



# THE BROADBAND EQUITY ACCESS AND DEPLOYMENT (BEAD) PROGRAM

FUNDED BY THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE'S NATIONAL  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

MAY 2022



"We'll make sure every single, every single, American has access to high-quality, affordable, high-speed Internet," Biden said during his speech. "When I say affordable, I mean it. Americans pay too much for Internet service. We're going to drive down the price for families who have service now and make it easier for families who don't have affordable service to be able to get it now."

-PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

# We're bringing affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet to everyone in America because you need a connection to stay connected

America runs on high-speed Internet.

A strong Internet connection powers our economy and supports education. It fosters better public health. And, it connects loved ones and strengthens social ties.

But not everyone is connected. Too many Americans are cut off from the opportunities that high-speed Internet makes possible.

That's why we're working to bring high-speed Internet to all Americans.



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.

# High-speed Internet helps individuals and our country

These are some of the ways that high-speed Internet has transformed our world:



## **Maximizing savings for education**

The Internet is not a luxury, it's a necessity. Students are asked to use Internet to complete homework assignments, do research, apply to college or trade schools. Students who don't have access in their home are left out and left behind.



## **Stimulating growth in the economy**

By connecting the workplace, we can better connect businesses to consumers. New markets can increase sales and create jobs. High-speed Internet helps American businesses compete for talent and business in the global marketplace.



## **Lowering costs for health**

Telehealth reduces hospital visits and cuts down hospital stay time. Hospitals with high-speed Internet save money because they have lower administration costs. By offering telehealth, they save money while improving patient health.



## **Strengthening ties in our community**

High-speed Internet connects us to services we need. It helps first responders save lives. It lets us connect with our elected officials and it strengthens our ties to our neighbors. One in four Americans get online alerts about local issues and one in five use digital tools to stay in touch with their community.

# Today's webinar will focus on BEAD – the largest of the four high-speed Internet programs administered by NTIA

*Today's focus*

## 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 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:

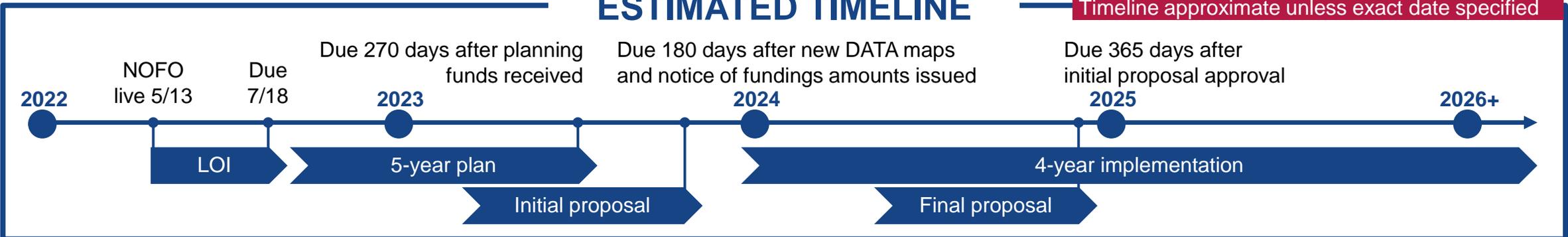
- All 50 States
- The District of Columbia and Puerto Rico
- Other Territories: U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

### 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

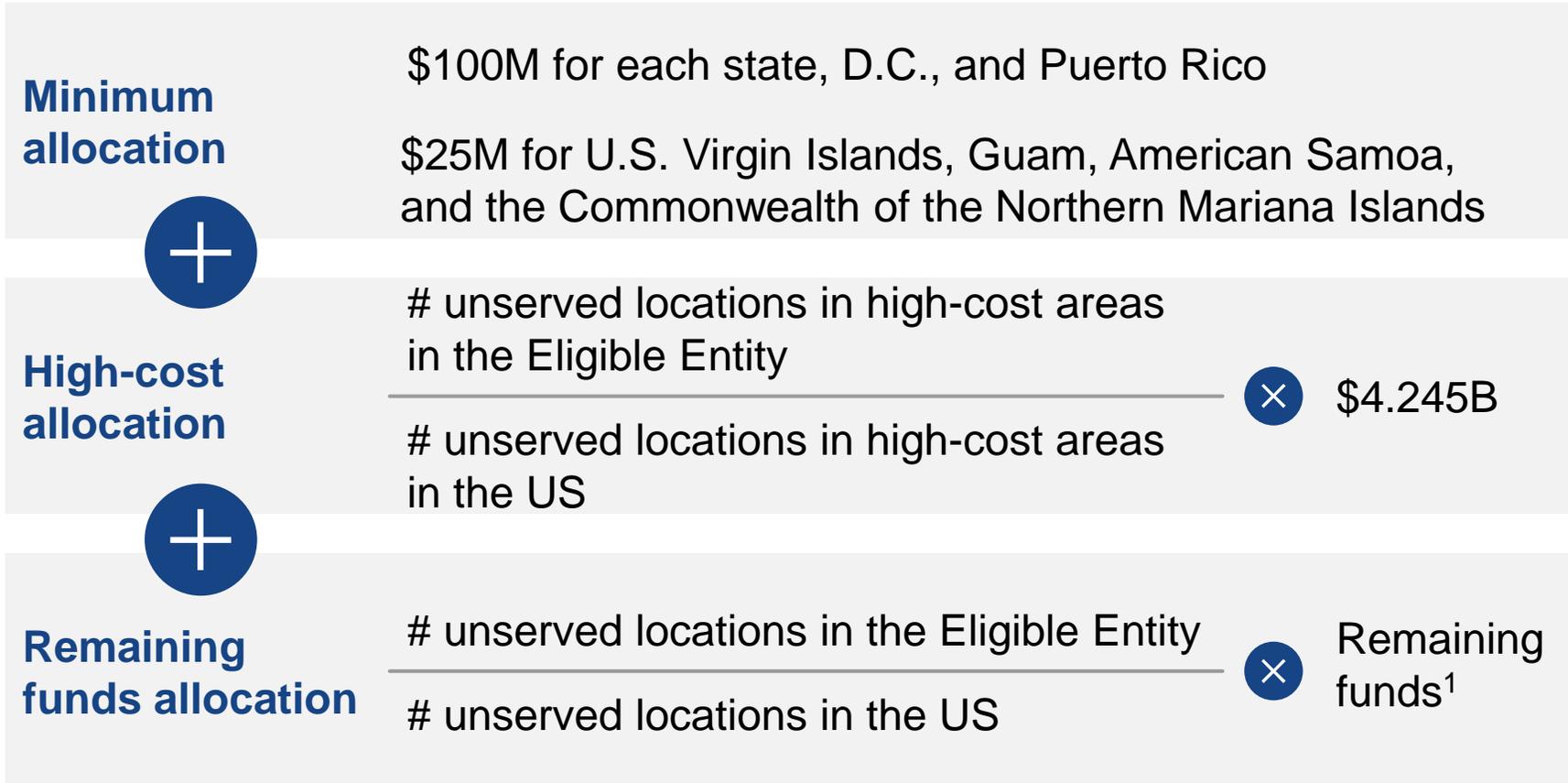


## Each Eligible Entity will receive BEAD grants and distribute funds to subgrantees

- **"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

# BEAD funding includes three components and is based on new FCC maps

Three components of funding:



**New FCC Broadband DATA Maps** will be utilized to identify unserved locations

Eligible Entities shall develop a **challenge process** for stakeholders to challenge whether a location or community anchor institution is eligible for grant funds

Eligible Entities must **document the final list** of unserved locations, underserved locations, and eligible community anchor institutions

1. \$41.6B – minimum initial allocation – high-cost allocation

# Eligible Entities have the option to submit a Five-Year Action Plan and receive Initial Planning Funds

**\$5M**  
funding  
available

Eligible Entities that agree to submit an optional Five-Year Action Plan may receive up to \$5M of Initial Planning Funds

NOTE: American Samoa, CNMI, Guam, and USVI can receive up to \$1.25M each.

## Example uses for Initial Planning Funds for planning and pre-deployment activities

- Ensure there is in-office capacity that is adequate to run the program
- Research and data collection
- Development of a preliminary budget for pre-planning activities
- Publications, outreach & communication support
- Providing technical assistance to potential subgrantees
- Training for employees (e.g., eligible entity, stakeholders, etc.)
- Conducting surveys of unserved, underserved, and underrepresented communities
- Local coordination, including capacity building

# 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) ([link](#))



## 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

# Eligible Entities must conduct local coordination activities as part of plan development and implementation



## Geographic coverage



Coordination must include Tribal, rural, suburban, and urban areas

Each political subdivision and Tribe must be given:

- Opportunity to submit a plan for Eligible Entity consideration
- Opportunity to comment on Eligible Entity proposals



## Diverse stakeholders



Coordination must include a diverse group of stakeholders

Eligible Entities must ensure Tribal or Native entities are involved in developing plans (incl. via a formal Tribal consultation process)

Example stakeholders include state agencies, community anchor institutions, etc.



## Outreach mechanisms



Coordination must include multiple mechanisms to ensure broad awareness and participation

Example mechanisms include listening sessions, public meetings, websites, social media, etc.



## Transparency



Coordination must include clear procedures to ensure transparency

Examples include websites, periodic reports, in-person meetings, etc.



## Un-/underserved and under-represented communities



Coordination must target un-/underserved, and underrepresented communities that have historically faced barriers in participating in federal programs

Examples include an advisory board with representatives, surveys to better understand needs, etc.

# 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 proposed plans to avoid or mitigate the risks

# The BEAD Program helps deliver high-speed Internet 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, high-speed Internet 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, and 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

# Every stakeholder plays a role in the BEAD program

Illustrative, non-exhaustive

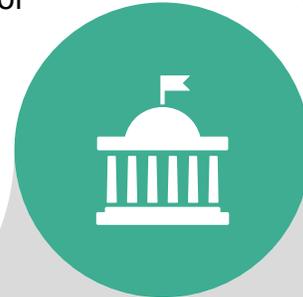
## Telecom provider

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



## Community anchor institution

- Benefit from BEAD funding for faster Internet
- 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

## Additional resources about the BEAD Program

- 1 Visit the [InternetForAll.gov](https://www.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 [BEAD@ntia.gov](mailto:BEAD@ntia.gov)
- 4 Attend future NTIA webinars, including program-specific application guidance webinars for applicants

