State of MN general fund appropriations	The State of MN has appropriated funding for broadband infrastructure in legislative sessions in 2014-2017, 2019-2020 and 2022-2023 that totals $250.588M	FY15=$20M FY16=$10.588 FY17=$35M FY18=$20M FY20=$20M FY21=$20M FY24=$75M FY25=$50M	$150.588M	$100M to be awarded in FY24 and FY25

Community Connect: https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/CCProjectSummariesMinnesota.pdf

3.2 Partnerships

Table 5: Partners

Partners	Description of Current or Planned Role in Broadband Deployment and Adoption
MNGEO	State agency responsible for overall GIS data; assists in challenging FCC map.
MNDNR	State agency responsible for processing permits that cross public lands and water.
MNDOT	State agency responsible for processing permits in highway rights of way.
MN Business First Stop Broadband Work Group	Coalition of state agencies (DNR, DOT, Dept. of Labor and Industry, DEED) to discuss broadband issues current and on the horizon.
Governor's Workforce Development Board/Workforce Division at DEED	Centralizing all workforce needs arising from IIJA for review by state workforce experts to develop overall plan.
Governor's Task Force on Broadband	Task Force provides policy advice to Governor and Legislature on policies (including statutory changes) necessary to achieve state's broadband goals. Anticipate an enhanced role on digital equity moving forward. New appointments for second term of Gov. Walz/Lt. Gov. Flanagan administration. https://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/task-force/
DEED/OBD Advisory Work Group	Select group of providers and users to advise OBD Executive Director.
K12 Connect Forward	Advisory group for education member of Governor's Task Force on Broadband and for OBD to raise and discuss issues related to K12 education. Group includes K12 school tech advisors, charter schools, school board administrators, school coop services provider, EducationSuperhighway, school principals, etc.
Blandin Foundation	Until mid-2022 when Blandin redirected its focus, OBD had partnered with the Blandin Foundation since 2010 on an annual broadband conference; the Blandin Foundation also provided technical assistance through several programs such as the Blandin Broadband Communities Program, technical assistance and grant funding for

	feasibility studies. The Blandin on Broadband blog has been continued for the foreseeable future.
University of Minnesota Extension	OBD is exploring ways to work with the University of Minnesota Extension, a trusted rural partner, to fill some of the gap left by Blandin's exit from broadband work.
MN Housing	OBD is working to further engage with MN Housing agencies to address broadband planning and needs.
MN Rural Broadband Coalition	While currently undergoing a leadership and future vision reset, OBD had previously worked closely with the MN Rural Broadband Coalition and its legislative lobbying efforts to ensure the Border-to-Border Broadband Grant Program statutory requirements were meeting the needs of areas without adequate broadband service. https://mnruralbroadbandcoalition.com
MN Public Broadband Alliance	The MPBA is a group of public entities engaged in the provision of broadband service to end users that meets monthly and lobbies the MN legislature. OBD has attended or provided updates for this organization's monthly meetings since the 2014 formation of this group. https://www.mnpb-alliance.org/
EducationSuperhighway (ESH), Hennepin County, University of MN Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center	OBD brought together ESH, Hennepin County's Office of Broadband and Digital Inclusion and the University of Minnesota's Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center to work towards addressing broadband availability in MDUs under ESH's Free Apartment Wi-Fi program.
Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC)	OBD has frequent communication with AMC, including participating in annual meetings over the years, conducting surveys, legislative coordination, virtual training sessions with counties.
League of MN Cities (LMC)	OBD has frequent communication with LMC, including participating in annual meetings over the years, legislative coordination, representation on Task Force.
MN Association of Townships (MAT)	Longstanding relationship with MAT, including through representation on Governor's Task Force on Broadband, presenting at the annual MAT meeting numerous times, participation in every regional training session of township clerks and supervisors in Spring 2023, legislative coordination, joint participation on MN Rural Broadband Coalition, presenting at various county's township meetings or individual township meetings over the years.
Economic Development Association of MN (EDAM)	OBD is a member of EDAM, has participated in panels at annual conferences.
MN Association of Professional Economic Development Administrators (MAPCED)	OBD has frequently presented to this group at monthly or annual meetings over the years.
MN Telecom Alliance	Frequent and regular communication with president of MTA since OBD was formed. Frequent speaker at annual and fall meetings. Coordinate on legislative activity.

MN Cable Communications Association	Frequent and regular communication with executive director of MCCA since OBD was formed. Frequent speaker at annual meeting. Coordinate on legislative activity.
MN Rural Electric Association	Frequent and regular communication with government affairs director, especially in last five years as electric coops have entered the broadband marketplace. Coordinate on legislative activity.
Minnesota Association of Small Cities (MAOSC)	Regular communications between Executive Director and MAOSC. Coordinate on legislative activity.
Minnesota Rural Counties (MRC)	Regular communications between Executive Director and MRC. Coordinate on legislative activity.
Farmer's Union	Frequent and regular communication with Farmer's Union members on agricultural needs for broadband.
MN Department of Agriculture	Coordination between agency leadership on broadband issues important to the Department of Agriculture.
Minnesota Department of Human Services	Coordination between agency leadership on broadband issues important to the Department of Human Services.
Minnesota Marketing Partnership	Regular communication between Executive Director and MMP.
Minnesota Department of Education (MDE)	MDE representative participates on the K12 Connect Forward group. OBD has participated on MDE panels. MDE also houses the State Library with frequent interaction with OBD, especially the Digital Equity work.
Minnesota Department of Commerce/Minnesota Public Utilities Commission	Frequent and regular communications to update on OBD's work on broadband with the regulatory entity's telecom related work.
Regional/Economic Development Commissions	Frequent and regular communications and presentations with the Regional Development Commissions, Economic Development Regions, and Initiative Foundations that represent various geographically defined regions in Minnesota.

3.3   Asset Inventory

3.3.1 Broadband Deployment

- Statutorily defined grant programs (Border-to-Border Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program, Lower Population Density Program and Line Extension Connection Program) provide framework for distributing BEAD funds per statute: 116J.395, 116J.3951
- State funding in eight of last ten years plus ARPA Capital Projects Funding directed towards broadband infrastructure, totaling over $265M awarded projects
- Ten years of experience administering broadband infrastructure grant programs (https://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/grant-program/)
- Over 15 years of working with broadband partners and stakeholders to understand what drives broadband deployment from the providers side and what users are most interested in receiving (speed, latency, technology, reliability, price)