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# Internet For All Grant Programs

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Funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Administered by the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)



# The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests ~\$65B to ensure everyone in America has access to high-speed Internet



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.

## Bipartisan Infrastructure Act invests roughly \$65B into high-speed Internet efforts through 7 federal programs:

### Administered by NTIA

- Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program (\$42.45B)
- Digital Equity Planning, Capacity and Competitive Grants (\$2.75B)
- Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (\$2.00B)
- Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program (\$1.0B)

### Administered by other federal agencies

- Affordable Connectivity Program (\$14.2B)
- Rural Broadband Programs at the Department of Agriculture (\$2.0B)
- Private Activity Bonds (\$0.6B)

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

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

# Digital Equity Act created three programs for 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

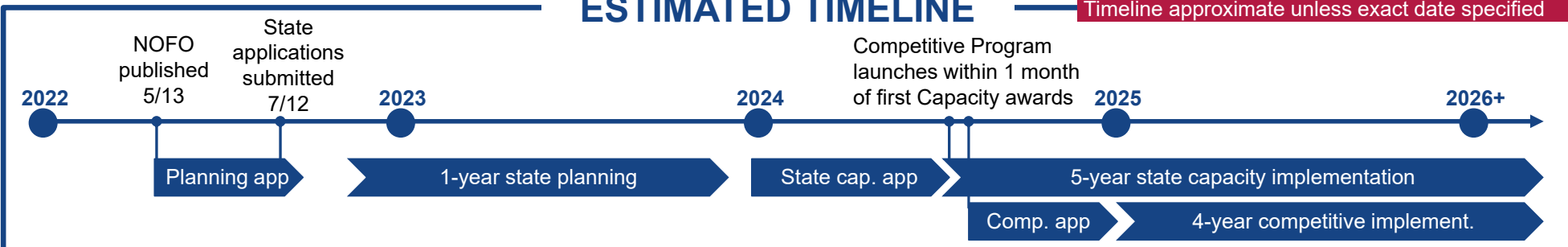
☆ Implementing digital equity plans and related activities

☆ Providing digital literacy and digital skills education

☆ Facilitating the adoption of high-speed Internet

## ESTIMATED TIMELINE

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified



# 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:

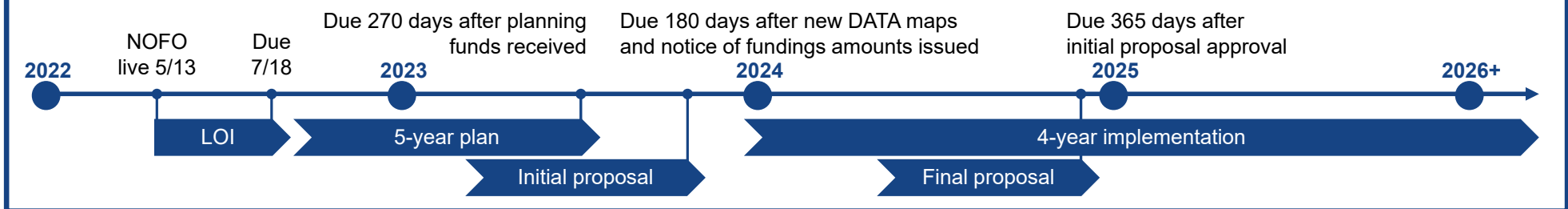
- All 50 States
- The District of Columbia and Puerto Rico
- Other Territories: U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

### 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





## 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



## 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 or 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

# 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 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

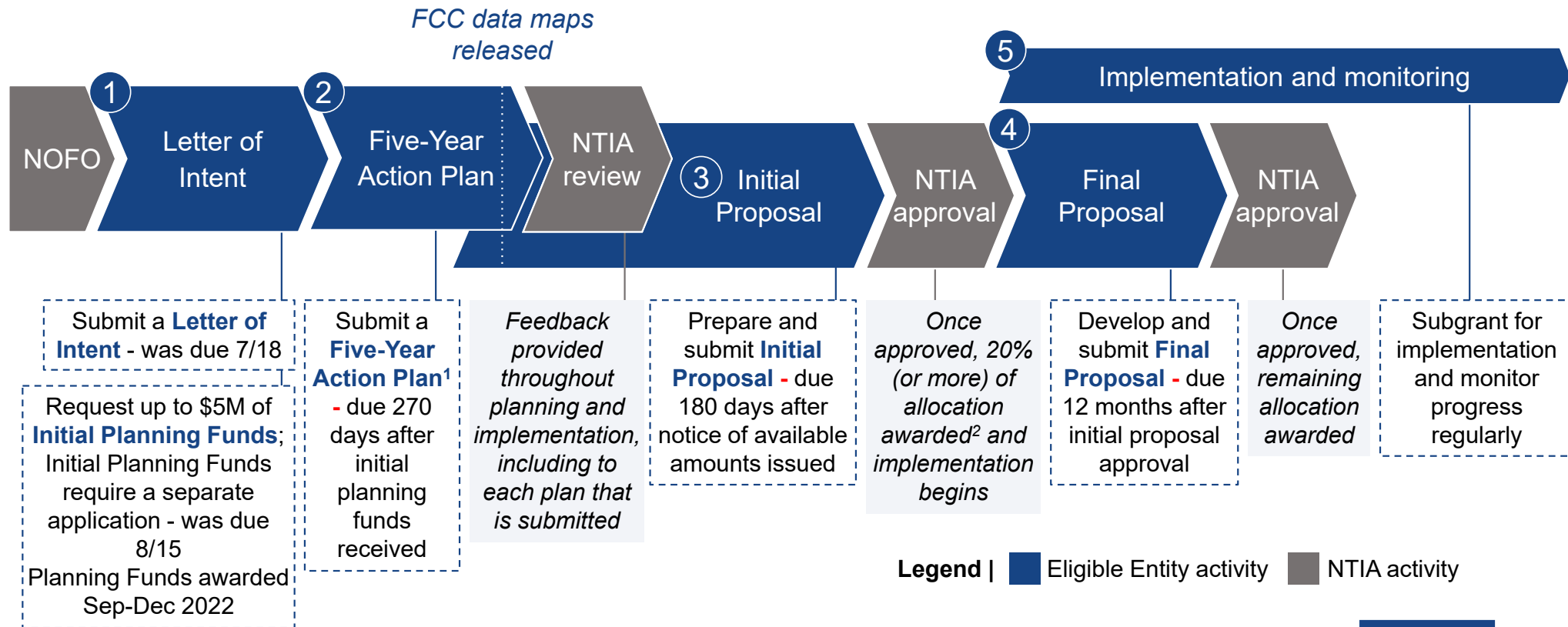
Invest in developing a skilled workforce and ensure new jobs are available to under-represented groups



### Climate resiliency

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

# 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

## 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

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## Initial Proposal | Initial Proposals include 19 components



 Outline of **long-term objectives** ☆

 Support of **local, Tribal, and regional broadband planning efforts** ☆

 List of **existing efforts** to deploy broadband ☆


 Certification that **local coordination** was conducted

 Identification of **un- and underserved locations**

 Description of how **definition of CAI<sup>1</sup>** was applied

 Detailed plan to conduct **challenge process**

 Detailed plan to **award subgrants**, including **Extremely High Cost per Location Threshold**

 Explanation of preferences for **non-deployment eligible activities**

 Description of **initiatives Eligible Entity will implement** without subgrant

 Detail **use of strong labor standards** and plan for **labor-related subgrantee selection criteria**

 Detail plan to achieve a **diverse and highly-skilled workforce**


 Support of **minority- and women-owned businesses**

 Steps to **reduce costs and barriers** to deployment

 Assessment of **climate threats and mitigation** methods

 Description of **low-cost plans** to be offered

 Description of intended use of **20% funding**

 Disclosures around plans to waive laws that restrict **public sector participation**

 Certification of **intent to comply** with requirements

1. Community Anchor Institution

Legend | ☆ References to a completed Five-Year Action Plan satisfies this requirement



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# Initial Proposal | Eligible Entities must establish fair, open, and competitive processes for selecting subgrantees

## Principles for the Eligible Entity's subgrantee selection process:

- May fund an unserved or underserved project area as small as a **single location**
- May include **Middle Mile Infrastructure** in or through any area required to reach interconnection points or otherwise required to serve an unserved location, underserved location, or eligible Community Anchor Institution
- May not fund a project already subject to a **federal or State commitment** for broadband deployment unless Eligible Entity demonstrates to the Assistant Secretary that it is necessary to achieve the goals of the program and receives a waiver
- Must **maximize the public benefits** by maximizing match and reducing costs to consumers
- May seek bids for unserved locations, underserved locations, and CAs **collectively or separately**
- May not exclude **different types of subgrantees** from eligibility (e.g., cooperatives, nonprofits, public-private partnerships, private companies, public or private utilities, public utility districts, or local governments)
- May solicit proposals from prospective subgrantees at the **geographic level of its choosing** (e.g., per-location, per-census block, etc.) or ask prospective subgrantees to define their own proposed project areas
- Must include the **level of BEAD subsidy** required to serve a specific location
- May encourage providers to **expand their existing/proposed service areas** and may consider inducements (e.g., use State funds for match) if the Eligible Entity has **received no proposals** to serve a location that is unserved or underserved
- Must submit proof of the **Tribal Government's consent** to deployment to Unserved Service Projects or Underserved Service Projects that include any locations on Tribal Lands
- May decline to select a proposal that **exceeds the extremely high cost per location threshold**

# Initial Proposal | Matching funds $\geq 25\%$ of project costs are required for deploying broadband service projects

## Requirement

Matching funds  $\geq 25\%$  of project costs provided by subgrantee, an Eligible Entity, local government, a utility, a cooperative, a nonprofit, a for-profit company, regional planning or governmental organization, or any combination thereof

## Preference for minimum subsidy

Eligible Entities are required to incentivize matches  $> 25\%$  to reduce the federal share of projects and extend the reach of BEAD Program funding

## Federal funds

Regarding Federal funds, only funds for deploying broadband service that were provided to eligible entities under four statutes may be used as matching funds<sup>1</sup>

## In-kind matches

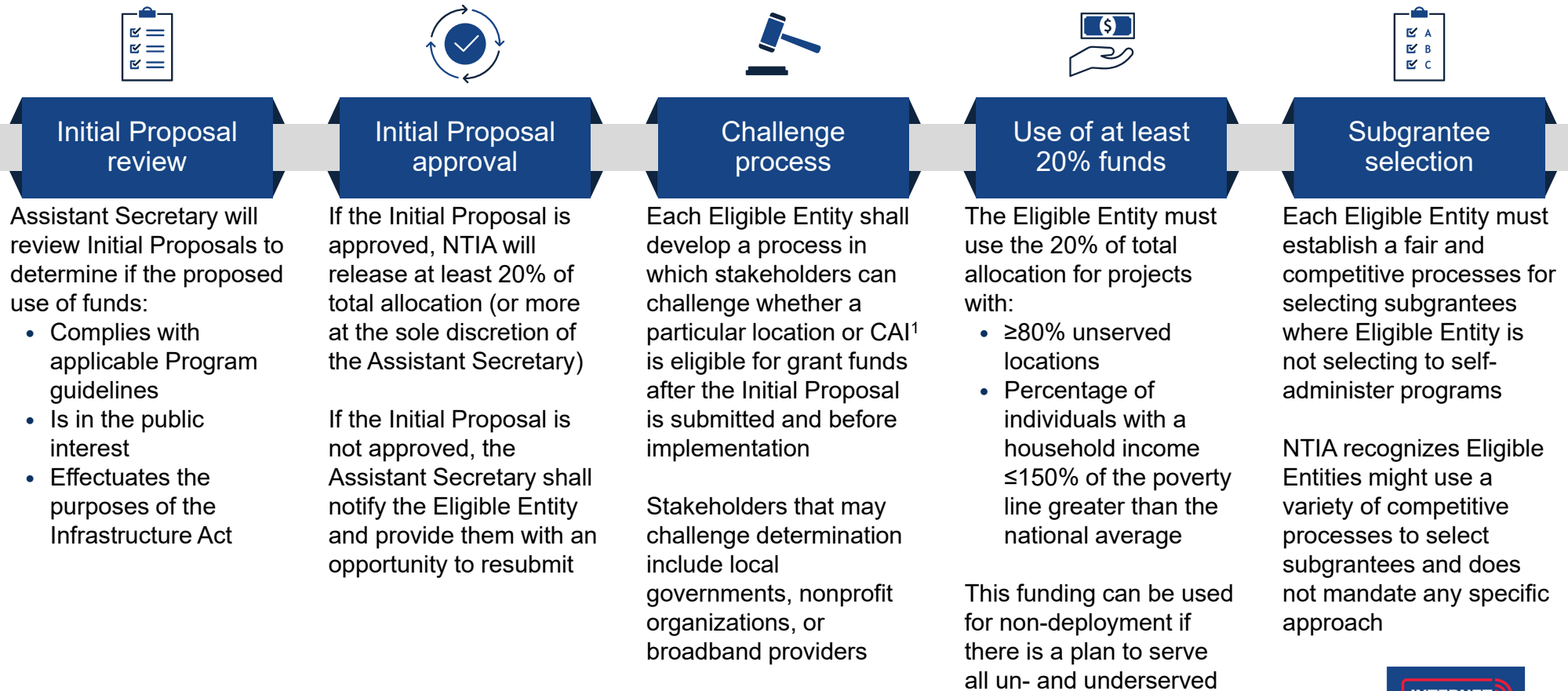
Matching funds may be cash or in-kind contributions consistent with the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards set forth at 2 C.F.R. Part 200

## Match waivers

The Assistant Secretary will grant match waivers only in extraordinary circumstances to serve the public interest and effectuate the purposes of the BEAD Program (e.g., projects in designated “high-cost areas”)

1. (1) The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Public Law 116-127; 134 Stat. 178), (2) the CARES Act (Public Law 116-136; 134 Stat. 281), (3) the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260; 134 Stat. 1182), and (4) the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2; 135 Stat. 4)

# Initial Proposal | If the Initial Proposal is approved, NTIA will release at least 20% of total allocation for select purposes



1. Community Anchor Institution

# Initial Proposal | Subgrantees must meet general and specific qualification requirements

## General qualifications

Eligible Entities shall ensure that any prospective subgrantee is capable of carrying out activities funded by the subgrant in a competent manner and in compliance with all applicable laws

## Seven specific qualifications:

**Financial capability:** Certification of financial qualifications, letter of credit, audited financial Statements, and project pro forma analyses

**Managerial capability:** Resumes for key personnel, org charts, and narrative describing qualifications

**Technical capability:** Network design, diagram, project cost, buildout timeline and milestones, and capital investment schedule

**Compliance with laws:** Permit worker-led health and safety committees that management will meet with upon reasonable request

**Operational capability:** Certification of operational capability and certification for experience (e.g., for broadband service experience)

**Ownership:** Provide ownership info, including name address and citizenship of any party with >10% stock in applicant<sup>1</sup>

**Other public funding:** Disclose any applications for broadband service projects using public funds

1. Consistent with requirements set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 1.2112(a)(1)-(7)



## Subgrantee obligations | Subgrantees must meet three programmatic requirements

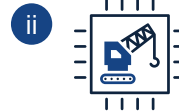


### Network capabilities

**Speed:**  $\geq 100/20$  Mbps or 1/1 Gbps for CAIs

**Latency:** 95% of measurements below 100 ms round-trip time

**Outages:** <48 hrs over any 365-day period except in the case of natural disasters or force majeure



### Deployment requirements

**Deadlines:** Deploy and begin service not later than four years after subgrant received (with possible one year extension)

**Milestones:** Meet milestones established by Eligible Entities

**Conduit access points:** Include interspersed conduit access points at regular and short intervals for interconnection



### Service obligations

**Low-cost plan:** Offer a low-cost option for all eligible subscribers

**Consumer protections:** Do not impose data usage caps

**Access to service:** Reasonable and non-discriminatory terms and conditions

**Public notice:** Conduct awareness campaigns to increase adoption

**Interconnection and wholesale access:** Permit interconnection for MM infrastructure receiving funding

**Cybersecurity and supply chain:** Adhere to baseline requirements

# 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)

<https://www.fcc.gov/acp>



## 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

# Initial Proposal | When selecting among proposals, Eligible Entities must use an approved process with certain criteria

Process must first assess which locations have one or more proposals that meet two criteria:

1. Satisfy subgrantee requirements
2. Priority Broadband Projects

Priority Broadband Projects are projects that will rely entirely on **fiber-optic technology** to reach end-user premises

Except that an Eligible Entity may disqualify any project that **surpasses the Extremely High Cost Per Location Threshold**

**Primary criteria** must account for **≥75%** of the total selection criteria available in choosing between Priority Broadband proposals

## Priority Broadband Projects

If there is **only one** priority project proposal for an area, that proposal is the default winner unless a waiver is granted

If there is **more than one** priority proposal, run competition, affording benefits to the following factors:

- ★ Minimal BEAD Program outlay
- ★ Affordability
- ★ Fair labor practices
- ★ Speed to deployment
- ★ Workforce development
- ★ Open access
- ★ Local and Tribal coordination

## Non-priority projects

If there is **only one** project proposal for an area, that proposal is the default winner unless a waiver is granted

If there is **more than one** proposal, run competition, affording benefits to the following factors:

- ★ Minimal BEAD Program outlay
- ★ Affordability
- ★ Fair labor practices
- ★ Speed to deployment
- ★ Speed and tech capabilities
- ★ Workforce development
- ★ Open access
- ★ Local and Tribal coordination

## Final Proposal | Final Proposals are due within a year of the Initial Proposal's approval

Timing	Content	Review	Approval
<p>Once an Eligible Entity's Initial Proposal is approved, it will have <b>12 months</b> to submit a Final Proposal</p> <p>Before submitting the Final Proposal, an Eligible Entity must complete the challenge process and the subgrantee selection process</p>	<p>The NOFO describes minimum requirements for the Final Proposal, and NTIA will provide an <b>online template</b> for submission</p>	<p>Prior to submission, each political subdivision and Tribal / Native entities must have opportunity to submit a plan for consideration and comment on the proposal</p> <p>Assistant Secretary will review in the order Final Proposals are submitted</p> <p>Assistant Secretary will decide whether the proposed use of funds complies with the statute</p>	<p>When the AS approves of the Final Proposal, the Eligible Entity will <b>receive remaining BEAD Program funds</b></p>



# THANK YOU

For More Information:

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