

Reaping a Digital Opportunity Dividend with BEAD Dollars

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)'s updated FAQ confirms that states **retain their full Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) allocation** – even if they find **cost savings during deployment**. This opens the door for states to fund **non-deployment initiatives**, such as digital adoption, **without sacrificing coverage goals**.

Optimizing BEAD

Using an all-fiber approach to closing the digital divide would cost over \$103B. However, the **Vernonburg Group's Broadband Funding Optimization Tool** shows that states can achieve universal service with the \$64.5B available through BEAD and still realize \$16.1B in savings for non-deployment projects.

Why This Matters

The **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)** and **BEAD** are about more than just deployment. Their ultimate goal is to ensure **everyone is online** – and that means **adoption** is essential.

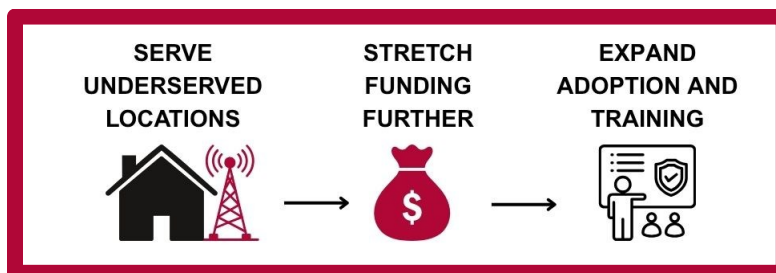
Once unserved areas are connected, BEAD funds can be used to invest in:

- ❖ Digital Navigators
- ❖ Digital Skills Training
- ❖ Affordable Service and Devices

These initiatives are **tech-neutral**, **cost-effective** and **mandated by the law's intent** to ensure long-term success.

Maximizing Impact

By embracing **cost-effective deployment**, states can:



Use the Tool

To turn strategy into action, visit <https://www.vernonburggroup.com/broadband-funding-optimization-tool> to use the **Broadband Funding Optimization Tool** and find how much your state could save using a mixed technology approach.

**Optimizing Public Grant Funds for Broadband (Source: Vernonburg Group [Broadband Funding Optimization Tool](#))*

