



NTIA UPDATE

WILL RAU

NC FEDERAL PROGRAM OFFICER, BEAD & DIGITAL EQUITY



RALEIGH, NC
MAY 23, 2023



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

NTIA will administer ~\$48B of funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

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

BEAD

\$42.45B

Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment Program

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.

DIGITAL EQUITY

\$2.75B

Digital Equity Act

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.

TRIBAL

\$2.00B

Tribal Connectivity Technical Amendments

A program to help tribal communities expand high-speed Internet access and adoption on tribal lands.

MIDDLE MILE

\$1.00B

Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure

A program to expand middle mile infrastructure, to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas.



BEAD program provides ~\$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:

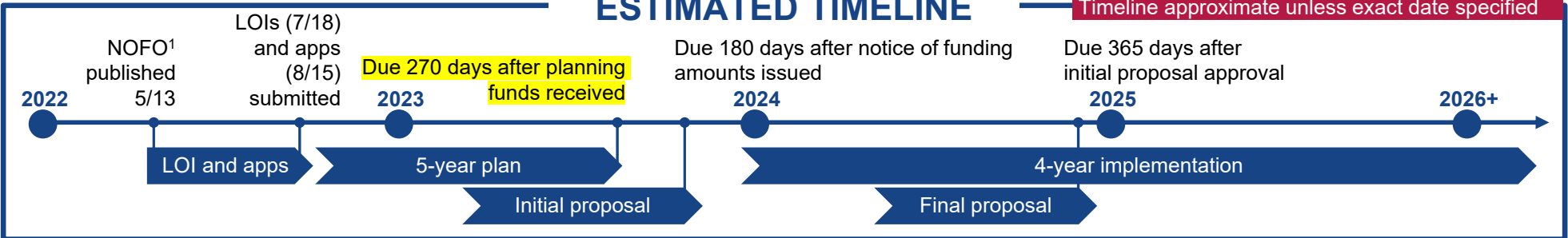
- All 50 States
- The District of Columbia and Puerto Rico
- Other Territories: U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

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

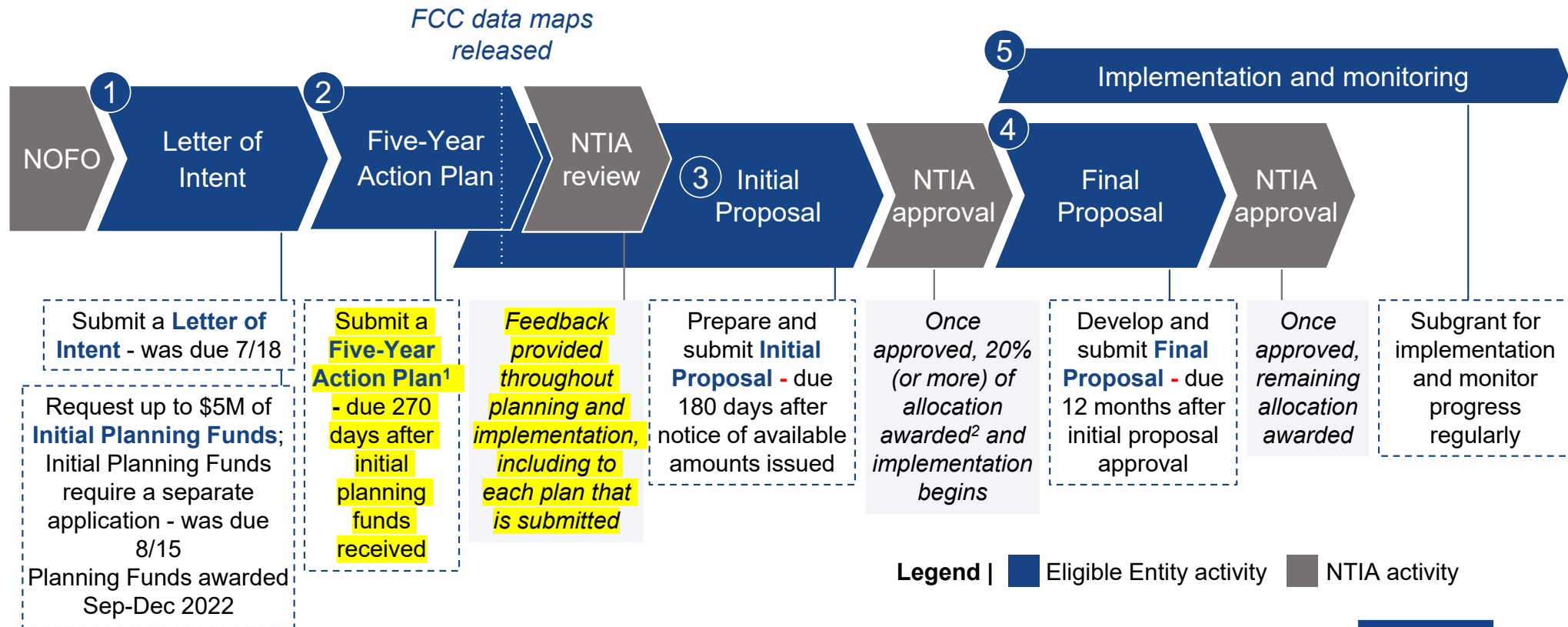
ESTIMATED TIMELINE

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified



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

Closer look at BEAD timeline



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

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

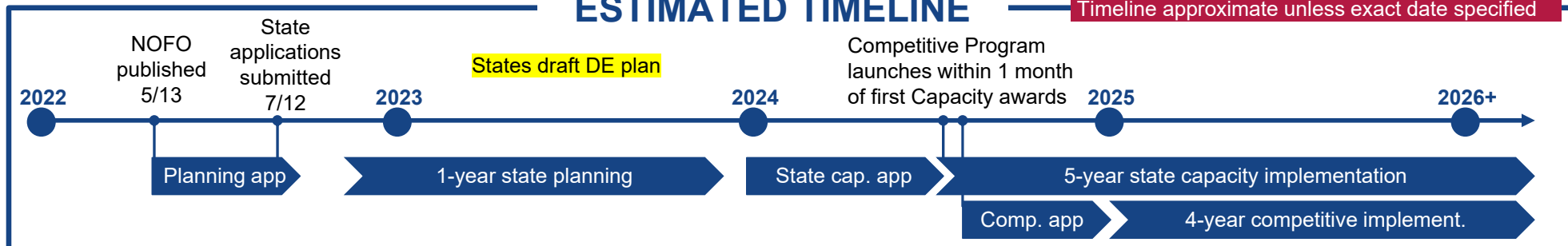
- \$1.25B to implement digital equity and inclusion activities

Example eligible uses of funds include:

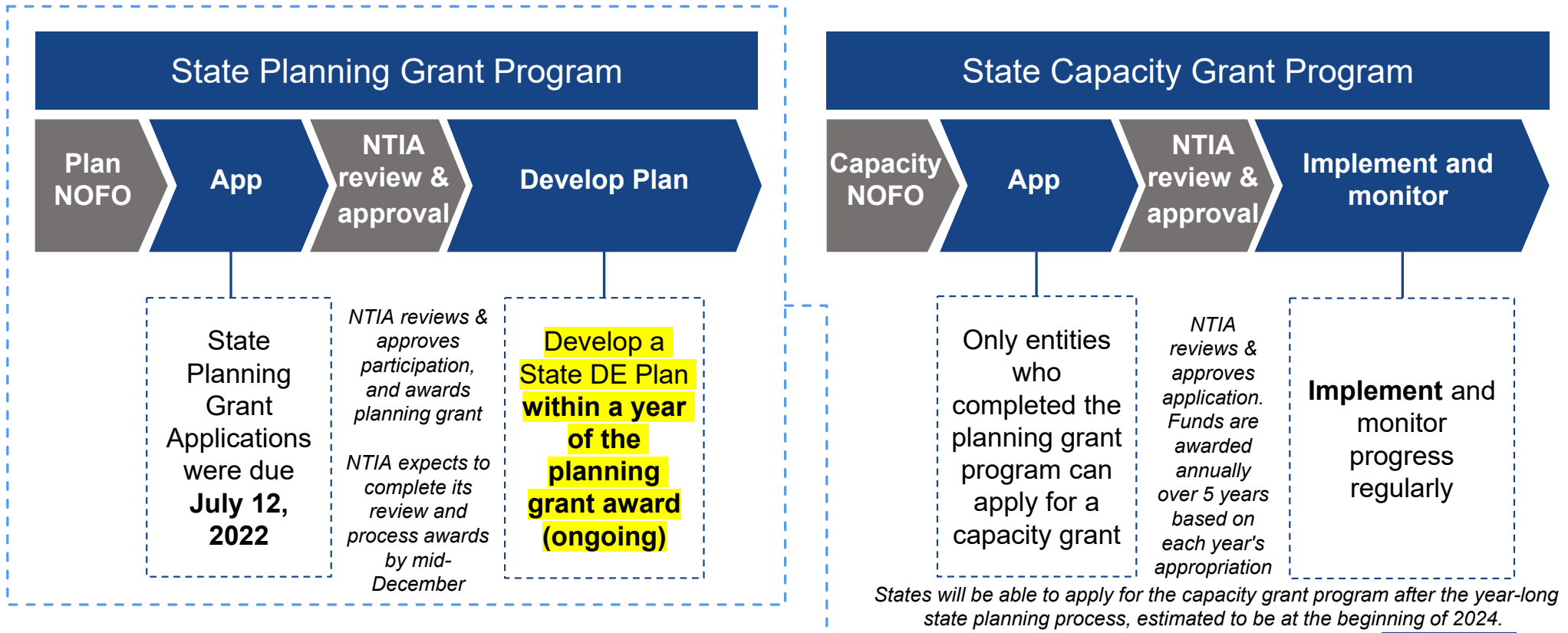
- ☆ Developing digital equity plans; states must develop a plan to be eligible for state capacity grants
- ☆ Making awards to other entities to help make digital equity plans
- ☆ Improving accessibility and inclusivity of public resources
- ☆ Implementing digital equity plans and related activities
- ☆ Providing digital literacy and digital skills education
- ☆ Facilitating the adoption of high-speed Internet

ESTIMATED TIMELINE

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified



Closer look at DE timeline



Key: State activity NTIA activity

Focus of this presentation

Mapping Update

NTIA and the FCC



As part of the Internet for All initiative, the **National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)** is **responsible for awarding the \$48 billion Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program**, which will grant each state \$100 million and allocate the remaining funding based on number of unserved households. The FCC is collecting data from Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and **creating a map to identify these unserved locations**. This map will then be used as an input for states to help them fund projects to achieve universal high-speed internet access.



New FCC Broadband Maps will be utilized



The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will publish **new broadband coverage maps** (Broadband DATA Maps) using data collected from ISPs



The Broadband DATA Maps will be used to **identify unserved locations and determine an Eligible Entity's total funding allocation**



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



FCC Challenge Process to Broadband Data Collection Maps



The challenge processes will give service providers, as well as state, local and Tribal governments and other entities (including individuals) two opportunities to dispute the accuracy of the data in the Broadband Data Collection.



Fabric Challenges

Fabric challenges dispute the accuracy of the location data included in the Fabric.



Availability Challenges – Mobile Services

Challengers may dispute the availability of mobile broadband service using on-the-ground speed test data.



Availability Challenges – Fixed Services

Challengers may dispute the availability of fixed broadband service at a particular location (or set of locations), including the network technology and maximum advertised download/upload speed reported by the fixed broadband service provider.

The FCC will receive challenge data (for both Fabric and availability challenges) in two ways:

Individual Challenges: The broadband maps will include functionality permitting challenges to an individual location. We expect that consumers will use this method to submit challenges for their own residences or small businesses.

Bulk Challenges: The FCC will receive bulk challenge data through the BDC filing interface (not the public map), and the data will be submitted in a .csv file or other format set forth in data specification for bulk Fabric challenges. We expect that broadband service providers and governmental entities that have information for multiple locations will use this bulk method to submit challenges.



There are many ways for stakeholders to get involved

If you have mapping data at your disposal, 1) compare it with the FCC maps & submit challenges directly to the FCC; 2) submit it to NCDIT to use in their bulk challenges; 3) review NTIA state challenge process guidance & be prepared to participate.

Telecom provider

- Apply to be a BEAD subgrantee
- *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 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 Digital Equity competitive grant



Individual

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

Additional resources about the programs



- 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 InternetForAll@ntia.gov
- 4 Attend future NTIA webinars and events

