BROADBAND EQUITY ACCESS AND DEPLOYMENT (BEAD) CHALLENGE PROCESS OVERVIEW

February 2024

NORTH Dakota

Be Legendary.

Agenda

1. BEAD Program and Challenge Process Overview

2. Registration & Challenge Submission Walkthrough

3. Next Steps and Q&A

Broadband Equity, Access, And Deployment (BEAD) Program Overview

BEAD provides funding to eligible entities and territories for broadband planning, deployment, mapping, and adoption activities, with the primary purpose of expanding high-speed internet access.

Eligible Activities

- Deploy broadband service to **unserved** locations and **underserved** locations

- Ensure deployment of **gigabit connections to community anchor institutions** (e.g., schools, hospitals, libraries)

- *Remaining funds can support access, adoption, and equity-related uses*

Additional details on next slide

Initial Proposal	Challenge Process	Subgrantee Selection	Final Proposal
1. Submit Initial Proposal to NTIA: Winter 2024 Submit Initial Proposal to NTIA **2. Release of Initial Funding:** Winter 2024 NTIA will release funding allocation based on requested amount	**3. Conduct Challenge Process:** Spring 2024 Upon NTIA approval of Initial Proposal Volume I, conduct ~100-day challenge process	**4. Subgrantee Selection Process:** Summer 2024 – Fall 2024 Initiate competitive subgrantee selection process. Eligible Entity may also fund and initiate certain activities	**5. Develop Final Proposal and Conduct Public Comment Period:** Fall 2024 – Winter 2025 Develop and conduct public comment period for Final Proposal **6. Submit Final Proposal:** Winter 2025 Submit Final Proposal to NTIA describing compliance with Initial Proposal and the results of its processes

BEAD Challenge Process Overview

During the BEAD Challenge Process, the State Broadband Program Office will only allow challenges from **nonprofit organizations, units of local and tribal governments, and broadband service providers**. While NTIA guidelines state that residents cannot submit challenges directly, they are encouraged to work with local governments and non-profits to provide speed test data to support challenges.

Description and objectives

The Challenge Process allows a unit of local government, nonprofit organization, or broadband service provider to **challenge a determination made by the State in the Initial Proposal as to whether a particular location or CAI is eligible for BEAD funds**, including whether a particular location is unserved or underserved.

This process aims to ensure that locations outlined in the Initial Proposal represent an accurate and comprehensive list of the broadband needs across the State.
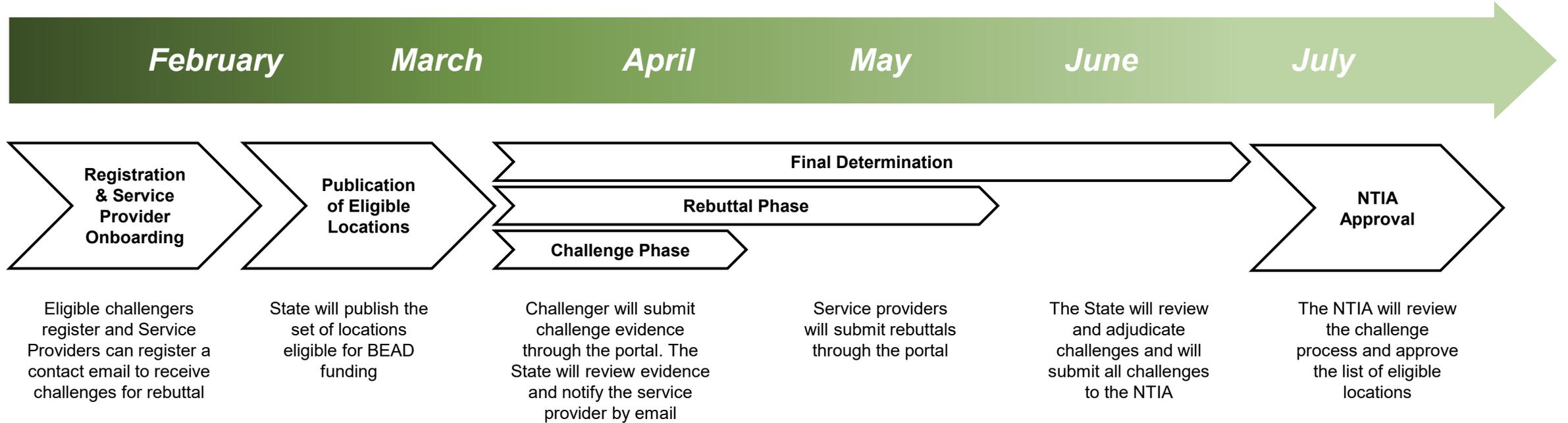
Allowable Challenges

- ✓ **Availability:** Broadband service not offered at location
- ✓ **Technical features (e.g., speed, data cap, and latency):** Service falls outside established thresholds
- ✓ **Technology type:** Listed technology for location is incorrect
- ✓ **Business service only:** Location is residential, but only business service is offered
- ✓ **CAI eligibility determinations:** Location should be classified as CAI
- ✓ **Enforceable commitments:** Broadband will be deployed at this location by obligation
- ✓ **Planned service:** Broadband will be deployed at location by June 30, 2024

Unallowable challenges
- ✗ Altering the BSL "Building Type" classification
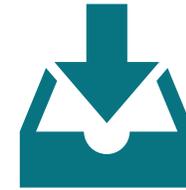- ✗ Addition of BSLs
- ✗ Removal of BSLs

Registration & Challenge Submission Walkthrough

Next Steps for Eligible Challengers

1. Complete registration

2. Review Challenge Process Materials

Next Steps

3. Request CostQuest License (Tier D or E)

4. Submit permissible challenges

Questions? Reach out to us at: broadband@nd.gov

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