ABOUT NDIA

A unified voice for home and public broadband, personal devices, and local technology training and support programs.

600+ Affiliates  46 States
ABOUT NDIA

Practitioner Support
Policy
Awareness
Data & Research
AGENDA

- OVERVIEW OF IIJA
- DIGITAL EQUITY ACT (DEA)
- BROADBAND EQUITY, ACCESS, DEPLOYMENT (BEAD)
- AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM (ACP)
- Q&A
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: $65 Billion

- Digital Equity Act-$2.75B
- Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment Program-$42.5B
- Affordable Connectivity Program-$14.2B
- Tribal Connectivity Program-$2B
- Middle Mile Connectivity-$1B
- Digital Discrimination section
DIGITAL EQUITY ACT
DEFINITIONS IN DEA

Digital Inclusion
leads to digital resilience

Digital Inclusion
It is the act of bridging the digital divide by ensuring that all individuals and communities have access to digital tools and technology and the skills to use them effectively.

DIGITAL EQUITY
Individuals and communities have the capacity for full participation in society, democracy, and the economy.
THE DIGITAL EQUITY ACT

State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program

Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program
THE DIGITAL EQUITY ACT CONT.

- Planning Grants
- Capacity Grants
$1.5 BILLION (TOTAL)

- $60M: State Planning Grants
- $1.44B: State Capacity Grants
STATE DIGITAL EQUITY CAPACITY GRANT PROGRAM

**Total Allocated:** $1.5 Billion (60m planning grants + 1.44b capacity grants)

- Capacity Grants: 50% population; 25% covered member population; 25% adoption + availability

**Program Administrator:** National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)

**Eligible Administering Entities:**

- The State, a political subdivision of the State, an Indian Tribe, a Native Hawaiian organization.
- A foundation, corporation, institution, association, or coalition that is— (i) a not-for-profit entity; (ii) providing services in the State; and (iii) not a school.
- A community anchor institution, other than a school
- A local educational agency.
- An entity that carries out a workforce development program.
- An agency of the State that is responsible for administering or supervising adult education and literacy activities in the State.
- A public or multi-family housing authority.
- A partnership between any of the preceding entities.

**Eligible Subgrantees:** Other eligible administering entities
COVERED POPULATIONS

- individuals who live in covered households (i.e., households with income less than or equal to 150 percent of federal poverty level);
- aging individuals;
- incarcerated individuals, other than individuals who are incarcerated in a Federal correctional facility;
- veterans;
- individuals with disabilities;
- individuals with a language barrier, including individuals who—
  - are English learners; and
  - have low levels of literacy;
- individuals who are members of a racial or ethnic minority group; and
- individuals who primarily reside in a rural area.
STATE DIGITAL EQUITY CAPACITY GRANT PROGRAM

State Digital Equity Plan

- Identification of barriers to digital equity for covered populations
- Measurable objectives for documenting and promoting digital inclusion activities
- Assessment how objectives will impact and interact with the State’s other objectives (i.e. economic development, health outcomes, etc.)
- Description of State’s plan to collaborate with key stakeholders
- List of organizations State collaborated with on developing and implementing plan
DEA TIMELINE

State Digital Equity Capacity Program

1. Request for Comments-Soon
2. Notice of Funding Opportunity-180 days after IIJA
3. Application Window-60 days
4. Planning Grant Award
5. Plan Development-12 months
6. Capacity Grants-After Planning
DIGITAL EQUITY COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM

Total Allocated: $1.25 Billion ($250m per FY for 5 FYs)

Program Administrator: National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)

Eligible Grantees:

- A political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of a State, including an agency of a State that is responsible for administering or supervising adult education and literacy activities, or for providing public housing
- An Indian Tribe, an Alaska Native entity, or a Native Hawaiian organization.
- A foundation, corporation, institution, or association that is a not-for-profit entity and not a school.
- A community anchor institution.
- A local educational agency.
- An entity that carries out a workforce development program.
- A partnership between any of the preceding entities.
- A partnership between any of the preceding entities and an entity that the Assistant Secretary determines to be in the public interest; and is not a school. (Cannot be or have been an administering entity under the Capacity Grant Program)

Eligible Subgrantees: N/A
DIGITAL EQUITY COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM CONT.

Use of Funds: An entity shall use the grant amounts to support not less than 1 of the following activities:

- To develop and implement digital inclusion activities that benefit covered populations.
- To facilitate the adoption of broadband by covered populations in order to provide educational and employment opportunities to those populations.
- To implement (I) training programs for covered populations that cover basic, advanced, and applied skills; or (II) other workforce development programs.
- To make available equipment, instrumentation, networking capability, hardware and software, or digital network technology for broadband services to covered populations at low or no cost.
- To construct, upgrade, expend, or operate new or existing public access computing centers for covered populations through community anchor institutions.
Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program

1. Request for Comments-Soon
2. Not later than 30 days after capacity grants go out, and not before, the Assistant Secretary shall establish Competitive Grant Program
3. Notice of Funding Opportunity-TBD
4. Eligible grantees must submit an application at such time as the Assistant Secretary may require
BROADBAND EQUITY, ACCESS AND DEPLOYMENT PROGRAM
BROADBAND EQUITY, ACCESS AND DEPLOYMENT PROGRAM (BEAD)

Program Description: Block grant program to states for broadband infrastructure deployment and other digital inclusion activities.

Program Administrator: National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)

Total Allocated: $42.42 Billion

(100m minimum; 4.245b → #Usvd in HCAs / Total #Usvd in HCAs; remaining → #Usvd / Total #Usvd)

Eligible Grantees: States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands

Eligible Subgrantees: Cooperatives, nonprofit organizations, public-private partnerships, private companies, public or private utilities, public utility districts, or local governments. (Not exhaustive - can potentially include other groups)
Use of Funds:

● Broadband infrastructure deployment
● Connecting eligible community anchor institutions
● Data collection, broadband mapping, and planning
● Installing internet and Wi-Fi infrastructure or providing reduced-cost broadband within a multi-family residential building
● Broadband adoption, including programs to provide affordable internet-capable devices
DIGITAL INCLUSION IN BEAD

- States can use BEAD funds to:
  - Deploy affordable networks in low-income, multi-family buildings
  - Promote broadband adoption
- Grant recipients (ISPs) must offer a ‘low-cost’ or affordable plan for consumers.
BEAD TIMELINE

Expected Timeline

1. Request for Comments-Soon
2. Notice of Funding Opportunity-180 days after IIJA
   a. States submit letters of intent
3. NTIA Releases Planning Funds
4. 5 Year Action Plan (from States)
5. Broadband DATA Maps (from FCC)
6. Initial Proposal (from States)
   a. 20% of Funds
7. Final Proposal (from States)
   a. Remaining Funds
AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM
EBB to ACP

**Program Description:** Continuation/transition of the EBB

**Program Administrator:** Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

**Total Allocated:** $14.2 Billion

- Name change: Affordable Connectivity Program
- Reduced monthly rate, $30/month
- All plans mandated to be eligible for ACP
- Eligibility changes: adds WIC, increases FPL to 200% from 135%
Other Notable EBB to ACP Changes and Rules

- 60 day grace period
- Drops two eligibility categories:
  - Substantial loss of income,
  - Participating in ISP COVID emergency plan
- No credit checks
- ISPs must have Public Awareness Campaigns
- FCC Outreach Efforts
- FCC will establish new rules to protect consumers
THANK YOU!
digitalinclusion.org | @netinclusion