

Alabama Digital Expansion Division

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Division Chief

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

- Often referred to as IIJA
- Established many programs, but three are specifically for broadband
- Also known as Internet for All
 - Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)
 - Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure
 - Digital Equity Act

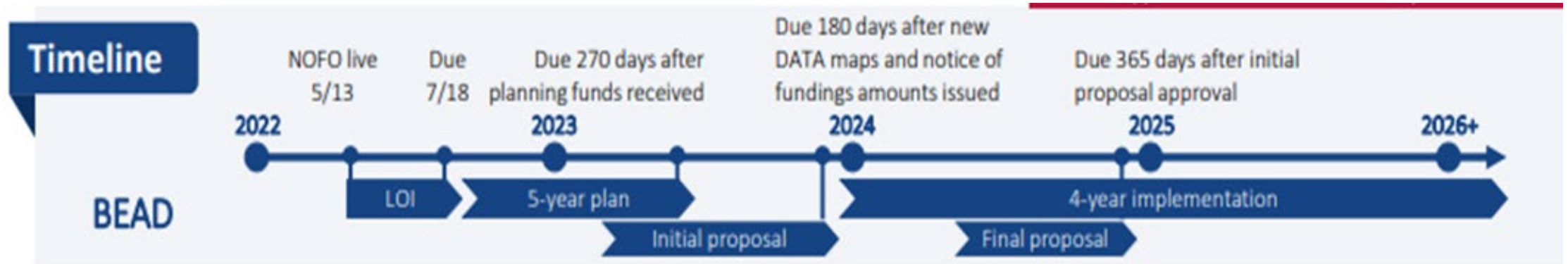
Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)

- Notice of Funding Opportunity has been released
- Approximately \$42.5 billion nationwide (formula)
- Examples of eligible uses
 - Planning for the deployment of high-speed Internet, including conducting research, collecting data, outreach, & training
 - Deploying or upgrading Internet in unserved or underserved areas or improving service to community anchor organizations
 - Installing Internet and Wi-Fi in multi-unit residential buildings
 - Adoption & digital equity programs
 - Workforce development programs & vocational training

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)

- Next Steps & of Note
 - Letter of Intent due 7/18/22 (We have already submitted)
 - Planning application Due 8/15/22
 - Up to \$5 million (we have already requested the full amount and will submit a budget and narrative in July or August)
 - 5-year plan due 270 days after planning funds received (this will be a continuation of our existing plan as well as the community planning, we are currently doing)
- These funds may also be used for other activities to improve capacity within the division/agency
- We do not know when the maps or funding amounts above the \$100 million will come out, but our initial proposal will be due 180 days later. We are estimating that the final maps and funding amounts will not be available until 2023.

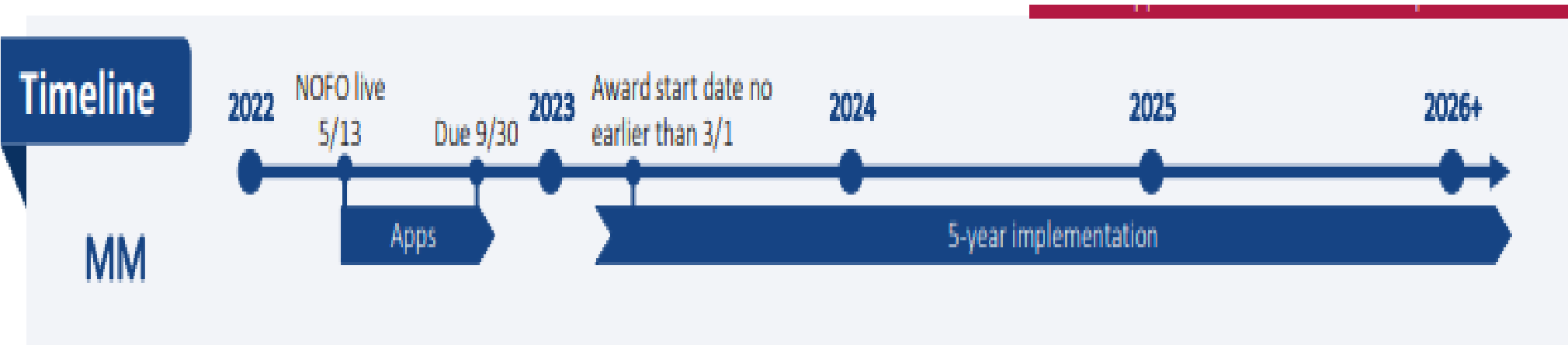
Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)



Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure

- Notice of Funding Opportunity has been issued
- \$1 billion (competitive)
- Examples of Eligible Uses
 - Construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment
 - Engineering design, permitting & work related to project reviews
 - Personnel costs, including salaries & benefits for staff & consultants
 - Other costs necessary to programmatic activities
- Next Steps and of Note
 - Application window is now open and are due 9/30/22
 - Anticipate significantly more applications than money available.
 - Encourage multi-state applications
 - We don't have to apply, entities can apply directly

Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure



Digital Equity Act programs

- Notice of Funding Opportunity has been issued
- \$2.75 billion nationwide over three programs
- Examples of Eligible Uses
 - Develop, implement, and oversee digital equity plans
 - Make awards to other entities to help in developing digital equity plans
 - Improve the online accessibility and inclusivity of public resources
- Implement digital equity plans and digital inclusion activities
- Provide digital literacy and skills education to covered populations
- Facilitate the adoption of high-speed Internet by covered population

Digital Equity Act programs

State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program

- \$60 million (formula grant to develop state's digital equity plan)
- Application window currently open
- Applications due 7/12/22
- We have submitted our application

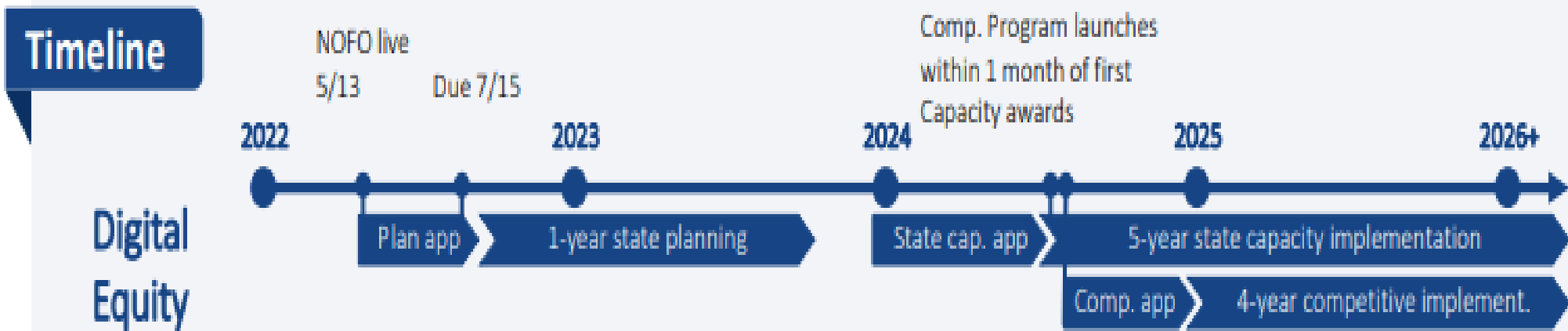
State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program

- \$1.44 billion (formula grant to fund an annual grant program for five years to support digital equity projects and implementation of the plans)
- Application window will be announced at a later date

Digital Equity Act programs

- Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program
 - \$1.25 billion (competitive grant program to fund an annual program over five years to implement digital equity programs)
 - We can apply, but it is open to other entities
 - Application window will be announced at a later date
 - Examples of eligible uses are similar to those listed in the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program

Digital Equity Act programs



Other Updates

Capital Projects Fund

- Approximately \$191 million
- We are set up in portal & have had a check call with Finance & Treasury about reporting
- After a lengthy technical assistance call with our Treasury liaison, I have submitted a draft for his feedback
- We anticipate the formal review being completed before the end of the year
- We will roll this program out similarly to the ABAF program

Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund

- The application window closed June 28th
- Originally, we received 218 Letters of Intent
- We received 137 full applications by the deadline
 - Grant requests total approximately \$243,000,000
 - Grant requests range from approximately \$54,000 to \$5,000,000 with an average of \$1,776,211.69
 - Match commitments range from 20% to 67% with an average of 39.67%
 - Cost per passing ranges from approximately \$232 to \$93,704 with an average of \$2,242.15

Other Updates

Technical Assistance Program

- Approximately \$1 million
- Funded through the Economic Development Administration
- Accepted applications
- Multi-jurisdictional has highest priority
- Planning to provide every county and its incorporated communities a Technical Assistance Project Using multiple sources of funding
- Services provided by ADECA and its consultant, CTC Technology and Energy
- Multiple services available
 - Identify and convene stakeholders
 - Develop digital inclusion strategies
 - Identify providers
 - Identify funding possibilities and strategies
 - Educate local leaders
 - High-level cost estimates