Massachusetts Digital Access

The MBI team hosted the Civic Action Project (CAP) Fellow Christopher Aviles this summer. His fellowship was part of a program that connects graduate students with public policy and innovation work in the state.

[VIEW POST](#)

### MasTech Divisions and Programs Highlighted at Economic Development Expo

On Wednesday, July 16, the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MasTech) and MBI showcased the organization's work at the Economic Development Expo at the State House.

Click [here](#) to learn more about MasTech's divisions and programs.

[VIEW POST](#)

[Trouble viewing this newsletter? View as a webpage](#)



### Connect

Follow to stay informed about the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI).



Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) | 75 North Drive | Westborough, MA 01581 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!