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**News &
Updates**

FEBRUARY 2026

Massachusetts BEAD Final Proposal Approved by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration

In early February, Massachusetts received a notice of award for the [National Telecommunications and Information Administration's \(NTIA\)](#) approval of the Massachusetts [Broadband Equity Access and Deployment \(BEAD\)](#) Final Proposal. The \$18.8 million in approved funding will be used to expand broadband connectivity for 2,565 unserved and underserved homes and businesses and 1,243 community anchor institutions in 251 communities across the Commonwealth. The Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) remains committed to achieving universal access to reliable broadband service and this funding will move Massachusetts closer to achieving this goal. The BEAD program will expand internet access through a variety of technologies, including end-to-end fiber, hybrid fiber-coaxial (HFC) and low Earth orbit (LEO) satellite internet.



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Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program Summary Highlights 70 Plans

As of February 2026, 70 digital equity plans have been completed through the [Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program](#). As a result of the collaboration among MBI, municipal representatives and community leaders, 105 communities in Massachusetts have frameworks to increase access to digital skills and devices. A [program summary](#) of completed digital equity plans to date can be found on MBI's website. This resource summarizes each plan, outlining core information such as key takeaways, populations engaged and more.

READ SUMMARY

MBI Team Represents Massachusetts at the National Digital Inclusion Alliance's Net Inclusion in Chicago



Photo of the MBI team with fellow Net Inclusion Conference members from Massachusetts.

Members of the MBI team were in attendance at the 2026 National Digital Inclusion Alliance's (NDIA) Net Inclusion Conference in Chicago. Team members attended listening sessions, panels and workshops from national leaders on topics including AI, community engagement, digital skills training, device access and more.

Additionally, MBI Broadband and Digital Equity Grants Manager Caitlin Schubert, MBI Project Coordinator of Reporting and Operations Nidal Naji and MBI Associate Director, Ecosystem and Programs Kathryn Downes were conference panelists, with MBI Manager, Digital Equity, Outreach and Engagement Cheryl Coss assisting with a learning session.

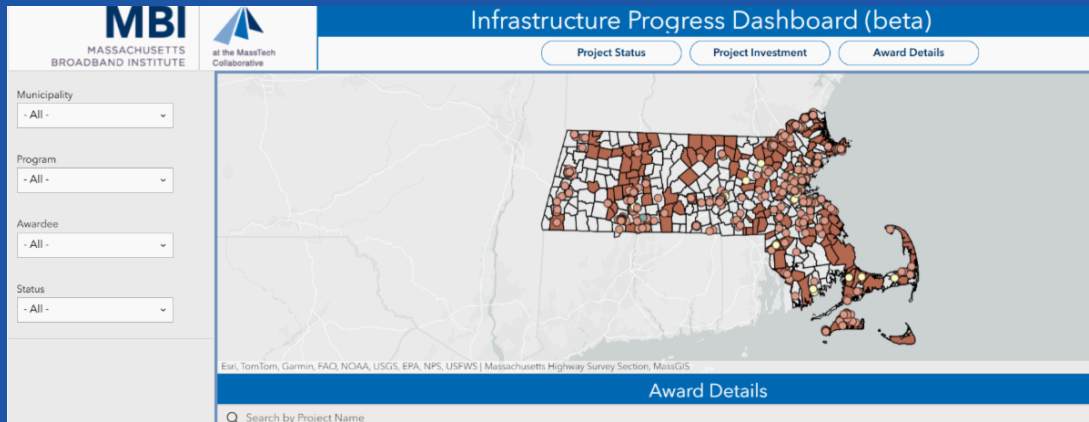
The team walked away with new ecosystem connections and ideas on how to discover, share and develop new ways of advancing digital access. MBI, and over 30 other attendees, represented the Commonwealth of Massachusetts at the conference.

Massachusetts Communities Named as 2025 National Digital Inclusion Alliance Trailblazers

The Commonwealth continues to be a national leader in providing digital access, skills and devices to residents. Six Massachusetts communities, and one regional planning agency, were named as 2025 NDIA Trailblazers.

This is the ninth year the awards have recognized the role municipal, county and regional governments have in bringing digital opportunities to residents. Congratulations to the City of Boston, the City of Gloucester, the Town of Hadley, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, the City of Pittsfield, the City of Quincy and the Town of Randolph for being named as Trailblazers and continuing to move Massachusetts forward.

Public Dashboard Provides Transparency of Broadband Infrastructure Investments



MBI's [Infrastructure Progress Dashboard](#) provides up-to-date information for ongoing broadband infrastructure projects funded through the U.S. Treasury Capital Projects Fund (CPF). The dashboard is designed to increase accessibility and transparency of broadband investments and will track the progress of the [Gap Networks Grant Program](#) and [Residential Retrofit Program](#) projects across categories including design and planning, construction and completion.

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In the News

Massachusetts Launches Broadband Infrastructure Progress Dashboard

The Benton Institute covered MBI's new Infrastructure Progress Dashboard, which will provide up-to-date tracking of broadband infrastructure projects.

[READ STORY](#)

Governor Healey Announces Universal Broadband Coverage Following NTIA Approval

The New Bedford Guide reported on NTIA's final approval of \$18.8 million through the BEAD program. The funds will enable MBI to extend high-speed broadband to all remaining unserved and underserved locations in Massachusetts.

[READ STORY](#)

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