

# Glossary

Term	Definition
Aging Individual	The term “aging individual” means an individual who is 60 years of age or older. <sup>1</sup>
Backbone Infrastructure	A major high-speed transmission line that strategically links smaller high-speed Internet networks across the globe. <sup>2</sup>
Bandwidth	The capability of telecommunications and Internet networks to transmit data and signals. <sup>2</sup>
Broadband; Broadband Service	The term broadband commonly refers to high-speed Internet access that is always on and faster than traditional dial-up access. Broadband includes several high-speed transmission technologies, such as fiber, wireless, satellite, digital subscriber line and cable. For the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), broadband capability requires consumers to have access to actual download speeds of at least 25 Mbps and actual upload speeds of at least 3 Mbps. <sup>2</sup>
Broadband Serviceable Location	The terms “location” and “broadband serviceable location” mean a business or residential location in the United States at which fixed broadband Internet access service is, or can be, installed. <sup>1</sup>
Community Anchor Institution (CAI)	The term “community anchor institution” means an entity such as a school, library, health clinic, health center, hospital or other medical provider, public safety entity, institution of higher education, public housing organization, or community support organization that facilitates greater use of broadband service by vulnerable populations, including, but not limited to, low-income individuals, unemployed individuals, children, the incarcerated, and aged individuals. <sup>1</sup>
Eligible Community Anchor Institution	The term “eligible community anchor institution” means a community anchor institution that lacks access to Gigabit-level broadband service. <sup>1</sup>
Dark Fiber	Fiber optic cable that is in place but not being used for broadband services. (also see “Lit Fiber”) <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/BEAD%20NOFO.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/publication-pdfs/bbusa\\_broadband\\_glossary.pdf](https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/publication-pdfs/bbusa_broadband_glossary.pdf)

## Glossary (Continued)

Term	Definition
Digital Equity	Recognizes that digital access and skills are now required for full participation in many aspects of society and the economy. Digital Equity links Digital Inclusion to social justice and highlights that a lack of access and/or skills can further isolate individuals and communities from a broad range of opportunities. <sup>2</sup>
Digital Inclusion	Implies that individuals and communities have access to robust broadband connections; Internet enabled devices that meet their needs; and the skills to explore, create and collaborate in the digital world. <sup>2</sup>
Digital Literacy	The ability to leverage current technologies, such as smartphones and laptops, and Internet access to perform research, create content and interact with the world. <sup>2</sup>
Internet Service Provider (ISP)	A company that provides users (individuals or businesses) with access (a connection) to the Internet and related services. <sup>2</sup>
Last Mile	The technology and process of connecting the end customer’s home or business to the local network provider. <sup>2</sup>
Lit Fiber	An active fiber optic cable capable of transmitting data such a broadband service. <sup>2</sup>
Mbps	*Mbps (Megabits per second) is the standard measure of broadband speed. It refers to the speed with which information packets are downloaded from, or uploaded to, the internet. <sup>3</sup>
Middle Mile Infrastructure	The term “middle mile infrastructure” (A) means any broadband infrastructure that does not connect directly to an end-user location, including a community anchor institution; and (B) includes—(i) leased dark fiber, interoffice transport, backhaul, carrier-neutral internet exchange facilities, carrier-neutral submarine cable landing stations, undersea cables, transport connectivity to data centers, special access transport, and other similar services; and (ii) wired or private wireless broadband infrastructure, including microwave capacity, radio tower access, and other services or infrastructure for a private wireless broadband network, such as towers, fiber, and microwave links. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/household-broadband-guide>

## Glossary (Continued)

Term	Definition
Open Access	The term “open access” refers to an arrangement in which the subgrantee offers nondiscriminatory access to and use of its network on a wholesale basis to other providers seeking to provide broadband service to end-user locations, at just and reasonable wholesale rates for the useful life of the subsidized network assets. <sup>1</sup>
Rights-of-Way	ROW are legal rights to pass through property owned by another. ROW are frequently used to secure access to land for digging trenches, deploying fiber, constructing towers and deploying equipment on existing towers and utility poles. <sup>2</sup>
Underrepresented Communities	The term “underrepresented communities” refers to groups that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life, including: low-income households, aging individuals, incarcerated individuals, veterans, persons of color, Indigenous and Native American persons, members of ethnic and religious minorities, women, LGBTQI+ persons, persons with disabilities, persons with limited English proficiency, persons who live in rural areas, and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality. <sup>1</sup>
Underserved Location	The term “underserved location” means a broadband-serviceable location that is (a) not an unserved location, and (b) that the Broadband DATA Maps show as lacking access to Reliable Broadband Service offered with—(i) a speed of not less than 100 Mbps for downloads; and (ii) a speed of not less than 20 Mbps for uploads; and (iii) latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds. <sup>1</sup>
Unserved Location	The term “unserved location” means a broadband-serviceable location that the Broadband DATA Maps show as (a) having no access to broadband service, or (b) lacking access to Reliable Broadband Service offered with—(i) a speed of not less than 25 Mbps for downloads; and (ii) a speed of not less than 3 Mbps for uploads; and (iii) latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds. <sup>1</sup>
WSBO	WSBO is an acronym for the Washington State Broadband Office.