# DIGITAL EQUITY PROGRAM

**Why**
Ensure all residents can fully participate in today's digital society and economy

**How**
Provide access to affordable broadband, devices, skills, and support

**Phases**
- Formula Planning Grant: November 2023
- Formula Capacity Grant: 2024 – 2029
- Competitive Grant: 2024

## Activities

- Leadership and local partner input
- Research in partnership with UCONN
- Resident and front-line support focus groups
- Assessment of best practices
- Draft plan
- Public comment
- Submission (November)

# BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAMS

## ARPA CPF Program

For low-income/multi-family curb-to-home and business broadband infrastructure buildout and underserved area broadband infrastructure grants.

**Grant Funds:** $40.8M

Application period estimated to open mid-2023

Projects must be completed by the end of 2026

## IIJA BEAD Program

For the buildout of infrastructure to **all unserved and underserved locations**, followed by community anchors and digital equity efforts.

**Grant Funds:** $100M+

Notice of Funding Amounts expected 6/30/23

Application period estimated to open mid-late 2024

# WHY IT MATTERS

**Generally, CAIs are nonprofit or governmental community support organizations that facilitate greater use of broadband service by vulnerable populations, including:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Public Schools | Public or Multi-Family Housing Authorities | Libraries |
| Medical or Healthcare Providers | Higher Education Institutions, including Community Colleges | State Library Agencies |

**CAIs with related programming may be eligible for funding to connect to 1 Gigabit service plans and other financial support.**

# DIGITAL EQUITY SURVEY

1. Inventories programs and resources community anchors have in place to help residents access and leverage technology

2. Captures information that may result in eligibility of funding for high-speed broadband connections

3. Enables Connecticut to cite existing efforts in the state digital equity plan

4. Provides Connecticut with contact information for future outreach and funding opportunities

Find the survey at **broadbandmaps.ct.gov**

# RESIDENT SURVEY

- Allows for direct input from residents, especially priority groups

- Addresses broadband and device access, training, and support

- Enables the identification of barriers to access as well as promising practices

Coming soon at **Broadband.CT.gov**

# STAY IN TOUCH

**Kevin Pisacich**

Director
Office of Telecommunications and Broadband
Department of Energy & Environmental Protection

Kevin.Pisacich@ct.gov

**Doug Casey**

Executive Director
The Commission for Educational Technology
Department of Administrative Services

Doug.Casey@ct.gov