

Broadband Expansion A State Perspective

July 27, 2025



Department of
Development

Ohio's Broadband Vision

Bring reliable, affordable, high-speed internet to every Ohioan, in their home and in their community.

Promote the creation of world-class broadband networks throughout the state, via the use of best-in-class technologies.

Enable participation in the modern economy.

Empower Ohioans through training and digital skills.

BroadbandOhio Team

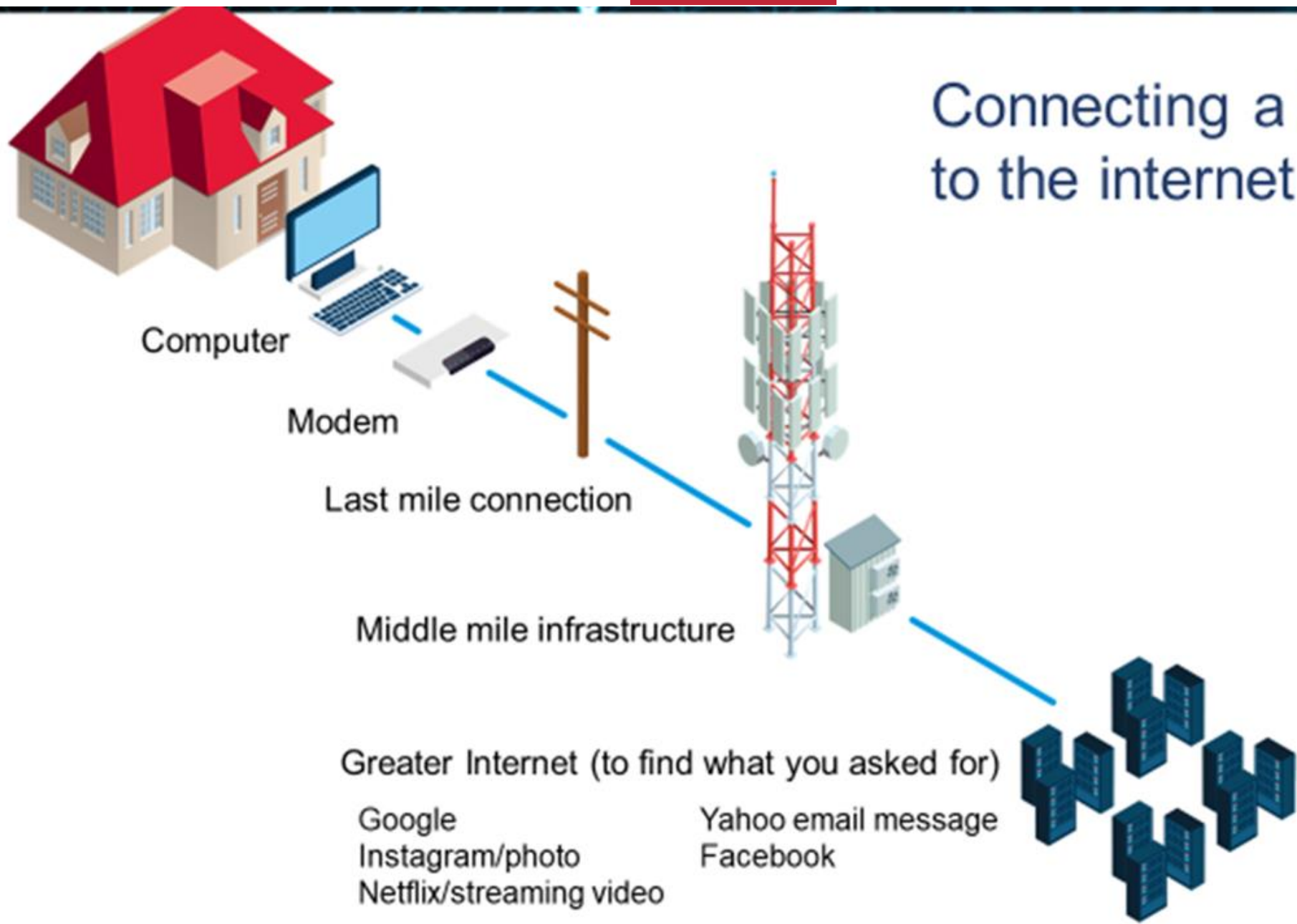
- Chief: Peter Voderberg
- Assistant Chief: Amy Elbaor
- Senior Financial Analyst: LaShana Smith
- Grants Manager: Matt Taylor
- Manager of Digital Equity and Inclusion: Anna Miller
- Grants Administrator: Grace Clucas

Broadband 101

Key Terms

- **Last Mile:** what brings the internet into your house: like a local road
 - **Fiber optic**
 - **Fixed Wireless**
 - **Satellite**
- **Middle Mile:** how we connect to the greater internet: like a highway
- **Unserved:** having no internet
- **Underserved:** having substandard internet

Connecting a home to the internet



Computer

Modem

Last mile connection

Middle mile infrastructure

Greater Internet (to find what you asked for)

- Google
- Instagram/photo
- Netflix/streaming video

- Yahoo email message
- Facebook




Ohio's Progress

BroadbandOhio





Identifying the need



It was estimated that at the beginning of the administration, it was estimated that 300,000 homes were unserved.

BroadbandOhio has worked on multiple challenge processes to:

- Correct inaccurate coverage data
- Ensure funding reaches the communities most in need
- Identify **unserved** and **underserved** locations across Ohio

Challenge Process Overview

Enabled eligible entities to:

- Claim areas where they currently offer service
- Identify areas where they plan to provide service within two years
- Challenge inaccurate service claims of other providers

Challenge Submission:

- Submit evidence and documentation through the BroadbandOhio online portal
- BroadbandOhio reviewed the evidence either accepted or rejected the challenge

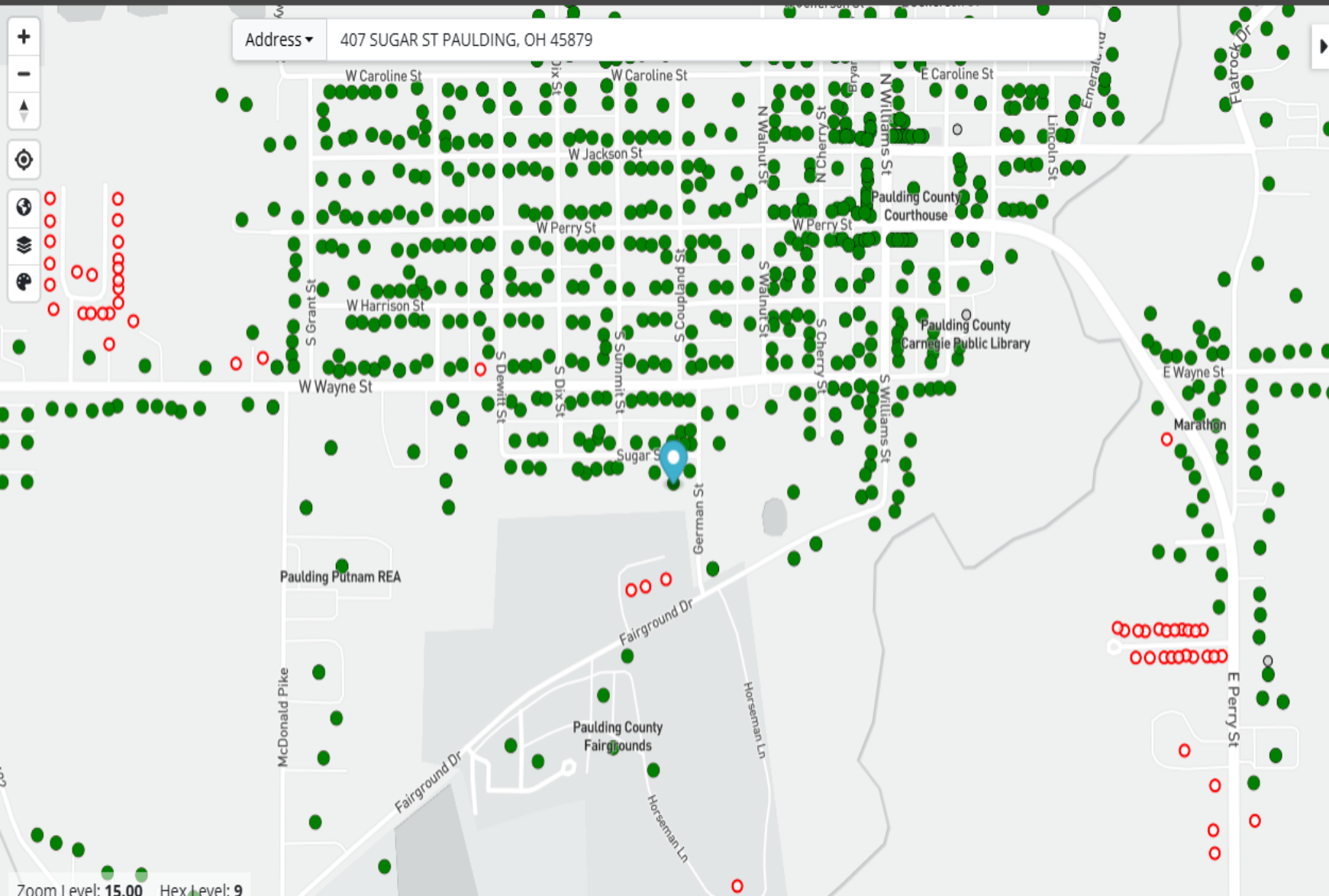
Provider Data Submission:

- List of all addresses currently served or planned for service
- Data from both groups informs the final **Ohio BEAD Map**

Service: Residential | Technology: Any Technology | Speed: ≥ 1000/100

Service Filters

Data As Of Jun 30, 2024 (latest) (Last Updated: 4/15/25)



Fixed Broadband | Mobile Broadband

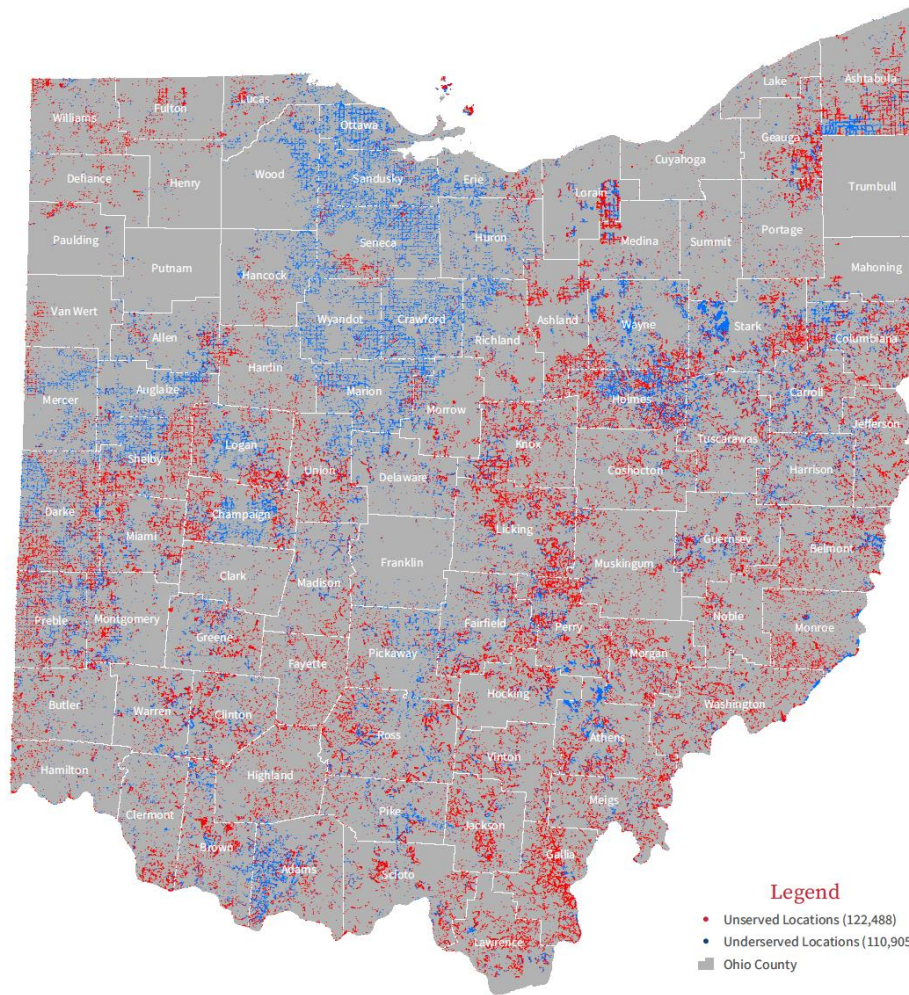
Selected Location [Location Challenge](#)

**407 SUGAR ST
 PAULDING, OH 45879**
 Status: **Served** | Residential | Unit Count: 1

Broadband Availability [Availability Challenge](#)

Provider	Technology	Down (Mbps)	Up (Mbps)	Chall.
Agile Networks	LBR Fixed Wireless	25	5	
HughesNet	GSO Satellite	100	5	
MetaLINK Technologies Inc	Licensed Fixed Wireless	100	25	
SAA bright.net Inc	Licensed Fixed Wireless	100	25	
Spectrum	Cable	1000	35	
Starlink	NGSO Satellite	220	25	
Viasat Inc	GSO Satellite	100	3	
Windstream Ohio, Inc.	Copper	100	20	
Windstream Ohio, Inc.	Fiber to the Premises	1000	1000	

BroadbandOhio
Unfunded Locations
Unserviced and Underserved Categories



This map shows the locations in Ohio lacking adequate broadband service that have not been touched by the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF), Connect America Fund II (CAF II), or the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant (ORBEG) programs. Any location with broadband service slower than 25/3 (mbps download/upload speeds) is unserviced. A location with broadband service of at least 25/3 but lower than 100/20 is underserved.

Funded Locations*	90,585
CAF II	3,228
ORBEG	50,406
RDOF	46,951
Unfunded Locations	233,293
Unserviced	122,488
Underserved	110,905

*Not shown on map



Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant (ORBEG) Program

- + Provides grants to internet service providers to build out internet infrastructure **for eligible locations identified in the challenge process**
- + \$232M awarded in 2021; \$94.5M awarded in 2024 to connect unserved/underserved addresses

The infographic features a dark blue header with the title 'Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program' in white, with 'Broadband Expansion' highlighted in a red box. Below the title is a light blue bar with 'ROUND 2 FUNDING' in white. The main content area is white and includes a photograph of a family on a couch, a dollar sign icon next to '\$94.5M TOTAL AWARD AMOUNT', and a house icon with a Wi-Fi symbol next to '35,000 HOUSEHOLDS SERVED IN 23 OHIO COUNTIES'. A map of Ohio on the right shows 23 counties highlighted in light blue: Williams, Fulton, Lucas, Geauga, Ashland, Defiance, Henry, Wood, Erie, Lorain, Portage, Trumbull, Allen, Auglaize, Logan, Knox, Mahoning, Shelby, Butler, Columbiana, and Preble. At the bottom are logos for Mike DeWine (Governor of Ohio), Jon Husted (Lt. Governor of Ohio), the Ohio Department of Development, and the 'Ohio THE HEART OF IT ALL' logo.

Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program

ROUND 2 FUNDING

  **\$94.5M**
TOTAL AWARD AMOUNT

 **35,000**
HOUSEHOLDS SERVED
IN 23 OHIO COUNTIES

 **MIKE DEWINE**
GOVERNOR OF OHIO

 **JON HUSTED**
LT. GOVERNOR OF OHIO

 **Department of
Development**
BroadbandOhio



Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Deep Dive

BEAD Program Facts

- Established through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (November 2021)
- Represents the largest federal investment to date in broadband infrastructure
- Aims to close the digital divide by 2030
- Includes a \$42.5 billion national investment
- Ohio awarded \$793 million in funding

Changes to the Original Program

Changes in the June 6th Policy Notice for Scoring:

- **Priority Project Definition:** all technologies can request to be considered a priority broadband project as long as they meet speed and scalability requirements.
- **Prioritization of Priority Projects:** State Broadband Offices must prioritize priority projects, unless they are deemed too expensive.
- **Minimal BEAD Program Outlay:** State Broadband Offices must select the combination of project proposals with the lowest overall cost to the Program. Secondary Criteria can only be considered where the applications are within 15% of each other for cost.

Secondary Criteria

- **Speed to Deployment:** The subgrantee agrees to complete service to a proposal faster than the 4 years allowed in for the grant.
- **Speed of Network and Technical Capabilities:** Weighted scoring based on speed, latency, and technical capabilities of the technologies proposed by the applicant.
- **Preliminary/ Provisional Subgrantees:** Providers that applied to BEAD rounds before the Benefit of the Bargain round may receive additional points.
 - Does not apply to Ohio.

How are grants awarded

Application Process Overview

The application period is a single phase:

- **Applicants fill out the authorized representative form**
- **Authorized Representatives then submit**
 - Prequalification materials
 - Applications for service

Application Requirements (via online portal):

- List of addresses for planned internet infrastructure
- Demonstration of technical, managerial, and financial capacity

Timeline and the future of broadband

Looking Back and Moving Forward!

- **November 2021:** The Investment in Infrastructure and Jobs Act signed into law and established the BEAD Program
- **July 2022:** BroadbandOhio/Department of Development received \$5 million in initial planning funds to establish a 5 Year Action Plan
- **June 2023:** Ohio's 5 Year Action Plan was submitted to the NTIA. The NTIA announced that Ohio would be allocated \$793 million once plans were approved.
- **September 2023:** Ohio submits Initial Proposal Volume 1 (plan for a challenge process)
- **December 2023:** Ohio submits Initial Proposal Volume 2 (plan to run the grantee selection process)
- **April 2024:** Initial Proposal Volume 1 approved by the NTIA
- **October 2024:** Initial Proposal Volume 2 approved by the NTIA
- **Late July to early August 2025:** Ohio will run the BEAD Subgrantee Selection Process
- **Thursday, August 28:** Post Final Proposal for Public Comment
- **Friday, September 4:** Submit Final Proposal to NTIA

Resources and Partnerships

BroadbandOhio
Website

BroadbandOhio
Alliance



EXPLORE VIEW GRANT DISCOVER
BROADBAND MAPS OPPORTUNITIES NEWS & EVENTS

Help Search

**Bridging the digital divide
for all Ohioans**



**Ohio BEAD
Challenge Process
and Grant Program**



**Ohio Residential
Broadband
Expansion Grant**

Roadblocks to Deployment

Issues that have slowed down projects

- Permitting
 - Utility
 - Local Government
 - Department of Transportation
 - Railroads
- Workforce
- Locates
- Local concerns
- The unknown

Questions?

Thank you

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