

Wisconsin Broadband Office

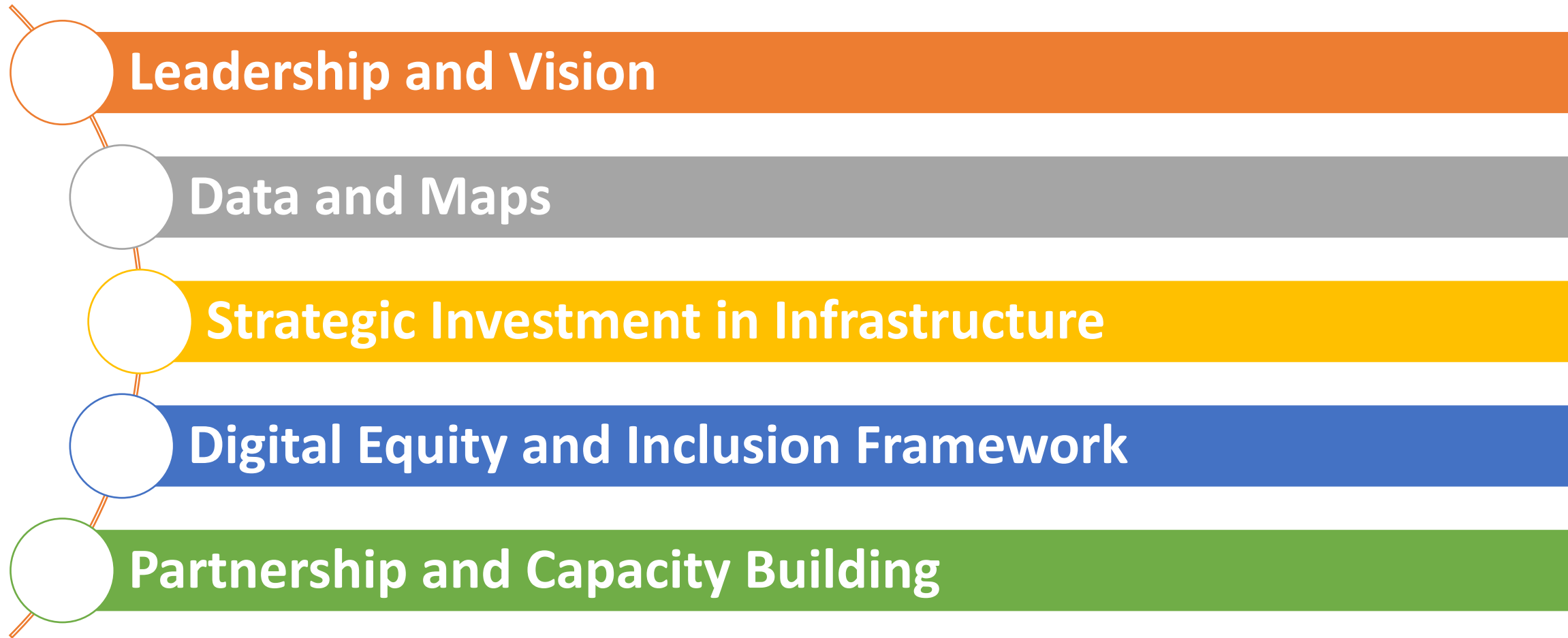
Vision

- All Wisconsinites have access to affordable broadband service and equitably share in the benefits of broadband technology.

Mission

- Make high speed internet service accessible and affordable for all Wisconsinites.

How will we reach our goal?



Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: ~\$65B in Broadband Funding

NTIA will administer ~\$48B of this new funding

BEAD	DIGITAL EQUITY	TRIBAL	MIDDLE MILE
\$42.45B	\$2.75B	\$2.00B	\$1.00B
<p>Title I - Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment Program</p> <p>Formula-based grant program for U.S. states and territories. BEAD aims to close the access gap for unserved & underserved areas of the country.</p>	<p>Title III – Digital Equity Act</p> <p>Three programs, established for planning & implementation of programs that promote digital equity, support digital inclusion activities, and build capacity related to the adoption of broadband.</p>	<p>Title II - Tribal Connectivity Technical Amendments</p> <p>Furtheres current Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program by investing an additional \$2B to fund broadband adoption and infrastructure projects.</p>	<p>Title IV - Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure</p> <p>Provides funding to extend middle mile capacity to reduce cost of serving unserved and underserved areas and enhance network resilience.</p>

FCC to administer ~\$14B

\$14.2B

For Affordable Connectivity Program, which will replace the EBB program

USDA to administer \$2B

\$2.0B

Via the Rural Utilities Service

Private Activity Bonds

\$600M

\$600M

Authorizes State/local gov'ts to use private activity bonds for rural broadband

Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD)

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:

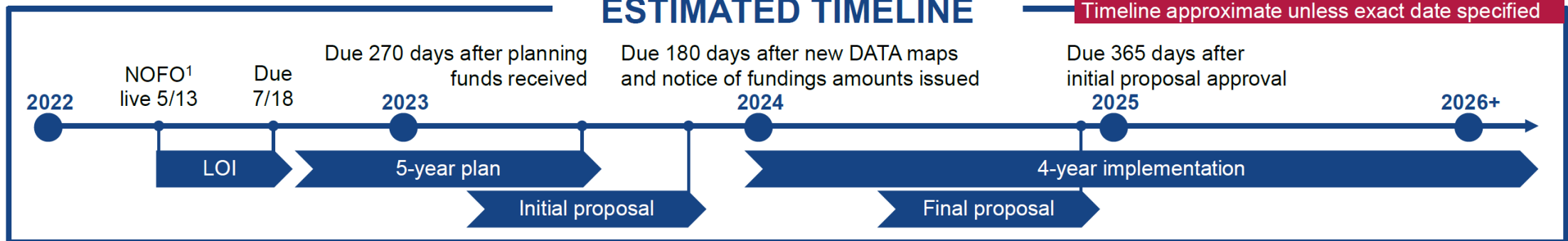
- All 50 States
- The District of Columbia and Puerto Rico
- Other Territories: U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

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



Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD)

PRIORITIES | THE BEAD PROGRAM PRIORITIZES UNSERVED FIRST, THEN UNDERSERVED, THEN ELIGIBLE CAIs



- 1 Unserved locations
*No access at all or access under 25/3 Mbps**
- 2 Underserved locations
*No access to 100/20 Mbps**
- 3 Community anchor institutions (CAIs)
Without gigabit connections



Eligible entity must also prioritize

- Persistent poverty / high-poverty areas
- Speed of proposed network
- Build time
- Demonstrated record on compliance with federal labor & employment laws

Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD)

2

Five-Year Action Plan | Eligible Entities that receive Initial Planning Funds must submit their Five-Year Action Plans



\$5M
funding
available

An Eligible Entity may choose to request ≤\$5M Initial Planning Funds

An Eligible Entity that receives Initial Planning Funds must submit a Five-Year Action

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

- Establishing capacity in office of Eligible Entity running 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

Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD)



C Local coordination | Eligible Entities to detail ongoing local coordination efforts and plan to fulfill future requirements



Geographic coverage



Coordination must incl. Tribal, rural, suburban, and urban areas

Each political subdivision and Tribal / Native entity 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 diversity of stakeholders

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

Example stakeholders include State agencies, CAIs, non-profits, 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.

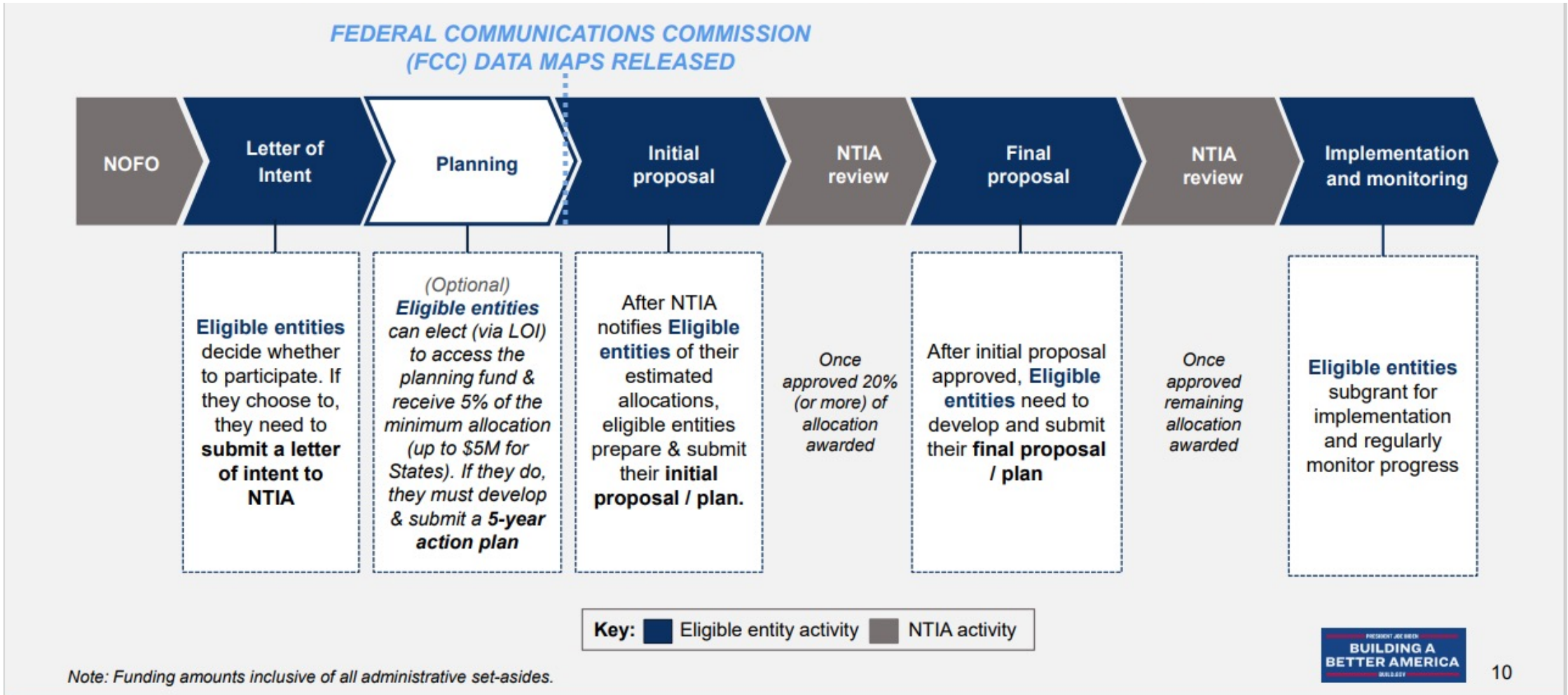
Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD)



2 Five-Year Action Plan | Eligible Entities that receive 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

Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD)



Digital Equity Act Programs



Digital Equity Act created three programs to promote 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

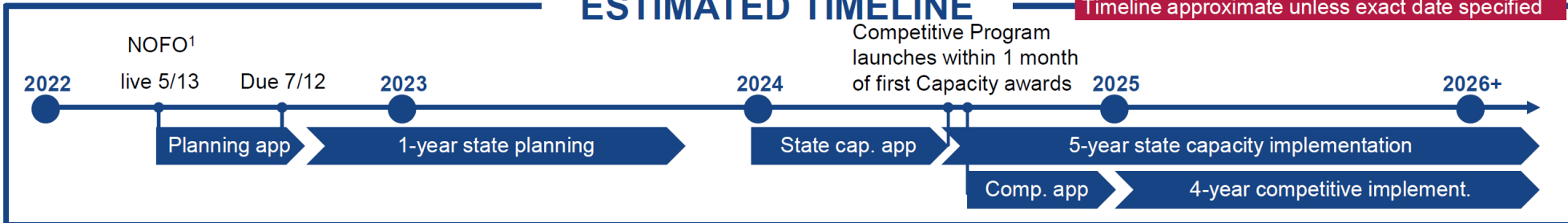
- \$1.25B to implement digital equity and inclusion activities

Example eligible uses of funds 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
- ☆ 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



Digital Equity Act Programs

What is Digital Equity?

The condition in which individuals and communities have the **information technology capacity** that is needed for **full participation** in the society and economy of the United States.

Digital Equity Act Programs

Covered Populations

Identity groups and communities disproportionately impacted by digital inequity



Low-income households



People with disabilities



Aging populations



People with language barriers



Incarcerated individuals



Racial and ethnic minorities

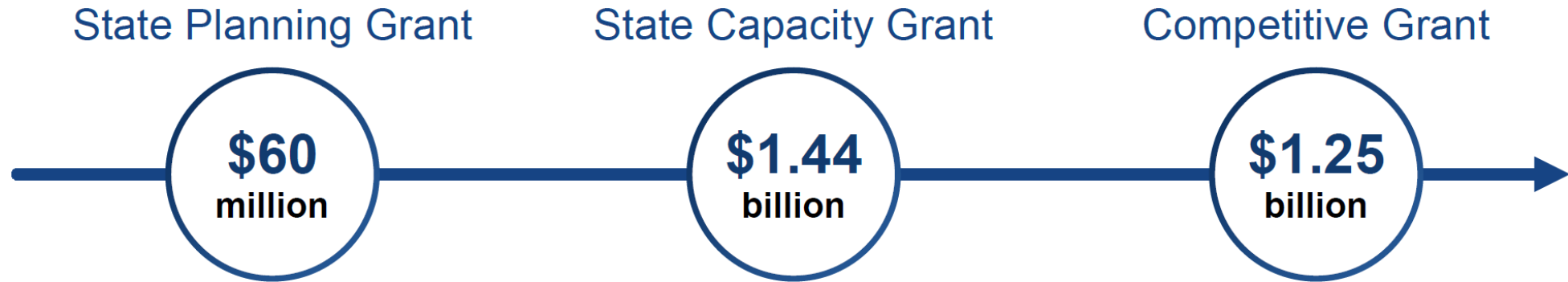


Veterans



Rural inhabitants

Digital Equity Act Programs



Who Open to **U.S. States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico (States)**

Open to U.S. States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, that **completed the State Planning Program**

Open to **certain entities**, such as political subdivisions, Tribal entities, nonprofits, community anchor institutions, local educational agencies, and workforce development orgs

What Grants will be used to **develop a State Digital Equity Plan**

Grants will be used to **implement State Digital Equity Plans**

Grants will be used to **develop and implement digital inclusion activities**

Other U.S. territories, Indian Tribes, Alaska Native entities, and Native Hawaiian orgs have a separate statutory set-aside and separate program requirements under the State Planning and Capacity Programs, as detailed on the next page



Digital Equity Act Programs



Key stakeholder groups may include:

- Community anchor institutions
- County and municipal governments
- Local educational agencies
- Indian Tribes, Alaska Native entities, or Native Hawaiian organizations, where applicable
- Nonprofit organizations
- Organizations that represent covered populations
- Civil rights organizations
- Entities that carry out workforce development programs
- State agencies that administer or supervise adult education or literacy activities
- Public housing authorities

Digital Equity Act Programs



State Digital Equity Plan components (I/II)

-  1 The **identification of the barriers to digital equity** faced by covered populations
-  2 **Measurable objectives for documenting & promoting** broadband technology; the online accessibility of public resources and services; digital literacy; secure online privacy / cybersecurity; consumer devices and tech support
-  3 An assessment of how the **objectives will impact and interact** with the State's economic and workforce goals; health, education and civic engagement outcomes; and delivery of other essential services
-  4 A description of how the State **plans to collaborate with key stakeholders** (e.g., anchor institutions, municipal government, educational agencies, non-profits) to achieve objectives
-  5 A list of organizations with which the administering entity for the State **collaborated in developing and implementing the Plan**
-  6 A stated **vision for digital equity**
-  7 A **digital equity needs assessment**, including an assessment of the baseline and the State's identification of the barriers to digital equity

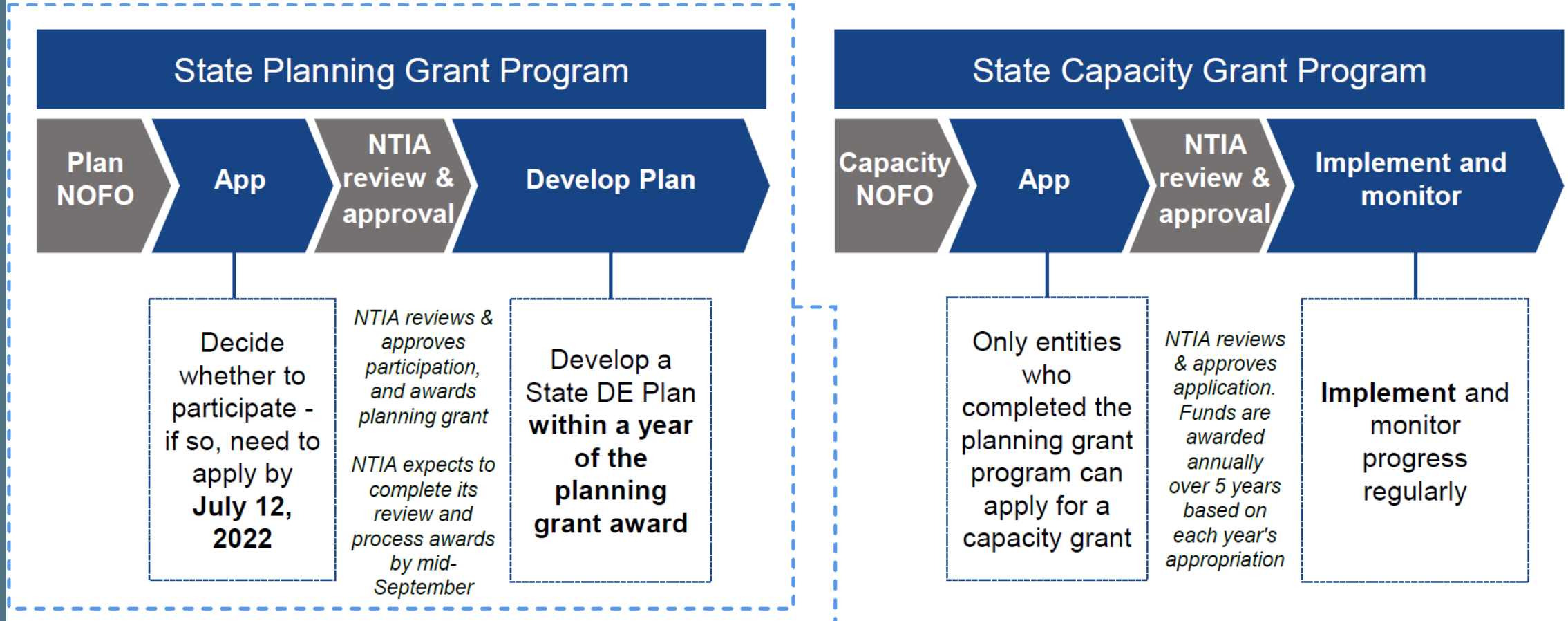
Digital Equity Act Programs



State Digital Equity Plan components (II/II)

-  8 An **asset inventory**, including current resources and strategies that promote digital equity and existing digital equity plans and programs
-  9 A **coordination and outreach strategy**, including opportunities for public comment by, collaboration with, and ongoing engagement with the covered populations and the full range of stakeholders
-  10 Description of how **municipal, regional, and/or tribal digital plans will be incorporated**
-  11 An **implementation strategy** (1) establishing measurable goals, objectives, proposed core activities, (2) setting out measures ensuring the plan's sustainability, and (3) adopting mechanisms to ensure that the plan is regularly evaluated and updated
-  12 Explanation of how the strategy **addresses gaps in existing efforts** to address barriers to digital equity
-  13 Description of how the State intends to accomplish the implementation strategy by **partnering with workforce organizations and institutions of higher learning**
-  14 A **timeline** for implementation of the Plan
-  15 Material indicating how the State will coordinate its use of Digital Equity Capacity Grant funding and **Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) funding**

Digital Equity Act Programs



Enabling Middle Mile

\$1.0B

**Direct
Competitive
Grant on
Technology-
Neutral Basis**

Program objective | To “[e]ncourage the expansion and extension of middle mile infrastructure to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas . . . and to promote broadband connection resiliency . . .”³

Program priorities | at least 2 of the 5 following conditions:

- Adopt "fiscally sustainable middle mile strategies"
- Commit to offering non-discriminatory interconnect
- Identify specific, documented and sustainable demand for middle mile interconnect
- Identify conditions/resources to speed up project
- Demonstrate benefits to national security interests

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified

Timeline

MM



Enabling Middle Mile

Select MM program details

Eligible entities

- 1 **Government:** States, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, other territories, Tribal government, local government
- 2 **Industry:** Tech company, electric utility, utility cooperative, public utility district, telecom company/cooperative
- 3 **Non-profits and other associations:** Non-profits, regional planning council, Native entity, or economic development authority
- 4 **Partnerships:** A partnership of two or more entities described above

Example eligible uses of funds

Grants can be used for the construction, improvement, or acquisition of middle mile infrastructure, including:

- 1 Construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment
- 2 Engineering design, permitting and work related to project reviews
- 3 Personnel costs, incl. salaries and benefits for staff and consultants
- 4 Other costs necessary to programmatic activities

Enabling Middle Mile

State Coordination

Prospective applicants must, prior to submitting an application, **coordinate and consult** with the State Broadband Office to ensure that the proposal is **consistent with the State's broadband plan and priorities**.



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