2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION

June 27 – 30, 2023 • Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek • Orange County

BUILDING FLORIDA'S FUTURE

HOME RULE

SOLUTIONS

I ❤ MY HOMETOWN

ADVOCATE

COLLABORATE

SUPPORT OUR VETERANS

67 STRONG

FOR THE PEOPLE

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#FLCounties

Broadband Deployment Workshop Return of the Summit

Lakeisha Hood

State Director for Florida
and Virgin Islands

United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development

Carlos Nathan

Federal Program Officer, Florida

National Telecommunications Information Administration

US Department of Commerce

Katie Smith

Director, Florida Office of Broadband

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (formerly)

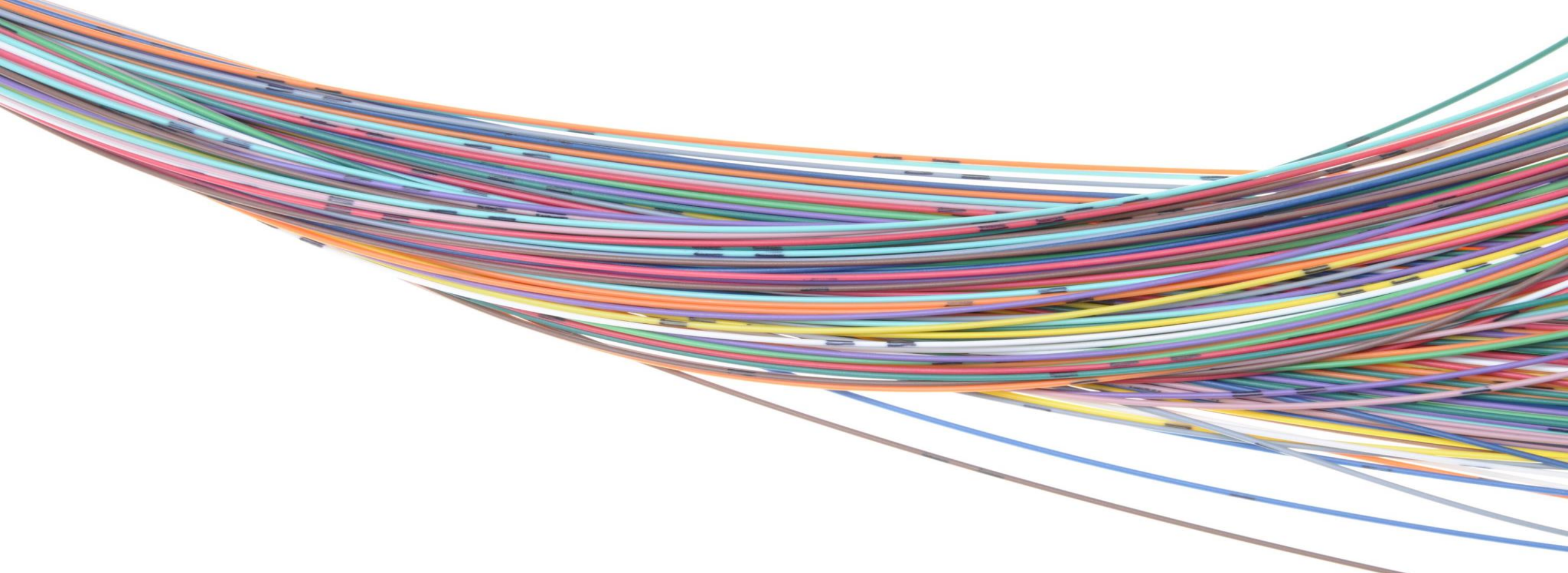Florida Department of Commerce

Kyle Holley

Community Development Liaison

Santa Rosa County Grants and
Special Projects

LTPT Lead Santa Rosa County

Together, America Prospers: USDA Rural Development Telecommunications Updates

USDA Rural Development
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Presented by Lakeisha Hood Moise, State Director for Florida & the U.S. Virgin Islands

About Rural Development

Mission: To increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for all rural Americans

- More than **seventy loan and grant programs** that create opportunities in housing, business, and infrastructure
- Operates **three agencies** to provide access to capital for business development, infrastructure, and housing in rural communities of 50,000 or less:
  - Rural Business-Cooperative Service
  - Rural Housing Service
  - **Rural Utilities Service**

Rural Utilities Services (RUS)

USDA's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) provides much-needed infrastructure or infrastructure improvements to rural communities. These include water and waste treatment, electric power and telecommunications services. All of these services help to expand economic opportunities and improve the quality of life for rural residents.

Rural Utilities Service Telecom Programs

- **Broadband Technical Assistance***

- **Community Connect Grants***

- Distance Learning and Telemedicine

- **ReConnect Program**

- **Rural Broadband Loans, Loan/Grant Combinations, and Loan Guarantees (Farm Bill Broadband Program)**

Broadband Technical Assistance

- Provides financial assistance through cooperative agreements to eligible entities to receive or deliver broadband technical assistance and training & supports the development and expansion of broadband cooperatives

- $20 million is available for funding under the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA).
  - ➢ Up to $7.5 million is available for **Technical Assistance Providers**. The minimum award amount is $50,000 and the maximum award amount is $1,000,000.
  - ➢ Up to $7.5 million is available for **Technical Assistance Recipients**. The minimum award amount is $50,000 and the maximum award amount is $250,000.
  - ➢ Up to $5 million is available for **Projects Supporting Cooperatives**. The minimum award amount is $50,000 and the maximum award amount is $1,000,000

Broadband Technical Assistance: Eligibility

- Federally recognized Tribes and Tribal Entities

- States or local governments, including any agency, subdivision, instrumentality, or political subdivision thereof

- U.S. Territories

- An institution of higher education (including 1862 Land-Grant Institutions, 1890 Land Grant Institutions, 1994 Land-Grant Institutions, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities

- Non-profit organizations with 501(c)(3) IRS status

- Cooperatives or mutual organizations

- Corporations

- Limited Liability Companies or Limited Liability Partnerships

Broadband Technical Assistance: Allowable Use of Funds

Must be used to support broadband **technical assistance activities** that support high-speed internet expansion into rural areas and may include, but are not limited to

- project planning
- community engagement
- operations
- financial sustainability
- environmental compliance
- construction and engineering advisement
- accessing federal resources
- data collection and reporting

Community Connect Grants

- Helps rural communities extend access where broadband service is least likely to be commercially available

- Supports construction of broadband networks that provide service on a community-oriented connectivity basis in rural areas that lack any existing broadband speed of at least 10 Mbps downstream and 1 Mbps upstream

- Eligible applicants:
  - ✓Incorporated organizations
  - ✓Federally-recognized Tribes
  - ✓State and local units of government
  - ✓Any other legal entity, including cooperatives, private corporations, or limited liability companies organized on a for-profit or not-for-profit basis

Community Connect Grants

- Funds may be used for:
  - ✓The construction, acquisition, or leasing of facilities, spectrum, land or buildings used to deploy broadband service for all residential and business customers located within the Proposed Funded Service Area and all participating essential community facilities
  - ✓The cost of providing broadband service free of charge to the essential community facilities for 2 years
- Up to 10 percent of the grant may be used for the improvement, expansion, construction, or acquisition of a community center that provides online access to the public

Community Connect Program:
At-a-Glance

More than

$160 Million Awarded

Since FY 2013

More than

80 Grants Funded

Since FY 2013

Assisting over

100K Rural Residents

Since FY 2013

ReConnect Loan and Grant Program

ReConnect provides loans, grants, and loan-grant combinations to bring high-speed internet to rural areas that lack sufficient access to broadband.

ReConnect funds can be used to fund the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service.

Eligible applicants can be either for- or nonprofit organizations

ReConnect Loan and Grant Program
Round Four Funding Announcement – Arkansas

- **Ozark Telephone Company: Loan/Grant Combination for $26,726,208**
  - Deploy a fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) network to provide high-speed internet for 6,917 people, 171 businesses, 188 farms & six educational facilities in Benton County in Arkansas & McDonald County in Missouri.

  - Additionally, OZTC will support customers' transition to its new service offering by crediting the difference between the new service rate and the customer's existing service rate for a full 12-month transition period, as well as offer free installation of FTTP technology to all residential customers in the service area.

ReConnect Loan and Grant Program
Round Four Funding Announcements – Arkansas

Decatur Telephone Company Inc, $30,422,497 ReConnect Loan

- Deploy a fiber-to-the-premises network to provide high-speed to 5,444 people, 74 businesses, 257 farms & four educational facilities in Benton County in Arkansas.

ReConnect Loan and Grant Program
Round Four Funding Announcement – Georgia

- **Pembroke Telephone Company Inc., $9,472,875 ReConnect Grant**

  - Deploy a fiber-to-the-premises network to provide high-speed internet to 3,332 people, 55 businesses, 120 farms and four educational facilities in Candler, Evans and Tattnall counties in Georgia.

ReConnect Loan and Grant Program
Round Four Funding Announcement – Kentucky

- **Peoples Rural Telephone Cooperative Corporation Inc., $18,815,588 ReConnect Loan and Grant Combination**
  - Deploy a fiber-to-the-premises network to provide high-speed to 2,462 people, 32 businesses and 72 farms in Breathitt and Lee counties in Kentucky.
- **Duo County Telephone Cooperative, $24,963,158 ReConnect Grant**
  - Deploy a fiber-to-the-premises network to provide high-speed internet to 897 people, eight businesses and 121 farms in Cumberland County, Kentucky.
  - Duo County Telephone Cooperative Corporation Inc. will offer an additional discount on its standard residential broadband pricing of 20 percent for those customers in the service areas that qualify for Lifeline or ACP.

ReConnect Loan and Grant Program
Round Four Funding Announcement – South Carolina

Home Telephone Company Inc., $6,207,808 ReConnect Grant

- Deploy a fiber-to-the-premises network to provide high-speed internet to 3,901 people, 49 businesses, 46 farms and two educational facilities in Berkeley County, South Carolina.

ReConnect Loan & Grant Programs
Round Four Funding Announcement - Tennessee

DeKalb Telephone Cooperative Inc., $1,586,520 ReConnect Grant

- Deploy a fiber-to-the-premises network to provide high-speed internet to 787 people, nine businesses and 56 farms in Rutherford, Wilson and Cannon counties in Tennessee.

- DeKalb Telephone Cooperative Inc. (DTC) will offer a significant monthly discount to its first-year customers living anywhere in its service territory. The offer has no data caps, and the discount pricing applies to the first 12 months of service, including equipment and installation fees.

Rural Broadband Program (Farm Bill)

- Also known as the Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program

- Established in the Farm Bill

- H.R. 4374, the Broadband Internet Connections for Rural America Act or BICRAA

- "Foundation for the broadband subtitle in the 2023 Farm Bill"

- Stakeholder testimony about the importance of USDA broadband programs

- Discussion of policy ideas, including minimum eligibility requirements, buildout speed requirements, workforce and supply chain issues, broadband mapping and agency coordination, as well as precision agriculture programs

Contact Us

Assistance under USDA Rural Development programs is available to applicants in areas designated as "rural." Under law, the definition of "rural area" is different for each program.

Contact the **Florida USDA Rural Development office** for more information.

Call (352) 338-3400 or go to: www.rd.usda.gov/fl-vi
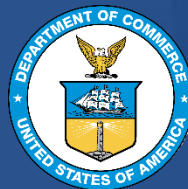
Follow the RDFlorida and Virgin IslandsOffice on Twitter

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

BIL NTIA Broadband Programs

INTERNET FOR ALL

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

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

BEAD

$42.45B

Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment Program

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.

DIGITAL EQUITY

$2.75B

Digital Equity Act

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.

TRIBAL

$2.00B

Tribal Connectivity Technical Amendments

A program to help tribal communities expand high-speed Internet access and adoption on tribal lands.

MIDDLE MILE

$1.00B

Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure

A program to expand middle mile infrastructure, to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas.

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 Program

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

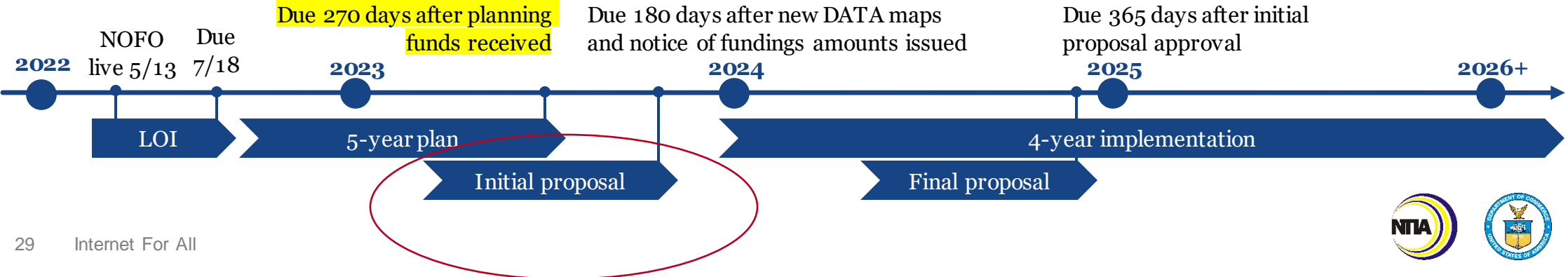### Entities eligible to apply for this program include:

- 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

==Due 270 days after planning funds received==

Due 180 days after new DATA maps and notice of fundings amounts issued

Due 365 days after initial proposal approval

2022 NOFO live 5/13 Due 7/18 **2023** **2024** **2025** **2026+**

LOI → 5-year plan →

Initial proposal →

Final proposal →

4-year implementation

NTIA

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.

Digital Equity Programs

Digital Equity Act created three programs to promote digital equity and inclusion.

Funding pool $2.75B

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 service to meet their needs and improve their lives.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Digital Equity Act created three programs:

State Planning
- $60M formula funding program to develop digital equity plans

State Capacity
- $1.44B formula funding program to implement plans & promote digital inclusion
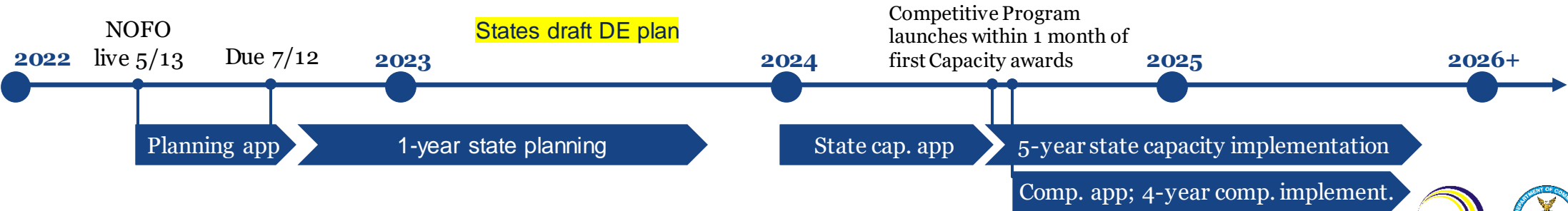
Competitive
- $1.25B to implement digital equity and inclusion activities

Example eligible uses of funds by program include:

☆ Developing digital equity plans; states must develop a plan to be eligible for state capacity grants

☆ Making awards to other entities to help make digital equity plans

☆ Improving accessibility and inclusivity of public resources

☆ Implementing digital equity plans and related activities

☆ Providing digital literacy and digital skills education

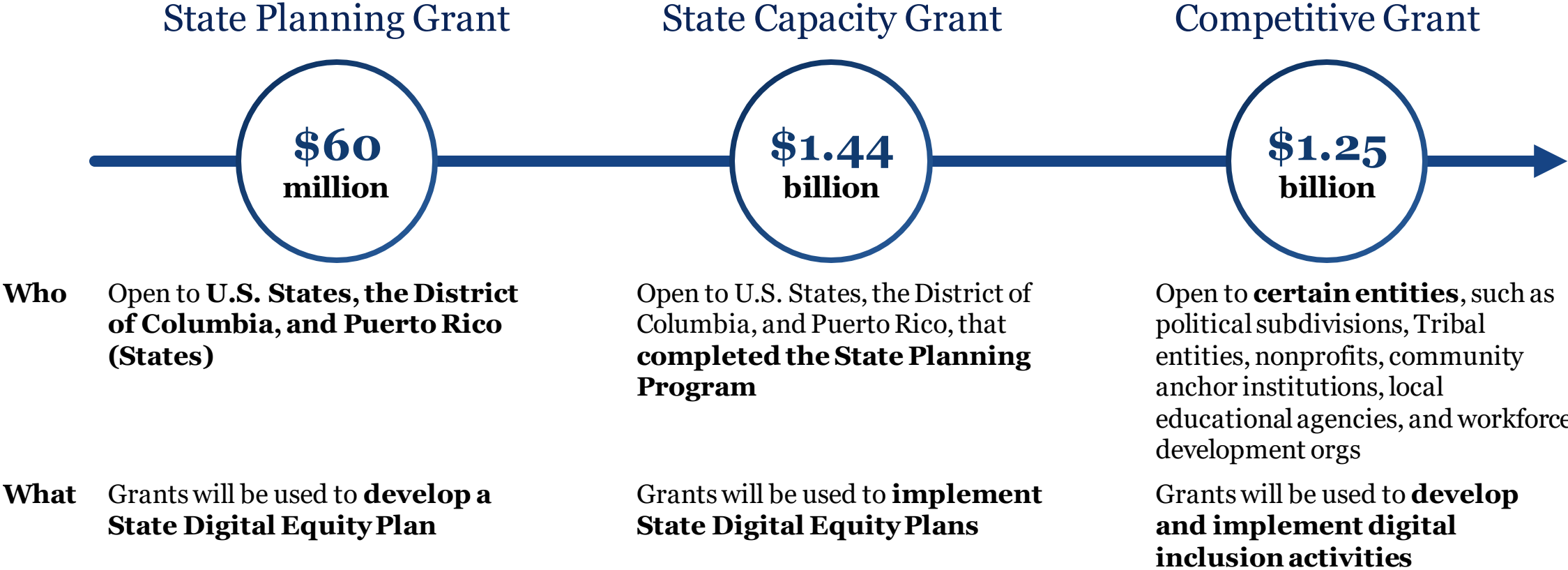☆ Facilitating the adoption of high-speed Internet service

ESTIMATED TIMELINE

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified

States draft DE plan

Competitive Program launches within 1 month of first Capacity awards

2022 — NOFO live 5/13 — Due 7/12 — **2023** — **2024** — **2025** — **2026+**

Planning app → 1-year state planning

State cap. app → 5-year state capacity implementation

Comp. app; 4-year comp. implement.

Digital Equity Grant Programs

There are two state formula grant programs, which are separate but connected, and a third competitive grant program.

State Planning Grant	State Capacity Grant	Competitive Grant
$60 million	**$1.44 billion**	**$1.25 billion**

Who

Open to **U.S. States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico (States)**

Open to U.S. States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, that **completed the State Planning Program**

Open to **certain entities**, such as political subdivisions, Tribal entities, nonprofits, community anchor institutions, local educational agencies, and workforce development orgs

What

Grants will be used to **develop a State Digital Equity Plan**

Grants will be used to **implement State Digital Equity Plans**

Grants will be used to **develop and implement digital inclusion activities**

Covered Populations

The Digital Equity Act focuses on addressing the needs of "covered populations" as defined by the statute.

Covered Populations
Identity groups and communities disproportionally impacted by digital inequity

⭐ Low-income households

⭐ People with disabilities

⭐ Aging populations

⭐ People with language barriers

⭐ Incarcerated individuals

⭐ Racial and ethnic minorities

⭐ Veterans

⭐ Rural inhabitants

Ways for Local Governments to get involved in DE

NTIA emphasizes that localities and groups representing historically excluded communities can and must make their voices heard to ensure that longstanding equity gaps are addressed to advance digital equity.

Specialized Knowledge

Share **specialized local insights on adoption and affordability** into Digital Equity Action (DEA) plans, the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) highlights that it is required of states to include local digital equity plans.

Subgrantees

Apply to be a **subgrantee** soon, if eligible, as defined in the NOFO. Localities can apply through their State/Territory Broadband Office. Subgrantees must use their funds to **assist in the development of the State Digital Equity Plan**.

Connect and Collaborate with your State/Territory Broadband Office

Reach out to your **State/Territory Broadband Office** to collaborate during the planning process, as states must include local digital equity plans. Find contact information by visiting the IFA contact map at https://www.internetforall.gov/interactive-map.

Mapping Update

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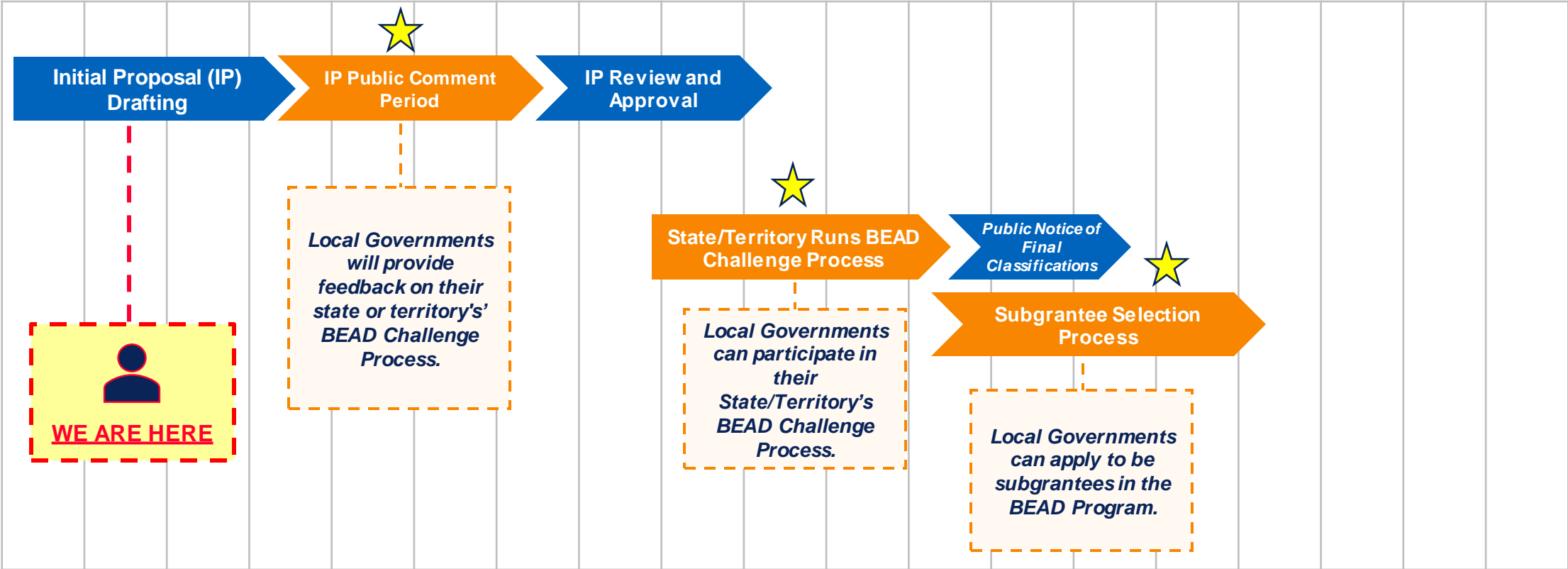
This will **determine the locations and community anchor institutions within each jurisdiction that are eligible for BEAD funding**.

Timeline of BEAD Initial Proposal & Challenge Process

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

Initial Proposal (IP) Drafting → **IP Public Comment Period** → **IP Review and Approval**

WE ARE HERE

Local Governments will provide feedback on their state or territory's' BEAD Challenge Process.

State/Territory Runs BEAD Challenge Process → **Public Notice of Final Classifications**

Subgrantee Selection Process

Local Governments can participate in their State/Territory's BEAD Challenge Process.

Local Governments can apply to be subgrantees in the BEAD Program.

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

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.

Engage

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.

Engage

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

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).

Additional Resources

Use the below existing resources that can support your office in achieving the Initial Proposal requirements in a timely manner. You can also view your state/territory's progress by visiting internetforall.gov/interactive-map.

Policy Notice
Detailed Instructions
Provides detailed information and instructions regarding the BEAD State Challenge Process.

BEAD NOFO
Reference Document
Information about the Initial Proposal and the Challenge Process can be found in the BEAD NOFO, Section IV.B.5 and Section IV.B.6

FCC Broadband DATA Maps
Maps
Maps created by the FCC that NTIA uses the results from to determine how much BEAD funding is provided per state or territory.

BEAD FAQs
Reference Document
Collection of Frequently Asked Questions that provide insight and additional context into the Initial Proposal and the Challenge Process.

FCC Broadband DATA Collection Help Center
Help Center
Provides additional information and answers questions regarding the FCC Broadband DATA Maps and its collection process.

BEAD 201
Webinar
A more detailed and in-depth look into the BEAD Program and its requirements.

Carlos Nathan, Federal Program Officer:

cnathan@ntia.gov

For more information, please visit our websites or contact us at:

InternetForAll.gov for additional information on federal funding programs (InternetForAll@ntia.gov)

BroadbandUSA.ntia.doc.gov for technical assistance and grant program information (BroadbandUSA@ntia.doc.gov)

The Florida Office of Broadband: Federal Funding Opportunities

Katie Smith, Director
Florida Office of Broadband

June 29, 2023

FLORIDA OFFICE OF BROADBAND

Established: July 1, 2020, at the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity

Statutory Authority: Sections 288.9961, 288.9962, and 288.9963, F.S.

The Office of Broadband is responsible for:

- Developing, marketing, and promoting broadband Internet services in the state.

- Creating a strategic plan to increase the use of broadband Internet services in the state.

- Reviewing and verifying public input regarding transmission speeds and availability of broadband Internet services throughout the state.

- Building and facilitating Local Technology Planning Teams (LTPT) or partnerships.

- Participating in the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) proceedings that are related to the geographic availability and deployment of broadband Internet in Florida.

- Establishing the Broadband Opportunity Program and rulemaking for the program to award grants to applicants who seek to expand broadband to unserved areas.

- Developing a map of broadband Internet service availability throughout the state.

BROADBAND OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

The Broadband Opportunity Program is a competitive grant program within the Office of Broadband created to expand broadband Internet service to unserved areas of this state. The Program was created and is governed by section 288.9962, F.S.; and the Florida Legislature appropriated $400 million in federally funded State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF).

Additional guidance may be found in Chapter 73C-50, Florida Administrative Code Amendments to Coronavirus SLFRF Requirements 87 Federal Regulation 4338, and Coronavirus SLFRF Requirements Title 31 CFR Part 35.

Round 1 Application Window: November 2, 2022, through December 9, 2022.

Period of Performance: All funds must be expended by December 31, 2026.

Purpose: To build last mile infrastructure providing connectivity directly to the end user.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

BROADBAND OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

Earlier this year, Governor DeSantis announced the following awards:

- In February totaling more than $144 million for 58 projects in 41 Florida counties

- In April totaling more than $22 million for eight projects across eight Florida counties

- In May totaling $60 million for 22 projects in 19 Florida counties

$133 million available for funding in Round 2 Application Window

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

BROADBAND OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

Section 288.9962(6), F.S. and Chapter 73C-50.005, F.A.C. outline the Broadband Opportunity Program application challenge process.

The purpose of the challenge process is to improve accountability in deployment of public funds by preventing funds from being allocated to areas where Internet Service Providers (ISPs) are already offering service or plan to provide such service within the timeframe of the contested application(s).

The Broadband Opportunity Program Challenge Process Guide can be used to assist with the challenge process.

Round 2 Application Window: May 10, 2023, through July 14, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. EST.

Challenge Window: July 19, 2023, through September 1, 2023.

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

The Capital Projects Fund (CPF) was established in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021. ARPA appropriated $10 billion to provide payments to states to "carry out capital improvement projects". Florida was allocated **$366,036,869**.

Period of Performance: All funds must be expended by December 31, 2026.

For a Capital Project to be eligible to utilize Capital Projects Fund grant funds, it must meet all the following criteria:

- The Project invests in capital assets designed to directly enable work, education, <u>and</u> health monitoring.

- The Project is designed to address a critical need that resulted from, was made apparent, or exacerbated by the pandemic.

- The Project is designed to address a critical need of the community to be served by it.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

The Office established three programs to use funds from the CPF to deploy broadband Internet infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas throughout the state, prioritizing rural areas.

- **Broadband Infrastructure Program**
  - 70 percent of the total CPF allocation totaling $247.8 million
  - The application window was open from February 28, 2023, through April 21, 2023

- **Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program**
  - 25 percent of the CPF allocation totaling $87 million
  - The application window will open July 5, 2023, through October 5, 2023.

- **Digital Connectivity Technology Program**
  - 5 percent of the total CPF allocation totaling $13 million
  - This funding has not yet been awarded to the DEO.

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

The **Broadband Infrastructure Program:**

- Provides funds to eligible communities for the purpose of the expansion and improvement of broadband Internet infrastructure, ensuring broadband Internet minimum speeds of 100/20 Mbps scalable, to at least 100/100 Mbps.

- The primary objective of the Broadband Infrastructure Program is to expand last mile access to homes in communities throughout the state of Florida.

- The Open Comment Period was April 7, 2023, through April 28, 2023. The three-week Open Comment Period provided an opportunity for the Office to receive public comment on the applications submitted for the Capital Projects Fund - Broadband Infrastructure Program.

- Awards are expected to be announced in the next few weeks.

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

The **Multi-Purpose Community Facility Program** will be a 90-day application window.

Provides funding for the construction of or improvements to buildings designed to jointly and directly enable work, education, and health monitoring, located in eligible communities with an identified critical need for the project.

All projects must provide:
- A location from which job seekers can search for and apply for jobs, take continuing education classes, or receive training in digital skills, resume writing, and how to interview for a position and other skills.
- A public location for access to digital devices for educational opportunities, such as digital literacy classes or other online learning experiences. Other educational services may include high school equivalency programs, classes offered by accredited colleges, or vocational training.
- A location that includes private areas where citizens can access their telehealth appointments or meet with healthcare providers.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

DIGITAL EQUITY PLANNING GRANT (DEPG)

Digital Equity: The condition in which individuals and communities have the information technology capacity necessary for full participation in society and the economy within the state and strategies for overcoming them.

In November 2022, the DEO's Office of Broadband was **awarded $2,407,223.57 by the NTIA**.

This funding provides the state with the resources to fully research and create a plan to reduce or eliminate these barriers through a data-driven Digital Equity plan (or Florida Digital Adoption and Use Plan), aligning with the Florida Strategic Plan for Broadband, and the BEAD 5-Year Action Plan.

PROSPERITY THROUGH A CONNECTED FLORIDA

The Office of Broadband submitted the **Prosperity Through a Connected Florida** project proposal in August 2022. In November 2022, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) awarded the Office **$5 million** for the Five-Year Action Plan.

Prosperity Through a Connected Florida will identify Florida's broadband Internet availability and affordability, incorporate the Florida Digital Adoption and Use Plan, Florida Strategic Plan for Broadband and serve as a benchmark for adopting strategies, goals, and measures to successfully connect all Floridians.

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DIGITAL EQUITY PLANNING MEETINGS

The Office is hosting six (6) in-person meetings and three (3) webinars to identify and address concerns related broadband availability and accessibility.

Date: Wednesday, June 28, 2023
Time: 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. EST
Location: Bradenton, FL

Date: Friday, June 30, 2023
Time: 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. EST
Location: Jacksonville, FL

Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023
Time: 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. EST
Location: Perry, FL

Date: Friday, July 7, 2023
Time: 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. EST
Location: Port St. Joe, FL

Date: Monday, July 10, 2023
Time: 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. EST
Location: Naples, FL

Date: Tuesday, July 11, 2023
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EST
Location: Miami, FL

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LINKS TO IMPORTANT RESOURCES

The Florida Office of Broadband website (www.FloridaJobs.org/Broadband)

hosts the following resources:

- The Florida Strategic Plan for Broadband.

- The Faster Florida Broadband Map.

- Florida's Broadband Availability Map and Internet Speed Test.

- Local Technology Planning Teams Broadband Planning Toolkit.

- State and federal broadband funding opportunities.

Link to Strategic Plan
- https://FloridaJobs.org/docs/default-source/Community-Planning-Development

Link to Florida Statute 2288.9961, Promotion of broadband adoption; Florida Office of Broadband
- https://www.flsenate.gov/laws/statutes/2021/288.9961

Link to the Broadband Opportunity Program Page
- https://www.FloridaJobs.org/Community-Planning-and-Development

BROADBAND EQUITY, ACCESS AND DEPLOYMENT (BEAD)

The Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program was established in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021. The BEAD Program is overseen by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

On June 26, 2023, the NTIA announced Florida's BEAD allocation: **$1,169,947,392.70.**

Period of Performance: All funds must be expended by December 2029**.**

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Thank You

If you have questions about this presentation or need to discuss a future project, please contact our office.

www.FloridaJobs.org/Broadband

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Florida Office of Broadband
Email: **Broadband@DEO.MyFlorida.com**

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SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA
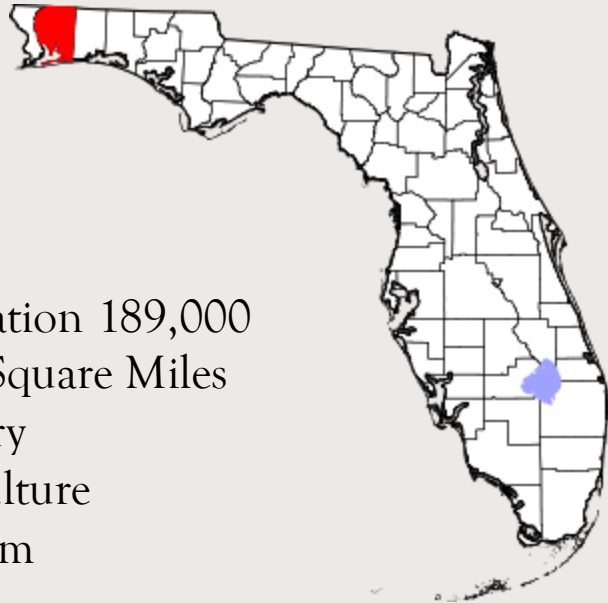
Population 189,000
1,174 Square Miles
Military
Agriculture
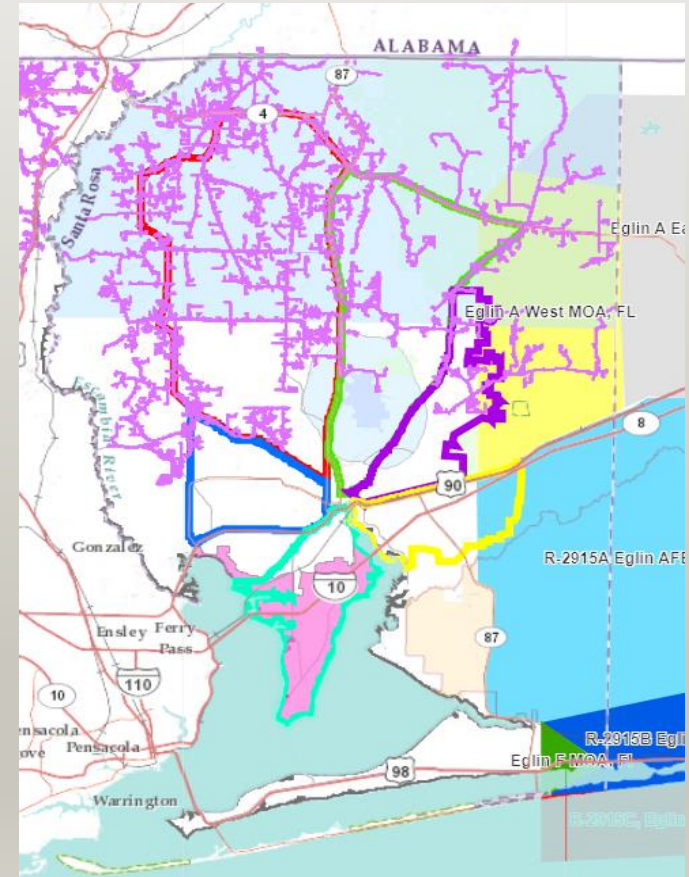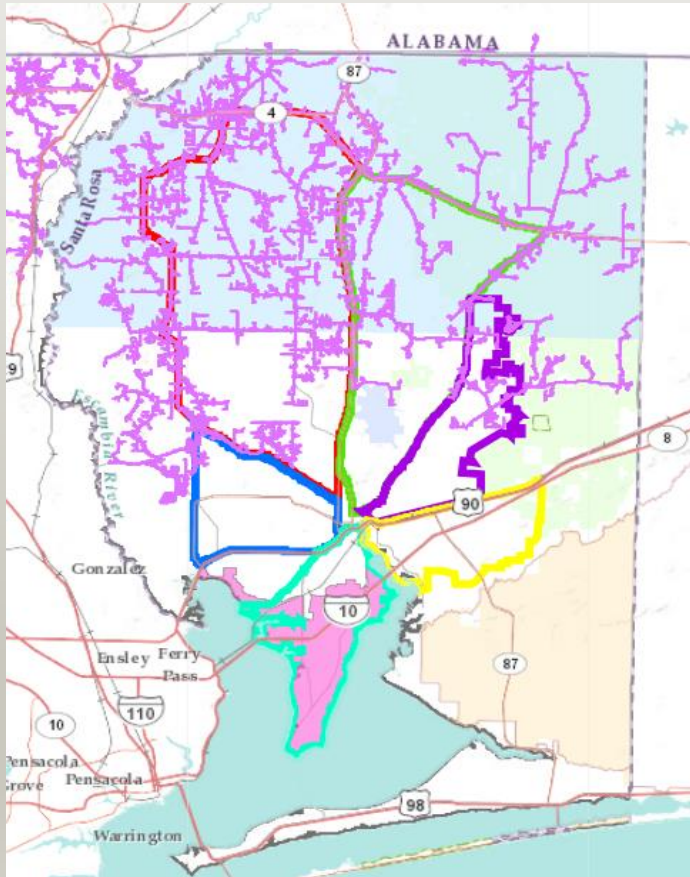Tourism
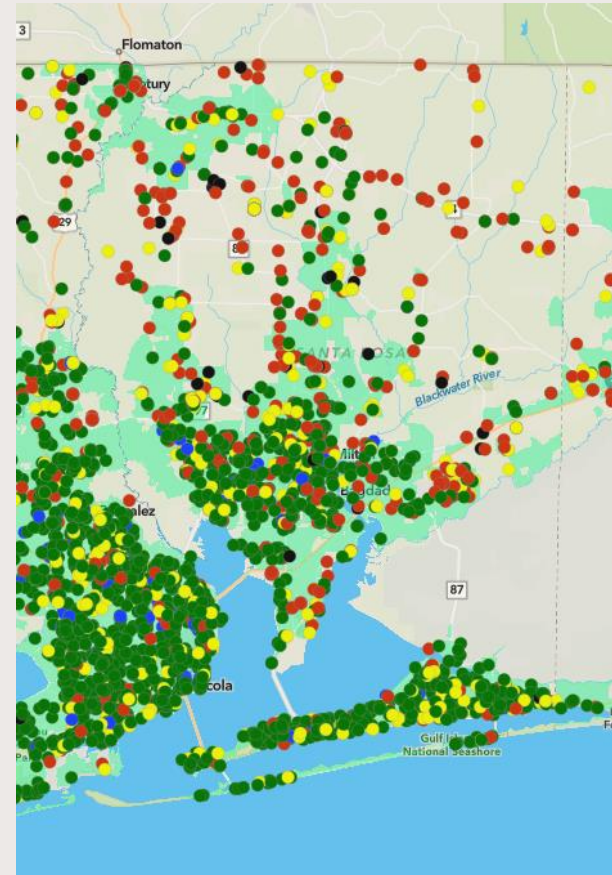
Speed Test Data

BASIC BROADBAND PROJECT AREAS
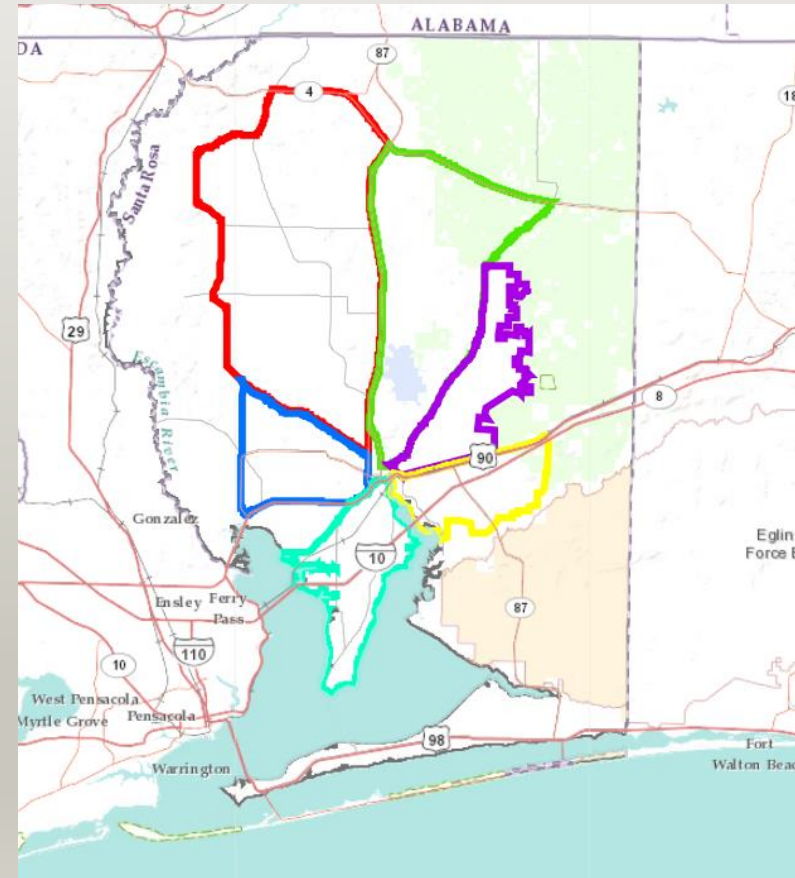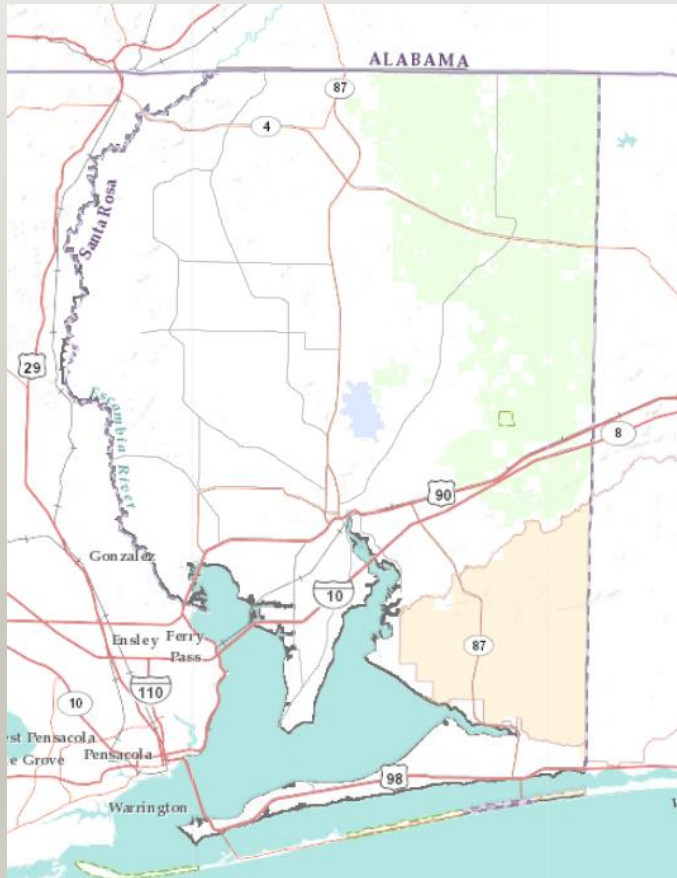
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RURAL PROTECTION
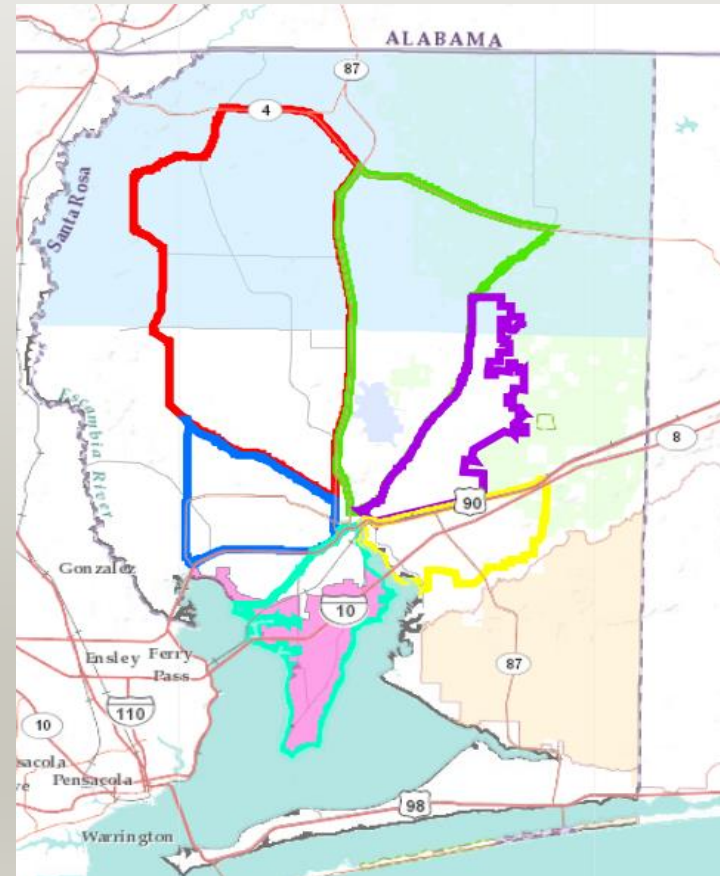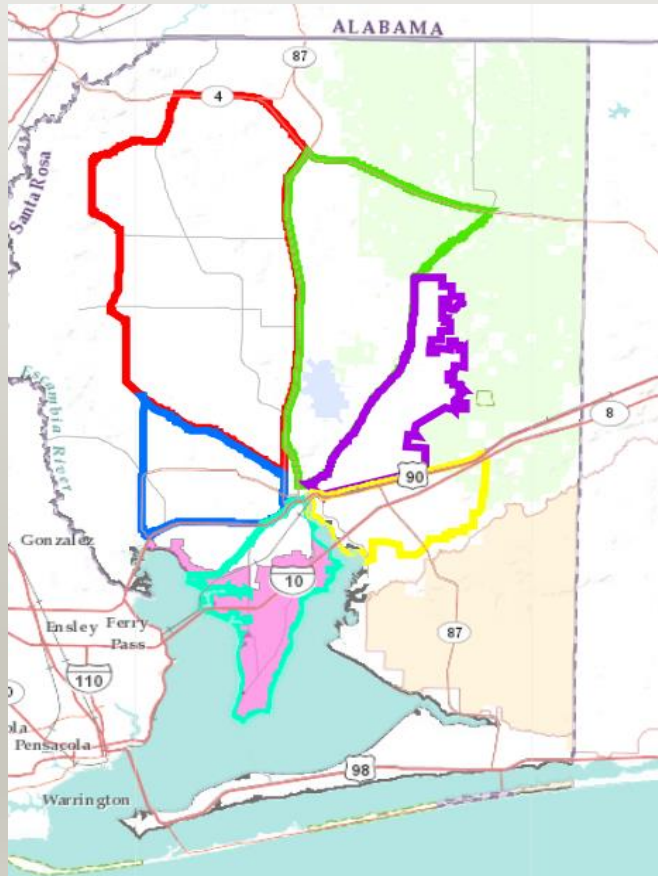
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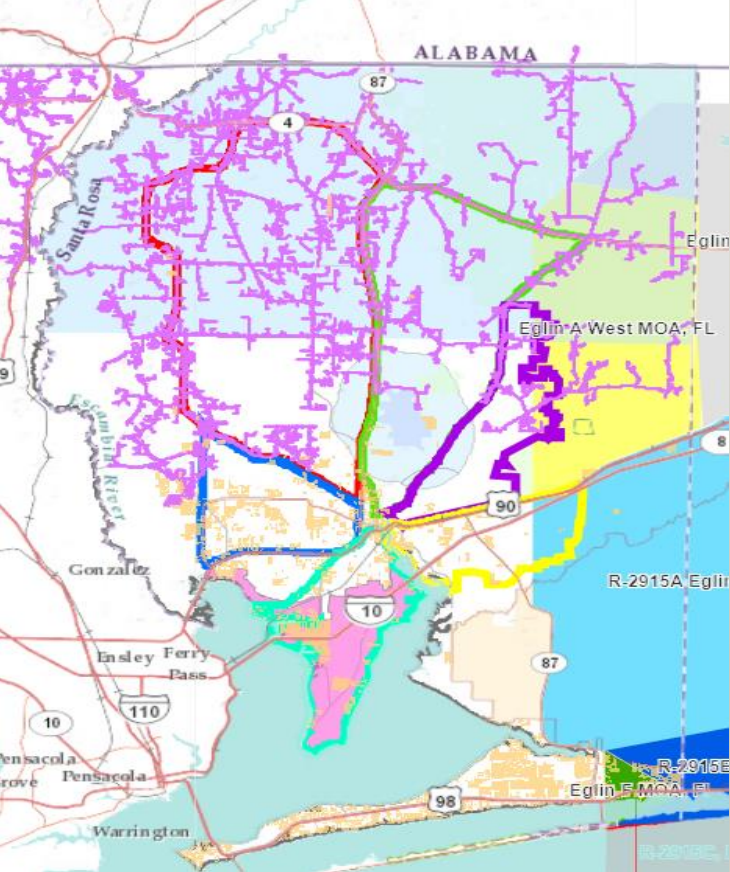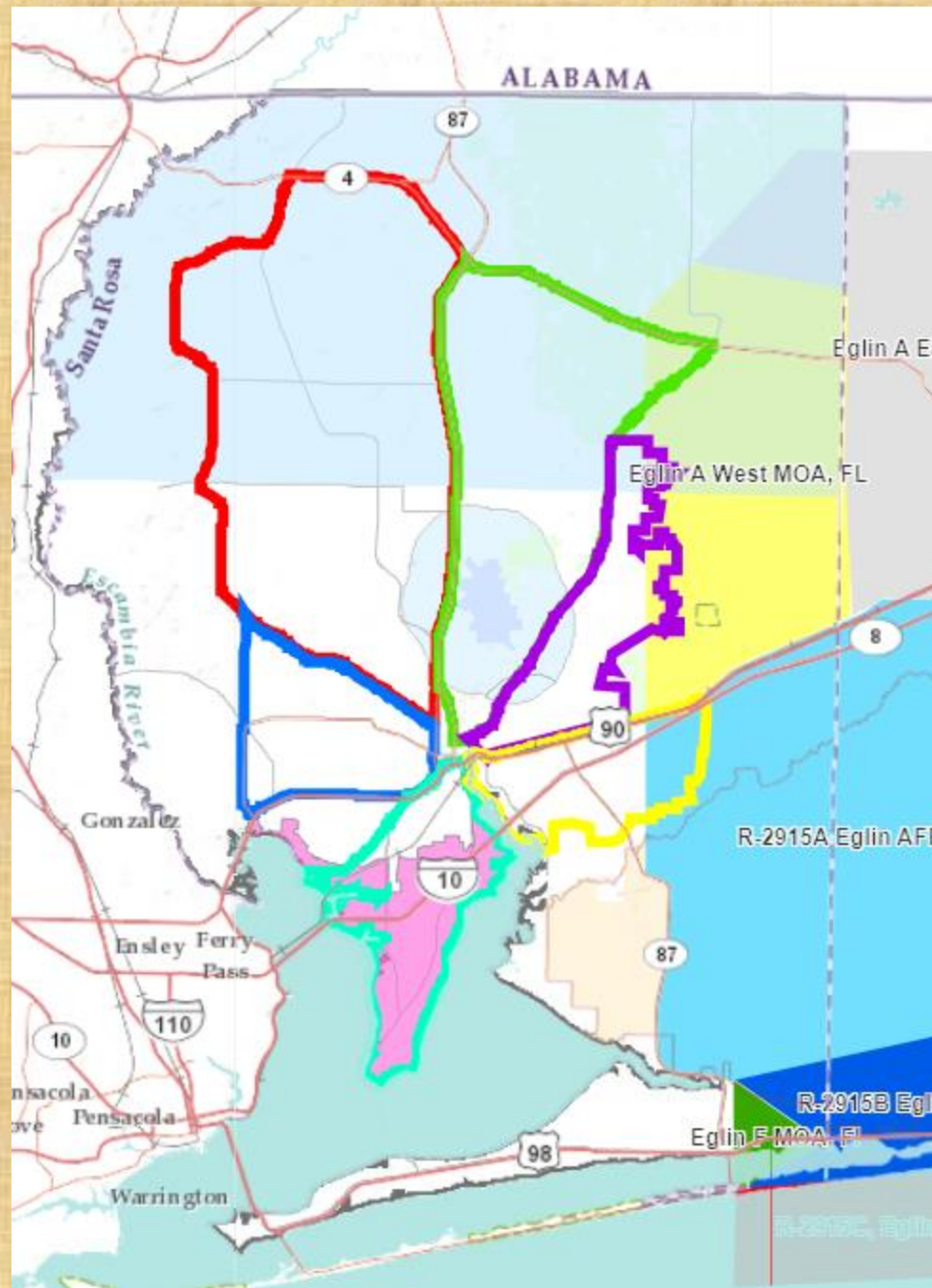# SUBDIVISIONS

NEW DEVELOPMENT
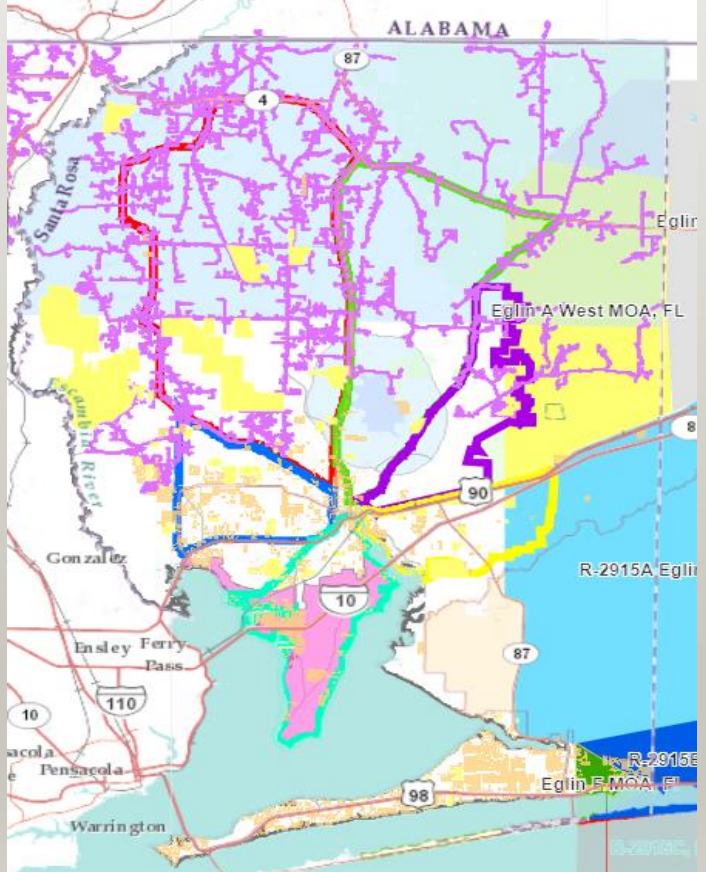
BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT WORKSHOP & UPDATE

SIGN IN / SURVEY: