

Northern Mariana Islands' \$81M BEAD Fibre Build — Typhoon-Resistant Broadband After a Federal Grant Cut

Digital Inclusion · Good practice · Northern Mariana Islands

Quality score: 92/100

Evidence strength: Strong

Summary

CNMI paired a federal digital-equity plan (later terminated in 2025) with an \$81M BEAD broadband allocation, signing a \$31.3M subgrant in 2026 to bury typhoon-resistant fibre reaching ~10,000 locations after Super Typhoon Sinlaku destroyed aerial lines.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Innovation level	3/5
Sustainability (ongoing)	1/1
Evaluation evidence	1/1
Demonstrated reach	1/1
Documented learning	1/1

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-09-27

NTIA / CNMI Broadband Policy & Development Office / IT&E; (Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation) — accessed 2026-09-27

NTIA: Digital Equity Plan Accepted — accessed 2026-09-27

Benton Institute: Digital Equity in CNMI — accessed 2026-09-27

Marianas Variety: \$81M Broadband Plan Approved — accessed 2026-09-27

Isla Public: CNMI, IT&E; Sign \$31M BEAD Deal — accessed 2026-09-27

Pacific Island Times: CNMI Receives \$81M — accessed 2026-09-27

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