

**INTERNET
FOR ALL**

BEAD and Digital Equity Program Updates

November 12, 2024



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 and increase adoption of high-speed internet.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Entities eligible to apply for this program include:

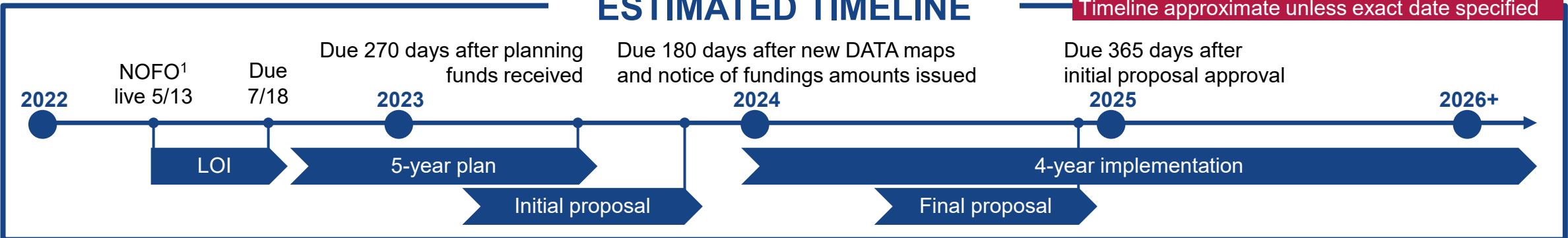
- All 50 States
- The District of Columbia and Puerto Rico
- Other Territories: U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

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



1. Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), available [here](#).

Digital Equity Act Grant Programs



State Planning Grant

\$60 million

State Capacity Grant

\$1.44 billion

Competitive Grant

\$1.25 billion

Who Open to **U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico**

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 statutory set-aside and separate program requirements under the State Planning and Capacity Programs



The Digital Equity Act addresses “Covered Populations”



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



Set-Aside: NE Capacity & Planning Grant Program

Purpose of the NE Capacity & Planning Grant Program

The program's purpose is to **conduct digital equity planning** and **carry out digital equity and inclusion activities** consistent with the Digital Equity Act.

CAPACITY GRANT FUNDS¹

Purpose | *Implementation*

Funds are available to **carry out digital equity and inclusion activities**.

Open to Native Entities (as Single Applicants or as Consortium Applicants)

The process for allocation is **competitive**.

Native Entities may submit an application that seeks Capacity Grant Funds **only**.

PLANNING GRANT FUNDS (OPTIONAL)²

Purpose | *Strategic Planning*

Funds are available for **digital equity planning purposes**.

Native Entities have the **option** to apply for Planning Grant Funds by submitting and answering **additional** respective requirements in the NE Capacity & Planning Grant Program application and completing the **Capacity & Planning Consolidated Budget Form (CBF)**. Applicants may apply for Planning Grant Funds **in conjunction** with Capacity Grant Funds but **not** on a standalone basis.

NE Capacity Grant Program Goals

Proposed projects and activities must be consistent with the goals of equity and digital inclusion described in 47 U.S.C. §1723(d).

FOR CAPACITY GRANT FUNDS:

Capacity Grant projects and activities must:

 Address identified barriers to digital equity

 Use measurable objectives to assess progress towards overcoming these barriers

 Promote the following among the Covered Populations:

- The availability of, and affordability of access to, fixed and wireless broadband technology;
- The online accessibility and inclusivity of public resources and services;
- Digital literacy;
- Awareness of, and the use of, measures to secure the online privacy of, and cybersecurity with respect to, an individual, and;
- The availability and affordability of consumer devices and technical support for those devices.¹

NE Planning Grant Program Goals

Proposed planning activities must be consistent with 47 U.S.C. §1723(c).

All eligible Native Entities may apply for Capacity Grant Funds and have the *option* to also apply for Planning Grant Funds when submitting the NE Capacity & Planning Grant Program application. Applicants may **not** apply for Planning Grant Funds on a standalone basis.

FOR PLANNING GRANT FUNDS (IF APPLICABLE):

Planning activities may include:



A vision statement;



Outreach and engagement with the Covered Populations for the purpose of identifying barriers to digital equity and conducting a needs assessment;



Identification of the barriers to digital equity faced by members of the Covered Populations;



Measurable objectives that address the barriers to digital equity; and



Implementation strategies to achieve the measurable objectives identified above. ¹

How to Apply for the NE Capacity & Planning Grant Program

Native Entities are permitted to submit their NE Capacity & Planning Grant Program applications, including Planning Grant Program information, either electronically online, via email, or by mail or courier no later than the submission deadline.¹

Submission Deadline

Applications submitted through the NGP must be received no later than **11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on February 7, 2025.**



Online: NTIA Grants Portal (NGP)

The NGP will open for electronic application submission on October 30, 2024. The forms and requirements can be accessed on the NGP at <https://grants.ntia.gov>. Log in with your account or create an account if you don't have one. Additional instructions can be found in the Application Guidance.



Email to digitalequity@ntia.gov

Reminders:

- All application requirements should ideally be submitted in one email before the submission deadline.
- The last application version NTIA receives will be the application that is reviewed.



Mail or courier

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Additional resources about the Digital Equity Programs



- 1 Visit the **InternetForAll.gov** for additional information on federal funding programs
- 2 Submit questions to InternetForAll@ntia.gov or contact Carah Koch, Federal Program Officer for Wisconsin, at ckoch@ntia.gov
- 3 Submit specific questions about the NE Capacity and Planning Grant Program application to **digitalequity@ntia.gov**
- 4 Attend [future NTIA webinars](#), including program-specific application guidance webinars for applicants

