Broadband Update

April 2, 2025

1. Program Updates
2. BEAD Deep Dive
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4. Next Steps
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NORTH Dakota | Information Technology
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Program Updates | Executive Summary

Capital Projects Fund (CPF)

- ✓ 2 projects completed, with 9 underway
- ✓ Projects to achieve substantial completion by Q4 2026
- ✓ Remaining funds to support Line Extension efforts

Broadband Equity, Access, & Deployment (BEAD)

- ✓ Refined map via Challenge Process and No-BEAD
- ✓ Completing Application Round 1 review and selection
- ✓ Preparing for Round 2 application period

Digital Equity (DE) Act Programs

- ✓ Coordinated with various state agencies
- ✓ Developed template to capture required project details
- ✓ Received project details from potential partners

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BEAD | In 2024, the federal government updated its definition of broadband internet to a minimum standard of 100/20 Mbps[1]

- The goal of BEAD is to deliver broadband service to locations where this standard is not met
- Initially, over 7,000 North Dakota residences and businesses lacked access to broadband
- Today, significant progress has been made refining this list to ~2,000 locations
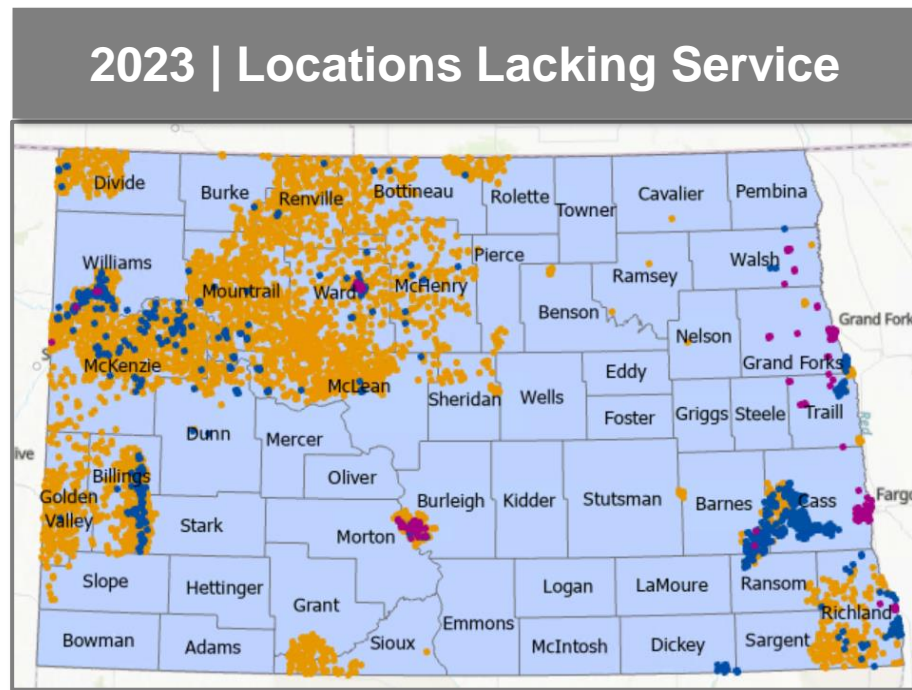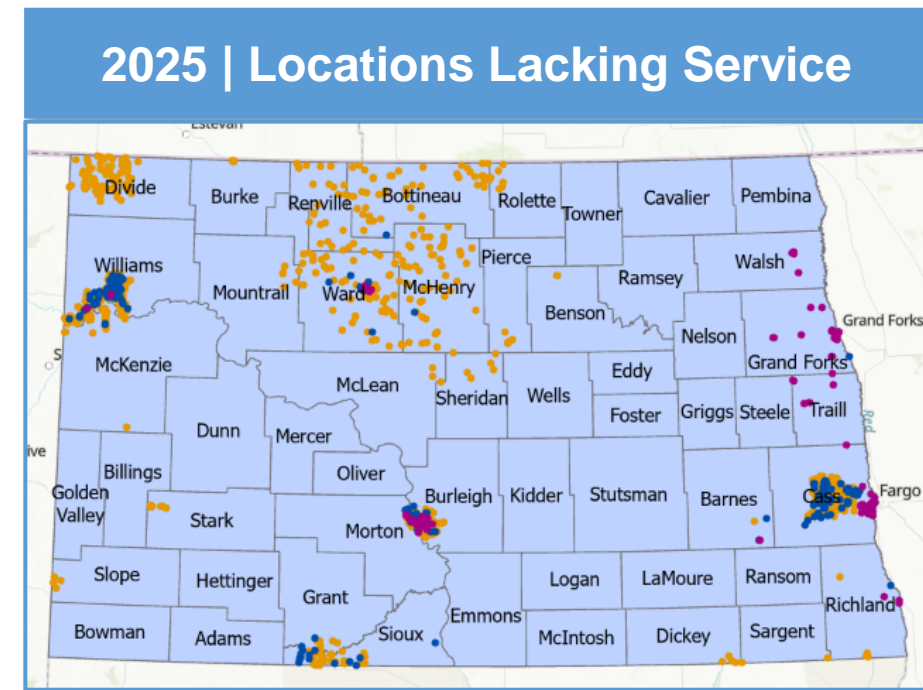
2023 | Locations Lacking Service

Unserved ● Underserved ● Unserved CAIs

2025 | Locations Lacking Service

Unserved ● Underserved ● Unserved CAIs

North Dakota has the fewest remaining locations without 100/20 Mbps broadband service nationwide

(Continued)

State	Eligible Units		State	Eligible Units
Alabama	380,446		Montana	141,879
Alaska	95,248		Nebraska	87,692
Arizona	233,009		Nevada	76,710
Arkansas	189,699		New Hampshire	30,653
California	801,590		New Jersey	65,420
Colorado	167,965		New Mexico	115,933
Connecticut	42,590		New York	286,953
Delaware	8,359		North Carolina	561,393
Florida	591,716		North Dakota	5,238
Georgia	323,504		Ohio	373,974
Hawaii	26,567		Oklahoma	206,621
Idaho	130,150		Oregon	174,503
Illinois	290,903		Pennsylvania	309,882
Indiana	199,790		Rhode Island	14,678
Iowa	114,325		South Carolina	168,204
Kansas	108,128		South Dakota	29,330
Kentucky	271,866		Tennessee	185,357
Louisiana	362,496		Texas	917,732
Maine	93,186		Utah	70,961
Maryland	55,361		Vermont	52,914
Massachusetts	34,776		Virginia	405,633
Michigan	407,877		Washington	311,491
Minnesota	175,580		West Virginia	242,666
Mississippi	268,670		Wisconsin	480,322
Missouri	334,892		Wyoming	64,739
			National Total	**11,089,570**

[1] **Source** | Benton Institute: Data from FCC Broadband map (June 30, 2024). Eligible Units refers to units with less than 100/20mbps service.

Deep Dive | BEAD Program – Remaining BEAD Eligible Locations
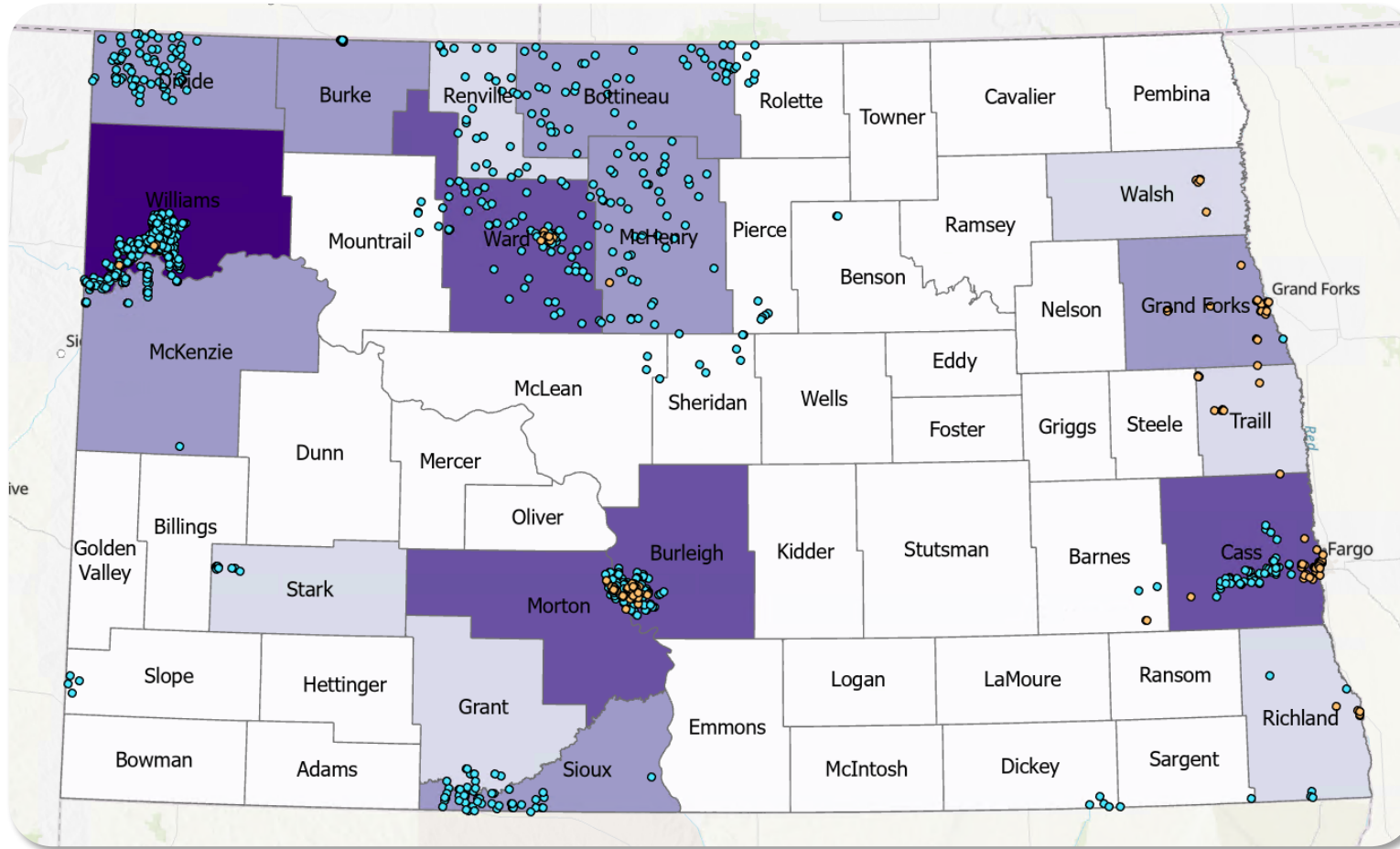
~1400 locations remain available following assessment of No-BEAD submissions

Top 10 Counties by Remaining BSLs

Williams	633	Divide	82
Burleigh	143	McHenry	59
Morton	125	Burke	56
Cass	114	McKenzie	53
Ward	95	Sioux	53

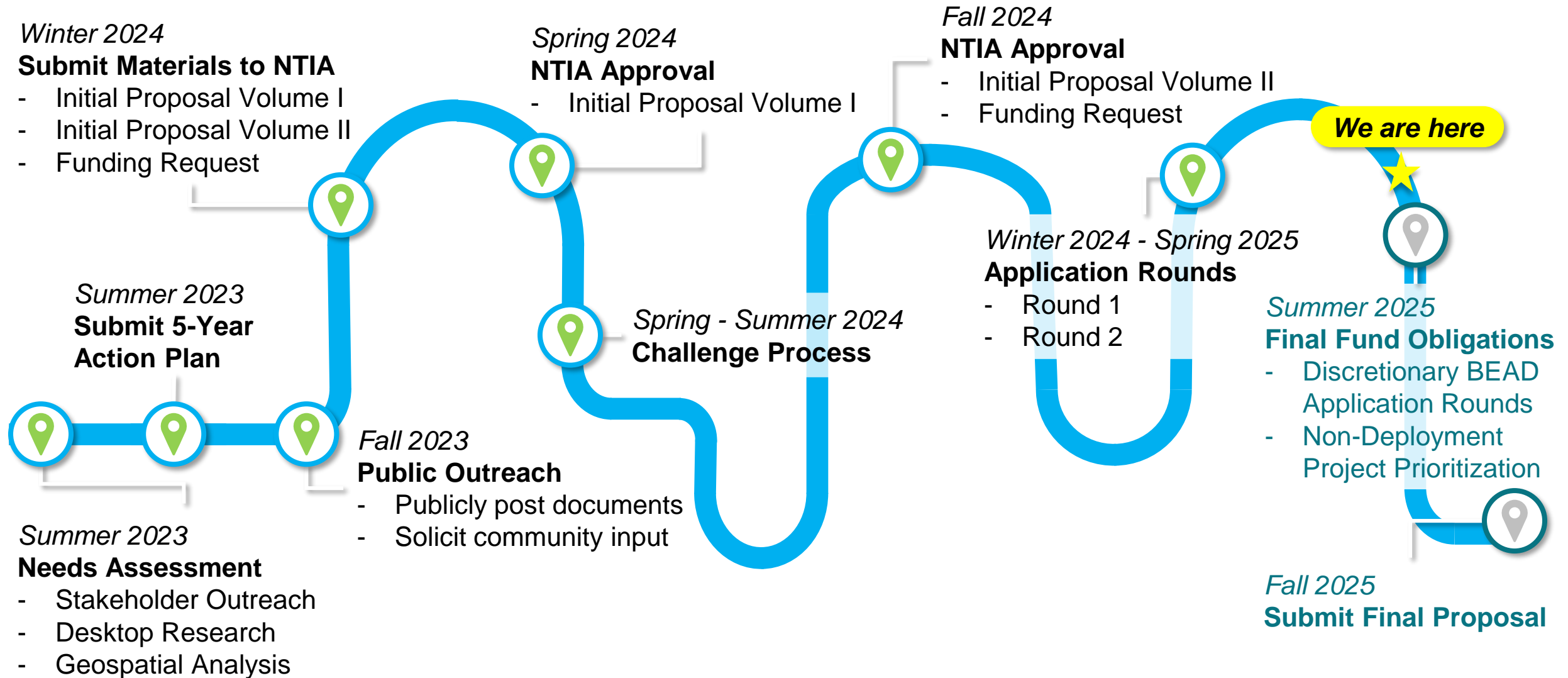● Broadband Serviceable Locations ● Community Anchor Institutions

Deep Dive | BEAD Program – Timeline of Activity

Winter 2024
Submit Materials to NTIA
- Initial Proposal Volume I
- Initial Proposal Volume II
- Funding Request

Spring 2024
NTIA Approval
- Initial Proposal Volume I

Fall 2024
NTIA Approval
- Initial Proposal Volume II
- Funding Request

We are here

Summer 2023
Submit 5-Year Action Plan

Spring - Summer 2024
Challenge Process

Winter 2024 - Spring 2025
Application Rounds
- Round 1
- Round 2

Summer 2025
Final Fund Obligations
- Discretionary BEAD Application Rounds
- Non-Deployment Project Prioritization

Fall 2023
Public Outreach
- Publicly post documents
- Solicit community input

Summer 2023
Needs Assessment
- Stakeholder Outreach
- Desktop Research
- Geospatial Analysis

Fall 2025
Submit Final Proposal

Deep Dive | BEAD Program – Application Process

Application Round 1 *(closed)*

- **Locations Addressed:** Roughly ~290 locations will receive funding following deconfliction and No-BEAD removals

- **Selection Finalization:** As deconfliction concludes, selection notices[1] will be sent out to applicants for their final project areas

Application Round 2 *(April 7 – May 9)*

- **Locations Remaining:** Following Round 1 Selection and No-BEAD feedback, ~1,400 locations remain eligible for BEAD service

- **Survey Result Inputs:** Feedback received from survey participation will inform Round 2 application functions

BEAD Participation Survey

We want to hear from you! As we prepare for Round 2, NDIT would like to speak directly to considerations that may impact ISP participation in the BEAD subgrantee selection process.

Whether cost considerations, deployment hurdles, or application requirements, we invite your feedback. The survey is open to all BEAD eligible applicants and will close by April 4th.

[1]Selection by NDIT is for Final Proposal and still subject to NTIA revision and approval

Deep Dive | BEAD Program – Round 2 Actions

Application Timeline

This week

✓ Applicants to register for WebGrants (if needed)

✓ Applicants to review remaining eligible locations

April 7th – May 9th

✓ Applicants to develop and submit applications

o *Note: 30-day application window*

May - June

✓ NDIT to review submitted applications

✓ Applicants to monitor communications by NDIT

Application Requirements

The BEAD Application will request the following information required by the NTIA BEAD NOFO. ***ND SBPO does not have the authority to amend information required by the BEAD NOFO*** to complete the BEAD Application.

I. **Applicant Information:** Basic Information *(e.g., Contact, State Business Registration)*

II. **Project Information**: Project-Specific Detail *(e.g., Area, Design, Pricing, Cost Schedule,)*

III. **Compliance:** Evidence and attestations of compliance with Federal requirements *(e.g., Cybersecurity, Supply Chain Risk, Labor, Build America Buy America)*

Deep Dive | BEAD Program – Remaining Funds Use, Non-Deployment

Non-deployment projects are activities beyond last-mile deployment that may include:

- Middle-mile projects

- Digital safety; digital literacy training

- Remote learning; computer science, coding, cyber security education

- Digital navigators; broadband adoption support

- Telehealth services

Process for selecting and finalizing non-deployment projects

- **Develop project long-list**
  Winter 2024 - Spring 2025

- **Prioritize and down-select projects**
  Spring 2025 - Summer 2025

- **Finalize projects for funding**
  Fall 2025 - Spring 2026

- **Implement non-deployment projects**
  Summer 2026 and beyond

*Once North Dakota has a plan to deploy service to all unserved and underserved locations within its jurisdiction, it may pursue non-deployment initiatives using BEAD funds before or while deployment projects are underway

Deep Dive | CPF – Program Progress

By the Numbers

$37.3 Million Committed[1]

11 Projects Awarded

~2,150 Locations Funded

7 Participating ISPs
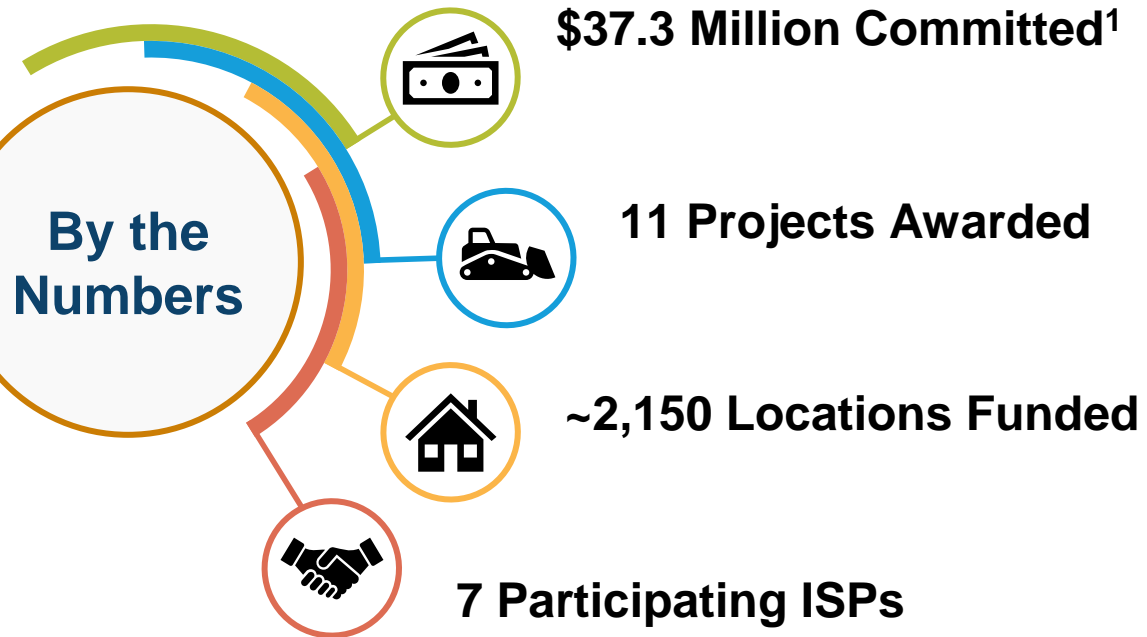
Projects are closing out under budget, creating opportunity to direct remaining dollars to connecting locations not addressed by BEAD

[1] The total CPF allocation is $38.7M. $37.3M represents the project grants.
[2] Operations initiation dates based on Q4 P&E Report projections and monthly progress updates

Organization	Locations	Status
NCC	64	Completed
Nemont	45	Completed
West River	47	Near Complete
Red River	323	> 50%
Halstad	221	< 50%
Polar Walsh	318	< 50%
Polar Traill/Steele	218	< 50%
Polar Grand Forks	394	< 50%
MLGC Cass	80	< 50%
MLGC Steele	146	< 50%
NCC / MVC	291	< 50%

Deep Dive | CPF ExteND – Remaining Funds Use, Line Extension Program

Why CPF ExteND?

- **Supplement BEAD:** Supports broadband deployment in areas where BEAD funding may not be pursued, such as locations with only one or two unserved addresses that don't warrant a full-scale BEAD application.

- **Targeted Deployment:** Focuses on extending existing broadband networks to specific unserved and underserved locations rather than large-scale new builds.

- **Efficient Use of Funds:** Puts to work leftover CPF funds from completed projects that would otherwise go unused before the December 31, 2026 federal deadline.

How to Get Started

1. **Review Program Materials:** Visit broadband.nd.gov to access the full program overview, NOFO, FAQs, location list, and WebGrants user guide.

2. **Prepare Application:** Gather project details, budget estimates, and documentation of your operational readiness.

3. **Submit via WebGrants:** Round 1 Applications will be accepted April 7 – May 9, 2025.

Deep Dive | CPF ExteND Program Materials and Application Info

CPF ExteND program materials are available on the NDIT Broadband Website: broadband.nd.gov
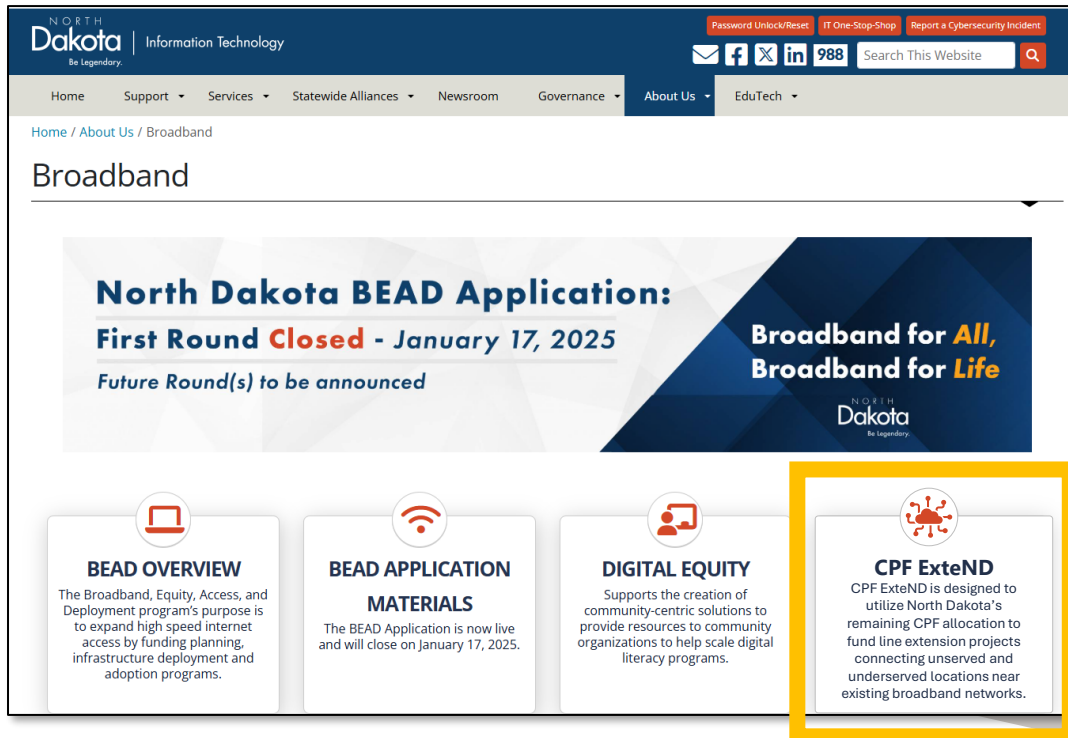
Informational Materials on Website:

1. Program Overview
2. Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
3. FAQs

Application Materials
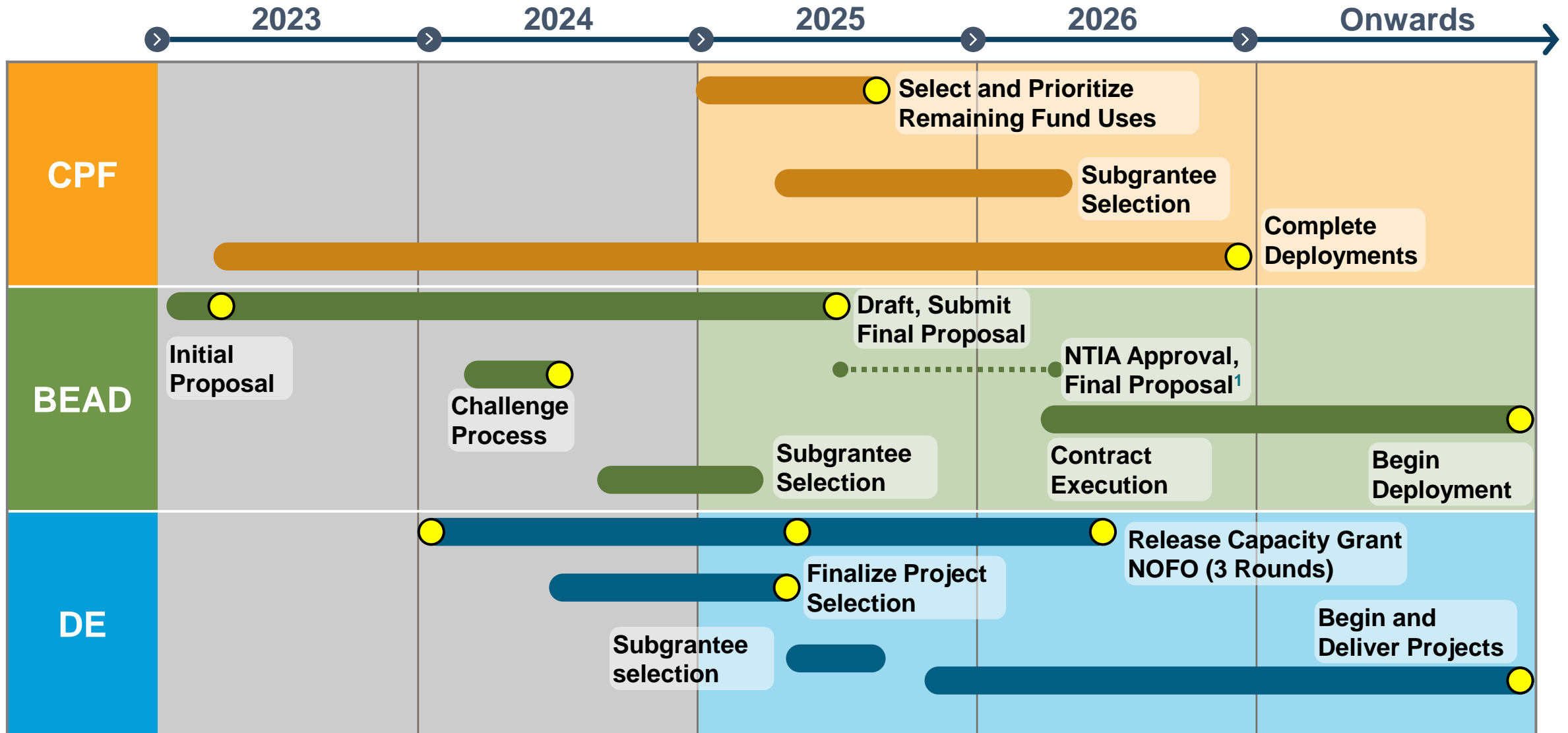***(to be published April 7th):***

1. Eligible Locations List
2. WebGrants Application User Guide

How to Apply:

Applications will be accepted via WebGrants starting next week.

Application Round 1: April 7th – May 9th

Program Updates | Timeline

2023 **2024** **2025** **2026** **Onwards**

CPF

- Select and Prioritize Remaining Fund Uses
- Subgrantee Selection
- Complete Deployments

BEAD

- Initial Proposal
- Draft, Submit Final Proposal
- Challenge Process
- NTIA Approval, Final Proposal[1]
- Subgrantee Selection
- Contract Execution
- Begin Deployment

DE

- Release Capacity Grant NOFO (3 Rounds)
- Finalize Project Selection
- Subgrantee selection
- Begin and Deliver Projects

[1]Milestone assumes approval timeline will reflect prior stages; dotted line represents NTIA's stated-range of approval review timelines

Milestone

14

Next Steps

BEAD

Early April

BEAD Participation Survey

- Accepting responses March 24th – April 4th
- Access via Email Link / NDIT Site
- Results to be Circulated

Mid-April – Early May

BEAD Application Round 2

- Application Round 2 April 7th – May 9th
- Register and submit applications through WebGrants

CPF

April

CPF Q1 2025 P&E Reports

- Finalized Treasury templates will be circulated early April
- Reports due at end of month

Mid-April – Early May

CPF ExteND Application

- Application Round 1 April 7th – May 9th
- Register and submit applications through WebGrants

Thank you!

Open Forum Q&A