



Arizona State Library, Archives, L Public Records



Connectivity for Rural and Tribal Libraries

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Arizona State Library

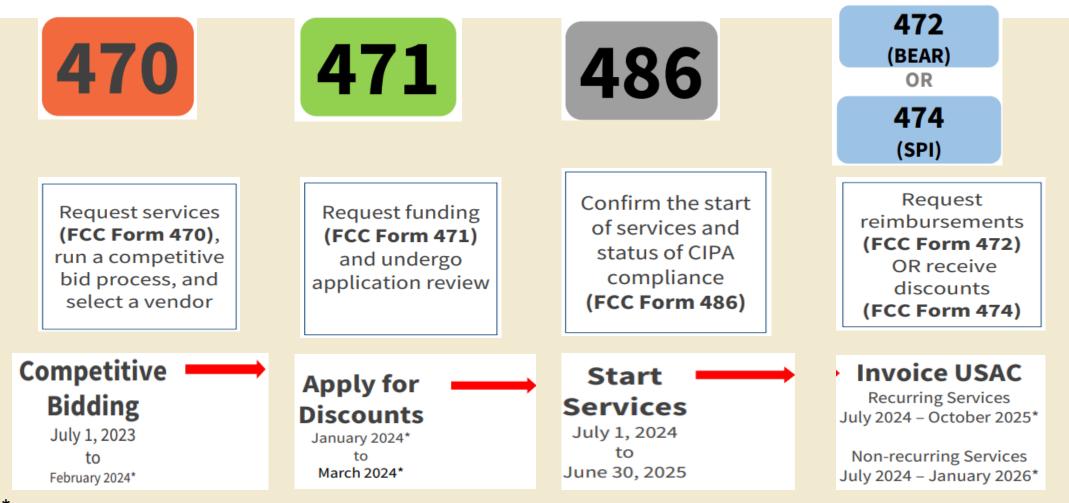
ABOUT BRANCHES COLLECTIONS	ARIZONA STATE LIBRARY, Archives, & public records Events services	Search
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Branches Frederices & Records Management State of Arizona Research Library	E-Rate	State of Arizona Research Library State of Arizona Research Library

- A Division of the Secretary of State Arizona
- State Library Branches take care of
 - Archives and Public Records
 - Arizona Talking Book Library
 - E-rate reimbursements for internet and internal connections Broadband related projects
 - Library Development including Digital Inclusion, Online Resources, Tribal Libraries
 - Law and Research

What is E-Rate?

- A program that reimburses Schools and Public Libraries, up to 90%, for their internet services (Category 1) and internal connections (Category 2).
- Amount reimbursed based on the National School Lunch Program
- The list of Eligible Services is posted on annually around November on the USAC website <u>https://www.usac.org/e-rate/</u>
- Applications have to be submitted annually around March, although the process begins way before that.
- There is no budget limit on Category 1 services. Category 2 services have a fiveyear budget, based on student count (schools) or square footage (libraries). The current five-year budget cycle runs from FY2021 to FY2025

Application process for the E-Rate Program



Date ranges reflect a typical timeline and are subject to change

Tribal Libraries and E-rate

>ATALM* tribal digital inclusion survey:

- 38% were not too familiar with the E-rate
- 30% were not sure they were eligible
- 13% said application process too complicated
- 12% said they had applied
- Issue: Must be recognized as a public library by the State and eligible for LSTA \$\$
 - Tribal libraries are often autonomous entities, thus not always eligible

This jurisdictional conflict impedes tribal libraries from using the E-rate. --ATALM

*Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums

FCC/USAC on Assisting Tribal Libraries

- 2018 Institute of Museum and Library Services Act made tribal libraries eligible for LSTA grants (PL 115-410)
- 2022 FCC makes tribal libraries eligible for E-rate, if they met the following three requirements: Regular hours; Staff; Materials for library users
- Initiated a Tribal Libraries pilot program to provide one-on-one support, group training sessions specifically for participants, and E-Rate program trainings covering the program basics and processes. Offers detailed support on all facets of the program
- 2024 applications <u>open now</u>. Contact Gem Labarta at TribalLiaison@usac.org
- 2023 FCC issues Tribal Order <u>https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-23-56A1.pdf</u>



Definition of a Tribal

An entity is "Tribal" for purposes of E-Rate funding if it is a school operated by or receiving funding from the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), or if it is a school or library operated by any Tribe, Band, Nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaska native village, regional corporation, or village corporation (as defined in, or established pursuant to, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. § 1601 et seq.)) that is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.



Tribal College and University Libraries

- Tribal College and University (TCU) Libraries eligible for E-rate when serving as a public library.
- Tribal Authority designates a "tribal library". No approval needed from the State Library. The TCU library must have library staff, operate regular hours, and have a collection available for public use in its community.
- E-rate requests must be limited to the needs of the library (not the larger TCU).
- C2 equipment must be installed within the eligible library and not in another location within the TCU.

Enhanced Training for Tribal Libraries

Enhance training is directed to be provided by USAC.

- Where possible, USAC is encouraged to conduct hands-on, in-person training opportunities, as suggested by ALA.
- Provide specific support for TCU libraries.
- Identify and conduct outreach to first-time Tribal applicants.
- Post guidance on how to properly set up a library in EPC when the Tribal government, rather than the library, is the billed entity.

Upcoming Trainings

E-Rate Fall Training: EPC Administrative Window

Date: Thursday, October 19, 2023 **Time:** 02:00 pm ET – 03:00 pm ET

Register Here

Overview

USAC will discuss the EPC Administrative Window, the period during which applicants can make updates to their profile information in the E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC), to prepare for the upcoming FCC Form 471 application filing window. After the presentation, we will conduct a Q&A session.

<u>Webinars - Universal Service Administrative</u> <u>Company (usac.org)</u>

Tribal Training Presentations Archive - Universal Service Administrative Company (usac.org)

Budget Increase for Tribal Library

- FCC increased the maximum Category 2 Internal Connection discount rate from 85% to 90% for Tribal libraries
- FCC increased the C2 funding floor from \$25,000 to \$55,000 for Tribal libraries. Category 2 library budget based on total square-footage (at \$4.50 per sq.ft.)
- C2 bid exemption for services <\$3,600. Purchases must still be cost-effective and will be subject to review by USAC for cost-effectiveness.
- Added a Tribal representative to USAC Board



The FCC, "Encourages USAC to conduct inperson training, as suggested by ALA." --FCC 2023 Order

Relief from Cost Allocation for All Applicants

Cost Allocation is not required when ineligible usage of internet is limited to **10% or less of total usage**.

- "Safe harbor" When at least 90% of an applicant's requested Internet service is being used for eligible purposes, the remaining ineligible use of the Internet service will be presumed to be ancillary and, therefore, cost allocation is not required.
- Cabling primarily used for distributing broadband does not require cost allocation even when ineligible equipment such as security cameras may be attached to the network.

Timeline to apply

Start now for the cycle beginning July 1 2024- June 30 2025.

- Needs assessment meet with your stakeholders. Do you have the bandwidth you need? When did you last upgrade your internal connections? Do you have an existing contract?
- Is higher bandwidth available and affordable?
- Who will have to approve any changes?
- Check the Eligible Services List posted each year on the USAC website <u>www.USAC.org/sl</u> in Nov.
- Who creates the RFPs/ FCC Form 470? Who approves it? Who posts it?
- What if we don't receive any responses to the RFP during the 28 day wait period?
- What do I do if I receive multiple responses? Criteria for selecting a service provider.
- Who signs contracts? By when should I get it signed?
- Posting FCC Form 471 by the Application deadline (in March)
- Wait for review and Funding Commitment Decision Letter (FCDL)
- Start services either ask the SPI (Service Provider Invoices) billing or BEAR (Billed Entity Applicant Reimbursement)
- Billing and receiving the funding.

Questions?

• Will take questions after Nicole's presentation.

Over to Nicole's presentation on the new Broadband Funding



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Internet For All - Arizona



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 highspeed 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 is administering ~\$48B through four programs that drive high-speed Internet access, affordability, and adoption

increase adoption of

high-speedtenternet!

their lives.



NTIA will administer ~\$48B of funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law			FCC to administer \$14.2B	
BEAD	DIGITAL EQUITY	TRIBAL	MIDDLE MILE	For Affordable Connectivity Program, which replaced the EBB program
\$42.45B	\$2.75B	\$2.00B	\$1.00B	USDA to administer \$2.0B
Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment	Digital Equity Act	Tribal Connectivity Technical Amendments	Enabling Middle Mile Broadband	Via the Rural Utilities Service
Program A program to get all	Three programs that provide funding to promote digital inclusion	A program to help tribal communities expand high-	A program to expand	Private Activity Bonds \$0.6B
Americans online by funding partnerships between states or territories, communities, and stakeholders to	and advance equity for all. They aim to ensure that all communities can access and use affordable, reliable high-	speed Internet access and adoption on tribal lands.	middle mile infrastructure, to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas.	Authorizes State and local governments to use private activity bonds for rural broadband
build infrastructure where we need it to and	speed Internet to meet their needs and improve			

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

Rolling Awards



Post-Award Implementation

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Rolling Awards

Funding pool \$3.00B	The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) added \$2 billion to the existing TBCP and relaxed time requirements of the original program. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 created the TBCP and allocated \$980 million for high-speed internet deployment in Tribal communities.			
A program to deploy high-speed internet in tribal communities.	Entities eligible to apply include tribal entities, Native Hawaiian communities and Alaskan native entities. A second NOFO will open this year and include:			
	Approximately \$ grant funding	1 billion in	Application period open for 6 months starting in 2023	
	ESTIMA		INE —— Timeline approximate unle	ess exact date specified
1 st NOFO 2021 live 6/3/21 2022	2023 2 nd 202		2 nd NOFO applications due 6 months after opening	2024+

Apps

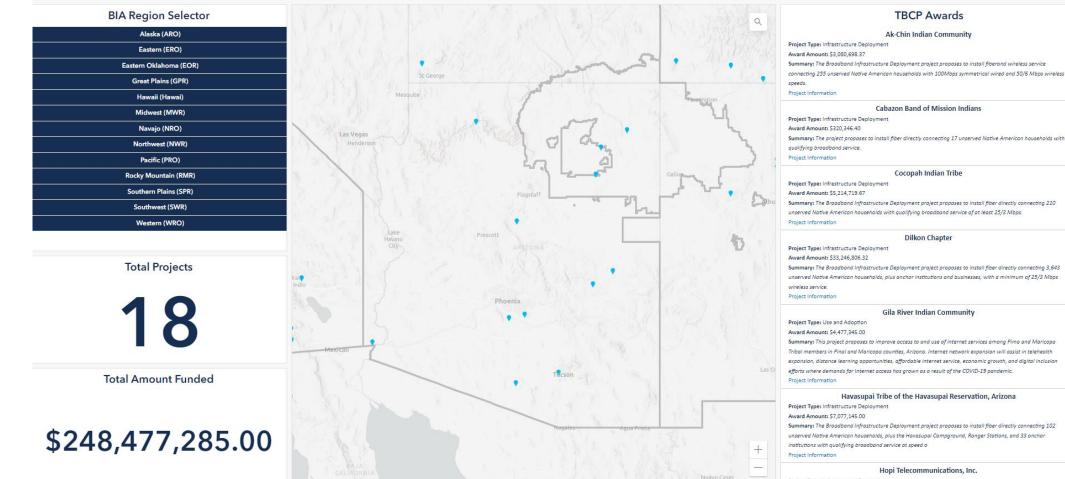
Apps

TBCP Awardee Map (BroadbandUSA ntia doc.gov) **TBCP** Awards NTIA

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

Adoption & Use Awards: Either

Planning, Feasibility, and Sust. Infrastructure Deployment Aw.. Either



County of Yavapai, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS | Esri, USGS | Esri, US Census Bureau | NTIA Powered by Esri

Project Type: Infrastructure Deployment Award Amount: \$13,855,000.00

Either



BEAD program will provide ~\$42.45B for infrastructure planning and implementation

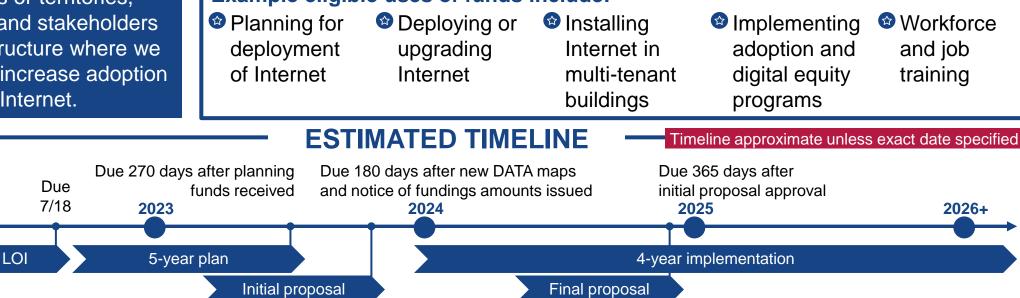
Funding pool \$42.45B

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.

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:



NOFO

live 5/13

2022



ARIZONA: \$993.1 MILLION FOR AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE,

HIGH-SPEED INTERNET SERVICE

INTERNET FOR ALL

INTERNETFORALL.GOV



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) (<u>link</u>) Eligible Entities will define parameters for low-cost plans

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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)



- **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

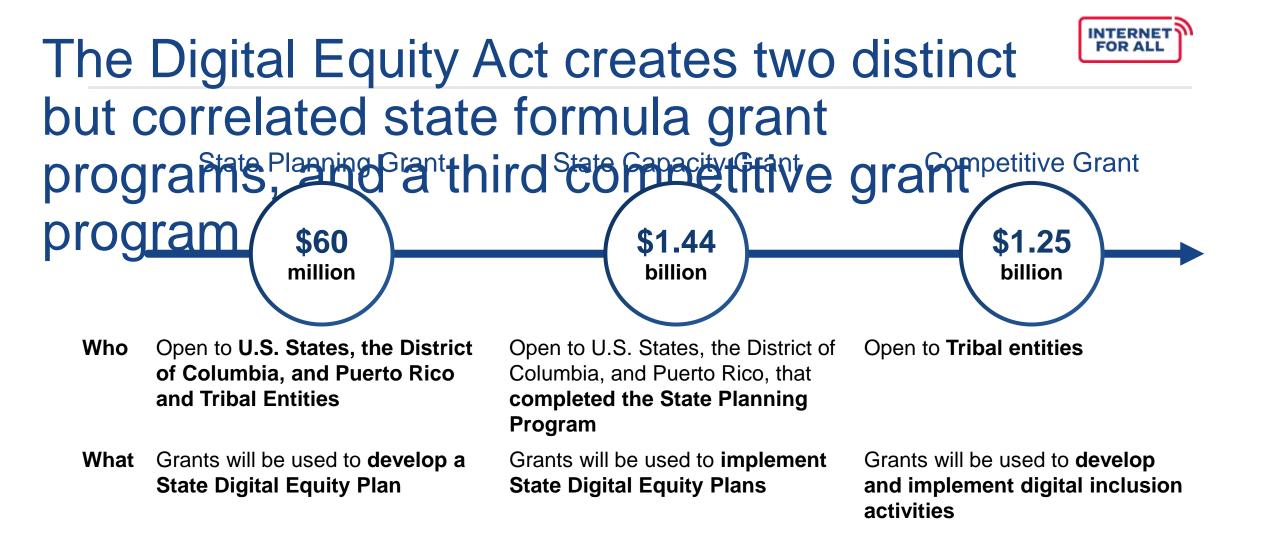
Digital Equity Act created 3 programs for digital equity and inclusion



Funding pool	The Digital Equity Act created three programs:			
\$2.75B Three programs that provide	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 	
funding to promote digital	Example eligible uses of funds include:			
inclusion and advance equity for all. They aim to ensure that all communities can access and use affordable, reliable high-speed	 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	
Internet to meet their needs and improve their lives.	Implementing digital equity plans and related activities	Providing digital literacy and digital skills education	Facilitating the adoption of high-speed Internet	
NOFO applications published submitted 2022 5/13 7/12 2023	ESTIMATED TIN	Competitive Program launches within 1 month of first Capacity awards 2025	oximate unless exact date specified	
Planning app 1-ye	ear state planning State c	cap. app 5-year state ca	pacity implementation	
		Comp. app 4-	year competitive implement.	

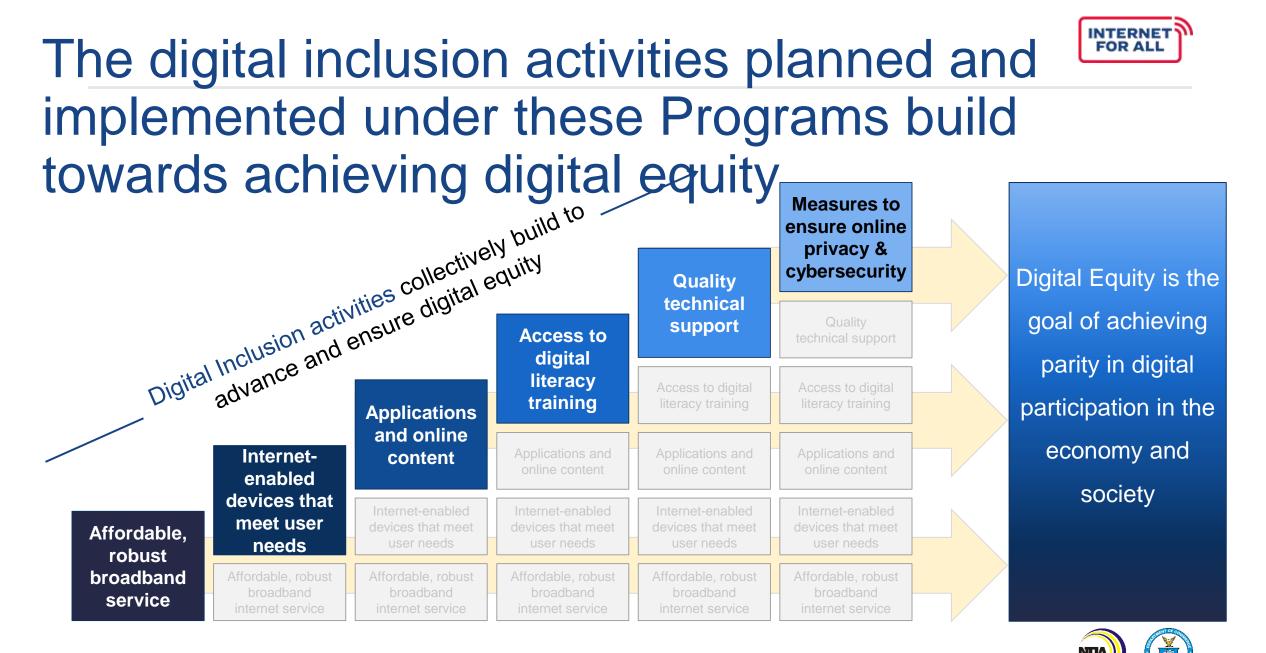


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Other U.S. territories, Indian Tribes, Alaska Native entities, and Native Hawaiian orgs have a separate statutory set-aside and separate program requirements under the State Planning and Capacity Programs, as detailed on the next page



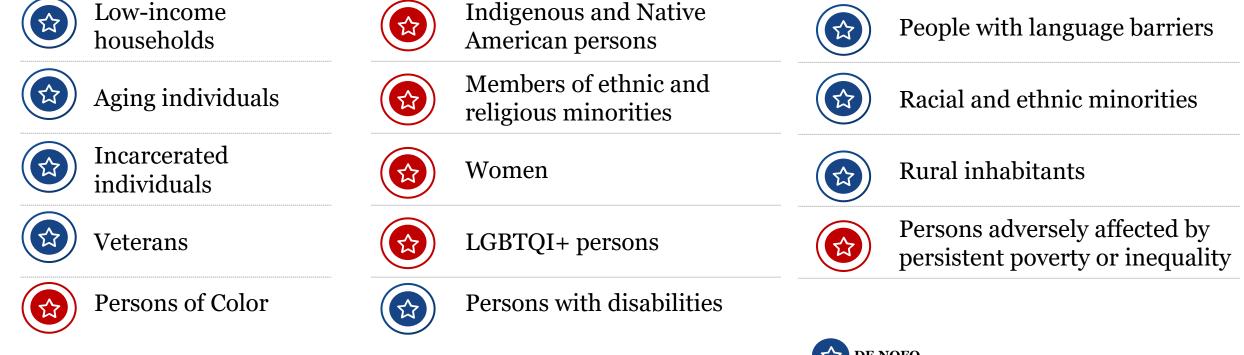


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Digital inequity disproportionally impacts our stakeholders **DE & BEAD**

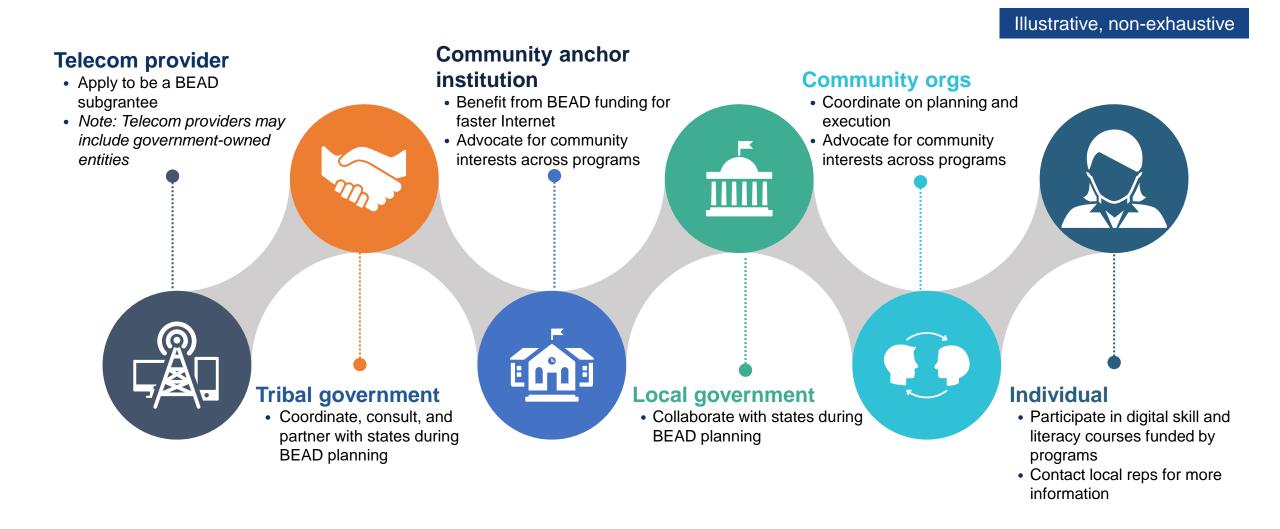
Covered Populations and Underrepresented Communities

Identity groups and communities disproportionally impacted by digital inequity





Every stakeholder plays a role in Internet For All





There are many ways Tribal entities can participate in the Internet for All programs

BEAD DIGITAL EQUITY MIDDLE MILE

Ways to get involved:

- Engage with States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico as these entities conduct ongoing local coordination
- Serve as a subgrantee and carry out BEAD activities
- Apply directly for grant funds set-aside for Tribal entities under the Digital Equity Act
- Engage with States as they conduct ongoing local coordination and develop their State Digital Equity Plans
- Apply directly for grant funds under the Middle Mile Program



State Digital Equity Plans

State Digital Equity Plan components (I/II)

The identification of the barriers to digital equity faced by covered populations



Measurable objectives for documenting & promoting broadband technology; the online accessibility of public resources and services; digital literacy; secure online privacy / cybersecurity; consumer devices and tech support



An assessment of how the **objectives will impact and interact** with the State's economic and workforce goals; health, education and civic engagement outcomes; and delivery of other essential services



A description of how the State plans to collaborate with key stakeholders (e.g., anchor institutions, municipal government, educational agencies, non-profits) to achieve objectives



A list of organizations with which the administering entity for the State collaborated in developing and implementing the Plan



A stated vision for digital equity



A **digital equity needs assessment**, including an assessment of the baseline and the State's identification of the barriers to digital equity

State Digital Equity Plan components (II/II)



An **asset inventory**, including current resources and strategies that promote digital equity and existing digital equity plans and programs



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A coordination and outreach strategy, including opportunities for public comment by, collaboration with, and ongoing engagement with the covered populations and the full range of stakeholders



Description of how municipal, regional, and/or tribal digital plans will be incorporated



An **implementation strategy** (1) establishing measurable goals, objectives, proposed core activities, (2) setting out measures ensuring the plan's sustainability, and (3) adopting mechanisms to ensure that the plan is regularly evaluated and updated



Explanation of how the strategy addresses gaps in existing efforts to address barriers to digital equity



Description of how the State intends to accomplish the implementation strategy by partnering with workforce organizations and institutions of higher learning



A timeline for implementation of the Plan



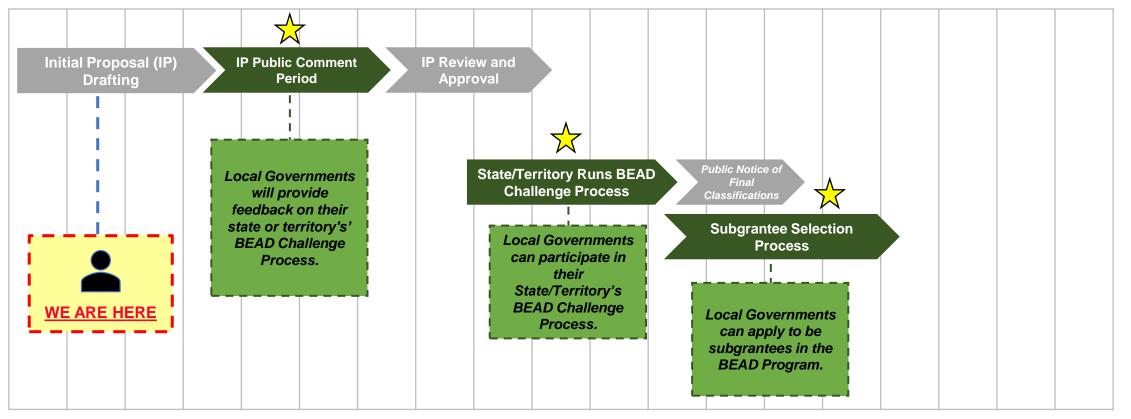
Material indicating how the State will coordinate its use of Digital Equity Capacity Grant funding and Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) funding



Introduction to BEAD Challenge Process

Timeline of the Initial Proposal for BEAD

Local Governments are involved throughout the entire Initial Proposal timeline, as they will provide public comment on the BEAD Challenge Process and patriciate in it as well. Note that timelines will be dependent on the Eligible Entity.



Why is the BEAD Challenge Process

The BEAD Challenge Process is vital because it determines the **locations and community anchor institutions** within each uris at on that are **eligible for BEAD funding**.



Key step toward achieving BEAD goals

Before the BEAD program can meet the goal of providing accessible and affordable broadband, all unserved locations, underserved locations, and eligible Community Anchor Institutions must be identified.



Helps ensure accurate results

An evidence-based, fair, transparent, and expeditious BEAD Challenge Process, as outlined in the NOFO and Challenge Process Policy Notice, helps ensure accurate results, an efficient process, and a precise allocation of resources.



Gathers information needed before running the subgrantee selection

The subgrantee selection process cannot be run without first having an accurate and comprehensive list of eligible locations and CAIs.

Local Government Involvement in the BEAD Challenge Process

There are many ways for local governments to stay involved throughout the process and ensure their communities are served.



Participate in the Challenge Process

Local governments are **one of three eligible challengers**, in addition to non-profits and Internet Service Providers (ISPs), who can participate in the BEAD Challenge process. This is the opportunity for local government units to impact where BEAD funding is directed within their state/territory. Local governments are **encouraged to participate in the BEAD Challenge Process** by submitting challenges to their State/Territory Broadband Office's BEAD Challenge Process.



Participate in the Public Comment Period

Your state/territory broadband office (SBO) will design and implement the BEAD Challenge Process. **Participate in your SBO's Public Comment period** on their Challenge Process and contact them for more information on how to get involved. For contact information visit the IF contact map at *https://www.internetforall.gov/interactive-map*



Represent Individuals

If individuals want to submit a challenge, they must do so by contacting an eligible challenger to submit on their behalf. A **local government could aggregate such challenges and submit these** on the individuals' behalf.



Learn

Register for the Challenge Process Webinar

Local governments can register for the NTIA Challenge Process public webinar for more information (date TBD).



THANK YOU

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