DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NTIA

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THE BROADBAND EQUITY ACCESS AND DEPLOYMENT (BEAD) PROGRAM

FUNDED BY THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE'S NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

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OCTOBER 2022

Today's webinar will focus on BEAD – the largest of the four high-speed Internet programs administered by NTIA

Today's focus

BEAD

$42.45B

Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment Program

A program to get all Americans online by funding partnerships between states or territories, communities, and stakeholders to build infrastructure where we need it to and increase adoption of high-speed Internet.

DIGITAL EQUITY

$2.75B

Digital Equity Act

Three programs that provide funding to promote digital inclusion and advance equity for all. They aim to ensure that all communities can access and use affordable, reliable high-speed Internet to meet their needs and improve their lives.

TRIBAL

$2.00B

Tribal Connectivity Technical Amendments

A program to help tribal communities expand high-speed Internet access and adoption on tribal lands.

MIDDLE MILE

$1.00B

Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure

A program to expand middle mile infrastructure, to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas.

Note: Funding amounts inclusive of all administrative set-asides

BEAD will prioritize Complete coverage of unserved locations and underserved locations (where funding permits), then CAIs

First, Eligible Entities must serve all unserved locations (incl. serving multi-tenant buildings)

- **Unserved locations** without reliable Internet and with download speeds <25 Mbps, upload speeds <3 Mbps, and latency < 100ms

Second, Eligible Entities must serve all underserved locations

- **Underserved locations** without reliable Internet and with download speeds <100 Mbps, upload speeds <20 Mbps, and latency <100 ms

Next, NTIA strongly urges Eligible Entities serve Eligible Community Anchor Institutions

- **Eligible Community Anchor Institutions** are entities (e.g., school, library, hospital) that facilitate greater use of high-speed Internet service by vulnerable populations and have download speed <1 Gbps
- **Other eligible uses** include affordability programs, cybersecurity training, workforce development., etc.
- If an Eligible Entity wants to use funds for other eligible uses instead of eligible Community Anchor Institutions, then it must provide a strong rationale

BEAD funding includes three components and is based on new FCC maps

Three components of funding:

Minimum allocation

$100M for each state, D.C., and Puerto Rico

$25M for U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

+

High-cost allocation

$$\frac{\text{\# unserved locations in high-cost areas in the Eligible Entity}}{\text{\# unserved locations in high-cost areas in the US}} \times \$4.245\text{B}$$

+

Remaining funds allocation

$$\frac{\text{\# unserved locations in the Eligible Entity}}{\text{\# unserved locations in the US}} \times \text{Remaining funds}^{1}$$

New FCC Broadband DATA Maps will be utilized to identify unserved locations

Eligible Entities shall develop a **challenge process** for stakeholders to challenge whether a location or community anchor institution is eligible for grant funds

Eligible Entities must **document the final list** of unserved locations, underserved locations, and eligible community anchor institutions

1. $41.6B – minimum initial allocation – high-cost allocation

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1. $41.6B – minimum initial allocation – high-cost allocation

BEAD program will provide ~$42.45B for infrastructure planning and implementation

Funding pool
$42.45B

A program to get all Americans online by funding partnerships between states or territories, communities, and stakeholders to build infrastructure where we need it to and increase adoption of high-speed Internet.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Entities eligible to apply for this program include:

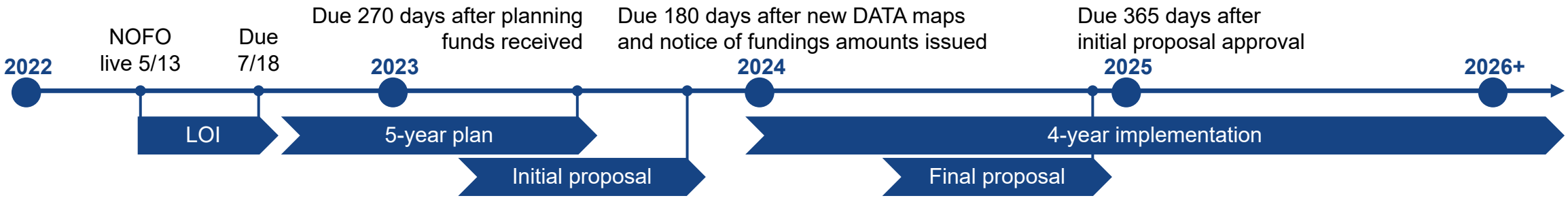
- All 50 States
- The District of Columbia and Puerto Rico
- Other Territories: U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Example eligible uses of funds include:

- Planning for deployment of Internet
- Deploying or upgrading Internet
- Installing Internet in multi-tenant buildings
- Implementing adoption and digital equity programs
- Workforce and job training

ESTIMATED TIMELINE

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified



Eligible Entities have the option to submit a Five-Year Action Plan and receive Initial Planning Funds

Eligible Entities that agree to submit an optional Five-Year Action Plan may receive up to $5M of Initial Planning Funds

NOTE: American Samoa, CNMI, Guam, and USVI can receive up to $1.25M each.

Example uses for Initial Planning Funds for planning and pre-deployment activities

- Ensure there is in-office capacity that is adequate to run the program
- Research and data collection
- Development of a preliminary budget for pre-planning activities
- Publications, outreach & communication support
- Providing technical assistance to potential subgrantees
- Training for employees (e.g., eligible entity, stakeholders, etc.)
- Conducting surveys of unserved, underserved, and underrepresented communities
- Local coordination, including capacity building

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The BEAD Program helps deliver high-speed Internet access, affordability, and adoption

Access

- **Increases access for unserved and underserved** households to ensure that all Americans have access to high-speed Internet
- Ensures Americans have access to **high-quality, high-speed Internet services** to support full participation in the 21st century economy and beyond

Affordability

- Supports **affordability** of broadband services, esp. in low-income households
- Fosters a system that **promotes long-term, sustainable, and affordable solutions**

Adoption and equity

- **Enables investment in digital skills training** to increase the number of households adopting high-speed Internet and narrow adoption disparities
- Makes investments to ensure Americans can **participate in economy & society, reducing inequities** across sectors, including healthcare, workforce & education

DIGITAL EQUITY ACT PROGRAMS

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MAY 2022

Today's webinar will focus on the Digital Equity Act, which seeks to promote digital equity and inclusion

BEAD

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High-speed Internet helps individuals and our country

These are some of the ways that high-speed Internet has transformed our world:

Maximizing savings for education

The Internet is not a luxury, it's a necessity. Students are asked to use Internet to complete homework assignments, do research, apply to college or trade schools. Students who don't have access in their home are left out and left behind.

Stimulating growth in the economy

By connecting the workplace, we can better connect businesses to consumers. New markets can increase sales and create jobs. High-speed Internet helps American businesses compete for talent and business in the global marketplace.

Lowering costs for health

Telehealth reduces hospital visits and cuts down hospital stay time. Hospitals with high-speed Internet save money because they have lower administration costs. By offering telehealth, they save money while improving patient health.

Strengthening ties in our community

High-speed Internet connects us to services we need. It helps first responders save lives. It lets us connect with our elected officials and it strengthens our ties to our neighbors. One in four Americans get online alerts about local issues and one in five use digital tools to stay in touch with their community.

Planning funds will be used to develop State Digital Equity Plans, which must contain several components

Vision

- Stated **vision** for digital equity

Objectives

- **Measurable objectives**
- Assessment of how those objectives will **impact the State's plans and outcomes**

Barriers to Digital Equity

- **Identify barriers** to digital equity
- Include a **digital needs assessment**

Outreach and Engagement

- **Description of plan to collaborate** with key stakeholders to achieve its digital equity goals
- **List of organizations** that collaborated on and contributed to digital equity plans
- Coordination and outreach **strategy**

Integration

- **Asset inventory** of current strategies
- Description of **incorporation of local plans**
- Description of **coordination of use of capacity grant funds with BEAD funds**

Implementation

- Implementation **strategy**
- **Timeline**

Digital Equity Act created three programs to promote digital equity and inclusion

Funding pool
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Three programs that provide funding to promote digital inclusion and advance equity for all. They aim to ensure that all communities can access and use affordable, reliable high-speed Internet to meet their needs and improve their lives.

PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHTS

The Digital Equity Act created three programs:

State Planning
- $60M formula funding program to develop digital equity plans

State Capacity
- $1.44B formula funding program to implement plans & promote digital inclusion

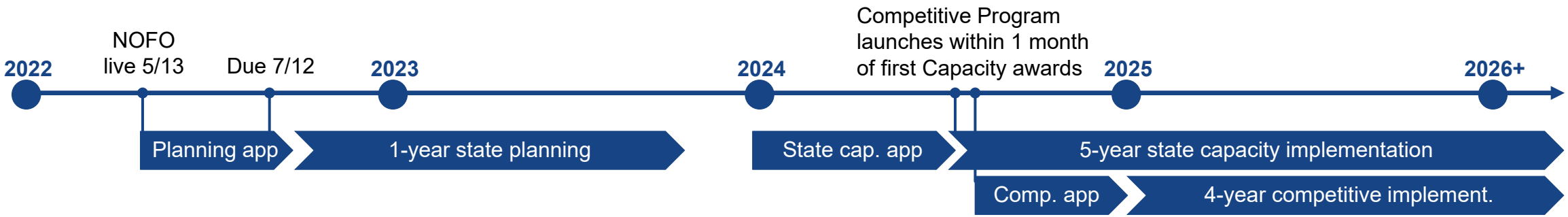
Competitive
- $1.25B to implement digital equity and inclusion activities

Example eligible uses of funds across three programs include:

- Developing digital equity plans; states must develop a plan to be eligible for state capacity grants
- Making awards to other entities to help make digital equity plans
- Improving accessibility and inclusivity of public resources
- Implementing digital equity plans and related activities
- Providing digital literacy and digital skills education
- Facilitating the adoption of high-speed Internet

ESTIMATED TIMELINE

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified



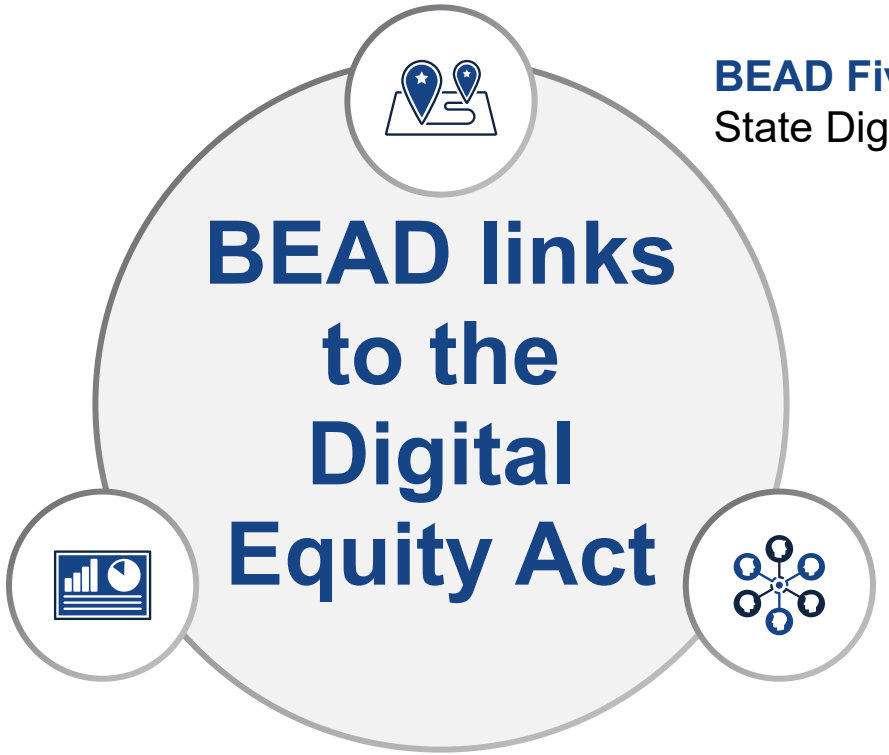
The Digital Equity Act focuses on addressing the needs of "covered populations" as defined by the statute

Covered Populations

Identity groups and communities disproportionally impacted by digital inequity

- Low-income households
- Aging populations
- Incarcerated individuals
- Veterans
- People with disabilities
- People with language barriers
- Racial and ethnic minorities
- Rural inhabitants

The BEAD Program is closely linked to the Digital Equity Act



BEAD Five-Year Plans fully incorporate State Digital Equity Plans

BEAD Initial and Final Proposals are informed by and complementary, sequenced, and integrated with State Digital Equity Plans

Local coordination ensures overlap between planning teams and form communication pathways to reduce the burden and confusion on community stakeholders

States and territories should view the BEAD NOFO and State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program NOFO holistically under a **singular, unified objective of closing the digital divide**

Eligible entities are required to engage with key stakeholders as a part of developing digital equity plans

Key stakeholder groups may include:

- Community anchor institutions
- County and municipal governments
- Local educational agencies
- Indian Tribes, Alaska Native entities, or Native Hawaiian organizations, where applicable
- Nonprofit organizations
- Organizations that represent covered populations
- Civil rights organizations
- Entities that carry out workforce development programs
- State agencies that administer or supervise adult education or literacy activities
- Public housing authorities

Eligible Entities must conduct local coordination activities as part of plan development and implementation

Geographic coverage

Coordination must include Tribal, rural, suburban, and urban areas

Each political subdivision and Tribe must be given:

- Opportunity to submit a plan for Eligible Entity consideration
- Opportunity to comment on Eligible Entity proposals

Diverse stakeholders

Coordination must include a diverse group of stakeholders

Eligible Entities must ensure Tribal or Native entities are involved in developing plans (incl. via a formal Tribal consultation process)

Example stakeholders include state agencies, community anchor institutions, etc.

Outreach mechanisms

Coordination must include multiple mechanisms to ensure broad awareness and participation

Example mechanisms include listening sessions, public meetings, websites, social media, etc.

Transparency

Coordination must include clear procedures to ensure transparency

Examples include websites, periodic reports, in-person meetings, etc.

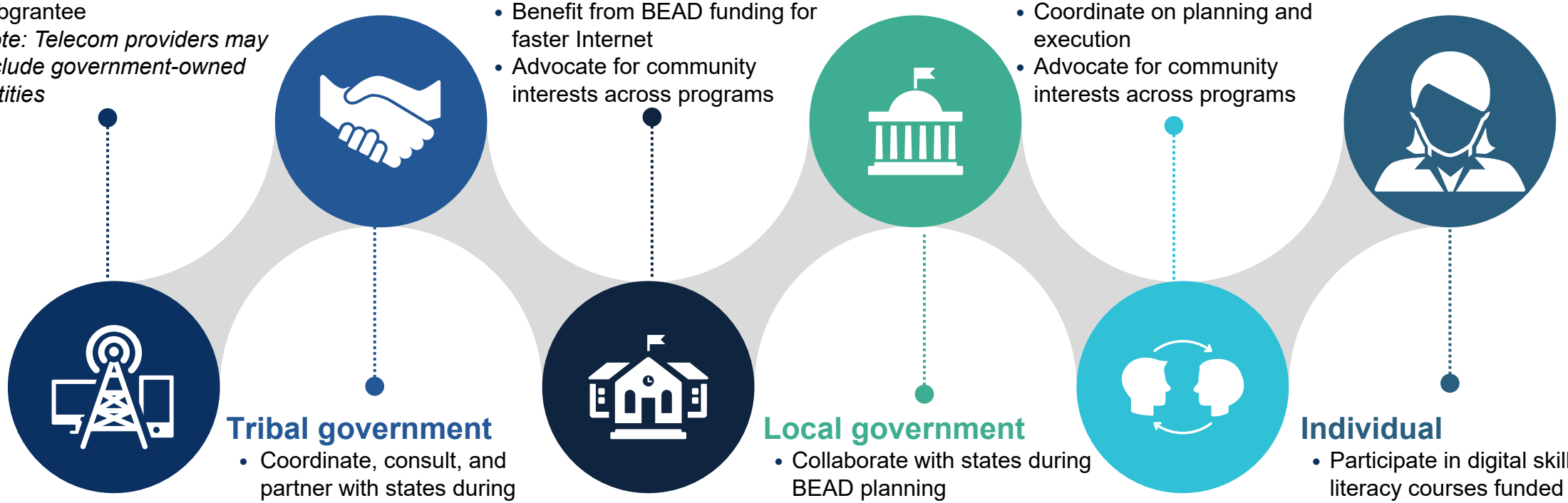
Un-/underserved and under-represented communities

Coordination must target un-/underserved, and underrepresented communities that have historically faced barriers in participating in federal programs

Examples include an advisory board with representatives, surveys to better understand needs, etc.

Every stakeholder plays a role in the BEAD program

Illustrative, non-exhaustive



Telecom provider

- Apply to be a BEAD subgrantee
- *Note: Telecom providers may include government-owned entities*

Tribal government

- Coordinate, consult, and partner with states during BEAD planning

Community anchor institution

- Benefit from BEAD funding for faster Internet
- Advocate for community interests across programs

Local government

- Collaborate with states during BEAD planning

Community orgs

- Coordinate on planning and execution
- Advocate for community interests across programs

Individual

- Participate in digital skill and literacy courses funded by programs
- Contact local reps for more information

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