



County Supervisors A S S O C I A T I O N o f a r i z o n a

1905 W. Washington St., Ste. 100, Phoenix, AZ 85009
(602) 252-5521 fax: (602) 253-3227

Resolution Number 6-24

A Resolution of the County Supervisors Association of Arizona Urging Federal and State Leaders to Take Action to Ensure that Historic Federal Resources are Deployed to Connect All Arizonans to Reliable Broadband.

WHEREAS, high-speed internet, commonly referred to as broadband infrastructure, is a critical necessity for businesses, individuals, schools, and government, and

WHEREAS, Arizona has multiple factors that make planning, siting, and maintaining broadband infrastructure especially challenging and costly, which has led to limited private investment in broadband infrastructure in rural areas, and

WHEREAS, according to the ACA's Broadband Navigator there are 142,315 unserved Arizona households without access to at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload speeds and an additional 111,690 underserved households without access to 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload speeds, and

WHEREAS, county supervisors have recognized the magnitude of this problem and the need to expand broadband access across Arizona, adopting resolutions from 2020 through 2023, to that effect, and

WHEREAS, the County Supervisors Association (CSA) has acted as a coordinating and convening entity to partner with the state, share best practices and strategies across Arizona's counties and facilitate county engagement in various state and federal broadband programs, and

WHEREAS, in the past five years over \$2.1 billion in combined state and federal funding has been awarded to entities in Arizona to expand broadband infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, in June 2023 Arizona was awarded \$993.1 million by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to deploy broadband to all unserved and underserved households in Arizona through the Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program, and

WHEREAS, the increase in permitting requests due to BEAD-funded projects, coupled with other ongoing broadband investments, will require continued coordination and collaboration across state, local and tribal governments to ensure that projects are efficiently and appropriately deployed, and

WHEREAS, federal requirements dictate that BEAD dollars cannot be used to deploy broadband to households that may be served by another federal program, and

WHEREAS, other federal programs, like the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF), have much longer deployment timelines than the BEAD program, and

WHEREAS, the Arizona Commerce Authority may submit and the NTIA may grant deduplication waivers, which would allow for BEAD funding to be utilized in areas that may be covered by other federal programs, and

WHEREAS, if providers fail to build under these programs, tens of thousands of Arizonan households



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will be left without broadband access, with no ability to access **BEAD** resources, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the County Supervisors Association of Arizona hereby:

Respectfully requests the Arizona Congressional Delegation to:

- Urge the NTIA to grant **BEAD** deduplication waivers where there is risk of providers failing to deploy under other federal programs, like RDOF, and
- Require federal agencies responsible for connecting all Arizonans with broadband to regularly report on the progress of deployment and identify where there may be gaps in coverage, and
- Identify solutions to provide service where gaps in broadband connectivity persist, and

Urges the State Lawmakers and the Arizona Commerce Authority to:

- Submit **BEAD** deduplication waiver requests to the NTIA to ensure that **BEAD** resources can be deployed across Arizona's un- and underserved households, and
- Collaborate and proactively communicate with local governments to ensure the smooth rollout of awarded **BEAD** projects and other broadband funding opportunities, and
- Continue to provide state leadership that coordinates broadband efforts to ensure that all Arizonans can realize the promise of broadband access.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED __ day of October, 2024.