



Broadband

Governor's Office of Economic Development

Overview

Governor Noem's recommended budget includes \$50,000,000 in ARPA funding to continue expanding broadband access across South Dakota. The Governor's goal is to connect the entire state to high-speed, reliable broadband that meets the needs of the 21st century. This ARPA funding will ensure we can meet that goal using as few state dollars as possible.

Project Description

To be ARPA-eligible, a broadband project must reliably deliver minimum speeds of 100 mbps download and 100 mbps upload, or—in cases where this is unfeasible—speeds of 100 mbps download and 20 mbps upload. A project must also serve unserved or underserved households or businesses. Based on this criteria, the Governor's recommendation is to use \$25 million in ARPA funds to cover projects announced this past June, which will be completed in 2022 and 2023.

An additional \$25 million in ARPA funds will be used as required matching dollars for the federal broadband funding South Dakota will receive as a part of the infrastructure bill passed in November 2021. The minimum any state will receive is \$100 million for broadband, but there is a requirement that states provide a 25% match to use the funds. Setting aside this ARPA money now ensures we will be able to utilize the full \$100 million from the infrastructure bill.

Funding

The Governor's recommended budget includes \$50,000,000 in ARPA funding.