

APPENDIX A GLOSSARY AND ACRONYMS

GLOSSARY

Access (Broadband/Internet Access)

Access is the availability of a given resource or service, regardless of whether the individual chooses to use it. This Plan refers to “broadband access,” which is the availability of infrastructure that can deliver broadband service; and “device access,” which refers to the availability of a device if an individual chooses to use one.

Adoption (Broadband or Internet Adoption)

Broadband adoption is the amount of residential subscribership to high-speed internet access.

Affordability (Broadband/Internet Affordability)

There is no fixed, national definition of “affordable” related to broadband. The PBDA has prepared a middle-income affordability plan that suggests \$54 as affordable monthly pricing, as described in the BEAD Initial Proposal Volume II.

Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) benefit program that helps ensure that households can afford the broadband they need for work, school, healthcare and more.

Assistive Technology (AT)

Assistive Technology (AT) is any item, device, or piece of equipment used to maintain or improve the independence and function of people with disabilities and seniors, in education, employment, recreation, and daily living activities.

Barriers

Barriers to broadband can be many things, but often center around broadband availability and affordability. This Plan highlights barriers in detail in Chapter 4, Current State of Digital Equity: Needs Assessment.

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program

The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, provides \$42.45 billion to expand high-speed internet access by funding planning, infrastructure deployment and adoption programs in all 50 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Broadband

Broadband commonly refers to high-speed Internet access that is always on and faster than traditional DSL or dial-up access. Broadband is delivered through multiple technologies, like fiber optic cables, fixed antenna wireless, satellite, mobile, and cable modem.

Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP)

The Pennsylvania Broadband Infrastructure Program, funded through the Capital Projects Fund, will fund line extension and development projects, as well as large-scale regional infrastructure projects.

Bundled Service Plan

A bundled service plan refers to a service plan where the customer pays one bill and receives multiple services. This often includes phone or cable television services as well as broadband.

Census Tract

Census tracts are small, relatively permanent geographic entities within counties (or the statistical equivalents of counties) delineated by a committee of local data users. Generally, census tracts have between 2,500 and 8,000 residents and boundaries that follow visible features.

Community Anchor Institutions

Community Anchor Institutions are not-for-profit entities that facilitate publicly accessible internet service to vulnerable populations, including NTIA-defined covered populations, and those that lack access to gigabit-level broadband service.

Community Conversations

Community Conversations were a series of 23 in-person meetings established to facilitate information sharing between the PBDA and members of the public.

Connectivity

Connectivity is the ability to link to and communicate with other computer systems, electronic devices, software, or the internet.

Covered Populations

Covered populations are defined within the Digital Equity Act and funds were issued proportionally with the number of individuals in those demographics. These are:

1. Individuals who live in covered households (a household which, for the most recently completed year, has income that is not more than 150 percent of an amount equal to the Census-stated poverty level).
2. Older individuals (60 and above).
3. Justice-impacted individuals, including previously and currently incarcerated individuals, other than individuals who are incarcerated in a Federal correctional facility.
4. Veterans.
5. Individuals with disabilities.
6. Individuals with a language barrier, including individuals who are English learners; and have low levels of literacy.
7. Racial or ethnic minorities.
8. Rural residents.

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is the willful and repeated harm inflicted through the use of computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices.

Cybersecurity

Cybersecurity is the art of protecting networks, devices, and data from unauthorized access or criminal use and the practice of ensuring confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information.

Device (also ‘internet-enabled device’)

A device refers to an electronic product connected to the internet via Wi-Fi, Bluetooth or a physical wired connection. Devices include smartphones, desktop computers, laptop computers, and tablets. Devices can also include other products such as smart TVs or smart thermostats that connect to the internet.

Digital Dignity

Digital dignity means that every person should have the same access to participate in the digital world. Digital dignity, as used in this Digital Equity Plan, refers to how individuals feel about using technology: all individuals deserve to feel like they can participate online comfortably and with human dignity that respects their personal information and individual preferences in their use of the internet and related technology.

Digital Divide

The digital divide is the gap between those who have affordable access, skills, and support to effectively engage online and those who do not.

Digital Divide Index (DDI)

The Digital Divide Index (DDI) is a data analysis framework developed by the Purdue Center for Regional Development. The DDI assesses physical access to technology and related socioeconomic factors that could limit digital skills and use. The DDI score ranges from 0 to 100, with higher numbers indicating a more significant digital divide. Data for this index comes from the five-year American Community Survey and Ookla Speedtest open dataset. The index combines many factors into two scores related to infrastructure access and demographic factors to determine a locality's DDI score.

Digital Equity

Digital equity is a goal to ensure that everyone has equal access to technology tools, computers, and the Internet and has the knowledge and skills to use them effectively.

Digital Equity Act (DEA)

The Digital Equity Act (DEA) provides \$2.75 billion to establish three grant programs that promote digital equity and inclusion. They aim to ensure that all people and communities have the skills, technology, and capacity needed to reap the full benefits of our digital economy.

Digital Equity Asset

A digital equity asset refers to a community's existing resources that are used to facilitate, improve, and enhance digital equity.

Digital Equity Atlas

The Pennsylvania Broadband Digital Equity Atlas is a data dashboard developed to examine the demographic and socioeconomic repercussions of broadband adoption and affordability. The construction of this Atlas draws upon a range of data sources including datasets centered around Environmental Justice (low-income and minority populations) and Title VI factors (disabled, older adults, and limited English proficient populations).

Digital Hygiene

Digital hygiene refers to a set of best practices that serve as a first line of defense against digital threats.

Digital Inclusion

Digital Inclusion refers to the activities necessary to ensure that all individuals and communities, including the most disadvantaged, have access to and use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). This includes five elements: affordable; internet-enabled devices that meet the needs of the user; access to digital literacy training; quality technical support; and applications and online content designed to enable and encourage self-sufficiency, participation and collaboration.

Digital Literacy

Digital literacy is the ability to use information and communication technologies to find, evaluate, create, and communicate information, requiring both cognitive and technical skills.

Digital Navigator

Digital Navigators are trained staff who work with residents on digital literacy including home connectivity and how to search for or apply for jobs and critical services.

Digital Redlining

Digital redlining is discrimination by internet service providers in the deployment, maintenance, or upgrade of infrastructure or delivery of services. The denial of services has disparate impacts on people in certain areas of cities or regions, most frequently based on income, race, and ethnicity.

Digital Skills

Digital skills refer to the skills – technical and cognitive – required to find, understand, evaluate, create, and communicate digital information in a wide variety of formats.

Digital Skills Training

Digital skills training is any course, instruction, tutorial, program, resource, or guide that provides or offers lessons to improve digital skills.

Download Speed

Download speed is the rate that data or information can be received by a user's computer or device from the Internet.

Focus Groups

Focus Groups were opportunities to hear directly from small groups of stakeholders. To inform Pennsylvania's Digital Equity Plan, PBDA partnered with subject-matter experts serving covered populations, in focus groups of 10-20 individuals to share experiences on the broadband barriers and challenges their client's experience.

Gigabits per second (Gbps)

Gigabits per second (Gbps), or 1000 Megabits per second, is a unit of measure for indicating how much data can be transferred in a network. Much higher than Megabits per second, Gigabit-speed networks are preferred for community institutions, businesses, schools, and homes.

Hardware

Hardware refers to the physical components of devices that can be seen and touched. (*see Software*)

High-Speed Internet Access

High-speed internet access refers to the ability to connect to internet speeds that meet or exceed the FCC threshold for "served", inclusive of all infrastructure and/or affordability concerns required for that connection.

High Tech (High Technology)

High technology refers to the most advanced and developed technology.

Hotspot

A hotspot is a physical location where people may obtain Internet access, typically using Wi-Fi technology. Public hotspots may be created by a business for use by customers, such as coffee shops or hotels. Personal or mobile hotspots let users connect their smartphones to other devices for Internet access.

Individuals with Disabilities

See Covered Populations

Individuals with Language Barriers

See Covered Populations

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

Known as the IIJA, this is federal legislation passed in 2021 that allocated \$1.2 trillion in infrastructure spending, including \$65 billion for broadband and digital equity. This legislation created the BEAD and Digital Equity Act programs.

Internet

Internet refers to the worldwide network of computers that transmit and receive data to and from one another.

Internet Service Provider (ISP)

Internet Service Providers (ISPs) are companies that provide users (individuals or businesses) with access (a connection) to the Internet and related services.

Justice-Impacted Individuals

See Covered Populations

LGBTQIA+

The acronym stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual, and the + holds space for the expanding and new understanding of different parts of the very diverse gender and sexual identities.

Limited English Proficient (LEP)

Limited English Proficient (LEP) refers to a person who is not fluent in the English language.

Low-Income Households

See Covered Populations

Megabits per second (Mbps)

Megabits per second (Mbps) are units of measurement that generally refer to upload and download speeds to measure the file size of data transferred per second over a channel and are used to show how fast a network or Internet connection is.

Network

A network is a system that connects two or more computing devices for transmitting or sharing information.

Older Adults

See Covered Populations

Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)

Public-private partnerships are formal agreements between private industry and public, governmental entities that seek to mutually benefit their residents, businesses, and community institutions.

Phishing

Phishing is a technique for attempting to acquire sensitive data, such as bank account numbers, through a fraudulent solicitation in email or on a website, in which the perpetrator masquerades as a legitimate business or reputable person.

Public Comment Period

A public comment period is a requirement by the NTIA that states solicit and respond to public comments on the state's *Digital Equity Plan* before final plan submission. By completing the public comment period and considering those comments before submitting a final *Digital Equity Plan*, states will be prepared to apply for a State Digital Equity Capacity Grant.

Rights-of-Way (ROW)

Rights-of-Way (ROW) are legal rights to pass through property owned by another. ROWs are frequently used to secure access to land for digging trenches, deploying fiber, constructing towers and deploying equipment on existing towers and utility poles.

Roundtables

The PBDA hosted community-serving and thematic roundtables. Audiences for the roundtables included community services and institutions, local governments, community leaders, ISPs, and other stakeholders. The PBDA convened the roundtables to discuss both the BEAD and Digital Equity work and provided stakeholder representatives with the opportunity to share additional insight about concerns and issues of importance.

Rural Residents

See Covered Populations

Scalable

A description of a system that can accommodate greater usage.

Service Plan

Service plan refers to the specific plan that you subscribe to for the use of internet service. Service plans are typically monthly subscriptions.

Stakeholder

Stakeholders are any individuals, groups, and/or organizations involved in, impacted by, or interested in State and Local broadband efforts.

Symmetrical

Symmetrical refers to the state of having identical download and upload speeds.

Telehealth or Telemedicine

Telehealth or telemedicine is the use of high-speed, high-capacity internet to support long-distance healthcare services, patient and provider education, and healthcare administration.

Teletypewriters (TTYs)

A TTY (teletypewriter) is a communication device used by people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have severe speech impairment.

Unbanked/Underbanked

An “unbanked” person is someone who does not have a checking or savings account with an FDIC-insured institution. The term “underbanked” means that the household had a checking or savings account with FDIC insured institution, but regularly used alternative financial services.

Underserved

Locations where Internet service is at or above the FCC threshold but with no access to broadband service at speeds 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload.

Unified Core Planning Team

The Unified Core Planning Team was established by the PBDA, and met biweekly to provide feedback and suggestions, review work, and assess progress on the *Digital Equity Plan*.

Universal Design

Universal design is a concept in which products and environments are designed to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaption or specialized design.

Unserved

Unserved refers to locations where internet service is at or below the FCC threshold of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload.

Upload Speed

Upload speed is the rate that data or information is transferred from a user’s computer or device to the internet.

Veterans

See Covered Populations

Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi (short for Wireless Fidelity) is the radio signal sent from a wireless router to a nearby device, which translates the signal into data you can see and use. The device transmits a radio sign.

ACRONYMS

AARP – American Association of Retired Persons

ACP – Affordable Connectivity Program

ADA – Americans with Disabilities Act

AFAHO – African Family Health Organization

ARPA – American Rescue Plan Act

AT – Assistive Technology

BCPS – Berks Connections/Pretrial Services

BEAD – Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment

CAI – Community Anchor Institution

CARES Act – Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act

CATE – Community Accessible Testing and Education

CCAC – Community College of Allegheny County

CPF – Capital Projects Fund

DCED – Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development

DDAP – Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs

DDI – Digital Divide Index

DE – Digital Equity

DEA – Digital Equity Act

DERC – Digital Equity Research Center

DHS – Pennsylvania Department of Human Services

DMVA – Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

DLA – Digital Literacy Alliance

DLI – Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry

DLWDG – Digital Literacy and Workforce Development

DoBS – Pennsylvania Department of Banking & Securities

DSL – Digital Subscriber Line

EAF – Electronic Access Foundation

ESL – English as a Second Language

ESOL – English for Speakers of Other Languages

FCC – Federal Communications Commission

FDIC – Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

FPHA – Federal Public Housing Assistance

GED – General Educational Development

GIS – Geographic Information Systems

GPDIA – Greater Pittsburgh Digital Inclusion Alliance

GPS – Global Positioning System

HCV – Housing Choice Voucher

HUD – U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

I&P – Pittsburgh Innovation & Performance

IJA – Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

IU – Intermediate Unit

ISP – Internet Service Provider

JSGC – Joint State Government Commission

KPI – Key Performance Indicator

LAMP – Library of Accessible Media for Pennsylvanians

LEP – Limited English Proficient or Limited English Proficiency

LLD – Local Development Districts

LNESC – National Education Services Center

LULAC – League of United Latin American Citizens

NDIA – National Digital Inclusion Alliance

NGA WIN – The National Governors Association Workforce Innovation Network

NTIA – National Telecommunications and Information Administration

OIT – City of Philadelphia’s Office of Innovation and Technology

OMHSAS – Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

P3N – PA Patient & Provider Network

PACE – Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for the Elderly

PASDEC – Pennsylvania State Digital Equity Coalition

PBDA – Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority

PBRA – Project-Based Rental Assistance

PDEC – Pittsburgh Digital Equity Coalition

PII – Personally Identifiable Information

PREP – Partnerships for Regional Economic Performance

PDEC – Pittsburgh Digital Equity Coalition

SEAMAAC – Southeast Asian Mutual Assistance Association Coalition

SILC – Statewide Independent Living Council

SNAP – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

SPC – Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

SSA – Social Security Administration

SSI – Supplemental Security Income

STEAM – Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics

The Commonwealth – The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

TDDP – Telecommunication Device Distribution Program

TTY – Teletypewriters

UHSB – Unserved High-Speed Broadband Funding Program

VA – The Pennsylvania Department of Veterans Affairs

VLP – Veterans Leadership Program

WEDnetPA – Workforce and Economic Development Network of Pennsylvania

WIC – Women, Infants, and Children

WIOA – Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act