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THE PENNSYLVANIA NEWS BULLETIN



IMPORTANT STATEWIDE UPDATES

PBDA Statewide Feedback Sessions

The PA Broadband Development Authority will soon release grant program guidelines and open its application period for a \$45 million Pennsylvania Multi-Purpose Community Facility Program (Program), a competitive grant program funded through the American Rescue Plan Act's Capital Projects Fund. The Program will target capital assets to include, but not limited to, community anchor institutions such as schools, libraries, recreation centers, community health centers, and other non-profit organization buildings owned or operated by units of local government.

As the Authority finalizes program guidelines, it is requesting feedback on a few items where U.S. Treasury has provided flexibility: match requirements, maximum award amount, and the minimum number of applications that should be awarded. The [public comment period for the Pennsylvania Multi-Purpose Community Facility Program](#) is now open. Organizations and individuals are encouraged to provide feedback to help inform the creation of the guidelines.

Please submit feedback by [Wednesday, May 24](#).

New Resource for Community-Level Broadband Data

A national team of GIS experts has been collaborating on an open source, address-level, free broadband availability map, and the beta is now available with Pennsylvania statewide data at <https://internetexplorer.org>. This effort was spearheaded by the X-Lab @ Penn State University, a non-profit, non-partisan tech and public policy think tank, and Works Public, a broadband data consultancy founded on the idea that digital connectedness is lived equity. This map is freely and publicly available for non-commercial use, and the development team is welcoming feedback on the tool through this [link](#).

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PA Communities in the News



Washington County Broadband Program Enters Phase III, County Targets 2,300 Unserved Locations for \$20M

The Broadband Program for the Unserved in Washington County, Pennsylvania, is continuing to make progress as it enters its third phase. The program has awarded, constructed, or completed over 2,300 locations related to the unserved areas of the county. The overall investment is \$19M, with Washington County, PA, investing approximately \$9M thru funding from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and over \$10M in investments from Internet Service Providers (ISPs). | [Newswire](#)

Broadband Expansion Starting in Crawford County

Crawford County Commissioners have entered into an agreement with All Points Broadband (APB) to provide broadband Internet service, according to an April 19th announcement. It will design and build out the fiber to initially serve ten areas in the north, central, and eastern parts of the county. Approximately 350 miles of new fiber line will serve more than 2,370 locations. APB plans to complete the construction within two years. | [Erie News Now](#)

Connect Beaver County Broadband Announces Groundbreaking in Hanover Township

The Connect Beaver County Broadband Program announced that local internet service provider Armstrong has initiated fiber construction that will bring broadband internet to 65 previously unserved locations in Hanover Township. Locations are part of the program's early action project for broadband development and were identified using information collected from the 2021 Broadband Data Collection and Feasibility Study. | [Farm and Dairy](#)

Broadband Survey and Virtual Community Meeting in Lawrence County

The Lawrence County Broadband initiative is sponsoring two events important to county residents and the speed of their internet service. A virtual session will be presented to discuss broadband initiatives and encourage more people to complete survey forms from 6 to 8 p.m. on May 18th. Free registration details are available [here](#).

The county officials are encouraging all county residents to complete the broadband survey forms, found at www.linkuplawrence.com. The survey is open to all residents to complete before May 26th. The survey is important in determining which areas of the county are devoid of high-speed internet or where its connections are weak. | [Yahoo](#)

Chester County Launches Survey to Identify Areas in Need of Broadband Internet

Chester County government recently launched a brief online survey to identify those areas where broadband internet service is insufficient. The four-question survey can be found [here](#) and will be open until May 19th. Local leader Bobby Kagel, Chester County Administrator provided the following remarks following the survey's release:

"The survey is going to allow us to provide this data to the different internet service providers so they can build applications to go after federal broadband money that is being released. The application period is getting ready to open and they'll be able to access this federal infrastructure money and then be able to build out their broadband infrastructure to better serve the residents and businesses here in the county." | [Why.org](#)