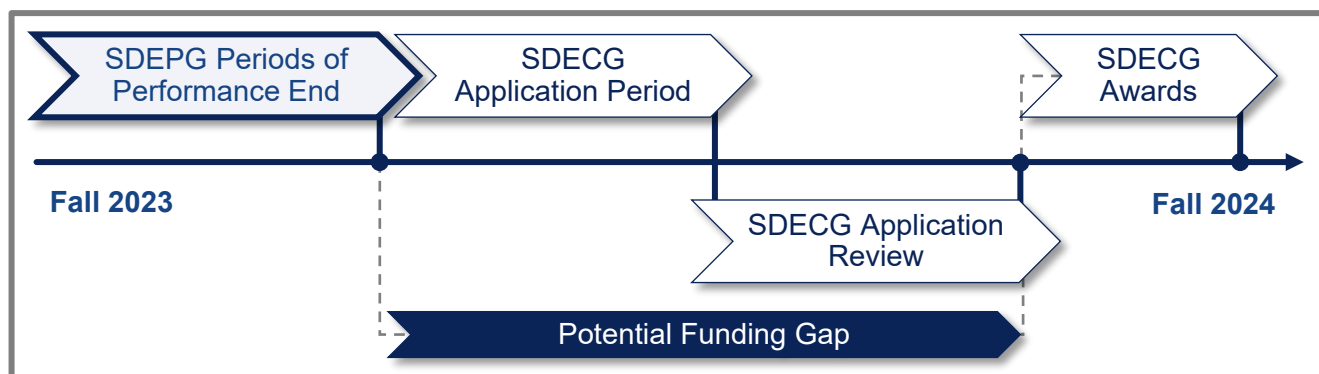


‘MIND THE GAP’ OVERVIEW

The State Digital Equity Planning Grant (SDEPG) Program currently under way. Grant periods of performance are ending in Fall 2023 through early 2024, which may create a gap in funding for Digital Equity activities before the State Digital Equity Capacity Grants (SDECG) are awarded. **States should plan accordingly to cover the costs of staff who are in part or entirely funded by SDEPG funds.** To help States ‘mind the gap’, an indicative timeline and example actions are outlined below:

INDICATIVE TIMELINE



EXAMPLES FOR BRIDGING THE GAP



Identify opportunities other areas of work for staff to temporarily support the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, to temporarily shift staff activity and costs:

- BEAD NOFO Section IV.B.2.5. states that Initial Planning Funds can be used for “related staffing capacity or consulting or contracted support to effectuate the goals of the BEAD Program;” States could submit an Initial Planning Funds budget modification to shift Digital Equity staff costs and activities to BEAD Program funding.



States may be able to shift staff to other private or public grants that align to Digital Equity Act Programs (e.g., Regional Commissions, foundations).



States may be able to utilize existing State funds to shift staff costs.