



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

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Agenda Item: 6

Policy Updates – United States

Purpose: Information

Submitted by: United States



**65th Telecommunications and Information
Working Group Plenary Meeting
25-28 October 2022**



U.S. Economy Updates

U.S. Economy Updates

U.S. National Digital Inclusion Week – October 3rd - 7th

- NTIA recognized National Digital Inclusion Week and those who are working to connect all of America with affordable and reliable high-speed Internet.
- Advocates for digital inclusion are preparing to make use of unprecedented investment in digital connectivity.
- NTIA programs emphasize building infrastructure, providing affordable service, and teaching people the necessary skills to take advantage of expanded connectivity.
- Under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, all 56 U.S. states and territories, and 450 tribal groups will participate in Digital Equity Act grant programs (\$2.75 billion).
 - Funding under the Digital Equity Act will:
 - Provide study grants for developing high-speed broadband access to underserved and remote communities
 - Provide grants to historically black colleges to help improve access, hardware, and skills training
 - Make targeted investments in Tribal Communities for broadband access

U.S. Economy Updates

NTIA Launches Updated Federal Broadband Funding Website to Ease Searches and Access

- <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/>
- Site allows searches of 80 federal funding programs sponsored by 14 U.S. government agencies, including the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program administered by NTIA, which was part of the U.S. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
- Those interested can search programs by funding opportunities, including planning, deployment, and digital inclusion
- Program types include direct grants, loans, indirect support, and discounts for industry, state, local, and Tribal governments, schools, libraries, and other community institutions that are interested in expanding and improving broadband access
- The launch of this latest round of federal broadband funding updates will help ensure that the public has easy access to the most up-to-date information possible to best facilitate deployment, access and further economic and workforce development

U.S. Economy Updates

Public Input Helps Shape NTIA's High-Speed Internet Grant Programs

- Stakeholders are committed to doing their part to provide every American with affordable, reliable, high-speed internet
- State and local governments should use other available funding in addition to that provided in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) to achieve goals
- IIJA funding should prioritize fiber optic at minimum speeds of 100/20mbps to build in future demand and resiliency
- NTIA should look closely at the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) to help shape policies that promote affordability for high-speed, low-cost access
- NTIA should establish strong local/state coordination to ensure local broadband planning is done efficiently
- NTIA and FCC should work together to produce more accurate broadband access maps for planning purposes
- Hundreds of thousands of new high-skilled jobs may need to be created to achieve universal access

U.S. Economy Updates

NTIA Internet Use Survey Data Show Improvements in Connectivity Among All Social/Ethnic Groups, but Enduring Barriers to Closing Divide Persist:

- Overall, 80 percent of Americans 3 years or older used the Internet in 2021
- African-American and Hispanic rates were 77 percent, and Native American rates were 75 percent
- Lower income households and certain demographic groups are less likely to have both fixed broadband and a mobile connection
- Overall, 69 percent have both fixed and mobile access, compared with 67 percent in 2019; however, significant gains were made in households earning under \$50,000
- While 71 percent of white, non-Hispanic Americans used a laptop or desktop computer, only 57 percent of African-Americans and 54 percent of Hispanics did so.
- Explore the NTIA Data Explorer for more information:
<https://www.ntia.gov/data/explorer#sel=internetUser&disp=map>