



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PENNSYLVANIA BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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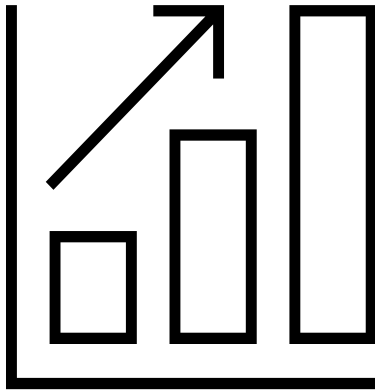
BROADBAND READY COMMUNITIES WEBINAR

TODAY'S TOPICS:

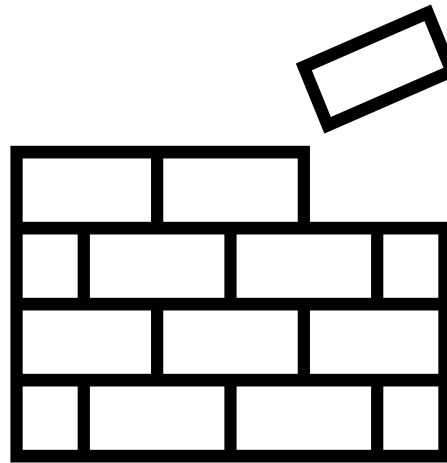
- 1. WHAT IS BROADBAND READY COMMUNITIES?**
- 2. HOW DO I PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM?**
- 3. WALKTHROUGH OF BROADBAND READY COMMUNITIES WORKSHEET.**
- 4. QUESTION AND ANSWER.**

WHAT IS BROADBAND READY COMMUNITIES?

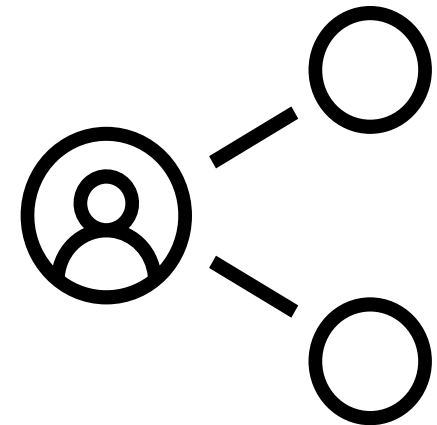
BROADBAND READY COMMUNITIES – OBJECTIVES



**Increase Investment
and Opportunity
through PPP**



**Reduce Procedural,
Policy, and Permitting
Barriers**



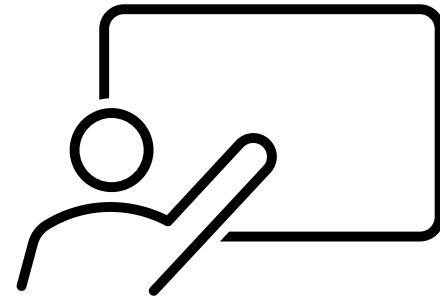
**Promote Broadband
Ready Communities**

****Not a Regulatory Program / Not an Eligibility Requirement for BEAD or Other Funds****

BBRC DESIGNATION BENEFITS

Situational Awareness for ISPs

- Municipalities Open for Business & Ready to Collaborate
- Mapping and Data Dashboard
- Downloadable Spreadsheet



Online Promotion:

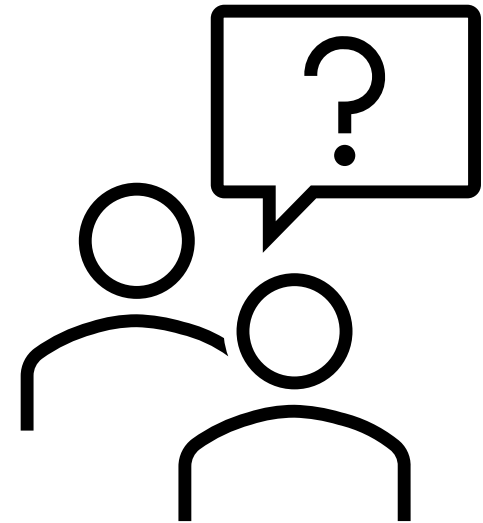
- Badge for Website
- Promotion from PBDA:
 - Conferences and Presentations
 - Newsletters
 - Webpage



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

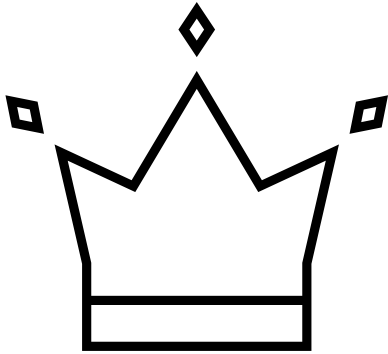
Does Broadband Ready Community designation impact a municipalities ability to obtain grant funding?

Broadband Ready Community designation will not impact a municipalities ability to obtain grant funding through PBDA or other agencies. The Broadband Ready Community designation is not a requirement to participate in the BEAD program but is an opportunity for municipalities to proactively identify and reduce barriers to deploying broadband infrastructure within their community.

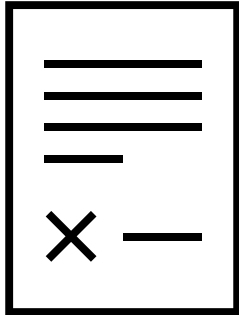


**HOW DO I PARTICIPATE IN THE
PROGRAM?**

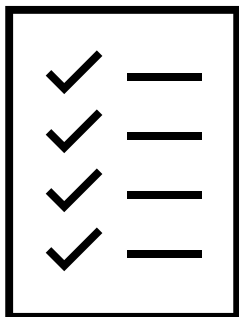
STEPS TO BBRC DESIGNATION



**Step 1: Designate Your Municipal
Broadband Champion**



**Step 2: Pass a Resolution to
Participate in the Program**



**Step 3: Complete the BBRC
Worksheet**

BBRC WORKSHEET COMPONENTS

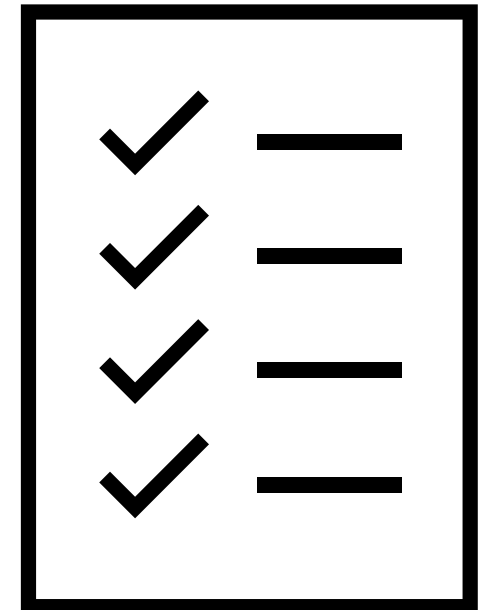
**Documentation of Community
Engagement**

**Identification and Understanding of
Applicable Funding**

**Indication of Matching Component
(Optional)**

Creation of Asset Inventory (Optional)

**Reduction of Barriers to Broadband
Expansion**



NEED A HAND?

Designate a Partner as your Municipal Broadband Champion!

Partner with a regional entity such as:

- County Government
- Council of Governments
- County Association
- Economic Development Organization



Sample Resolutions are Available in the Program Guidelines!!

COUNTY LEVEL BROADBAND READY TIERS



Bronze Tier: 50% Municipalities Covered



Silver Tier: 65% Municipalities Covered

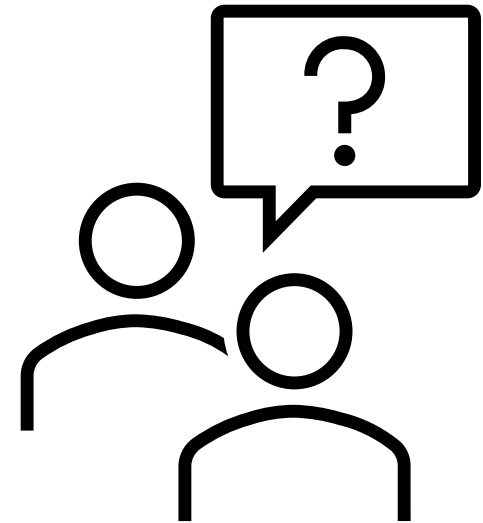


Gold Tier: 80% Municipalities Covered

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

How will PBDA determine Broadband Ready Community Designation?

Each situation with a municipality will vary, and applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. PBDA will be providing significant flexibility for the municipality in our review process to obtain the designation. The goal of the program is to ensure an attainable baseline for all municipalities to achieve Broadband Ready Designation.



**WALKTHROUGH OF
BROADBAND READY
COMMUNITIES WORKSHEET**

INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONS



Pennsylvania
Broadband Development Authority

Broadband Ready Communities Program Registration

The guidelines, walkthrough webinar, FAQ and other additional program resources can be found at: <https://www.broadband.pa.gov/resources/local-governments/broadband-ready-communities/>

Questions and other inquiries can be emailed to RA-DCBroadbandReady@pa.gov

Before Starting: Please note that your application will not save until the submit button is pressed at the end of this form. The Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority (PBDA) recommends that you complete this form on a desktop web browser and save your answers in a separate document prior to submitting to ensure any filled information is not lost if the form is closed.

If submitting for multiple municipalities, please resubmit for each municipality. Please remember to submit your completed resolution to RA-DCBroadbandReady@pa.gov along with completing the form below.

INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONS

* Required

Select a County

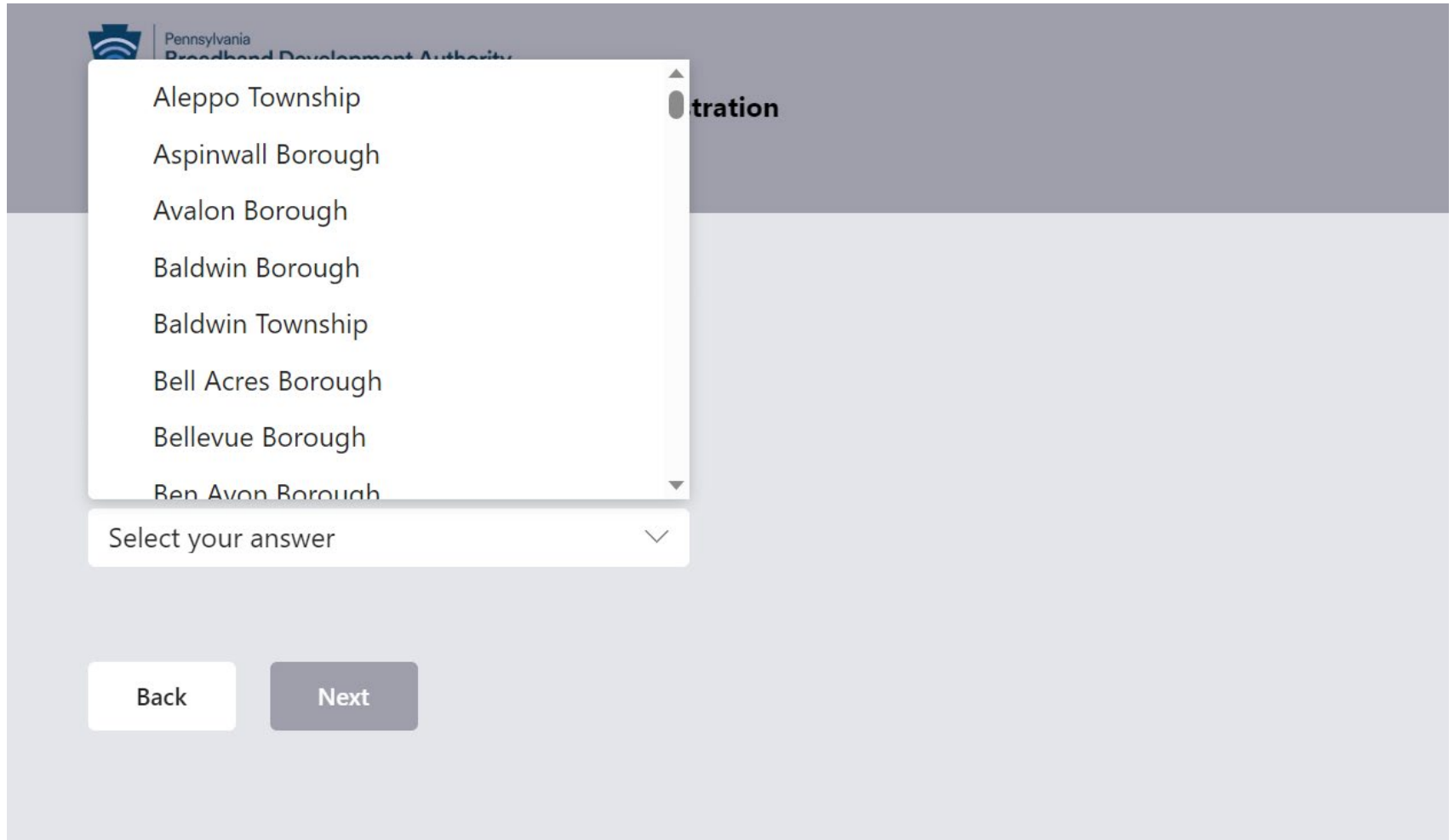
From the list provided please select the county in which your municipality resides. *

If you are a county, county designation will automatically be provided based on the amount of municipalities that register for the Broadband Ready Community program. Please reach out to RA-DCBroadbandReady@pa.gov with any questions.

Select your answer 

Next

SELECT A MUNICIPALITY



The screenshot shows a web interface for selecting a municipality. At the top left, there is a logo for the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority. Below the logo, the text 'Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority' is visible. A dropdown menu is open, displaying a list of municipalities: Aleppo Township, Aspinwall Borough, Avalon Borough, Baldwin Borough, Baldwin Township, Bell Acres Borough, Bellevue Borough, and Ben Avon Borough. Below the dropdown menu, there is a text input field with the placeholder text 'Select your answer' and a downward arrow icon. At the bottom of the form, there are two buttons: 'Back' and 'Next'.

Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority

tration

- Aleppo Township
- Aspinwall Borough
- Avalon Borough
- Baldwin Borough
- Baldwin Township
- Bell Acres Borough
- Bellevue Borough
- Ben Avon Borough

Select your answer

Back Next

CONTACT INFORMATION

* Required

Contact Information

Contact information should be of your Municipal Broadband Champion (MBC). If you are an outside organization such as a county, economic development association, council of government etc. acting as the MBC as designated by a municipality, please put the contact of the designated staff member here. If you are a county and have passed a resolution to serve as MBC, please email that resolution to RA-DCBroadbandReady@pa.gov

What is your first name? *

What is your last name? *

CONTACT INFORMATION

What is your title? *

Council President, Planning Director, Secretary, Township Supervisor, etc.

Enter your answer

What is your email address? *

Enter your answer

What is your phone number? (Optional)

Only enter numbers. Please do not use . - or ().

The value must be a number

Back

Next

ENTER YOUR ADDRESS

* Required

Municipality Mailing Address

Municipalities designated as Broadband Ready will receive a letter in the mail. We need to know where to send it. The county where the municipality was designated will be notified as well. If an entity such as a county, COG etc. is serving as the MBC, list the mailing address of the municipality you are submitting on behalf of.

What is your street number? *

123

What is your street address? *

Main Street

ENTER YOUR ADDRESS

What is your municipality name? *

Anytown

What is your zip code? *

12345

Back

Next

DOCUMENTATION OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

* Required

Documentation of Community Engagement

Did your municipality contact the county government? *

For sample outreach text, please visit our FAQ on the Broadband Ready Communities webpage.

Yes

No

Did your municipality contact neighboring municipalities? *

For sample outreach text, please visit our FAQ on the Broadband Ready Communities webpage.

Yes

No

DOCUMENTATION OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

What are the names of the neighboring municipalities that were contacted? *

Please enter all names in below box. If the municipality is a neighbor but outside your county, please specify by placing the county name after the municipality as follows:

Townsville Borough, Sand Township (Example County)

Enter your answer

Did your municipality contact Internet Service Providers where possible? *

A list of providers and instructions on how to find the internet service providers in your area can be found on the FAQ on Broadband Ready Communities webpage.

Yes

No

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION


How do I reach out to internet service providers in my area?

PBDA recommends a municipality use the FCC Broadband Map: <https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/location-summary> to find providers in their area.

This can be done by typing in an address or addresses in your municipality and viewing the available internet service providers seen on the map. PBDA has a list of contact information for internet service providers found at: [Internet Service Provider Contact List - PA Department of Community & Economic Development](#)

It is not required that a municipality contact all providers shown on the FCC map. If a municipality cannot find the contact information for a provider and it is not available on our list, PBDA recommends reaching out to us directly at RA-DCBroadbandReady@pa.gov

HOW DO I FIND ISP IN MY AREA?


Federal Communications Commission
FCC National Broadband Map
Sign In

Home | Location Summary | Provider Detail | Area Summary | Data Download | About | Broadband Funding Map

Service: Residential | Technology: Any Technology | Speed: ≥ 100/20 | Service Filters

Data As Of: Jun 30, 2023 (latest) | (Last Updated: 3/26/24)

Address: 125 MAIN ST LUZERNE, PA 18709 **Type Address Here**

Selected Location: **125 MAIN ST LUZERNE, PA 18709**
 Status: **Served** | Business and Residential | Unit Count: 6

Broadband Availability
Availability Challenge

Provider	Technology	Down (Mbps)	Up (Mbps)	Chall.
Comcast Corporation	Cable	1200	35	
Frontier Communications Corporation	Copper	10	1	
Hughes Network Systems, LLC	GSO Satellite	25	3	
Space Exploration Technologies Corp.	NGSO Satellite	220	25	
T-Mobile USA, Inc.	Licensed Fixed Wireless	25	3	
Verizon Communications Inc.	Copper	0.2	0.2	

Internet Service Providers in Area

DOCUMENTATION OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

What Internet Service Providers were contacted? *

A list of providers and instructions on how to find the internet service providers in your area can be found on the FAQ on Broadband Ready Communities webpage.

Did your municipality conduct public advertisement of the Program for two (2) weeks? *

Information on advertisement of the program can be found in the guidelines and throughout the resources on the Broadband Ready Communities webpage.

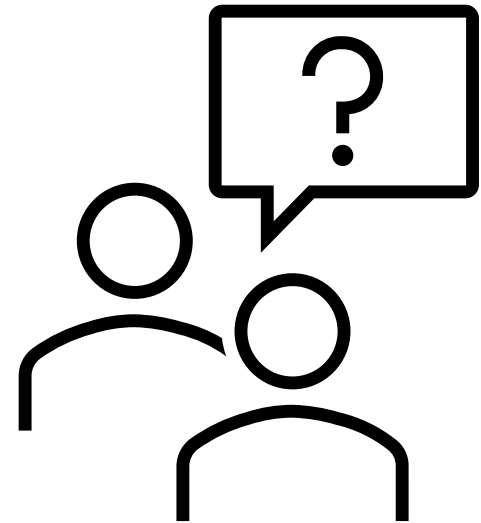
Yes

No

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

What does public advertisement of the program mean?

Municipalities must demonstrate that they publicly advertised the program for two (2) weeks, presented the Program during a public meeting, and ensure they have offered constituents the opportunity to provide comment. The two (2) week advertisement requirement may consist of activities including physical postings at a municipal building, online postings, or inclusion in a newsletter. **It does not require an advertisement in a newspaper of general circulation.**



DOCUMENTATION OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Did your municipality present the Program at a public meeting? *

Yes

No

Did your municipality provide an opportunity for public comment at the public meeting? *

Yes

No

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IDENTIFICATION OF FUNDING

Identification of Applicable Funding

The municipality acknowledges that it reviewed BEAD Volume II and CPF BIP program guidelines, as well as available Digital Equity guidelines to establish an understanding of eligible project types, matching requirements, eligible applicant types, and preferred technologies.

*

Links to the documents referenced above can be found on the Broadband Ready Communities webpage.

Yes

No

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FROM THE WEBPAGE


Additional Resources

- Guidelines & Applicable Funding:
 - [Capital Projects Fund – Broadband Infrastructure Program Guidelines](#)
 - [BEAD Initial Proposal Volume II](#)
 - [Digital Equity \(DE\) Act](#)
 - [Internet Service Providers Contact List](#)
 - [Federal Communications Commission \(FCC\) National Broadband Map](#)
 - [Best Practices for Establishing Government Charges and Fees](#)
 - Technical Assistance Partners for Permitting Assistance:
 - [PennDOT Connects](#)
 - [DCED Local Government Services/Office of Planning](#)
 - [Center for Rural PA](#)
- Documents for Review**
- 

INDICATION OF MATCHING COMMITMENT

Indication of Matching Commitment (Optional)

All questions in this section are optional and will not impact your designation as a Broadband Ready Community.

Is your municipality willing to partner with an Internet Service Provider? (Optional) 

Yes

No

Is your municipality willing to provide matching funds toward a project in its jurisdiction? (Optional)



Yes

No

How much would your municipality be willing to budget for match contribution? (Optional)

Enter your answer

ASSET INVENTORY (OPTIONAL)

Asset Inventory (Optional)

Is your municipality providing a digital asset inventory? (Optional)

Digital asset inventories can be transferred to the PBDA via OneDrive. If you indicated "Yes", the PBDA will contact you to set up access.

Yes

No

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MORE ON ASSET INVENTORIES...

Items to Include in an Asset Inventory

Vertical assets: This could include municipally-owned water tanks, tall buildings, radio towers and other features. These features are especially important for the implementation of fixed wireless.

Municipal-Owned Infrastructure, Rights of Way, and Easements: The municipality must include any municipally owned infrastructure, rights of way (ROW), and easements that are beneficial to the implementation of broadband infrastructure. It is not expected that the municipality will map every ROW, only those that could have special interest to broadband implementers.

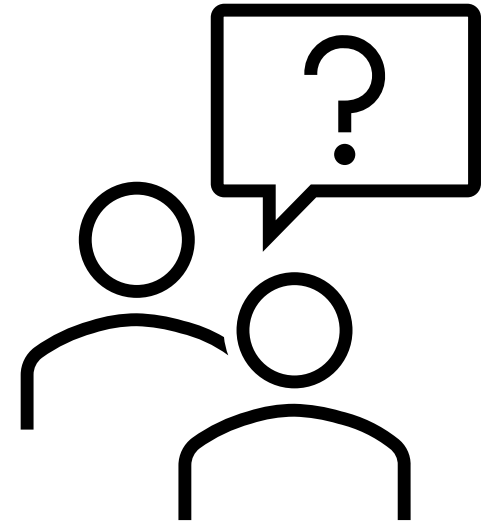
Areas of Exclusion: The municipality must identify areas within its control that are not acceptable for disturbance, or which should be avoided at all costs.

Other Utilities: Where possible, the municipality must attempt to provide other relevant utility data such as electric and sewer information.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

Will PBDA provide funding for optional asset inventories?

PBDA will not provide funding for municipalities to conduct optional asset inventories. PBDA recognizes that the availability of asset inventories may be limited due to capacity and timeline limitations and has designated this component as optional as a result.



REDUCTION OF BARRIERS TO EXPANSION

Reduction of Barriers to Broadband Expansion

Additional information on the questions below can be found in the FAQ section of the Broadband Ready Communities webpage.

Will your municipality provide for equal access to right of way?

*

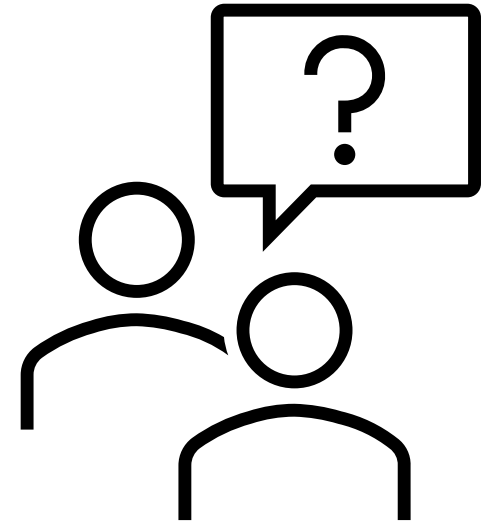
Yes

No

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

How do franchise agreements apply to broadband infrastructure deployment?

Franchise agreements should not apply to broadband service in most cases. A municipality with concerns related to franchise agreements and broadband deployment should consult with their solicitor.



STREET/PAVE CUT PERMITS

Does your municipality require a street/pave cut permit? *

Yes

No

Is there a moratorium on opening or excavating streets within a set number of years after paving? *

Yes

No

Does the municipality have a waiver process/exemption in place for the street cut moratorium to facilitate broadband infrastructure development? *

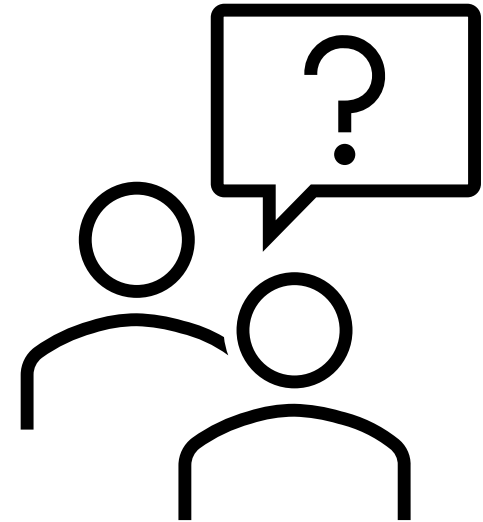
Yes

No

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

Am I required to have an exemption in my street/pave cut ordinance for broadband infrastructure development to attain designation as a Broadband Ready Community?

PBDA will review applications on a case-by-case basis. PBDA recommends municipalities with high amounts of underserved and unserved residents implement an exemption until January 1, 2030 in their street/pave cut ordinance to ensure expedited deployment of broadband infrastructure.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

What is the applicability of the exemption to a street/pave cut ordinance, and why is PBDA promoting one?

Some internet service providers may choose to deploy fiber optic cable through buried deployment similar to an underground utility like gas or electricity. **The waiver for street-cut ordinance(s) only applies to the moratorium preventing cuts on a road within a timeline such as five years.**

It does not modify other requirements within the ordinance, especially those that outline the required quality of restoration. While street cuts to a freshly paved road are never an ideal scenario, broadband internet access for underserved and unserved locations is a vital generational investment.

Where applicable, PBDA recommends waiver language implemented until 2030 as the requirement for the \$1.16 billion in BEAD funds mandates a subgrantee deploy service within four years of signing a contract with the PBDA.

TELEPHONE POLE ATTACHMENTS

Does your municipality have telephone poles in the municipal right of way? *

Yes

No

Is there a permitting process for attaching to telephone poles in the municipal right of way? *

Yes

No

Is there a per pole attachment fee? *

Yes

No

What is the per pole attachment fee? *

List a dollar amount.

Enter your answer

PERMITS AND FEES

List any other permits required for broadband implementation in the municipal right of way. *

If none, type N/A. Please briefly describe approximate permit approval timelines.

Enter your answer

Has the municipality taken steps to ensure timely permitting review relating to broadband infrastructure development? *

Yes

No

Has the municipality taken steps to ensure fees reflective of permit processing costs relating to broadband infrastructure development?

*

Yes

No

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

How do I ensure I have taken appropriate steps to ensure timely permitting review and reasonable fees?

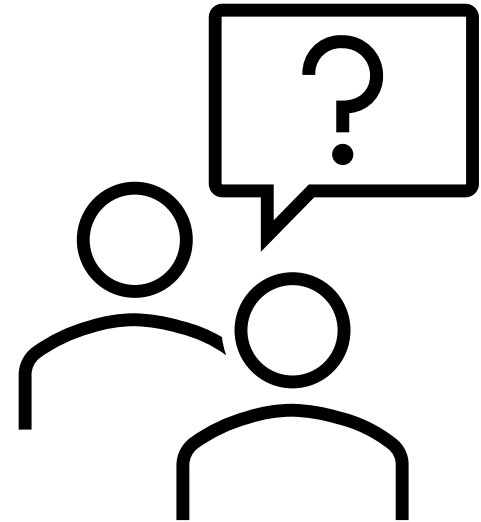
Municipalities should evaluate their permit approval processes to ensure efficient processing timelines and to confirm that policies are current and effective. Best practices on reviewing municipal permitting charges and fees can be found at: [Establishing Government Charges and Fees \(gfoa.org\)](https://www.gfoa.org)

PBDA does not anticipate changes to timelines. The permitting and fees questions are asked to ensure awareness of permitting processes before facing an influx of permitting requests. Additionally, PBDA is asking this question to encourage a review of the schedule of fees for relevant permits. This review is intended to avoid situations where municipalities may incur a net loss(es) per permit request so that they do not incur a loss should an ISP request a significant number of permits for a deployment project.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

Does the Broadband Ready Communities Program apply to permitting on PennDOT roads?

Awareness of PennDOT permitting is critical, and thus the state has developed an awareness and Highway Occupancy Permit (HOP) modification process. These efforts, however, are not part of the BBRC program. BBRC is solely focused on municipal right of way and owned assets. PBDA has been in contact with PennDOT Connects as part of this process and will pass on any feedback related to state roads received by partners, participating entities, and ISPs along to them.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

Where can I receive additional technical assistance on topics related to permitting and PennDOT roads?

PennDOT Connects:

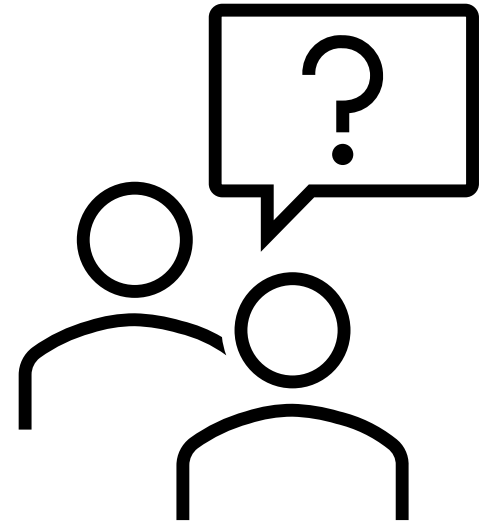
<https://www.penndot.pa.gov/ProjectAndPrograms/Planning/Pages/PennDOT-Connects.aspx>

DCED Office of Planning/Local Government Services:

<https://dced.pa.gov/local-government/>

Center for Rural Pennsylvania:

<https://www.rural.pa.gov/home>



PROPORTIONAL BONDING

Will your municipality ensure that bonding requirements of broadband projects are proportional to actual physical impact to existing municipal infrastructure? *

Example: Municipalities are requiring bonds cover the full project cost, even for smaller-scale activities such as a \$50,000 street cut. Proportional bonding means that the amount of the bond should match the scale or impact of the work being done.

Yes

No

If your municipality is not using proportional bonding, please provide a short narrative as to why below. *

Enter your answer

Back

Submit

**CLICK THIS BOX TO SUBMIT FORM
A PROMPT AND EMAIL WILL CONFIRM
SUBMISSION**

COMPLETED FORM PROMPT



Thank you for submitting your application to the Broadband Ready Communities Program!

A scanned copy of your completed resolution should be emailed to
RA-DCBroadbandReady@pa.gov

Please ensure RA-DCBroadbandReady@pa.gov is listed as a contact in your email to ensure our messages do not go to your spam box.

Once we review your application, we will notify you if there are any additional questions, items that need to be resolved, or if your municipality has provided all information necessary for Broadband Ready designation.

————— Important thing you can do next —————

Save my response

[Submit another response](#)

QUESTION AND ANSWER

Visit the Broadband Ready Communities Page at:

<https://www.broadband.pa.gov/resources/local-governments/broadband-ready-communities-bbrc/>

**Resource Account:
RA-DCBroadbandReady@pa.gov**