

BEAD + DEA NOFO Webinar



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About NDIA

NDIA advances digital equity by supporting community programs and equipping policymakers to act.

700+

Affiliates

48

**States, District of
Columbia, Puerto Rico,
and US Virgin Islands**



About NDIA



Practitioner Support



Policy



Awareness



Data & Research

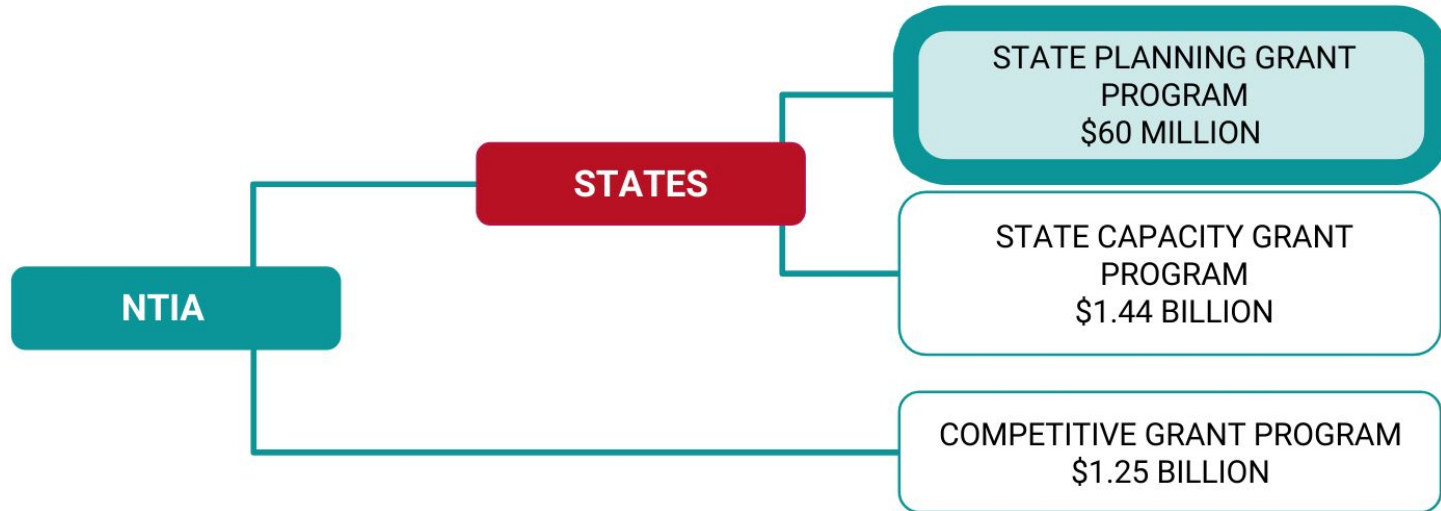
Agenda



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Digital Equity Act Programs

Digital Equity Act Programs



State Digital Equity Capacity Program



Who Is Eligible?

- Eligible Entities:
 - 50 States, District of Columbia and Puerto Rico
 - Tribal Organizations: Indian Tribes, Alaska Native entities, and Native Hawaiian organizations
 - US Territories: United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Administering Entity

- Selected by the Governor or equivalent official
- Will administer the State Digital Equity Act Capacity Program for life of program
- Responsible for:
 - Receiving and administering the DEA grants;
 - Developing, implementing, and overseeing the State Digital Equity Plan for the State
 - Making subgrants to any entity for creation of the State Digital Equity Plan or for its implementation.



Eligible Uses

- To develop the State Digital Equity Plan
- To make subgrants to any of the eligible entities to assist in the development of the State Digital Equity Plan (see NOFO for list of eligible entities)
- US territories and possessions can use for plan development and related activities
- Tribal organizations- can use funds to develop plans or participate in state planning process



How much planning money will each state, Tribal organization, or US territory receive?

Planning Grant Amounts

- States, DC, and Puerto Rico: Tentative amounts (formula based) outlined in NOFO ranging from \$460,000 to \$4,000,000 (page 13)
- Tribal Organizations: \$15 million set aside, will be divided equally at an amount between \$50,000 and \$150,000 depending on number of applicants
- Territories: \$3 million total, tentatively \$150,000 each
- No match required



State Digital Equity Plans

Timeline

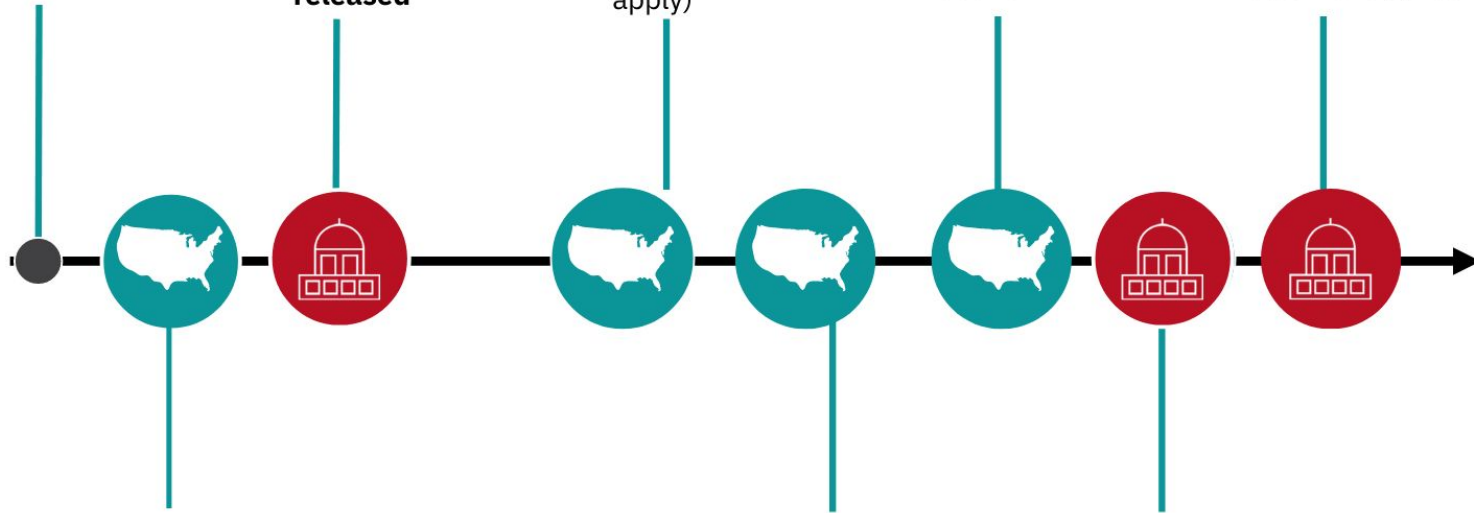
Nov. 15, 2021: IIJA passed with Digital Equity Act

May 13, 2022: DEA Notice of Funding Opportunity released

July 12, 2022: Applications due to NTIA (60 days to apply)

Fall 2023: Plans due to NTIA

Fall 2024: Competitive grants open for application



Early 2022: RFC comments submitted

Sept. 2022: States begin receiving funds for planning (12 months to complete full plans)

Spring 2024: Capacity grants open

Covered Populations

- Individuals who live in covered households;
- Aging individuals;
- Incarcerated individuals, other than individuals in a Federal correctional facility;
- Veterans;
- Individuals with disabilities;
- Individuals with a language barrier, including individuals who—
 - Are English learners; and
 - Have low levels of literacy;
- Individuals who are members of a racial or ethnic minority group; and
- Individuals who primarily reside in a rural area



Plan Requirements

- A clear description of the State's vision for digital equity in the context of its overarching strategy and goals
- Statutory Requirements
- Additional Requirements



Statutory Requirements for the Plans

1. Identification of barriers to digital equity faced by Covered Populations in the State.
2. Measurable objectives for documenting and promoting, among each covered population located in that state
 - a. The availability of, and affordability of and access to, fixed and wireless broadband technology;
 - b. The online accessibility and inclusivity of public resources and services;
 - c. Digital literacy;
 - d. Awareness of, and the use of, measures to secure the online privacy of, and cybersecurity with respect to, an individual;
 - e. The availability and affordability of consumer devices and technical support for those devices.



Statutory Requirements for the Plans

3. An assessment of how the measurable objectives identified in item 2 of this Section IV.C.1.b.i will impact and interact with the state's
 - a. Economic and workforce development goals, plans, and outcomes
 - b. Educational outcomes;
 - c. Health outcomes;
 - d. Civic and social engagement; and
 - e. Delivery of other essential services.



Statutory Requirements for the Plans

4. In order to achieve the measurable objectives identified in item 2 of this Section IV.C.1.b.i, a description of how the State plans to collaborate with key stakeholders in the State, which may include:

- a. 13 Community anchor institutions;
- b. County and municipal governments;
- c. Local educational agencies;
- d. Where applicable, Indian Tribes, Alaska Native entities, or Native Hawaiian organizations;
- e. Nonprofit organizations;
- f. Organizations that represent—
 - i. Individuals with disabilities, including organizations that represent children with disabilities;
 - ii. Aging Individuals;
 - iii. Individuals with language barriers, including—
 1. Individuals who are English learners;
 2. Individuals who have low levels of literacy;



Statutory Requirements for the Plans

- iv. Veterans;
 - v. Individuals in that State who are incarcerated in facilities other than Federal correctional facilities;
 - g. Civil rights organizations;
 - h. Entities that carry out workforce development programs;
 - i. Agencies of the State that are responsible for administering or supervising adult education and literacy activities in the State;
 - k. Public housing authorities in the State; and
 - l. A partnership between any of the entities described in clauses (a) through (k).
5. A list of organizations with which the Administering Entity for the State collaborated in developing the Plan.



Stakeholder Engagement Process Requirements

- Must use variety of communications media (e.g., online, print, radio)
- Provide information in appropriate languages for demographics
- Requires collaboration with certain stakeholders
- Encourages collaboration with others



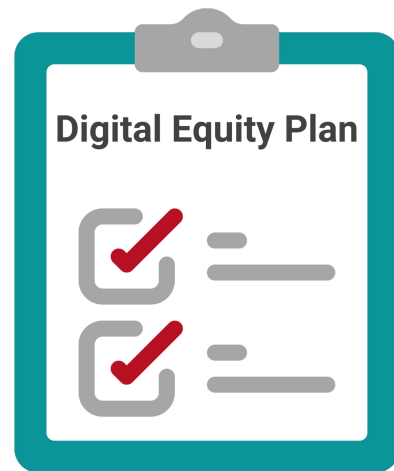
Stakeholder Engagement Process Requirements cont

- Encourages collaboration with:
 - Covered Populations who have direct lived experience with being disconnected
 - State agencies, labor unions, and other orgs that represent workers, digital inclusion coalitions located in the state
 - Chambers of commerce and industry associations
 - Public housing resident associations, healthcare systems, and networks
 - Homeless continuum of care providers, multi-family housing developers and owners
 - Faith-based institutions, business owners, state and local foundations and funders, early childhood and early intervention coordinators, re-entry organizations, and internet service providers



Additional Requirements for Plans

- A digital equity vision statement
- A digital equity needs assessment
- An asset inventory of existing digital inclusion resources, programs, plans, and strategies
- A coordination and outreach strategy
- A description of how existing local (municipal, regional, and/or Tribal) digital equity plans will be incorporated into the State Digital Equity Plan



Additional Requirements for Plans cont.

- A holistic implementation strategy that addresses the barriers to participation in the digital world, and includes measurable goals, objectives, and proposed core activities to address the needs of covered populations, establishes measures to ensure the plan's sustainability and effectiveness, and (c) mechanisms for ongoing evaluation and update
- An explanation of how the implementation strategy addresses gaps in existing state, local, and private efforts to address the barriers to digital equity for covered populations



Additional Requirements for Plans cont.

- A description of how the state will accomplish the implementation strategy by engaging and partnering with:
 - Workforce agencies
 - Community-based organizations and labor organizations
 - Higher education institutions
- A timeline for implementation of the plan
- Outline of how the state will coordinate its DEA, BEAD, and other federal or private digital equity funding



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Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program

BEAD Summary

- Deployment program
- Block-grants to states, competitive subgrants
- Formula allocation based on % unserved, required 25% match
- Prioritizes 'fast', 'affordability' and universal

Eligible Entities

50 States

District of Columbia

Territories

- Puerto Rico
- Guam
- American Samoa
- US Virgin Islands
- Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands



BEAD and DEA Planning Processes

“An Eligible Entity cannot have a Five-Year Action Plan that does not address digital equity.”

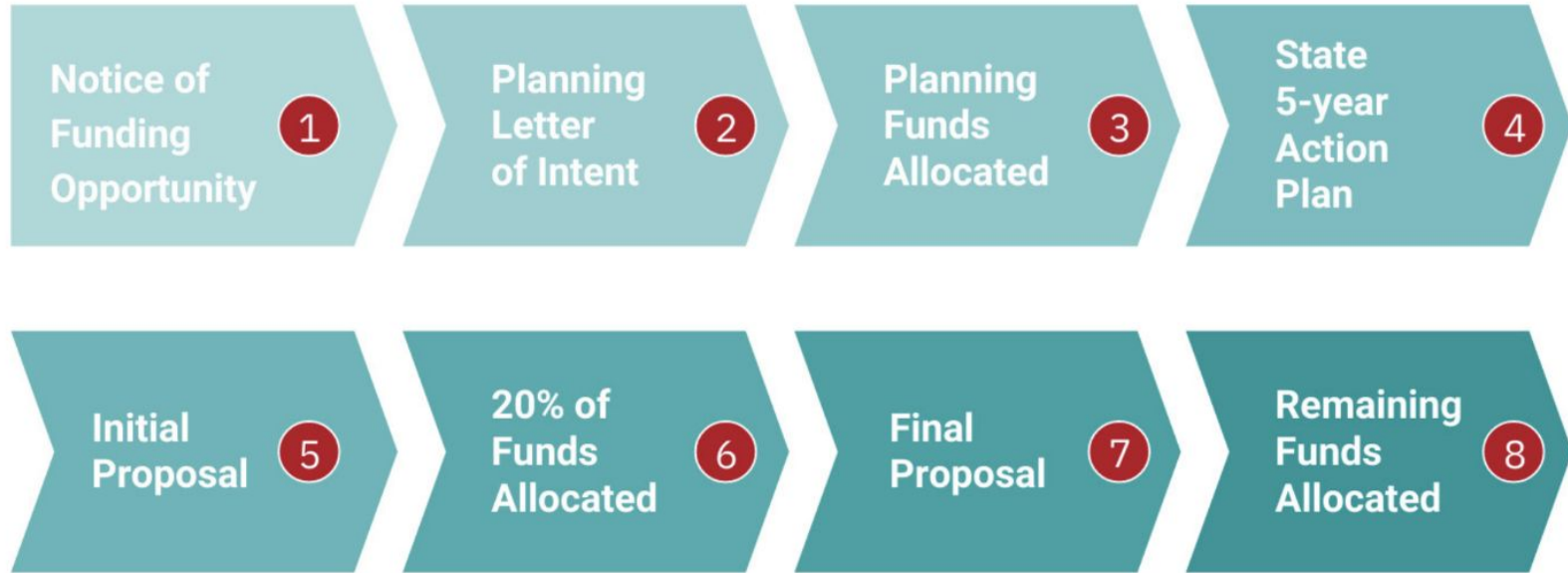
To link the plans, states should:

- Ensure continuity between staff developing both plans
- Create overlap between state DEA and BEAD planning teams. At least one individual working on the 5-Year plan should work on the Digital Equity Plan
- Establish formal and direct communication and collaboration between DEA and BEAD teams.

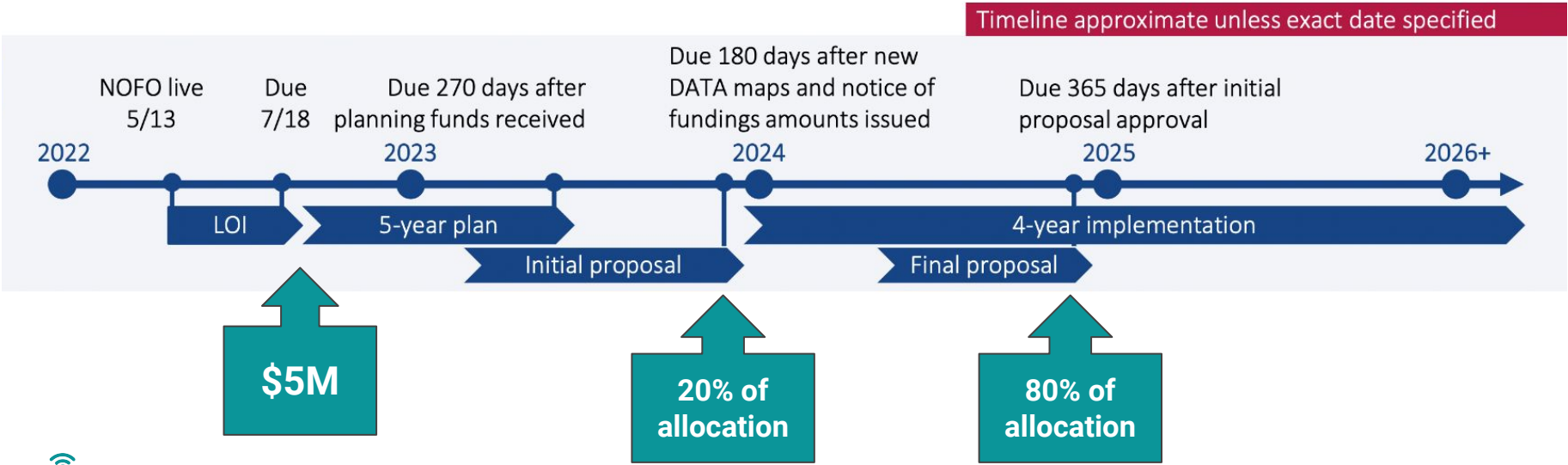


BEAD Process

Figure 10: BEAD Process



BEAD Timeline





Eligible Uses of BEAD Funding

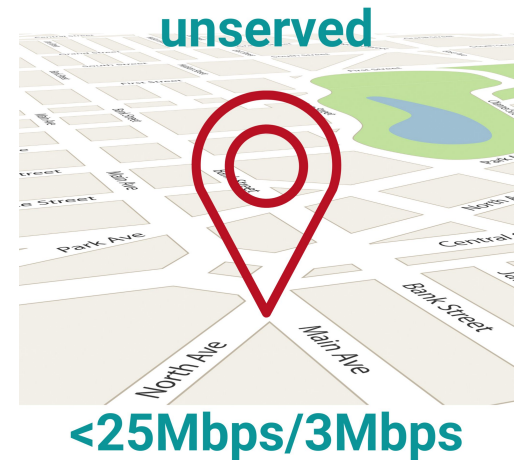
Prioritization of Funding

According to the NOFO, BEAD Program should prioritize:

1. “Deploying broadband service to unserved areas,” – less than 25 Mbps download/3 Mbps upload.
2. Underserved areas – equal to or greater than 25 Mbps download/3 Mbps upload and less than 100 Mbps/20 Mbps
3. Connecting Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) without gigabit service
4. Remaining funds – eligible access, adoption, and equity-related uses

* Eligible Entities must prioritize projects that rely entirely on fiber-optic technology to each “end-user premises.”

* Subgrantees are required to participate in ACP



Non-Deployment Uses

1. User training with respect to cybersecurity, privacy, and other digital safety matters
2. Remote learning or telehealth services/facilities
3. Digital literacy/upskilling (from beginner-level to advanced)
4. Computer science, coding and cybersecurity education programs
5. Implementation of Eligible Entity digital equity plans
6. Broadband sign-up assistance and programs that provide technology support

Non-Deployment Uses

7. Multi-lingual outreach to support adoption and digital literacy
8. Prisoner education to promote pre-release digital literacy, job skills, online job acquisition skills, etc.
9. Digital navigators
10. Direct subsidies for use toward broadband subscription, to supplement the Affordable Connectivity Program
11. Costs associated with stakeholder engagement, including travel, capacity-building, or contract support
12. Other allowable costs necessary to carrying out programmatic activities of an award

Eligible Subgrantees

Must have:

- The ability to carry out activities competently and in compliance with applicable laws
- Financial and managerial capacity to meet commitments
- Technical and operational capacity to provide services

For network deployment, States and Territories cannot exclude:

- Cooperatives
- Nonprofit organizations
- Public-private partnerships
- Private companies
- Public or private utilities
- Public utility districts
- Local governments



Multi-Tenant Buildings

Funding can be used to:

- Service to multi-tenant buildings lacking high speed broadband, including those in low-income, urban areas
- Deploy Wi-Fi infrastructure to multi-family buildings lacking high-speed broadband access (100/20)

Priority must be given to residential buildings that:

1. Have a substantial share of unserved households OR
2. Are in locations where the percentage of individuals with a household income $\leq 150\%$ of the poverty line is higher than the national percentage of such individuals



Affordability in BEAD

NPD



Affordability Requirements

- A middle-class affordability plan
- A low-cost broadband service option
- No definition, but examples provided
- Grantees submit proposed definition in “Final Proposal”
- Subgrantees are required to participate in ACP



Middle-Class Affordability Plan

Eligible Entities must include in their Initial/Final Proposals a **middle-class affordability plan** to ensure that high-quality broadband services are available to **all middle-class families** in the BEAD-funded network's service area **at reasonable prices**.

Guidelines are VAGUE

NTIA expects a wide range of "plans," including:

- requiring BEAD-funded providers to offer low-cost, high-speed plans to all middle-class households
- Provide consumer subsidies to households not eligible for ACP
- Use their regulatory authority to promote structural competition

Low-Cost Broadband Service Option

Subgrantees deploying BEAD-funded network infrastructure **must offer at least one low-cost broadband service option.**

Eligible Entities must submit a proposed definition of “low-cost broadband service option” to NTIA in their Final Proposals. (see next)

Who is eligible for these low-cost options?

- Any household that qualifies for ACP or any successor program
- or satisfies any other additional criteria proposed by the Eligible Entity in its Initial Proposal and Final Proposal and approved by the Assistant Secretary.



Eligible Entity's Proposed Definition of "Low-Cost Broadband Service Option"

	required	recommended
Charges	Address all recurring and non-recurring charges	No more than \$30 monthly service cost; \$75 for Tribal households (including taxes, fees, and charges)
Download Speeds	Identify download speeds	At least 100 mbps
Upload Speeds	Identify upload speeds	At least 20 mbps
Latency	Address latency	No more than 100ms
Limits on Usage or Availability	Address limits on usage or availability	No data caps, surcharges, or usage-based throttling; no special policies that are not typically applicable to all subscribers
Ability to Apply the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) Benefit	Must allow ACP	Allows ACP
Subscriber Ability to Upgrade to New Low-Cost Plans	Must identify any provisions regarding the subscriber's ability to upgrade to any new low-cost service plans	Subscribers are allowed to switch to a better low-cost plan of that provider at no cost

The background features a teal color scheme. On the left, the letters 'NPD' are partially visible in a large, light teal font. On the right, the letters 'AA' are also partially visible in the same style. In the center-right, there is a stylized illustration of a hand holding a device, with a Wi-Fi symbol above it. The text 'BEAD Planning' is centered in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

BEAD Planning

Planning Funds Eligible Uses

- Data collection
- Mapping
- Budgeting
- Outreach
- Workshops and events
- Technical assistance
- Employee training
- Staffing
- Asset mapping
- Community surveys
- Barrier identification
- Local coordination
- Submitting the LOI



BEAD 5 Year Action Plans

Due: 270 days after receipt of initial planning funds

At a minimum, an Eligible Entity's Five-Year Action Plan must:

1. Provide details of the existing broadband program or office in the Eligible Entity
2. Identify funding available for broadband deployment/related activities
3. Identify existing efforts funded by the federal gov. Ex: USF; deployment
4. Provide info on FTE/PTE employees who will assist in BEAD implementation
5. Identify obstacles to BEAD goals + the Eligible Entity's plans to address
6. Include an asset inventory to catalogue/identify activities and partners



BEAD 5 Year Action Plans (cont.)

7. Describe the Eligible Entity's external engagement process; demonstrate collaboration
8. Incorporate available broadband availability and adoption data
9. Identify local and regional broadband service needs/gaps within the Eligible Entity
10. Provide a comprehensive, high-level plan for providing reliable, affordable, high-speed internet service throughout the Eligible Entity, including: (see page 27)
11. Identify digital equity and inclusion needs, goals, and implementation strategies
12. Detail alignment of the Action Plan with other existing/planned efforts and priorities.
13. Describe the technical assistance and additional capacity needed by Eligible Entity



Stakeholder Engagement

- Robust process required (listening sessions, public meetings, info materials, etc.)
- Diverse set of stakeholders required to be involved development of its Five-Year Action Plan, Initial Proposal, and Final Proposal
- Must include (see. Pp. 53-54 for full list):
 - State agencies
 - Tribal/Native entities
 - Community-based organizations
 - Community anchor institutions (CAIs)
 - Public housing
 - Consumer advocates and advocacy groups
 - Labor organizations & unions
 - Civil rights organizations
 - Higher ED, K-12
 - Faith-based organizations



Stakeholder Engagement cont.

Organizations that serve and represent underrepresented communities including:

- Individuals with disabilities
- Children with disabilities
- Individuals who are 60 years of age or older
- Individuals with language barriers, including English learners and individuals with low levels of literacy
- People of color
- LGBTQI+ people
- Immigrants
- Veterans
- Individuals in that Eligible Entity who are incarcerated



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Lobbying, Advocacy, and Educating

IIJA Program Resources

- [NTIA BEAD Program Page](#)
- [NTIA DEA Program Page](#)
- [BEAD NOFO](#)
- [DEA NOFO](#)
- [IIJA text](#)
- [NDIA IIJA Programs Overview Blog](#)
- [NDIA BEAD NOFO Blog](#)
- [NDIA DEA NOFO Blog](#)



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THANK YOU!