



# All About BEAD: What You Need to Know About the Historic Grant Program



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

# TODAY'S SPEAKERS



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# About Pew

Celebrating its 76th anniversary, The Pew Charitable Trusts uses data to make a difference. Pew addresses the challenges of a changing world by illuminating issues, creating common ground, and advancing ambitious projects that lead to tangible progress.

The Pew Charitable Trusts' broadband access initiative works with state and federal lawmakers, researchers, and other partners to accelerate the nation's progress to universal, affordable high-speed internet service.

Pew

# The Broadband Access Initiative

*Working with state and federal lawmakers, researchers, and other partners to accelerate the nation's progress to universal, affordable high-speed internet service.*

## Federal and state policy

- State leadership
- Improved accountability
- Prioritization of fiber
- Affordability

## Addressing research gaps

- Drivers of affordability and cost of service
- Alternative models of deployment
- Trends in state broadband policy and future needs

## Direct support to states

- Broadband Education and Training Initiative (BETI)
- Educating state officials



# Contact information

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# Introduction to Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD)

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# Ensuring High-Speed Internet Access to All

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests ~\$65B to ensure everyone in America has access to Internet service.



Goal is to build infrastructure that provides reliable high-speed Internet **access** to all Americans **for today and tomorrow...**

...with a focus on making high-speed Internet service **affordable** and **reliable** so **everyone** can participate in the economy...

... and providing the resources needed to **equitably** expand the adoption and use of the Internet so **everyone** can experience the benefits.



## Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests roughly \$65B into high-speed Internet efforts through 7 federal programs:

Administered by NTIA

- **Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program (\$42.45B)**
- **Digital Equity Planning, Capacity and Competitive Grants (\$2.75B)**
- Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (\$2.00B)
- Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program (\$1.0B)

Administered by other federal agencies

- Affordable Connectivity Program (\$14.2B)
- Rural Broadband Programs at the Department of Agriculture (\$2.0B)
- Private Activity Bonds (\$0.6B)

# Introduction to BEAD

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# BEAD Program Introduction

BEAD program will provide ~\$42.5B 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 to and increase adoption of high-speed Internet service.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### Entities eligible to apply for this program include:

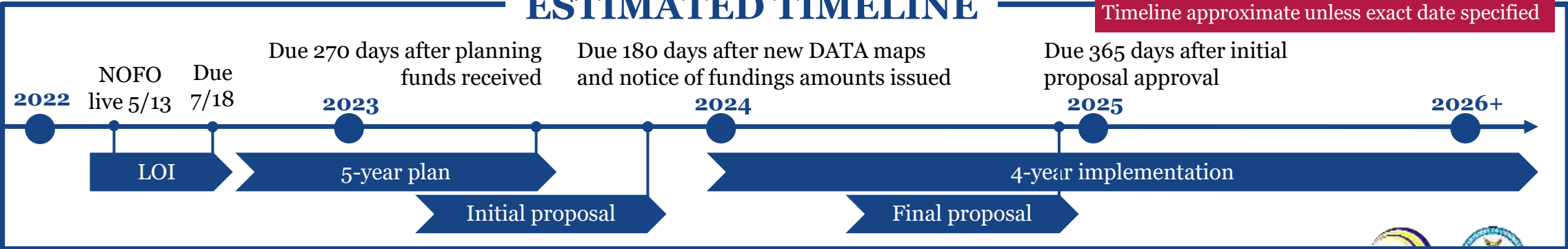
- All 50 States
- The District of Columbia and Puerto Rico
- Other Territories: U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

### Example eligible uses of funds include:

- ☆ Planning for deployment of the Internet
- ☆ Deploying or upgrading Internet service
- ☆ Installing Internet in multi-tenant buildings
- ☆ Implementing adoption and digital equity programs
- ☆ Workforce and job training

## ESTIMATED TIMELINE

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified



# Ensuring Complete Coverage

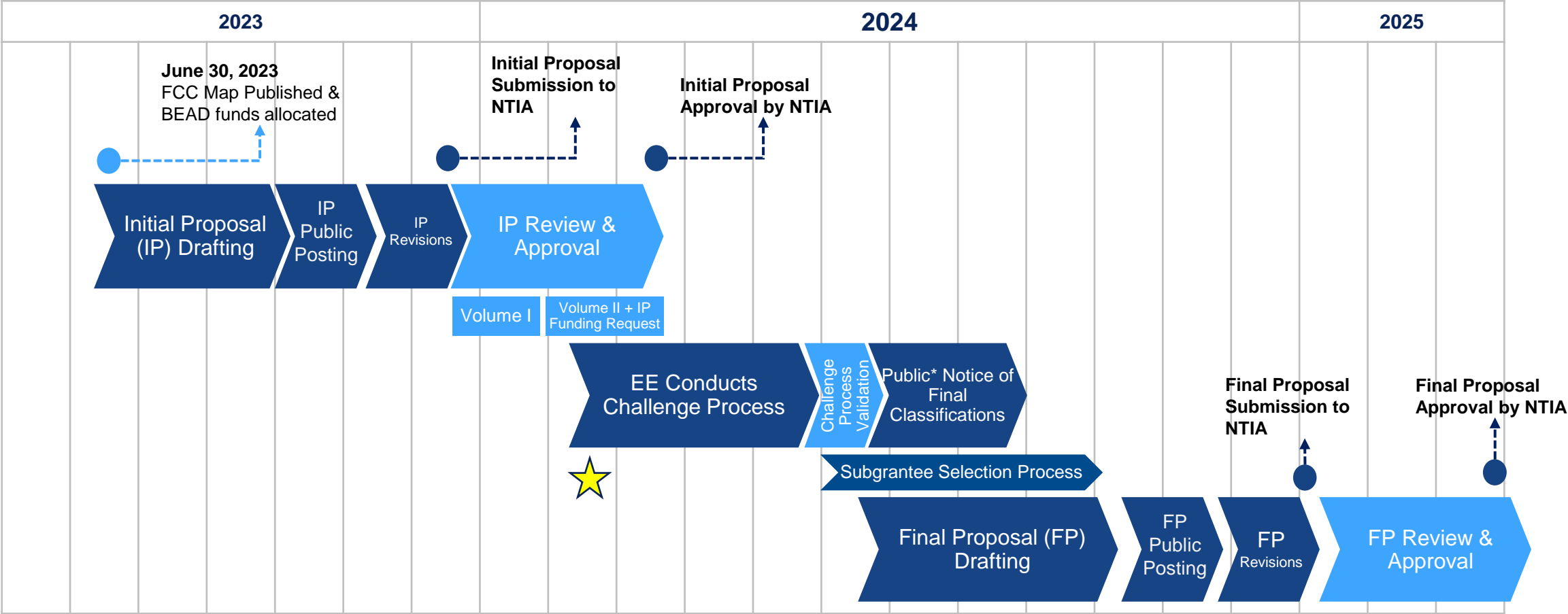
The BEAD Program requires complete coverage of unserved locations and underserved locations (where funding permits)

- ① **States and Territories must serve all unserved locations (including multi-tenant buildings)**  
*Unserved locations without reliable Internet service and with download speeds <25 Mbps, upload speeds <3 Mbps, and latency <100ms*
- ② **States and Territories must serve all underserved locations**  
*Underserved locations without reliable Internet service and with download speeds <100 Mbps, upload speeds <20 Mbps, and latency <100 ms*
- ③ **NTIA strongly urges States and Territories serve Eligible Community Anchor Institutions**
  - *Eligible Community Anchor Institutions are entities (e.g., school, library, hospital) that facilitate greater use of high-speed Internet service by vulnerable populations and have download speed <1 Gbps*
  - *Other eligible uses include affordability programs, cybersecurity training, workforce development, etc.*
  - *If state/territory wants to use funds for other eligible uses instead of eligible Community Anchor Institutions, then it must provide a strong rationale*

**Note:** If a state/territory has a plan to deploy service to all unserved and underserved locations within its jurisdiction, it may pursue non-deployment initiatives before or while deployment projects are underway

# Timeline of the Initial Proposal for BEAD

Eligible Entities have submitted their Initial Proposals, which NTIA is currently reviewing and approving. Eligible Entities that have received approval for Volume 1 of their Initial Proposals can conduct their Challenge Process. 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.

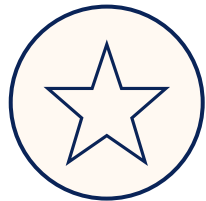


# Introduction to BEAD Challenge Process

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# What is the BEAD Challenge Process and Why is it Important?

The BEAD Challenge Process will determine the **locations and community anchor institutions** within each jurisdiction that are **eligible for BEAD funding**.



## **Key step towards achieving BEAD goals**

Before the BEAD program can meet the goal of 100% 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 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.

# The Role of Eligible Challengers

Eligible Challengers are: (1) Units of local government, (2) nonprofit organizations, 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.



**Respond to, or check for responses to, your challenge** by periodically checking the BEAD Challenge website for updates.

### To keep challengers informed:

States and Territories will set up public-facing websites to accept challenges during the BEAD Challenge Process and inform challengers of deadlines.



### Websites will include:

Who is making a challenge, basis of the challenge, summary of the challenge, summary of the rebuttals





# THANK YOU

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# State Legislation Examples

## State laws relating to broadband speed:

- [Texas SB 1238](#): Defines 'served areas' as areas that offer speeds of at least 100 Mbps symmetrical.
- [Iowa HF 848](#): Requires grants awarded from the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Funds to offer speeds of at least 100 Mbps symmetrical.
- [Missouri SB 820](#): Revised to require grants awarded under sections 620.2450 to 620.2458 to offer speeds of at least 100 Mbps symmetrical.

## State laws relating to Right of Way (ROW) Regulations:

- [Virginia HB 1752](#): Telecommunications companies may build systems along public roads and railroads, on public lands, and along navigable waterways.
- [Missouri SB 369](#): Municipalities shall allow telecommunication companies to build, maintain and run their systems on public rights-of-way.

## States laws relating to office authority:

- [Louisiana: HB 653](#): Creates GUMBO 2.0 and requires the funding and administration of the program to be in accordance with IIJA and the BEAD NOFO.
- [Texas SB 1238](#): Updates Texas state broadband requirements to match BEAD NOFO.
- [Missouri SB 820](#): Authorizes Missouri Broadband Office to manage BEAD funding.
- [Indiana HB 1277](#): Passed first chamber. Requires broadband office administer federal grants in compliance with all mandatory provisions set forth in IIJA and BEAD.

## Additional examples:

- [Missouri SB 820](#): Statute relating to vertical real estate or towers.
- [Washington HB 1064](#): Requires the disclosure of the availability of high-speed internet access in residential real estate.





## Q&A

Please type your questions in the chat box . . .



# NCSL RESOURCES

- [What States Need to Know as Federal Broadband Program Expands](#)
- [How State Broadband Offices Are Expanding Internet Access](#)
- [State Broadband Task Forces, Commissions, or Authorities](#)
- [Broadband Legislation Database](#)





# Thank you for joining today!

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