



# Broadband Solutions

Providing 24/7 connectivity to your community.



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# Why Fiber Matters

Much like electricity, water and gas, reliable connectivity is now considered an essential utility and is fundamentally changing and impacting how we work, learn and live. Having robust fiber infrastructure is transforming communities and delivering opportunities that will allow them to survive and thrive. Fiber optic cable is the clear choice to deliver superior broadband connectivity.

## Driving Economic Growth

Fiber is essential for promoting economic development and innovation. Fiber connectivity has the potential to attract new business to a community, particularly in tech-driven industries. Broadband allows business and individuals to participate in the global marketplace. It also opens doors to better healthcare, educational opportunities and public services, which results in growing and thriving communities.

With public and private investments in broadband infrastructure booming, communities that lag in conquering the digital divide will be at an even greater competitive disadvantage.

## Will 5G Replace Fiber?

Fiber infrastructure is highly flexible and future-ready, which provides a solid foundation for future technologies such as 5G. Fiber is expected to serve as the essential backbone for next generation 5G networks and other emerging technologies as they develop.

Fiber is considered a complementary technology to 5G and other technologies such as augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR) and other IoT technologies.



# Why is Investing in Fiber Infrastructure So Critical?

With fiber delivering the fastest and most reliable broadband technology, it is considered the backbone of communications for business and communities and will continue to be key in the deployment of next-generation wireless networks and services.

As our society becomes increasingly reliant on technology, investing in fiber infrastructure helps to ensure compatibility with future technologies such as 5G and IoT devices, as well as empowering smart cities.

With fiber optics being the foundation of a digitally connected world, it is crucial to prioritize the investment in fiber infrastructure to pave the way for innovation, remain competitive in the global market, improve quality of life and foster a thriving economy.



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## Why Now?

As we enter this era of digital transformation, there is a massive influx of various funding sources available to support fiber infrastructure and broadband deployments. It is the biggest investment in high-speed internet in history and will be a game changer for the future of connectivity.

With over \$100 billion in federal, state and local funding in the United States being invested over the next five to 10 years, the goal is to close the digital divide so that all Americans have access to affordable, high-speed connectivity.

This funding is also being supplemented by record levels of private investment to support the expansion of both fiber and 5G services.

Having access to funds to support broadband deployment will allow us to capitalize on revolutionizing connectivity to meet current demands and prepare for the future.

## Helping Us Achieve Global Competitiveness

It is imperative that the U.S. has world-class smart infrastructure to boost competitiveness in the international market, as well as creating new opportunities and enabling innovation.

High-speed connectivity will allow manufacturing companies to meet the challenges of global competition and adopt recent new technologies to improve operations. The use of modern communication technologies will also help agricultural and farming business increase the quantity and quality of products to help feed the ever-increasing world population.

# Meeting Demands for the Future

The future is being built with fiber as the backbone. Fiber is the technology with the longest average life and can be easily upgraded to meet future needs and reduce future operational expenses. With fiber playing a crucial role in our digital world, it will serve our needs well into the future.

## Empowering Smart Cities and IoT Technologies

Fiber is transforming how we live and work by delivering high-speed, seamless connectivity to business and individuals. This is enabling us to improve efficiency and enhance automation using the vast network of devices in today's interconnected world, the Internet of Things (IoT). IoT-enabled devices provide real-time data and analytics, which can transform healthcare, automate and streamline manufacturing processes, reduce costs and improve overall efficiency.

IoT is playing a vital role in the development of smart city initiatives that will allow cities to better manage resources, enhance mobility and transportation, increase safety and security, and improve quality of life for their citizens.



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# What Are the Benefits?

## Business

Fiber is the best choice for business because of its security advantages, coupled with the incredible speed and reliability it delivers. To keep competitive, access to high-speed connectivity is critical. Having access to broadband not only allows current business to grow and prosper, but attracts new business, technologies and opportunities.

## Communities

Fiber infrastructure is the foundation for a growing and thriving community. Access to high-speed internet can improve public safety, make government services more efficient, deliver first-class healthcare options, provide greater educational and learning opportunities and lower unemployment rates.

## Residents

High-speed internet is becoming a necessity for modern life, and having access to a robust broadband network enriches the overall quality of life for those living in any community. It is changing the way people live, work and play their connected lives when utilized for smart technologies including home electronics, appliances, gaming and security applications for tablets, watches and computers.

Having access to fiber broadband has become the expectation for home buyers and can increase property values. It also means individuals and families can access better healthcare, entertainment, job and business opportunities, as well as furthering education programs.



# Broadband Infrastructure Funding Mechanisms

There are over a hundred different funding opportunities currently available for broadband infrastructure and expansion over the next decade.

Here is an overview of some of the largest funding vehicles that are aimed at closing the digital divide and will support broadband planning, digital inclusion and deployment projects.

## **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**

The funding in the ARPA program has over \$25 billion dedicated to expanding digital connectivity through construction of affordable and high-speed broadband infrastructure and other connectivity projects.

## **Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program (BEAD)**

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) established the BEAD Program to provide \$42.5 billion to expand high-speed internet access by funding planning, infrastructure deployment, mapping and adoption programs.

## **Capital Projects Fund (CPF)**

The CPF provides \$10 billion to states, territories, freely associated states and Tribal governments to fund critical capital projects to ensure that all communities have access to the high-quality modern infrastructure, including broadband, needed to access critical services.

## **Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program**

This program provides \$1 billion for the construction, improvement and acquisition of middle mile infrastructure. This program is specifically in place to get the internet backbone closer to unserved/underserved areas to help make the last-mile connection easier and more affordable.

## **Rural Digital Opportunities Fund (RDOF)**

RDOF will disburse up to \$20.4 billion over 10 years to bring fixed broadband and voice services to millions of unserved homes and small business across rural America.

## **ReConnect Round 4**

The latest funding in the fourth round of the USDA's ReConnect Program represents \$1.47 billion for high-speed internet to improve e-connectivity and facilitate broadband deployment in rural areas across America.

## **Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program**

In addition to previous funds provided for tribal connectivity, this program provides \$2 billion to tribal governments to be used for broadband deployment on tribal lands, as well as telehealth, distance learning, broadband affordability and digital inclusion.

The historic investment being made for the deployment of fiber infrastructure will provide utilities, telecommunications providers and government institutions with the opportunity to build world-class fiber communications networks and will be critical to end the digital divide. With the goal of leaving no community behind, building fiber infrastructure will increase our global competitiveness and spur economic growth across the country.

## **Build America, Buy America Act (BABA)**

This was enacted as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and specifically states that none of the funds available for Federal infrastructure programs can be used for projects unless all the iron, steel, manufactured products and construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States. This is particularly important to note, since much of the federal funding currently available for broadband initiatives is subject to the Build America, Buy America Act.

With access to all the leading manufacturers and innovators in the industry, Wesco can help you meet the requirements of BABA with targeted solutions that fit your project needs and goals.



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**Conclusion:**

# **Better Connections Start with Fiber**

Access to high-speed, future-proof fiber infrastructure is exciting and life-changing to those living in unserved or underserved communities. Fiber broadband is an important technology, and its importance will continue to be critical to our social and economic advancement.

Wesco is here to help you address your broadband challenges and formulate future-ready fiber broadband infrastructure that is best suited for your unique needs. With years of experience with fiber broadband projects, we have built a reputation in the industry as the go-to technology provider delivering innovative products, services and supply chain solutions for designing, building and deploying future-ready fiber networks.

## **How Wesco Can Help You Address Rural Broadband Deployment Challenges**

Wesco is proud to be partnering with utilities, telecom providers and government entities to bring high-speed connectivity to homes and business in every corner of the world.

We have a proven track record for managing the full scope of a project, thus allowing the customer to focus on delivering essential services while Wesco takes full responsibility of the broadband project.

Wesco's approach is to listen, evaluate, collaborate and use our expertise to save time, provide consistency and improve scalability.

Having industry-leading knowledge and expertise with the complexities of these types of broadband projects means that Wesco has creative and innovative methods already in place to streamline and accelerate deployment projects.



## Learn how Wesco has helped these companies efficiently deploy broadband networks and provide solutions to drive efficiencies for time savings and spend optimization.

Let us help you address the possibilities and potential of bringing high-speed broadband to your community and deliver unlimited opportunities to those who live there.

### Everyone Wins With Fiber.



#### Case Study

Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative Brings Their Journey Full Circle



#### Case Study

In Terms of Bringing Broadband to Rural America — the Future is Cooperative



#### Case Study

Bringing Reliable Broadband Connectivity to a Tribal Reservation

#### QUICK FACTS



**140+**  
FTTx projects  
launched



**165,000**  
miles of rural  
broadband fiber

For information on Wesco's Broadband solutions, visit [Wesco.com/Broadband](https://Wesco.com/Broadband)



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