

## Indicator 5: The state supports affordability through competition and consumer assistance

State governments can promote broadband affordability by enacting policies that promote competition among internet service providers (ISPs), requiring or incentivizing ISPs to participate in consumer assistance programs, and by providing direct support to low-income households.

State governments can promote broadband competition by removing barriers that limit market participation of municipally-owned broadband or other nontraditional ISPs. Additional options for broadband services encourages competition among providers, which may result in lower prices and better quality of service for consumers.

States can also promote broadband affordability in the administration of grants or other funding opportunities. By prioritizing proposals from ISPs that participate in broadband consumer assistance programs, state governments increase affordable broadband options for low-income households. By allocating state or Federal dollars to create a broadband subsidy program that lowers the cost of broadband service for low-income households, states can bring affordable broadband within reach for those facing the most severe economic hardships.

**35 STATES** support affordability through competition and consumer assistance

**5.1 . Does the state allow public providers, public-private provider partnerships, and cooperatively organized providers to deliver broadband service without imposing significant regulatory barriers?**

**35**

**States** permit public providers, public-private provider partnerships, and cooperatively organized providers to deliver broadband service without imposing significant regulatory barriers

**5.2 Does the state allocate funds to administer a supplemental internet service subsidy program for low-income households?**

**1**

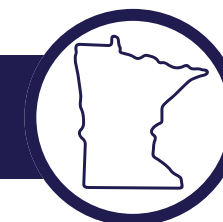
**State** allocates funds to administer a supplemental internet service subsidy program for low-income households

**5.3 Does the state require or incentivize internet service providers to participate in consumer assistance programs on any networks supported partially or wholly with state funds?**

**1**

**State** requires or incentivizes internet service providers to participate in consumer assistance programs on networks supported partially or wholly with state funds

### MINNESOTA



The Minnesota State legislature recently repealed barriers to local governments seeking to provide broadband services to residents. The new law removes requirements for municipalities to obtain supermajority approval via a local referendum to purchase or construct networks. The law also allows municipalities to provide broadband service in areas where other providers offer comparable service, which will promote market competition.