



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PENNSYLVANIA BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AUTHORITY



House Bill 2071 introduced in November 2021



Act 96 signed into law December 22, 2021

Independent agency of DCED

Governed by an 11-member board





STATEWIDE PLAN

STATEWIDE BROADBAND PLAN



Four core challenges facing Pennsylvanians' ability to access or adopt broadband:

1. Broadband Service Infrastructure & Availability
 2. Digital Equity & Affordability
 3. Device & Technology Access
 4. Digital Literacy & Technical Support
- Plan Approved November 2022
 - Framework for BEAD 5-Year Action Plan and Statewide Digital Equity Plan



**INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT
AND JOBS ACT (IIJA)
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

IIJA FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) has three main programs to support broadband development

- **Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)**
- **Digital Equity Act**
- **Middle Mile Infrastructure**

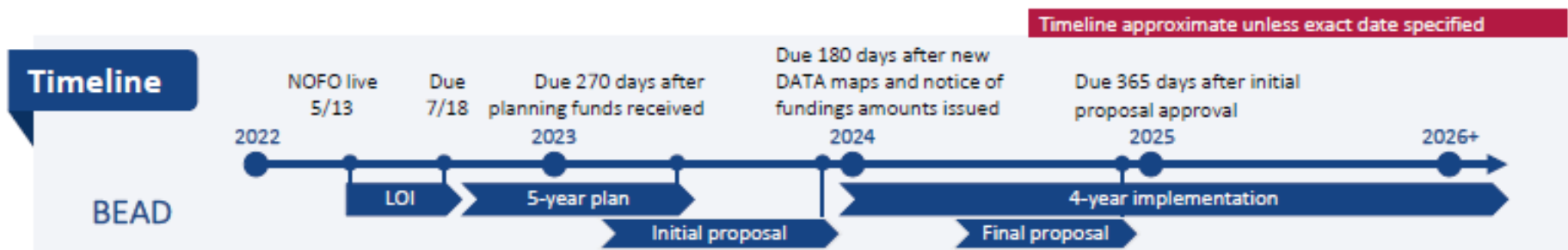


BROADBAND EQUITY, ACCESS, AND DEPLOYMENT (BEAD)

\$42.5B total for the program

- \$5M in planning funds to develop a 5-year action plan
- \$100M minimum guaranteed to PA
 - Remaining funds allocated based on updated FCC maps

Three-tiered priorities include 25/3, 100/20, and 1 gigabit for community anchor institutions



FCC NATIONAL BROADBAND MAP

- Depicts **broadband service availability** at the individual location
- Utilized to submit **location and availability challenges**
- Authority submitted over **50,000 challenges** in January
 - 17,250 challenges upheld thus far, approximately \$69 million in additional BEAD funds
- Ongoing challenge data collection
 - Launching templates for continued data collection in the coming months and years

DIGITAL EQUITY ACT

Three programs within the Act

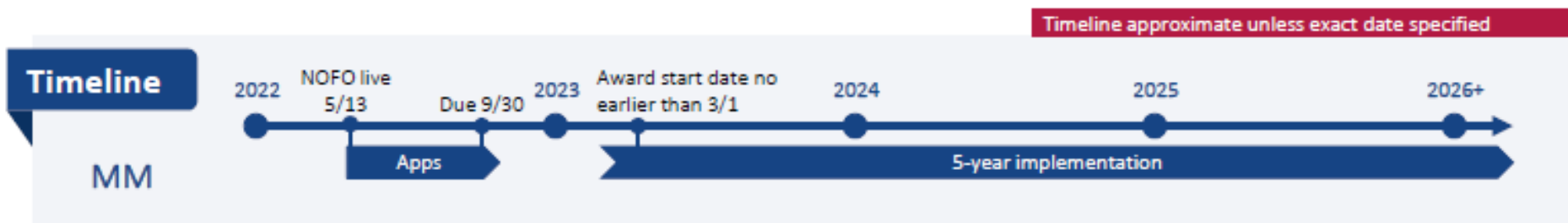
- \$60M formula for states to develop digital equity plan (Pennsylvania to receive \$1.6M in planning funds)
- \$1.44B formula grant for states to implement digital equity plan
- \$1.25B for a competitive program



MIDDLE MILE INFRASTRUCTURE

\$1B for the construction, improvement or acquisition of middle mile infrastructure

- Purpose is to expand and extend middle mile infrastructure to reduce the cost of connecting the unserved and underserved
- Competitive program – closed September 30th





CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

Commonwealth grant plans under review at U.S. Treasury

3 components:

1. \$200 million for the Pennsylvania Broadband Infrastructure Program
2. \$45 million for the Digital Anchor Institution Grant Program
3. \$20 million for the Digital Access and Opportunity Grant Program

BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

Eligible Applicants:

- Businesses
- Non-profit organizations
- Units of local government
- Economic development organizations

Eligible Projects:

- Extensions of existing last-mile infrastructure
- Large-scale regional projects that can transform broadband availability

BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

The minimum grant amount for any Project is **\$500,000**. The maximum grant amount cannot exceed **\$10 million**

Projects require a **25% share** of the total project cost in matching funds

Projects must achieve, or be part of a plan to achieve **universal broadband coverage** for the locality or region

Applicants must participate in the **Affordable Connectivity Program** and will be asked to describe and document digital equity efforts

BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

Key Dates:

- Grant guidelines posted – April 10th
- Program open – May 10th
- Applications due – July 10th
- Proposed project areas posted – July 24th
- Challenge window – July 24th through September 5th
- Final determinations posted – October 6th
- Awards announced – December (tentatively)

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

Programs Under Development:

- Digital Anchor Institution Grant Program
 - Facilities improvements for community anchor institutions
 - Soliciting for input on program guidelines
 - Anticipated to open Q3 2023

- Digital Access and Opportunity Grant Program
 - Device access programs
 - Anticipated to open Q4 of 2023



TIMELINE & NEXT STEPS

OVERVIEW & NEXT STEPS

April 2023 | Begin implementation of outreach & engagement plan

May 2023 | Open CPF BIP application window

July 2023 | CPF BIP applications due

August 2023 | BEAD 5-Year Action Plan complete

October 2023 | State Digital Equity Plan complete

2024 to 2027 | Project deployments and implementation

Questions?