



MINNESOTA
TELECOM
ALLIANCE

Minnesota's Broadband Voice

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President/CEO

Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband,
and Rural Development Committee

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Minnesota Telecom Alliance

- We are 42 broadband providers who serve rural Minnesota.
- Members range from Lumen to one member with 260 telecom customers.
- Almost every telecom company, except Frontier and Windstream.
- Who we are not:
 - Cellular companies
 - Vonage & Magic Jack
- MTA Members have transitioned from landline telephone companies to broadband providers.

Private Investment

MTA members have invested \$359.4 million
in 2023 and \$293.7 million in 2024

Total Private investment: \$653.1 million

Year		Grants awarded		Local Match		Total
2014	\$	18,778,801	\$	27,980,795	\$	46,759,596
2015	\$	13,769,984	\$	21,958,060	\$	35,728,044
2016	\$	33,197,935	\$	40,092,318	\$	73,290,253
2017	\$	26,475,556	\$	34,247,589	\$	60,723,145
2019	\$	23,075,085	\$	35,730,023	\$	58,805,108
2020	\$	20,575,164	\$	33,625,018	\$	54,200,182
2022	\$	99,612,713	\$	152,259,622	\$	251,872,335
2023	\$	36,907,763	\$	60,858,890	\$	97,766,653
2023LD	\$	29,961,246	\$	10,760,594	\$	40,721,840
2023LE	\$	4,395,257	\$	-	\$	4,395,257
2024(9)	\$	33,302,177	\$	44,535,843	\$	77,838,020
2024LD	\$	19,729,816	\$	6,576,605	\$	26,306,421
2024(10)	\$	24,963,338	\$	368,677,181	\$	393,640,519
2024LD2	\$	26,999,984	\$	9,791,057	\$	36,791,041
\$		411,744,819	\$	847,093,595	\$	1,258,838,414

Federal Dollars Coming into Minnesota

- Universal Service Fund High-Cost fund
(total of over \$1.2 billion from 2016 – 2028)
 - Connect America Fund II (CAF II)
 - Alternative Connect America Model (A-CAM)
 - CAF II Auction
 - A-CAM II
 - RDOF
- Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Re-Connect Grants/Loans
 - Over \$44 million through 5 rounds

Federal Obstacles to BEAD Participation

- Lien Requirements
- Open Access Requirements
- Archeological and environmental requirements to have permits in place BEFORE the contract is signed.

State Obstacles to BEAD Participation

- Self-funded Low-Cost Program
- Prevailing wage
 - Additional reporting requirements
 - No telecom specific job classifications
- Workforce Plan Data Reporting Requirements
- New Certification requirements for telecom installers
 - Only applies to certain telecommunications installers
 - Pipelayers (4 hours of training), us (40 hours of training)
 - Requires training on directional boring machines, whether you have one or not.

What's the answer?

- More carrots, less sticks!
 - Work to remove obstacles to participation
 - Incentivize rural Broadband providers
- Work together to go after bad actors using existing Office of Pipeline Safety authority

Questions?

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