DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

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Connect MT

- Application window closed April 29th; $270M ARPA funds available for grants
    - 80 applications received serving 156K locations
        - *Total Requests: $521M*
        - *Total Matching Funds: $193.9M*
        - *Total Project Costs: $704M*
- Challenge window closed June 3rd; 57 challenges received.
- **Next Steps**:
    - Validate service areas challenged
    - Rank applications and make funding recommendations to the Communications Advisory Commission and Governor's Office
    - Issue award notices (targeting early August)

IIJA Broadband Funding Streams

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 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.

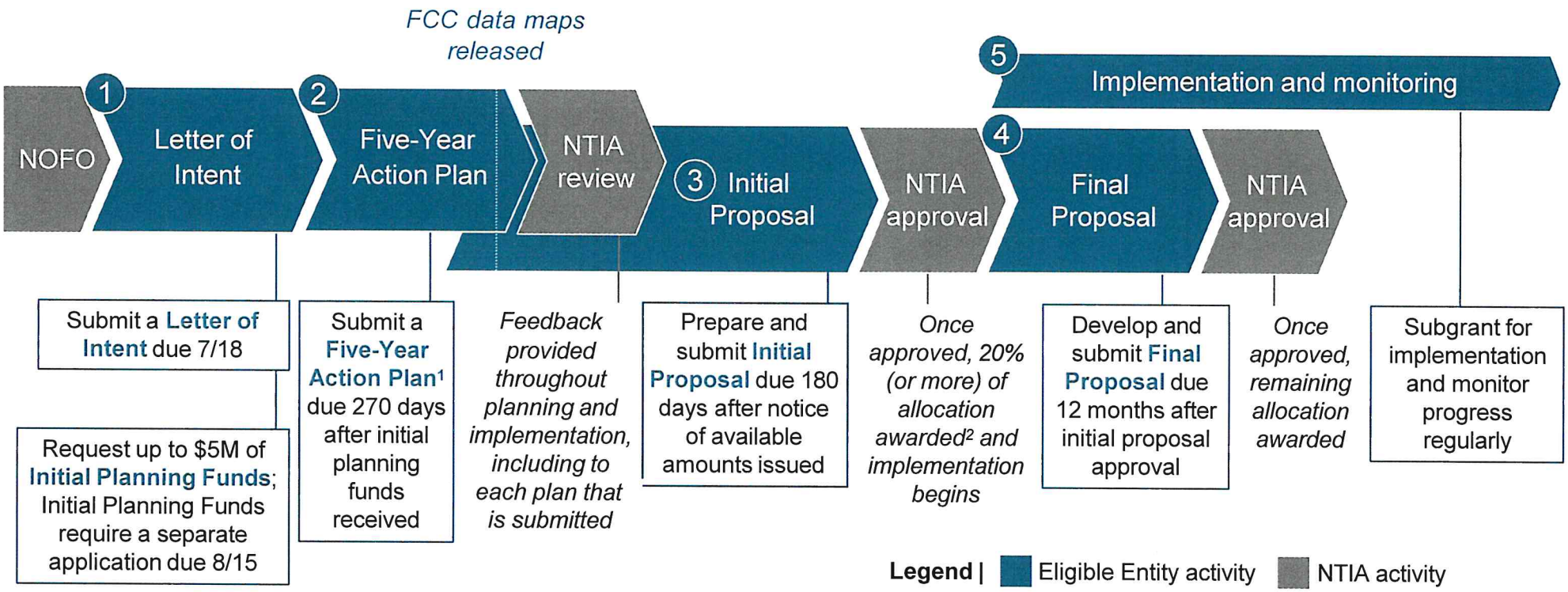
MIDDLE MILE

$1.00B

Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure

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

BEAD 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

Digital Equity Act

The Digital Equity Act provides $2.75 billion to establish three grant programs that promote digital equity and inclusion. They aim to ensure that all people and communities have the skills, technology, and capacity needed to reap the full benefits of our digital economy.

- **State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program**: A $60M formula grant program for states, territories and tribal governments to develop digital equity plans.

- **State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program**: A $1.44 billion formula grant program for states, territories, and tribal governments. It will fund an annual grant program for five years in support of digital equity projects and the implementation of digital equity plans.

- **Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program**: A $1.25 billion grant program. It will fund annual grant programs for five years to implement digital equity projects.

Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Grant

- Provides funding for construction, improvement, or acquisition of middle mile infrastructure.
- Purpose is to expand and extend middle mile infrastructure to reduce the cost of connecting areas that are unserved or underserved to the internet backbone.
- $980,000 available for states, tribes, telcos, utilities, cooperatives, nonprofits, and economic development authorities.

IIJA Broadband: Next Steps

- Submit Letter of Intent to NTIA by 7/18 (complete)
- Submit Digital Equity Planning Grant Application by 7/12 (MT to receive $601K)
- Develop BEAD 5-Year Action Plan within 270 days
- Launch Statewide Stakeholder Outreach

Questions?