



Internet and Broadband Equity Town Hall

Panelists:

Pam Frontino - Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority

Nicole Ugarte - National Telecommunications and Information Administration

*Friday, March 31st at 10:00 A.M.
The Garage Community & Youth Center*



INTERNET FOR ALL

FUNDED BY THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

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



03/31/2023

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is a once-in-a-generation investment in infrastructure and competitiveness

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

- \$1.2T bill passed by Congress and signed into law by President Biden on November 15, 2021
- Largest ever investments in high-speed Internet, rail and transit, clean energy, and water
- Allocated funding to over 350 distinct programs across more than a dozen federal departments and agencies

This historic legislation will:

- Deliver **clean water** to all families and eliminate the nation's lead service lines
- Ensure every American has access to affordable, reliable, **high-speed Internet**
- Repair and rebuild **roads and bridges**
- Improve **transportation options** and reduce greenhouse emissions
- Upgrade our nation's **airports and ports** to strengthen our supply chains
- Make the largest investment in **passenger rail** since Amtrak's creation
- Build a national network of **electric vehicle chargers**
- Upgrade **power infrastructure** to deliver clean, reliable energy
- **Make infrastructure resilient** against the impacts of climate change, cyber-attacks, and extreme weather events
- Deliver the largest investment in tackling **legacy pollution** in US history

Please see [Build.gov](https://www.build.gov) for more details on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

NTIA will administer ~\$48B through four programs that drive high-speed Internet access, affordability, and adoption

NTIA will administer ~\$48B of funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

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

FCC to administer \$14.2B
 For Affordable Connectivity Program, which replaced the EBB program

USDA to administer \$2.0B
 Via the Rural Utilities Service

Private Activity Bonds \$0.6B
 Authorizes State and local governments to use private activity bonds for rural broadband

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:

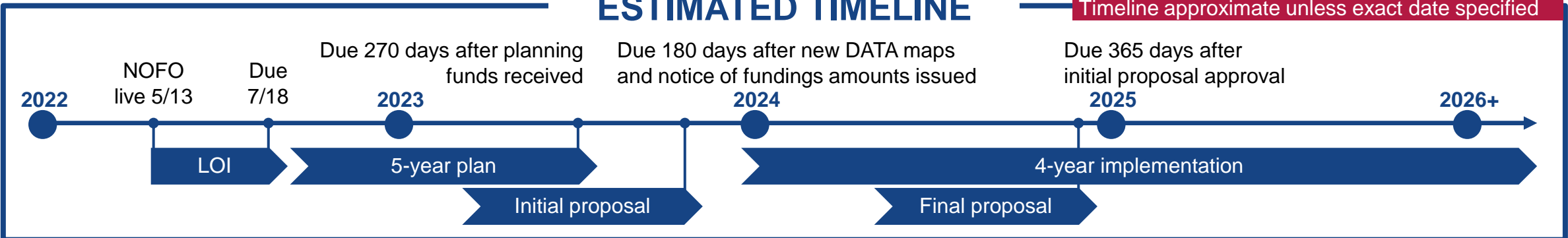
- All 50 States
- The District of Columbia and Puerto Rico
- Other Territories: U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

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



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

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

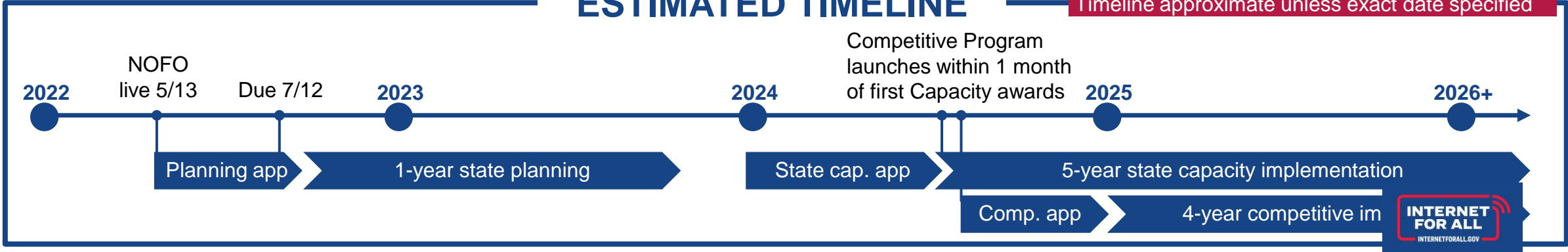
- \$1.25B to implement digital equity and inclusion activities

Example eligible uses of funds 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 disproportionately impacted by digital inequity



Low-income households



People with disabilities



Aging populations



People with language barriers



Incarcerated individuals



Racial and ethnic minorities



Veterans



Rural inhabitants

There are many ways stakeholders may get involved in the programs

Illustrative, non-exhaustive

Telecom provider

- Apply to be a BEAD subgrantee or apply directly for Middle Mile
- *Note: Telecom providers may include government owned entities*



Community anchor institution

- Benefit from BEAD funding for faster Internet
- Apply for Digital Equity competitive grant
- Advocate for community interests across programs



Community orgs

- Serve as a thought partner as states design their outreach strategies
- Advocate for community interests across programs



Tribal government

- Coordinate, consult, and partner with states during BEAD planning
- Apply for a Middle Mile, Tribal Broadband, or Digital Equity capacity and competitive grants

Local government

- Collaborate with state to develop Digital Equity plan and during BEAD planning
- Apply for a Middle Mile or Digital Equity capacity and competitive grants

Individual

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

Contact Information

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pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PENNSYLVANIA BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY: AN OVERVIEW

PA BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The **Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority (PBDA)** was established in 2021 through **Act 96** as an independent Authority and housed within the **Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED)**.

PBDA was created to accomplish the following:

- To identify and coordinate federal and state funding opportunities to expand broadband access within the commonwealth.
- To create and implement a statewide broadband plan.
- To maintain a centralized database of all broadband deployment activities occurring within Pennsylvania agencies and departments.

The PBDA is governed by an **11-member Board of Directors**, including:

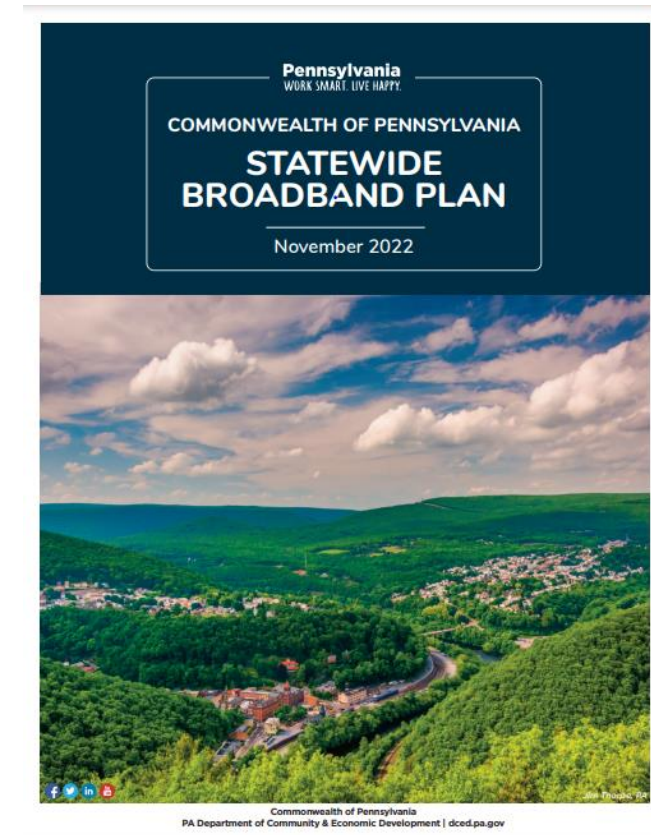
- Secretaries from PA departments of Community and Economic Development Agriculture, Education, General Services, and Budget.
- Four legislative members:
 - Senator Kristin-Phillips-Hill
 - Senator John Kane
 - Representative Robert Matzie
 - Representative Carl Metzger
- The Chairwoman of the Public Utilities Commission
- The Executive Director of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania

PENNSYLVANIA'S STATEWIDE BROADBAND PLAN

Pennsylvania's Statewide Broadband Plan:

Adopted by the Board in November - will inform the BEAD 5-year Action Plan and Digital Equity Plan. Four main components:

- Broadband Service Infrastructure and Availability
- Device and Technology Access
- Digital Equity and Affordability
- Digital Literacy and Technical Support



CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS- OVERVIEW

ARPA Capital Project Funds (CPF):

- PA was allocated **\$279 million** from the U.S. Treasury for broadband-related programs.
- CPF will include three programs that benefit unserved and underserved areas of the commonwealth, specifically:
 - \$200 million will go toward the **Broadband Infrastructure Program**
 - \$45M for **Multi-Purpose Community Facility Projects**
 - \$20M for **Digital Connectivity Technology Projects**

BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

- \$200 million for Broadband Infrastructure Buildout
- Competitive Grant Program
- Focus on Fiber (and COAX or Fixed Wireless where applicable)
- Open to private entities (providers), local governments, or Community Anchor Institutions
- Will include a public challenge period to prevent overbuild
- Guidelines will be posted very soon, applications will open 30 days later

IIJA, BEAD, AND DIGITAL EQUITY FUNDING

- **Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)** - \$42.5B nationally with each state receiving at least \$100M (*Anticipate \$1.6 Billion+ for PA*)
- **Digital Equity Act**
- Pennsylvania's allocation will be announced on or after June 30th



IMPORTANT PARTNERSHIPS



Commonwealth Partners



Contracted Partners



**PennState
Extension**



Federal Partners



Questions? Contact the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority at pabroadbandauthority@pa.gov

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