# 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

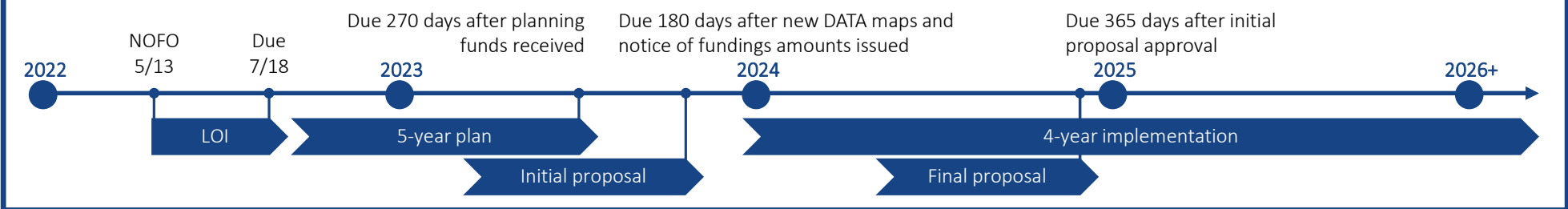**Entities eligible to apply for this program include:**
- All 50 States
- The District of Columbia and Puerto Rico
- Other Territories: U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

**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

| 2022 | NOFO 5/13 | Due 7/18 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026+ |

Due 270 days after planning funds received

Due 180 days after new DATA maps and notice of fundings amounts issued

Due 365 days after initial proposal approval

LOI

5-year plan

Initial proposal

Final proposal

4-year implementation

# BEAD NOFO Requires Environmental Compliance

The BEAD NOFO directs Eligible Entities to analyze the potential environmental impacts, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. § 300101 et seq.) for Eligible Entity proposals and awardee projects and other eligible activities seeking funding under the BEAD Program.

> ⚠️ BEAD NOFO Section IV.B.9.b. Program Structure, Sequencing and Requirements; Program Sequencing; **Form and Content of Initial Proposal**, Pg.48; BEAD NOFO Section VII.D.4 Federal Award Administration Information; Administrative and National Policy Requirements; **Environmental and Historic Preservation Requirements**, Pg.86-87

## Final Proposal Requirements

Environmental documentation associated with any construction and/or ground-disturbing activities and a description of how the Eligible Entity will comply with applicable environmental and national historic preservation requirements.

*Note: Eligible uses of funding in connection with last-mile broadband deployment projects include engineering design, permitting, and work related to environmental, historic and cultural reviews*

## Environmental Requirements:

For Eligible Entities with ground-disturbing activities, Final Proposals must:

- Describe how the Eligible Entity will comply with applicable environmental requirements and obtain all necessary permits and approvals

- Include all required environmental documentation

- Include projects designed to minimize the potential for adverse impacts on the environment

> ⓘ As federally-funded projects, Eligible Entities must submit all required environmental impact documentation to NTIA with their Final Proposals, which must describe how they will comply with applicable environmental preservation requirements and analysis (NEPA).

# Levels of NEPA Review

| | Overview | Timeline* |
|---|---|---|
| **Categorical Exclusion (CATEX)** | CATEXs are issued by NTIA for defined actions that the agency has determined **do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the environment**. An analysis of the environmental considerations of the proposed actions must be completed to determine whether a CATEX can apply. | Grant recipient will develop project description and supporting documentation, including engaging in consultation, which will undergo environmental analysis. Typically, **3-6 months** to develop and deliver to NTIA. Upon receipt of a complete package and the conclusion of any consultation, NTIA estimates **30-45 days** to evaluate and issue a CATEX, if applicable. |
| **Environmental Assessment (EA)** | An EA will be prepared when the **significance of the project's environmental impact is not clearly established**. Should environmental analysis find a project to have no significant impacts on the quality of the environment, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is issued. If environmental analysis finds that actions could have significant impact, an EIS would be required. | Grant recipient will develop EA in coordination with NTIA, approximately **6-12 months** to develop and deliver EA to NTIA. NTIA will review the draft and final documents for technical and legal sufficiency, publish the final document for public comment, and develop a FONSI. |
| **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** | An EIS will be prepared for projects when the **action will likely have a significant effect on the environment**. This is the most comprehensive form of NEPA analysis. The final decision is documented in a Record of Decision (ROD), which codifies the final decision made, whether to approve the project or not, and the basis for that decision. | Grant recipient will develop EIS in coordination with NTIA, extensive public involvement requirements apply, approximately **12-24 months** to develop and deliver EIS to NTIA. NTIA will review for technical and legal sufficiency, publish draft and final documents for public comment, and develop a ROD once the final EIS public comment period concludes. |

*These timelines do not take into account any other outstanding agency approvals. A project is not considered cleared for NEPA until NTIA issues a decision document (FONSI or ROD).

# Additional resources about the programs

1. Visit the Internet For All site 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. Visit the BroadbandUSA site for additional information on permitting resources, including the NTIA Permitting and Environmental Application