



# Rural Utilities Service – Telecommunications Programs

# Telecommunications Loan and Grant Programs

Program	Program Purpose	FY24 Funds Appropriated
<b>ReConnect Program</b>	Direct loans, grants and loan/grant combinations for the construction and expansion of broadband service to areas that lack sufficient access.  Rural communities of <b>20,000 or less</b>	\$90 million
<b>Telecom Infrastructure Loan Program</b>	Direct cost-of-money loans and guaranteed loans for the construction, maintenance, improvement and expansion of telephone and broadband service  Rural areas of <b>5,000 or less</b>	\$605 million
<b>Community Connect Grant Program</b>	Grants with 15% matching fund requirement for the construction and expansion of broadband service where service does not currently exist  Rural communities of <b>20,000 or less</b>	\$20 million
<b>Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program</b>	Grants with 15% matching fund requirement to finance equipment and training to facilitate distance learning and telemedicine.  Rural communities of <b>20,000 or less</b>	\$46.5
<b>Broadband Technical Assistance Program</b>	Grants in the form of cooperative agreements to deliver technical assistant and training and supports the development and expansion of broadband cooperatives.  Rural communities of <b>20,000 or less</b>	\$40 million (from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law)

# ReConnect Program

## ReConnect Program

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Provides loans, grants, and loan-grant combinations to extend high-speed broadband service to rural areas lacking sufficient access

Established as a pilot program in 2018



Codified in 7 CFR 1740 in 2021



Announced by Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) in the Federal Register

# Funding Types and Application Limits

- **100% Loans** – up to \$50 million available per application
- **50/50 Loan/Grant Combinations** – up to \$25 million in grant funds and up to \$25 million in loan funds are available per application
- **Grants with 25% Matching Fund Requirement** – up to \$25 million available per application
- **Grants with No Matching Fund Requirement** – up to \$25 million available per application

Completed Projects Must Be able to deliver service with speeds of at least **100 Mbps download and 100 Mbps upload** to every premise in the proposed funded service area

# ReConnect Program

## Available Funding

### FY2019 – “Round One”

**146** Applications processed: **\$1.4 billion**

- **76** active awards: **\$656 million/33** States Served

### FY2020/FY2021 – “Round Two”

**172** Applications submitted: **\$1.57 billion requested**

- **101** active awards: **\$838 million/37** States Served

### FY2022 – “Round 3”

**305** Applications submitted: **\$4.8 billion requested**

- **105** active awards: **\$1.7 billion/28** States and **3** territories Served

## Program Updates

### FY2022-2023 – “Round Four”

- FOA released on August 4, 2022.
- Application window **closed** on November 2, 2022
- **258** Applications submitted: **\$4.4 billion requested**
- **\$1.812 billion in Awards**

### “Round 5” –

- Funding announcement published in the Federal Register on **February 21<sup>st</sup>**
- Applications will be accepted from **March 22<sup>nd</sup> until May 21<sup>st</sup>**
- **\$700 million** in funds are available

# ReConnect Program Progress

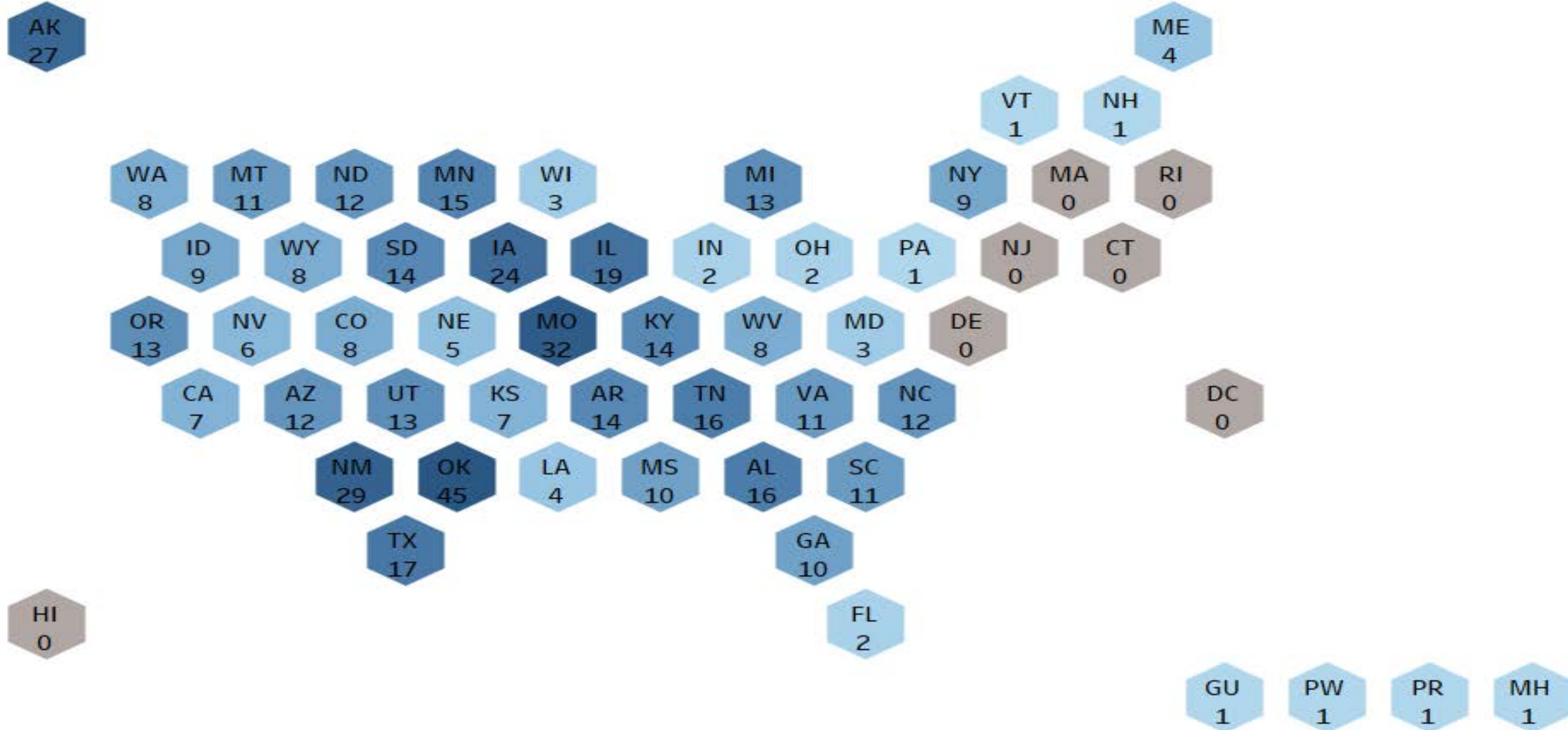
## Program Highlights

Total Number of Active Awards	372
Total Amount Obligated	\$5,131,203,301
Total Proposed Fiber Miles	82,992
Total Projected Households (HHs) Served	481,947
<b>Total Year-5 Projected Subscribers</b>	<b>296,792</b>
-- Residential	277,179
-- Business	19,613

## Buildout Highlights

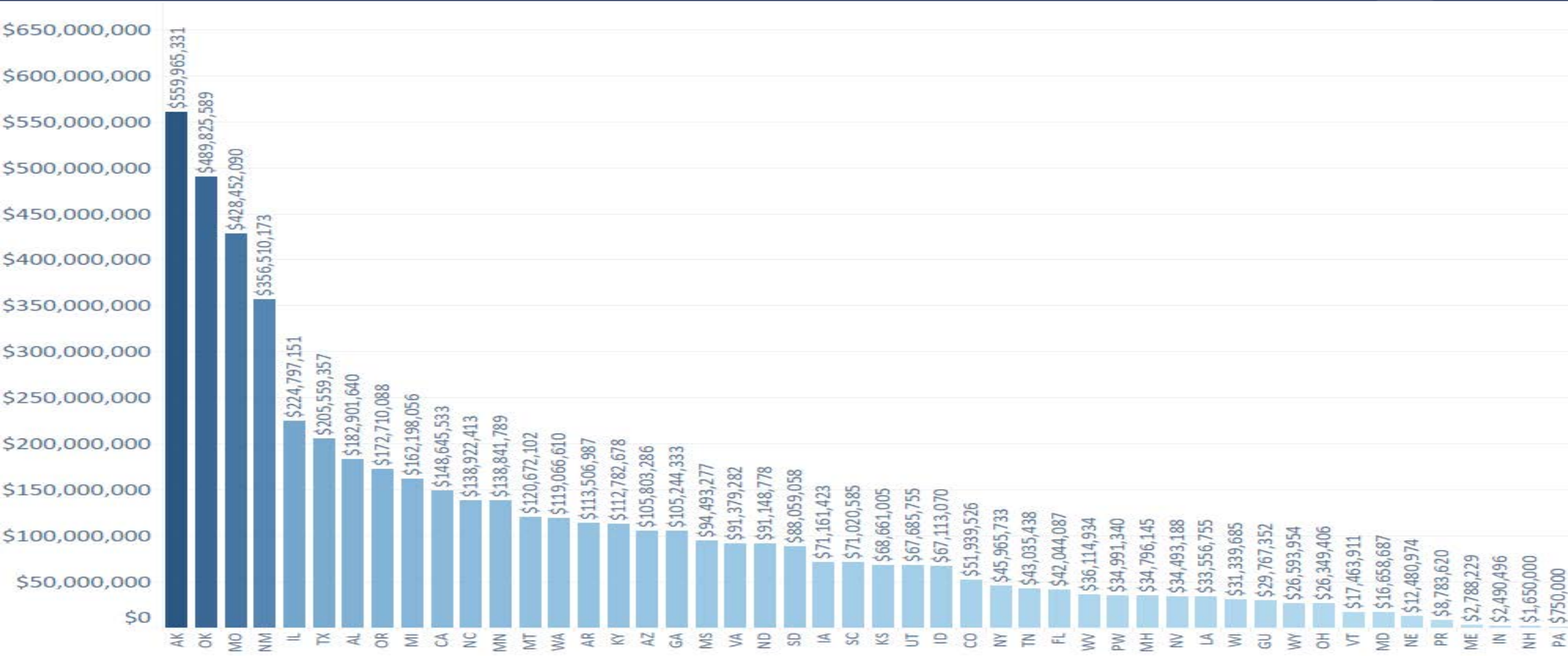
Funds Advanced	\$605,576,516
Number of Projects In Progress	171
Number of Projects Completed	90
Fiber Miles Under Contract	28,611
Total HHs Passed	61,224
<b>Total Subscribers</b>	<b>40,941</b>
-- Residential	38,677
-- Business	1,154
-- Farm	1,028
-- Anchor Institution	82

# Awards by State





# Investments by State

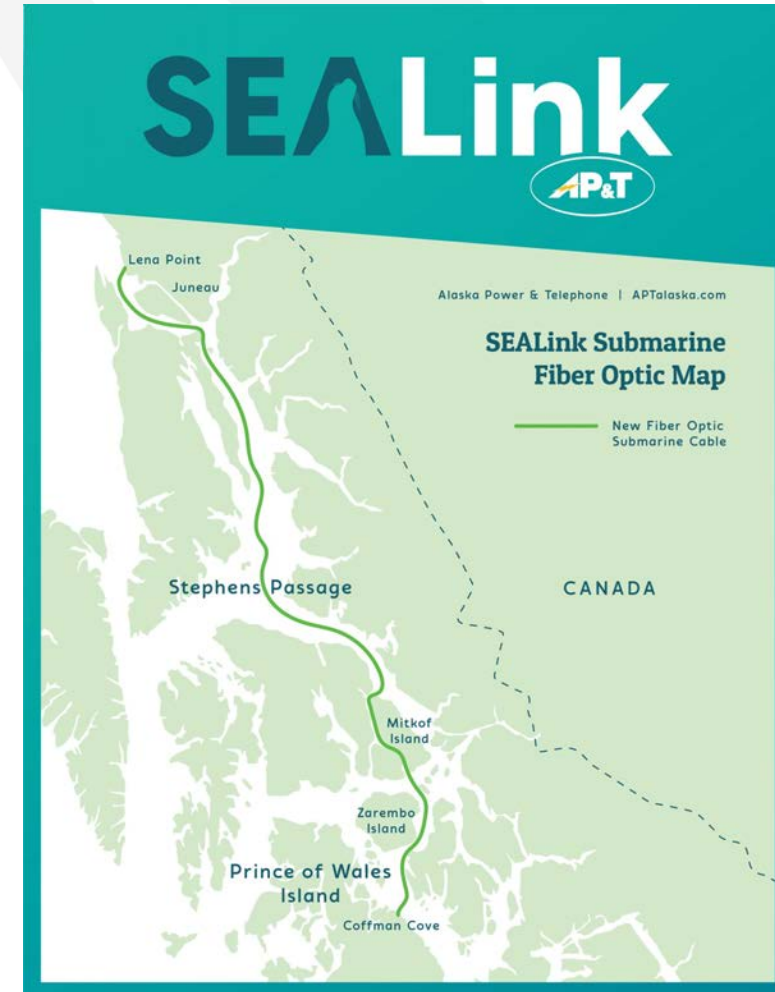


# ReConnect Program Success Stories

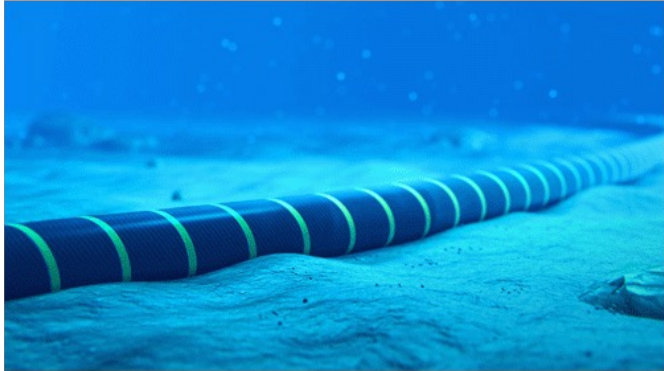
# Alaska Power & Telephone Wireless Coffman Cove and Kassan, Alaska ReConnect Round 2 Grant = \$21.5 million

## Project Highlights:

- Codenamed “SEALink”
- 214-mile submarine fiber optic cable from Prince of Wales Island to Juneau
- Delivering initial last mile service to Coffman Cove and Kassan
- Fiber connections to the premise at speeds of 100/100 Mbps



# Alaska Power & Telephone Wireless Submarine Cable Installation



# Alaska Power & Telephone Wireless Craig, Klawock, Hollis, Alaska ReConnect Round 3 Grant = \$29 million

## Project Highlights:

- Codenamed “SEALink South”
- 100-mile submarine fiber optic cable from Prince of Wales Island to Ketchikan, creating a redundant network for the island
- Delivering initial last mile service to Craig, Klawock and Hollis via 53 miles of terrestrial fiber
- Fiber connections to the premise at speeds of 100/100 Mbps



# Broadband Technical Assistance Program

# Broadband Technical Assistance Program

- **Purpose:** BTA provides financial assistance to eligible entities to receive or deliver broadband technical assistance and training and supports the development or expansion of broadband cooperatives.
- **Funding Type:** Cooperative Agreements.
- **Eligible entities:** Federally recognized Tribes, nonprofits, for-profit businesses, institutions of higher education, cooperatives.

# Broadband Technical Assistance Program

- **BTA FY23 Funding Categories:**

- **Technical Assistance Providers:** Applicants must propose to deliver broadband technical assistance that will benefit rural communities. Up to \$7.5 million is available. The minimum award is \$50,000. The maximum is \$1 million.
- **Technical Assistance Recipients:** Applicants must be the recipients of the broadband technical assistance. Up to \$7.5 million is available. The minimum award is \$50,000. The maximum is \$250,000.
- **Projects Supporting Cooperatives:** Applicants must propose projects that support the establishment or growth of broadband cooperatives that will benefit rural communities. Up to \$5 million is available. The minimum award is \$50,000. The maximum is \$1 million.



# Broadband Technical Assistance Program

## Applications Submitted in FY23

Funding Type	Number of Applicants	BTA Funding Request	Funding Available
Projects Supporting Cooperatives	11	\$6,478,574	\$5,000,000
TA Provider	50	\$29,321,218	\$7,500,000
TA Recipient	35	\$8,763,550	\$7,500,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>\$44,563,343</b>	<b>\$20,000,000</b>

# Awardee Summary

## Applications Approved

Type	Projects	Total Awarded
Supporting Cooperatives	4	\$2.83M
TA Provider	16	\$8.91M
TA Recipients	20	\$3.52M
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>\$15.26M</b>

### Highlights

- 14 projects supporting tribal areas
- 6 Rural Partners Network (RPN) projects

### Awards Status

- 32 obligations for \$11.5 million

### Cure Awards

- 13 Cure Letters Sent Out
- 11 Cure Awards Made

## Top States Served

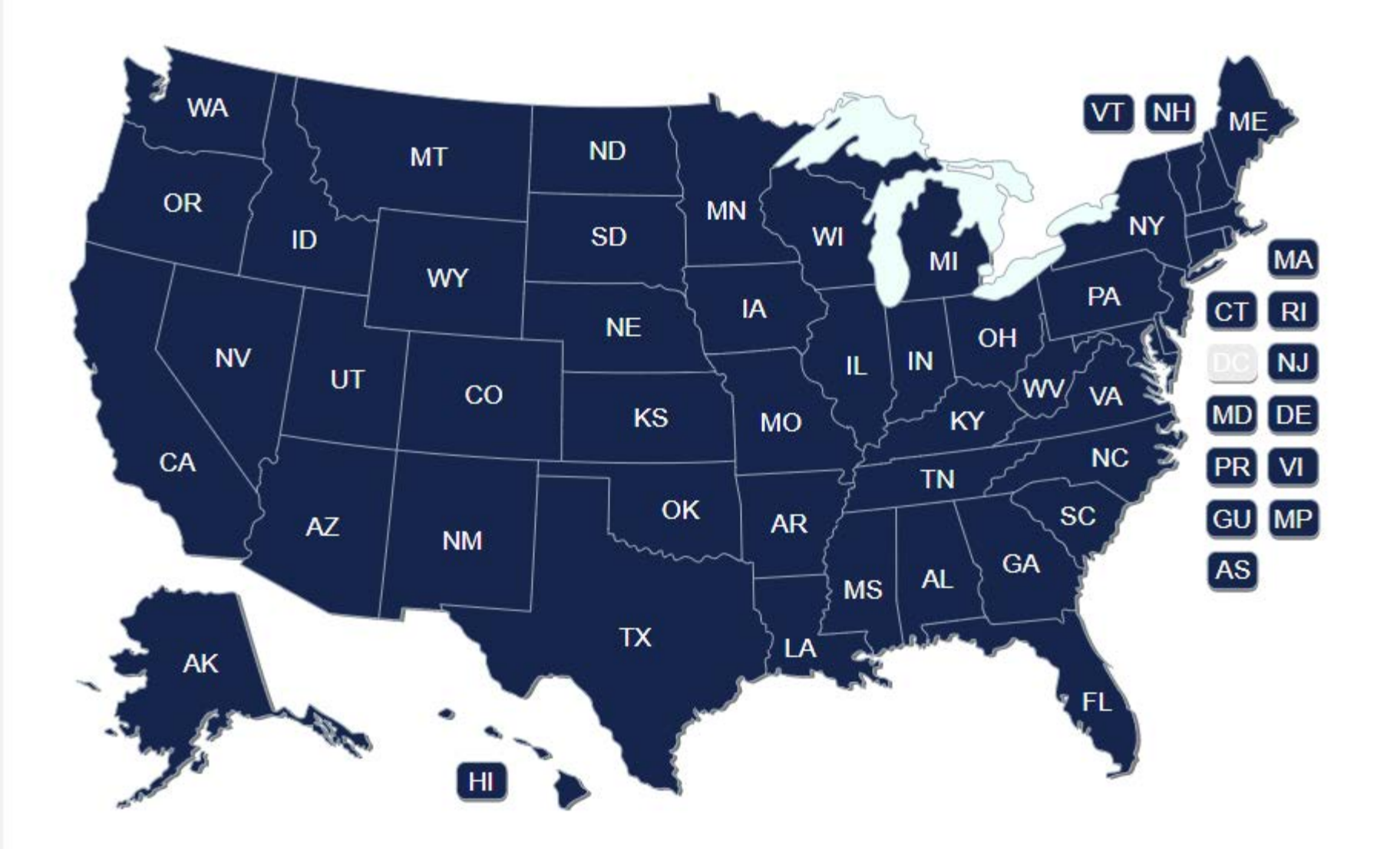
State	Projects	Award Size
Alaska	7	\$2.90M
California	4	\$1.73M
Mississippi	3	\$1.27M
Idaho	3	\$0.91M
Kentucky	3	\$0.62M
<i>All Other States</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>\$7.83M</i>
	<b>40</b>	<b>\$15.26M</b>

### Geographic distribution

- Projects serving the top 5 states represent ~50% of funding

# Resources and Contact Information

# General Field Representative Coverage - [www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/telecom-gfr](http://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/telecom-gfr)



# Available Resources for Application Help

- **Technical Assistance**

- Register for upcoming workshops/webinars <https://www.usda.gov/reconnect/events>
- Subscribe to receive updates about upcoming events on the ReConnect website

- **Resources**

- ReConnect website <https://www.usda.gov/reconnect>
  - Regulation, Funding Announcement and Application Guide
  - Frequently Asked Questions

- **Contact Us**

- When working **inside** the application, use the “contact us” button on your screen.
- **Outside** of the application system, use <https://www.usda.gov/reconnect/contact-us>
- Contact your General Field Representative (GFR): <https://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/telecom-gfr/all>

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