

Source	Purpose	Total	Expended	Available
	Ohio Broadband Expansion Grant Program (\$80M); Line Extension Program (\$10M); and Creation of Appalachian Community Innovation Centers (\$90M)			

3.2 Partnerships

Table 5: Partners

Partner type	Partners	Description of current or planned role in broadband deployment and adoption
Cross-state efforts	Midwest Regional Collaboration – Appalachia (MRC-A)	The Midwest Regional Collaboration – Appalachia (MRC-A) is a group comprised of state research and education networks, broadband offices, and offices of Appalachia from Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Kentucky. MRC-A plans to leverage ARISE grants to build Appalachia's infrastructure, specifically by architecting a large-scale middle-mile network designed to create a multistate ecosystem. The MRC-A will provide a highly scalable, resilient, and redundant network with open access, ensuring that large and small providers alike have the opportunity to use the infrastructure to bring broadband to the areas, while also leveraging connectivity to community anchor institutions (CAIs).

Partner type	Partners	Description of current or planned role in broadband deployment and adoption
		The partners comprising MRC-A include: Ohio Academic Resources Network (OARnet); Keystone Initiative for Network Based Education and Research (KINBER); Three Rivers Optical Network (3ROX); Kentucky Regional Optical Network (KyRON); West Virginia Network (WVNET); the State Broadband Offices of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and West Virginia; and the State Governor's Offices of Appalachia for Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and West Virginia.
State government	Broadband Working Group	The Broadband Working Group convenes key Ohio state agencies related to broadband to enable a whole-of-government approach in terms of identifying barriers to broadband deployment, aligning on priorities, collecting information on existing assets to leverage, and more. The Working Group consists of InnovateOhio, Department of Development (Office of Workforce Transformation, Governor's Office of Appalachia), Department of Education, Department of Administrative Services, Department of Higher Education, OARnet, and the Ohio Education Computer Network Management Council.
	Broadband Expansion Program Authority ⁷⁰	The Authority examines and proposes updates to any broadband plan provided by law enacted by the general assembly or executive order issued by the Governor, monitors ORBEG, promotes digital literacy programs, tracks affordable broadband plans in Ohio, and more. The Authority includes five members: (i) Development Director or designee, (ii) Director of the Office of InnovateOhio or designee, (iii) One member appointed by

⁷⁰ https://broadband.ohio.gov/static/House_Bill_2_Legislation.pdf

Partner type	Partners	Description of current or planned role in broadband deployment and adoption
		the Speaker of the House of Representatives, (iv) One member appointed by the President of the Senate, and (v) One member appointed by the Governor. BroadbandOhio currently serves as the Development Director designee. ⁷¹
	InnovateOhio	InnovateOhio provides financial support, strategic guidance, and additional support to a wide array of BroadbandOhio projects, including ORBEG funding awarding, local broadband deployment pilot projects, MARCS tower utilization support, telehealth pilot and blueprint development, and more. InnovateOhio will continue to support BroadbandOhio throughout the BEAD sub-grant and implementation process.
	Ohio Department of Transportation	BroadbandOhio and the Ohio Department of Transportation have collaborated in broadband strategy development and implementation, including streamlining permitting processes via its new e-permit system and Smart City / Transportation initiatives. BroadbandOhio will continue to work with ODOT on Right of Way policies that will help streamline broadband deployment.
	Ohio Department of Education	BroadbandOhio and the Department of Education have collaborated to bolster student connectivity and internet adoption. Prior collaborations include leveraging the CARES Act to provide \$50 million to over 9000 school districts for purchasing connectivity devices, and the Broadband Telehealth Pilot Project. BroadbandOhio will continue to partner with ODE to ensure students and teachers have the digital connectivity required for education and well-being.

⁷¹ <https://broadband.ohio.gov/news-and-events/broadbandohio-expansion-authority>

Partner type	Partners	Description of current or planned role in broadband deployment and adoption
	Ohio Department of Health	BroadbandOhio collaborates with the Ohio Department of Health to identify potential strategies that could be accelerated via expanded access to broadband (e.g., telehealth) and to identify the internet connectivity status of health centers across the state (as health centers represent a priority CAI for Ohio).
	Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services	BroadbandOhio and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services have collaborated on the Broadband Telehealth Pilot Project implementation in the Switzerland of Ohio School District in Monroe County. BroadbandOhio will continue to partner closely with the department to ensure expanded access to broadband will help achieve the broader goals for Ohio related to mental health
	Ohio Department of Medicaid	BroadbandOhio and the Ohio Department of Medicaid have collaborated on the Broadband Telehealth Pilot Project implementation in the Switzerland of Ohio School District in Monroe County. BroadbandOhio will continue to partner with the department on any pilot projects and for the promotion of ACP adoption.
	Ohio Department of Administrative Services	BroadbandOhio and the Department of Administrative Services have partnered on promoting both internet deployment and adoption. They have collaborated to help bolster student connectivity by launching an RFI to the telecommunications industry to create a transparent pricing list that schools could use to make an informed decision on vendor and product choices. The Department of Administrative Services additionally supported BroadbandOhio in its MARCS Tower Pilot Program. BroadbandOhio will continue to partner with DAS on these initiatives throughout the BEAD program.

Partner type	Partners	Description of current or planned role in broadband deployment and adoption
	Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation	BroadbandOhio and the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation collaborated to strategize addressing the labor needs for broadband deployment via the joint development of the "Strengthening Ohio's Broadband & 5G Workforce" Strategy. The strategy will help preempt labor shortages and enable smooth deployment of BEAD.
	JobsOhio	BroadbandOhio and JobsOhio have partnered to deliver the Starlink pilot program, where JobsOhio offered financial support to enable the project. JobsOhio additionally partners with Agile Networks to create Digital Access Ohio, a company dedicated to expanding high-speed internet services in traditionally underserved areas by building, owning, and operating new fiber-backed infrastructure and partnering with local internet providers. BroadbandOhio and JobsOhio will collaborate to help address potential labor gaps as it pertains to broadband deployment as well as efforts to enable Ohioans to participate in the digital economy.
	Ohio Department of Higher Education	Ohio Department of Higher Education funds OH-TECH, an umbrella organization for Ohio's statewide technology infrastructure organizations including the Ohio Academic Resources Network (OARnet), the Ohio Supercomputer Center (OSC), and the Ohio Library and Information Network (OhioLINK). BroadbandOhio and the Ohio Department of Higher Education have collaborated regarding OARnet on a wide range of topics, including understanding the status quo of CAI connectivity, providing technical oversight for the NTIA Middle Mile Grant, and other activities. BroadbandOhio will continue to partner with ODE to expand the OARnet network and upgrade internet access for CAIs.

Partner type	Partners	Description of current or planned role in broadband deployment and adoption
	Ohio Department of Natural Resources	BroadbandOhio and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources have partnered to provide high-speed internet to 9 State Park Lodges. BroadbandOhio plans to continue working with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to identify additional priorities for expanded internet access.
Local government	Cuyahoga County	Cuyahoga County and BroadbandOhio have partnered on multiple internet deployment projects, such as the East Cleveland Connectivity Project and the Cuyahoga County Connectivity Project.
	Hamilton County	BroadbandOhio and Hamilton County have partnered to bolster internet access, jointly delivering the Mt. Healthy Connectivity Pilot program.
	Defiance County	BroadbandOhio and Defiance County have collaborated on broadband adoption-related topics such as agribusiness (e.g., visits).
	Preble County	BroadbandOhio and Preble County have collaborated on broadband expansion, including discussions between BroadbandOhio and Preble County Commissioners to discuss broadband expansion.
	Franklin County	BroadbandOhio and Franklin County have collaborated to deliver the Creative Housing pilot program.
	Seneca County	Seneca County worked with BASCOM and developed a successful partnership for providing connectivity to residents. BroadbandOhio is supporting the partnership by providing funding to assist the construction of the middle mile fiber infrastructure throughout the county,

Partner type	Partners	Description of current or planned role in broadband deployment and adoption
		thereby supporting the partnership's last mile expansion efforts.
	City of Dayton	BroadbandOhio and the City of Dayton have partnered to expand broadband for its Department of Recreation.
	City of East Cleveland	BroadbandOhio and the City of East Cleveland have jointly delivered the East Cleveland Connectivity Project for new broadband expansion.
	City of Cleveland	The City of Cleveland has partnered with DigitalC to improve the city's connectivity, and have shared key takeaways to stakeholders, including presenting in BroadbandOhio Alliance meetings. ⁷²
	City of Marysville	BroadbandOhio and the City of Marysville have partnered to implement the Starlink pilot program.
	City of Mt. Healthy	BroadbandOhio and the City of Mt. Healthy have partnered to expand connectivity by jointly delivering the Mt. Healthy Connectivity Pilot program.
	County Commissioner's Association of Ohio (CCAO)	CCAO and BroadbandOhio have collaborated on stakeholder engagement, where BroadbandOhio has presented in CCAO's events on broadband-related updates and how stakeholders could be involved. ⁷³
Internet providers	OARnet	OARnet currently provides middle mile connection and 1Gbps speed internet to a large share of Ohio's CAIs. OARnet has supported BroadbandOhio in various

⁷² See April 27, 2022 meeting agenda as an example. <https://broadband.ohio.gov/news-and-events/broadbandohio-alliance-meetings>

⁷³ An example is a 2023 CCAO webinar delivered by BroadbandOhio, a recording of which can be found here: <https://ccao.org/aws/CCAO/pt/sp/webinars>

Partner type	Partners	Description of current or planned role in broadband deployment and adoption
		broadband deployment projects, including assisting with the technical infrastructure of the East Cleveland Connectivity Project, and utilizing the fixed wireless technology on the school property of Riverside Local School District to provide residents with internet access.
altafiber		BroadbandOhio and altafiber have collaborated on broadband deployment pilot projects, including the Mt. Healthy Connectivity Pilot and Butler County Rochester Hills. altafiber has additionally sponsored BroadbandOhio's programs for broadband deployment and digital opportunity, including the Digital Opportunity Summit in February 2023. altafiber is a BroadbandOhio partner for a pending CPF-funded project, where it will help enable the construction of fiber to the home for 85,000 homes of Adams, Brown, and Clermont counties in Appalachia Ohio.
SpaceX		BroadbandOhio and SpaceX have partnered to deliver the Starlink pilot, which leveraged SpaceX's Starlink satellite broadband service.
PCs for People		BroadbandOhio has collaborated with PCs for People for multiple broadband deployment projects, including financial investment, internet provision, and antenna / modem distribution for the East Cleveland Connectivity Project; construction of fixed wireless networks and wired networks for the Cuyahoga County Connectivity Project; and provision of high-speed internet to residents neighboring the Riverside Local School District.

Partner type	Partners	Description of current or planned role in broadband deployment and adoption
	Comcast Cable Company ⁷⁴	The Comcast Cable Company is a Round 1 recipient of the ORBEG grant, aimed at expanding high-speed internet into unserved and underserved areas of Ohio by helping with infrastructure costs. The proposed project will serve 2,466 households in Belmont, Columbiana, Harrison, and Jefferson counties, 2,466 of which have less than 10/1Mbps service, as of March 2022.
	Frontier North Inc. ⁷⁵	Frontier North Inc. is a Round 1 recipient of the ORBEG grant, aimed at expanding high-speed internet into unserved and underserved areas of Ohio by helping with infrastructure costs. The proposed project will serve 94 households in Harrison and Jefferson counties, 74 of which have less than 10/1Mbps service, as of March 2022.
	JB Nets ⁷⁶	JB Nets is a Round 1 recipient of the ORBEG grant, aimed at expanding high-speed internet into unserved and underserved areas of Ohio by helping with infrastructure costs. The proposed project will serve 816 households in Lawrence and Gallia counties, 811 of which have less than 10/1Mbps service, as of March 2022.
	North Coast Wireless (NCWCOM) ⁷⁷	North Coast Wireless is a Round 1 recipient of the ORBEG grant, aimed at expanding high-speed internet into unserved and underserved areas of Ohio to subsidize infrastructure build out costs.

⁷⁴ <https://broadband.ohio.gov/grant-opportunities/grant-opportunities-1/grant-opportunities-1>⁷⁵ <https://broadband.ohio.gov/grant-opportunities/grant-opportunities-1/grant-opportunities-1>⁷⁶ <https://broadband.ohio.gov/grant-opportunities/grant-opportunities-1/grant-opportunities-1>⁷⁷ <https://broadband.ohio.gov/grant-opportunities/grant-opportunities-1/grant-opportunities-1>

Partner type	Partners	Description of current or planned role in broadband deployment and adoption
	South Central Power ⁷⁸	South Central Power is a Round 1 recipient of the ORBEG grant, aimed at expanding high-speed internet into unserved and underserved areas of Ohio by helping with infrastructure costs. The 2 proposed projects will serve 13,615 households in Belmont, Carroll, Jefferson, Harrison, Monroe, Noble, Adams, Brown, Clermont, Fayette, Highland, Pike, Ross, and Scioto counties, 9,875 of which have less than 10/1Mbps service, as of March 2022.
	Southern Ohio Communication Services ⁷⁹	Southern Ohio Communication Services is a Round 1 recipient of the ORBEG grant, aimed at expanding high-speed internet into unserved and underserved areas of Ohio by helping with infrastructure costs. The proposed project will serve 3,291 households in Adams, Highland, Pike, and Scioto counties, 3,291 of which have less than 10/1Mbps service, as of March 2022.
	Spectrum ⁸⁰	Spectrum collaborated with BroadbandOhio and the City of Dayton to provide connection to its recreation centers and enable them to serve as broadband hubs for the community. Spectrum is also a Round 1 recipient of the ORBEG grant, aimed at expanding high-speed internet into unserved and underserved areas of Ohio by helping with infrastructure costs. The 17 proposed projects will serve 19,734 households in Lawrence, Coshocton, Pike, Perry, Gallia, Morgan, Trumbull, Highland, Clark, Hardin,

⁷⁸ <https://broadband.ohio.gov/grant-opportunities/grant-opportunities-1/grant-opportunities-1>⁷⁹ <https://broadband.ohio.gov/grant-opportunities/grant-opportunities-1/grant-opportunities-1>⁸⁰ <https://broadband.ohio.gov/grant-opportunities/grant-opportunities-1/grant-opportunities-1>

Partner type	Partners	Description of current or planned role in broadband deployment and adoption
		Washington, Richland, Huron, Muskingum, Carroll, Fayette, and Brown counties, 16,016 of which have less than 10/1Mbps service, as of March 2022.
	Telephone Services Company ⁸¹	The Telephone Services Company is a Round 1 recipient of the ORBEG grant, aimed at expanding high-speed internet into unserved and underserved areas of Ohio by helping with infrastructure costs. The proposed project will serve 575 households in Hardin County, 575 of which have less than 10/1Mbps service, as of March 2022.
	The Chillicothe Telephone Company ⁸²	The Chillicothe Telephone Company is a Round 1 recipient of the ORBEG grant, aimed at expanding high-speed internet into unserved and underserved areas of Ohio by helping with infrastructure costs. The 2 proposed projects will serve 2,588 households in Fayette, Highland, and Ross counties, 1,913 of which have less than 10/1Mbps service, as of March 2022.
	Windstream ⁸³	Windstream is a Round 1 recipient of the ORBEG grant, aimed at expanding high-speed internet into unserved and underserved areas of Ohio by helping with infrastructure costs. The 6 proposed projects will serve 294 households in Trumbull, Licking, Athens, Meigs, Washington, Guernsey, Noble, and Muskingum counties, 294 of which have less than 10/1Mbps service, as of March 2022.

⁸¹ <https://broadband.ohio.gov/grant-opportunities/grant-opportunities-1/grant-opportunities-1>⁸² <https://broadband.ohio.gov/grant-opportunities/grant-opportunities-1/grant-opportunities-1>⁸³ <https://broadband.ohio.gov/grant-opportunities/grant-opportunities-1/grant-opportunities-1>

Partner type	Partners	Description of current or planned role in broadband deployment and adoption
	Independents Fiber Network (IFN)	IFN supplies bandwidth to 26 Ohio ISPs, OARnet, NOACSC, SWOCA, MVECA and several hospitals and other anchor institutions in Ohio. IFN partnered with BroadbandOhio for the pending CPF Grant, with plans to upgrade existing infrastructure in the north and western part of Ohio (to 100G) to accommodate for additional bandwidth in the area.
	BASCOM	BASCOM worked with Seneca County and developed a successful partnership for providing connectivity to residents. BroadbandOhio is supporting the partnership by providing funding to assist the construction of the middle mile fiber infrastructure throughout the county, thereby supporting the partnership's last mile expansion efforts.
	Agile Networks ⁸⁴	Agile Networks partnered with JobsOhio in creating Digital Access Ohio, a company dedicated to expanding high-speed internet services in traditionally underserved areas, particularly in Appalachian Ohio.
	Ohio's Broadband and Cable Association (OCTA)	OCTA has been an active stakeholder providing recommendations to BroadbandOhio and other broadband-related entities, including its testimony to the Broadband Expansion Program Authority on August 2022, participation in the Broadband and 5G Sector Partnership, and membership in the BroadbandOhio Alliance. ⁸⁵

⁸⁴ <https://www.jobsohio.com/digital-access-ohio>; <https://www.jobsohio.com/news-press/jobsohio-investment-seeks-to-help-close-digital-divide-in-ohio>

⁸⁵ <https://broadband.ohio.gov/static/authoritymeetings/08032022-Compiled-Testimony.pdf>; <https://workforce.ohio.gov/news/051822>

Partner type	Partners	Description of current or planned role in broadband deployment and adoption
	Wireless Infrastructure Association (WIA)	The WIA has been selected to lead the Broadband and 5G Workforce Sector Partnership. The Partnership is tasked with implementing the “Strengthening Ohio’s Broadband & 5G Workforce” strategy for addressing workforce needs in the broadband industry. WIA’s work as the Partnership lead will support BroadbandOhio’s BEAD implementation efforts by mitigating potential labor force issues. ⁸⁶
	Ohio Telecom Association (OTA)	OTA has been an active stakeholder providing recommendations to BroadbandOhio and other broadband-related entities, including its testimony to the Broadband Expansion Program Authority on August 2022, participation in the Broadband and 5G Sector Partnership, and membership in the BroadbandOhio Alliance. ⁸⁷
	Wireless Internet Service Providers Association (WISPA)	WISPA has actively shared broadband-related insights as a member of the BroadbandOhio Alliance, including WISPA’s participation in the BroadbandOhio Alliance meetings and BroadbandOhio’s participation in WISPA roundtables. ⁸⁸
	Fiber Broadband Association	Fiber Broadband Association and BroadbandOhio have collaborated on stakeholder engagement, including BroadbandOhio’s participation in a fireside chat

⁸⁶ <https://broadband.ohio.gov/explore-broadband/strengthening-ohios-broadband-5g-workforce>; <https://workforce.ohio.gov/news/051822>

⁸⁷ <https://broadband.ohio.gov/static/authoritymeetings/08032022-Compiled-Testimony.pdf>; <https://workforce.ohio.gov/news/051822>

⁸⁸ <https://broadband.ohio.gov/static/alliancemeetings/meeting-presentation-12132022.pdf>

Partner type	Partners	Description of current or planned role in broadband deployment and adoption
		discussion hosted by the Fiber Broadband Association. ⁸⁹ Fiber Broadband Association also participates in the Ohio Broadband and 5G Sector Partnership. ⁹⁰
	Ohio Rural Broadband Association (ORBA)	The Ohio Rural Broadband Association (ORBA) is a partnership of ISPs particularly in the northwest region of Ohio. BroadbandOhio and ORBA have collaborated on ORBEG, where ORBA members provided recommendations for improving ORBEG and offered technological expertise (e.g., inviting BroadbandOhio to their Technology Days).
	The Ohio State University	BroadbandOhio and OSU have collaborated on the Molly Caren Precision Agriculture Project.
	The Ohio State University Office of Extension	BroadbandOhio has partnered with the Ohio State University Office of Extension for delivering the Community Accelerator Program. The Ohio State University Office of Extension provides more than 30 hours of no-cost counseling to communities participating in the Program.
CAIs	Case Western Reserve University	BroadbandOhio has collaborated with Case Western Reserve University to assist with the technical infrastructure of the East Cleveland Connectivity Project.
	East Cleveland City Schools	BroadbandOhio has collaborated with the East Cleveland City Schools to assist with the technical infrastructure of the East Cleveland Connectivity Project.

⁸⁹ An example is a 2023 CCAO webinar delivered by BroadbandOhio, a recording of which can be found here: <https://ccao.org/aws/CCAO/pt/sp/webinars>

⁹⁰ <https://workforce.ohio.gov/news/051822>

Partner type	Partners	Description of current or planned role in broadband deployment and adoption
	Mt. Healthy City Schools	BroadbandOhio and Mt. Healthy City Schools have partnered to deliver the Mt. Healthy Connectivity Pilot program.
	Riverside Local School District	BroadbandOhio and the Riverside Local School District have collaborated to bring high-speed internet to the neighboring residents and leverage CARES Act funding to set up hotspots on school buses.
	Switzerland of Ohio School District	BroadbandOhio and Switzerland of Ohio School District in Monroe County have partnered to implement the Broadband Telehealth Pilot Project.
	Dayton Recreation Centers	BroadbandOhio and Dayton Recreation Centers have partnered to provide public Wi-Fi to residents and offer digital skills programs, allowing the centers to serve as a local digital hub.
	Ohio Library Council	BroadbandOhio and the Ohio Library Council have coordinated on various broadband-related efforts, including the FCC challenge and the stakeholder engagement process.
	Toledo Lucas County Public Library	The Toledo Lucas County Public Library serves as the Northwest RDIA lead for the State Digital Opportunity Plan. It will support BroadbandOhio in its stakeholder engagement efforts for BEAD and SDOP by leveraging their local relationships to ensure the final plan meets federal requirements of the State Digital Opportunity

Partner type	Partners	Description of current or planned role in broadband deployment and adoption
		Planning Grant Program and BEAD while also meeting the needs of all Ohioans. ⁹¹
	Appalachian Regional Commission	The Appalachian Regional Commission has financially supported BroadbandOhio projects, including providing funding for last mile connection extension in the telehealth pilot project in the Switzerland of Ohio School District in rural Monroe County.
	OCHIN	OCHIN will collaborate with BroadbandOhio as designated state telehealth administrator, including expanding crucial healthcare services to K-12 students.
NGOs	Southeast Ohio Broadband Cooperative	BroadbandOhio and the Southeast Ohio Broadband Cooperative collaborated in Washington County to launch the MARCS Tower Pilot Program to bring connectivity to unserved or soon-to-be unserved households.
	Muskingum Valley ESC	BroadbandOhio and Muskingum Valley ESC have partnered to connect students in rural Appalachian Ohio to telehealth services.
	Appalachian Children's Coalition	BroadbandOhio and the Appalachian Children's Coalition have partnered to connect students in rural Appalachian Ohio to telehealth services.
	The Heartland Forward	BroadbandOhio has partnered with Heartland Forward to deliver and scale the Community Accelerator Program. The project was initiated and is funded by Heartland Forward's Connecting the Heartland initiative.

⁹¹ <https://development.ohio.gov/home/news-and-events/all-news/2023-0217-broadbandohio-ndia-host-kick-off-event-for-state-digital-opportunity-plan>

Partner type	Partners	Description of current or planned role in broadband deployment and adoption
	The Benton Institute	BroadbandOhio has partnered with the Benton Institute to deliver the Community Accelerator Program. The Benton Institute provides more than 30 hours of no-cost counseling to communities in the Program.
	Greater Cleveland Partnership	BroadbandOhio and the Greater Cleveland Partnership have jointly supported the East Cleveland Connectivity Project.
	Western Ohio Computer Organization	Riverside Local School District collaborated with BroadbandOhio and Western Ohio Computer Organization to bring high-speed internet access to residents in the Riverside local area.
	Management Council (MCOECN) Connectivity Champions	Powered by the Management Council, Ohio Connectivity Champions is part of the Future Forward Ohio project that works to remove barriers to internet access. Efforts include ensuring Ohioans have home internet access for online learning, telehealth, job seeking and applying, and skills development; helping school districts with deployment and development of connectivity programs; promoting and assisting households enroll in cost saving programs (e.g., ACP); and coordinating with stakeholders including the Ohio Department of Education, libraries, digital opportunity coalitions, and Ohio's Information Technology Centers. The Connectivity Champions helped schools and districts link to and maximize use of a \$50,000,000 BroadbandOhio Connectivity Grant aimed at immediately expanding broadband services across Ohio. ⁹²

⁹² <https://www.ohio-k12.help/connectivity-champions/>

Partner type	Partners	Description of current or planned role in broadband deployment and adoption
	Pew Research Center	The Pew Research Center has supported efforts to bring stakeholders and share best practices, including its June 2022 Broadband Access Summit where BroadbandOhio participated as a speaker. ⁹³
	The Cleveland Foundation	The Cleveland Foundation serves as the Northeast RDIA lead for the State Digital Opportunity Plan. It will support BroadbandOhio in its stakeholder engagement efforts for BEAD and SDOP by leveraging their local relationships to ensure the final plan meets federal requirements of the State Digital Opportunity Planning Grant Program and BEAD while also meeting the needs of all Ohioans. ⁹⁴
	Smart Columbus	Smart Columbus serves as the Central RDIA lead for the State Digital Opportunity Plan. It will support BroadbandOhio in its stakeholder engagement efforts for BEAD and SDOP by leveraging their local relationships to ensure the final plan meets federal requirements of the State Digital Opportunity Planning Grant Program and BEAD while also meeting the needs of all Ohioans. ⁹⁵
	Buckeye Hills Regional Council	The Buckeye Hills Regional Council serves as the Southeast RDIA lead for the State Digital Opportunity Plan. It will support BroadbandOhio in its stakeholder engagement efforts for BEAD and SDOP by leveraging their local relationships to ensure the final plan meets federal requirements of the State Digital Opportunity

⁹³ <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/about/events/2022/broadband-access-summit>

⁹⁴ <https://development.ohio.gov/home/news-and-events/all-news/2023-0217-broadbandohio-ndia-host-kick-off-event-for-state-digital-opportunity-plan>

⁹⁵ <https://development.ohio.gov/home/news-and-events/all-news/2023-0217-broadbandohio-ndia-host-kick-off-event-for-state-digital-opportunity-plan>

Partner type	Partners	Description of current or planned role in broadband deployment and adoption
		Planning Grant Program and BEAD while also meeting the needs of all Ohioans. ⁹⁶
	United Way of Greater Cincinnati	The United Way of Greater Cincinnati serves as the Southwest RDIA lead for the State Digital Opportunity Plan. It will support BroadbandOhio in its stakeholder engagement efforts for BEAD and SDOP by leveraging their local relationships to ensure the final plan meets federal requirements of the State Digital Opportunity Planning Grant Program and BEAD while also meeting the needs of all Ohioans. ⁹⁷
	Creative Housing	Creative Housing is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing safe, accessible, and affordable housing to individuals with disabilities in the Columbus metropolitan area. ⁹⁸ BroadbandOhio, Creative Housing, and Franklin County Department of Developmental Disabilities have collaborated on providing connectivity to people with developmental disabilities.
	Regional Digital Inclusion Alliances	A stakeholder collaboration, the Regional Digital Inclusion Alliances coordinate with BroadbandOhio to bring together diverse stakeholders to support regional planning efforts, digital inclusion activities, and collect local feedback to better inform Ohio's Digital Opportunity Plan and relevant BEAD efforts.

⁹⁶ <https://development.ohio.gov/home/news-and-events/all-news/2023-0217-broadbandohio-ndia-host-kick-off-event-for-state-digital-opportunity-plan>

⁹⁷ <https://development.ohio.gov/home/news-and-events/all-news/2023-0217-broadbandohio-ndia-host-kick-off-event-for-state-digital-opportunity-plan>

⁹⁸ <https://creativehousing.org/about-us/>

Partner type	Partners	Description of current or planned role in broadband deployment and adoption
	Digital Equity Coalitions	BroadbandOhio is connected with several digital equity coalitions statewide, including the Greater Cleveland Digital Equity Coalition, Franklin County Digital Equity Coalition, and Greater Toledo Digital Equity Coalition. BroadbandOhio and these Digital Equity Coalitions will continue to collaborate on broadband-related issues, such as stakeholder engagement and ACP awareness programs.
Other stakeholders	BroadbandOhio Alliance	The BroadbandOhio Alliance, as a gathering of public and private stakeholders, collaborate to find ways to close the digital divide in Ohio, providing best practices and insights to BroadbandOhio. Meeting quarterly, the Alliance will help BroadbandOhio gather input for its BEAD plan and related best practices.
	Broadband and 5G Sector Partnership	Established as part of the recommendations from the “Strengthening Ohio’s Broadband and 5G Workforce” strategy, the Broadband and 5G Sector Partnership serves as a central convening entity for the workforce strategy. Led by the Wireless Infrastructure Association (WIA) and made up by an additional 26 entities from industry, education, and government, the Partnership is supported by the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation and BroadbandOhio. The Sector Partnership will work to design and distribute curriculum and training programs across the state and promote career awareness to supply the industry with a skilled workforce, directly supporting filling labor force gaps for expanding broadband access. ⁹⁹

⁹⁹ <https://broadband.ohio.gov/explore-broadband/strengthening-ohios-broadband-5g-workforce>; <https://workforce.ohio.gov/news/051822>

Partner type	Partners	Description of current or planned role in broadband deployment and adoption
		The Partnership will support BroadbandOhio in BEAD by supporting workforce-related initiatives that will enable smooth BEAD implementation.
	Ohio Township Partnership	BroadbandOhio and the Ohio Township Partnership have collaborated on stakeholder engagement, where BroadbandOhio has presented to the Ohio Township Partnership on broadband-related updates. ¹⁰⁰
	Intel	BroadbandOhio and Intel have held discussions to understand broadband-related needs that Intel may have.
	Muskingum Education Service Center	The Muskingum Valley ESC has partnered with BroadbandOhio on delivering the School-Based Telehealth in Appalachian Ohio Project. ¹⁰¹
	Eaton Corporation	BroadbandOhio and the Eaton Corporation have jointly supported the East Cleveland Connectivity Project.
	GE Lighting	BroadbandOhio and GE Lighting have jointly supported the East Cleveland Connectivity Project.
	Microsoft	BroadbandOhio and Microsoft have jointly supported the East Cleveland Connectivity Project.
	Project 10Million	Delivered via a partnership with T-Mobile, the Ohio Department of Education, and the Connectivity Champions, the T-Mobile Project 10Million provides free 100GB of internet per year for 5 years, as well as free hotspots with free shipping, with no fees, costs, or annual

¹⁰⁰ An example is a 2023 CCAO webinar delivered by BroadbandOhio, a recording of which can be found here: <https://ccao.org/aws/CCAO/pt/sp/webinars>

¹⁰¹ <https://broadband.ohio.gov/explore-broadband/broadbandohios-projects/muskingum-valley-educational-service-center-telehealth-project>

Partner type	Partners	Description of current or planned role in broadband deployment and adoption
		re-certifications for eligible K-12 students. Additional affordable devices could be purchased as a Project 10Million participant. Parents / Guardians or school administrators can apply for the program. ¹⁰²
	The Ohio State University	BroadbandOhio and OSU have collaborated for the Molly Caren Precision Agriculture Project.
	Butler Tech	BroadbandOhio and Butler Tech have collaborated to deliver the Butler County Rochester Hills pilot project.

3.3 Asset Inventory

The State of Ohio has numerous entities offering assets related to broadband and digital opportunity. The following table includes an example list of related assets offered at the state-level. The full asset inventory can be found in the Appendix. (*Please note that the inventory is not an exhaustive list of all assets in the State of Ohio and there may be additional assets not included in the current inventory.*)

Table 3.3.1: Ohio assets related to broadband deployment

Organization name	Asset name	Description
Ohio Department of Administrative Services	MARCS (Multi-Agency Radio Communication System)	MARCS is a 700/800 MHz radio and data network that provides statewide interoperability in digital clarity to its subscribers throughout Ohio and a 10-mile radius outside of Ohio. The MARCS system provides statewide, secure,

¹⁰² <https://www.ohio-k12.help/connectivity-champions/>; <https://www.t-mobile.com/brand/project-10-million>; https://www.t-mobile.com/business/education/project-10-million?icid=MGPO_TMO_U_20TENMM_N5ZH1361JIX6NMJ922748