

# EXPAND BROADBAND UPDATE

Vol. I, No. 3, October 2024

New issues released the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month



Iowa  
County



## Wyoming, Cobb, Highland Cable Install Advance Continues

Fiber construction is progressing smoothly across the state with few disruptions. Crews have continued to see delays when waiting for underground utility location services to confirm which areas are safe for underground work, however, construction and fiber placement progress is moving along steadily, making substantial progress.

Work to select a suitable location for fixed wireless site Blue Ridge has paused due to challenges in leasing and connections. At fixed wireless site Pulaski, teams are working to connect the site to backhaul access points before the site can go live.

Conduit cable has been installed in fiber route segments Wyoming (running west from Wyoming toward Clyde) and Cobb (running north from Linden towards Highland).\*

County residents can inquire about internet service at [877-227-0924](tel:877-227-0924) or [btussel.com](http://btussel.com).

*\*May not be pictured in the current Community Report due to a range of factors:*

- Community Reports are updated quarterly; new additions, revisions, or status updates may not be reflected in the latest report.
- Fiber route segments are separated into optical line terminals (OLTs); new additions, revisions, or status updates for a smaller portion of an OLT may not be depicted in reports.

## Opinion: Pole Access Essential to BEAD Success

Pole attachment disputes threaten BEAD. Inconsistent laws and delays in accessing utility poles could waste funds and delay high-speed internet in rural areas. Reforms are needed to ensure timely pole access and prevent these issues.

Source: [broadbandbreakfast.com](http://broadbandbreakfast.com)

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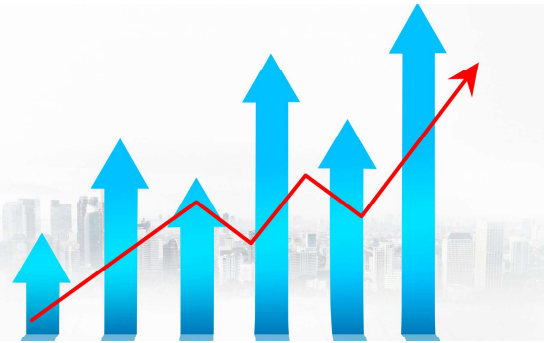
## Did You Know?

The U.S. Ranks 2nd in Digital Connectivity Readiness

Source: [telecompetitor.com](https://telecompetitor.com)

Wireless data usage increased by 89% from 2021 to 2023

Source: [ctia.org](https://ctia.org)



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## Opinion: No Substantial BEAD Funding Until 2025

According to president of CCG Consulting Doug Dawson, the BEAD funding process is facing significant delays, largely due to the requirement that every state must line up an ISP to serve all unserved and underserved areas before awarding grants. This will likely require multiple rounds of grant applications, leading to a lengthy selection process. Additionally, pressures from the NTIA to rush ISP selection could result in insufficient due diligence, further complicating the process. Given the complexities involved in finalizing contracts, conducting environmental studies, and navigating the NTIA's oversight, substantial BEAD-funded construction is unlikely to begin before 2025.

Source: [broadbandbreakfast.com](https://broadbandbreakfast.com)



## NTIA Favors Fiber for BEAD, Allows Wireless Tech

The NTIA says that the vast majority of the country will be served by technologies that the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) defined as reliable. These include fiber broadband technology—which is considered the priority option—hybrid fiber coax (HFC), licensed fixed wireless, and digital subscriber line (DSL). But there are scenarios in which these technologies are not available or will be too costly to deploy. In such cases, the BEAD program will make alternative approaches — which are not defined as reliable broadband technologies — eligible for funding.

Source: [telecompetitor.com](https://telecompetitor.com)

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