# INTERNET FOR ALL

FUNDED BY THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

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

# 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 for more details on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

# High-speed Internet helps individuals and our country

### Maximizing savings for education

The Internet is not a luxury, it's a necessity. Students are asked to use Internet to complete homework assignments, do research, apply to college or trade schools. Students who don't have access in their home are left out and left behind.

### Stimulating growth in the economy

By connecting the workplace, we can better connect businesses to consumers. New markets can increase sales and create jobs. High-speed Internet helps American businesses compete for talent and business in the global marketplace.

### Lowering costs for health

Telehealth reduces hospital visits and cuts down hospital stay time. Hospitals with high-speed Internet save money because they have lower administration costs. By offering telehealth, they save money while improving patient health.

### Strengthening ties in our community

High-speed Internet connects us to services we need. It helps first responders save lives. It lets us connect with our elected officials and it strengthens our ties to our neighbors. One in four Americans get online alerts about local issues and one in five use digital tools to stay in touch with their community.

# Americans require a range of Internet tools and services to maximize the benefits of high-speed Internet access

| Access to affordable, robust high-speed Internet service | Internet-enabled devices that meet user needs | Applications and online content | Access to digital literacy training | Quality technical support | Measures to ensure online privacy & cybersecurity |

# 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

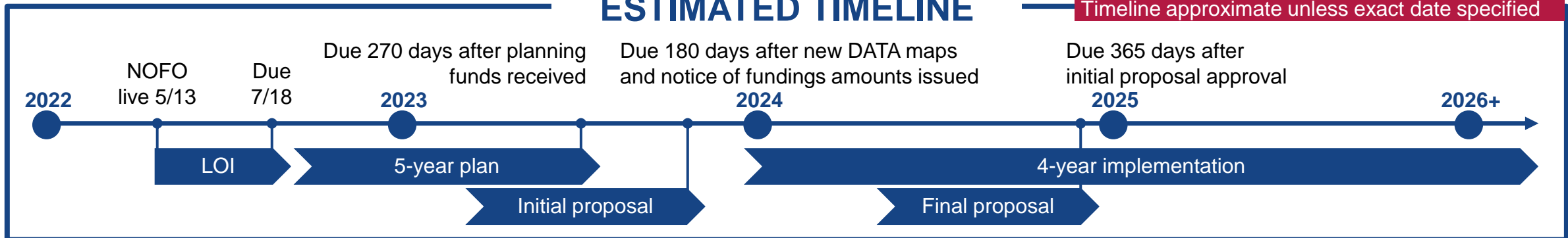**Entities eligible to apply for this program include:**

- 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

<span style="background:#b01030;color:#fff">Timeline approximate unless exact date specified</span>

| 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

# The BEAD Program helps deliver high-speed Internet 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, high-speed Internet 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, and 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

# 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

# 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
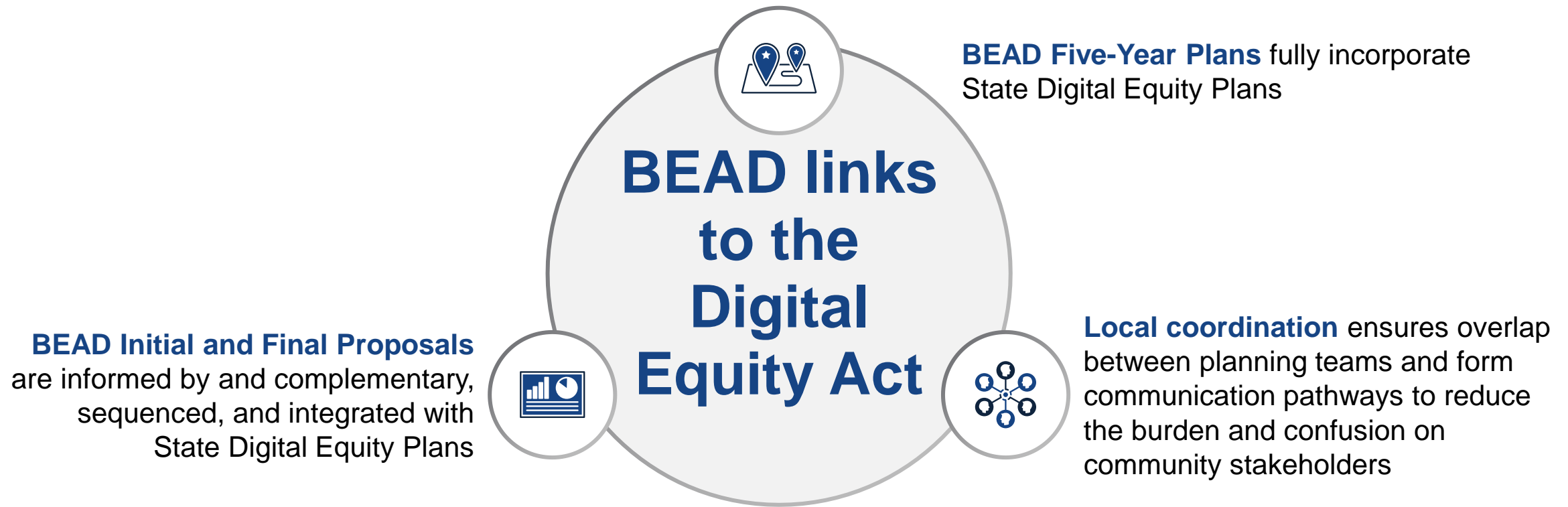
## Workforce development

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

# The BEAD Program is closely linked to the Digital Equity Act

**BEAD links to the Digital Equity Act**

**BEAD Five-Year Plans** fully incorporate State Digital Equity Plans

**BEAD Initial and Final Proposals** are informed by and complementary, sequenced, and integrated with State Digital Equity Plans

**Local coordination** ensures overlap between planning teams and form communication pathways to reduce the burden and confusion on community stakeholders

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**

# 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**
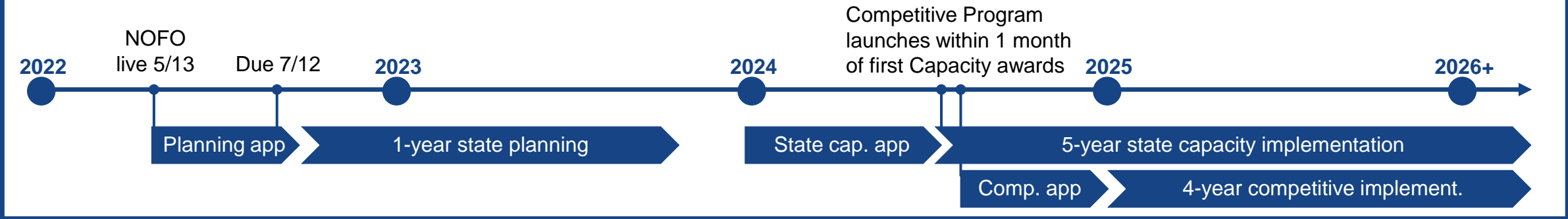- $1.44B formula funding program to implement plans & promote digital inclusion

**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
- ☆ Implementing digital equity plans and related activities

- ☆ Making awards to other entities to help make digital equity plans
- ☆ Providing digital literacy and digital skills education

- ☆ Improving accessibility and inclusivity of public resources
- ☆ 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.

# Planning funds will be used to develop State Digital Equity Plans, which must contain several components

**Vision**
- Stated **vision** for digital equity

**Objectives**
- **Measurable objectives**
- Assessment of how those objectives will **impact the State's plans and outcomes**

**Barriers to Digital Equity**
- **Identify barriers** to digital equity
- Include a **digital needs assessment**

**Outreach and Engagement**
- **Description of plan to collaborate** with key stakeholders to achieve its digital equity goals
- **List of organizations** that collaborated on and contributed to digital equity plans
- Coordination and outreach **strategy**

**Integration**
- **Asset inventory** of current strategies
- Description of **incorporation of local plans**
- Description of **coordination of use of capacity grant funds with BEAD funds**

**Implementation**
- Implementation **strategy**
- **Timeline**

# 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

# Eligible entities are required to engage with key stakeholders as a part of developing digital equity plans

**Key stakeholder groups may include:**

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- › 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

# There are many ways stakeholders may get involved in the programs

**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

# Additional resources about the BEAD Program

1. Visit the InternetForAll.gov for additional information on federal funding programs

2. Engage with your State or territory regarding their plans to improve high-speed Internet access

3. Submit questions to BEAD@ntia.gov

4. Attend future NTIA webinars, including program-specific application guidance webinars for applicants

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