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DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

IIJA BROADBAND FUNDING STREAMS

BEAD

\$42.45B

Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment Program

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.

DIGITAL EQUITY

\$2.75B

Digital Equity Act

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.

TRIBAL

\$2.00B

Tribal Connectivity Technical Amendments

A program to help tribal communities expand high-speed internet access and adoption on tribal lands.

MIDDLE MILE

\$1.00B

Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure

A program to expand middle mile infrastructure, to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas.



BEAD Program Deployment Steps

The Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program has separate and distinct steps for full enactment to ensure transparency and the state's most unserved and underserved areas are targeted.

Program Sequencing	Key Dates
Funding NOFO Released / Application Intake Opens	May 13, 2022
Letter of Intent Due	July 18, 2022
Request for Initial Planning Funds	August 15, 2022
5-Year Action Plan	Within 270 days of receipt of Initial Planning Funds
Program Fund Allocation / Notice of Amounts	On or after Broadband DATA Maps released
Initial Proposal	180 days to submit after issuance of Notice of Available Amounts
Challenge Process	Challenge: Begins after submission of Initial Proposal + before allocation of BEAD funds Final Classification: After resolving challenges + at least 60 days before allocating funds for deployment
20% Funding Release	Assistant Secretary shall make available to the Eligible Entity 20% of the grant funds
Final Proposal and Release of Remaining 80% Funds	No later than 12 months after approval of Initial Proposal



DIGITAL EQUITY ACT

The Digital Equity Act provides \$2.75 billion to establish three grant programs that promote digital equity and inclusion. They aim to ensure that all people and communities have the skills, technology, and capacity needed to reap the full benefits of our digital economy.

- **State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program:** A \$60M formula grant program for states, territories and tribal governments to develop digital equity plans.
- **State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program:** A \$1.44 billion formula grant program for states, territories, and tribal governments. It will fund an annual grant program for five years in support of digital equity projects and the implementation of digital equity plans.
- **Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program:** A \$1.25 billion grant program. It will fund annual grant programs for five years to implement digital equity projects.

Montana received \$601K to support planning activities to develop the state's digital equity plan for submission to NTIA and application for formula grant funds; the state's application is due in October 2023.



LOCAL COORDINATION & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

BEAD and DE each require significant local coordination and public engagement to be eligible for funding.

Local Coordination Activities:

- Statewide Roadshow in Billings, Glendive, Glasgow, Kalispell, Great Falls & Helena
- Tribal Summit in Great Falls
- Statewide Internet Survey
- 1:1 interactions / interviews with community leaders, telecommunication providers, etc.
- Next Roadshow – December 5th – 9th
 - December 5th – Butte
 - December 6th – Missoula
 - December 7th – Havre
 - December 8th – Miles City
 - December 9th – Billings Tribal Outreach

Public Engagement Activities:

- BEAD and DE each require the 5-Year Action Plan, Initial Proposal, Challenge Process, and Final Proposal be published for public comment prior to submission to NTIA and enactment.



IIJA BROADBAND: NEXT STEPS

- Submit BEAD Planning Grant Application by 8/15
- Develop BEAD 5-Year Action Plan within 270 days
- Launch Round 2 Statewide Stakeholder Outreach
- Publish 5-Year Action Plan for Public Comment

QUESTIONS

Contact Us:

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