# NTIA GRANT PROGRAMS: BROADBAND EQUITY ACCESS AND DEPLOYMENT (BEAD) & DIGITAL EQUITY

FUNDED BY THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

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

MAY 2022

"We'll make sure every single, every single, American has access to high-quality, affordable, high-speed Internet," Biden said during his speech. "When I say affordable, I mean it. Americans pay too much for Internet service. We're going to drive down the price for families who have service now and make it easier for families who don't have affordable service to be able to get it now."

-PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

# We're bringing affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet to everyone in America because you need a connection to stay connected

America runs on high-speed Internet.

A strong Internet connection powers our economy and supports education. It fosters better public health. And, it connects loved ones and strengthens social ties.

But not everyone is connected. Too many Americans are cut off from the opportunities that high-speed Internet makes possible.

That's why we're working to bring high-speed Internet to all Americans.

FUTURE

Goal is to build infrastructure that provides reliable high-speed Internet **access** to all Americans **for today and tomorrow…**

...with a focus on making high-speed Internet **affordable** and **reliable** so **everyone** can participate in the economy...

... and providing the resources needed to **equitably** expand the adoption and use of the Internet so **everyone** can experience the benefits.

INTERNET FOR ALL
INTERNET.GOV

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

## 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 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

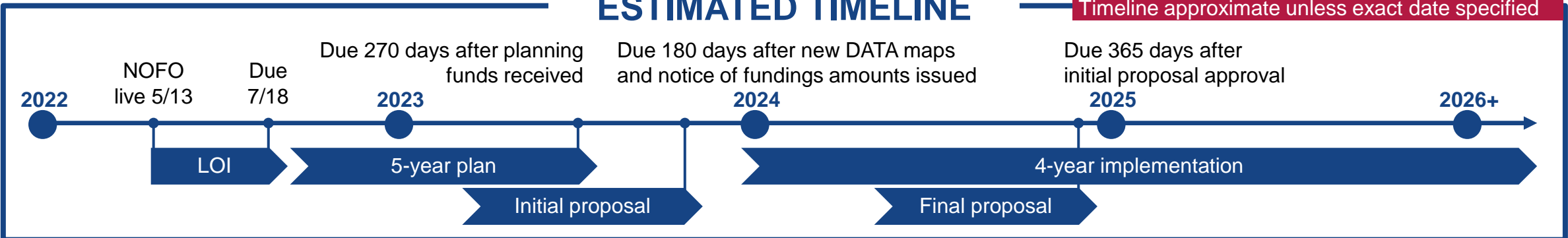**Entities eligible to apply for this program include:**
- All 50 States
- The District of Columbia and Puerto Rico
- Other Territories: U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

**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**

**2022** — NOFO live 5/13 — Due 7/18 — Due 270 days after planning funds received — **2023** — Due 180 days after new DATA maps and notice of fundings amounts issued — **2024** — Due 365 days after initial proposal approval — **2025** — **2026+**

- LOI
- 5-year plan
- Initial proposal
- Final proposal
- 4-year implementation

# 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)

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

# 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**

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

**+**

**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

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

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

## $5M funding available

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

# 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

# The BEAD Program will include a low-cost broadband service option for all Eligible Subscribers

## Low-cost option is available to Eligible Subscribers

- **Eligible Subscriber** means any household that qualifies for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) or a successor program

Please see the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) website for more details on the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) (link)

## Eligible Entities will define parameters for low-cost plans

Eligible Entities will define the parameters for low-cost plans while considering the following:

- Provider participation in the Affordable Connectivity Program or other household subsidies
- Expected cost to an Eligible Subscriber after subsidies
- Technical performance of the plan (e.g., Internet speed)

## Description of an example low-cost plan

- **Cost:** ≤$30 incl. taxes and fees (≤$75 for tribal land residents)
- **Subsidies:** Can apply Affordable Connectivity Benefit subsidies
- **Speed:** ≥100 Mbps for downloads and ≥20 Mbps for uploads
- **Latency:** ≤100 ms
- **Extra fees:** No data caps or surcharges
- **Upgrades:** Can later upgrade to new low-cost offerings at no cost

# 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.

# The BEAD Program promotes fair labor practices, workforce development, and climate resiliency

## Fair labor practices

Require compliance with federal labor and employment laws and promote fair labor practices

## Workforce development

Invest in developing a skilled workforce and ensure new jobs are available to under-represented groups

## Climate resiliency

Identify current and future weather- and climate-related risks and proposed plans to avoid or mitigate the risks

# Digital Equity Act Grants: seek to promote digital equity and inclusion

## 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.

## *Today's focus*
## 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.

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

## Funding pool $2.75B

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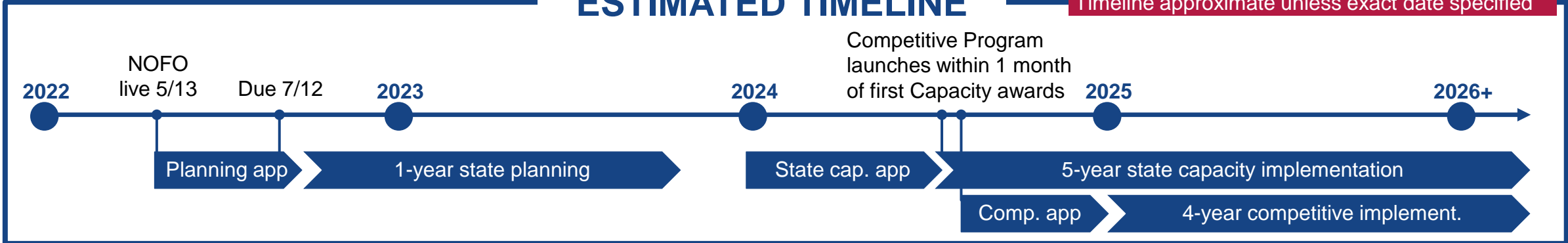
### Competitive
- $1.25B to implement digital equity and inclusion activities

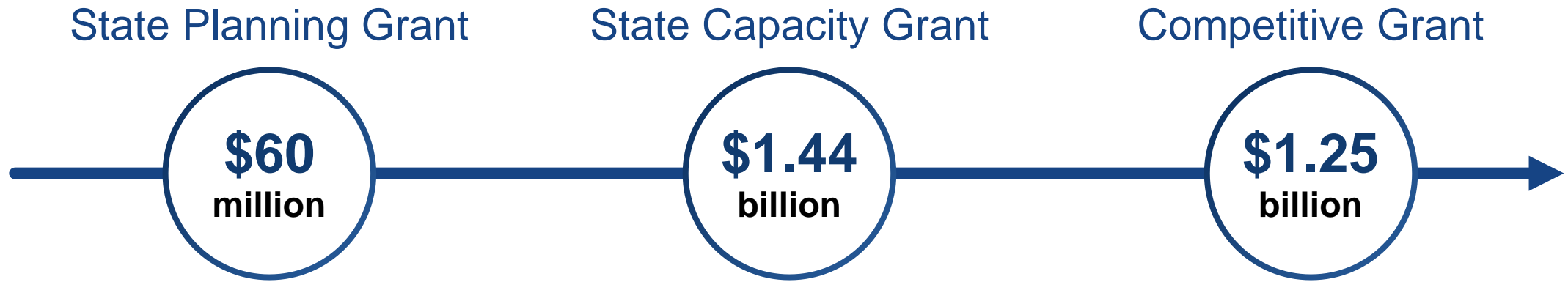**Example eligible uses of funds across three programs include:**

- ☆ 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

Competitive Program launches within 1 month of first Capacity awards

**2022** — NOFO live 5/13 — Due 7/12 — **2023** — **2024** — **2025** — **2026+**

- Planning app → 1-year state planning
- State cap. app → 5-year state capacity implementation
- Comp. app → 4-year competitive implement.

# The programs are sequential and participation in planning is essential to receive capacity (i.e., implementation) funds

| | State Planning Grant | State Capacity Grant | Competitive Grant |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **$60 million** | **$1.44 billion** | **$1.25 billion** |
| **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 separate statutory set-aside and separate program requirements under the State Planning and Capacity Programs, as detailed on the next page

# 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

# Programs' funds can be used for different purposes

## Uses of State Planning Grant funds

- **Developing** State Digital Equity **Plans**

- **Making subgrants** to other entities, such as community anchor institutions, municipalities, Indian Tribes, nonprofits, and other organizations, that help develop the Digital Equity Plan

## Uses of State Capacity and Competitive Grant funds

- **Updating and implementing** State Digital Equity **Plans** (Capacity)
- Pursuing **digital inclusion activities**
- Facilitating **adoption** of high-speed Internet
- Implementing **training and workforce development programs**
- Making **equipment and software** for high-speed Internet services available
- Constructing or upgrading **public access computer centers**

State Planning and Capacity funds will be allocated proportionally based on the State's population, share of members of covered populations, and relative lack of availability and adoption among residents

NTIA and the U.S. Census Bureau have collaborated to create the Digital Equity Act Population Viewer, which shows covered population totals for each state and other inputs into the funding formula

# 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

# The Programs also support the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's broader goals of improving access, affordability, and adoption

**Access**

Promotes the **availability of reliable, high-speed Internet technology** through stakeholder outreach and engagement

Advances the **online accessibility of public resources** and services

**Affordability**

Promotes **awareness of existing programs** (e.g., Affordable Connectivity Program) that **help low-income households afford** high-speed Internet service

Offers **Internet equipment and software at low or no cost**

**Adoption and equity**

**Narrows adoption disparities** across covered populations by engaging with diverse stakeholders

Implements **digital inclusion programs** that include digital skills and literacy training, technical support, and workforce development

Greg Claus
Federal Program Officer, Illinois, NTIA

gclaus@ntia.gov                    202-834-0139