

# Broadband Basics: What Is Broadband?

Terms like broadband, Wi-Fi, online, streaming, and more, underscore how the internet has changed the way we work, play, access healthcare, go to school, and stay connected. Today, communities face a wide array of challenges and have multiple avenues to bring the internet's advantages to their residents.

## Defining Broadband

In simple terms, the internet is a vast communication network that provides access to information and allows people to interact with each other worldwide. Broadband describes the connection speed required for people to take full benefit of telecommuting, online education, telehealth and other online services. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) ruled in 2015 that broadband is defined as a service with download and upload speeds of at least 25 and 3 megabits per second, respectively. The speeds can be obtained through a variety of technologies, including but not limited to digital subscriber line (DSL), coaxial cable (cable company), fiber, wireless, or satellite.

## Broadband by the Numbers

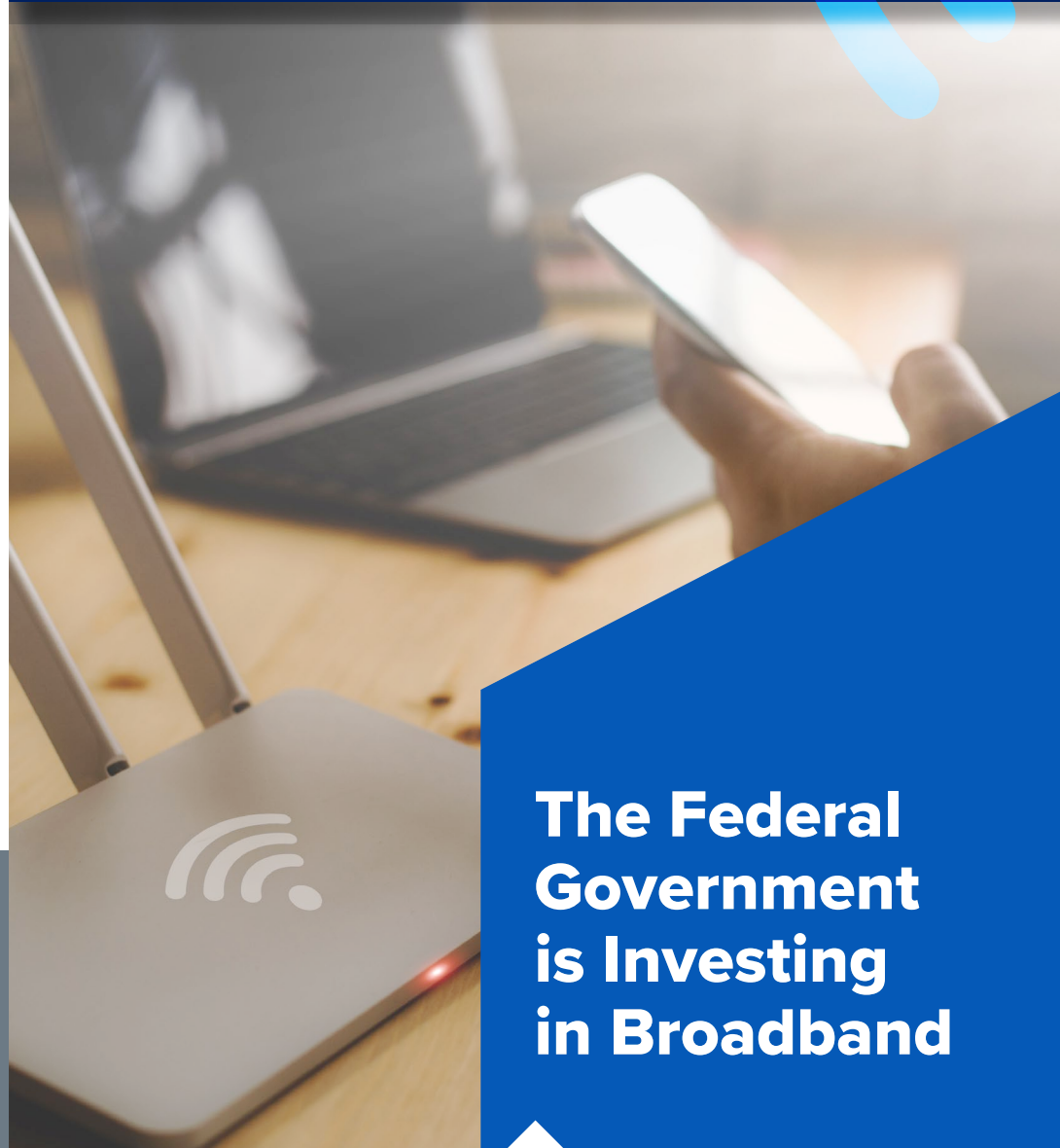
To put that into perspective, this table lists speeds for common online activities per connected device.

Activity	Minimum Download Speed in Megabits per second (Mbps)
Check email and browse the web	1–5
Stream HD content	5–25
Stream 4K content and play competitive online games	40–100
Stream 4K content, play competitive online games, and download very large files	200

Source: <https://broadbandnow.com/guides/how-much-internet-speed-do-i-need>

Broadband has taken center stage and is considered a necessity instead of a luxury. Broadband has become a critical factor in government, business, and personal life. Individuals and communities cannot grow and prosper in today's world without high-speed and high-quality internet access. Our children need it for their education, working people need it to unlock job opportunities, and everyone needs it to access modern healthcare. Rural communities are in the greatest need as confirmed by the FCC in a published report stating that, as of 2019, 4.4% of Americans in the US lack broadband access compared to 22.317% in rural areas. This data demonstrates a digital divide that disproportionately impacts rural communities.

# What Is Broadband Used For?



## The Federal Government is Investing in Broadband

### Contact Us

For more information on the benefits of bringing broadband to your community, funding opportunities to cover the investment, and the range of services GrantWorks offers, please contact:

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In recent years, the government has been increasingly focused on offering programs to connect communities with broadband. The largest opportunity is created by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) which includes \$65B for rural broadband access. This represents a revolutionary opportunity for small and rural communities to leap into the future. The act will allow for \$42.5 billion to be issued through the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment program (BEAD). The funds available in this program will be available through grants that will focus on deploying high-speed broadband to the unserved, underserved, and anchor institutions. GrantWorks can help you assess a range of funding opportunities to make your community thrive

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