

THE OFFICE OF MINORITY BROADBAND INITIATIVES (OMBI)

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NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION



JANUARY 2023

OMBI | Overview

The Office of Minority Broadband Initiatives (OMBI) was established within NTIA's OICG in August 2021 to promote equitable broadband access and adoption at HBCUs, TCUs, MSIs, and in their surrounding anchor communities.

OMBI's Guiding Vision

To achieve **digital equity** for minority communities across the United States by supporting and building capacity in **HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs** as catalysts for the **expansion of broadband access**.

OMBI's Operational Pillars

1. **Administer the Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program** to provide funding for broadband access, technology, and personnel in an effort to close the digital divide at HBCU, TCU, and MSI anchor institutions and within their communities.
2. **Collaborate with Federal, State, Tribal, and Anchor Institution Stakeholders** to promote collaboration, knowledge sharing, and thought leadership to improve broadband access and adoption among minority communities.
3. **Build Capacity of Anchor Institutions and their Communities** by providing technical assistance to empower applicants, grantees, and collaborating entities with the appropriate tools and resources to effectively implement the CMC Pilot Program or other broadband grants in minority communities.

Office of Minority Broadband Initiatives

Authorized by Section 902 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, the Office of Minority Broadband Initiatives (OMBI) was created to expand NTIA's reach to engage Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), and their surrounding anchor communities.

The OMBI was officially established in August 2021 and sits within NTIA's Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth (OICG). The OMBI builds upon the foundational work that began under NTIA's [2019 Minority Broadband Initiative](#), which involves establishing strategic partnerships and programs with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) to expand broadband access, digital inclusion and equity and leveraging their role as hubs for innovation and economic opportunities in their surrounding communities.

Office of Minority Broadband Initiatives - Duties

- I. **Collaborate with Federal agencies that carry out broadband internet access service support programs to determine how to expand access to broadband Internet access service and other digital opportunities in anchor communities.**

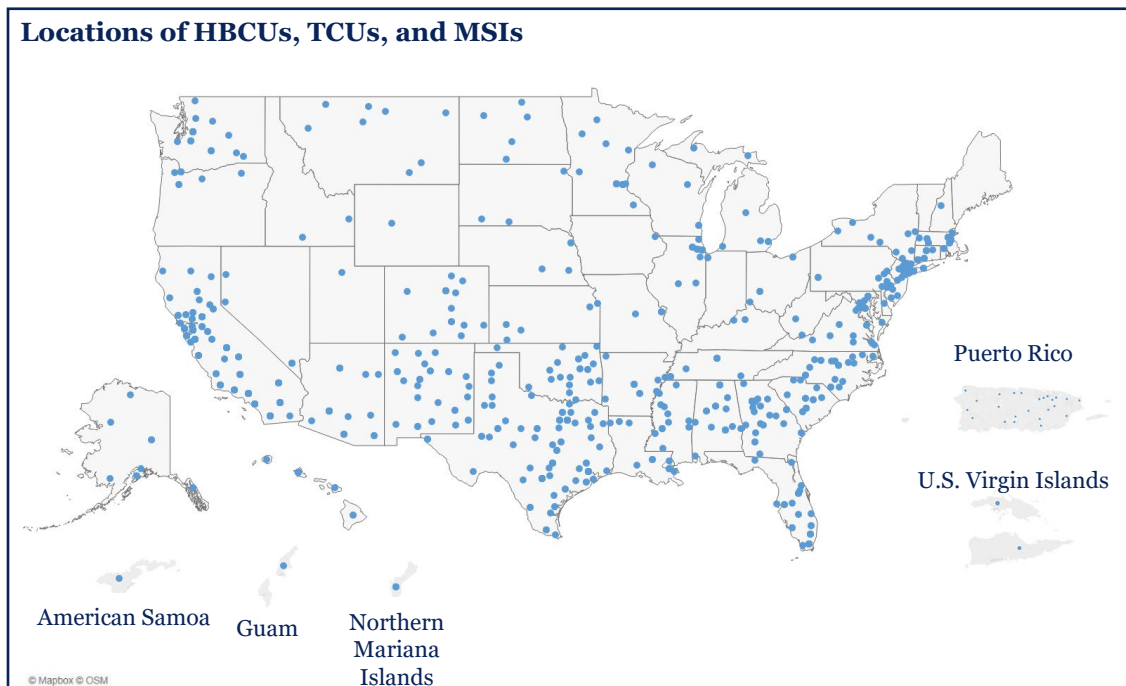
- II. **Collaborate with State, local, and Tribal governments, HBCUs, TCUs, MSIs, and stakeholders in the communications, education, business, and technology fields to—**
 - 1) Promote initiatives relating to broadband Internet access service connectivity for anchor communities; and digital opportunities for anchor communities;
 - 2) Develop recommendations to promote the rapid, expanded deployment of broadband Internet access service to unserved HBCUs, TCUs, MSIs, and anchor communities, including to students, faculty, and staff; and senior citizens and veterans who live in anchor communities;
 - 3) Promote activities that would accelerate the adoption of broadband Internet access service (including any associated equipment or personnel necessary to access and use that service, such as modems, routers, devices that combine a modem and a router, Wi-Fi hotspots, and connected devices) by students, faculty, and staff of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs; and within anchor communities;

Office of Minority Broadband Initiatives - Duties

- 4) Upon request, provide assistance to HBCUs, TCUs, MSIs, and leaders from anchor communities with respect to navigating Federal programs dealing with broadband internet access service;**
- 5) Promote digital literacy skills, including by providing opportunities for virtual or in-person digital literacy training and education;**
- 6) Promote professional development opportunity partnerships between industry and HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to help ensure that information technology personnel and students have the skills needed to work with new and emerging technologies with respect to broadband Internet access service; and**
- 7) Explore how to leverage investment in infrastructure with respect to broadband Internet access service to:**
 - a) Expand connectivity with respect to that service in anchor communities and by students, faculty, and staff of HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs;
 - b) Encourage investment in communities that have been designated as qualified opportunity zones; and
 - c) Serve as a catalyst for adoption of that service, to promote job growth and economic development and deployment of advanced technologies

OMBI | Who We Serve, Continued

HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs have a unique ability to reach a wide, diverse population across the United States within their anchor communities.



- HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs are in **440 counties and county-equivalents across 54 states and U.S. territories**, touching every region of the country.
- Roughly **35 million more U.S. residents live in counties that contain an HBCU, TCU, or MSI** than those who live in counties without one of these institutions.

OMBI Objectives



**Implement
and
Manage
\$268M
CMC Pilot
Program
+
EOP Report**



**Local and
Community
Outreach –
IIJA
Broadband
Programs
\$48B**



**Provide
Technical
Assistance:
HBCUs, TCUs,
MSIs &
Vulnerable
Communities**



**Promote
Broadband
Access, Digital
Inclusion &
Empowerment**



**Congressional Report
Due annually 1 year
after
implementation of
OMBI**





INTERNET FOR ALL CONNECTING MINORITY COMMUNITIES

Version 1.0



Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Program

What? The CMC Pilot Program is a **\$268 million** focused on building the broadband digital capacities of HBCUs, TCUs and MSI educational institutions and their surrounding communities to:



Expand educational instruction and remote learning opportunities



Hire Information Technology Personnel



Spur economic development, employment and entrepreneurship

Purpose? To build the broadband and digital technology capacities of eligible institutions and support broadband access, adoption, and digital skills within those institutions and in their surrounding anchor communities.

Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program

- Through the Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program, NTIA will directly address the lack of broadband access, connectivity, adoption and equity at our nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs), and in their surrounding anchor communities
- Accordingly, Congress has directed NTIA to provide grants to HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to facilitate educational instruction and learning, including through remote instruction; and to consortia including Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs) or tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organizations to operate that MBE or tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization
- Eligible recipients may use grant funds to:
 - (1) purchase broadband internet access service, including the installation or upgrade of broadband facilities on a one-time, capital improvement, basis to increase or expand broadband capacity and/or connectivity at the eligible institution;
 - (2) purchase or lease eligible equipment and devices for student or patron use, subject to any restrictions and prohibited uses; and
 - (3) hire and train information technology personnel who are a part of the eligible anchor institution, MBE, or tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization

CMC Eligible Recipients



- **Historically Black Colleges or Universities (HBCUs)**
- **Tribal Colleges or Universities (TCUs)**
- **Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs)**
 - ✓ Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)
 - ✓ Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions (NASNTI)
 - ✓ Alaska Native or Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions (ANNH)
 - ✓ Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISI)
 - ✓ Predominantly Black Institutions (PBI)
- **Consortiums led by HBCUs, TCUs, or MSIs that include a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) or Tax-Exempt 501(c)(3) Organization**



CMC Funding Requirements

Statutory Mandated Set Asides:

1. At least 40% of grants funds awarded must be made to HBCUs.
2. At least 20% of all grants funds awarded must be used to provide broadband access and/or devices and equipment to students.
3. These statutory set asides are not mutually exclusive (i.e., funds awarded to an HBCU to provide broadband Internet access service and/or eligible equipment to its students would count toward both set aside requirements).

Program Focus on Students In Need:

1. The provision of broadband Internet access service or eligible equipment to students must prioritize students who are in need (per the needs criteria factors).
2. The provision or lending of equipment must prioritize students and/or patrons who do not have access to such equipment.

Latest Status of CMC Program



Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program

Rolling

As of 10/2022, NTIA has made 19 awards, totaling \$51.9M, to fund Internet access, equipment, and to hire and train information technology personnel.

Awardees include:

- Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)
- Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs),
- Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)
- Minority- Serving Institutions (MSIs).

CMC and BIL Programs

What is the purpose of the Program?

The purpose of the Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program is to provide federal funding to eligible recipients in anchor communities: for the purchase of high-speed Internet access service or any eligible equipment, or to hire and train information technology personnel; to facilitate educational instruction and learning, including through remote instruction; to operate a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE); or to operate a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization.



**\$268
Million**



**Lead
Applicants:
HBCUs, TCUs,
& MSIs**



**Anchor
Communities
and Consortia**



**High-Speed
Internet Access,
Devices,
IT Personnel**



**Applications
Accepted Until
12/01/21**

How does this relate to BIL?

The Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program has led to an increase of broadband infrastructure across communities, along with additional training of technology personnel. These newly trained personnel and infrastructure can and should be utilized across the current BIL programs. Much of the infrastructure can be built upon to better these communities, and current BIL programs should try to target existing development to further better these communities.



Ways for Stakeholders to get Involved: Community Based Organizations

An overview of stakeholder roles and ways they can get involved in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Programs. National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) envisions and welcomes extensive coordination between States, Territories, local governments, community organizations, industries, women- and minority-owned Business Enterprises (WMBE), and citizens throughout the broadband program lifecycle including planning, grantee selection and implementation. The stakeholders bring specific expertise which is critical to the success of these programs.

| Program | Funding | Description | Who Can Apply to BIL Programs? |
|--|---------|--|---|
| Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) | \$42.5B | Aims to deploy broadband service to unserved and underserved locations, gigabit connections to community anchor institutions, and funding to pursue access-, adoption-, and equity-related uses. | States and territories are the <i>only</i> Eligible Entities for BEAD. A broad range of stakeholder entities could potentially apply as to be a subgrantee applicant to the State and Territory BEAD programs |
| State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program (DEA)* | \$2.75B | Promotes digital equity through activities to build capacity related to the adoption of broadband across three different planning and implementation programs. | States, territories, and tribal governments/tribes are the <i>only</i> Eligible Entities for DEA. However, a broad range of stakeholders may be an “administering entity.” |
| Middle Mile Grant (MMG) | \$1.00B | Expand middle mile infrastructure, reducing the cost to serve unserved and underserved areas and increasing resilience of the internet backbone | MMG has the most grantees, which include: State, territories, political subdivisions of states, tribal governments/tribes, private entities, and community-based organizations and groups.. |

Stakeholder Roles in the BIL Grants Program

Stakeholders can perform a role of an *advocate*, a *collaborator*, *data and information provider* as well as a *subgrantee*, and are encouraged to engage with the Eligible Entities starting with the **planning process and extending all the way to the implementation** of the programs. For each program, Eligible Entities are **required to involve stakeholders** and **obtain public comments** to create successful applications. Local coordination and stakeholder engagement is **evaluated in every step of the application process**, and it will determine distribution of funds and approval of plans.

Local Coordination

Each Eligible Entity must develop a comprehensive **local coordination approach** that will begin in the development of the Five-Year Action Plan and continue at each stage of the application process all the way to awarding. Entities are required to **coordinate and document its coordination with all types of stakeholders**.

DEA/BEAD Collaboration

There is a lot of overlap between BEAD and DEA, so planning teams should be sure to work with **stakeholders from both programs** to reduce duplicating stakeholder work. Many elements can be incorporated into both application processes and will also strengthen each application (for example, emphasizing DEA elements in a BEAD application).

Forming Partnerships

Stakeholders are **encouraged to form partnerships** to submit applications. Especially because a wide variety of stakeholders are eligible to apply to MMG funding programs, collaborating on applications and forming partnerships with like-minded groups (State/local govts, ISPs/community groups) will strengthen applications.

* “Ways to get involved” will be expanded to include other Digital Equity programs after NTIA releases the future NOFO’s



Ways for Stakeholders to get Involved: Community Based Organizations

Community organizations may include community anchor institutions - means an entity such as a school, library, health clinic, health center, hospital or other medical provider, public safety entity, institution of higher education, public housing organization; community support organizations that facilitates greater use of broadband service by vulnerable populations; and non-profit organizations (digital skills organizations, DI coalitions).

Different Ways to Get Involved per Program

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)

- ❑ Collaborate with Eligible Entities, as defined in the NOFO, in the **planning** process.
- ❑ Share current state of local broadband availability and infrastructure deployment challenges, as well as future needs of broadband infrastructure.
- ❑ Apply to be a **subgrantee**, if eligible, as defined in the BEAD NOFO. Organizations can apply through the **Administering Entity Grants Office** and learn more using the program specific resources below. *Sub-grantees may use BEAD funds to deploy network infrastructure.*
- ❑ **Advocate** for vulnerable communities to ensure their specific needs are being accounted and addressed.
- ❑ Reach out to the **state broadband office** to get involved with the planning process and stay involved across the timeline. Find your state broadband office using the **SBLN resource** linked below.

State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program (DEA)

- ❑ Collaborate with Administering Entities in the **planning** process.
- ❑ Share **specialized insight on adoption and affordability** into DEA plans, contributing ideas on community specific development and broadband needs
- ❑ Apply to be a **subgrantee** soon, if eligible, as defined in the NOFO. Organizations can apply through the **Eligible Entity Grants Office** and learn more using the program specific resources below. *Sub-grantees must use their funds to assist in the development of the State Digital Equity Plan.*
- ❑ Reach out to the **state broadband office** to get involved with the planning process and stay involved. Find your state broadband office using the **SBLN resource**.

Middle Mile Grant

- ❑ Coordinate on **planning and execution**, along with **advocating for community interest** across programs with the Eligible Entity. Community Organizations will likely benefit greatly from the Middle Mile funding.
- ❑ Most importantly, community-based organizations can **directly apply for the Middle Mile program**. Groups can learn more on applying using the MM Program below.
- ❑ **Applicants may use funds for:** construction of telecommunications equipment, engineering, personnel costs, pre-application expenses, and other costs necessary to carrying out program activities.
- ❑ Explore **partnerships and collaboration opportunities with groups with shared visions/goals** on applications.
- ❑ Reach out to the **state broadband office** to learn more about MM and how it interacts with other programs. Find your state broadband office using the **SBLN resource**.

Resources



Information about all the programs, including the application process

InternetforAll.gov



Information about States and Territories Broadband Program and Points of Contact

[State Broadband Leaders Network \(SBLN\)](#)



Information about the BEAD program, including timeline

[BEAD Program](#)



Information about the DEA program, including timeline

[DEA Program](#)



Information about the MM program, including timeline

[MM Program](#)

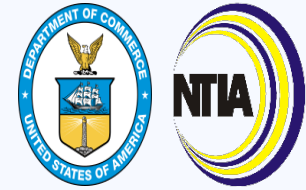
For additional information about the CMC Program
please visit:

[Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program
\(https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/resources/grant-programs/connecting-minority-communities-pilot-program\)](https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/resources/grant-programs/connecting-minority-communities-pilot-program)

For additional follow-up feel free to contact me.

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THE BROADBAND EQUITY ACCESS AND DEPLOYMENT (BEAD) PROGRAM

PROGRAM DETAILS AND UPDATE



JAN 19, 2023

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 and increase adoption of high-speed internet.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Entities eligible to apply for this program include:

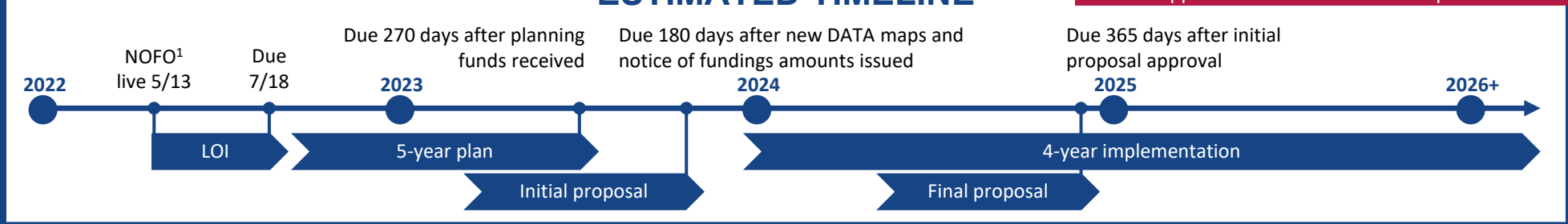
- All 50 States
- The District of Columbia and Puerto Rico
- Other Territories: U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

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

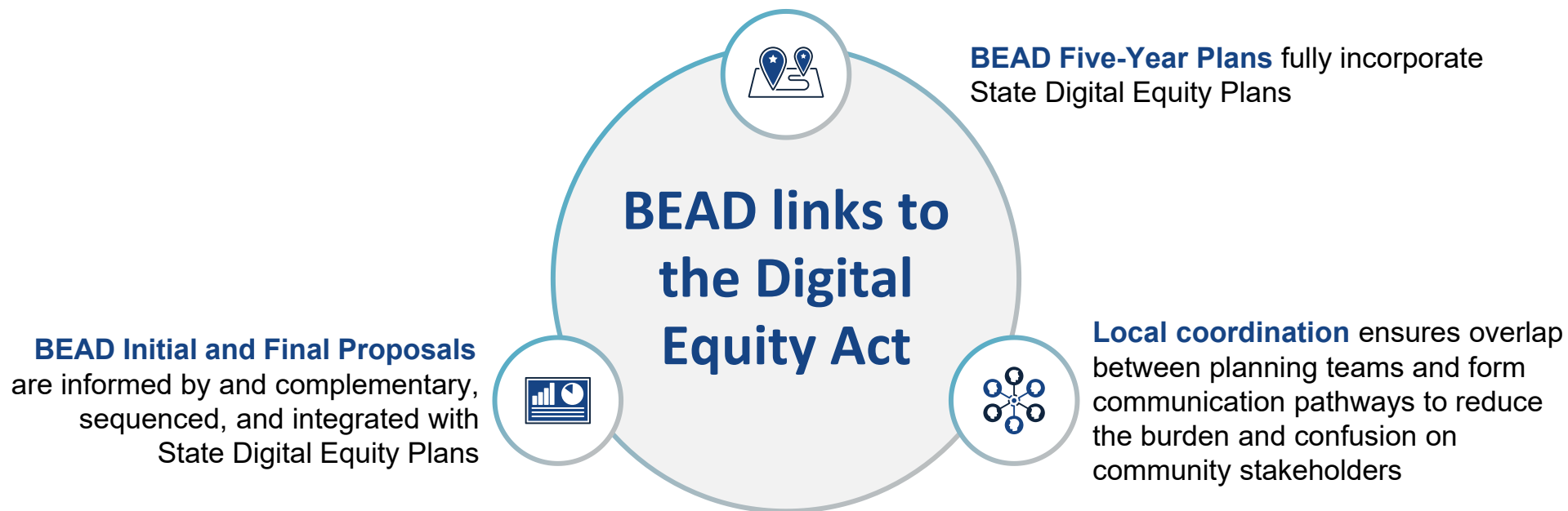
ESTIMATED TIMELINE

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified



1. Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), available [here](#).

The BEAD Program is closely linked to the Digital Equity Act



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**



The BEAD Program helps deliver broadband 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, broadband 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, 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



Funding is initially based on a minimum allocation with additional funding allocations based on high-cost and unserved locations



New FCC Broadband DATA Maps will be utilized

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will publish new broadband coverage maps (Broadband DATA Maps)

The Broadband DATA Maps will be used to determine an Eligible Entity's total funding allocation



Eligible Entities receive a minimum allocation

Minimum allocations by entity:

- **\$100M** for each State, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico
- **\$25M** for American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands



Additional allocation based on unserved locations

Additional allocation is based on the number of **unserved locations in high-cost areas** in the Eligible Entity and the **number of unserved locations** in the Eligible Entity

BEAD to prioritize complete coverage of unserved locations and underserved locations (where funding permits)



Complete coverage of **unserved locations** (incl. by deploying Wi-Fi to multi-family buildings)



Complete coverage of **underserved locations** (where funding permits)



NTIA urges use of remaining funds for **Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs)** before other eligible uses

Note: If an Eligible Entity has a plan to deploy service to all unserved and underserved locations within its jurisdiction, it may pursue non-deployment initiatives before or while deployment projects are underway

Federal Program Officers are the point of contact for Eligible Entities during application and implementation processes



Eligible Entities can submit questions through their Federal Program Officers



E.g., questions related to the program or application process may be submitted to Federal Program Officers



Eligible Entities should submit select materials to their Federal Program Officers



E.g., results of any audits conducted of grantees and subgrantees shall be reported to Federal Program Officers



Eligible Entities should submit requests through their Federal Program Officers



E.g., requests for approval of uses of funds not listed in the NOFO should be made in writing to the Assistant Secretary and submitted through the appropriate Federal Program Officer



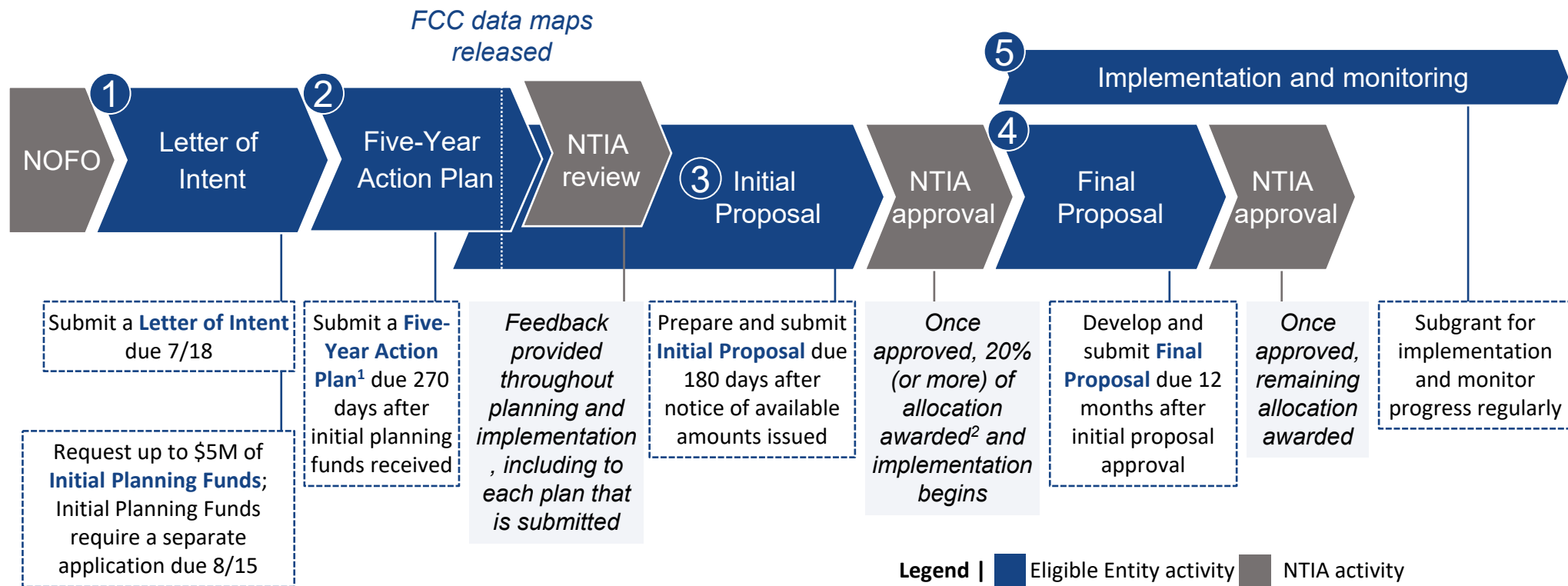
Each Eligible Entity will receive BEAD grants and distribute funds to subgrantees

- **"Eligible Entity"** refers to all 50 U.S. States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and other U.S. Territories (including the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands)

*If an Eligible Entity fails to submit or gain approval for a "Covered application" (LOI, initial proposal or final proposal) by the relevant deadline, a **political subdivision, or consortium of political subdivisions** of the entity, may submit a covered application*

- **"Subgrantees"** are entities that receive grant funds from an Eligible Entity to carry out eligible activities – this includes traditional and non-traditional providers (i.e., electric co-ops, nonprofit orgs, public-private partnerships, public or private utilities, public utility districts, Tribal entities, or local govts)

Eligible Entity application includes five key steps



1. Required for entities that receive initial planning funds 2. Must be used for projects in areas with >80% unserved locations or high poverty areas
 Note: funding amounts inclusive of all administrative set-asides





3 Funding allocation includes three components and is based on new FCC maps

Eligible Entities are invited to submit Initial and Final Proposal after the Assistant Secretary issues the Notice of Available Amounts to Eligible Entities, including:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Minimum allocation | <p>\$100M for each State, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico</p> <p>\$25M for American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands</p> |
| High-cost allocation | $\frac{\# \text{ unserved locations in high -cost areas in the Eligible Entity}}{\# \text{ unserved locations in high -cost areas in the US}} \times \$4.245B$ |
| 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 ²

Eligible Entities shall develop a **challenge process** for stakeholders to challenge whether a location or CAI is served, unserved, or underserved

At least 60 days before allocating funds, Eligible Entities must **document the final list** of unserved locations, underserved locations, and eligible community anchor institutions

Note: Eligible Entities can use no more than 2% for administrative purposes

1. \$41.6B – minimum initial allocation – high -cost allocation 2. The Assistant Secretary will, in coordination with the Commission, choose a date certain upon which the Broadband DATA Maps will be utilized to identify unserved locations (the "Allocation Date")

ion, choose a date certain upon which

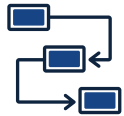


3

The eligible entity must conduct a process for stakeholders to challenge if a location is eligible for funds



First, each Eligible Entity must develop and describe in the Initial Proposal, a process to challenge its determination of whether a particular location or CAI¹ is eligible for grant funds



Second, the Eligible Entity shall conduct the challenge process (once approved by the Assistant Secretary) before allocating grant funds received from BEAD for the deployment of broadband networks



Third, after resolving each challenge and at least 60 days before allocating funds for deployment, an Eligible Entity must provide public notice of the final classification of each unserved location, underserved location, or eligible community anchor institution



Fourth, NTIA has discretionary authority to reverse the determination of an Eligible Entity with respect to the eligibility of a particular location or community anchor institution

1. Community Anchor Institution



Digital Equity Act Program Details and Update

January 2023



Defining Equity

According to the White House Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government, ‘Equity’ is defined as:

“ Sec. 2. Definitions. For purposes of this order: (a) The term “equity” means the **consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals**, including individuals who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment, such as Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality. ¹

(b) The term “underserved communities” refers to populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been **systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life**, as exemplified by the list in the preceding definition of “equity.” ² ”

¹ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/20/executive-order-advancing-racial-equity-and-support-for-underserved-communities-through-the-federal-government/>

² Ibid.

This presentation focuses on the Digital Equity Act

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <p>BEAD</p> <hr/> <p>\$42.45B</p> <p>Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment Program</p> <p>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.</p> | <p><i>Presentation focus</i></p> <p>DIGITAL EQUITY</p> <hr/> <p>\$2.75B</p> <p>Digital Equity Act</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>TRIBAL</p> <hr/> <p>\$2.00B</p> <p>Tribal Connectivity Technical Amendments</p> <p>A program to help tribal communities expand high-speed Internet access and adoption on tribal lands.</p> | <p>MIDDLE MILE</p> <hr/> <p>\$1.00B</p> <p>Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure</p> <p>A program to expand middle mile infrastructure, to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas.</p> |
|---|---|---|---|

Note: Funding amounts inclusive of all administrative set-asides

State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program Update



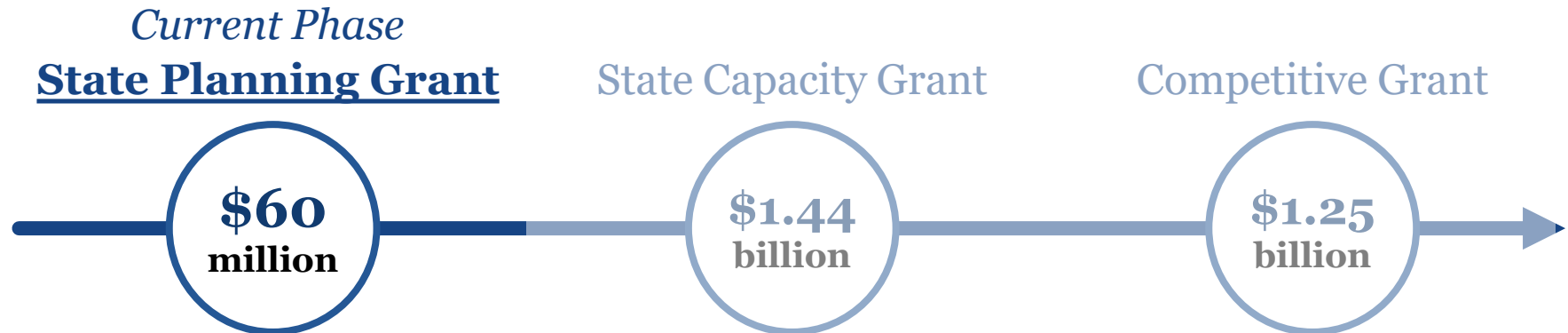
All 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, have been awarded their State Digital Equity Planning Grants.



The U.S. Territories have submitted their Digital Equity Planning Grant applications.



The programs are sequential and participation in planning is essential



Who Open to **U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico**

Open to U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, that **completed the State Planning Program**

Open to **certain entities**, such as political subdivisions, Tribal entities, nonprofits, community anchor institutions, local educational agencies, and workforce development orgs

What Grants will be used to **develop a State Digital Equity Plan**

Grants will be used to **implement State Digital Equity Plans**

Grants will be used to **develop and implement digital inclusion activities**

Other U.S. territories, Indian Tribes, Alaska Native entities, and Native Hawaiian orgs have a statutory set-aside and separate program requirements under the State Planning and Capacity Programs

Every stakeholder plays a role in the Digital Equity programs

Illustrative, non-exhaustive

Telecom provider

- Provide States, other territories, and Tribal / Native entities with background data on their baseline and digital equity needs



Community anchor institution

- Partner with States, other territories, and Tribal / Native entities to develop State Digital Equity Plans
- Advocate for community interests and needs



Community orgs

- Serve as a thought partner as States, other territories, and Tribal / Native entities design their outreach strategies
- Advocate for community interests and needs



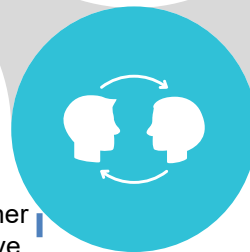
Tribal government

- Participate in the Planning Grant Program
- Coordinate with relevant State(s) to develop state-wide Plans



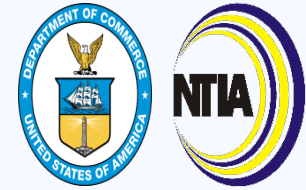
Local government

- Collaborate with States, other territories, and Tribal / Native to develop State Digital Equity Plans



Individual

- Participate in the planning process of your local jurisdiction



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



JANUARY 2023



THANK YOU

