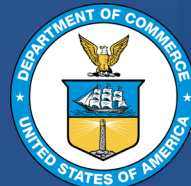




Updates on Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD)



Introduction to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is a once-in-a-generation investment in infrastructure and competitiveness.

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

- \$1.2T bill passed by Congress and signed into law by President Biden on November 15, 2021
- Largest ever investments in high-speed Internet, rail and transit, clean energy, and water
- Allocated funding to over 350 distinct programs across more than a dozen federal departments and agencies

This historic legislation will:

- Deliver clean water to all families and eliminate the nation's lead service lines
- **Ensure every American has access to affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet service**
- Repair and rebuild roads and bridges
- Improve transportation options and reduce greenhouse emissions
- Upgrade our nation's airports and ports to strengthen our supply chains
- Make the largest investment in passenger rail since Amtrak's creation
- Build a national network of electric vehicle chargers
- Upgrade power infrastructure to deliver clean, reliable energy
- Make infrastructure resilient against the impacts of climate change, cyber-attacks, and extreme weather events
- Deliver the largest investment in tackling legacy pollution in US history

Please see [Build.gov](https://www.build.gov) for more details on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

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)

BIL NTIA Broadband Programs

NTIA will administer ~\$48B through four programs that drive high-speed Internet access, affordability, and adoption.

NTIA will administer ~\$48B of funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

**FCC to administer
\$14.2B**
For Affordable Connectivity Program, which replaced the EBB program

**USDA to administer
\$2.0B**
Via the Rural Utilities Service

**Private Activity Bonds
\$0.6B**
Authorizes State and local governments to use private activity bonds for rural broadband

| BEAD | DIGITAL EQUITY | TRIBAL | MIDDLE MILE |
|--|---|--|---|
| <p>\$42.45B</p> <p>Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment Program</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>\$2.75B</p> <p>Digital Equity Act</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>\$2.00B</p> <p>Tribal Connectivity Technical Amendments</p> <p>A program to help tribal communities expand high-speed Internet access and adoption on tribal lands.</p> | <p>\$1.00B</p> <p>Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure</p> <p>A program to expand middle mile infrastructure, to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas.</p> |



BEAD

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:

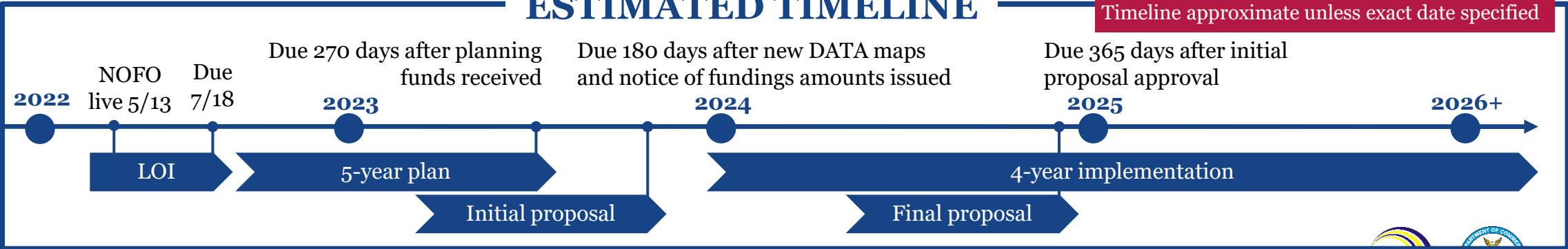
- All 50 States
- The District of Columbia and Puerto Rico
- Other Territories: U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

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



Goals of the BEAD Program

BEAD helps deliver high-speed Internet access, affordability, and adoption.



Increases access for unserved and underserved households to ensure that all Americans have access to high-speed Internet service



Ensures Americans have access to **high-quality, high-speed Internet service** to support full participation in the 21st century economy and beyond



Supports **affordability** of high-speed Internet services, esp. in low-income households



Fosters a system that **promotes long-term, sustainable, affordable solutions**



Enables investment in digital skills training to increase the number of households adopting high-speed Internet service and narrow adoption disparities



Makes investments to ensure Americans can **participate in economy & society, reducing inequities** across sectors, including healthcare, workforce & education

BEAD Funding Allocation

Funding is initially based on a minimum allocation with additional funding allocations based on high-cost and unserved areas.



New FCC Broadband DATA Maps will be utilized

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will publish new broadband coverage maps (Broadband DATA Maps)

The Broadband DATA Maps will be used to determine state/territory's total funding allocation



Eligible Entities receive a minimum allocation once proposals are approved

Minimum allocations by entity after proposal approval:

- **\$100M** for each State, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico
- **\$25M** for American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands



Additional allocation based on unserved locations

Additional allocation is based on the number of **unserved locations in high-cost areas** in the state/territory and the **number of unserved locations** in the state/territory, plus the **high-cost allocation** (dependent on forthcoming definition by NTIA)

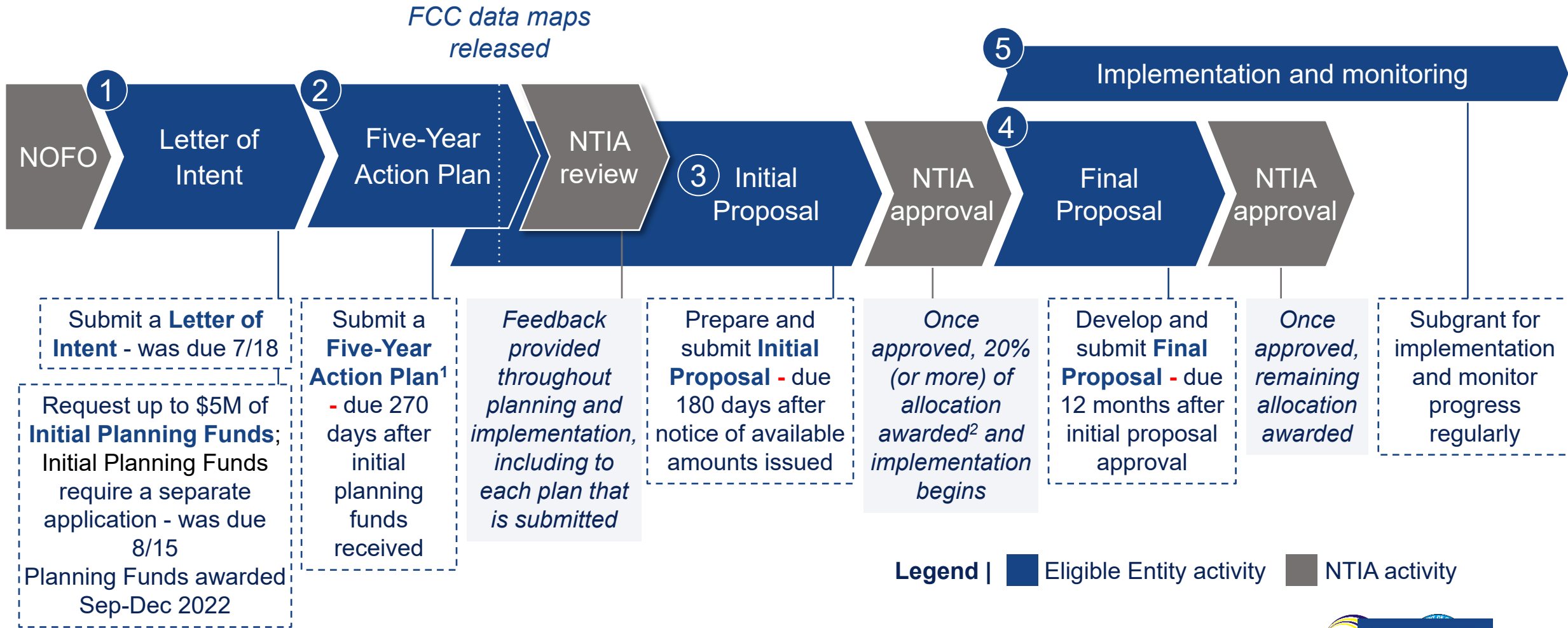
Ensuring Complete Coverage

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

Eligible Entity application includes five key steps



1. Required for entities that receive initial planning funds 2. Must be used for projects in areas with >80% unserved locations or high poverty areas
 Note: funding amounts inclusive of all administrative set-asides



Ways for Local Governments to get involved in BEAD

NTIA encourages local government units get involved in BEAD and collaborate with their State/Territory Broadband Offices to ensure all voices and opinions are heard and incorporated.



Share your State's Current and Future Needs

Share current state and future needs of local broadband availability, infrastructure deployment challenges, and any local regulations which may impact infrastructure deployment.



Advocate for your state's vulnerable communities

Advocate for vulnerable communities to ensure their specific needs are accounted for and addressed.



Apply to Be a Subgrantee

Apply to be a **subgrantee**, if eligible, as defined in the BEAD NOFO. You can apply through your **State/Territory Broadband Office**. Subgrantees may use BEAD funds for both **deployment and non-deployment related activities**.



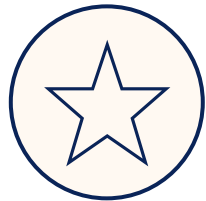
Connect and Collaborate with your State/Territory Broadband Office

Reach out to your **State/Territory Broadband Office** to get involved with the planning process and stay involved over time.

Introduction to BEAD Challenge Process

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.

What is the BEAD Challenge Process and How Does it Differ from the FCC Challenge Process?



The FCC is collecting data from Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and **creating a map to identify unserved locations**. This map will be used as a starting point during the **BEAD challenge process** to identify unserved locations, underserved locations, and CAIs eligible for BEAD funding.

FCC CHALLENGE PROCESS



The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) maintains **new broadband coverage maps** (Broadband DATA Maps) using data collected from Internet Service Providers (ISPs). The FCC accepts challenges on a continuous basis with challenges allowed to both the locations (or fabric) and availability data.



NTIA will use the FCC's Broadband DATA Maps to **determine how much BEAD funding is provided per state or territory**.

BEAD CHALLENGE PROCESS



States and Territories will develop a challenge process for stakeholders to **challenge whether a location or CAI is served, unserved, or underserved**. The BEAD **timelines will be determined by each state/territory** but must comply with NTIA requirements. NTIA requires that the entire challenge process be completed within 90 days per the Policy Notice.



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



The Role of States/Territories and NTIA

NTIA and States and Territories will work together to design a BEAD Challenge Process, but only the States and Territories will run the Challenge Process.



NTIA's Role

- ✓ NTIA will **approve and/or send required modifications to states and territories** about their BEAD Challenge process design
- ✗ NTIA will **NOT run the BEAD Challenge process**
- ✓ NTIA will **validate the results of the BEAD Challenge process**



States' and Territories' Role

- ✓ States and territories will **design and get approval of their BEAD Challenge process**
- ✓ States and territories will **run the BEAD Challenge process**
- ✓ States and territories will **send the results of the BEAD Challenge process to NTIA** for approval
- ✓ States and territories will **run their subgrantee selection process.**

The Role of Eligible Challengers

Eligible Challengers are: **(1) Units of local government**, (2) relevant non-profits, 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



What Happens After the Challenge Process?

After the BEAD Challenge Process is completed, Eligible Entities send the final determinations of each unserved location, underserved location, and CAIs to NTIA for approval.

WHAT WILL STATES BE DOING?

- After resolving each challenge and at least 60 days before allocating grant funds for network deployment, the state/territory **must provide public notice of the final classification** of each:
 - Unserved location
 - Underserved location
 - Eligible Community Anchor Institution within the jurisdiction of the state/territory
- States and Territories must also **notify NTIA of any modifications to the Initial Proposal** that are necessitated by successful challenges to its initial determinations.

WHAT SHOULD CHALLENGERS BE DOING?

- Eligible Challengers should pay attention to their State/Territory Broadband Office and **be on the lookout for the public notice of final classification.**
- Once Eligible Entities have provided public notice of their final classifications, challengers should **review the published data.**
- This list will be used for the next step in allocating BEAD funds, the **subgrantee selection process.**

WHAT IF I'M NOT A CHALLENGER?

Contact your local government units, non-profits, and eligible broadband service providers.

Local Government Involvement in the BEAD Challenge Process

There are many ways for local governments to stay involved throughout the process and ensure their communities are served.



Participate in the Challenge Process

Local governments are **one of three eligible challengers**, in addition to non-profits and Internet Service Providers (ISPs), who can participate in the BEAD Challenge process. This is the opportunity for local government units to impact where BEAD funding is directed within their state/territory. Local governments are **encouraged to participate in the BEAD Challenge Process** by submitting challenges to their State/Territory Broadband Office's BEAD Challenge Process.



Participate in the Public Comment Period

Your state/territory broadband office (SBO) will design and implement the BEAD Challenge Process. **Participate in your SBO's Public Comment period** on their Challenge Process and contact them for more information on how to get involved. For contact information visit the IF contact map at <https://www.internetforall.gov/interactive-map>



Represent Individuals

If individuals want to submit a challenge, they must do so by contacting an eligible challenger to submit on their behalf. A **local government could aggregate such challenges and submit these** on the individuals' behalf.



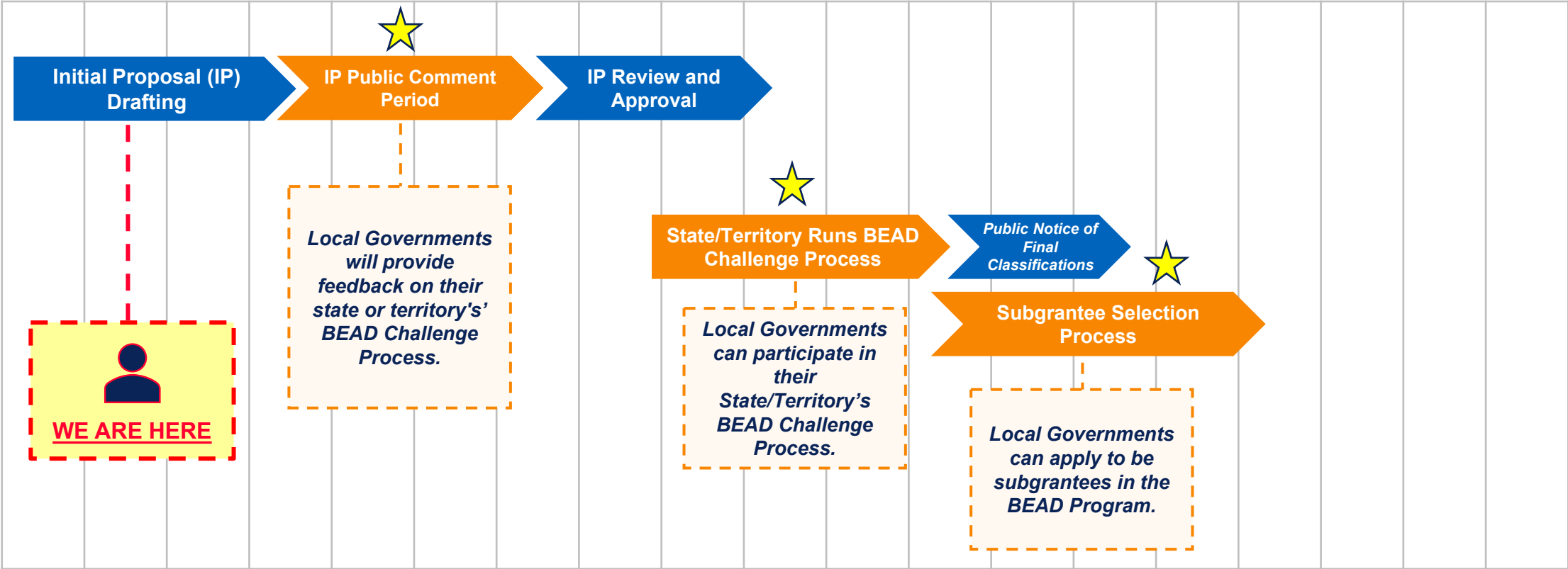
Learn

Register for the Challenge Process Webinar

Local governments can **register for the NTIA Challenge Process public webinar** for more information (date TBD).

Timeline of the Initial Proposal for BEAD

Local Governments are involved throughout the entire Initial Proposal timeline, as they will provide public comment on the BEAD Challenge Process and participate in it as well. Note that timelines will be dependent on the Eligible Entity.



Key | ■ State/Territory/SBO Activity ■ Local Government/Organization Activity

Action Items

Local Governments should follow the following action items to ensure they are staying up to date and involved in the process.

- 1 Assemble a Team**
 - Figure out what skills you need on your team to be successful
 - Identify people to join your team
 - Select a team member to lead your high-speed Internet project
- 2 Determine Your Priorities**
 - Understand the basic concepts behind high-speed Internet access and use
 - Engage a wide and diverse range of stakeholder groups to identify barriers to meaningful high-speed Internet access and/or adoption
 - Identify ways in which your plan can address those barriers
- 3 Explore the Data**
 - Explore data sources that provide insight into what high-speed Internet access looks like in your community
 - Learn how to measure your community's current Internet usage and access
- 4 Build Relationships for Success**
 - Consider certain types of partnerships that are often involved in the planning process
 - Identify partners to engage throughout planning and project implementation
 - Your coalition should be representative of all those that you serve
- 5 Select the Right Solutions**
 - Evaluate options to execute your plan, including technologies or programs
 - Explore funding options available to support the plan execution
- 6 Prepare a Budget**
 - Detail the expenses that your high-speed Internet plan will include
 - Consider various cost options and provide justification for each cost that you select
- 7 Chart a Path Forward**
 - Develop a project plan to guide execution of your high-speed Internet plan



THANK YOU

