



# CWA DISTRICT 1 BROADBAND BRIGADE: Fighting for Broadband Expansion, More Work for Our Members!

## WHAT IS THE CWA BROADBAND BRIGADE?

The Broadband Brigade is made up of telecom workers from CWA Locals throughout New York.

Through the American Rescue Plan and the Infrastructure, Investment and Jobs Act, and additional funding that CWA helped secure in the NYS budget, New York has \$1.6 billion to expand broadband across the state—and the work must be done with prevailing wage and preference given to employers that have high road labor standards.

The Broadband Brigade has been preparing for this huge opportunity by working to ensure that this funding goes to union employers and creates more jobs and more work for CWA members.

## RECENT BROADBAND BRIGADE WINS

- ✓ CWA helped pass the Wired Act requiring that this work must be subject to strong labor standards, pay prevailing wage, and preference fiber technology
- ✓ We won labor-friendly language in the scoring process that determines who wins the bids, favoring employers who:
  - Using a directly-hired workforce over outside contractors
  - Commitment to union neutrality and other union support
  - No official labor relations complaints or violations in the past three years
- ✓ Our Broadband Organizing Brigade helped GoNetSpeed workers organize to join CWA 1122
- ✓ We've secured 21 commitments from county governments to submit letters of support for our employers

## BROADBAND FUNDING UNDER THREAT

The future of this program is at risk.

The current administration has been critical of the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, which makes up \$664 million of this funding.

Satellite company CEOs like Elon Musk have been pushing to funnel more of the money meant for fiber buildout to unreliable satellite internet service. In fact, **Starlink is rumored to take over Verizon's \$2 billion FAA contract.**

Recently, a top official in charge of the BEAD program left the administration, warning: **"Stranding all or part of rural America with worse internet so that we can make the world's richest man even richer is yet another in a long line of betrayals by Washington."**

source: [www.politico.com/news/2025/03/16/official-exits-commerce-department-musk-warning-00232278](https://www.politico.com/news/2025/03/16/official-exits-commerce-department-musk-warning-00232278)

## WE HAVE TO STAND UP AND FIGHT FOR OUR WORK.

Sign the petition to tell the National Telecommunications & Info Administration:

**Stand up to pressure to redirect funds to unreliable satellite internet service!**

**Continue working to create good, union jobs by investing in reliable, high-speed fiber internet!**

