3.2 PARTNERSHIPS

The PBDA has built strong partnerships and will continue to build more as it ensures broadband deployment across the commonwealth meets Pennsylvania's diverse needs while promoting digital inclusion. Interfacing with stakeholders, community organizations, local government, schools, and other nonprofits is crucial for planning and building broadband networks and programs.

The PBDA can use the input and data obtained via Community Conversations, described at length in Section 5.1, Stakeholder and Engagement Process, under Engagement Framework. Other methods include industry roundtable events, and stakeholder meetings to identify obstacles and come up with solutions. These partnerships will remain valuable as a statewide plan to bring high-speed internet to the commonwealth comes to fruition. For the purposes of **the Five-Year Plan**, the PBDA considers "stakeholders" to include any organization that the PBDA may collaborate or communicate with as the PBDA pursues its mission of attaining broadband for all; the list included here represents the known stakeholders at time of publishing this document and will expand as this work continues.

Table 5: Stakeholders

Name	Description of Current or Planned Role in Broadband Deployment and Adoption
Partnerships for Regional Economic Performance (PREP)	This DCED-administered and funded network consists of hundreds of experienced experts across 10 regions who can offer assistance and resources to businesses and communities alike. PREP's one-on-one counseling, specialized workshops, online training, and financial incentives make it one of the most coordinated and respected networks in the nation. It is designed specifically to meet the needs of job creators—the men and women who start and grow businesses.
Keystone Initiative for Network Based Education and Research (KINBER)	The PBDA seeks to partner with KINBER, a Pennsylvania-based nonprofit corporation that provides broadband connectivity, fosters collaboration, and promotes the innovative use of digital technologies throughout the state.
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation & Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission	The PBDA collaborates with both agencies for broadband strategy development and implementation, including streamlining upcoming broadband deployment opportunities, accommodating intelligent transportation system device growth, and improving transportation safety and mobility.
Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry's PA Workforce Development Boards	The PBDA is partnering with these boards to evaluate the current broadband deployment labor market and promoting recruitment and retention of a diverse workforce.
Pennsylvania Department of Health	The PBDA will collaborate with the Pennsylvania Department of Health to identify the internet connectivity status of health centers across the state, especially in rural areas, and identify technical difficulties related to telehealth (leveraging the eHealth Partnership Program Advisory Board).
Pennsylvania Department of Education	The PBDA and the Department of Education have collaborated to bolster student connectivity and internet adoption.

Table 5: Stakeholders (cont'd)

Name	Description of Current or Planned Role in Broadband Deployment and Adoption
Pennsylvania Department of Education Office of Commonwealth Libraries	The PBDA partners with the Office of Commonwealth Libraries to leverage connections to statewide resources and a network of over 600 public library service locations throughout Pennsylvania. Public libraries are one bridge over the digital divide that helps to ensure equity of access to technology during times of rapid change. The library is often the only place in a community where a person can access internet-connected computer technology and peripheral devices, like printers—important for students, job-seekers, older adults, and low-income residents. Pennsylvania public libraries bridge that digital gap by providing access to computers, software, and the internet along with resources for empowering digital independence. In Pennsylvania, most public libraries are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations.
Pennsylvania Department of Aging	The PBDA will partner with the Pennsylvania Department of Aging to address potential adoption gaps and ensure that older adults across the Commonwealth have the support needed for digital skill-building.
Pennsylvania Department of Human Services	The PBDA will partner with the Department of Human Services to provide critical insight into telehealth needs, improving services, and identifying disadvantaged communities in need of assistance and services.
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC)	The PBDA collaborates with the PUC as it oversees public utilities while educating and advocating safe, reliable, and affordable energy practices. The Pole Attachment Working Group is one mechanism the PUC is using to continue considering advancements, concerns, and issues related to attachments to utility poles and rights-of-way and more quickly resolving disputes that could be barriers to the deployment of enhanced broadband and other services.
The Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry	The PBDA will partner with the chamber to help form connections and establish relationships with the business community.
The Center for Rural Pennsylvania	The Center for Rural Pennsylvania is a bipartisan, bicameral legislative agency that serves as a resource for rural policy within the Pennsylvania General Assembly. The PBDA will partner with the center to help build relationships with Pennsylvania's nearly 3.4 million rural residents and leverage data and research published by the center.
Broadband Communications Association of Pennsylvania (BCAP)	The PBDA partners with BCAP, a network of Pennsylvania cable operators, equipment suppliers, programmers, and other allied companies advocating for Pennsylvania's digital future. BCAP serves on the PBDA's Technical subcommittee.
Pennsylvania Telephone Association	A member of the PBDA's Technical subcommittee, the Pennsylvania Telephone Association is a membership association which represents the interests of its rural local exchange telephone company members before regulatory and government bodies and provides a forum for the exchange of information and ideas. Pennsylvania's telephone companies are carriers of last resort and are fully regulated by the Pennsylvania PUC.

Table 5: Stakeholders (cont'd)

Name	Description of Current or Planned Role in Broadband Deployment and Adoption
Pennsylvania Wireless Association (PWA)	The PBDA partners with the PWA to assist with cultivating relationships between industry and local communities to ensure the continued growth and development of wireless broadband. The PWA serves on the PBDA's Technical subcommittee.
Communications Workers of America (CWA)	The PBDA partners with the CWA, one of America's largest and most diverse unions. The PBDA will consult with the CWA on the design of grant application criteria to incorporate fair labor practices as one of the three primary evaluation factors for subgrantees.
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)	The PBDA partners with the IBEW, with 20 Locals working in a wide variety of fields, including utilities, construction, telecommunications, broadcasting, manufacturing, railroads and government located across the commonwealth. The PBDA will consult with the IBEW on the design of grant application criteria to incorporate fair labor practices as one of the three primary evaluation factors for subgrantees.
PA CareerLink	PA CareerLink, in partnership with local training providers, is helping job seekers gain the skills that local employers are looking to hire. The PBDA will partner with PA CareerLink to address broadband workforce gaps and streamline formalized training critical to deploying broadband.
Pennsylvania Office of Administration - Information Technology (OA-OIT)	The OA-OIT oversees investments in and performance of all IT systems across the commonwealth. The PBDA partners with the OA-OIT as it works with providers across the state and provides connectivity to field offices in every county.
OTHER GENERAL PARTNERSHIPS	
Workforce Development groups, nonprofits, or committees	A workforce partnership targeted specifically to ensure underserved populations are engaged in broadband workforce strategies.
Industry Partnerships	The PBDA will meet with businesses seeking to build stronger, more competitive industries through training, networking, recruitment, and collaboration to raise career and industry awareness.
Local, municipal, and county governments and government associations (PA State Association of Boroughs, County Commissioners Association of PA, planning organizations, local Chambers of Commerce, etc.)	The PBDA is partnering with local, municipal, and county government entities to increase local stakeholder participation, education, and outreach to improve broadband connectivity for residents, businesses, and CAIs alike. These partnerships will connect the PBDA to each community's needs, challenges, and opportunities for regional collaboration, and models for scale, while raising local awareness of funding opportunities.
Pennsylvania post-secondary institutions of higher education including four-year universities, community colleges and trade and technical schools	The PBDA will partner with educational entities to review, gather, and evaluate data related to broadband availability data, broadband infrastructure gaps, and other special data analysis. The PBDA will also leverage these partnerships to establish programs that provide training and curriculum to address the broadband infrastructure deployment skill gaps.