

# Blandin on Broadband

News and information on broadband use, policy, and trends

# What is the American Connection Corps? And what do they do?

Posted on [November 30, 2022](#) by [Ann Treacy](#)

The Farmer posted a nice article on the American Connection Corps (ACC). I have had an opportunity to work with ACC; they are impressive and energetic and doing great work in the community. The [Farmer reports...](#)

*ACC specifically focuses on supporting its fellowship program that places young adults in rural areas to work alongside local community leaders on broadband development, digital access and digital literacy.*

*ACC falls under the umbrella of Lead for America, co-founded in 2018 by four young college-educated adults interested in returning to and revitalizing their home communities. One of the cofounders, Benya Kraus Beacom, returned to her family's sixth generation farm near Waseca, Minn., in 2019. Once considering a career in international relations, Beacom redirected her interests after her college junior year, when she spent the summer at home.*

...

*Beacom reached out to Tina May, Land O'Lakes Inc. vice president of rural services, who shared similar interests in small community development. The co-op also had been working to improve digital connectivity in rural communities. They decided to pilot a cohort, and in August 2021, along with the Mayo Clinic, Midwest Dairy and Scoular, placed six ACC fellows in Redwood and Ottertail counties, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe community, the East Iron Range and the cities of Warroad and Fairmont.*

*Today, ACC has 250 fellows across 40 states.*

What do they do?

*When fellows start working in a community, their focus is threefold — on broadband development, digital access and digital literacy. They work at coordinating all providers in the area, obtain accurate digital maps, work with engineering firms to determine fiber needed, and engage with the community, Beacom explains.*

What do they do in Redwood County? Led by Patrick Garry...

*The county's largest project currently underway, referred to as the "Cadillac Project," looks to serve 30% of the county with fiber. The \$4.4 million project pools the county's American*

*Rescue Plan funds, internet provider contributions and the state's Border-to-Border Grant.*

**Blandin on Broadband** *wise, it serves 1,870 structures* Proudly powered by WordPress Theme: Twenty Elev

What do they do in Ottertail Count? Led by Carter Grupp...

*ACC fellow Carter Grupp, based in Fergus Falls, Otter Tail County, has an impressive resume of accomplishments in his first year, too. He has helped establish 10 Zoom conferencing rooms and built an app to use them. He developed STEM curriculum and kits for three county libraries. He promoted a speed testing campaign to get real data on how his community was being served by internet service providers.*

And more...

*Closest to his heart these days is promoting computer science as a potential career to high school students — his second pilot project. Grupp teamed with Luke Heine, who works for Microsoft and last year, held the first remote statewide youth computer science training program — the Northland Hackathon. The educational event teaches youth how to code, design their own apps and websites, and showcases career opportunities with companies such as Meta, TikTok or Microsoft. Last year, more than 30 high schools participated virtually. The event in 2023 is set for April 23.*

Posted in [Building Broadband Tools, MN](#) | Tagged [American Connection Corps](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

## Digital Equity Ecosystems Measurement Framework: A tool to help you assess your community digital equity resource level

Posted on [November 29, 2022](#) by [Ann Treacy](#)

The opportunity for Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) funding has communities wondering if they are well poised and doing the right things to maximize their opportunity to get funding. Colin Rhinesmith and Rafi Santo have come up with a tool ([Digital Equity Ecosystems Measurement Framework](#)) to help communities assess their preparedness. The tool looks at three things:

- *Coalition Health – The coalition health level speaks to the coalition's structure and enactment: to what degree are members participating in coalition activities? Do they have strong relationships? Do they believe they can accomplish the goals they set out together? Is effective and equitable governance in place?*

- *Member Strength* – The member strength level speaks to the ability of coalition member

**Blandin on Broadband** *...to carry out activities that* Blandin on Broadband / Proudly powered by WordPress Theme: Twenty Elev  
 are member organizations focused on? Where do they work, and with whom? How strong is their capacity in different areas?

- *Community Impact* – Finally, the community impact level speaks to the on the ground issues that are of primary importance to the coalition: what is the nature of digital access issues in the community? Do community members have the digital skills they need to participate in society? Is the community collectively empowered in relation to the technological world?

The worker-be in me loves the worksheet-style information that includes aspects to measure and how to measure them. You can see a sample below:

**Table 6. Community Impact Indicators and Possible Data Sources**

**Community Impact**  
 Indicators related to positive changes to the lives of individuals and the broader community that a coalition is hoping to bring about through its efforts (i.e., measured by the percentage of each in relation to the whole). Note: Indicators of community impact must be tailored to and respond to the needs of a given community. Ultimately, they should be defined by the coalition members, in partnership with other stakeholders and the broader community.

Indicator Area	Possible Data Sources
<p><b>Digital Inclusion<sup>15</sup></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Digital Access</b></li> </ul> <p>Individuals (i.e., including unhoused)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member surveys</li> <li>• Community member surveys</li> <li>• Event attendance</li> <li>• Use of member organization spaces</li> </ul> <p>Households</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of households with access to affordable, robust broadband internet service</li> <li>• % of households with personal computer or tablet computer in household</li> <li>• % of households with mobile phone</li> <li>• Connectivity - Average quality of connectivity</li> </ul> <p>Point of access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of individuals with “basic,” “above basic,” or “advanced” digital skills (general)</li> <li>• % of individuals who feel they are able to safely navigate digital spaces</li> <li>• % of individuals with a degree in an ICT-related field</li> <li>• % of individuals employed as an ICT specialist</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Digital Skills</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affordable Connectivity Program enrollment</li> <li>• Locally-collected data primary data gathered by coalition members</li> <li>• Locally-collected secondary data from partner orgs (e.g., school districts, libraries, etc.)</li> </ul> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locally-collected</li> </ul>

There are recommendations for moving forward...

*1. As coalitions move forward and aim to bring the ideas shared in this report into practice*

**Blandin on Broadband** are several critical steps that Blandin on Broadband / Proudly powered by WordPress Theme: Twenty Elev

*for determining why your coalition wants to engage in measurement, and what should be measured to achieve those ends. Questions of how and what data will be collected, how it will be analyzed and by whom, and many other important implementation issues around measurement in practice are downstream from these foundational questions. Establishing why a coalition wants to engage in measurement should serve to specify what kinds of indicators are important to collect data on, which can then help specify an overall approach to measurement. Critically, in coalitions, the process of answering these questions can be one that all stakeholders can be involved in in some way. While backbone organizations are often the natural stakeholder to lead such a process, as with other areas of governance, determining a high level measurement strategy is both more equitable and effective through the participation of members and other stakeholders. This is especially important if part of what will result from a new measurement strategy is members being asked to participate in things like surveys and coalition self-assessment activities, not to mention the creation and use of shared data collection mechanisms.*

*2 Articulate a coalition theory of change and associated logic model. As noted earlier in the report, if a coalition does not already have a developed theory of change and logic model, the process of developing a measurement strategy presents an important opportunity to do so. Articulating short term, medium term, and long term outcomes, as well as how specific coalition activities aim to “move the needle” on them, can provide an important localized model to guide measurement that can draw on the DEEM framework. With a logic model in hand, a coalition can then determine which areas of activity are most important to focus on within a data strategy based on the measurement uses it’s identified.*

*3 Develop data collection, analysis, and use plans. Having answered questions about why it wants to engage in measurement and what measurement should focus on, a coalition is then ready to begin determining how to go about measurement activities including data collection, analysis, and use. This includes matching indicators to potential data sources and measurement approaches such as tracking databases, surveys, publicly available data, etc. Plans around how these data will be analyzed, and then the contexts of data use and representation should be well envisioned as part of this stage of developing a coalition measurement strategy*

*4 Actively incorporate plans around data consent, privacy, harms, and security. As digital equity advocates know well, histories of harm are all too common when it comes to uses of data. A key element of a coalition measurement strategy should be a clear articulation of what data will be collected, how it will be stored securely, how it will (and will not) be used, how privacy will be protected, and how those providing data will have fully informed consent within data collection activities. Within this, questions of data de-identification, especially around data from vulnerable populations, should be paramount. 5 Engage in iterative development of measurement strategies. The process of developing and implementing a coalition measurement strategy is not a ‘one and done’ activity. As with all other work, measurement strategies require iteration in order to both improve existing*

*approaches as well as to modify focus based on shifts in coalition activity. Creating*

**Blandin on Broadband** *for reflection around a coalition's strengths and limitations of certain measurement approaches, as well as help identify new areas of need when it comes to measurement.*

Posted in [Building Broadband Tools](#), [Digital Divide](#), [Research](#) | Tagged [BEAD](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

## Senator Klobuchar talks about importance of precision agriculture

Posted on **November 29, 2022** by [Ann Treacy](#)

[KRWC AM 1360 reports...](#)

*The 2023 Farm Bill will likely include programs to expand broadband access to more homes, farms and businesses in rural America.*

*During a recent Senate Ag Committee hearing, Senator Amy Klobuchar talked about the importance of high-speed internet for “precision” agriculture.*

*Precision agriculture management uses things like drones, GPS, and irrigation technologies. The USDA’s Rural Development program has been awarding loans and grants to expand high-speed internet infrastructure.*

Posted in [economic development](#), [Policy](#) | Tagged [precision ag](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

## Kandiyohi is frustrated with broadband flurries but moving forward where they can

Posted on **November 29, 2022** by [Ann Treacy](#)

[West Central Tribune reports...](#)

*Frustrations about broadband boiled over recently during a meeting of the [Kandiyohi County and City of Willmar Economic Development Commission](#) ‘s joint powers board.*

Opportunity seems to be drawing more attention than action...

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**Blandin on Broadband** *The EDC is currently working with cooperatives from neighboring counties to build out the network in order to get fiber. Blandin on Broadband Proudly powered by WordPress Theme: Twenty Elev*  
*broadband committee was able to secure will have ribbon-cutting ceremonies in December, according to EDC Executive Director Aaron Backman.*

*The main frustration among members of the EDC joint powers board is that private entities — which have promised in the past to increase broadband access to rural areas and then not followed through — are suddenly commencing projects during a time when government funding is available due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

*This has created problems with the planning of grant-funded, cooperative projects on which the EDC staff and broadband committee are actively working, and has wasted the time and energy of EDC staff and the broadband committee.*

*A little background on Kandiyohi might help explain why they are concerned. [Back in 2017, they \(with CTC\)](#) were awarded a Border to Border grant to deploy fiber but in the end, the project never happened. The quick version was that CTC needed community support in the form of subscriptions with a down payment. They didn't get the support they needed, although it was very close. One factor is that an incumbent provider (TDS) campaigned heavily against the project. They have been frustrated by provider intervention in the past.*

Some of the projects are going...

*Updating his fellow joint powers board members about the progress of border-to-border broadband in the county, Kandiyohi County Commissioner Rollie Nissen noted there is a lot of activity happening for broadband, especially around Nest Lake in New London.*

*He also noted that additional broadband projects for Arctander, Mamre and Douve townships have been submitted to Minnesota's Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant Program, which funds the expansion of broadband service to areas of Minnesota that are unserved or underserved.*

Some are not...

*Another project the broadband committee had been working on that was all ready to go was in Lake Andrew and Norway Lake townships. That work turned out to have been wasted effort with the announcement of a project by TDS.*

*"TDS came along with a plan and kind of blew that apart, I'll put it that way," Nissen said, noting TDS had put out a news release regarding that project.*

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# A Duluth stargazer view of Satellites. Will

## too many spoil the view?

Posted on **November 28, 2022** by **Ann Treacy**

I loved astronomy as a kid. One of my favorite things about heading outside of the Cities is the clear, starry sky at night. So I have to admit, I do wonder what will happen to the night sky as humans keep launching satellites. So I was fascinated to read about what Bob King, a photographer from Duluth, was noticing.

The [Duluth News Tribune](#) reports...

*Back in September I described a [new 4G broadband satellite cellular service](#) planned by AST SpaceMobile. At the time, their prototype unit, [BlueWalker3](#), orbited the Earth but had yet to unfold, the reason it was too faint for most casual skywatchers to track. That's changed. On November 10, the company "unboxed" the satellite — basically a squash-court-sized antenna array — which greatly increased its surface area and therefore its capacity to reflect sunlight.*

*The very next night, the first reports trickled in, describing BlueWalker 3 as brighter than most stars. I've spent the past few evenings observing passes of the satellite from my driveway here in Duluth, Minnesota, and can confirm those observations. I've seen it now on three occasions. During each appearance it showed up on time and grew as bright as magnitude 1.3, equal to Deneb in the Northern Cross and very easy to see with the naked eye even through light cloud and moderate light pollution.*

*The satellite circles the planet in low-Earth orbit between 312 and 327 miles (508-527km) altitude or about 60-75 miles higher than the International Space Station. Why should you care? BlueWalker 3 is the predecessor of a new "constellation" of some 110 larger satellites (called BlueBirds) that will launch aboard SpaceX rockets in the next few years. The first five are slated for liftoff in [late 2023](#).*

*Being larger they'll likely also be brighter. As skywatchers I think it's important to know about any new project that adds more machines to the night sky so we can see what's happening with informed eyes. Like most people I enjoy satellite-watching but fear we've reached a saturation point. There are now so many "moving lights" up there they distract from our appreciation of the wild essence of the night.*

The author admits that we all want better broadband or a cellphone with coverage everywhere but he recommends contacting the FCC and requiring companies to find ways to lessen the impact of their bright and growing satellites.

Posted in [MN](#), [Satellite](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

# FCC to collect data on ACP recipients, subscriptions and offerings

Posted on [November 28, 2022](#) by [Ann Treacy](#)

The [FCC reports...](#)

*The Federal Communications Commission has adopted an order creating the Affordable Connectivity Program Transparency Data Collection, a statutorily mandated annual data collection describing all internet service plans subscribed to by households enrolled in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). Congress, through the Infrastructure Jobs and Investment Act, required the Commission to collect this data for all service plans subscribed to by an ACP-enrolled household. Providers must also submit plan characteristics including speed, latency, and bundle characteristics, and a unique identifier associated with a broadband label if applicable, as well as certain aggregated plan enrollment subscriber data.*

*“To find out whether this program is working as Congress intended, we need to know who is participating, and how they are using the benefit,” **said Chairwoman Rosenworcel.** “So we’re doing just that. The data we collect will help us know where we are, and where we need to go. We’re also standardizing the way we collect data, and looking for other ways to paint a fuller picture of how many eligible households are participating in the ACP. We want all eligible households to know about this important benefit for affordable internet service.”*

*The Order would require ACP providers to submit annually data on price, plan coverage, and plan characteristics of their broadband internet services subscribed to by ACP-enrolled households. A Further Notice seeks comment on subscriber enrollment data, digital divide metrics, metrics related to low-income plan and connected device offerings, and on the merits and burdens associated with the collection of subscriber level information. The Further Notice also seeks comment on whether the Commission should collect information related to the digital divide, including whether an ACP subscriber is a first-time or existing broadband subscriber or is subscribed to multiple plans. In addition, the Further Notice seeks comment on the collecting information related to providers’ low-income broadband plan and connected device offerings.*

It would be nice if there was a way to invite the household to also take a speed test. Then we'd know what they are paying for and what they are getting. It seems like with the public money being invested that both parties (provider and subscriber) could be enticed to provide as much info as requested, certainly in terms of the service.

Posted in [Digital Divide](#), [Funding](#) | Tagged [Affordable Connectivity Program](#), [IIJA](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

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# Barbara Dröher Kline is newest addition to MN Governor's Task Force On Broadband

Posted on [November 28, 2022](#) by [Ann Treacy](#)

Big news for broadband advocates, there's a new member of the MN Broadband Task Force...

***Barbara Dröher Kline – New Prague, MN***

*Governor's Task Force On Broadband*

*Member*

*Effective: November 28, 2022*

*Term Expires: April 2, 2023*

*Replacing: Bernadine Joselyn*

Barbara is an excellent addition to the Task Force. She has lived on the wrong end of the digital divide quite recently and still has the fire to want to make it better for everyone in her community. She has the drive, the experience and the expertise to make a difference.

Posted in [Minnesota Advisory Task Force, MN](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

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## Senator Putnam chosen for MN Agriculture, Rural Development and Broadband

Posted on [November 26, 2022](#) by [Ann Treacy](#)

Senator Aric Putnam was chosen for the MN Agriculture, Rural Development and Broadband. The [Duluth New Tribune](#) reports...

*State Sen. Aric Putnam admits he doesn't know a lot about farming, but as a scholar, he's ready to take a crash course to prepare to lead the Minnesota Senate Agriculture Committee.*

*Putnam, a Democrat from St. Cloud, was named to his leadership post just before the*

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*“The first thing I said was, ‘I don’t seem like a clear fit for this,’” Putnam said. “I still think that the committee is a space to do great things for the whole state. So the full title is Agriculture, Rural Development and Broadband, so there’s a lot of stuff in that jurisdiction that I think I can help with.”*

*Putnam was elected to his second term in the Minnesota Senate in the November general election, which saw the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party flip enough Senate seats from red to blue that the party now controls both houses of the Legislature and saw Gov. Tim Walz win a second term.*

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## Why do farms need broadband? MN farmers will let you know

Posted on [November 25, 2022](#) by [Ann Treacy](#)

[KSTP TV reports](#) on the need for broadband in rural areas...

*Growing up, Joe Sullivan envisioned a life behind the wheel of a tractor.*

*But the farmer from Franklin, Minnesota spends most days at a computer with his smartphone nearby.*

*An app tells Sullivan the location and status of every piece of equipment on the farm. Software maps every acre of land, revealing detailed information about crop yields and soil health. Each building, including the large pole barns that store tractors, is hooked up to Wi-Fi.*

*“We’ve been pretty early adopters of technology,” Sullivan said. “It’s a complete game changer once you are connected and can actually utilize all the tools that are out there.”*

*Many other farmers in rural Minnesota want to incorporate the latest technology into their operations, like Sullivan, but unreliable internet and non-existent broadband infrastructure make that impossible.*

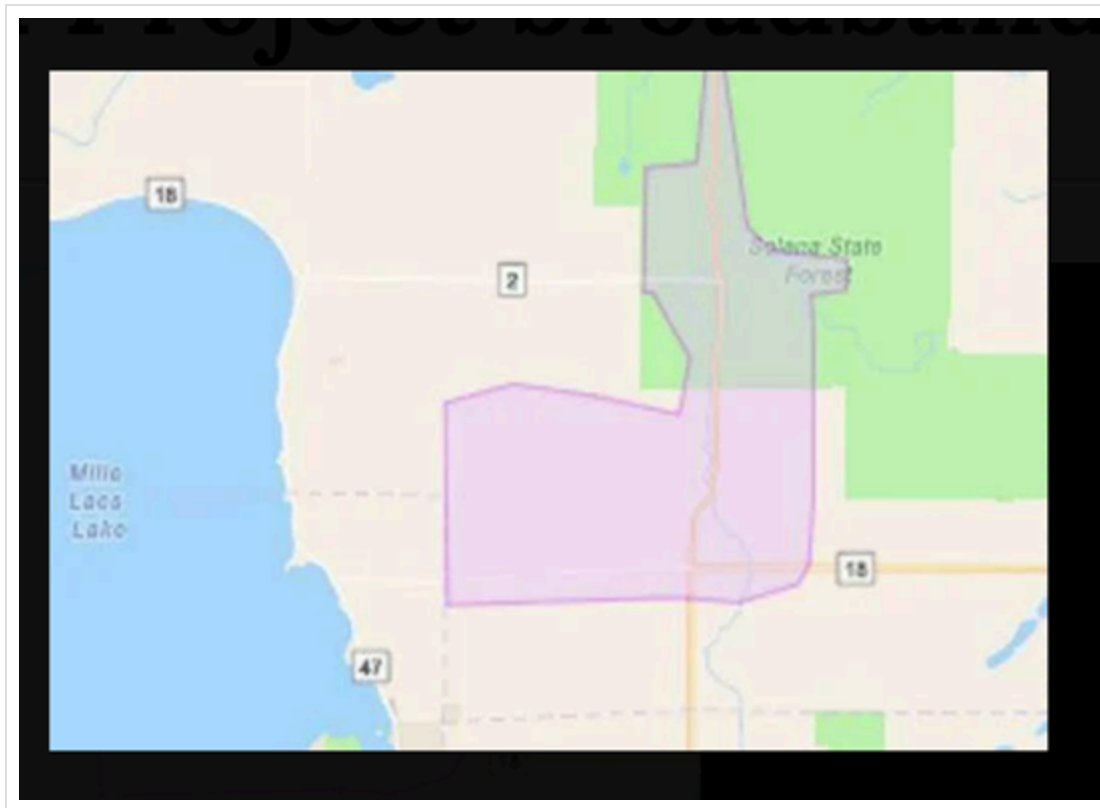
*“It is a huge, huge disadvantage if you’re the ‘have nots,’” Sullivan said.*

# \$4.8 M Aitkin County Broadband scheduled completion in fall 2023

Posted on [November 25, 2022](#) by [Ann Treacy](#)

[Mille Lacs Messenger reports...](#)

*The final engineering plans have been created and the project is moving forward and on schedule according to Aitkin County Economic Development. This \$4.8 million project is scheduled to be completed by fall of 2023. The McGrath project is the purple shaded area above.*



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## Broadband is a priority for Minnesota Farm Bureau

Posted on [November 24, 2022](#) by [Ann Treacy](#)

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[Brownfield Ag news](#) reports...

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*Minnesota Farm Bureau has set legislative priorities for 2023.*

*Vice president Carolyn Olson, who farms near Cottonwood, tells Brownfield rural broadband connectivity, supporting research and development at land grant universities, and funding the veterinary diagnostic lab emerged during grassroots discussion.*

*“To continue research for prevention of animal diseases. As a pig farmer, that is something that is pretty important to me and our neighbors that also raise livestock.”*

*On broadband, she says Farm Bureau can encourage lawmakers to speed up implementation by sharing their stories.*

*“It’s important to share how much our tractors rely on cell signal, for example. And if they don’t know, they don’t know how to fight for us either.”*

Posted in [MN](#), [Policy](#) | Tagged [precision ag](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

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## OPPORTUNITY: Office of Broadband Development looks for Grants Specialist Coordinator

Posted on [November 23, 2022](#) by [Ann Treacy](#)

OK this is really notice of an extended deadline – but maybe you have someone coming home for the holidays that needs to know about it. The deadline was Nov 28; it’s now Dec 2. (The website may not be updated to reflect that yet.)

*The Office of Broadband Development is looking for a [Grants Specialist Coordinator](#)...*

***Working Title: Broadband Program Administrator***

***Job Class: Grants Specialist Coordinator***

***Agency: Department of Employment & Economic Development***

- ***Who May Apply:*** This vacancy is open for bids and for all qualified job seekers simultaneously. Bidders will be considered through 11/12/2022.
- ***Date Posted:*** 11/04/2022

- **Closing Date:** 12/02/2022

**Blandin on Broadband** *Hiring Agency/Seniority* Blandin on Broadband / Proudly powered by WordPress Theme: Twenty Elev  
Economic Development

- **Division/Unit:** Business & Community Development / Broadband Development
- **Work Shift/Work Hours:** Day Shift
- **Days of Work:** Monday – Friday
- **Travel Required:** Yes – 10% local and occasional overnight travel
- **Salary Range:** \$27.93 – \$41.24 / hourly; \$58,317 – \$86,109 annually
- **Classified Status:** Classified
- **Bargaining Unit/Union:** 214 – MN Assoc of Professional Empl/MAPE
- **FLSA Status:** Exempt – Administrative
- **Telework Eligible:** Yes – May be eligible to telework up to five (5) days per week
- **[Designated in Connect 700 Program for Applicants with Disabilities:](#)** Yes

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## Will BEAD fund unlicensed spectrum? Good question and it will matter in Minnesota!

Posted on [November 23, 2022](#) by [Ann Treacy](#)

So many posts about the FCC maps and funding and details because the details will impact how much money communities will receive for broadband in the next few years. The issue this post – unlicensed spectrum versus licensed spectrum. [Telecompetitor reports...](#)

*The BEAD program is designed to cover some of the costs of deploying broadband to unserved rural areas. In [establishing rules](#) for the program, NTIA omitted fixed wireless service that relies totally on unlicensed spectrum for last mile connectivity from its definition of reliable service – a decision that impacts the BEAD program in two ways.*

*It makes FWA deployments using unlicensed spectrum ineligible for funding. And it makes areas that have high-speed broadband eligible for overbuilds if the only high-speed broadband available is FWA that relies on unlicensed spectrum.*

But some folks want that changed...

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*Seven U.S. senators sent a letter to Alan Davidson, head of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, today urging NTIA to revise its definition of reliable broadband for the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program.*

So what's the difference between licensed and unlicensed spectrums?

Here's a [definition from IotaComm](#). I was hoping for a less commercial perspective but also high level enough to take in easily.

*Most of the radio spectrum is **licensed** by the FCC to certain users, for example, television and radio broadcasters. Individual companies pay a licensing fee for the exclusive right to transmit on an assigned frequency within a certain geographical area. In exchange, those users can be assured that nothing will interfere with their transmission.*

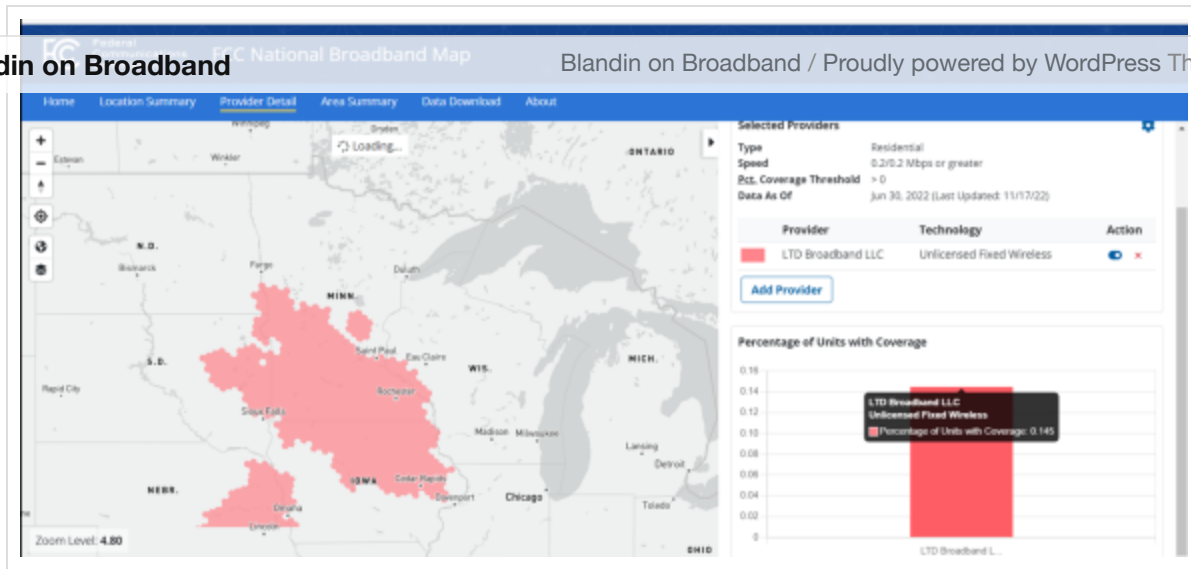
*Alternatively, organizations can still use the airwaves to transmit communications without getting permission from the FCC, but they must transmit within those parts of the spectrum that are designated for **unlicensed** users. The amount of spectrum that is available for public and unlicensed use is very small—only a few bands. Both the size of the area and the lack of exclusivity mean there's greater potential for interference from other users located nearby. (It's like the "wild west" of radio communication.)*

The Telecompetitor article touches on it a little...

*NTIA hasn't said much about why it defined reliable broadband as it did. But David Zumwalt, CEO of the Wireless Internet Service Providers Association (WISPA) told Telecompetitor a few months ago that NTIA's [primary concern](#) was the future availability of unlicensed spectrum.*

*WISPA is [particularly concerned](#) about whether areas that already have unlicensed high-speed FWA will be eligible for overbuilding through the BEAD program, as many WISPA members already have made high-speed FWA deployments that rely on unlicensed spectrum.*

Folks in Minnesota may have a special interest in this issue. According to the FCC map, LTD Broadband is serving a large portion Southern Minnesota with unlicensed spectrum, as the map below indicates.



Posted in [FCC](#), [Funding](#), [MN](#), [Opportunities](#), [Policy](#), [Vendors](#), [Wireless](#) | Tagged [BEAD](#), [LTD Broadband](#), [mapping](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

# EVENT Nov 30: FCC maps – the devil and the money are in the detail – real time tutorial happening November 30

Posted on [November 23, 2022](#) by [Ann Treacy](#)

I've been talking about the new [FCC maps](#) a lot because future funding is going to depend on them. So, it's important that they are right. It's so important that the [FCC is posting tools and offering tutorials](#)...

*By this Public Notice, the Broadband Data Task Force (Task Force) announces the availability of technical assistance resources, including an upcoming November 30th workshop, to assist entities in preparing to file bulk challenges to fixed broadband availability data as part of the Broadband Data Collection (BDC).*

Challenging the Map by Household

It seems like the easiest way to report an error in the mapping is to report it from the address from [the map itself](#). You can enter an address then there's a map where you can toggle easily from Fixed Broadband (wired and fixed wireless) and Mobile (think cell phone, hot spot) Broadband. If you think the information they are reporting is wrong you can submit a Location Challenge. Now when I looked at the map the other day that option popped right up. This time I had to click on my address on the map and then it showed up – in that sidebar section. It's a simple form asking for name, email address, phone (optional), challenge type and two places for more information. Inherent in the form is the idea that they might contact you.

Bulk Challenge of the Map

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If you think that swaths of your community are not fairly represented, you can submit a bulk challenge. Bulk challenges are much more complicated. I'm not a GIS expert or even that great with maps but I watched the first tutorial (below) and realized if it were up to me to submit claims, I'd need to phone a friend. I gleaned a few things that are helpful to know before you dive in.

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## Bulk Fixed Availability Challenges: An Overview for Fi

Federal Communications Commission



### Watch on

- The data that you submit to challenge must have been collected after June 30, 2022.
- They will ask for contact info for every address.
- The data they collect will go to the provider that seems to represent the location. They will have 10 days to offer the service or the location status is corrected as unserved on the map.
- Inherent here is that submitting an address is tantamount to ordering service from the provider, which is quite a leap. Also, the provider will see who has reported on the service.

The process to submit data seems arduous to me. To be fair the process may be less arduous to someone who is better with maps and I am open to correction if I have misunderstood aspects of the tutorial.

The maps are created using data supplied by the providers. I've heard the process for submitting the data is time

**Blandin on Broadband** recognize that they have put in effort. Proudly powered by WordPress | Theme: Twenty Eleven  
solely on the households or communities. I know with the Minnesota maps, the process is a little more equal. Someone reports a questionable address and the Office of Broadband Development follows up. I think the process is pretty similar with "bulk" reporting. (Another example of Minnesota being well above average?)

Here's more info on the tutorials and tools from the FCC...

*To help state, local, and Tribal governments, ISPs, and other entities compile their data and file fixed availability challenges, the Task Force has released two video tutorials. The first video provides an overview of the fixed bulk availability challenge process, and is available at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vKL\\_p8ieFDo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vKL_p8ieFDo). The second video walks filers through the process of submitting bulk fixed availability challenge data in the BDC system, and is available at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XaOlwJN\\_1RY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XaOlwJN_1RY). The Task Force previously released its Specifications for Bulk Fixed Availability Challenge and Crowdsource Data on September 15, 2022, which provides guidance on the requirements for filing bulk challenges to fixed broadband availability data.<sup>3</sup> We encourage parties interested in submitting bulk fixed availability challenges to review this document in conjunction with the tutorial video. Additionally, the Task Force will hold a virtual technical assistance workshop on November 30, starting at 4:00 p.m. EDT to assist potential bulk filers in submitting their data. To participate in the workshop, interested parties should register to attend at: [https://fcc\[1\]gov.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_F37YX5hRQJCHrVmLZsnqAg](https://fcc[1]gov.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_F37YX5hRQJCHrVmLZsnqAg). Questions about bulk fixed availability challenges may be submitted in advance of or during the workshop to [BDCWebinar@fcc.gov](mailto:BDCWebinar@fcc.gov).*

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## OPPORTUNITY: You could be living in the next Intelligent Community

Posted on **November 22, 2022** by [Ann Treacy](#)

The Intelligent Community Forum report...

*ICF has opened nominations for the 2023 awards program. [Click here to access the questionnaire](#) for your chance to join the Smart21 Communities of 2023! Data submitted for awards consideration remains valid for three cycles.*

*The Intelligent Community Awards Program will name its 25th Intelligent Community of the Year at the 2023 ICF Global Summit in October 2023.*

*ICF publishes research based on the data provided by communities like yours around the*

*world. The goal is to provide cities, towns and regions of all sizes with evidence-based*

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