



## **FAQ from [Webinar](#) with Katie Smith, Broadband Director – The Florida Strategic Plan for Broadband: An Update from DEO Office of Broadband**

### *Contact Information for DEO:*

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*Q: How does the state mapping initiative correlate to the federal mapping initiative? Can the state map integrate "provider" data?*

- We are working with the FCC now and trying to determine how we can share data with them and have that reciprocated.

*Q: Is there a deadline to get our residents to do the speed test?*

- It is ongoing we do not plan on taking the speed test down. We plan on updating the GIS map with additional information. We have put out requests for our service providers for some of their data to be added, we are working in that direction.

*Q: Does the office see an additional need for addressing speed?*

- There is a lot of focus on the map as it is an easy resource to see where opportunities lie. We cannot move forward with all of this money coming our way and not actively be updating the map and trying to get more data.

*Q: How will deficiencies in middle mile infrastructure be identified? Will this be a part of the statewide mapping initiative?*

- That is something we are working on and will need to be followed up on. Conversations with service providers, communities, residents, schools, and industry sector leaders are vital to identify everything.

*Q: Will the 50% match be required for RAO designated counties?*

- That question has come up internally and is still being discussed. Based on what is in statute, there is a 50% match requirement. That may come up during our rule workshops.

*Q: Is there admin funding to help a county broaden the scope of outreach? How do we get this funding? Or are there further resources counties can apply for to assist in their assessments?*

- We certainly have community planning technical assistance grants to be used for planning. There are also further programs at DEO that could help with that. As for utilizing funding within the office, I do not have answer for that yet, but it will be considered with leadership. All input is welcome.

*Q: Counties will be able to submit locally collected resident & business survey results in addition to DEO-collected information in order to show community involvement, correct?*

- Absolutely- even survey results are sufficient, we do not need to see the survey itself.

*Q: How do you get the message out there for people to take the speed test?*

- A part of the marketing plan is billboards, radio ads, commercials on TV, local news stations, social media platforms, gamers, ads on google, and newspapers. It varies per community so you may only see some of it.

*Q: Can you expand on when the NOFO's will be released for BOP, CPF and BEAD?*

- Right now, they are working on the rule for BOP and it will be released close to the rulemaking workshops (Three: North, Central, and South). We want your participation and feedback.

*Q: What would be the next step after a county submits their SWOC analysis?*

- It is really important to keep moving forward and identify the strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and opportunities for your project. It is important for LTPT's to use the toolkit to guide and start conversations to build and identify where project areas are. The SWOC analysis is a good resource to identify where challenges are and can also identify unserved and underserved areas. Every single sector is going to have a different opinion of who is served and who is not served. Any information is welcomed to be shared with the office.

*Q: Will applications accompanied by an endorsement from a LTPT be given extra points in the review process?*

- That is to be determined. Involvement with LTPTs will be the starting place.

*Q: Will carriers be able to directly apply for funding, or are they included through an LTPT?*

- Carriers can absolutely apply for funding, but you must be able to show a public-private investment in the partnership and there must be community engagement. Any applicant must have to show community engagement. The idea is for people to work together so we are not duplicating project areas.

*Q: What date is the deadline for the providers to report to FCC?*

- The deadline will be September 1, 2022. The FCC is working on collecting on information and then there will be a challenge process. According to NTIA, BEAD grants will not begin moving until federal maps are completed.

*Q: Is there a process for a county to send their GIS data to the state?*

- Absolutely, you can send it to the Broadband Office (Katie Smith or Sean Lewis- Contact information provided above) and they will make sure to share with their mapping team for that data to be included.

*Q: If mapping and testing can substantiate and validate unserved and underserved areas, then what necessitates additional layers like asset inventory & SWOT?*

- Your maps are just a snapshot in time. The speed test does not tell us how fast you will be paying for internet services. There can also be provider issues but there are many reasons why people may not take the speed test. A broader picture of a county or community's broadband infrastructure is the goal. Multiple sources should be used.

*Q: Does a completed SWOC secure funding?*

- SWOC is just part of securing the funding. It will not solely determine funding; it is part of the conversation to guide where your projects will be.

*Q: Will Counties receive copies of all of the speed test data for their jurisdictions?*

- Yes, contact DEO's Office of Broadband and they will send to their mapping team to receive your jurisdiction.

*Q: As a local official, how do I help advance through the planning stage and transition into the action phase beyond participation in LTPT's?*

- It will vary community by community. Once you get through that planning phase, have conversations, and finish your SWOC analysis you will have a much better idea of what is happening. Some counties have put out procurements to find a vendor that would mesh well with what they think the county will need. Overall, readiness will be vital to address time constraints for funding.

*Q: In the speed test is there a distinction between cell and wired speeds?*

- Absolutely, it will tell us what type of connection it is. But that information will help you as an LTPT or community to find what technology is available. This may be a good conversation to have in your LTPTs.

*Q: Can multiple applications be submitted from the county by different applicants? How will the \$5 million cap be applied?*

- It depends on the project itself. Each project will be defined by the project's area. There is nothing at this point that says a county (or service provider) cannot submit multiple applications.