

October 2024 Newsletter - Indiana Broadband Office

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IBO October Newsletter



October was a bustling month for the Indiana Broadband Office. We're now gearing up for the next phase of the Broadband. Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program. With prequalification wrapping up at the end of September and just a few applications still under review, we are moving on to Subgrantee Selection, opening soon. Stay tuned for updates!

Digital Equity Capacity Grant

Indiana was awarded \$15 million from the Digital Equity Capacity Grant, designed to promote programs that build capacity to eliminate the digital divide among targeted populations. Those populations include:

- Rural communities
- Senior citizens
- Members of a racial or minority group
- Veterans
- · Households experiencing poverty
- · Incarcerated individuals
- · Individuals with disabilities
- Non-English speakers

The Indiana Broadband Office (IBO) will allocate these funds to support digital inclusion projects statewide.

For more information, check out our digital equity plan <u>here</u>.

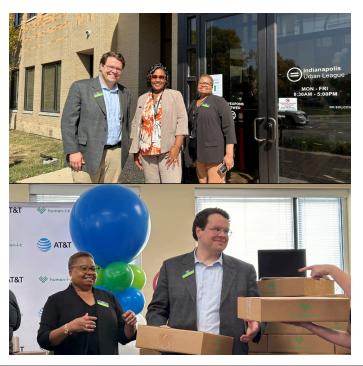


Where is the IBO?



In early October, Chief Broadband Officer Steve Cox was the keynote speaker at the I-Light 2024 Members Meeting. He delivered a presentation on the BEAD Program in Indiana. I-Light is a network of universities across the state offering broadband resources.

Additionally, Steve presented the progress of the Indiana Broadband Office's work to the Interim Study Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Telecommunications. This further highlights our commitment to keeping the legislature informed and engaged. Members of the IBO Team attended a laptop giveaway hosted by the Indianapolis Urban League, AT&T, and Human-I-T, distributing over 250 laptops to families and individuals in need. It's inspiring to see local efforts helping bridge Indiana's digital divide. Check out the full story here.



IBO/SBA BEAD Webinar



The IBO and the U.S. Small Business
Administration are hosting a webinar on
Wednesday, November 13th from 2:00 to
3:00 p.m. Attendees will learn about the
BEAD program and its benefits for ISPs and
contractors. ISP owners, contractors, and
subcontractors are encouraged to attend.

REGISTER HERE!

Next Level Connections/Indiana Connectivity Program

October marked a productive month for Next Level Connections and the Indiana Connectivity Program. Here are a few quick updates from the past month:

- ICP launched its 12th round of bidding on October 21st. Approximately 2,900 addresses are available with the bidding round lasting until mid-December.
- The ICP 13 Challenge Process is slated to open in mid-December.
- The NLC-3 quarterly meeting and the agreement process for NLC-4 are both ongoing.

Stay tuned for more updates in the coming months!



Let's Connect!

We want to hear from you. If you have general questions or concerns, email lndianaBroadband@iot.IN.gov. To stay updated on our latest work, follow us on Facebook, Twitter (X), Instagram, LinkedIn and check out our website.

We encourage you to forward this newsletter to anyone who might be interested and urge them to sign up for our newsletter here. See you in July!



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