PANEL
Digital Equity For All of Us: Community Voice in State Plans

MARK COLON
Director of Public Engagement, National Telecommunications & Information Administration (NTIA)

GILBERT RESENDEZ
Federal Program Officer, District of Columbia, U.S. Department of Commerce, NTIA

MICHELL MORTON
Deputy Director of Digital Equity Programs
Digital Equity for All of Us: Community Voice in State Plans
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.

**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

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

**ESTIMATED TIMELINE**

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified

- **2022**
  - NOFO live 5/13
- **2023**
  - Due 7/18
  - LOI
  - Due 270 days after planning funds received
- **2024**
  - Due 180 days after new DATA maps and notice of fundings amounts issued
- **2025**
  - Due 365 days after initial proposal approval
- **2026+**
  - 5-year plan
  - Initial proposal
  - 4-year implementation
  - Final proposal
  - 5-year plan
  - Initial proposal
Digital Equity Act created three programs to promote digital equity and inclusion

Funding pool
$2.75B

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
- Implementing digital equity plans and related activities
- Providing digital literacy and digital skills education
- Improving accessibility and inclusivity of public resources
- Facilitating the adoption of high-speed Internet

**ESTIMATED TIMELINE**

- **2022**
  - NOFO live 5/13
  - Due 7/12
  - Planning app
  - 1-year state planning
- **2023**
  - State cap. app
- **2024**
  - Competitive Program launches within 1 month of first Capacity awards
  - 5-year state capacity implementation
- **2025**
  - Comp. app
  - 4-year competitive implement.
- **2026+**

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified
Planning funds will be used to develop State Digital Equity Plans, which must contain several components:

**Vision**
- Stated vision for digital equity

**Objectives**
- Measurable objectives
- Assessment of how those objectives will impact the State's plans and outcomes

**Barriers to Digital Equity**
- Identify barriers to digital equity
- Include a digital needs assessment

**Outreach and Engagement**
- Description of plan to collaborate with key stakeholders to achieve its digital equity goals
- List of organizations that collaborated on and contributed to digital equity plans
- Coordination and outreach strategy

**Integration**
- Asset inventory of current strategies
- Description of incorporation of local plans
- Description of coordination of use of capacity grant funds with BEAD funds

**Implementation**
- Implementation strategy
- Timeline
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**

**BEAD links to the Digital Equity Plan**

**BEAD Five-Year Plans** fully incorporate State Digital Equity Plans

**BEAD Initial and Final Proposals** are informed by and complementary, sequenced, and integrated with State Digital Equity Plans

**Local coordination** ensures overlap between planning teams and form communication pathways to reduce the burden and confusion on community stakeholders
Additional resources about the programs

1. Visit the InternetForAll.gov and [https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/](https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/) for additional information on federal funding programs.

2. Engage with your State or territory regarding their plans to improve high-speed Internet access. Find your State's broadband office at: [https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/resources/states](https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/resources/states)

3. Submit questions to [InternetForAll@ntia.gov](mailto:InternetForAll@ntia.gov)

4. Attend future NTIA webinars, including program-specific application guidance webinars for applicants.
Digital Equity Planning Questions

• **Group 1 and 3**
  • What challenges have you seen community members face in accessing online services?
  • How has your organization worked to address these challenges?

• **Group 2 and 4**
  • How could your program grow and serve more people if it was included in the state digital equity plan?
  • Who should be included in your advocacy? Who can you bring along?