

ACP/BEAD Broadband Campaign Fact Sheet

Why is Broadband Important in the fight for Economic Justice?

Broadband is increasingly critical to participating in all aspects of modern American life, including education, healthcare, financial services, and access to employment and entrepreneurship opportunities. But approximately 40% of Black American households lack high-speed, fixed broadband, compared to 28% of White American households.

1



More than 1 in 5 Black Americans struggle to pay for broadband connection because they live below the poverty line.

Nearly 30% of Black households do not have a broadband connection at home.

2



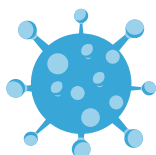
More than 1 in 3 rural Black Southerners lack home internet access.

3



Black households are twice as likely to not have a high-speed internet subscription compared to white households in dense, urban areas like Baltimore and Chicago.

4



The NIH has determined that telehealth has become a method for conducting preliminary assessments and even creating a patient care route. Therefore, it is becoming crucial to have broadband access to receive healthcare services.

Black communities without reliable access to telehealth services are more likely to die from COVID-19.

5



Students struggle to complete homework without at-home internet access.

6



For those living below the poverty line, providing internet connectivity can boost the number of people with bank accounts by 10%.

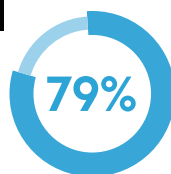
FDIC's 2021 report estimated that about 11% of Black Households were unbanked.

7



Broadband access enables small businesses to take advantage of online payment processing, remote deposit capture, and access to credit facilities and markets.

8



Seventy-nine percent of Americans who have looked for work in the last two years using online resources, and 34% of them said that this was the most crucial tool at their disposal.

9



In 2022, 26% of Americans will be employed remotely. Additionally, 16% of businesses are completely remote.

10



Access to online e-commerce platforms, particularly broadband access at large, is crucial for aspiring Black business owners.

Broadband access would enable Black entrepreneurs to kickstart their own businesses.

According to Deutsche Bank's 2020 report, the digital race gap is widening, and by 2045, more than half of Black and Hispanic workers may not be qualified for 86% of jobs.

Ensuring all Black communities have access to fast, affordable, and reliable broadband or at-home internet connection will require introducing and investing in different broadband provider options. Black communities need alternatives, such as local public broadband, to reduce the inequitable impact of private Internet Service Providers (ISPs).

What are the Affordable Connectivity Broadband (ACP) and Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Programs?

ACP and BEAD are two programs included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (more commonly known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) to expand high-speed broadband across 50 U.S. States and Territories. Total funding for ACP is \$14.2 billion, and \$42.45 billion for BEAD.

ACP is administered by the FCC to help households who make less than 200% of the [Federal Poverty Guidelines](#) afford broadband by providing a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price.

Households can also qualify for the program if at least one household member received a social assistance program listed [here](#).

As of March 2023, ACP has enrolled over [16 million households](#) in the programs that provide up to \$30/month in subsidies for an estimated \$500 million in monthly savings. Research shows that the ACP is [highly effective](#).

The BEAD program focuses on building and maintaining the hard infrastructure of broadband services. The law also redefined the standard for internet speed (i.e., the definition of broadband), which currently stands at 100 megabytes for downloads and 20 megabytes for uploads. The program prioritizes regions with no internet access, areas with access that is just 25/3 Mbps, and areas that are only 100/20 Mbps.

Eligible uses for BEADS funds include research, data collection, outreach, and training; introducing or increasing Internet access in underserved or unserved areas or enhancing the provision of services to community anchor institutions; installing Internet and Wi-Fi in residential complexes with multiple dwelling units; digital equity programs; and programs for workforce development.

What More Needs to be Done?

Only a [third of eligible households](#) currently participate in the program. Although the Administration has announced [additional rounds of grant](#) applications for targeted outreach, there is no guarantee that information about the program will reach those Color Of Change cares about most: Black families in need.

The ACP program is also at risk of sunset without Congressional action: The latest projection shows that the program is likely to run out of money by [mid-2024](#).



About Color Of Change

Color Of Change is the nation's largest online racial justice organization. We help people respond effectively to injustice in the world around us. As a national online force driven by 7 million members, we move decision-makers in corporations and government to create a more human and less hostile world for Black people in America.