FACILITATED SESSION FOR INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS

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dhcd.maryland.gov

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Jacob R. Day, Secretary
Owen McEvoy, Deputy Secretary

CONNECT Maryland
High Speed Internet For A Better Future.

AGENDA

I. BEAD Overview

II. Broadband Funding and Programmatic Opportunities

III. Impact for Internet Service Providers

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Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL/IIJA) Broadband, Equity, Access, & Deployment (BEAD)

National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) grant program

- $42.45 billion in broadband funding - $100 million guaranteed to each state

- Funding for states to connect unserved addresses, then underserved addresses, then ensure community anchors institutions can get gigabit internet connection.

- Prioritizes fiber direct to end user for deployment of last-mile infrastructure, requires funded projects to offer low-cost options to eligible subscribers.

- At least $100M to state plus allocation based on number of unserved addresses per FCC maps. States have challenged FCC maps with additional data.

- State must submit a broadband Five-Year Action Plan, an Initial Proposal for deployment projects (20% funding upon NTIA approval), and a Final Proposal to complete deployment (remaining allocation upon approval).
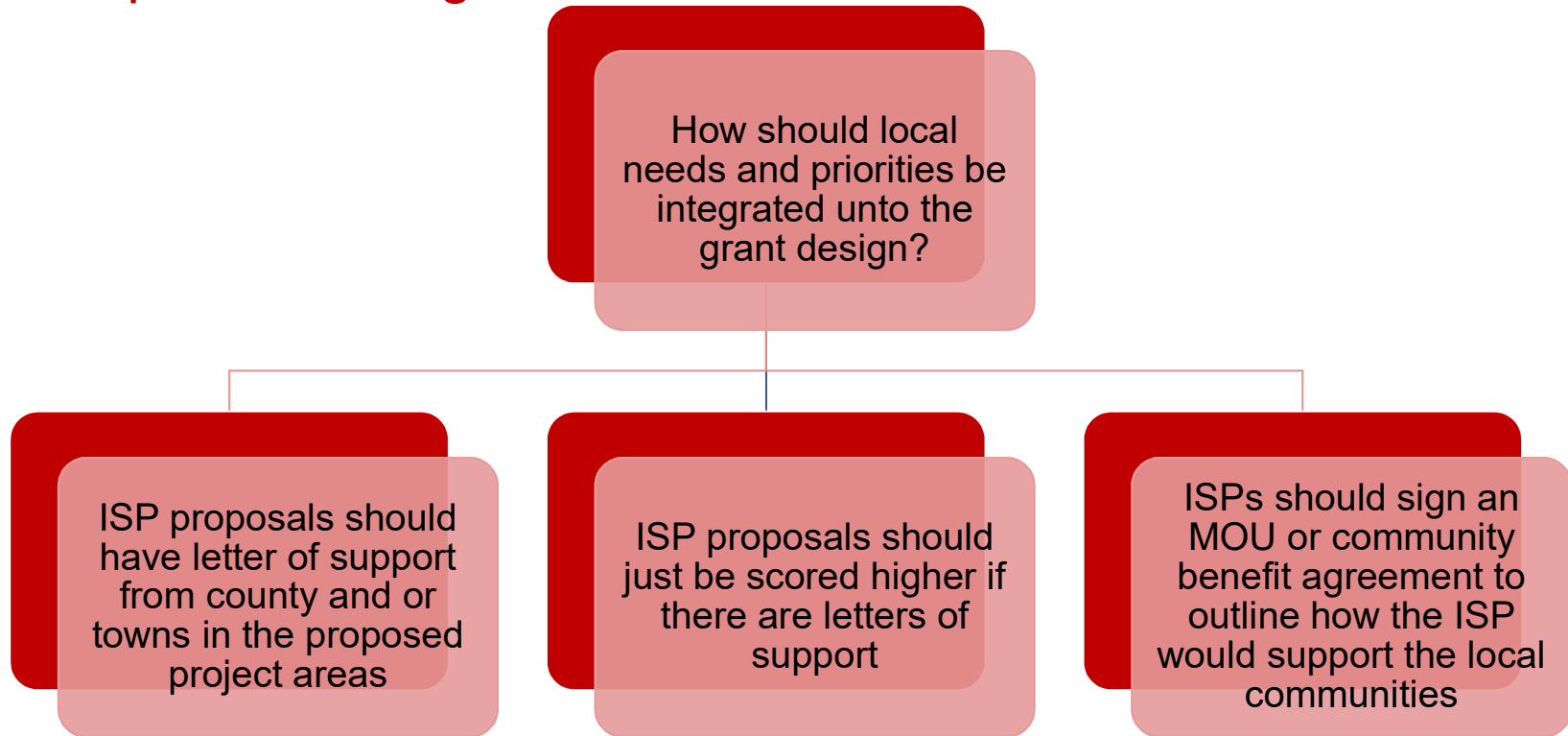
Maryland's Role in Broadband Connectivity and Participation

In 2021, the Office of Rural Broadband expanded to become the Maryland Office of Statewide Broadband (OSB) (an office within DHCD)

Beginning in 2021, Maryland dedicated over $400 million towards broadband connectivity and participation.

Maryland OSB is funding physical broadband infrastructure projects to unserved residents as well as piloting a series of Digital Opportunities Grants to expand participation

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FUNDING AND PROGRAMMATIC OPPORTUNITIES

Funding overview and timeline

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BROADBAND FUNDING PRIORITIES AND TIMELINE

Maryland will develop a statewide plan for expanding broadband to all in-state addresses including through upcoming federal funds of at least $100 million

Funding priorities for fiber-to-the-premises deployment

1. Unserved locations: those that cannot get internet service at least 25/3

2. Underserved locations: those that get internet service between 25/3 and 100/20 Mbps

3. Community Anchor Institutions (schools, libraries, hospitals, public safety): locations that cannot get 1Gbps internet

4. Low income and affordable housing

Planning	Provisional grant program	Deployment
2023	**2024**	**2025**

FEDERAL AND STATE BROADBAND SPEED THRESHOLDS

25/3 Mbps

100/20 Mbps

100/100 Mbps

The FCC's definition or broadband is 25 megabits per second down and 3 megabits per second up (25/3 Mbps)

Congress set a new 100/20 Mbps standard in the American Rescue Plan Act

Current state threshold for adequate broadband 100/100 Mbps

BROADBAND SERVICE DEPLOYMENT UNDER BEAD

- State issues subgrants to deploy broadband infrastructure and deliver service

- Projects comply with fair labor standards

- State workforce development plan ensures readiness and new jobs to underrepresented groups

- Low-cost service options available to Eligible Subscribers – any household qualifying for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)

- Low-cost service parameters based on provider participation in ACP or other subsidies, cost to subscribers after subsidies, and plan speed

Subgrant Program

Low-cost Service Options

Fair Labor Standards

Workforce Readiness

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ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BEAD FUNDS

Match Requirement

BEAD requires a 25% minimum match and requires incentivizing of higher matches.

Irrevocable letter of credit

An IRC commitment letter from a bank must be submitted with the application. An IRC for 25% of the project cost must be provided with the grant agreement.

NEPA

Environmental and historical preservation study requirements

Fair Labor Standards

For subgrants over $5 million, you must provide a certification that all laborers and mechanics employed by contractors and subcontractors are paid at least the prevailing wage in the project area

Buy American

Grant funds must be expended in compliance with the Build America, Buy America Act.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXCESS BEAD FUNDS

Broadband Connectivity

Installing or providing low-cost internet to multi-dwelling units for low-income residents; supporting sign-up for broadband subscriptions and subsidies; subsidizing broadband subscriptions

Digital Skills and Digital Navigators

Supporting programs to teach digital literacy skills from entry level to coding; supporting digital navigator programs to provide 1:1 support to help people use the internet

Covered Populations

Focused programs on covered populations such as seniors, veterans, individuals with disabilities, incarcerated individuals, or English learners

Workforce Development

Investing in workforce training to supply workers for infrastructure deployment projects

Telehealth Services

Digital training to support the use of telehealth services

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DIGITAL EQUITY GRANT: FUNDING PRIORITIES AND TIMELINE

Maryland will develop a statewide plan for advancing digital equity, including for how to utilize upcoming federal funds

PROGRAM AREAS

Broadband Access: Individuals have more affordable, accessible, and reliable high-speed home internet service

Devices and Tech Support: Individuals have access to a computer or tablet and technical support

Digital Literacy and Skills: Individuals have digital skills to support their ability to meaningfully use the internet in their daily lives

Accessible and Inclusive Content: Public online content is inclusive and accessible by all individuals

Privacy and Security: Individuals can protect their data privacy and online security

COVERED POPULATIONS

- Rural residents
- Low-income individuals
- Veterans
- Seniors
- Individuals with disabilities
- English learners
- Racial and ethnic minorities
- Incarcerated individuals

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IMPACT FOR INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS

FOCUSED STAKEHOLDER FACILITATIONS

All sessions overview federal Broadband, Equity, Access & Deployment and Digital Equity/ Capacity programs along with state timelines/milestones for planning and deployment

Local and Regional Governments

Government roles in providing assets to facilitate broadband deployment and as community anchor

Internet Service Providers

ISP roles in providing affordable broadband, workforce development

Community Anchor Institutions

CAIs' roles in broadband resilience and needs for service (includes libraries and education)

Workforce Development

Workforce development to support bottlenecks in broadband deployment

STAKEHOLDER SURVEYS

For State planning for broadband deployment and digital capacity grant funds

State & Local Government Asset Inventory	Community Anchor Connectivity	ISP Workforce Preparedness	Workforce Programs Inventory	Digital Equity Program Inventory	Barriers & Obstacles for Covered Populations
Infrastructure-related assets that may help facilitate or reduce the cost of broadband deployment in the state	*Barriers and obstacles to clients, facility access, criticality of internet to mission and program capacity*	*Sources for hiring, workforce programs, ACP, internet skills and adoption, collaboration in community, deployment approaches, disaster recovery plans*	*Workforce programs profile, barriers to developing diverse & skilled workforce, ISP workforce-related questions*	*Program details, planned program types & areas of focus, broadband impacts on programmatic outcomes*	*Internet, computer, & content access, digital skills, data security, barriers & obstacles, broadband impacts on programmatic outcomes*

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INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS SURVEY

Sources used for hiring workers for broadband service deployment

Workforce development or apprenticeship programs. How you will work with the state on workforce development for broadband deployment, including programs to support diversity

Participation in the Affordable Connectivity Program; subsidized service offerings speeds and costs

Internet skills and adoption programs

Collaboration with communities to close the digital divide

Approaches to deploying broadband in areas most expensive to serve

Continuity and disaster recovery plans

CONTACTS

- Email: OSB@maryland.gov

- Website: https://dhcd.maryland.gov/Broadband

- Link to the ISP survey:
  https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MD_ISP01

- Link to providing feedback and public comment:
  OSB.BEAD@maryland.gov BEAD comments
  OSB.DE@maryland.gov DE comments

Questions?