



**COLORADO**  
**Governor Jared Polis**

Governor Polis knows that a strong, reliable broadband connection is essential to a strong economy. For years, Colorado has been working to bolster broadband infrastructure around the state, but these efforts were made even more urgent by the COVID-19 pandemic. Overnight, Coloradans were forced to rely on their internet to go to work and our classrooms went remote. People turned to telehealth and ordered their groceries online. Connectivity was suddenly more important than ever before. That's why Governor Polis and Colorado legislators took urgent action and utilized historic stimulus funds to power the future by investing in expanding Colorado's broadband network.

### **Legislative Accomplishments**

- **HB21-1289 Funding for Broadband Deployment**: Addresses critical gaps in our broadband infrastructure by providing \$75 million for middle- and last-mile broadband access, including \$20 million for broadband infrastructure in Tribal communities.
  - ◆ It also codified the Colorado Broadband Office, and created a Digital Inclusion Grant Program to provide for user adoption initiatives
- **HB21-1109 Broadband Changes to Expand Broadband Service**: Modifies the current Broadband Deployment Board, including creating a request for proposal process that allows the Board to identify and prioritize areas that lack access to broadband, and then fund projects through the Broadband Fund.
- **HB20B-1001 Grants to Improve Internet Access in P-12 Education**: This legislation ran in the special session and provided emergency spending totaling \$20 million to school districts to ensure their students could connect to the internet.