

# Wednesday's BEAD Implementation Summit Will Provide Answers to Questions About Broadband

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*BEAD Implementation Summit 2026 convenes top state leaders and industry voices to unpack NTIA's new direction, tech tradeoffs, and how remaining funds get spent*

WASHINGTON, DC, UNITED STATES, March 16, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Broadband Breakfast knows BEAD, the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment program, the federal broadband program designed to ensure that everyone in the United States has access to fast, affordable internet access.

But, more importantly, Americans who care about "Better Broadband, Better Lives" know about BEAD. They've been living it and breathing it for more than four years.

On Wednesday, Broadband Breakfast is excited to usher in the next phase on the program through the [BEAD Implementation Summit 2026](#), the "Must-See" broadband policy event of 2026.

Kicking off the program at 12 Noon ET will be Assistant Secretary of Commerce [Arielle Roth](#), administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, in a Fireside Chat with [Drew Clark](#), CEO and publisher of Broadband Breakfast.

Roth, whose agency is charged with administering the historic \$42.5 billion Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment program, will discuss program changes under the Trump Administration, savings of federal funds, the role of artificial intelligence in infrastructure deployment, and many other key topics.

Takeaways from the Speeding BEAD Summit

BEAD Implementation Summit 2026 is not the first marquee event that we've hosted on this topic. Last June – just after the changes announced to the program on June 6, 2025 – we hosted the Speeding BEAD Summit.

The four panels from that event drilled into the details of the changes then underway at NTIA in administering the BEAD program:

Panel 1: How Are States Thinking About Reasonable Costs Now?

Panel 2: Finding the State Versus Federal Balance in BEAD

Panel 3: Reacting to the New BEAD NOFO

Panel 4: Building, Maintaining and Adopting Digital Workforce Skills

And last year wasn't the first time that Broadband Breakfast put the BEAD program under the microscope. In September 2023, just as we thought the program was gearing up toward implementation, we launched the BEAD Implementation Summit 2023.

Panel 1: Roundtable for State Broadband Leaders

Panel 2: Precursors to BEAD: ARPA, Capital Projects Fund and Middle Mile Deployment

Panel 3: Matching Funds, Private Sector Investment and Public-Private Partnerships

Panel 4: Town Hall on Buy America, Regulatory Compliance and Network Deployment

Updated panelist information BEAD Implementation Summit 2026

Following the fireside chat with Arielle Roth and Drew Clark, top reporters will moderate these panels:

Panel 1, the State Broadband Roundtable, will bring together Michael Baldino, Director and General Counsel of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute; Kendra Jo Grindle, Chief Program Officer, Maine Connectivity Authority; Christine Hallquist, Executive Director of the Vermont Community Broadband Board; and Connor Perry, Executive Director, Delaware Broadband Office; and Chandler Vaughan, Associate Director of the Virginia Office of Broadband.

It is moderated by Jake Neenan, Reporter at Broadband Breakfast.

Panel 2, on Technology Choices in BEAD Deployment, will examine the tradeoffs between cost, performance, and long-term network value. Confirmed panelists include Greg Bathrick, Area Vice President of Commercial Development, Calix; Madeleine Chang, Director of Policy, Satellite Industry Association (SIA); Rick Cimerman, Vice President and External and State Affairs Lead at NCTA - The Internet and Television Association; Chris Disher, Managing Director and Co-Founder, Cajun Broadband; and Carl Guardino, Vice President of Government Affairs and Policy at Tarana Wireless.

It is moderated by TRDaily Senior Editor Lynn Stanton.

Panel 3, Using Remaining BEAD Funds, will examine how states are supporting planning, workforce, technical assistance and other potential priorities for the now \$20 billion in Remaining Funds. Confirmed panelists include Kathryn de Wit, Project Director of the Broadband Access Initiative at The Pew Charitable Trusts; Christian Hoefly, Senior Corporate Counsel for Policy Strategy at T-Mobile; Annmarie Lanese, Founder and CEO of CanCode Communities; Lyndsay Moyer, Vice President, State Government Affairs, Comcast; and Thomas Tyler, Former Deputy Director, ConnectLA.

Jimm Phillips, Associate Editor at Communications Daily, will moderate.

The concluding Panel 4, Capital Constraints on Financing BEAD, will examine other aspects of infrastructure deployment beyond BEAD. Confirmed panelists include Claude Aiken, Chief Strategy Officer and Chief Legal Officer at Nextlink; Brian Allenby, Director of State Solutions at CostQuest; Steve Coran, Chair of the Broadband, Spectrum, and Communications Infrastructure practice group at Lerman Senter; Evan Feinman, Vice President of Strategy and Emerging Markets at JSI; and Nat Purser, Senior Policy Advocate, Public Knowledge.

The panel will be moderated by independent journalist Nancy Scola.

#### BEAD Implementation Summit Sponsors

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