



INTERNET FOR ALL

FUNDED BY THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

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



SPRING 2024 BROADBAND REGIONAL
WORKSHOPS

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:

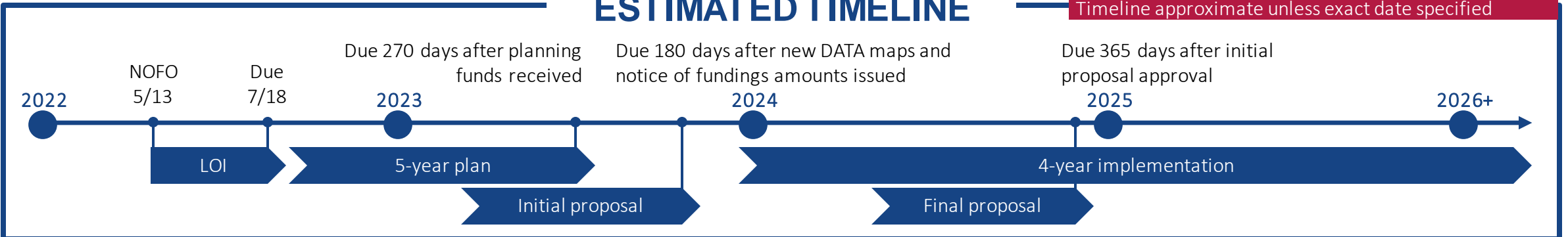
- All 50 States
- The District of Columbia and Puerto Rico
- Other Territories: U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

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

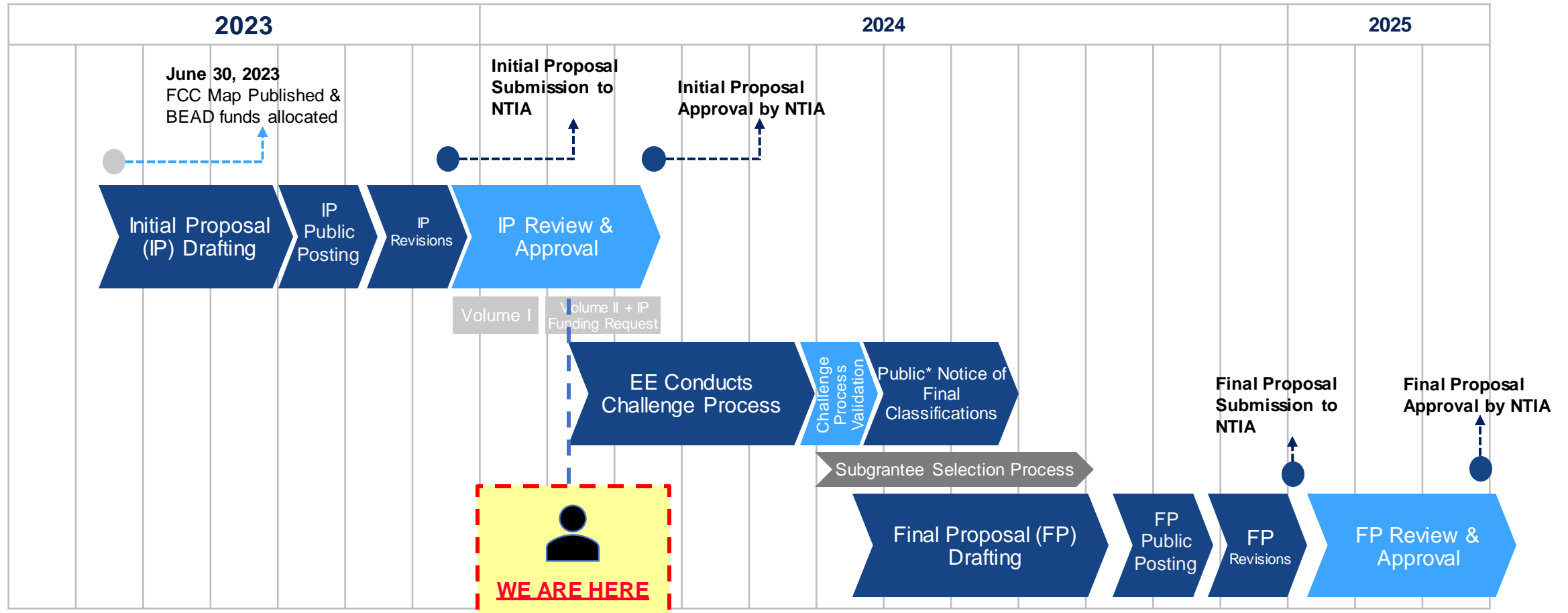
ESTIMATED TIMELINE

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified



Timeline of the Initial Proposal for BEAD

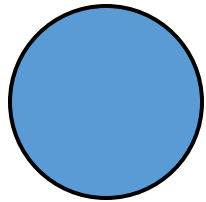
Eligible Entities have submitted their LOIs and Initial Plans, and Initial Planning Funds have been issued. Eligible Entities have also developed Five-Year Action Plans and submitted Initial Proposals. A sample timeline is outlined below.



*Per the BEAD NOFO, an Eligible Entity must provide public notice of the final classification of each unserved location, underserved location, or Eligible Community Anchor Institution within the jurisdiction of the Eligible Entity after resolving each challenge and at least 60 days before allocating grant funds for network deployment.

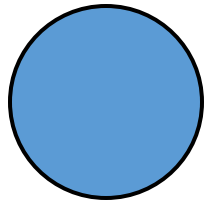
Why is the BEAD Challenge Process Important?

The BEAD Challenge Process is vital because it determines the **locations and community anchor institutions** within each jurisdiction that are **eligible for BEAD funding**.



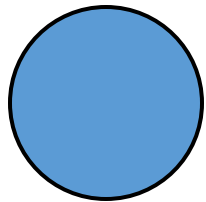
Key step toward achieving BEAD goals

Before the BEAD program can meet the goal of providing accessible and affordable broadband, all unserved locations, underserved locations, and eligible Community Anchor Institutions must be identified.



Helps ensure accurate results

An evidence-based, fair, transparent, and expeditious BEAD Challenge Process, as outlined in the NOFO and Challenge Process Policy Notice, helps ensure accurate results, an efficient process, and a precise allocation of resources.



Gathers information needed before running the subgrantee selection

The subgrantee selection process cannot be run without first having an accurate and comprehensive list of eligible locations and CAIs.

Design Requirements: Basics

Eligible Entities must outline a challenge process that is transparent, evidence-based, and expeditious. The challenge process **must include the following 4 phases**:

Publication of Eligible Locations

- The Eligible Entity ***publishes the set of locations eligible for BEAD funding*** which includes the full universe of locations potentially eligible for BEAD funding minus those removed in the modifications to location classifications process
- This set also includes locations considered served

Challenge

- The Eligible Entity defines the level of evidence needed for a challenge.
- A permissible challenger submits a challenge to the EE's online portal ("challenge portal") and the location becomes ***challenged***.
- These challenges must be ***visible*** to the relevant ISP

Rebuttal

- A rebuttal of a challenger makes the location or locations ***disputed***
- A challenge that is not rebutted within the rebuttal period is ***sustained***
- A provider may agree with the challenge, making the location(s) ***sustained***

Final Determination

- The Eligible Entity either ***sustains*** the disputed locations, or ***rejects*** the dispute

Allowable Challengers: Units of local government, nonprofit organizations, broadband service providers

The Role of Eligible Challengers

Eligible Challengers are: (1) Units of local government, (2) non-profits, and (3) broadband service providers. The Role of Eligible Challengers is outlined below.



Read the Challenge Process instructions and guidance posted by your State or Territory to understand the steps required to submit a challenge.



Gather acceptable evidence, which may include *speed tests, screenshots* from a provider website, *service requests, letters or emails, manufacturer and model number* of residential gateways, providers, and more.



Submit challenge and evidence to your State or Territory's BEAD Challenge website.



If needed, respond to, or check for responses to, your challenge by periodically checking the BEAD Challenge website for updates

To keep challengers informed:

Eligible Entities will set up public-facing challenge portal to accept challenges during the Challenge Process and detail deadlines, who is making a challenge, the basis of the challenge, a summary of the challenge, and a summary of the rebuttals.



What if I'm not an eligible challenger?

Eligible challengers may **aggregate and submit challenge evidence from individuals** who are not eligible to submit challenges on their own.



What Happens after the Challenge Process?

After the BEAD Challenge Process is completed, Eligible Entities send the final determinations of each unserved location, underserved location, and CAIs to NTIA for approval.

WHAT WILL STATES BE DOING?

- After resolving each challenge and at least 60 days before allocating grant funds for network deployment, an **Eligible Entity must provide public notice of the final classification** of each:
 - Unserved location
 - Underserved location
 - Eligible Community Anchor Institution within the jurisdiction of the Eligible Entity
- Eligible Entities must also **notify NTIA of any modifications to the Initial Proposal** that are necessitated by successful challenges to its initial determinations.

WHAT SHOULD CHALLENGERS BE DOING?

- Eligible Challengers should pay attention to their State Broadband Office and **be on the lookout for the public notice of final classification.**
- Once Eligible Entities have provided public notice of their final classifications, challengers should **review the published data.**
- This list will be used for the next step in allocating BEAD funds, the **subgrantee selection process.**

Additional resources about the programs

- 1 Visit the InternetForAll.gov for additional information on federal funding programs
- 2 Engage with the Public Service Commission regarding their plans to improve high-speed Internet access at [PSC Wisconsin Broadband Office](#)
- 3 Submit questions to InternetForAll@ntia.gov or contact Carah Koch, Federal Program Officer for Wisconsin, at ckoch@ntia.gov
- 4 Attend future NTIA webinars, including program-specific application guidance webinars for applicants at [Home | BroadbandUSA \(doc.gov\)](#)