



2025 REPORT CARD FOR AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE

Broadband



SUMMARY



Work, commerce, and daily life rely on digital connectivity, fast and reliable internet has become essential. Broadband adoption increased from just 1% of U.S. adults in 2000 to 80% today. Research shows the U.S. could have lost \$1.3 trillion in economic growth between 2010 and 2020 had broadband speeds and adoption remained at 2010 levels. Since 1996, the private sector has invested \$2.2 trillion in broadband infrastructure, and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) added \$65 billion in federal funding. Even still, 12.7 million households—about 10%—still lack broadband access at home or on mobile devices. As efforts continue to close this gap, challenges remain from extreme weather disruptions and the rapid pace of technological change, which affect both reliability and long-term planning.

FAST FACTS

- 24 million Americans lack fixed broadband service.
- The IIJA provided \$65 billion to improve broadband access and close the digital divide.
- The telecommunications industry will require an additional 205,000 employees over the next five years to build, operate and maintain, broadband networks.
- It is estimated that it will cost \$61 billion to meet the BEAD program's stated goal of universal broadband availability for every American by 2030.

SOLUTIONS TO RAISE THE GRADE

- ✓ Incentivize adoption of updated codes and standards for utility poles and structures used in broadband deployment.
- ✓ Expand Dig Once policies to include broadband in public works projects that already involve underground work.
- ✓ Consider life-cycle and recovery costs when planning broadband projects.
- ✓ Provide dedicated, predictable funding for broadband affordability programs.

To explore more solutions to raise the grades check out infrastructurereportcard.org