Infrastructure, Investement and Jobs Act

Broadband Provisions

$65 Billion Total

- $42.45 billion – grants to states
- $2 billion – rural areas through Dept of Ag
- $1 billion - Middle Mile
- $2 billion - Tribal Grants
- $2.75 billion – Digitalial Equity Act
- $14.2 Billion – Affordability
- $600 million – Private Activity Bonds
$65 Billion for Broadband
$42.5 Billion for State Grants

• Every state and territory gets $100 million a portion of which could be used for technical assistance and supporting or establishing a state broadband office.

• The remainder allocated in a formula based on unserved and high-cost locations in the State, as compared to other States.

• A State must submit a “5-year action plan” as part of its initial proposal, which “shall be informed by collaboration with local and regional entities.”

• States would be required to have enforceable plans to address all of their unserved areas before they are able to fund deployment projects in underserved areas. After both unserved and underserved areas are addressed, states may use funds for anchor institution projects.
State Grant Requirements

- Projects would have to meet a minimum download/upload build standard of 100/20 megabits per second.
- Funded broadband networks must offer at least one low-cost broadband service option for eligible subscribers.
- The network must be deployed and service commenced no later than four years after the date of the grant.
Unserved/Underserved

• Unserved service projects and underserved service projects.
  – An “unserved location” lacks access to reliable broadband service offered with speed of not less than 25Mbps/3Mbps. “Unserved service projects” are projects serving areas in which not less than 80% of locations are unserved.
  – An “underserved location” lacks access to reliable broadband service offered with speed of not less than 100Mbps/25Mbps. “Underserved service projects” serve areas in which not less than 80% of locations are underserved.
States shall give priority to projects based on……

- deployment of a broadband network to persistent poverty counties or high-poverty areas;
- the speeds of the proposed broadband service;
- the expediency with which a project can be completed;
- a demonstrated record of and plans to be in compliance with Federal labor and employment laws.
Affordability

• This provision creates a permanent, sustainable Affordable Connectivity Benefit to ensure low-income families can access the internet. The program provides a $30 per month voucher for low-income families to use toward any internet service plan of their choosing. It builds on the Emergency Broadband Benefit, making the benefit permanent and expanding eligibility to help more low-income households, while also making it more sustainable for taxpayers.
Redlining

- **Digital Discrimination (Sec. 80506)** The bill includes a brief provision relating to “digital discrimination” (i.e., “redlining”). It requires the FCC to adopt rules within two years “to facilitate equal access to broadband internet access service, taking into account the issues of technical and economic feasibility presented by that objective, including (1) preventing digital discrimination of access based on income level, race, ethnicity, color, religion or national origin and (2) identifying necessary steps for the [FCC] to take to eliminate such discrimination.” Sec. (b). It also directs the FCC to develop “model policies and best practices” for States and localities to prevent digital discrimination.
“Workforce needs” amendment

• Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment the FCC shall establish an interagency working group to develop recommendations to address the workforce needs of the telecommunications industry, including the safety of that workforce.