



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT**

EXECUTIVE ORDER 006 – 2023

**AN ORDER ESTABLISHING OF THE TERRITORIAL BROADBAND
COORDINATION, OPPORTUNITIES, REDEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT
OFFICE AND BROADBAND STEERING COMMITTEE**

Section 1: Authority

This executive order is hereby issued in accordance with the powers and authority granted to the Governor by Article IV, Sections 6 and 7 of the Revised Constitution of American Samoa, and the American Samoa Code Annotated, Section 4.0111 (b).

Section 2: Preamble

WHEREAS, access to broadband is essential to the prosperity and quality of life of everyone living in American Samoa;

WHEREAS, broadband is vital to commerce, the economic vitality of communities, and American Samoa's global competitiveness;

WHEREAS, President Biden announced the \$42.45 billion Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program which enable States and Territories to expand high-speed internet access by funding planning, infrastructure deployment and adoption programs in furtherance of the Administration's "Internet for All" initiative;

WHEREAS, broadband is vital to the delivery of education, health care, transportation services, public safety, emergency response, and other critical services;

WHEREAS, broadband is vital to creating an inclusive infrastructure that addresses the needs of people with disabilities, the elderly, minors and the community as a whole;

WHEREAS, technological innovation is transforming the nature of jobs, businesses, education, health care, economic development, and consumer services;

WHEREAS, broadband enables the use of connected agriculture technology, which the USDA's Economic Research Service indicates can increase agricultural output;

WHEREAS, rural communities rely on access to affordable broadband network services to grow rural economies, connect students and teachers to online resources, and enable closer connections among businesses, families, and other American Samoan communities;

WHEREAS, access to affordable, high quality broadband levels the economic playing field, facilitates social mobility, and stimulates job creation; and

WHEREAS, the Territory of American Samoa has completed the development of the American Samoa Territorial Broadband Strategy which seeks to promote access to advanced broadband network services, to stimulate its digital economy, to increase consumer options, to promote digital literacy, to increase broadband equity, and to support constructive access and affordability for everyone across all islands of American Samoa, in order to maximize economic growth and quality of life.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor of the Territory of American Samoa, I hereby direct and order the following:

Section 3. Creation of the Broadband Coordination, Opportunities, Redevelopment and Deployment Office

The Territorial Broadband Coordination, Opportunities, Redevelopment and Deployment Office (BCORD Office) is created within the American Samoa Department of Commerce. The BCORD Office shall:

- A. Be led by the Territorial Broadband Coordinator, who shall be hired by and report to the Director of Commerce or his/her designee;
- B. Develop and employ personnel resources with industry knowledge of broadband, telecommunications and information technology policy;
- C. Apply for, manage, and coordinate the use of broadband funding available to the American Samoa Government in coordination with the Broadband Steering Committee (BSC);
- D. Evaluate, and report annually to the Director of Commerce on, the extent, quality, and affordability of broadband offerings in American Samoa;
- E. Develop strategies to facilitate buildout and implementation of broadband infrastructure necessary to achieve functionally universal broadband access for American Samoa homes and businesses;
- F. Develop and advocate for policies that make high quality broadband service more accessible, affordable, and reliable in underserved and vulnerable communities;
- G. Take such steps as are necessary, in coordination with the ASG Technology Office (ASGTO) where technology, information security, cyber security, software, hardware and infrastructure is involved, to implement those strategies, including, but not limited to:
 - i. Promoting the access, use, and safety of modern broadband networks and technologies for all American Samoans in order to effectively compete in the digital economy and improve their quality of life;
 - ii. Working to accelerate territory wide deployment of high capacity/quality broadband infrastructure capable of meeting current business and community needs, and scalable to meet future demands;
 - iii. Maintaining the safety and security of territory wide broadband networks and technologies;

- iv. Advocating for the adoption of streamlined public policies that remove barriers to and support broadband infrastructure deployment at the Territory and local level to close the continuing digital divide;
- v. Developing broadband investment and deployment strategies for unserved and underserved areas;
- vi. Promoting private sector, public sector, and cooperative broadband solutions as appropriate to each district in American Samoa;
- vii. Supporting local and regional broadband planning;
- viii. Pursuing and leveraging federal sources of broadband funding to achieve territory broadband goals;
- ix. Generating public awareness of the value of broadband technologies and applications;
- x. Promoting digital equity, ensuring all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in our economy and way of life.
- xi. Engaging with stakeholders, elected officials, government officials, local government, utilities, healthcare providers, educators, businesses, the agriculture sector, fisheries sector, tourism sector, public safety entities, consumers, community leaders, and broadband service providers to facilitate communication and aggregate the demand of the different segments of the community to help make a business case for broadband investment;
- xii. Developing and maintaining a broadband map as a platform for data collection to track the availability of broadband services, government investments, and progress, as well as other related information, and provide public access to the data;
- xiii. Garnering support, gathering input, and communicating needs to relevant territorial and federal agencies; and
- xiv. Advising the Governor, territorial department leadership, and the American Samoa Legislature on actions necessary to pursue territorial goals related to broadband.

Section 4. Territorial Coordination

All American Samoa Government executive branch agencies, authorities, and departments are strongly encouraged to coordinate with, the Territorial Broadband Coordination, Opportunities, Redevelopment and Deployment Office (BCORD Office) and shall lend support to such work to the greatest extent possible without compromising existing responsibilities of those agencies, authorities, and departments.

Section 5. Creation of the Broadband Steering Committee (BSC)

The Broadband Steering Committee (BSC) is created within the Executive Branch of the American Samoa Government. The Steering Committee shall:

- A. Be appointed by the Governor or his designee when necessary, and comprised of diverse membership of public and private sector individuals with either an understanding of


broadband industry or who are impacted by the reliable delivery of efficient broadband services.

- i. The committee is comprised of the following members:
 - a. The Chief Executive Officer of American Samoa Telecommunications Authority;
 - b. The Chief Executive Officer of American Samoa Power Authority;
 - c. The Chief Executive Officer of LBJ Tropical Medical Center;
 - d. Director of the Department of Health;
 - e. Director of the Department of Commerce;
 - f. Director of the Department of Education;
 - g. Director of the Chamber of Commerce;
 - h. Director of the Department of Homeland Security;
 - i. President of American Samoa Community College;
 - j. Chief Information Officer of American Samoa Community College;
 - k. Director of ARPA Office;
 - l. Director of the Department of Human and Social Services;
 - m. Chief Information Officer of the Governor’s Office, Technology Office; and
 - n. Four members at-large who are appointed by the Governor for a term of one year and may include representatives of private businesses, non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations, or consumers.
 - o. Committee members who are directors or officers may designate an employee to serve in their place on the committee.
- B. Provide strategic and technical guidance to the BCORD Office, through the review of annual reports, grant applications, strategic and tactical plans;
- C. Work with the Governor and relevant Department heads to supersede or dissolve any prior working groups, committees, or other units specific to broadband strategic planning and development, in an effort to consolidate all resources into a single body;
- D. Establish working groups and sub-committees as needed;
- E. Support the autonomy of the operations of the BCORD Office, its organization and strategic/tactical goals;
- F. Receive staff support from the Office of the Governor;
- G. Assist with updating and monitoring the progress of the American Samoa Territorial Broadband Strategy (ASTBS);
- H. Work with BCORD Office to develop and advocate for policies, rules and regulations, as recommended in the ASTBS, that make territorial broadband more accessible, affordable, reliable and secure;
- I. Assist with garnering support, gathering input, and communicating needs to relevant territorial and federal agencies as well as advising the Governor, territorial department leadership, and the American Samoa Legislature on actions to leverage local government activities to pursue territorial goals related to broadband; and
- J. Coordinate activities that will help local ISPs work together for the benefit of the Territory.

Section 6. Effective Date

This Executive Order shall become effective immediately and remain in force until rescinded.

Date: March 6th, 2023


Lemanu P. S. Mauga
Governor of American Samoa