



Request for Comment Listening Session

April 2023



Overview



The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to ensuring that all Americans have access to affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet service.

As part of this goal NTIA has published a Request for Comment on Regulations.gov to help inform how the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Digital Equity Act programs can work to achieve this national and community driven opportunity for change.

This Request for Comment is part of NTIA's wider strategy to engage with partners, stakeholders, and most importantly, individuals with lived experiences who are impacted by the digital divide.

These tips are meant to help you submit effective comments that have an impact and help us improve our programs.



Background

The Digital Equity Act - 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 service 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

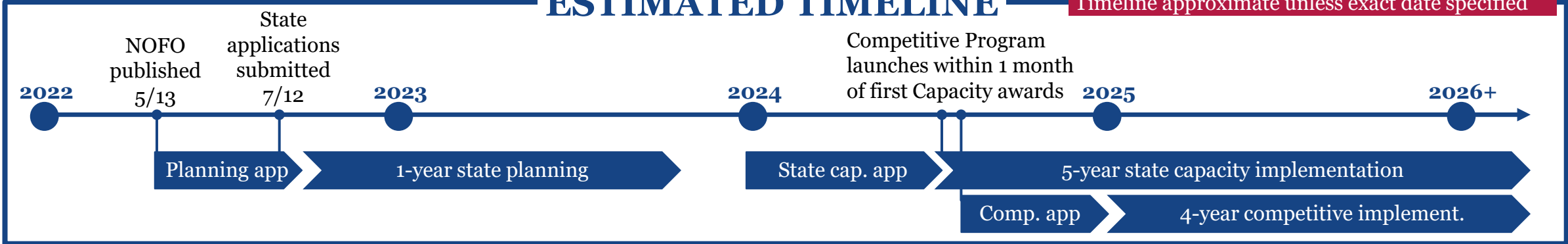
- \$1.25B to implement digital equity and inclusion activities

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 plans related and activities
- ☆ Providing digital literacy and digital skills education
- ☆ Facilitating the adoption of high-speed Internet service

ESTIMATED TIMELINE

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified



Request For Comment

How to Submit Comments



1. The Digital Equity Act comment period will close **60 days after date of publication on the Federal Register on May 1st at 5:00pm**
2. Keep a copy of your comment in a separate file - this practice helps ensure that you will not lose your comment if you have a problem submitting it using the [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) web form.
3. Additionally, NTIA will accept comments via email. Please include the docket number NTIA-2023-0002 in the subject line of the message, and direct your comments to digitalequity@ntia.gov
4. You may also mail a printed submission to
National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce,
1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 4878, Washington, DC 20230, Attn: Digital Equity RFC.



Listening Session Questions

Listening Session Questions



Question 15: What are examples of past or current evidence-based or evidence-informed digital equity and/or inclusion projects or other relevant or similar projects that NTIA can showcase as a part of its technical assistance efforts to support applicants in identifying promising or evidence-based project models, partnerships, activities, and strategies to consider, replicate, and leverage lessons learned as applicable?



Listening Session Questions



Question 19: For each of the Covered Populations, what are proven strategies and tactics, projects or programs, with outcome-based measures and impacts, that promote and achieve digital equity?



Listening Session Questions



Question 16: How should grantees define digital equity with respect to each of the Covered Populations?

What does success look like for each of the Covered Populations?

How should NTIA measure the effects of access to and adoption of, and meaningful use of the internet for each Covered Population?

What examples of equity gap analysis and tools should the Assistant Secretary consider when measuring outcomes as they relate to each Covered Populations?

To what extent should grantees disaggregate data within each of the Covered Populations to reveal the underlying trends and patterns?

NTIA encourages stakeholders to provide the rationale for their comments, including available examples of studies, measures, outcomes, assessments and supporting information.



Listening Session Questions



Question 18: NTIA will require regular grantee performance and progress reporting, e.g., semi-annually, project close out to monitor grantee implementation of funded projects and capture metrics, outcomes, and impact.

How should NTIA measure grantees implementation of such metric tracking?

To what extent should NTIA require standardized inputs, metrics, and measures in order to facilitate nationwide insights?



Listening Session Questions



Question 20: Youth and young adults are members of each of the Covered Populations except for Older Americans. The COVID-19 pandemic had a devastating impact on academic achievement, physical and mental health, and earning opportunities for our youth and young adults. How can NTIA encourage and measure the effects of investments in our youth and young adults?





THANK YOU

