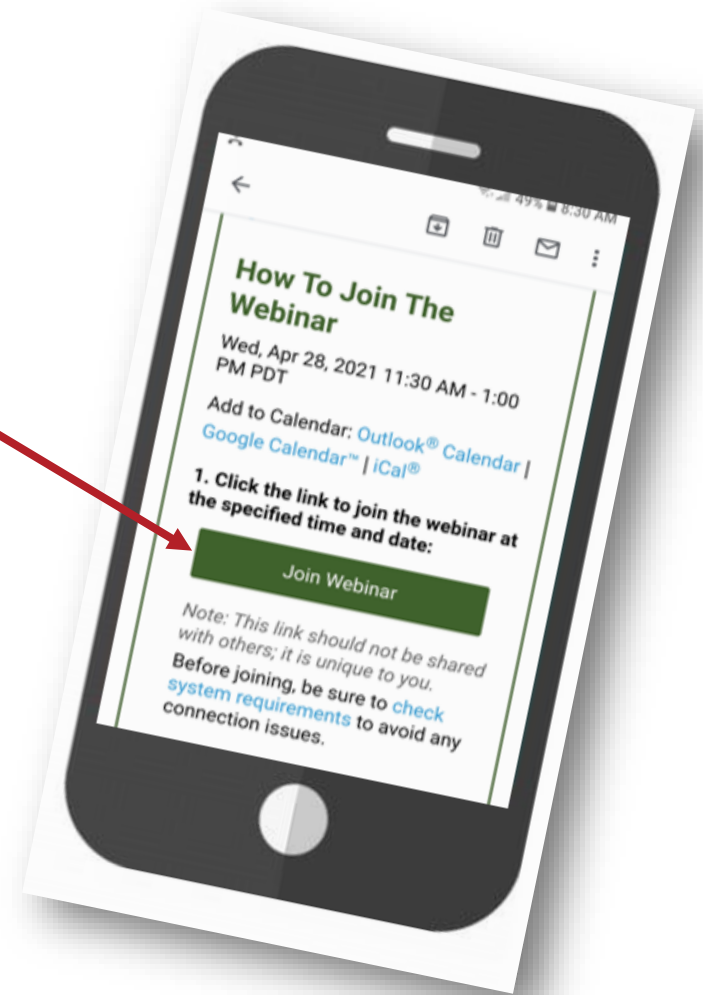


Phone Audio Option - Mobile Device

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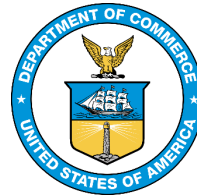
The presentation along with a transcript and recording will be available on the BroadbandUSA website under Events/Past Event on or before July 21, 2021.



Broadband Infrastructure Program

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021

July 2021



Questions

- Type questions in the Q&A box on the right side of the screen. Questions and answers will be available on the FAQ section of our website.
- [Overview of Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 | BroadbandUSA \(doc.gov\)](#)

Presentation

- The presentation along with a transcript and recording will be available on the BroadbandUSA website under Events/Past Events on or before July 21, 2021.
- [BroadbandUSA Past Events](#)

This presentation is for informational purposes only and is intended solely to assist potential applicants in better understanding the NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Program and the application requirements set forth in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for this program. The presentation does not and is not intended to supersede, modify, or otherwise alter applicable statutory or regulatory requirements, or the specific application requirements set forth in the NOFO. In all cases, statutory and regulatory mandates, and the requirements set forth in the NOFO, shall prevail over any inconsistencies contained in this presentation.

Presenters:

- Katherine Bates, Team Lead, Broadband Infrastructure, NTIA
- Jennifer Duane, Director of Grants, NTIA
- Tim Moyer, Director, Data & Mapping, NTIA
- Amanda Pereira, Environmental/NEPA Specialist, First Responder Network Authority

Moderator:

- Sarah Bleau, Broadband Specialist, NTIA

Agenda

Broadband Infrastructure Key Dates

Katherine Bates

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Jennifer Duane

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Tim Moyer

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Amanda Pereira

Questions and Answers

All

Katherine Bates

Team Lead, Broadband Infrastructure

NTIA

Broadband Infrastructure Key Dates

Key Dates and Facts

Broadband Infrastructure Program Grant

- NOFO and FAQs posted on broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov under Grants
- Complete applications must be received by www.grants.gov no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on **August 17, 2021**
- NTIA expects to complete its review, selection of successful applicants, and award processing by **November 15, 2021**
- Call for merit reviewers

Jennifer Duane
Director of Grants
NTIA

Broadband Infrastructure Program

Broadband Infrastructure Program Overview



**\$288
Million**



**Covered
Partnerships**



**Covered
Broadband
Projects**



**Accepting
Applications
Through
August 17, 2021**

Key Definitions: Qualifying Broadband Service



- A download speed of not less than 25 Mbps;
- An upload speed of not less than 3 Mbps;
 - *The ability to deliver 25/3 simultaneously to every household in the eligible service area*
- Latency sufficient to support real-time, interactive applications.
 - *Defined as 95% or more of all peak period measurements of network round-trip latency (i.e., between customer premises and the closest Internet core peering interconnection point) are at or below 100 ms*

Key Definitions: Unserved



- Household lacking access to qualifying broadband service; and
- No broadband provider has been selected to receive, or is otherwise receiving, Federal or State funding subject to enforceable build out commitments to deploy qualifying broadband service in the specific area where the household is located.
- Eligible service area means a census block in which broadband service is not available at one or more households or businesses in the census block.

Eligibility

To be eligible for a grant under the Broadband Infrastructure Program, the covered partnership must submit an application that describes the following:



Covered
Partnership



Covered
Broadband
Project



Proposed
Service Area



Other Federal &
State Support

Notes:

- Each Covered Partnership may submit only one application for this grant program.
- A Covered Partnership may include more than one provider of fixed broadband services in its application.
- A provider of fixed broadband services may participate in more than one Covered Partnership.

Funding Priorities

Section 905(d)(4) of the Act stipulates that the Assistant Secretary will give priority, in decreasing order, for:

- ✓ Projects designed to provide broadband service to the greatest number of households in an eligible service area.
- ✓ Projects designed to provide broadband service in an eligible service area that is wholly within any area **other than** (1) a county, city, or town with more than 50,000 inhabitants and (2) the urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to a city or town of more than 50,000 inhabitants.
- ✓ Projects that are most cost-effective, prioritizing such projects in areas that are the most rural.
- ✓ Projects designed to provide broadband service with a download speed of at least 100 Mbps and an upload speed of at least 20 Mbps.
- ✓ Any other covered broadband project that meets the requirements of this NOFO.

Key Application Dates



- Complete applications must be received by www.grants.gov no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on **August 17, 2021**.
- NTIA expects to complete its review, selection of successful applicants, and award processing by **November 15, 2021**.

The covered partnership must expend the grant funds within one year after receipt.

- The Assistant Secretary may grant an extension for broadband construction projects.
- To qualify for an extension, the covered partnership must certify that: it has a plan for use of the funds; the construction project is underway; or extenuating circumstances require an extension to ensure project completion.

Tim Moyer
Director, Data & Mapping
NTIA

Indicators of Broadband Need Map

Data Sources: FCC Form 477

- Created using the Jan-Jun 2020 FCC Form 477 data collection from U.S. Internet service providers (ISPs).
- U.S. where no ISP reported consumer fixed terrestrial broadband Internet services at speeds which meet the [FCC's 25/3 Mbps benchmark for fixed broadband](#).
- Reported at the census block level and this layer was created by selecting all land-based census blocks (water census blocks excluded) which had no providers reporting fixed terrestrial broadband consumer offerings at the 25/3 Mbps threshold or above.

Disclaimer: The data presented in the map is “as is”, “as available” for informational purposes. NTIA does not warrant the accuracy, adequacy or completeness of this information and expressly disclaims liability for any errors or omissions.

Data Sources: Microsoft

- Estimate of broadband usage over multiple Microsoft services in November 2019
 - Every time a device using Microsoft software receives an update or connects to a Microsoft service, Microsoft is able to estimate the device's throughput speed based on the size of the packet sent and the time it takes to download.
 - Using this information Microsoft was able to provide an estimate of the percentage of the population using broadband (25 Mbps download speeds or higher) in each county.
 - Microsoft estimates that ~157 million people in the US are not using the Internet at broadband speeds.
 - The layer in this map shows counties in red where 75% or more of users are not using broadband according to Microsoft estimates (reported percentage of broadband use below 0.25 in the dataset). Data does not include values for all counties. Areas with higher broadband usage percentages are shown in green while areas without data are shown in gray.

Data Sources: Speed Test Data

Measurement Lab (M-Lab)

- Time period from January - June 2020
 - Shows speed test results at the county level. Counties with collective median speed test results below 25/3 Mbps are shown in red while counties with median results above 25/3 are shown in green.

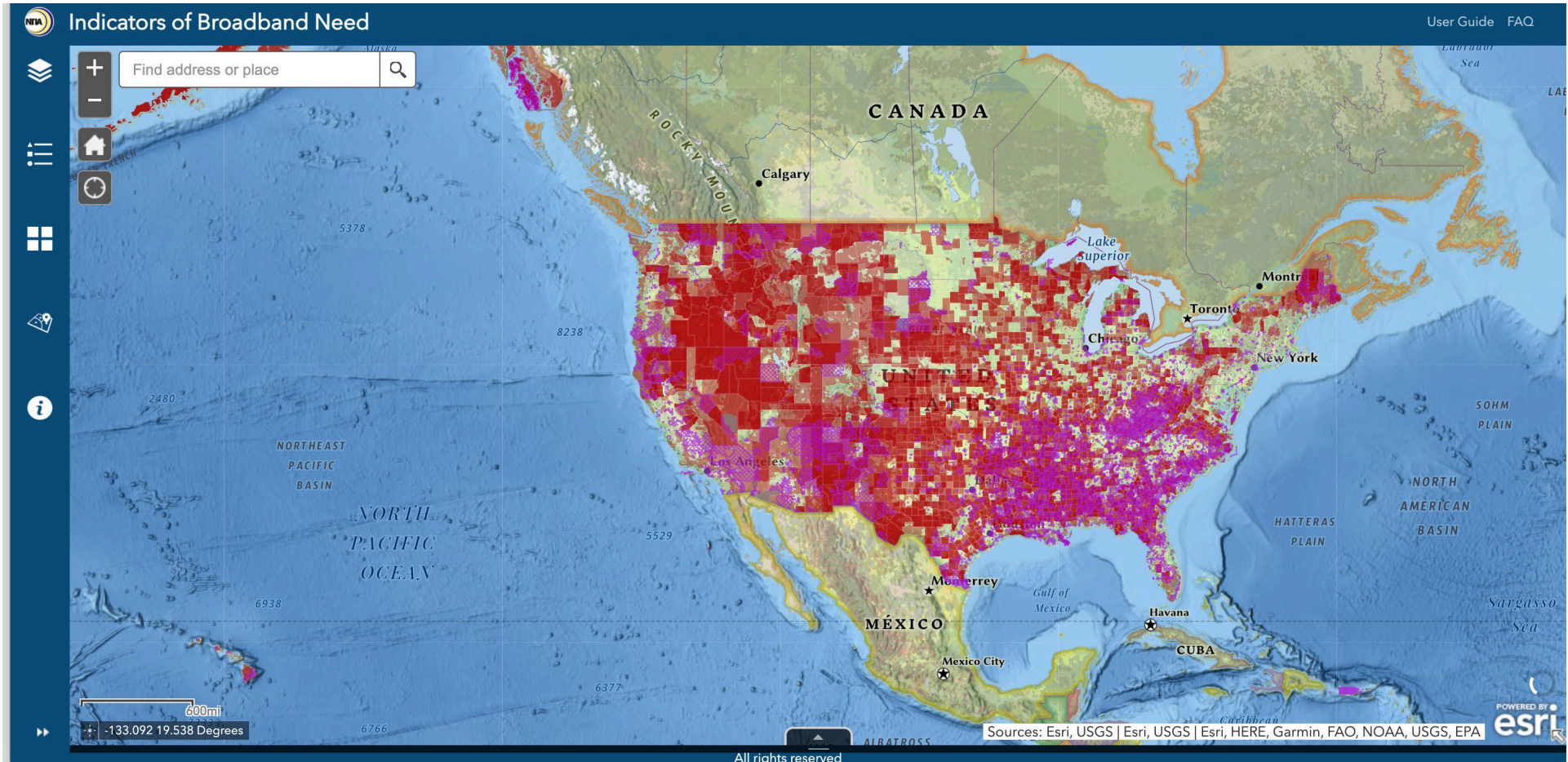
Ookla

- Time period from January - June 2020
 - Speed test results at the census tract level. Tracts with collective median speed test results below 25/3 Mbps are shown in red while tracts without Ookla results are shown in gray. Tracts with median speeds above 25/3 Mbps are shown in green.

Data Sources: American Community Survey (ACS)

- [U.S. Census American Community Survey](#) data taken from 2015-2019, processed, and made available via [Esri Living Atlas](#)
 - Three ACS layers
 - Broadband Need (2) estimates five years at the tract level
 - “At the house, apartment, or mobile home do you or any member of this household have access to the Internet?”
 - “At this house, apartment or mobile home do you or any member of this household own or use any of the following types of computer?”
 - “High Poverty Communities” appears in the Additional Layers section of the application
 - Last 12 months of 2019 showing census tracts based on the percentage of residents who report living below 100% of the U.S. Census poverty threshold.
 - The ACS is a yearly survey conducted by the U.S. Census with information collected from approximately 3.5 million American households. ACS data is collected at the census block group level and can be aggregated to higher census geographies including the census tract level seen on the map.

Indicators of Broadband Need Map



Amanda Pereira
Environmental/NEPA Specialist
First Responder Network Authority

Environmental and Historical Preservation Requirements

Compliance with Environmental and Historic Preservation Requirements

Applications must contain sufficient information to allow for initial National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis.

In order to facilitate this initial analysis, applicants must submit a detailed project description, including applicable supporting documentation, with their application package.

Awardees will be required to obtain all required federal, tribal, state, and local governmental permits and approvals prior to beginning their project – *this does not need to be done pre-award.*

Funds may be withheld under a specific award condition until the Awardee develops and submits additional environmental compliance information or analysis sufficient to assess the environmental impact of the project.

EHP Overview

Passed in 1970, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is considered an “umbrella law” as it provides a framework within which all other environmental, historic, and cultural resources laws can be evaluated. This illustration identifies only a fraction of the requirements that must be met before a project can move forward.



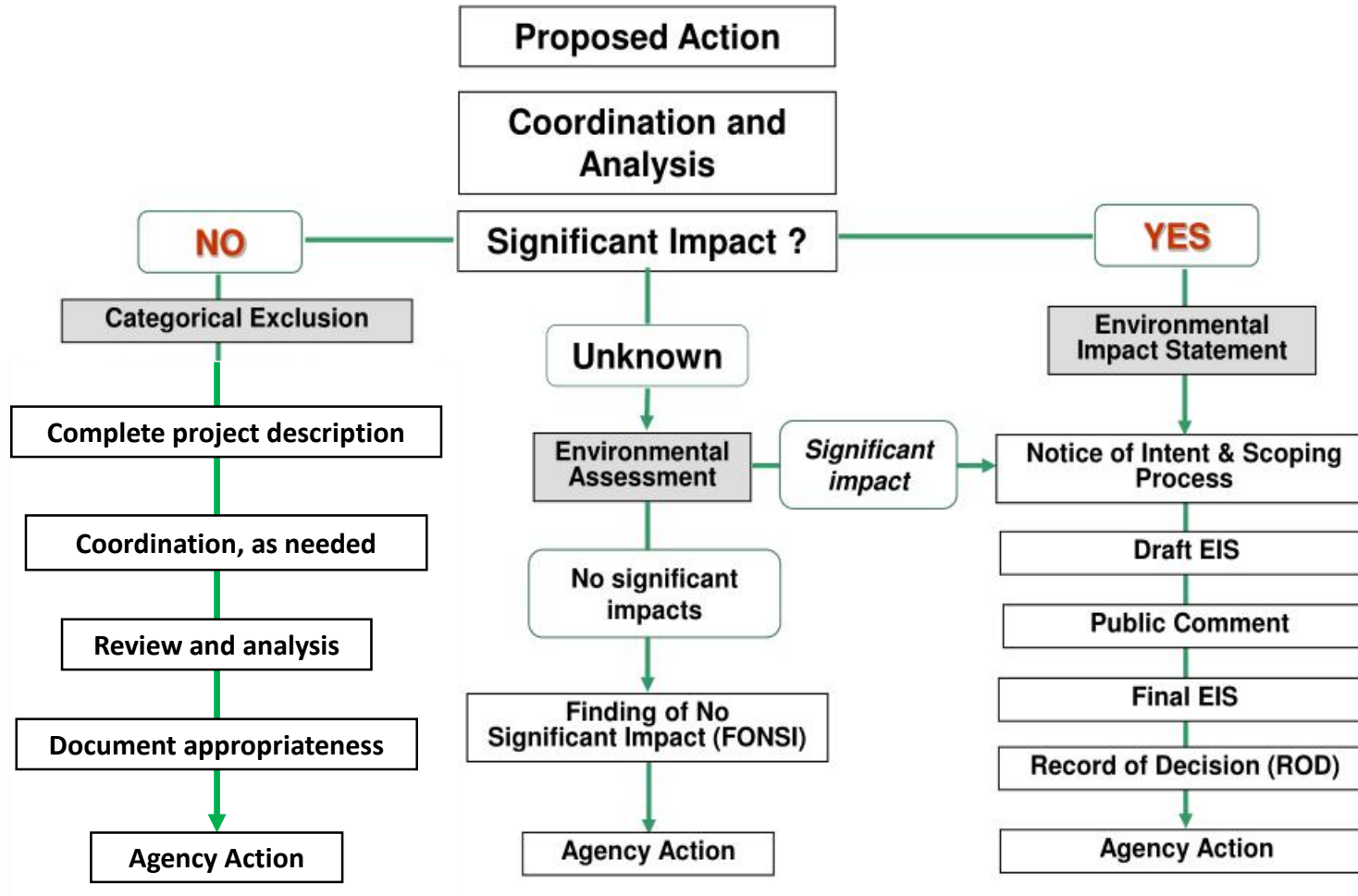
EHP Overview

- NEPA and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) both require the government to examine the impacts of its proposed actions before taking them
 - NEPA is triggered by, among other things, the use of federal funds, **including grant funds**
- NHPA requirements can be addressed as part of the NEPA compliance process, *however...*
- NHPA consultation requirements apply regardless of requirements under NEPA
- Both NEPA and NHPA review, including consultation, must be completed before an action can begin

Levels of NEPA Review

- **Categorical Exclusions (CEs or CATEXs)** are issued for defined actions that the agency has determined do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the environment.
- **Environmental Assessment (EA)** – If CEs do not apply, an EA will be prepared for actions in which the significance of the environmental impact is not clearly established. Should environmental analysis find a project to have no significant impacts on the quality of the environment, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is issued.
- **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** – Prepared for projects when the action will likely have a significant effect on the environment. This is the most comprehensive and time-consuming method of documenting NEPA compliance. The final decision relating to the proposed action shall consider the environmental information provided in the EIS and require the preparation of a Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD documents the final decision made, whether to approve the project or not, and the basis for that decision.

NEPA Process Overview



Key Elements of a Good Project Description

- A good project description will provide enough detail about the potential impacts to the environment to make a preliminary determination about the level of NEPA review required.
- How do you do that?
 - Describe **what** the project is (e.g., construction of a 150' monopole communication tower)
 - Describe **where** the project is proposed (e.g., 123 Main Street, Anytown, USA), **and** include a physical description of the site and surrounding area (e.g. developed land vs. open space; adjacent natural resources, such as rivers, wetlands, or forests; and any protected lands)
 - Describe **how** the project will be implemented (e.g., requiring 1-acre of ground disturbance at an approximate depth of 5 feet, and the installation of a concrete pad, an equipment shed, and an emergency generator with a 1,000-gallon above-ground fuel storage tank)
 - Include ground-level and aerial photos and project plan drawings
 - For new construction projects, include a floodplain map from the FEMA Map Service Center (free download at <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>) and a wetlands map from the US Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetlands Inventory (free download at <https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html>)

EHP Timelines

- Timelines will be affected by the complexity of the project and number of consulting parties.
- These timelines do not take into account any other outstanding agency approvals, such as NHPA or ESA consultations, USACE permitting, SWPPP review, etc.
- Environmental analysis is an allowable use of grant funds.
- Based on a complete environmental record, NTIA's review process:
 - **Categorical Exclusion** – NTIA will develop, assuming NTIA receives a sufficient project description and no extraordinary circumstances exist, approximately **30-45 days** to develop and deliver
 - **Environmental Assessment** – grant recipient will develop in coordination with NTIA, approximately **3-12 months** to develop and deliver to NTIA
 - **Environmental Impact Statement** – grant recipient will develop in coordination with NTIA, extensive public involvement requirements apply, approximately **1 year+** to develop and deliver to NTIA

Q & A

Join again for the grants webinar series!

Broadband Infrastructure Program	Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program	Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program
April 28 Recording	April 21 Recording	May 5 Recording
April 29 Recording	April 22 Recording	May 6 Recording
June 9 & 10	June 16 & 17	June 23 & 24
July 14 & 15	July 21 & 22	July 28 & 29
August 4 & 5	August 11 & 12	August 18 & 19
	August 23 & 24	September 22 & 23
		October 20 & 21

Webinars start at 2:30 pm ET

Registration is required for each webinar and is limited to 1,000

[BroadbandUSA Latest Events](#)

Thank you for attending

The slides, transcript, and a recording will be posted on the BroadbandUSA website by July 21.



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