

National Telecommunications And Information Administration Seeks Comments On Program Design And Implementation For The Distribution Of More Than \$48 Billion In Broadband Funding Under The Infrastructure Investment And Jobs Act

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration [seeks](#) stakeholder input on the NTIA's efforts to implement the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, which the Biden Administration now refers to as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law ("BIL"). The BIL provides for a historic investment of \$65 billion in the nation's broadband infrastructure, and NTIA is responsible for distributing more than \$48 billion of this amount in broadband funding through several different programs. NTIA's request for comments presents an opportunity for stakeholders to provide input and recommendations for consideration in the development of broadband programs established under the BIL for implementation by NTIA.

In particular, NTIA invites commenters who have applied to or had experience with other federal or state broadband funding programs to offer suggestions on how effectively to implement these new programs. NTIA seeks input on general and specific topics as NTIA crafts notices of funding opportunities for each of the broadband programs.

NTIA's request for comment includes 36 questions across 9 topic areas, including the Biden Administration's policy objective (as manifested in previous Executive Orders) of "Ensuring the Future of America is Made in America By All of America's Workers." The questions concerning domestic procurement preference- and supply-chain issues include:

- "the likely impact of current workforce and supply chain constraints on the speed with which states, service providers, and others achieve" network deployment objectives;
- whether "the areas unserved or underserved by broadband networks, which will see substantial new deployments under the law's broadband provisions, are likely to face particularly significant workforce or supply-chain constraints;"
- steps NTIA should "take to mitigate the impact of workforce or supply-chain limitations;"
- steps NTIA should "take to ensure maximum use of American-made network components and that supply shortages are addressed in ways that create high-quality jobs for all Americans;"
- whether there are federal policy tools NTIA can "apply to help ensure that broadband funding is deployed in a way that maximizes the creation of good-paying jobs and that women and people of color have full opportunity to secure those jobs;" and
- the impact of the BIL's Buy American requirements on "supply-chain and workforce challenges and on the speed with which the nation can reach the goal of 100% broadband connectivity."

Comments must be filed by 5:00 p.m. on February 4, 2022. Comments can be filed through the [Federal e-Rulemaking Portal](#) on docket number NTIA-2021-0002. NTIA also is hosting a series of public virtual listening sessions to collect stakeholder input. Future sessions are scheduled for January 26, February 9, and February 23, 2022. More information about the listening sessions can be found at <https://www.ntia.doc.gov/federal-register-notice/2021/broadbandgrant-programs-public-virtual-listeningsessions>.