

WEEKLY BEAD OFFICE HOURS

STATE DIGITAL EQUITY GRANT PROGRAMS

American Samoa

office Hours #2

June 23, 2023

broadband.as.gov



Reminders and Housekeeping

- This is not a webinar but an opportunity to ask questions and discuss broadband related topics
- Upcoming Events:
 - ~~Friday, June 16th 9am- 10am - Office Hours~~
 - Friday, June 23rd 9am - 10am - Office Hours
 - Thursday, June 29th 11am - 12noon - TalaTek
 - Friday, June 30th 9am - 10am - Office Hours



TERRITORIAL BROADBAND COORDINATION, OPPORTUNITIES, REDEVELOPMENT & DEPLOYMENT OFFICE (BCORD) AMERICAN SAMOA

Michael McDonald
Assistant Director of Commerce

Andrew Berquist
Territorial Broadband Coordinator

Jessie Faleafine
Program Assistant



BROADBAND COORDINATION, OPPORTUNITIES, REDEVELOPMENT & DEPLOYMENT
AMERICAN SAMOA





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;

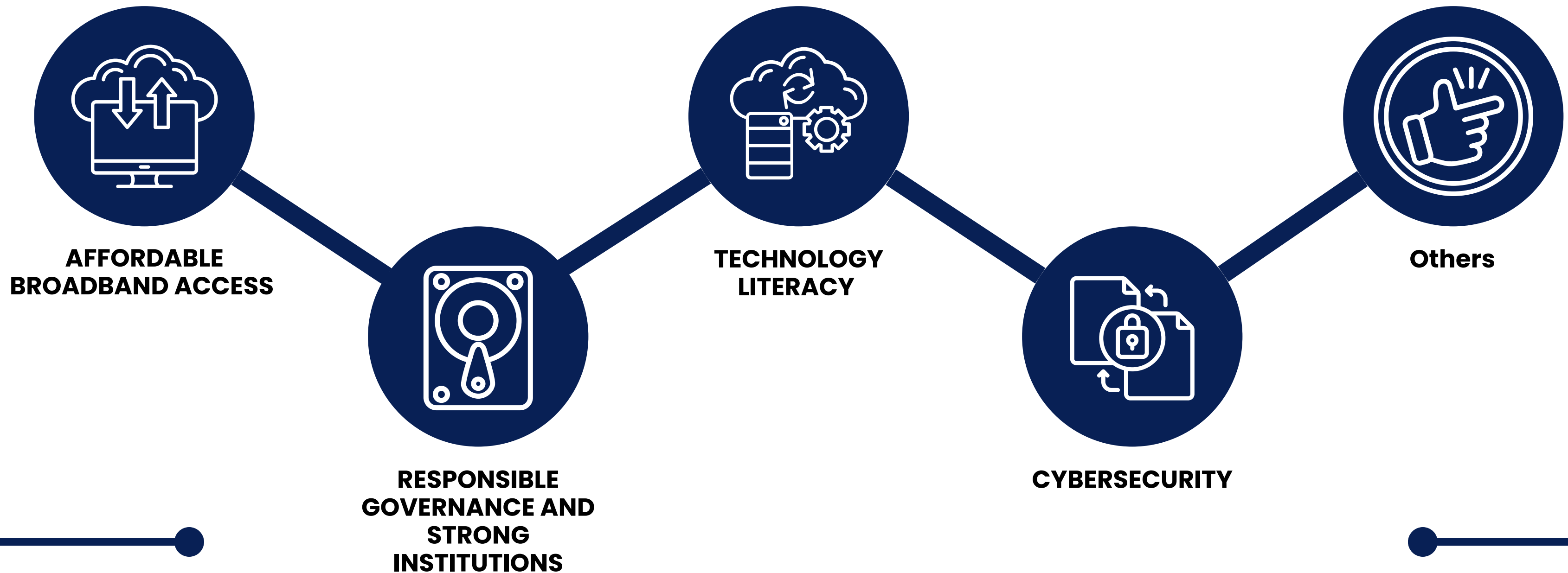
WHEREAS, broadband is vital to creating an inclusive infrastructure that addresses the needs of people with disabilities, the elderly, minors and the community as a whole;

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.



Current Projects

Supports 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.

Internet for All (BEAD, Digital Equity, etc.)

BroadbandiNEI ARPA

Innovation & Technology Campus

Research and Development

Cybersecurity



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

The BIL invests ~\$65B to ensure everyone in America has access to high-speed Internet 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



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.

- **"Eligible Entity"** refers to all 50 U.S. States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and other U.S. Territories (including the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands)
- **"Subgrantees"** are entities that receive grant funds from an Eligible Entity to carry out eligible activities – this includes traditional Internet service providers, electric co-ops, nonprofit orgs, public-private partnerships, public or private utilities, public utility districts, Tribal entities, or local govts

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

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

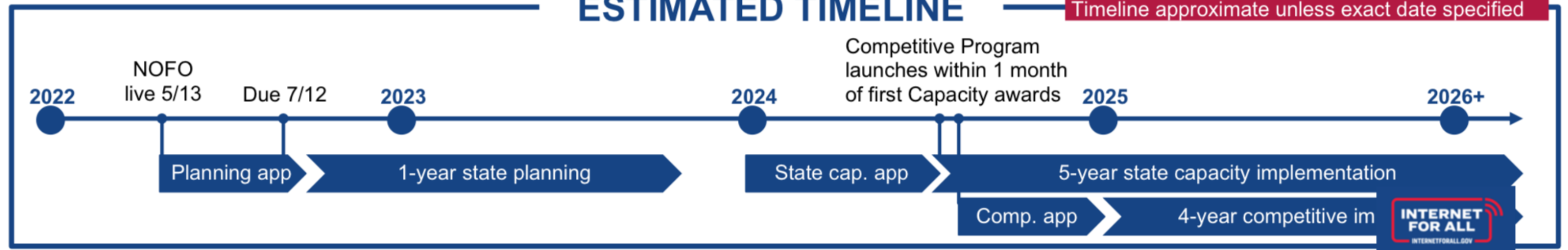
- \$1.25B to implement digital equity and inclusion activities

Example eligible uses of funds include:

- ☆ Developing digital equity plans; states must develop a plan to be eligible for state capacity grants
- ☆ Making awards to other entities to help make digital equity plans
- ☆ Improving accessibility and inclusivity of public resources
- ☆ Implementing digital equity plans and related activities
- ☆ Providing digital literacy and digital skills education
- ☆ Facilitating the adoption of high-speed Internet

ESTIMATED TIMELINE

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified



Source: NTIA October 2022, slide adapted

DIGITAL EQUITY & AMERICAN SAMOA

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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

- Final allocations to be determined (end of June 2023)

- Designed to be sub-granted to ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

Source: NTIA October 2022, slide adapted

DIGITAL EQUITY & AMERICAN SAMOA...next steps

- **American Samoa is taking a complementary approach to create both our Digital Equity Plan and BEAD 5-Year Action Plan.**
- Our advantage: we have the **American Samoa Territorial Broadband Strategy** that identified priorities through local engagement with various stakeholders
- **We are looking for a Digital Equity Coordinator!**
- **DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN** is due 1 year from the award date.
- Funding is designed to be sub-granted to **ELIGIBLE ENTITIES**
- Because it is a lot of money: tons of rules and regulations on how we have to set up a competition, a challenge process, and then award the funding to sub-grantees.
- Timeline: June 2024-December 2024 will be the likely timeframe for allocated projects to start, with competitive projects to follow after if the awards are secured.



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



Thank you

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



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