

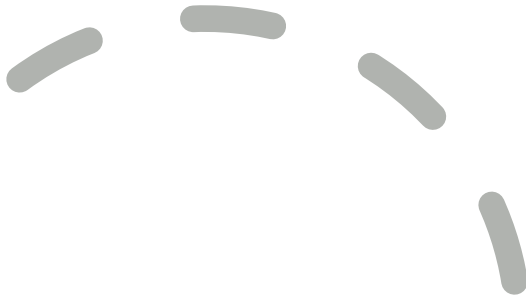
BroadbandOhio

Alliance Meeting

January 22, 2026



**Department of
Development**



Alliance Meeting Agenda

- Opening Remarks
- Ohio 811 Presentation
- OPLIN Presentation
- BEAD Updates
- Route 30 Middle Mile Project
- Line Extension Grant Program
- Authority Meeting Update
- Closing Remarks

BroadbandOhio Team

- Chief: Peter Voderberg
- Assistant Chief: Amy Elbaor
- Senior Financial Analyst: LaShana Smith
- Workforce and Digital Skills Program Manager: Anna Miller
- Grants Administrator: Grace Clucas

Ohio 811 Presentation

Jason Broyles, Public Awareness and Services Supervisor for Ohio 811



PLAN. COORDINATE. PROTECT.

Protecting Critical Underground Infrastructure
during Ohio's Broadband Expansion

OHIO811

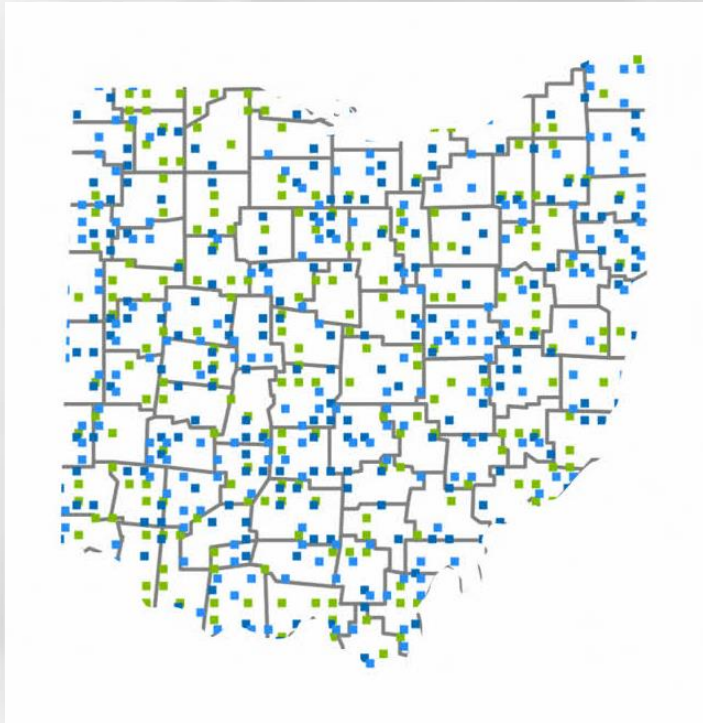
- History
 - OHIO811 is the communication link between those who own and operate underground utility facilities and those with a desire to excavate.
- Legislation
- Training



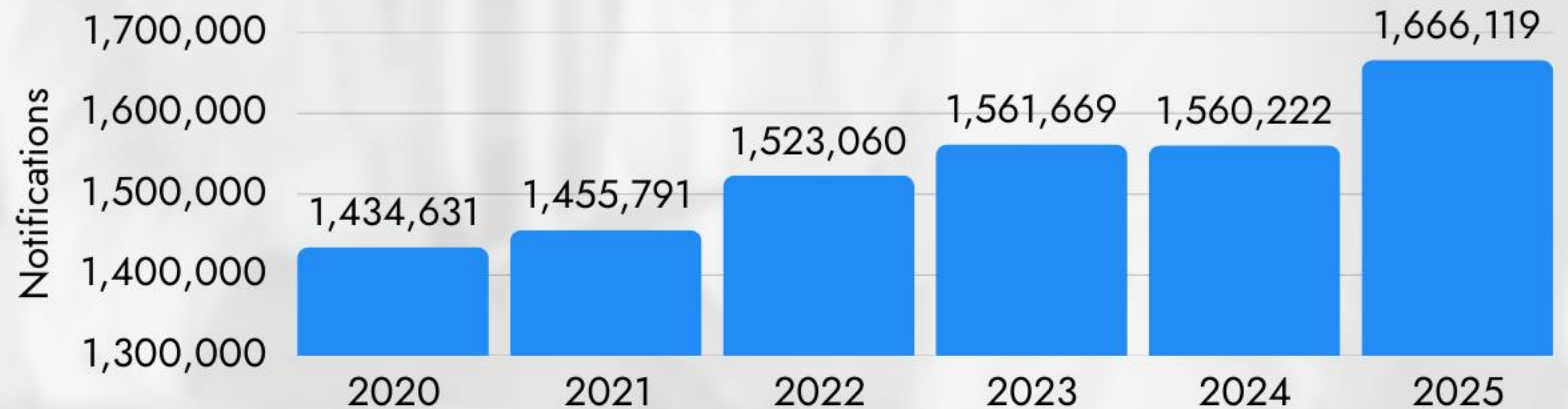
Excavation Volume in Ohio

A total of **over 1.67 million notifications** submitted in 2025 = **over 11 million times** utilities went out to mark their lines

- Increasing every year
- Projected increase with grant funding



Total Excavation Notifications 2020-2025



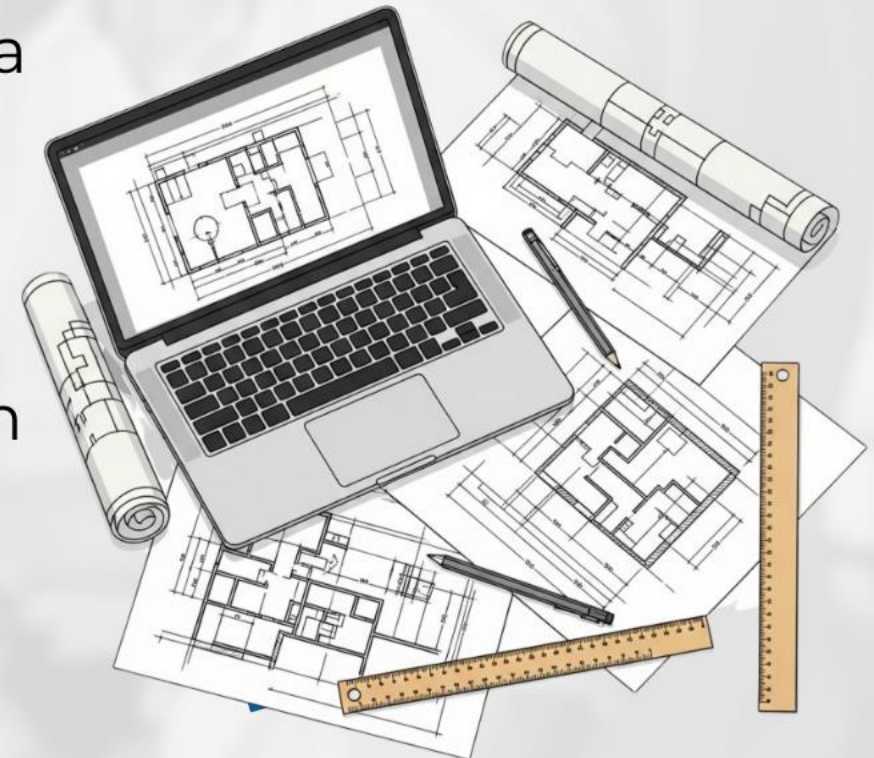
Utility Coordination

- Proactive communication between excavators & utility companies
- More efficient & safe projects
- 2 ways to coordinate
 - Design
 - Complex/Large Project Process
- Other states including coordination in their deployment of BEAD funding
 - LA, NC - law changes



Design Scope

- Utilized to gather info about the location of underground facilities during the planning phase of a project (Ex: pre-construction design & layout)
- Can be submitted through i-dig or by calling OHIO811
- Member facilities:
 - have up to 10 working days to respond to a design notification
 - may respond with physical markings or via digital or paper drawings (ORC 3781.27)
- Excavation **cannot** commence with a Design Notification, even if markings are present
 - a valid excavation notification must exist prior to excavation



Complex/Large Project Process

- Coordination meeting between excavator & stakeholders
 - Agreed upon timelines for marking & excavation
 - Each stakeholder is on same page before the work begins
 - A mutually agreed upon marking schedule is created
- Excavator calls OHIO811 with project excavation notifications in accordance with mutually agreed upon marking schedule
- Locator marks underground facilities as project excavation notifications are received



Importance of Going Through OHIO811 Training

- “An excavator, contractor, or utility that utilizes a protection service shall obtain training in the protection of underground utility facilities...” (ORC 3781.261)
- Federal grant dollars attracts contractors from across the country
- Targeted training through OHIO811 helps ensure that all stakeholders have understanding & awareness of the public safety laws surrounding underground damage prevention



Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN) Presentation

Christine Morris, Digital Resources Manager



BroadbandOhio Alliance

January 22, 2026

Christine Morris



What is OPLIN?

Codified:

“...an independent agency within the state library of Ohio, for the purpose of ensuring equity of access to electronic information for all residents of this state...”

(Ohio Rev. Code 3375.64)

Operationalized/Mission:

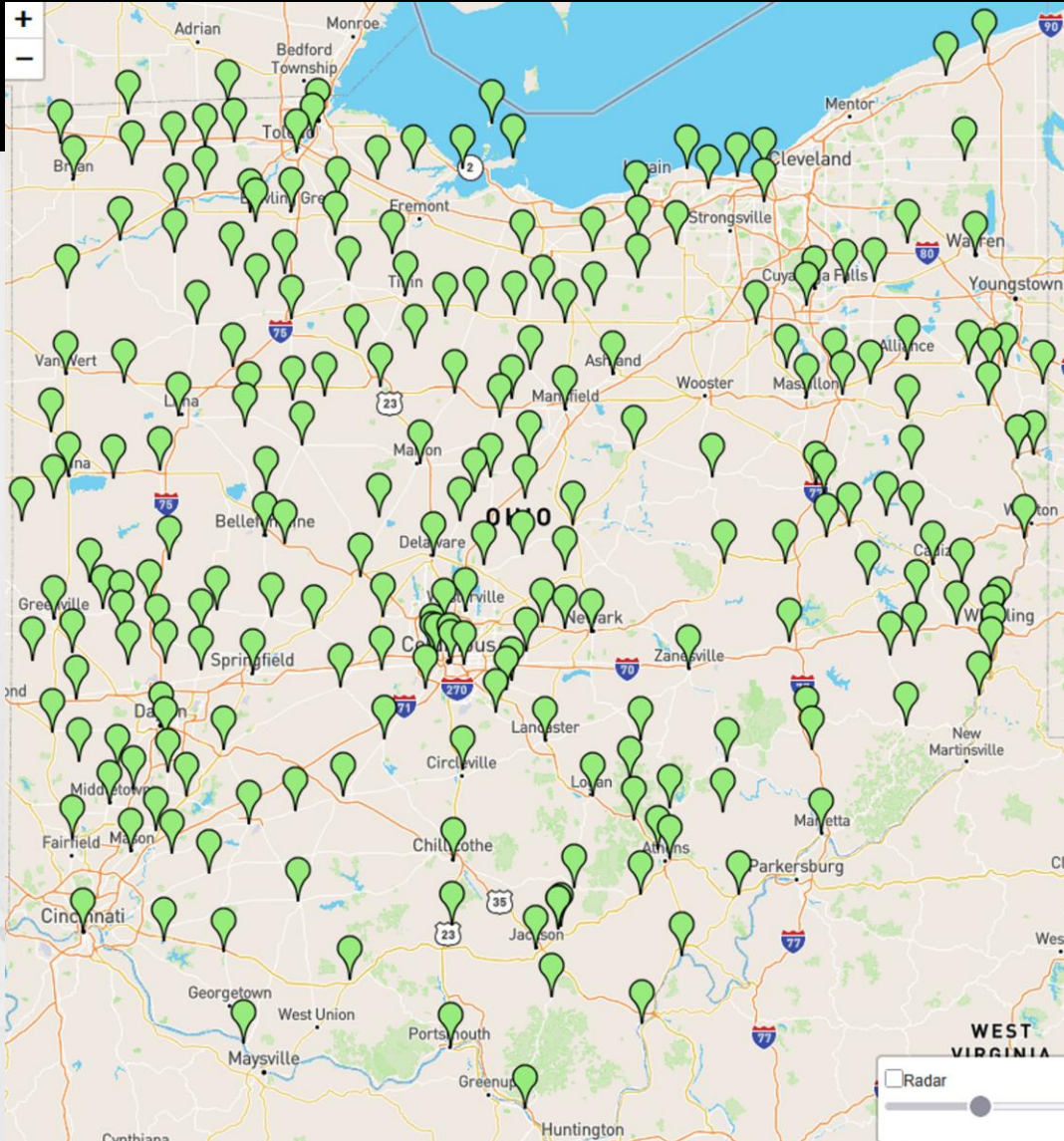
Ensure equity of access to digital information for all residents of Ohio
(in the context of serving public libraries)

What is OPLIN?

The Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN) provides broadband internet connections and related information services to Ohio public libraries.

Our vision is to ensure that all Ohio residents have fast, free public internet access through the 251 local public library systems in Ohio, as well as the use of high-quality statewide research databases.

What is OPLIN?



Circuits to 251
public library
systems statewide
=
a large network
of community
anchor institutions

What is our role in the Alliance?

Ohio Public Library Information Network

The Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN) provides broadband internet connections and related information services to Ohio public libraries. OPLIN's primary mission is to ensure the equity of access to digital information for all residents of Ohio. This means ensuring that all Ohioans have fast, free public internet access through the state's 251 independent local public library systems, as well as the use of high-quality research databases not freely available online.

As part of their FY2023-2025 Strategic Plan, OPLIN offers libraries subscriptions to a digital literacy assessment and tutorial service and supports widespread adoption of the tools as part of libraries' digital equity efforts within their communities²⁸. Currently, Ohio's public libraries offer the Northstar Digital Literacy program.

2020 Model of Digital Inclusion

“The Three-Legged Stool” Model

- Affordable high-speed internet access
- Access to appropriate devices
- Digital skills to use the internet and devices



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via Wikimedia Commons

2020 Model of Digital Inclusion

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via Wikimedia Commons

Digital Skills Support = Northstar



[ABOUT](#) [FEATURES](#) [PRICING](#) [BUILD YOUR SKILLS](#) [CONTACT US](#)

English ▼

LOG IN



Assessments

Online, self-guided assessments measure basic skills in each of 18 areas, allowing individuals to identify current skills and opportunities for learning new skills. [Learn more.](#)

TRY AN ASSESSMENT NOW



Education

Educational materials provide for self-guided online learning, one-on-one digital navigation, and instructor-led classes. Northstar standards define the basic skills needed to perform tasks on computers and online.

LEARN MORE



Reports

Individuals and instructors see progress and opportunities for learning, including organizational statistics on number of learners, number of assessments, and percentage of assessments passed.

LEARN MORE

Northstar Support & Implementation

2021 to 2025

Support for libraries included:

- Online training sessions led by Northstar staff
- Online best practices sharing sessions by Ohio library colleagues
- Contextualized documentation for Ohio libraries
- Curated “quick start” video playlists for training
- Contextualized marketing pieces for Ohio libraries
- Partnership with Ohio’s Connectivity Champions
- Dedicated support from OPLIN staff
- Continued statewide funding for the project

Potential for Partnership

OPLIN + BroadbandOhio



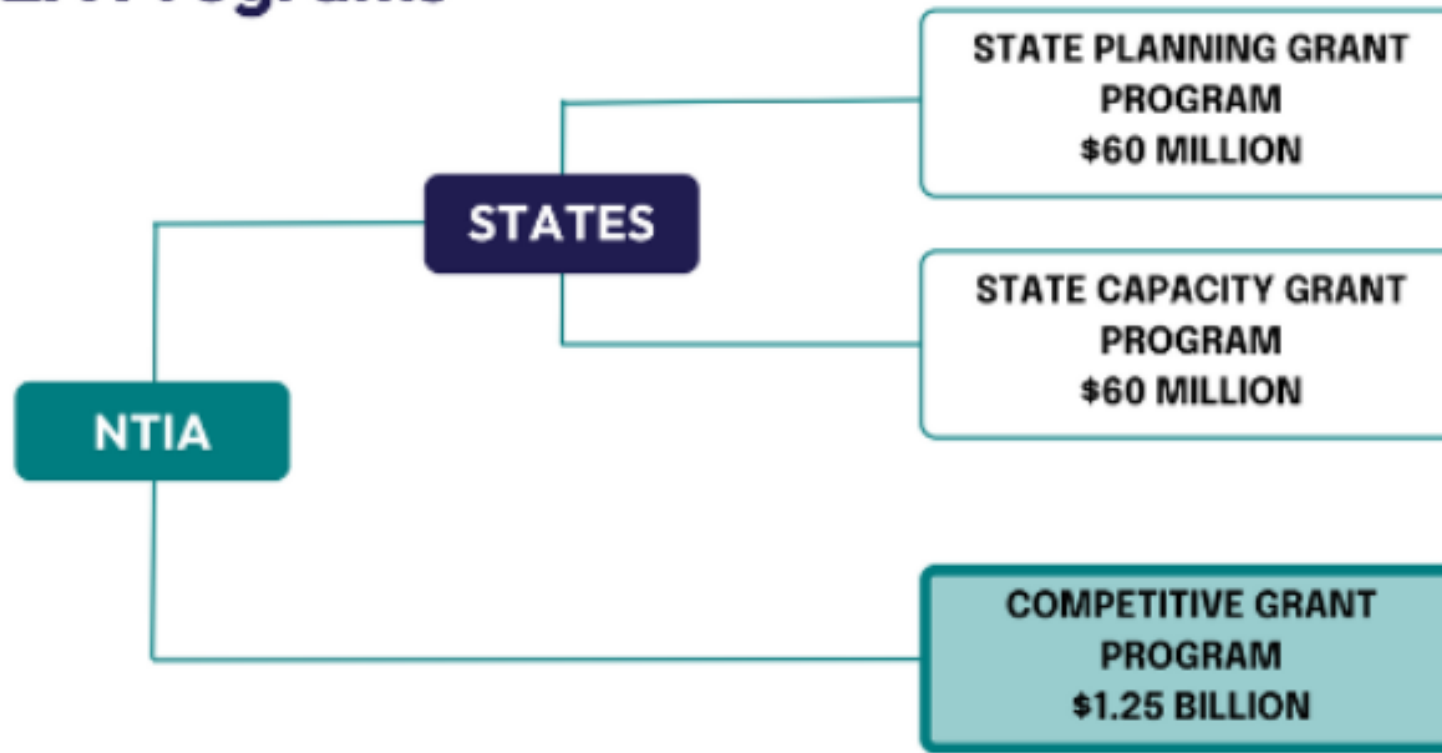
Gigabit access for libraries

What else?

Digital Equity Act

State Capacity Grants

DEA Programs



Potential for Partnership

State Capacity Grant Partners

- Broadband Ohio (State Agency Applicant)
- Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Corrections
- Ohio Jobs & Family Services
- Project ASPIRE
- OPLIN
- Others: PCs for People, Cuyahoga County Public Library

Digital Equity Act Grant Pivot

May 2025

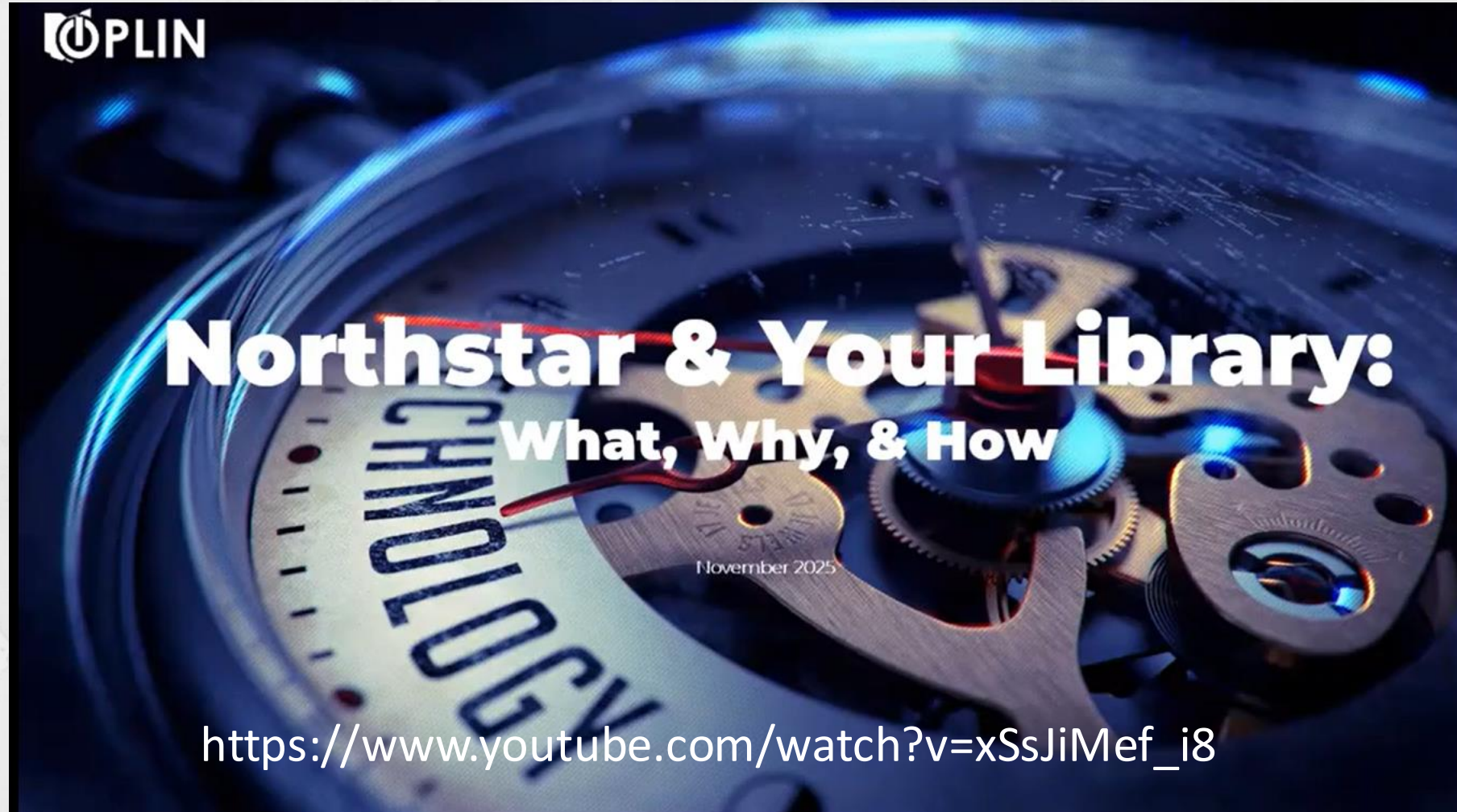
- Federal Executive termination of the DE Competitive & Capacity grants

<pivot>

August 2025

- State funding secured and partnership reboot

Northstar in Libraries Now



Northstar in Libraries Now



Northstar Digital Literacy

Self-directed assessment and learning tool that covers a variety of technology scenarios. Find short lessons and practice exercises to improve skills on common computer topics such as email basics, Microsoft Word, and social media.

<https://ohioweblibrary.org>

Try it yourself!



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Online, self-guided assessments measure basic skills in each of 18 areas, allowing individuals to identify current skills and opportunities for learning new skills. [Learn more.](#)

TRY AN ASSESSMENT NOW



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LEARN MORE

<https://www.digitalliteracyassessment.org>

Try it yourself!



Essential Computer Skills

-  Phone Keyboard Basics & Logging In
-  Basic Computer Skills
-  Internet Basics
-  Using Email
-  Windows 10
-  Windows 11
-  Mac OS



Essential Software Skills

-  Microsoft Word
-  Microsoft Excel
-  Microsoft PowerPoint
-  Google Docs



Using Technology in Daily Life

-  Social Media
-  Information Literacy
-  Career Search Skills
-  Your Digital Footprint
-  Supporting K-12 Distance Learning
-  Accessing Telehealth Appointments
-  Cybersecurity Basics



Questions?

Contact me:

Christine Morris

christine@oplin.ohio.gov

614-728-0227

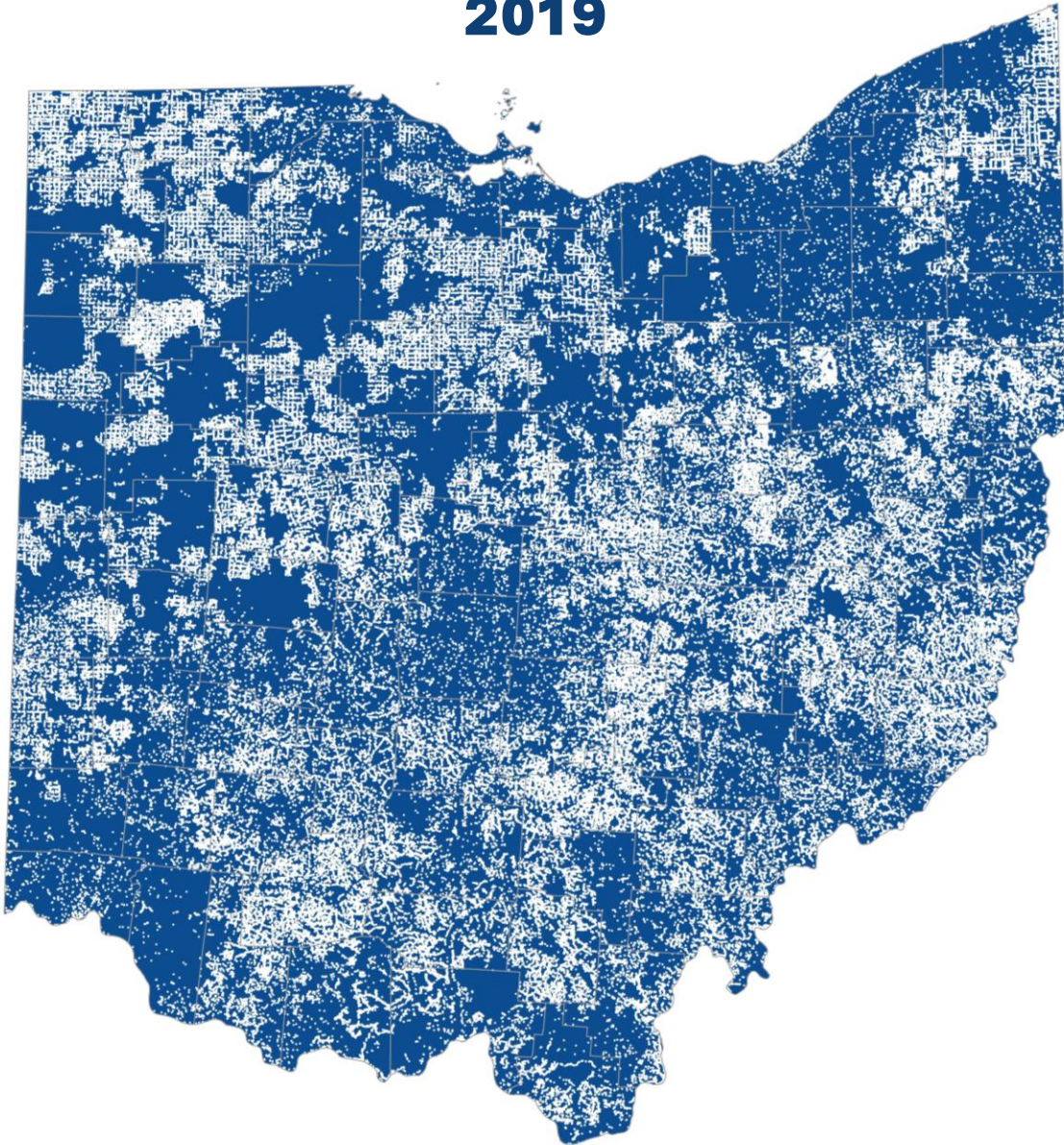


OHIO PUBLIC LIBRARY INFORMATION NETWORK

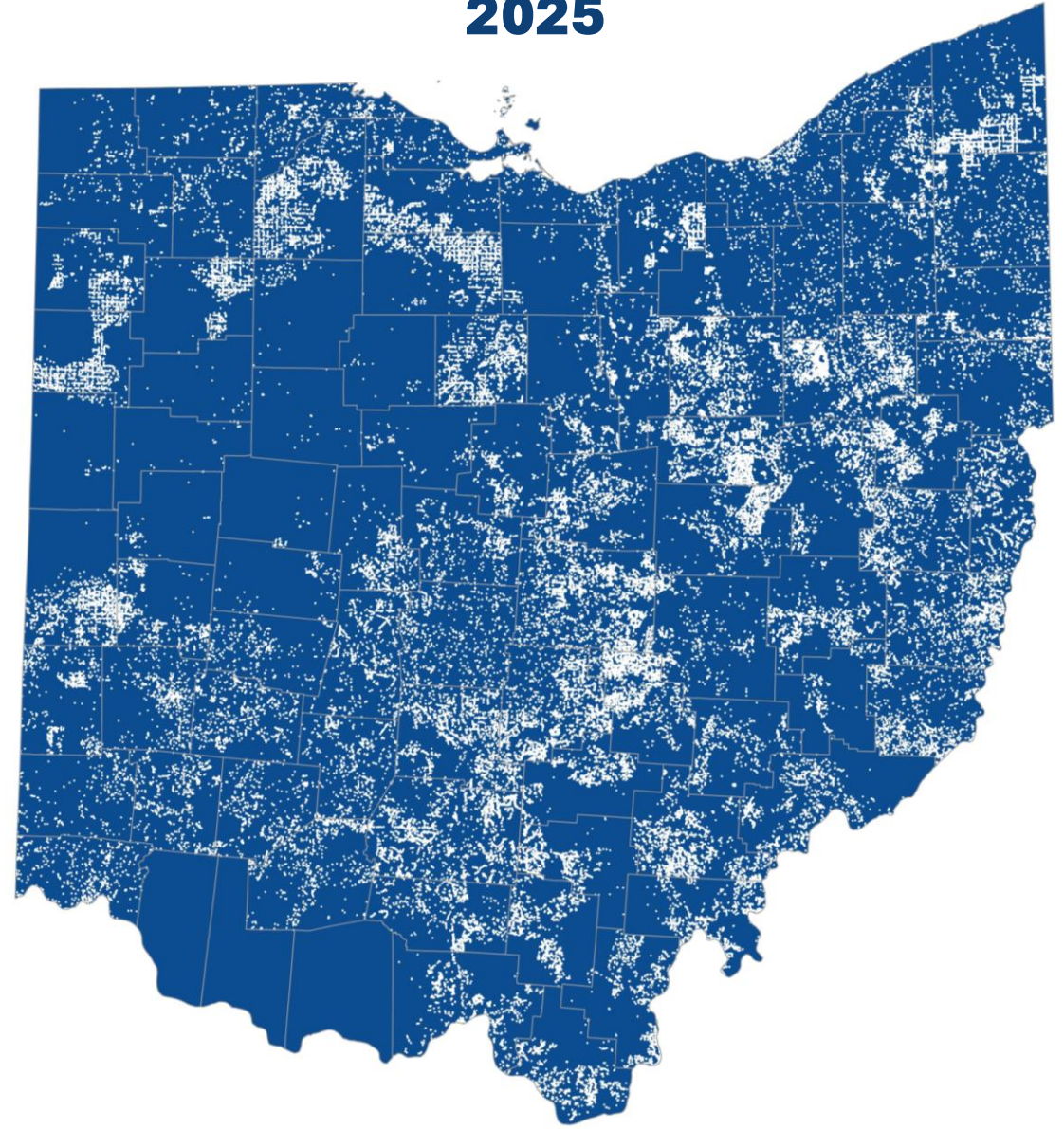
Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD)

Broadband Coverage

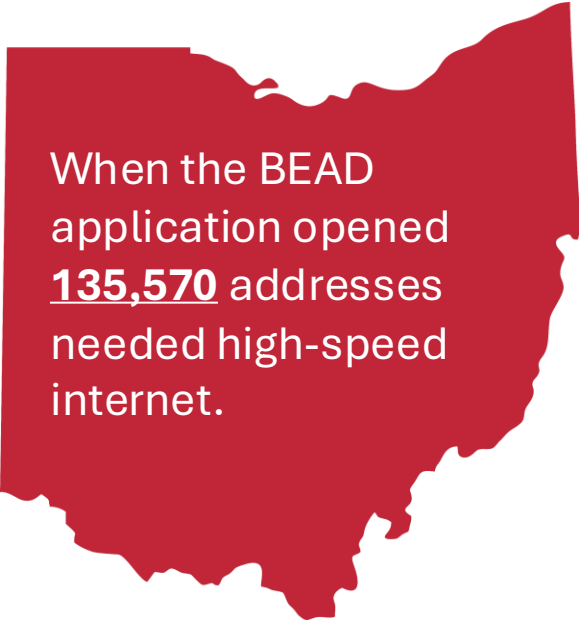
2019



2025



Preliminary Results



When the BEAD application opened **135,570** addresses needed high-speed internet.



51,578 addresses were deemed already served or have enforceable commitments.



83,992 addresses were provisionally awarded to 23 internet service providers.

- 48%- Low Earth Orbit Satellite
- 44%- Fiber
- 7%- Fixed Wireless
- 1%- Coaxial Cable



Average cost per address to build by technology

- \$1,632- Low Earth Orbit Satellite
- \$4,699- Fiber
- \$4,784- Fixed Wireless

Our total funding request for the BEAD Program:
\$310 million or 39% of our original allocation (\$793 million)

Next Steps

Speed to Deployment Factors



Grant
Agreements



Permitting



Workforce



Local
Concerns

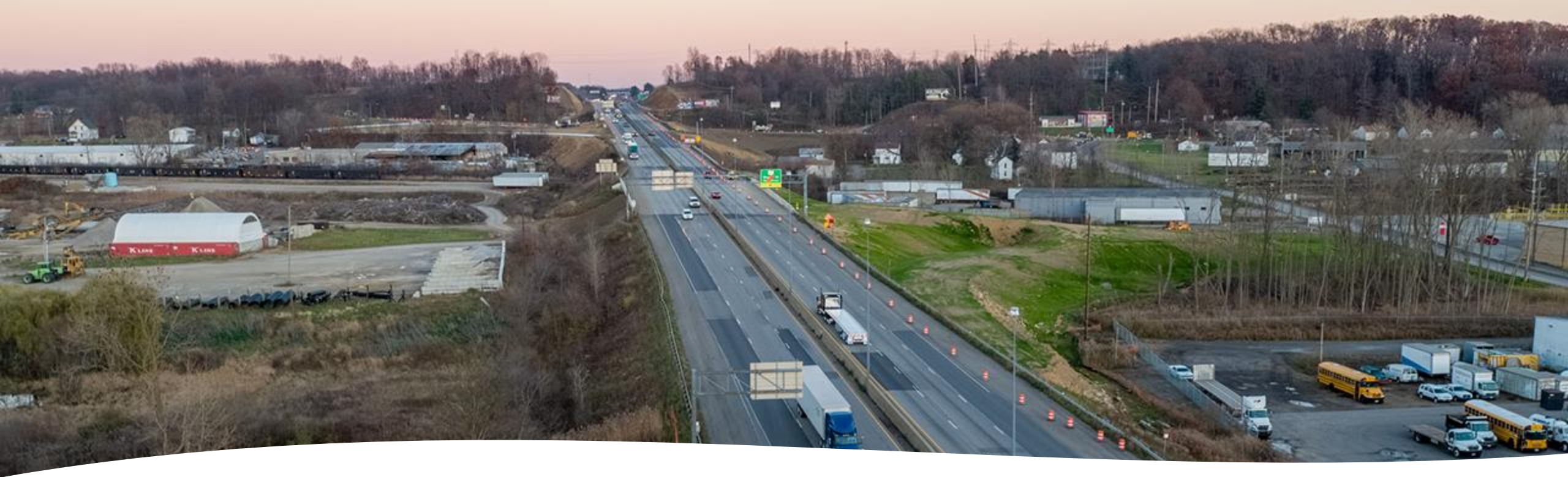


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Route 30 Middle Mile Infrastructure Project

Peter Voderberg, Chief, BroadbandOhio

David Ginn, Chief Relationship Officer OARnet



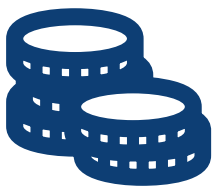
- Established by HB 96 of the 136th Ohio General Assembly
- \$20 million to build commercially available middle-mile infrastructure
- Infrastructure needed to address connectivity issues along the US Route 30 Corridor

Route 30 RFP Process

- Request for proposals can be submitted in the OhioBuys procurement system
- Inquiry Period Ends: February 18, 2026, at 1:00pm EST
- Submission Period Ends: March 4, 2026, at 1:00pm EST
- Frequently Ask Questions
- [Broadband.ohio.gov](https://broadband.ohio.gov) -> Grant Opportunities
- Questions:
 - Submitted in the procurement portal
 - Emailed to bbohgrants@development.ohio.gov

Line Extension Grant Program

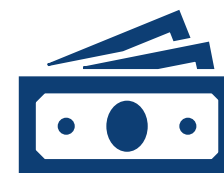
Grace Clucas, BroadbandOhio, Grants Administrator



Established through the US Department of Treasury Capital Projects Fund



For Internet Service Providers to offset the costs of line extension construction in running fiber to unserved homes set back from main roads

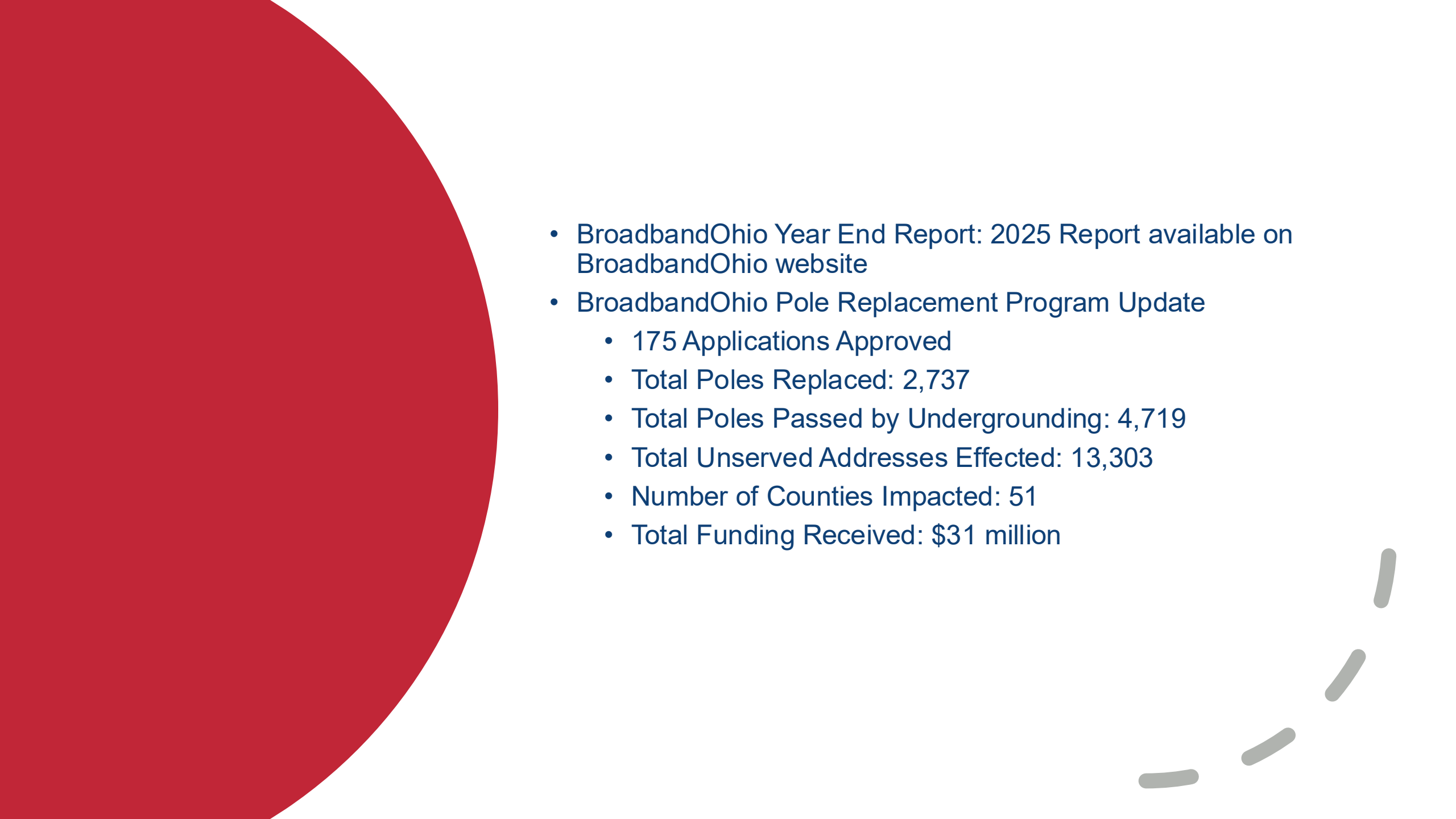


Applications accepted on a rolling basis until the available \$2 million is exhausted



All projects must be operational, and funds spent by December 31, 2026

Broadband Expansion Program Authority Meeting Update and Closing Remarks

- 
- BroadbandOhio Year End Report: 2025 Report available on BroadbandOhio website
 - BroadbandOhio Pole Replacement Program Update
 - 175 Applications Approved
 - Total Poles Replaced: 2,737
 - Total Poles Passed by Undergrounding: 4,719
 - Total Unserved Addresses Effected: 13,303
 - Number of Counties Impacted: 51
 - Total Funding Received: \$31 million

Questions?