

BEAD and Digital Equity Planning Webinar

March 7, 2023

N.C. Department of Information Technology
Division of Broadband and Digital Equity

AGENDA

1. Overview
2. Importance of Planning Programs
3. Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)
4. Digital Equity
5. Opportunities to Share Input
6. Live Q&A

IT'S TIME TO CLOSE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE IN NORTH CAROLINA

At least 1.1 million North Carolina households lack access to high-speed internet, cannot afford it or do not have the skills needed to take advantage of the digital economy. Gov. Roy Cooper has a plan to close the digital divide to achieve digital equity for all North Carolinians.



CLOSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE



Households with broadband internet access



Households with broadband internet subscriptions



Households with children with broadband internet subscriptions

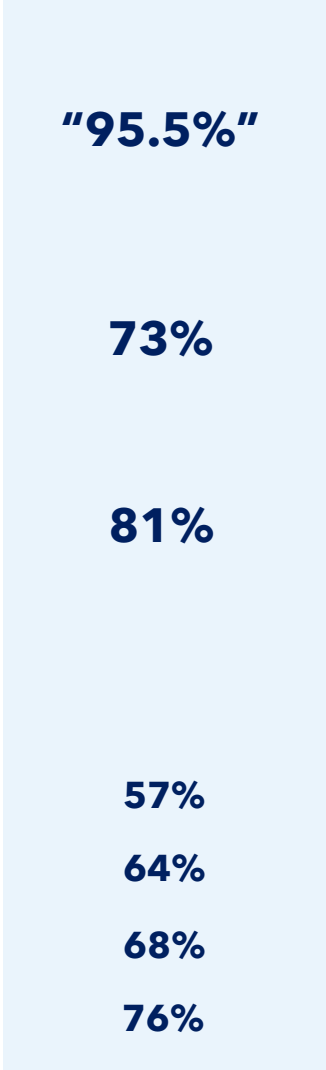


Subscription rates across racial groups

- Native American
- Black
- Hispanic/Latino
- White

N.C. Today

N.C. 2025



BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW FUNDING

Program	Total U.S. Funding
FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program <ul style="list-style-type: none">Provides \$30 per month subsidy for qualified households; \$75 subsidy for households on Tribal landsOne-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, tablet or desktop computer (with a co-payment of more than \$10 but less than \$50)Urging N.C. internet providers to offer \$30 high-speed internet monthly plan	\$14.2 billion
Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program <ul style="list-style-type: none">\$5M in planning funds awarded Nov. 21, 2022Minimum allocation of \$100M per state/territory; high-cost areas (\$4.245B), formula grants (\$37.356B)	\$42.45 billion
Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program	\$1 billion
Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program	\$2 billion
State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program <ul style="list-style-type: none">\$1.4M in planning funds awarded Nov. 21, 2022	\$60 million
State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program	\$1.44 billion
Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program	\$1.25 billion

OVERVIEW

- Received \$1.4 million in planning funds for the Digital Equity program and \$5 million in planning funds for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)
- Plans to engage and solicit feedback from a variety of broadband and digital equity stakeholders across the state that have a vested interest in expanding high-speed internet access and building digital equity within the communities they serve, represent, or live
- Will use data gleaned from all outreach efforts to create comprehensive BEAD and Digital Equity program plans to guide subsequent investments from both programs
 - Estimates suggest North Carolina will receive approximately \$1 billion for BEAD and \$25 million for Digital Equity

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

- Division of Broadband and Digital Equity is driving efforts related to Gov. Cooper's strategy to close the digital divide and ensure all North Carolinians have access to an affordable, high-speed internet connection and the devices and skills necessary to participate in the modern digital economy
- Will use the BEAD and Digital Equity planning grants to help fund local coordination efforts to ensure that the state's comprehensive plans to address high-speed internet access and digital equity are inclusive of all N.C. communities and populations' needs and build upon our existing work to close the digital divide
- Seeking input from stakeholders across the state to ensure that we create effective plans that address the needs of all N.C. communities and populations

PLANNING OBJECTIVES

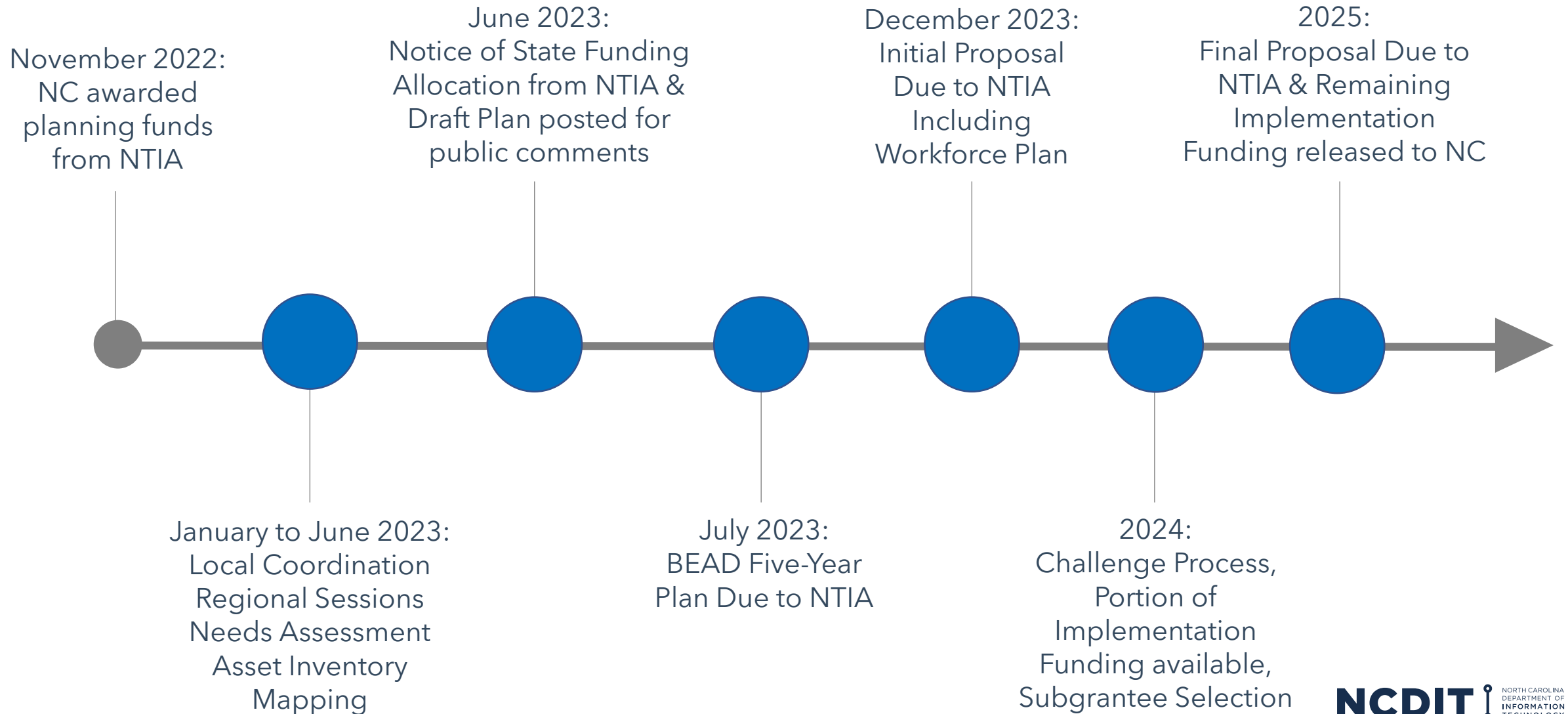
- To achieve Gov. Cooper's goal to close the digital divide in North Carolina
- To demonstrate NCDIT's commitment to fostering a digitally connected and enabled state
- To develop deeper partnerships and bi-directional communication channels with broadband and digital equity stakeholders across the state that can best represent the needs of the communities they serve
- To ensure the Division's comprehensive, statewide broadband expansion and digital equity plans will address and positively and measurably benefit all N.C. communities
- To ensure North Carolina's broadband maps reflect unserved and underserved locations and that residents know how to access state maps and the FCC National Broadband Map and submit challenges as needed

BROADBAND EQUITY, ACCESS, AND DEPLOYMENT (BEAD) PLANNING

ELIGIBLE USES OF BEAD FUNDING

- Infrastructure for homes and businesses
- Upgrades to infrastructure for Community Anchor Institutions
- Mapping and data collection
- Internet and Wi-Fi infrastructure for multi-family residential buildings
- Broadband adoption, including affordable internet capable devices and sign-up assistance
- Training and workforce development
- Digital equity programs such as digital safety training, remote learning and telehealth services, digital literacy and upskilling, cybersecurity education programs, and other activities from the Digital Equity plan.
- Education for individuals who are incarcerated
- Digital navigators
- Direct subsidies for internet subscription

BEAD TIMELINE FOR NORTH CAROLINA



STATE DIGITAL EQUITY PLANNING

STATE DIGITAL EQUITY PLANNING

- **Digital Equity:** All individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in our society, democracy, and economy. Digital equity is necessary for civic and cultural participation, employment, lifelong learning, and access to essential services
- **Digital Inclusion:** Activities necessary to ensure that all individuals and communities, including the most disadvantaged, have access to and use of information and communication technologies
 - Access to affordable high-speed internet
 - Access to a device that meets the needs of the user
 - Access to digital literacy training
 - Quality technical support
 - Applications and online content designed to enable and encourage self-sufficiency, participation and collaboration

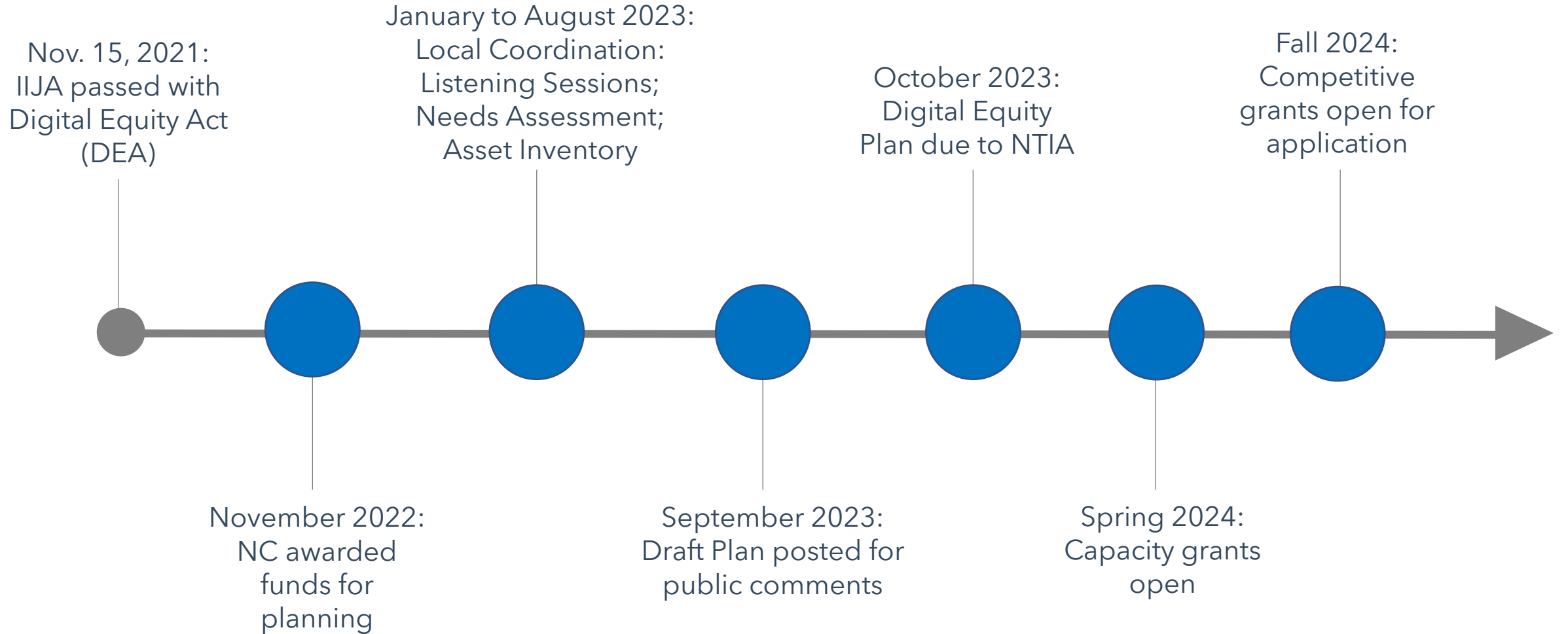
STATE DIGITAL EQUITY PLANNING

Year-long state digital equity planning process - Set policy priorities for next 5 years

- Identify barriers to digital equity for general and covered populations:
 - Listening sessions with covered populations
 - Regional Convenings
 - Survey
 - Data baseline
- Develop measurable objectives for overcoming barriers
- Asset Inventory and Needs Assessment
- Integrate local digital inclusion plans into the state plan
- Interagency coordination



N.C. DIGITAL EQUITY TIMELINE



COVERED POPULATIONS

These programs jointly cover the needs of all North Carolinians with focus on these populations, according to federal guidelines:

- Aging individuals
- Immigrants
- Individuals who live in households at or below 150% of Federal poverty level
- Individuals with disabilities
- Individuals with a language barrier, including individuals who are English learners and have low levels of literacy
- Individuals who are members of a racial or ethnic minority group
- Individuals who primarily reside in a rural area
- Incarcerated individuals, other than individuals who are incarcerated in a Federal correctional facility
- LGBTQI+ people
- Veterans

OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE INPUT

- Webinars
- Regional Sessions
- Listening Sessions with partner organizations
- Surveys
- Interagency Coordination
- Summit Event
- Website: www.ncbroadband.gov/BEAD

ACTIVITY TIMELINE

March 7	Q1 Webinar Update
March - June	Listening sessions for covered populations in partnership with community organizations
April - May	Regional convenings in each of eight prosperity regions
May 23	Summit convening to share learnings and gather input about how they should inform the plans
June	Q2 webinar update
June	Draft BEAD plan posted for public comments
July 29	BEAD 5-year plan due to NTIA
August	Q3 webinar update
September	Digital Equity plan posted for public comments
Oct. 30	Digital Equity Plan due to NTIA
November	Q4 webinar update

QUESTIONS?

Place your questions in the Q&A feature

Visit the Division's website to learn more, register for regional convenings, and see additional resources: www.ncbroadband.gov/BEAD