



# THE BROADBAND EQUITY ACCESS AND DEPLOYMENT (BEAD) PROGRAM

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

UTAH BROADBAND CONFLUENCE

June 7, 2023



# 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 and increase adoption of high-speed internet.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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

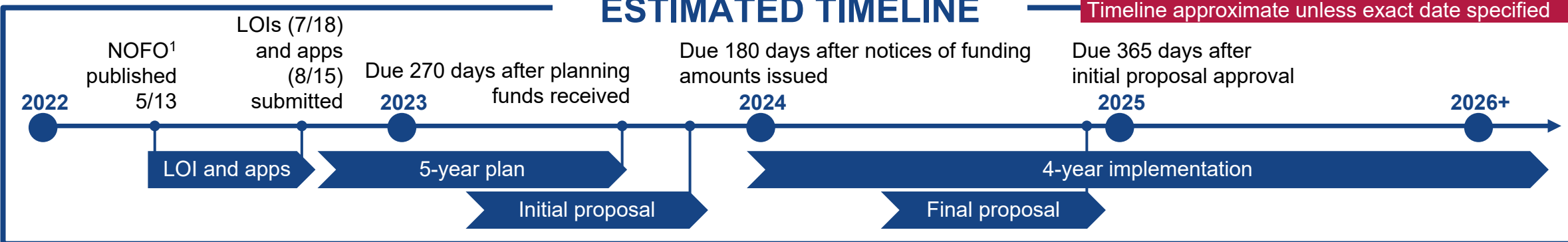
- All 50 States
- The District of Columbia and Puerto Rico
- Other Territories: U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

### 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



1. Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), available [here](#).

# The BEAD Program helps deliver broadband 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, broadband 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, affordable solutions**



## Adoption and equity

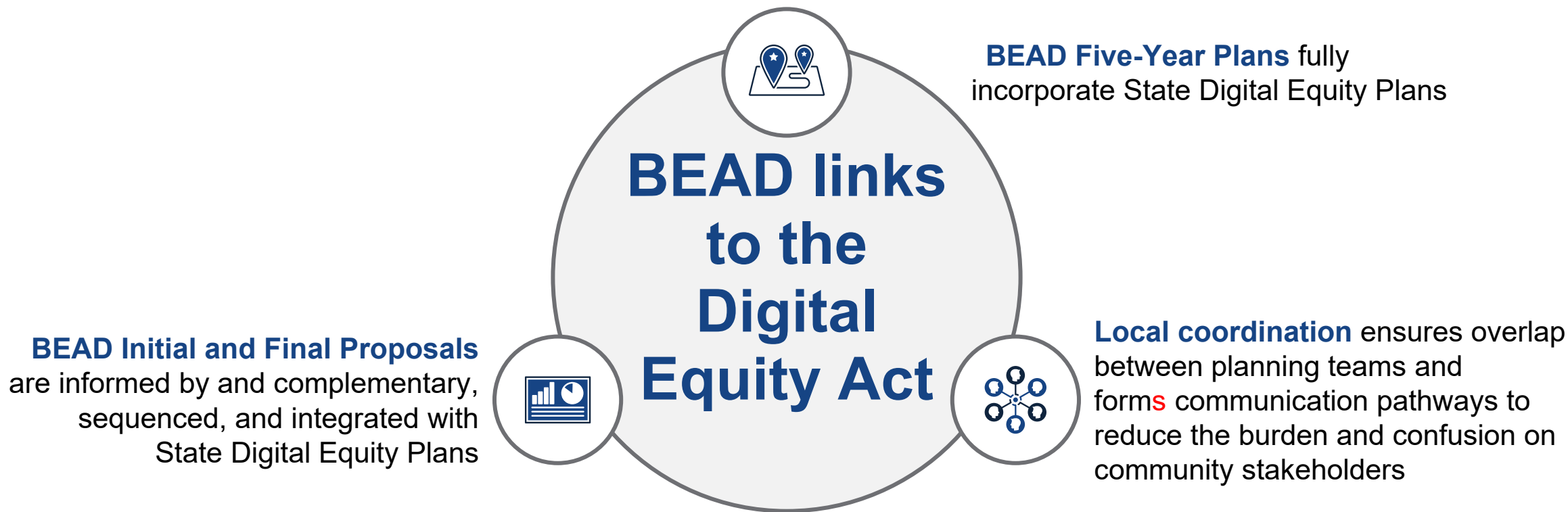


**Enables investment in digital skills training** to increase the number of households adopting high-speed Internet and narrow adoption disparities



Makes investments to ensure Americans can **participate in economy & society, reducing inequities** across sectors, including healthcare, workforce & education

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



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**

3

# Funding allocation includes three components and is based on new FCC maps

Eligible Entities are invited to submit Initial and Final Proposal after the Assistant Secretary issues the Notice of Available Amounts to Eligible Entities, including:

<p><b>Minimum allocation</b></p>	<p>\$100M for each State, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico</p> <p>\$25M for American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands</p>
+	
<p><b>High-cost allocation</b></p>	$\frac{\text{\# unserved locations in high-cost areas in the Eligible Entity}}{\text{\# unserved locations in high-cost areas in the US}} \times \$4.245B$
+	
<p><b>Remaining funds allocation</b></p>	$\frac{\text{\# unserved locations in the Eligible Entity}}{\text{\# unserved locations in the US}} \times \text{Remaining funds}^1$

**New FCC Broadband DATA Maps** will be utilized to identify unserved locations<sup>2</sup>

Eligible Entities shall develop a **challenge process** for stakeholders to challenge whether a location or CAI is served, unserved, or underserved

At least 60 days before allocating funds, Eligible Entities must **document the final list** of unserved locations, underserved locations, and eligible community anchor institutions

**Note: Eligible Entities can use no more than 2% for administrative purposes**

1. \$41.6B – minimum initial allocation – high-cost allocation 2. The Assistant Secretary will, in coordination with the Commission, choose a date certain upon which the Broadband DATA Maps will be utilized to identify unserved locations (the “Allocation Date”)

# BEAD to prioritize complete coverage of unserved locations and underserved locations (where funding permits)



Complete coverage of **unserved locations** (incl. by deploying Wi-Fi to multi-family buildings)



Complete coverage of **underserved locations** (where funding permits)



NTIA urges use of remaining funds for **Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs)** before other eligible uses

**Note:** If an Eligible Entity has a plan to deploy service to all unserved and underserved locations within its jurisdiction, it may pursue non-deployment initiatives before or while deployment projects are underway

# 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

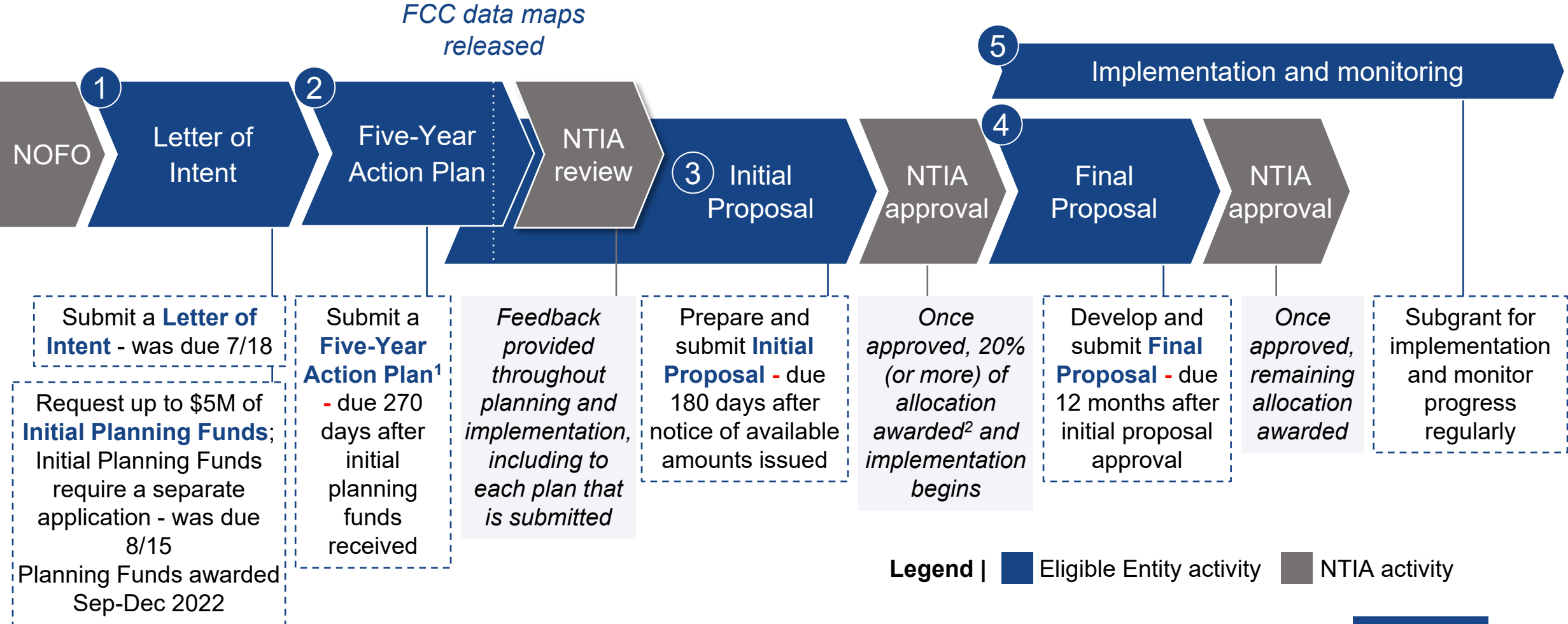


Eligible Entities should submit requests through their Federal Program Officers



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

# 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



## Five-Year Action Plan | Eligible Entities that received planning funds must submit a Five-Year Action Plan



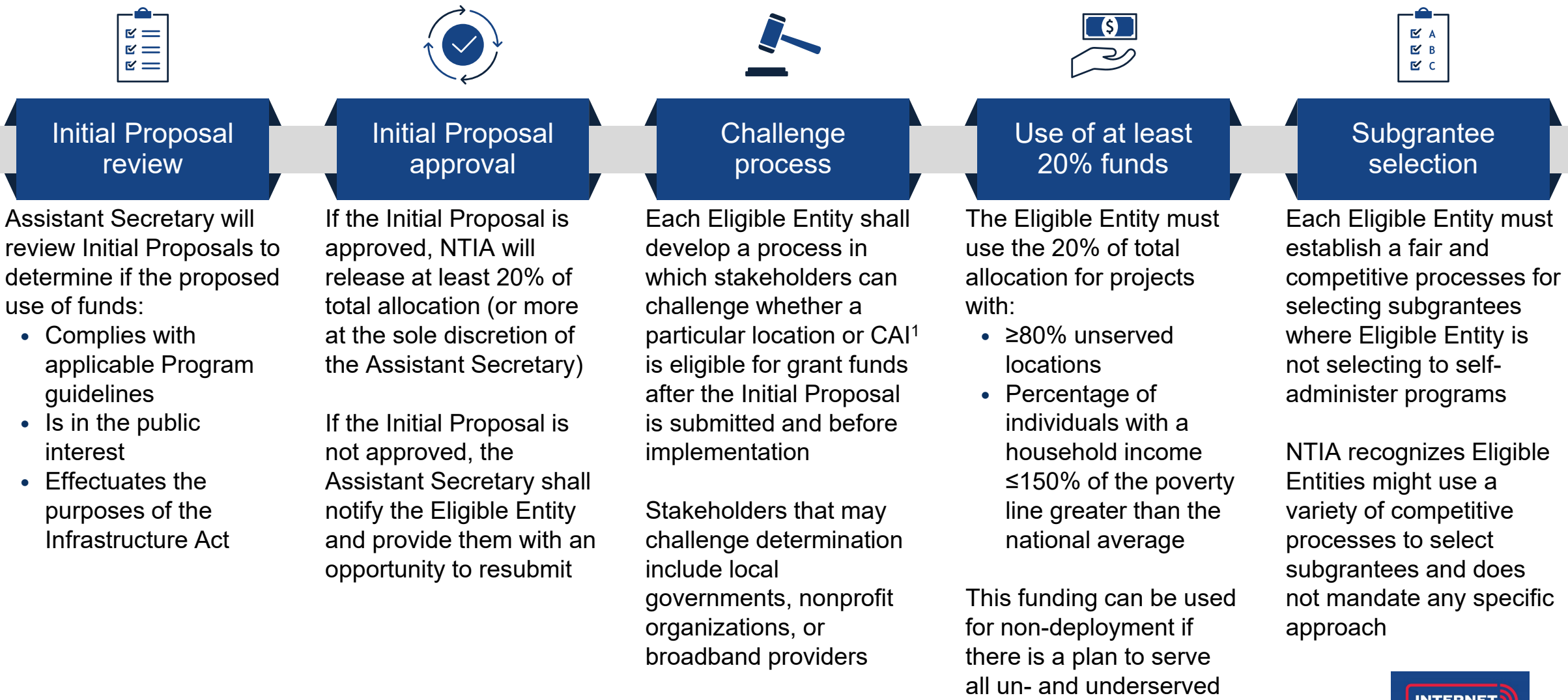
- 1 Details of the **existing broadband program**, including its activities, any previous entity-wide plans or goals for availability of broadband, and any prior experience awarding broadband deployment grants
- 2 **Current funding available for broadband deployment** or other related activities and the sources of that funding, including additional funds that may be pursued but are not yet in hand
- 3 **Existing efforts funded by the federal government** or an Eligible Entity within the jurisdiction of the Eligible Entity to deploy broadband and close the digital divide.
- 4 **Current employees** who will assist in implementing and administering the BEAD Program and their duties, as well as any existing contracted support, and any planned expansion
- 5 **Known or potential obstacles or barriers** to implementation and corresponding plans to address them.
- 6 **An asset inventory** that catalogues broadband adoption, affordability, equity, access, and deployment activities and provides details regarding any relevant partners
- 7 Details of its **external engagement process**, demonstrating collaboration with local, regional, and Tribal / Native entities
- 8 Available federal, Eligible Entity, or local **broadband availability and adoption data**
- 9 **Local broadband service needs and gaps**, including un- or underserved locations and CAIs without gigabit service, and/or any plans to make determinations where availability is unclear
- 10 **A comprehensive, high-level plan** for providing universal, reliable, affordable, high-speed broadband service throughout the jurisdiction
- 11 **Digital equity and inclusion needs, goals, and strategies**, including ways it plans to utilize BEAD funding, Digital Equity Act funding and/or other funding in concert
- 12 Alignment of the Five-Year Action Plan with **other existing and planned priorities**, incl. economic development, telehealth, workforce development, related connectivity priorities
- 13 **Technical assistance and additional capacity needed** for successful implementation of the BEAD Program

# Initial Proposal | Initial Proposals are due within 180 days of the release of the Notice of Available Amounts

Timing	Content	Review	Approval
<p>Once the Notice of Available Amounts is issued, the Assistant Secretary will invite Eligible Entities to submit Initial Proposals</p> <p>Each Eligible Entity will have <b>180 days</b> to submit its Initial Proposal</p>	<p>Initial Proposal is the <b>first draft</b> of an Eligible Entity's Final Proposal for funding</p> <p>Draft should explain how the Eligible Entity plans to ensure access to a reliable, affordable, high-speed broadband connection</p> <p>Draft should describe a <b>challenge process</b> for non-profits, local gov'ts and Tribal entities to challenge whether a location is eligible for funds and a process for <b>selecting subgrantees</b></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 then begin the <b>iterative review process</b> in the order Initial Proposals are submitted</p> <p>Assistant Secretary decides if proposed use of funds:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complies with statute</li> <li>2. Is in the public interest</li> <li>3. Effectuates the purposes of the statute</li> </ol>	<p>When the Assistant Secretary approves of the Initial Proposal, the Eligible Entity may request <b>20% of its total allocation</b> for expenditures specifically approved in the initial proposal</p>

3

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



**Initial Proposal review**

Assistant Secretary will review Initial Proposals to determine if the proposed use of funds:

- Complies with applicable Program guidelines
- Is in the public interest
- Effectuates the purposes of the Infrastructure Act

**Initial Proposal approval**

If the Initial Proposal is approved, NTIA will release at least 20% of total allocation (or more at the sole discretion of the Assistant Secretary)

If the Initial Proposal is not approved, the Assistant Secretary shall notify the Eligible Entity and provide them with an opportunity to resubmit

**Challenge process**

Each Eligible Entity shall develop a process in which stakeholders can challenge whether a particular location or CAI<sup>1</sup> is eligible for grant funds after the Initial Proposal is submitted and before implementation

Stakeholders that may challenge determination include local governments, nonprofit organizations, or broadband providers

**Use of at least 20% funds**

The Eligible Entity must use the 20% of total allocation for projects with:

- ≥80% unserved locations
- Percentage of individuals with a household income ≤150% of the poverty line greater than the national average

This funding can be used for non-deployment if there is a plan to serve all un- and underserved

**Subgrantee selection**

Each Eligible Entity must establish a fair and competitive processes for selecting subgrantees where Eligible Entity is not selecting to self-administer programs

NTIA recognizes Eligible Entities might use a variety of competitive processes to select subgrantees and does not mandate any specific approach

1. Community Anchor Institution

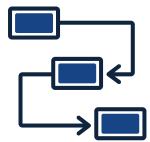
3

## Initial Proposal | The eligible entity must conduct a process for stakeholders to challenge if a location is eligible for funds



**First**, each Eligible Entity must develop and describe in the Initial Proposal a process to challenge its determination of whether a particular location or CAI<sup>1</sup> is eligible for grant funds

---



**Second**, the Eligible Entity shall conduct the challenge process (once approved by the Assistant Secretary) before allocating grant funds received from BEAD for the deployment of broadband networks

---



**Third**, after resolving each challenge and at least **60 days before allocating funds** for deployment, an Eligible Entity must **provide public notice of the final classification** of each unserved location, underserved location, or eligible community anchor institution

---



**Fourth**, NTIA has discretionary authority to reverse the determination of an Eligible Entity with respect to the eligibility of a particular location or community anchor institution

1. Community Anchor Institution

# This presentation focuses on info for BEAD applicants, but every stakeholder is invited to be involved in the BEAD program

Illustrative, non-exhaustive

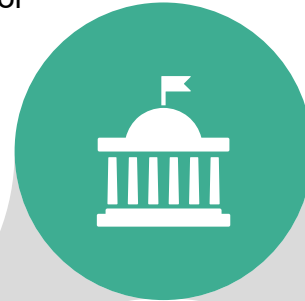
## Internet providers

- Apply to be a BEAD subgrantee
- *Note: Internet providers may include government-owned entities*



## Community anchor institution

- Benefit from BEAD funding for faster Internet
- Advocate for community interests across programs



## Community orgs

- Coordinate on planning and execution
- Advocate for community interests across programs



## Tribal government

- Coordinate, consult, and partner with states during BEAD planning



## Local government

- Collaborate with states during BEAD planning



## Individual

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

# Thank you!



# 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



# 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)