

50.26 **ARTICLE 3**  
50.27 **BROADBAND**

50.28 Section 1. **BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS.**

51.1 The sums shown in the columns marked "Appropriations" are appropriated to the agencies  
51.2 and for the purposes specified in this article. The appropriations are from the general fund,  
51.3 or another named fund, and are available for the fiscal years indicated for each purpose.  
51.4 The figures "2024" and "2025" used in this article mean that the appropriations listed under  
51.5 them are available for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, or June 30, 2025, respectively.  
51.6 "The first year" is fiscal year 2024. "The second year" is fiscal year 2025. "The biennium"  
51.7 is fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

	<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	
	<u>Available for the Year</u>	
	<u>Ending June 30</u>	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
51.12 Sec. 2. <b><u>DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT</u></b>		
51.13 <b><u>AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</u></b>	\$ <u>75,350,000</u>	\$ <u>50,350,000</u>

51.14 (a) \$350,000 each year is for the Office of  
51.15 Broadband Development.  
51.16 (b) \$55,000,000 the first year and \$30,000,000  
51.17 the second year are transferred from the  
51.18 general fund to the border-to-border broadband  
51.19 fund account established in Minnesota  
51.20 Statutes, section 116J.396. These transfers are  
51.21 onetime.

51.22 (c) \$20,000,000 the first year and \$20,000,000  
51.23 the second year are appropriated to the  
51.24 commissioner for the lower population density  
51.25 grant program to award grants to provide  
51.26 broadband service to unserved and  
51.27 underserved areas of the state where a 50  
51.28 percent match formula is not adequate to make  
51.29 a business case for the extension of broadband  
51.30 facilities. Grants awarded under this paragraph

73.9 **ARTICLE 3**  
73.10 **BROADBAND**

73.11 Section 1. **BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS.**

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73.13 and for the purposes specified in this article. The appropriations are from the general fund,  
73.14 or another named fund, and are available for the fiscal years indicated for each purpose.  
73.15 The figures "2024" and "2025" used in this article mean that the appropriations listed under  
73.16 them are available for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, or June 30, 2025, respectively.  
73.17 "The first year" is fiscal year 2024. "The second year" is fiscal year 2025. "The biennium"  
73.18 is fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

	<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	
	<u>Available for the Year</u>	
	<u>Ending June 30</u>	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
73.23 Sec. 2. <b><u>DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT</u></b>		
73.24 <b><u>AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</u></b>	\$ <u>73,350,000</u>	\$ <u>50,350,000</u>

73.25 (a) \$350,000 each year is for the Office of  
73.26 Broadband Development.  
73.27 (b) \$75,000,000 the first year and \$50,000,000  
73.28 the second year are for transfer to the  
73.29 border-to-border broadband fund account  
73.30 established in Minnesota Statutes, section  
73.31 116J.396. Of the amount transferred each year,  
73.32 \$20,000,000 is for lower population density  
73.33 program grants under Minnesota Statutes,  
74.1 section 116J.3952. This is a onetime  
74.2 appropriation.

51.31 may fund up to 75 percent of the total cost of  
51.32 a project and must otherwise adhere to  
51.33 Minnesota Statutes, section 116J.395,  
51.34 subdivisions 1 to 6; subdivision 7, paragraph  
51.35 (b); and subdivision 8. These appropriations  
51.36 are onetime.

52.1 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 116J.395, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

52.2 Subd. 7. **Limitation.** (a) No grant awarded under this section may fund more than 50  
52.3 percent of the total cost of a project.

52.4 (b) Grants awarded to a single project under this section must not exceed ~~\$5,000,000~~  
52.5 \$10,000,000.

52.6 Sec. 4. **[116J.3952] LOWER POPULATION DENSITY GRANT PROGRAM.**

52.7 Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** A lower population density grant program is established  
52.8 in the Department of Employment and Economic Development. The purpose of the lower  
52.9 population density grant program is to provide broadband service to unserved and  
52.10 underserved areas of the state where a 50 percent match formula is not adequate to make a  
52.11 business case for the extension of broadband facilities.

52.12 Subd. 2. **Grants.** Grants awarded under this section may fund up to 75 percent of the  
52.13 total cost of a project and must otherwise adhere to section 116J.395, subdivisions 1 to 6  
52.14 and subdivision 7, paragraph (b).

52.15 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 116J.396, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

52.16 Subd. 2. **Expenditures.** Money in the account may be used only:

52.17 (1) for grant awards made under sections 116J.395 ~~and to 116J.3951~~ 116J.3952, including  
52.18 costs incurred by the Department of Employment and Economic Development to administer  
52.19 that section;

52.20 (2) to supplement revenues raised by bonds sold by local units of government for  
52.21 broadband infrastructure development; or

52.22 (3) to contract for the collection of broadband deployment data from providers and the  
52.23 creation of maps showing the availability of broadband service.

52.24 Sec. 6. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

52.25 This act is effective July 1, 2023.

74.3 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 116J.395, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

74.4 Subd. 7. **Limitation.** (a) No grant awarded under this section may fund more than 50  
74.5 percent of the total cost of a project.

74.6 (b) Grants awarded to a single project under this section must not exceed ~~\$5,000,000~~  
74.7 \$10,000,000.

74.8 Sec. 4. **[116J.3952] LOWER POPULATION DENSITY GRANT PROGRAM.**

74.9 Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** A lower population density grant program is established  
74.10 in the Department of Employment and Economic Development. The purpose of the lower  
74.11 population density grant program is to provide broadband service to unserved and  
74.12 underserved areas of the state where a 50 percent match formula is not adequate to make a  
74.13 business case for the extension of broadband facilities.

74.14 Subd. 2. **Grants.** Grants awarded under this section may fund up to 75 percent of the  
74.15 total cost of a project and must otherwise adhere to section 116J.395, subdivisions 1 to 6  
74.16 and subdivision 7, paragraph (b).

74.17 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 116J.396, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

74.18 Subd. 2. **Expenditures.** Money in the account may be used only:

74.19 (1) for grant awards made under sections 116J.395 ~~and to 116J.3951~~ 116J.3952, including  
74.20 costs incurred by the Department of Employment and Economic Development to administer  
74.21 that section;

74.22 (2) to supplement revenues raised by bonds sold by local units of government for  
74.23 broadband infrastructure development; or

74.24 (3) to contract for the collection of broadband deployment data from providers and the  
74.25 creation of maps showing the availability of broadband service.

74.26 Sec. 6. Laws 2022, chapter 95, article 4, section 2, is amended to read:

74.27 Sec. 2. **LOWER POPULATION DENSITY PILOT PROGRAM.**

74.28 (a) The commissioner of employment and economic development must establish a pilot  
74.29 program to provide broadband service to unserved and underserved areas, as defined in  
75.1 Minnesota Statutes, section 116J.394, of the state where a 50 percent match formula is not  
75.2 adequate to make a business case for the extension of broadband facilities. Grants awarded  
75.3 under this section shall adhere to all other requirements of Minnesota Statutes, section  
75.4 116J.395, subdivisions 1 to 6, and may fund up to 75 percent of the total cost of a project,  
75.5 notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes section 116J.395, subdivision 7. Grants awarded to a  
75.6 single project under this section may not exceed \$10,000,000.

75.7 (b) The commissioner of employment and economic development may use up to  
75.8 \$30,000,000 from the appropriations in sections 3 and 4 for the lower population density  
75.9 pilot program under paragraph (a).

75.10 (c) No later than December 31, 2023, the Office of Broadband Development must submit  
75.11 a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the senate and house of representatives  
75.12 committees with primary jurisdiction over broadband policy and finance analyzing the  
75.13 impacts of this section on the number and amounts of grants awarded under Minnesota  
75.14 Statutes, section 116J.395.

75.15 (d) This section expires December 31, 2026.