



BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4

Accessing Project Area Units (PAUs)

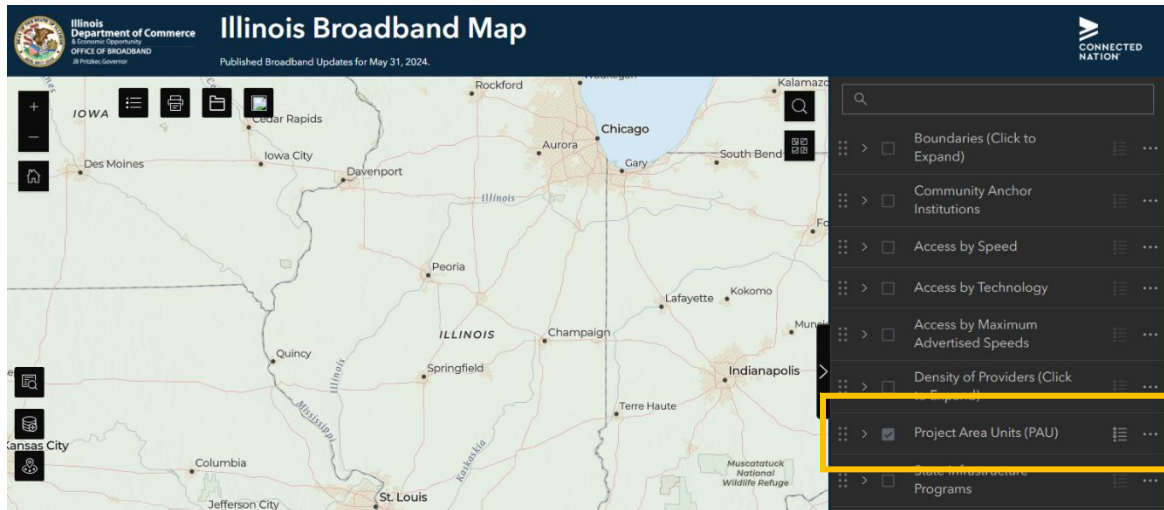
The BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4 organizes unserved and underserved locations and eligible community anchor institutions into Project Area Units (PAUs). PAUs are clusters of eligible locations no more than five miles apart. They serve as the building blocks of an application -- applicants can apply to serve one or more PAUs, and PAUs cannot be separated. Each PAU has an associated Reference Cost and is designated as hard-to-serve or a high-cost area.

As of December 23, 2024, the PAUs are available to view and download on the Illinois Broadband Map. The purpose of this map layer is to give prospective BEAD applicants an opportunity to plan for their Connect Illinois Round 4 applications.

Note: Closer to the opening of the application window, the Office of Broadband will publish a dynamic *Project Area Selection Tool* for prospective applicants to select and download their specific project areas as part of their application.

How to access PAUs:

- Visit the [Illinois Broadband Map](#).
- Navigate to the panel on the right-hand side and ensure “Project Area Units (PAU)” is selected. Deselect other layers to view PAUs more clearly.

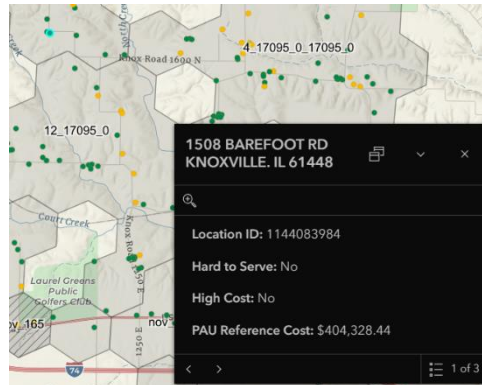


- Click on the “+” or double click on the map to zoom in. (Zoom in six times to see locations in the PAUs.)

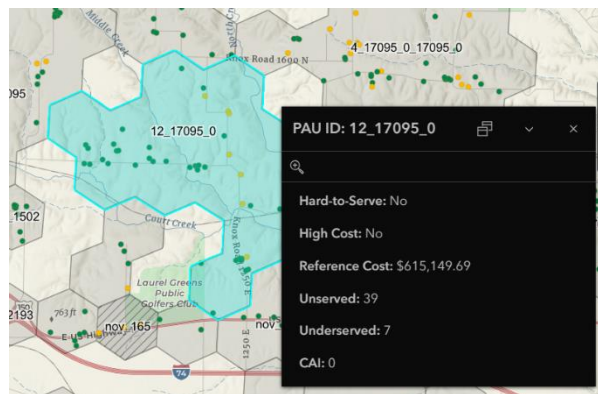




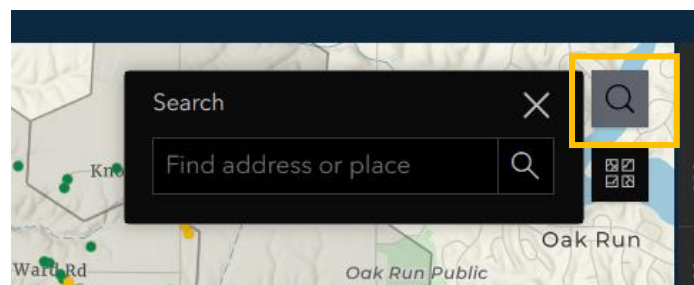
- Click on a point to view location-specific information, such as the address, Location ID, and classification, as well as PAU-specific information for the PAU to which the location belongs.



- Click on the shaded area within a polygon to view information about the PAU, including the PAU ID (unique identifier per PAU), whether it is designated as Hard-to-serve or a High-Cost Area, the Reference Cost, and the count and breakdown of eligible locations that comprise the PAU.



- Use the search bar to navigate to a specific address, zip code, county, town, or city.

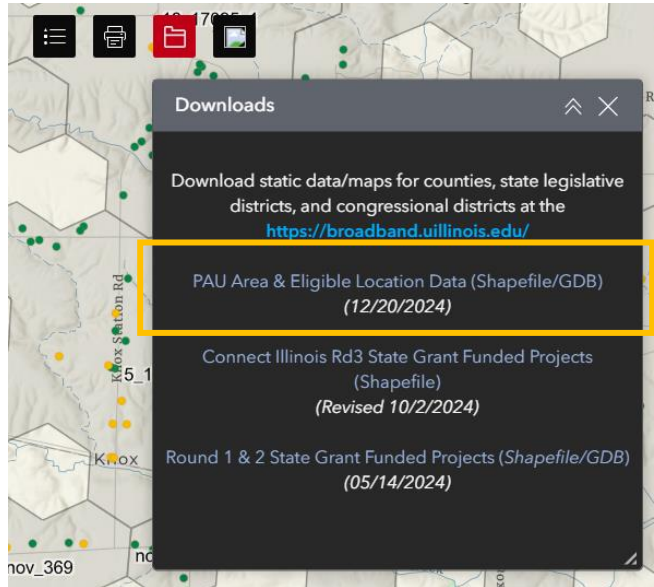


- To download Shapefiles with PAU data, navigate to the “Downloads” folder on the top left of the screen.





- Click on “PAU Area & Eligible Location Data (Shapefile/GDB)” to download the .zip file. This will open in the browser. Click “Download All.” This .zip file also contains an Excel file called “Definitions” with information about each term and column name.



Resources:

For details and on-going updates:

- Visit the [BEAD Subgrantee Selection website](#)
- Sign up for the [BEAD Webinar Series](#)
- Register for the Illinois Broadband Connections [newsletter](#)
- Complete the Office of Broadband [Intake Form](#)

For questions, please contact broadband@illinois.gov.