

Key Broadband-Related Provisions in Select Federal Legislation

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act – Signed into law March 2020

- \$100 million for grants under the ReConnect Program to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus.
- \$200 million for the FCC's Rural Health Care Program, which the FCC dedicated to a new COVID-19 Telehealth Program which helps rural healthcare providers offer telehealth services during the coronavirus emergency.
- \$25 million for the RUS Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Program
- \$16 billion for the Education Stabilization Fund for remote learning
- \$150 billion to state, local, and tribal governments to cover pandemic-related costs, which could include broadband-related issues such as lack of access, affordability, distance-learning, tele-health, etc.

Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 – Signed into law December 2020

- \$3.2 billion for the FCC's Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) Program, which provides a \$50 monthly subsidy for eligible households for the purchase of broadband (\$75 on Tribal lands).
- \$300 million for NTIA's Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Grants, which funds broadband infrastructure built by partnerships of states/localities and broadband providers.
- \$1 billion for NTIA's Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grants, which fund broadband infrastructure, distance learning, telehealth and affordability and adoption programs on Tribal lands.
- \$285 million for NTIA's Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program, which provides grants to minority institutions to support broadband development and adoption.
- \$250 million for FCC's Telehealth Program
- \$1.9 billion for FCC's Secure and Trusted Networks Reimbursement Program to reimburse small providers who have used equipment made by Huawei/ZTE/etc.

American Rescue Plan – Signed into law March 2021

- \$7.2 billion for FCC's Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF), which reimburses schools and libraries for broadband equipment and devices for students, teachers, and patrons outside of the school and library facilities.
- \$219.8 billion for states for infrastructure, including broadband
- \$130.2 billion for cities and counties for infrastructure, including broadband

Biden Administration Infrastructure Plan, LIFT America Act, and Accessible, Affordable Internet for All (AAIA) Act

The Biden Administration has proposed spending \$100 billion on broadband initiatives, but doesn't have much detail beyond that. The plan is most likely based on the Congressional LIFT and AAIA-Clyburn/Klobuchar proposals, which are nearly identical. The Congressional proposals would provide:

- \$80 billion for broadband infrastructure distributed using competitive bidding. 75% of the money would go to the FCC and 25% would go to the states.
- \$6 billion for FCC's EBB Program
- \$2 billion for FCC's ECF
- \$1 billion for "digital equity" grants