



ASDOC BROADBAND
COORDINATION, OPPORTUNITIES,
REDEVELOPMENT & DEPLOYMENT
(BCORD) OFFICE **PRESENTS**

TALATEK

Talanoa Faatekonolosi #4

Topics include:

- BCORD Office Updates
- Broadband Equity, Access, Deployment (BEAD) Program
- Digital Equity Act (DE) Programs
- Others

Thursday, 29 June 2023
11:00 AM – 12:00 Noon AST via ZOOM

TO REGISTER:

- GO TO: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join>
- ENTER MEETING ID: **858 6429 2031**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

ASDOC BCORD Office

Michael McDonald | Andrew Berquist

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT

EXECUTIVE ORDER 007 – 2023

AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE TERRITORIAL BROADBAND COORDINATION,
OPPORTUNITIES, REDEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT OFFICE,
ESTABLISHING THE BROADBAND STEERING COMMITTEE, AND
REPEALING EXECUTIVE ORDER 006-2023

Section 1: Authority

This executive order is hereby issued in accordance with the powers and authority granted to the Governor by Article IV, Sections 6 and 7 of the Revised Constitution of American Samoa, and the American Samoa Code Annotated, Section 4.0111 (b).

Section 2: Preamble

WHEREAS, access to broadband is essential to the prosperity and quality of life of everyone living in American Samoa;

WHEREAS, broadband is vital to commerce, the economic vitality of communities, and American Samoa's global competitiveness;

WHEREAS, President Biden announced the \$42.45 billion Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program which enable States and Territories to expand high-speed internet access by funding planning, infrastructure deployment and adoption programs in furtherance of the Administration's "Internet for All" initiative;

WHEREAS, broadband is vital to the delivery of education, health care, transportation services, public safety, emergency response, and other critical services;

WHEREAS, broadband is vital to creating an inclusive infrastructure that addresses the needs of people with disabilities, the elderly, minors and the community as a whole;

BCORD OFFICE

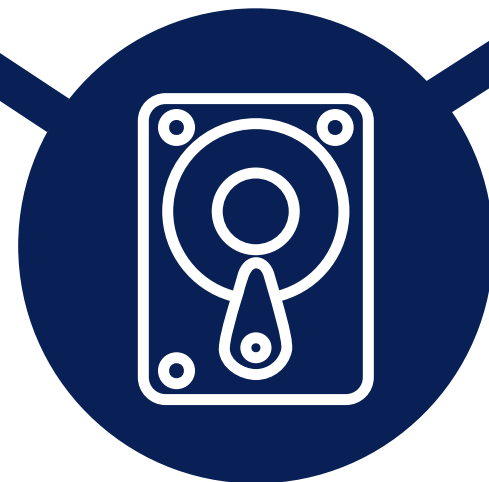
Established by Governor Lemanu by Executive Order 007-2023 under the Department of Commerce to coordinate and support territory-wide efforts on broadband to increase the affordability, availability, adoption and effectiveness of broadband internet. Through partnerships and collaborations, the BORD Office encourages investment in opportunities for broadband programs and initiatives that focus on improving the quality of life for the people of American Samoa based on its territorial strategic goals and objectives for broadband development.

Territorial Strategic Objectives for Broadband Development

Broadband touches all aspects of the community by providing a new foundation for innovations, economic development, healthcare, education, public safety, entertainment, and many other possibilities. The following strategic goals lay the framework to strengthen and increase the adoption of broadband in American Samoa.



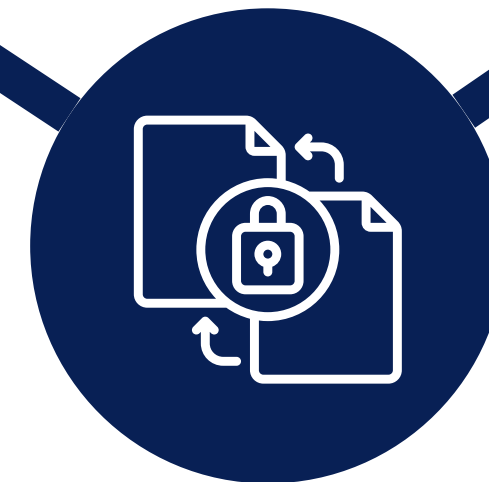
**AFFORDABLE
BROADBAND**



**RESPONSIBLE
GOVERNANCE AND
STRONG
INSTITUTIONS**



**TECHNOLOGY
LITERACY**



CYBERSECURITY



**RELIABLE
CONNECTIVITY &
ACCESS**

Current Projects

BCORD supports territory-wide efforts on broadband based on the goals and priorities identified in the **American Samoa Territorial Broadband Strategy (ASTBS)** to increase the affordability, availability, adoption and effectiveness of broadband internet. Through partnerships and collaborations, the BCORD Office encourages investment in opportunities for broadband programs and initiatives that focus on improving the quality of life for the people of American Samoa.

01 Broadband Equity, Access, Deployment Program (BEAD)

02 Digital Equity Program

03 BroadbandiNEI ARPA

04 Capital Fund Projects (Innovation & Technology Campus)

05 Technical Assistance

06 Affordable Connectivity Program



**The 2021-2026 Territorial
Broadband Strategy**
American Samoa Territorial
Broadband Strategy Working Group



The BIL invests ~\$65B to ensure everyone in America has access to high-speed INTERNET-FOR-ALL Programs:

NTIA will administer ~\$48B of funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law				FCC to administer \$14.2B
BEAD	DIGITAL EQUITY	TRIBAL	MIDDLE MILE	For Affordable Connectivity Program, which replaced the EBB program
\$42.45B	\$2.75B	\$2.00B	\$1.00B	USDA to administer \$2.0B
Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment Program	Digital Equity Act	Tribal Connectivity Technical Amendments	Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure	Via the Rural Utilities Service
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.	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.	A program to help tribal communities expand high-speed Internet access and adoption on tribal lands.	A program to expand middle mile infrastructure, to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas.	Private Activity Bonds \$0.6B
				Authorizes State and local governments to use private activity bonds for rural broadband



Source: NTIA October 2022, slide adapted

BEAD FUNDING ALLOCATION FOR AMERICAN SAMOA

MINIMUM INITIAL ALLOCATION	\$25M
ADDITIONAL FUNDING ALLOCATION	\$12.6M
TOTAL FUNDING ALLOCATION FOR AMERICAN SAMOA (TENT)	\$37.6M

MATCHING REQUIREMENT: 25%

For Official Release
PR 001-06262023
Office of the Governor
Utulei, American Samoa
June 26, 2023



American Samoa to Receive Over \$37 Million for High Speed Internet

“These investments into high-speed internet will help close the digital divide and get our people closer to competing on equal footing. Education, healthcare, job creation, and economic opportunities all received a big boost today.”

The United States Department of Commerce’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) today announced it has allocated funding to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five territories to deploy affordable, reliable high-speed Internet service to everyone in America. American Samoa stands to receive \$37,564,827.53 from this program. This “Internet for All” initiative is a key component of President Biden’s “Investing in America” agenda.

“What this announcement means for people across the country is that if you don’t have access to quality, affordable high-speed Internet service now – you will, thanks to President Biden and his commitment to investing in America,” said Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo. “This is a watershed moment for millions of people across America who lack access to a high-speed Internet connection. Access to Internet service is necessary for work, education, healthcare, and more,” said Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communication and Information Technology Alan Davidson.



What is the

Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program?

- Funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, BEAD is a federal grant program that aims 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.
- BEAD prioritizes **unserved** locations that have no internet access or that only have access under 25/3 Mbps and **underserved** locations only have access under 100/20 Mbps.
- Funding allocated to states and territories are designed to be sub-granted to eligible sub-grantees.



What are

BEAD FUNDING PRIORITIES?

Infrastructure Projects & Non-Infrastructure Projects

Priority #1

- ✓ Deploying and/or upgrading internet in connection in unserved or an underserved locations

Priority #2

- ✓ Deploying and/or upgrading internet to an eligible community anchor institution;

Priority #3

- ✓ Install internet and wi-fi infrastructure or subsidize internet cost in multi-tenant buildings;
- ✓ Data collection, broadband mapping, and planning;
- ✓ Broadband adoption programs;
- ✓ Training and workforce development; and
- ✓ Other uses approved by the Assistant Secretary.



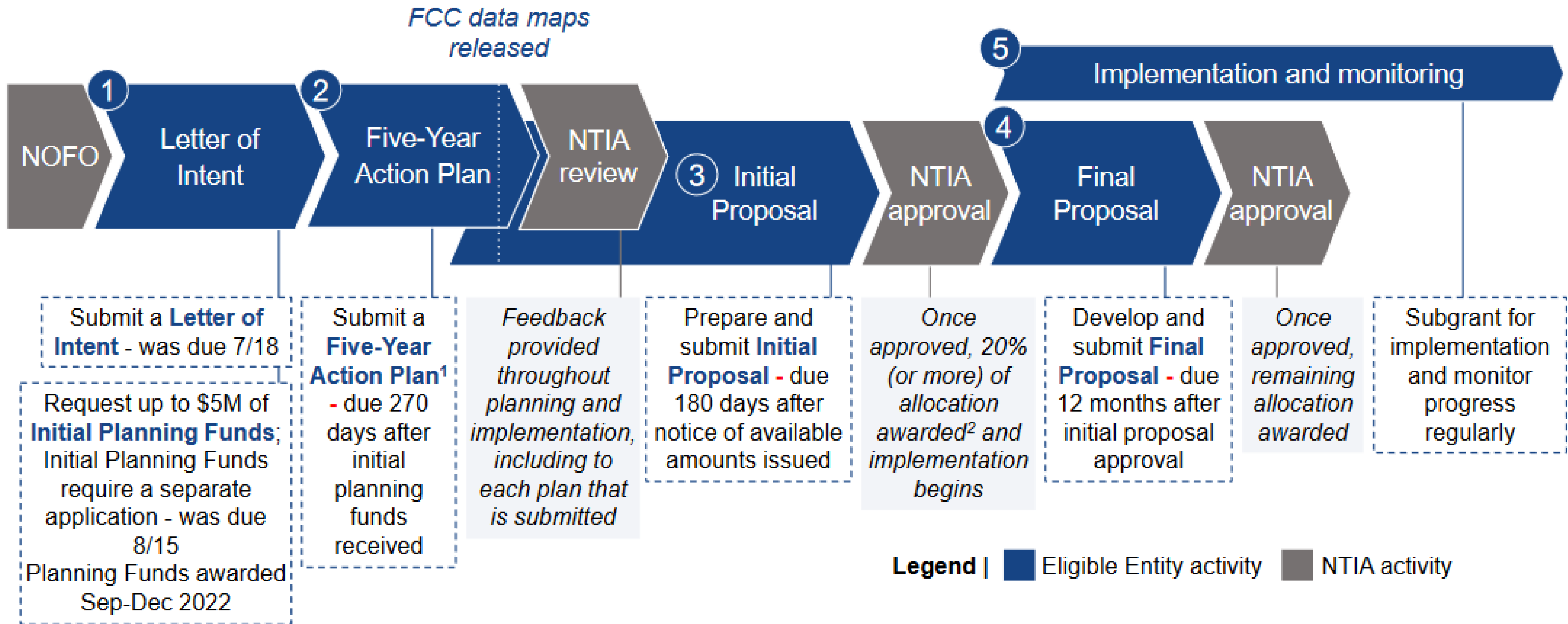
Who can apply for

BEAD SUB-GRANT FUNDING?

- ✔ Internet Service Providers
- ✔ Electrical Co-ops
- ✔ Nonprofit organizations
- ✔ Public-Private Partnerships
- ✔ Public or Private Utilities
- ✔ Local government
- ✔ Tribal entities



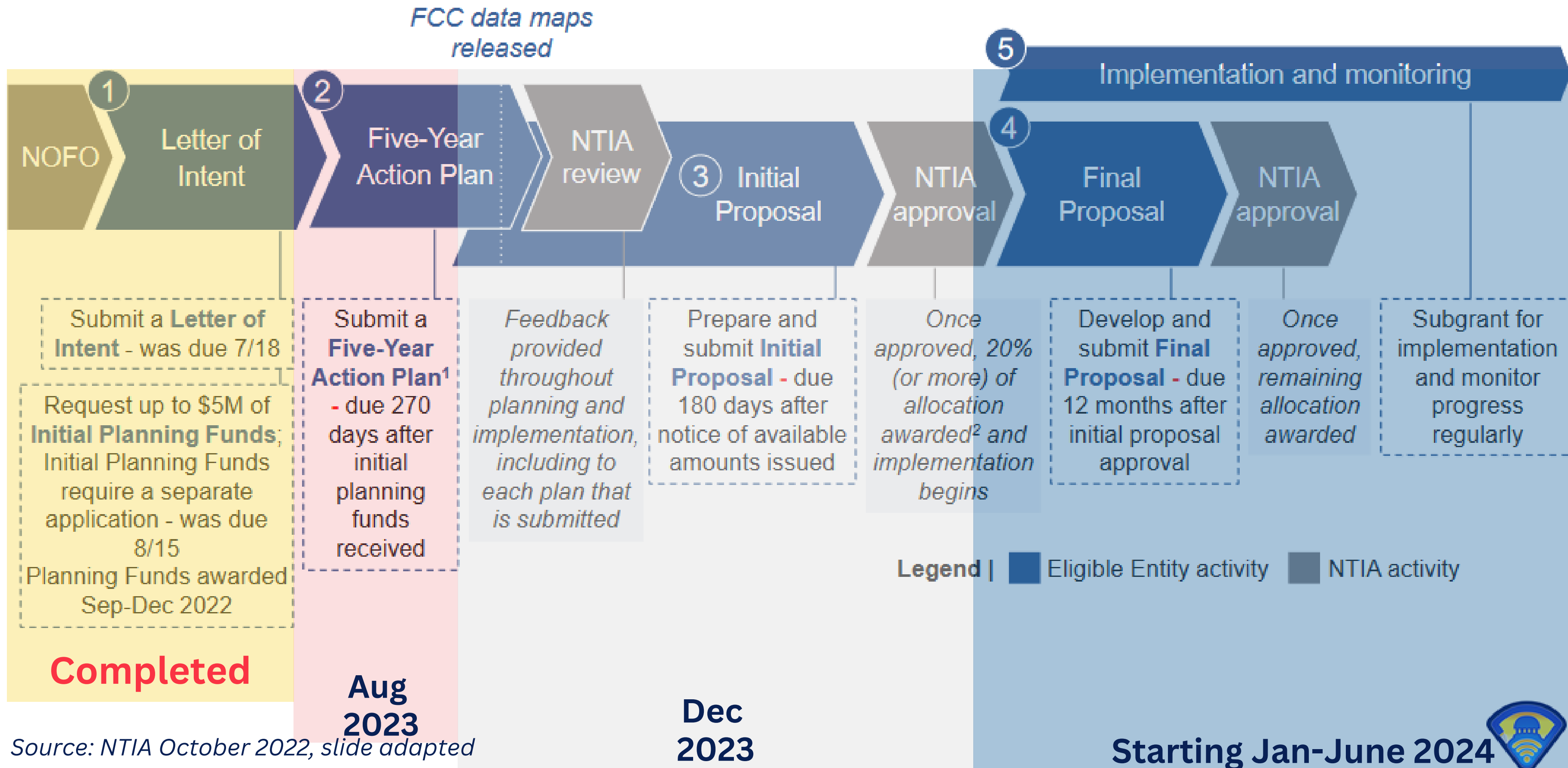
Timeline for BEAD



Source: NTIA October 2022, slide adapted



Timeline for BEAD American Samoa. Subject to change.



Source: NTIA October 2022, slide adapted



What is the

Digital Equity or DE program of the NTIA?

Funding pool
\$2.75B

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.

PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHTS

The Digital Equity Act created three programs:

State Planning

- \$60M formula funding program to develop digital equity plans

State Capacity

- \$1.44B formula funding program to implement plans & promote digital inclusion

Competitive

- \$1.25B to implement digital equity and inclusion activities

Example eligible uses of funds include:

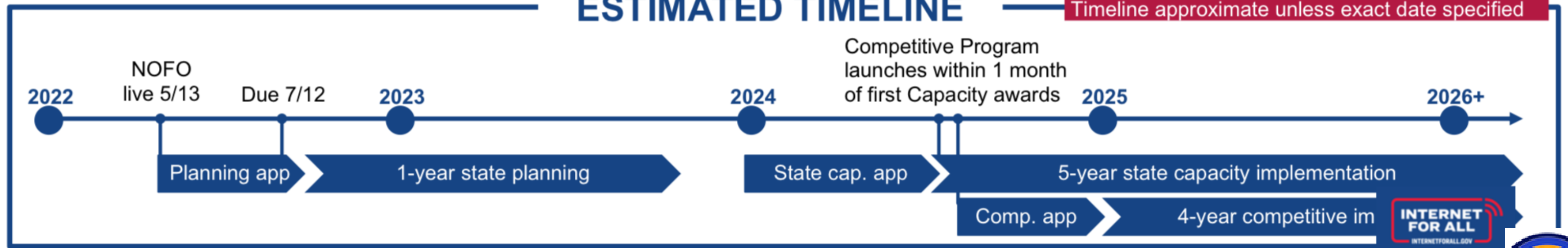
- ☆ Developing digital equity plans; states must develop a plan to be eligible for state capacity grants
- ☆ Implementing digital equity plans and related activities

- ☆ Making awards to other entities to help make digital equity plans
- ☆ Providing digital literacy and digital skills education

- ☆ Improving accessibility and inclusivity of public resources
- ☆ Facilitating the adoption of high-speed Internet

ESTIMATED TIMELINE

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified



Source: NTIA October 2022, slide adapted



Digital Equity Funding Overview:

Select Digital Equity programs details

Three federal grant programs

- 1 State Planning Program: A \$60M formula grant program for states, territories, and tribal governments to develop digital equity plans.
- 2 State Capacity 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.
Note: US territories other than Puerto Rico and Tribal / Native entities have separate funding allocations and different programmatic requirements for the State Planning and Capacity Programs
- 3 Competitive Program: A \$1.25 billion competitive grant program. It will fund an annual grant programs for five years to implement digital equity projects. Several types of entities can apply for these funds.



Today's office hours will focus on the Digital Equity or DE program from NTIA.

The DE program funding focuses on the lack of access to affordable and reliable high-speed internet for certain covered population groups:

Matching Requirement: **No matching required**

Target Groups:

1. Low-income households
2. Aging populations
3. Incarcerated individuals
4. Veterans
5. People with disabilities
6. People with language barriers
7. Racial and ethnic minorities
8. Rural inhabitants

Potential Projects:

1. Develop, implement and oversee digital equity plans
2. Sub-awards to help develop digital equity plans
3. Improve accessibility and inclusivity of public resources
4. Implement digital equity plans
5. Digital literacy and skills education to covered populations
6. Facilitate the adoption of high-speed internet by covered populations



DIGITAL EQUITY & AMERICAN SAMOA

Select Digital Equity programs details

Three federal grant programs

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Example eligible uses of funds

- 1 Develop, implement, and oversee digital equity plans
- 2 Make awards to other entities to help in developing digital equity plans
- 3 Improve the online accessibility and inclusivity of public resources
- 4 Implement digital equity plans and digital inclusion activities
- 5 Provide digital literacy and skills education to covered populations
- 6 Facilitate the adoption of high-speed Internet by covered populations

- Planning Funds \$150,000 awarded June 1, 2023 to:

- Develop the Territory Digital Equity Plan;
- Conduct data collection and analysis, digital inclusion asset mapping and stakeholder engagement;
- Staff recruitment and development

- Designed to be sub-granted to **ELIGIBLE ENTITIES**



Actions and Next Steps...6 months

- Submit 5 Year Action Plan and Digital Equity Plan - American Samoa is taking a complementary approach to create both our Digital Equity Plan and BEAD 5-Year Action Plan.
 - 5 YEAR ACTION PLAN - due August 1, 2023
 - DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN - due one year after grant award
- Submit allocations for Initial Proposal - due by December 2023
- Begin (estimated) acceptance of sub-grantees proposals - January 2024 (upon approval of Initial Proposal and complete of challenge process)
- Release (tentative) funding to sub-grantees:
 - BEAD: January - June 2024
 - Digital Equity: June 2024 - December 2024

Timeline subject to change.



Thank you

Michael McDonald
Assistant Director of Commerce

Jessie Faleafine
Program Assistant

Andrew Berquist
Territorial Broadband Coordinator



[www.doc.as.gov / broadband.as.gov](http://www.doc.as.gov/broadband.as.gov)



bcord@doc.as.gov



Pago Pago, American Samoa



She
Resource Development, LLC



BEAD

BROADBAND COORDINATION, OPPORTUNITIES, REDEVELOPMENT & DEPLOYMENT
AMERICAN SAMOA

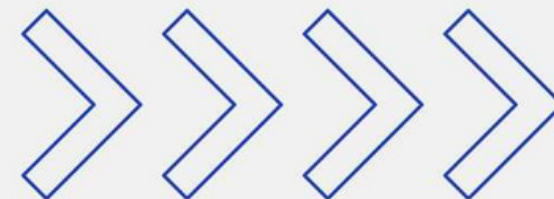
**QUESTIONS ABOUT BROADBAND
EQUITY, ACCESS, DEPLOYMENT (BEAD)
PROGRAM IN AMERICAN SAMOA?**

WEEKLY BEAD OFFICE HOURS

**Fridays 9am-10am
starting June 16**

**IN PERSON: DOC Conference Room
EOB Utulei 2nd Floor**

VIRTUAL: Register below



**JOIN VIA ZOOM @
Meeting ID: 894 0164 8989
Passcode: Upon Registration**

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