

The second SLFRF grant is called “Broadband Mapping,” which allocated \$2,000,000 to complete the State Broadband Map needed to create the Statewide Broadband Plan. The OBO has contracted with App Geo to complete the State Broadband Map and has thus far invested approximately \$400,000. The State Broadband Map is anticipated to be completed by August 2023 and will allow the state to effectively create and continuously update a mapping system that depicts resources, broadband coverage, connectivity speeds, and other vital features.

The third SLFRF grant program is the “OSU-IT Advanced Fiber Tech Training Program,” which allocated \$365,068 for the OBO to work with the Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology’s existing Advanced Fiber Technician Training Program.^[ns8] This program is vital to contributing to the broadband workforce and will directly impact 120 individuals (10 cohorts, 12 students per cohort) who are seeking opportunities for increased economic advancement. The program will further enhance the skill set of fiber technicians through the implementation of four advanced fiber courses that Oklahoma industry and subject matter experts have indicated a need for (i.e., fiber optics, certified fiber-to-the-home professional, OTDR and testing deep-dive workshop, and emergency restoration).

The fourth SLFRF grant program is “Broadband Administration,” which awarded the OBO \$500,000 to help establish the newly created entity in its efforts to carry out these broadband grants. These administrative expenses include office space, office supplies, software, and other essential expenses required for the OBO to administer federal grant programs efficiently and effectively.

3.2 Partnerships

Table 5: Partners

Partners	Description of Current or Planned Role in Broadband Deployment and Adoption
Oklahoma Broadband Governing Board (OBGB)	The Oklahoma Broadband Governing Board, composed of nine members, oversees the OBO, hires its Executive Director, and sets broadband expansion policy. Membership includes the Lieutenant Governor, State Treasurer, three appointees of the Governor, and two appointees each from the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate. The Governing Board has membership spanning multiple stakeholder groups and organizations, including two state agencies, ensuring a comprehensive and varied approach to broadband decision making and review procedures. The OBGB plays a critical role in keeping state and federal policymakers abreast of broadband timelines, spending, and priorities. OBGB leadership monitors broadband GIS data and mapping priorities ahead of the state’s summer map release. They also approve all grant applications prior to award.
Oklahoma Broadband Expansion Council (OBEC)	OBEC was created to improve, expand, and reduce the cost of high-speed internet connectivity in Oklahoma. To achieve this goal, the council advises the OBO and creates recommendations for new



	<p>policies and incentives. The 14-member council includes the Executive Director of the OBO, along with appointees by the Governor, Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate, and Oklahoma Corporation Commission. The council is composed of leaders in business, education, government, health care, research, and technology.</p>
Oklahoma Department of Commerce	<p>The Department of Commerce's goal is to bring jobs, investment, and economic prosperity to the state of Oklahoma. The <i>Business Expansion Incentive Program</i>, co-sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce and Oklahoma Development Finance Authority, is addressing broadband availability for communities. The program assists companies that are making major capital investments with essential items like buildings, equipment, and infrastructure, such as fiber broadband networking. This incentive is available to public entities that plan to partner with area businesses, with the purpose of expanding infrastructure to improve the local community.</p>
Oklahoma State Department of Education	<p>As the leading education agency in the state of Oklahoma, the Oklahoma State Department of Education sets the agenda and direction of the public school system. Together with the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education and Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, the Department forms the core of Oklahoma's public education system. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, OSDE launched <i>Ready Together Oklahoma</i>, an action plan for supporting students through the pandemic and beyond. The web forum hosts learning resources, health care information, and community programs.</p>
Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL)	<p>The ODL is the official state library of Oklahoma. ODL serves the information and records management needs of state government, assists with public library development, coordinates library and information technology projects for the state, and serves the public through specialized collections. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, ODL has played a critical role in outreach for the ACP, specifically providing library patrons with resources and enrollment assistance. Further, many of the stops on the "Let's Get Digital" Oklahoma Broadband Listening Tour were held in libraries, highlighting the important role of these community institutions. Oklahoma libraries offer a variety of resources and programs, including digital literacy training, telehealth booths, and workforce development courses. ODL is partnering with the Oklahoma Broadband Office on ACP outreach, as a key opportunity to ease affordability barriers and make progress towards closing the digital divide.</p>





Oklahoma State Department of Health	The Oklahoma State Department of Health's (OSDH) vision is to lead Oklahomans to prosperity through health. Broadband is a critical part of maintaining health in today's world, as technology allows health care workers to interact with and promote better health for patients. Work across the state includes mobilizing wellness units and vans, equipped with satellite dishes, to provide health services, especially in rural and underserved areas.
OK Office of Geographic Information (OGI)	The OGI is the source of some important map data that the OBO will use in administering the BEAD program. Also, OGI is partnering with the OBO on the state BSL layer effort, which will (upon completion) eliminate the restrictive, licensed CostQuest BSL data.
Oklahoma Digital Inclusion Alliance	The Oklahoma Digital Inclusion Alliance is composed of various nonprofit entities and local state agencies dedicated to bringing broadband access, affordable personal devices, and local technology training to the public. The alliance also provides financial and operational resources for digital inclusion programs while serving as a bridge for policymakers and the public.
Oklahoma Digital Equity Coalition	The digital equity coalition, formed by the OBO, provides insight and recommendations around barriers to accessing and using affordable, reliable high-speed internet. Representatives from research institutions, nonprofit organizations representing covered populations, state agencies, and tribal governments serve on the coalition.
Internet Service Providers (ISPs)	The state of Oklahoma will partner with ISPs to bring reliable and affordable connectivity to unserved and underserved locations.
OneNet	OneNet's mission is to advance research and education in communities across Oklahoma by delivering high-speed, affordable connectivity and technology solutions. Notably, OneNet operates the Oklahoma Community Anchor Network, which is infrastructure that brings connectivity to community anchor institutions across the state, including educational institutions, libraries, health care providers, research organizations, and local, state, national and tribal government agencies. In conjunction with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, OneNet led the effort to develop an <i>Oklahomans Virtually Everywhere</i> program.
Tribal Governments	There are 39 tribal nations in Oklahoma. Tribal governments provide critical resources in health care, education, economic development, and government services to citizens. In an effort to collect feedback from tribal leaders, the OBO conducted independent tribal consultations across the state. Meetings were held with all 39 tribes, including the Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation, Kickapoo Tribe, Sac and Fox Nation, Fort Sill Apache Tribe, Osage Nation, Shawnee Tribe, Kiowa Tribe, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribe, Apache Tribe, Caddo Nation, and Wichita and Affiliated Tribes. In January 2023, the OBO invited state, local, and federal leaders to join an <i>Internet for All</i> :





	<i>Oklahoma Local and Tribal Nation Coordination Workshop</i> to coordinate state efforts on broadband planning.
Nonprofit Organizations (United Way, Goodwill, EducationSuperHighway, AARP, Salvation Army, etc.)	Nonprofits across the state are active in health care, education, business development, and public safety advocacy. Community programs include digital literacy training, education and community outreach, telehealth screenings, and device acquisition assistance.
Oklahoma State University-Institute of Technology (OSU-IT)	OSU-IT received approximately \$365,000 in American Rescue Plan funds to provide job training to increase the pipeline of fiber technicians, especially in rural parts of the state. They also received an NTIA workforce development grant of \$750,000 for fiber optic technician training.
Oklahoma CareerTech Technology Centers	The state has a network of 29 technology centers across 60 campuses, serving high school and adult learners with more than 90 instructional courses, including the likes of cybersecurity forensics and network/computer systems admin. In 2022, the State Legislature appropriated \$5 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds to CareerTech to train broadband infrastructure installation workers. The program is designed to support workforce development and bring internet access to underserved locations.
OSU Center for Rural Health	The OSU Center for Rural Health enhances the quality of life for rural and underserved Oklahoma communities through the development of medical and public health workforce programs, research, policy, and community engagement. The center offers cutting edge medical research and telehealth curriculum to support the health needs of Oklahomans across the state.
OSU Center for Health Sciences (OSUCHS)	OSUCHS is on a mission to provide innovative health solutions for rural Oklahomans and to improve Oklahoma's health status. The center focuses on providing health care for rural and underserved areas of Oklahoma. Through its project <i>Extension for Community Health Care Outcomes</i> (ECHO), the center is connecting rural health care workers with multidisciplinary specialists at OSUCHS. The program utilizes videoconferencing technology to allow rural physicians to meet, discuss, and train with experts at the OSUCHS.
Oklahoma Municipal League (OML)	The OML serves as the unified voice of 586 Oklahoma municipal governments. In partnership with the OBO, OML provides critical advocacy and education to local leaders on broadband policy, resources, and programs.
American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma (AICCO)	AICCO is a nonprofit dedicated to educating, empowering, and engaging American Indian businesses and leadership. The chamber's goal is to foster economic success through workforce training and business development. In recognition of broadband's critical role in business development, AICCO cohosted the <i>Internet for All: Oklahoma Local and Tribal National Coordination Workshop</i> .



Oklahoma Native Assets Coalition (ONAC)	As a Native-led nonprofit, ONAC works with tribes and community partners who are dedicated to increasing opportunities for economic self-sufficiency for native communities through financial education, banking assistance, and asset-building strategies.
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3.3 Asset Inventory

One of Oklahoma’s most important assets as it begins to implement the BEAD and digital equity programs is the Oklahoma Broadband Governing Board (OBGB), which meets monthly and brings together high-level representation from industry, government, and civil society. Members include a Farm Bureau director and the CEO of the Oklahoma City Innovation District, as well as lawyers and engineers, combined with a strong executive branch presence with the State Treasurer and the Lieutenant Governor. The OBGB is a key asset because of the strong thought leadership it provides, as well as social and professional connectivity to a rich array of Oklahoma broadband stakeholders, for whom it can serve as a spokesperson and information conduit.

Amplifying the planning and information dissemination potency of the OBGB is the Oklahoma Broadband Expansion Council, which has strong representation from the broadband industry, including both national and global companies like Verizon and AT&T, and telephone companies and electric cooperatives whose footprint is more local. The council also includes an academic with an interest in broadband, a regional hospital COO, a mayor, a tribal representative, and the executive director of the OBO.

3.3.1 Broadband Deployment

A lot of broadband infrastructure has already been deployed in Oklahoma, and most locations in the state already have access to high-speed internet. The OBO believes extensive fiber-optic backbone and middle-mile facilities to provide backhaul are available but are often treated as proprietary by the ISPs that own and operate them. Publicly owned middle-mile assets exist. For example, the OneNet system is described in section 3.3.3, but its primary purpose is to serve CAIs, and the OBO has not discovered to what extent its assets can be made available to private ISPs to provide backhaul for new broadband deployments in rural areas.

The OBO conducted outreach to many state agencies to learn about state-owned broadband assets in Oklahoma that might be leveraged in support of BEAD deployments. Most of these agencies reported that no state-owned broadband assets are under their control. Responding on behalf of the Office of Management and Enterprise Services, under the state COO, an officer responded that:

My interpretation is that none of OMES assets are ‘broadband’ as the intent of rural broadband is to provide connectivity to the commercial internet – an ISP– internet service provider.

This answer underscores the legal and operational challenges of leveraging state-owned broadband assets — meaning backbone and middle-mile assets — for broadband deployment by commercial ISPs. Public officials tasked with running IT systems might in effect have to pivot to a different business to sell backhaul in support of BEAD deployments. OneNet, however, did respond favorably to the survey, indicating a potential interest in collaborating with the BEAD program.