



Broadband

Governor's Office of Economic Development

Overview

Governor Rhoden's recommended budget includes \$87 million in federal fund expenditure authority to complete projects related to the federal Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment (BEAD) program. This program allows for South Dakotans to receive high-speed broadband internet without further investment of state funds.

Since the start of the Noem-Rhoden Administration, South Dakota has invested over \$300 million in combined federal, state, and private funds to expand high-speed broadband to every corner of the state.

Sound infrastructure is closely tied to economic opportunity. Much like electricity, reliable and fast internet is no longer an option, but a necessity for connecting families, farmers, and businesses to one another. Utilizing federal dollars already appropriated to South Dakota will ensure that South Dakotan citizens remain free to live and do business where they choose.

Background

Since 2019, \$85 million in general funds have been dedicated towards broadband. This investment has brought in \$88.5 million in federal funds and an additional \$129.6 million in industry investment for broadband. The state's prior commitments have brought in approximately \$2.56 for every state dollar invested. Further broadband investment from the federal government means that every state dollar invested will be stretched even further.

Broadband Investment

Utilization of the federal dollars allows for the one-time investment into broadband without spending limited state taxpayer dollars. These additional federal dollars allow for further investment into rural areas, while also encouraging private sector investment into connecting South Dakotan communities.