



Digital Equity Act



Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

- **Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD)**
- **Digital Equity Act (DEA)**

Other Programs

- Affordable Connectivity Program
- Tribal Broadband Connectivity
- Middle Mile Connectivity

Broad Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD)

Provides \$42.45 billion to expand high-speed internet access by funding planning, infrastructure deployment and adoption programs in all 50 states

Digital Equity Act (DEA)

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 Plans
are closely
linked to
requirements
for the BEAD
Program.

Singular, unified objective to close the digital divide

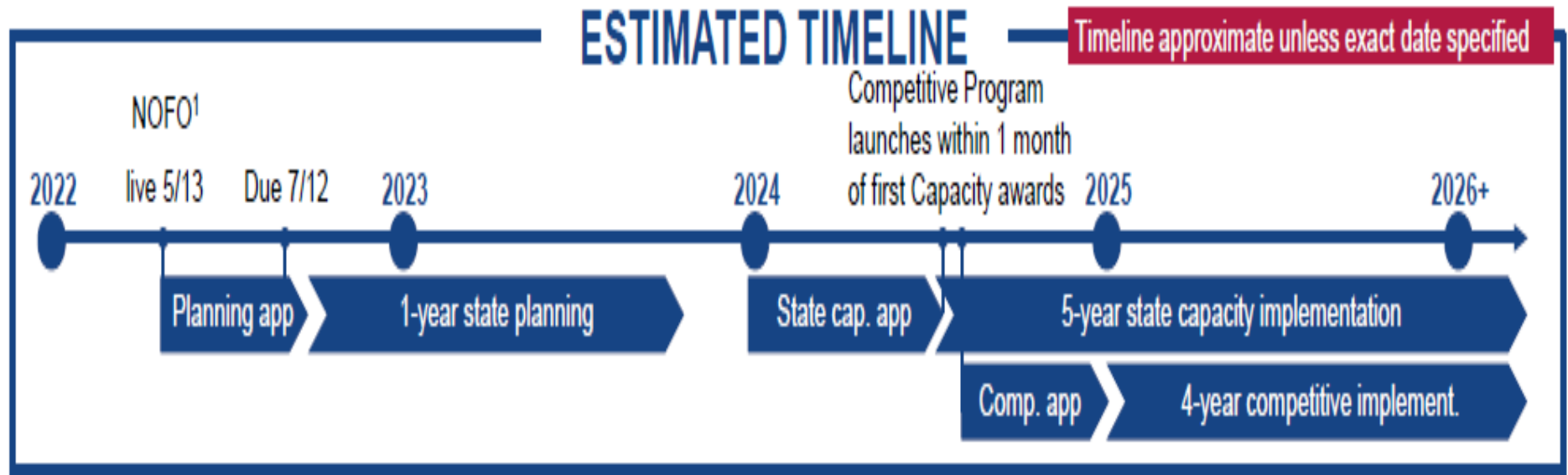
BEAD five-year plans should fully incorporate state Digital Equity Plans

Should ensure overlap between planning teams

BEAD and DEA proposals should be complementary and integrated

BEAD and DEA should both address Anchor Institutions

State Digital Equity Plans



Source: <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/>

Montana DEA Grant prepared by:
Montana Department of Administration, Broadband Program
<https://connectmt.mt.gov/>

DEA – Target Populations

Low-Income
Households

Aging
Populations

Veterans

People with
Disabilities

Rural
inhabitants

People with
Language
barriers

Racial and
ethnic
minorities

Incarcerated
individuals



Digital Equity Programs

- Digital inclusion activities (Digital literacy training, applications & content for disabled, technical support,)
- Facilitating adoption of broadband
- Workforce development
- Providing equipment and software for broadband services
- Constructing or upgrading public access computer centers
- Privacy & cybersecurity

State Equity Plan Components

- ID Barriers to digital equity
- Vision & measurable objectives
- Needs assessment, asset inventory, gaps
- Timeline – Implementation
- Coordination with BEAD funding



State Digital Equity Plan - Process

- How will state collaborate with key stakeholders (including anchor institutions....)
- Outreach strategy
- Coordination with municipal, regional and/or tribal digital plans
- Partnering with workforce organizations and institutions of higher learning

Leveraging Libraries for Digital Equity



Libraries have a track record of addressing digital equity



Libraries already serve target population for digital equity



Libraries are trusted institutions



Libraries have resources to build on for digital equity