

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

MBI
MASSACHUSETTS
BROADBAND INSTITUTE



at the MassTech
Collaborative



Program Updates - January 2025

MBI Launches BEAD Program Deployment Phase

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) launched the Deployment Phase for the \$147 million [Broadband Equity Access and Deployment \(BEAD\) Program](#) on January 15, 2025. The BEAD Program is a federal grant program overseen by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), with the goal of expanding high-speed internet access to unserved and underserved Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) across the country.

The Deployment Phase allows qualified applicants to apply for funding to complete infrastructure projects for the remaining underserved and unserved BSLs in Massachusetts. The [list of BSLs eligible for BEAD funding](#) was informed by the Massachusetts Challenge Process and approved by the NTIA on December 8, 2024.



Next steps:

- Applicants that successfully completed the Pre-Qualification Process and have been approved by MBI may proceed directly to submit the full project application.
- Organizations who did not successfully complete or participate in the Pre-Qualification process must submit their qualification information and documentation prior to beginning the process of completing and submitting the full project application.
- Applicants interested in applying for BEAD funds should register for and attend the [Bidders' conference](#) on **Wednesday, January 29 at 1 p.m.** Those unable to attend will be able to view the recording and slides on MBI's [BEAD webpage](#).
- Applications for the BEAD Deployment Phase must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Friday, February 28.

NTIA Approves \$14.1 Million to Improve Digital Equity Programming in Massachusetts

On December 3, 2024, the NTIA notified the State of Massachusetts that the application for the first \$14.1 million of the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program was approved. The program, designed to support digital equity programming, will fund MBI's new Launchpad program and expand the current [Municipal Digital Equity Planning and Implementation programs](#). The Launchpad program will be funded with \$9.44 million to support digital equity at organizations serving vulnerable populations such as community-based organizations, non-profits and municipalities. The Municipal Digital Equity Planning and Implementation programs will be funded through \$1.44 million to re-open the programs. These programs will help additional municipalities to develop and execute digital equity plans in their community. The full announcement and additional information can be found [here](#).

\$6.3 Million Awarded Through the Residential Retrofit Program to Improve Internet Infrastructure



Providers will receive \$6.3 million to improve internet infrastructure serving the residents of public and affordable housing developments in nine Massachusetts municipalities as part of MBI's [Residential Retrofit Program](#). The installation of fiber or CAT6 internet wiring will provide residents with access to reliable internet service that will support the ability of low income families to engage in essential daily activities such as working remotely, pursuing educational opportunities and accessing health care from home.

The following internet service providers will work with housing operators to install updated wiring to provide updated infrastructure:

Aervivo Inc. will work to update internet wiring in the following housing complexes:

- Pittsfield April Lane LLC in Pittsfield
- Rose Manor in Pittsfield
- Bay Meadow Apartments in Springfield
- Temple Landing in New Bedford
- Mystic River/Mystic View in Somerville

Comcast will work to update internet wiring in the following housing complexes:

- Mission Towers in Haverhill
- Hassan Apartments, MLK Towers, Codman Apartments, Peabody/Englewood Apartments, Torre Unidad Apartments, Washington Manor Apartments, 157 Washington Apartments, Whittier Place Apartments, Dudley Village North, Uphams Corner Apartments, Quincy Heights and Glendale Apartments in Boston
- Seniority House, Highland House, Independence House South and Costello House Apartments in Springfield

- Coopersmith Village, Coopersmith Village Townhomes, Coopersmith Village Apartments and the Siochain Properties in East Boston
- Capen Court Apartments, Waterwork Apartments, Corbett Apartments and Bryant Manor in Somerville
- The Sirk Building in Lowell
- Rindge Apartments in Cambridge

Greenfield Community Energy Technology will work to update internet wiring in the following housing complex:

- Weldon House in Greenfield

Learn more about all the projects and their expected impacts [here](#).

Important Residential Retrofit Events and Dates

In anticipation of the upcoming Round III Residential Retrofit Program Request for Proposal (RFP), MBI will be hosting a webinar on **Wednesday, February 19 at 1 p.m.** The webinar will be hosted in partnership with EducationSuperHighway and the Massachusetts Field Office of Housing and Urban Development. Attendees will hear firsthand from current participants, City of Boston Housing Authority and Related Affordable Housing, about their experience in the program. Additionally, information such as program eligibility, how to proceed with the application process, expectations for program participants and more will be shared.

[Webinar Registration](#)

Alliance for Digital Equity Hosts Gathering of Digital Navigators



Co-Director and President of Springfield Community Erica Rachel Andrews (left) and Digital Equity Coordinator/Digital Navigator at Way Finders Keishla Archeval (right) attended a gathering of digital navigators hosted by the Alliance for Digital Equity.

Last November, the Alliance for Digital Equity hosted a gathering of digital navigators at the Bombyx Center for Arts and Equity in Northampton. Throughout the three-day leadership workshop, 30 digital navigators developed skills and the understanding of

additional resources to support their digital equity practices. Additionally, the gathering supported communication and collaboration among the growing field of digital navigators in Western Massachusetts. Learn more about the Alliance for Digital Equity and their work [here](#).

Departments of Public Utilities, Telecommunications and Cable Seeking Public Comment

On January 17, 2025, the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) and the Department of Telecommunications and Cable (DTC) jointly issued order D.P.U. 25-10/D.T.C. 25-1. This order opened an inquiry exploring utility pole attachment, conduit access, double poles and related issues applicable to utility work conducted in Massachusetts public rights-of-way. As a result, the DTC and DPU are seeking comments, input and data. The process of accessing utility poles and conduits, and the performance of make-ready work are critical elements for broadband infrastructure projects expanding access to high-speed internet service for residents and businesses across the state. To learn more about this order, access relevant documents and learn how to submit comments, please visit the DTC website [here](#) and enter "25-1" into the docket number field. All comments must be submitted by **Tuesday, March 18**.

Meet the MBI Team: Director and General Counsel, Michael Baldino

Meet MBI Director and General Counsel Michael Baldino. Baldino is one of the leaders of MBI, assisting with strategic planning and decision-making for the division. He assists with program development and implementation, ensuring goals are met. Baldino also works to foster and maintain stakeholder relationships. Previously, he oversaw state-funded Last Mile grants that expanded broadband connectivity in rural Massachusetts communities.



Baldino came to MBI with a wealth of public sector policy experience. He served in the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative's (MassTech) Legal Department for over 23 years, providing legal advice and counsel to MassTech's divisions, including MBI. During his tenure at Mass Tech, Baldino also managed complex grant programs, including the Waste-To-Energy Grant Program which disbursed over \$55 million to 138 cities and towns and the Southeastern Massachusetts Defense Manufacturing Grant Program. Find Baldino and the rest of the MBI team's contact information [here](#).

In the News

Select Broadband News from Around the State

- [NTIA's approval of \\$14.1 million](#) for Massachusetts to improve digital equity programming was reported on by *MassLive*.
- [The awarding of \\$6.1 million](#) through MBI's Residential Retrofit Program to update broadband wiring in public and affording housing units was highlighted by *Telecompetitor*.

- [Greenfield Community Energy Technology's plans](#) to update outdated internet wiring in the Weldon House in Greenfield through Residential Retrofit Program funding was discussed in the *Greenfield Recorder*.
- [Hadley's hosting of a digital equity meeting](#) as part of their participation in the Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program was covered by the *Daily Hampshire Gazette*.

 Share This Email



Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) | 75 North Drive | Westborough, MA 01810 US

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



Try email marketing for free today!