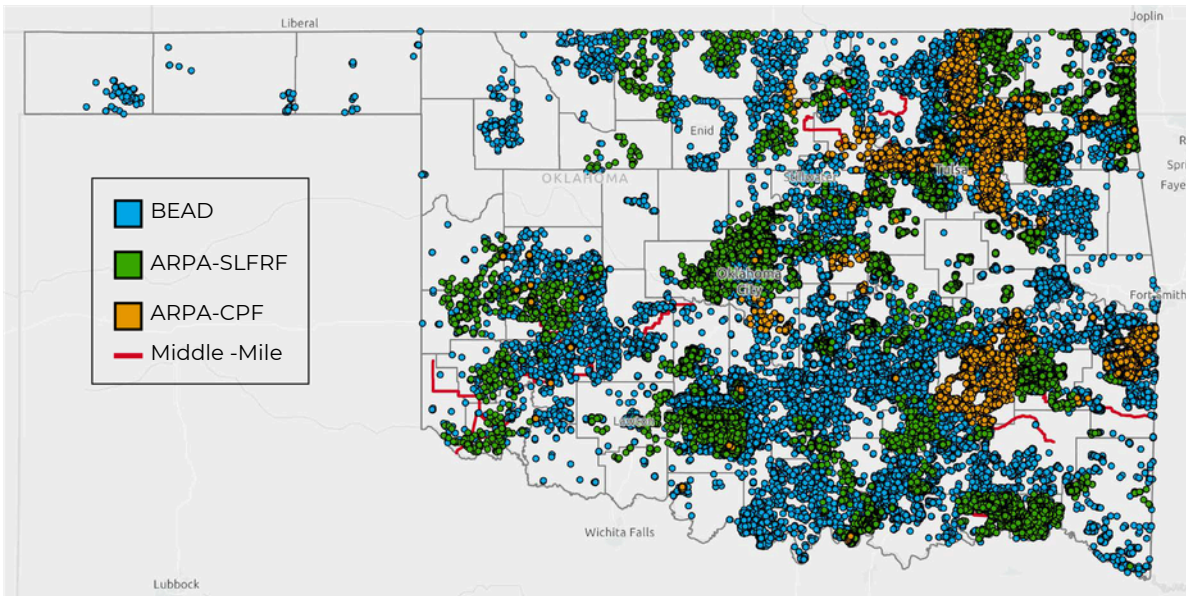

THE

BROADBAND BULLETIN

Your source for broadband news, updates, and impact

May 20, 2026



Connecting Every County

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) recently approved Oklahoma's BEAD plan. This program will connect over 40,000 homes, businesses and community anchor institutions across all 77 counties.

With the addition of BEAD, Oklahoma has invested over \$1.4 billion in broadband infrastructure since 2024.

Cumulatively, the ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, Capital Projects Fund and now BEAD, will serve over 108,000 locations,

meaning roughly 270,000 Oklahomans will have access to high-speed internet within the next four years.

By the end of this year alone, roughly 67,000 homes and businesses, or more than 150,000 people, will have new access to fiber and fixed wireless technologies.

BEAD-awarded companies will have four years to complete their projects and provide new service availability to bring the state's remaining unserved and underserved locations online.





BUILDING CONNECTIONS

Oklahoma's Billion Dollar Investment

*By Mike Sanders, Executive Director,
Oklahoma Broadband Office*

For three years, I have been around the state getting people excited about the billion-dollar investment into Oklahoma's internet infrastructure.

New connections for small rural communities from Washita County to Nowata County. The ability to learn from home, work remotely, take telehealth visits with medical specialists, or just connect with family over Facetime – it was on its way to rural Oklahoma.

With the upcoming completion of our ARPA and CPF programs, and the recent approval of our BEAD plan, the billion-dollar investment that I have talked about is coming to fruition.

By the end of 2026, over \$800 million in total investment will be deployed across the state.

Between the ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund and Capital Projects Fund, over 67,000 homes and businesses will have access to high-speed internet. That is expected to bring our total percent of residents served to 95%.

The BEAD program has a longer runway to complete its mission. Within four years, awarded internet service providers will connect the remaining 5% and provide

Oklahoma with universal coverage. That is an additional \$570 million in total investment to help bring good paying jobs to communities in every corner of the state.

“ *This historic investment is not just about high-speed internet connections, it is about transforming Oklahoma forever.* **”**

Our programs are not isolated to certain regions in Oklahoma – they will impact everyone. All 77 counties will receive at least one project. Over 90% of the connections are happening outside of the OKC and Tulsa metros. And residents are receiving the best technology in the industry.

While we have taken the approach of using all technologies to best serve each location,

See CONNECTIONS, next page



Connections

Continued from previous page

over 70% of the residents will be served by fiber-optic.

This historic investment is not just about high-speed internet connections, it is about transforming Oklahoma forever.

Of the 45 total companies the office has awarded, 80% of them are Oklahoma companies. We're talking family-owned, telephone associations, cooperatives, and Tribal-owned.

Those are the neighbors and hometown providers who understand these communities best—and who will be there long after the last mile is built.

When this work is done, we won't just have expanded access—we'll have built a stronger, more connected Oklahoma that is ready to compete and thrive for generations to come.

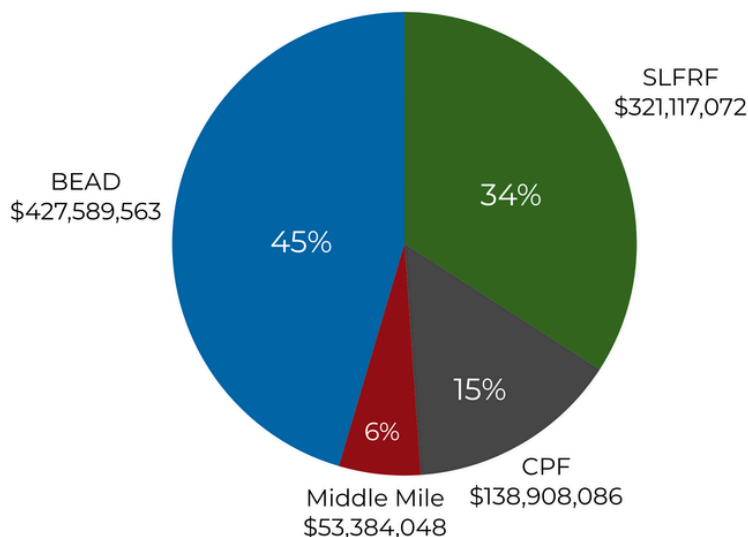
BITS AND BYTES

Investing in Oklahomans

The Oklahoma Broadband Office has now awarded nearly \$1 billion in grant funding to enhance high-speed internet infrastructure across the state.

When private match amounts from internet companies are factored in, the total investment stands at more than \$1.4 billion.

Funding by Program



The Broadband Bulletin is produced by the Oklahoma Broadband Office.

