Nevada Governor's Office of Science, Innovation and Technology (OSIT)

Presentation to Joint Interim Standing Committee on Growth and Infrastructure

Agenda

- Overview of the State Goals
- Digital Equity
- Infrastructure

BROADBAND VISION:
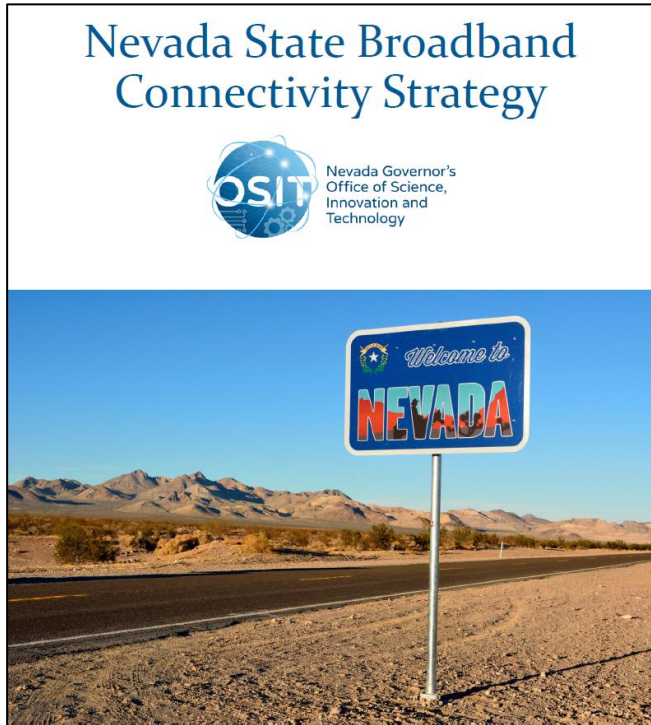
Universal Access to broadband that is
- ❑ Affordable
- ❑ Reliable
- ❑ Scalable

HOW WE GET THERE:

- ❑ Collaboration and Partnerships
- ❑ Efficient use of funds
- ❑ Long-term Investments

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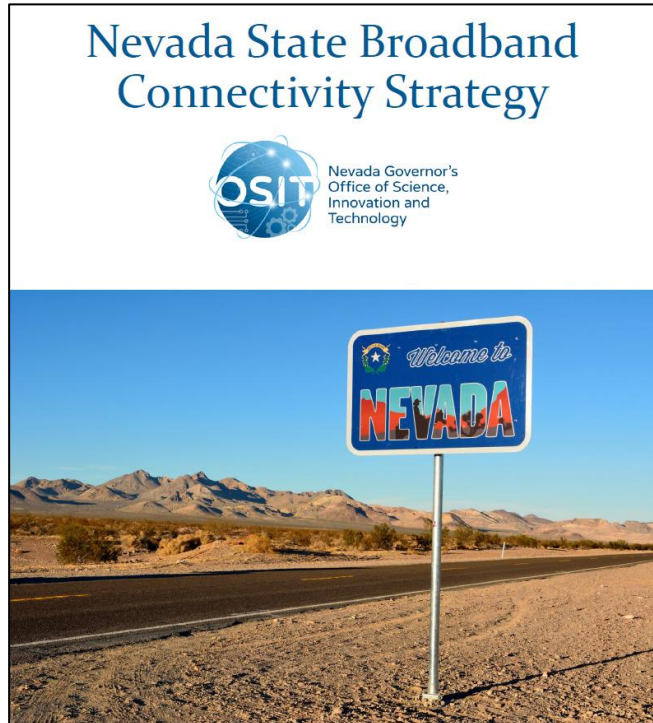
State Connectivity Strategy

Nevada State Broadband Connectivity Strategy

5 Goals:

- Universal Access
- Every Student
- Telemedicine
- Economic and Workforce Development
- Digital Equity and Inclusion

Challenges

5 Challenges:
- Geography
- Redundancy and Resiliency
  - Last Mile
  - Middle Mile
- Affordability and Digital Literacy
- Talent Scarcity
- Shortage of Key Components

Needs for Digital Equity

Three Key Definitions

1. **Digital Equity:** the condition in which individuals and communities have the information technology capacity that is needed for full participation in the society and economy of the United States

2. **Digital Inclusion:** the activities that are necessary to ensure that all individuals in the United States have access to, and the use of, affordable information and communication technologies.

3. **Covered Populations:** Individuals **1)** living in poverty; **2)** who are members of a racial or ethnic minority group; **3)** reside in a rural area; **4)** with a language barrier; **5)** aging individuals; **6)** with disabilities; **7)** incarcerated individuals; **8)** veterans

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Needs for Digital Equity

- Affordable home broadband
- Appropriate devices
- Digital literacy

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Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

Infrastructure

- $42.5B in broadband formula grants to States- BEAD Fund
- $1B Middle Mile competitive grant program
- $2B for Tribal Broadband competitive grants

Affordability and Digital Equity

- $14.5B Affordability Connectivity Program – Subsidy to go to $30/month for non-Tribal|$75/month for Tribal- individual application
- $2.75B Digital Equity Act- broadband adoption/digital equity programs

Affordable Connectivity Program

❑ **Benefit:**

❑ Up to $30/month discount for broadband service and associated equipment rentals;

❑ Up to $75/month discount for households on Tribal Lands;

❑ A one-time discount for $100 for a laptop, desktop, or tablet purchased through a participating provider

Affordable Connectivity Program

Eligibility:

❑ Household income is at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines

❑ If a member of a household meets one of the criteria below

  ❑ SNAP, Medicaid, Housing Assistance, SSI, WIC, Lifeline
  ❑ Tribal-specific programs like Tribal TANF or BIA General Assistance
  ❑ Participates in the National School Lunch or Breakfast Program
  ❑ Received a Pell Grant
  ❑ Meets the Eligibility Criteria of the Participating Provider's Program

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Administration   Priorities   COVID Plan   Briefing Room   Español   MENU

GET INTERNET

Learn how President Biden is reducing the cost of high-speed internet and find out if you qualify to sign up.

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Digital Equity Act

Objective: Support the closure of the digital divide & promote equity and digital inclusion, so that "individuals and communities have the information technology capacity that is needed for full participation in the society and economy of the United States."

Funding Amount: $2.75 billion nationwide

Digital Equity Act

State Planning Grant ($60M)
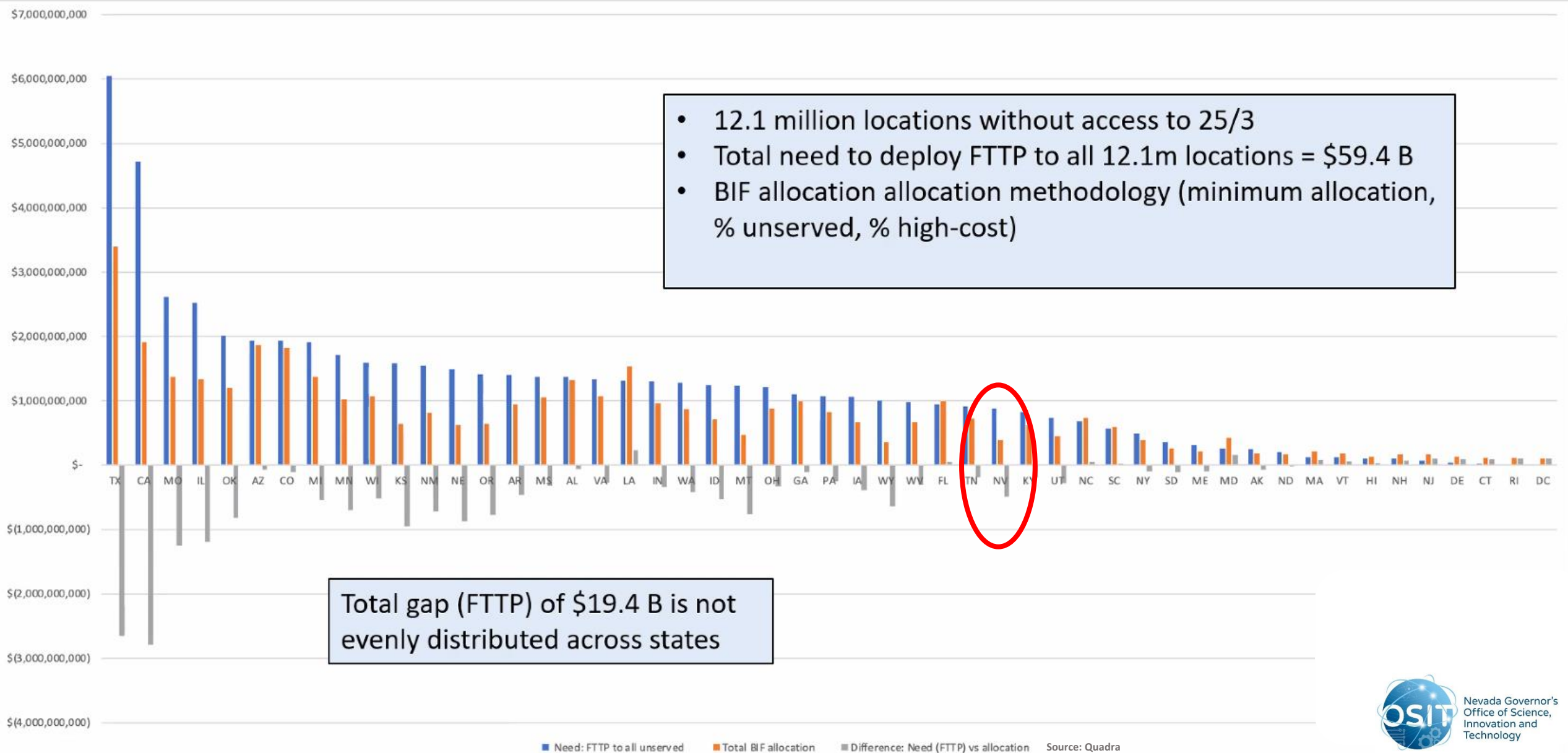
State Capacity Grant Program ($1.44B)

Competitive Grant Program ($1.25B)

Needs for Infrastructure

- Last Mile
  - Rural Nevada
  - Low Income Urban Nevada
- Middle Mile
- Community Anchor Institutions

Estimated Support Needs vs IIJA Allocation Amounts Per State (FTTP deployment to all unserved locations)

- 12.1 million locations without access to 25/3
- Total need to deploy FTTP to all 12.1m locations = $59.4 B
- BIF allocation allocation methodology (minimum allocation, % unserved, % high-cost)

Total gap (FTTP) of $19.4 B is not evenly distributed across states

■ Need: FTTP to all unserved   ■ Total BIF allocation   ■ Difference: Need (FTTP) vs allocation   Source: Quadra

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PHASE I

Use of American Rescue Plan Act Funds for Broadband

State and Local Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF)

- $1.8 billion available for the State
  - Broadband Infrastructure is an eligible use of funds
  - Other Priorities: Affordable Housing, Education, Healthcare, Childcare
- Broadband infrastructure must go to unserved areas
- The State will follow a competitive process to distribute funds
- Best Use of Funds– **Private Government WAN**

TOTAL ARPA REQUESTS FOR STATE/LOCAL FACILITIES

Total ARPA Requests for State and Selected Local Government Facilities						
Category	Entites Connected	Miles of Fiber	Total Cost	Federal Match	State Funds	ARPA Request
Schools/Libraries	53	66.99	$ 73,594,890.00	$ 67,479,895.50	$ 1,933,000.00	$ 4,181,994.50
Corrections	22	203.00	$ 32,155,200.00	$ 18,975,528.00	$0.00	$ 13,179,672.00
Courts	55	312.85	$ 33,609,840.00	$0.00	$0.00	$ 33,609,840.00
EITS	13	2.47	$ 550,800.00	$0.00	$0.00	$ 550,800.00
Behavioral Health	26	1.00	$ 264,848.13	$152,951.28	$0.00	$ 111,896.85
NDOT	42	143.67	$22,757,880.00	$0.00	$0.00	$ 22,757,880.00
NSHE	N/A	1.00	$16,330,000.00	$0.00	$0.00	$ 16,330,000.00
NDPS	12	14	$2,285,563.20	$0.00	$0.00	$ 2,285,563.20
Totals	223	745.41	$ 181,549,021.33	$ 86,608,374.78	$ 1,933,000.00	$ 93,007,646.55

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Government Connectivity Helps Community Connectivity

Why Government Facility Connectivity?

Counties and Cities can use ARPA Local Fiscal Recovery Funds for Broadband

- Improved government services to residents
- Stable long-term MRC commitment for last-mile providers
- Infrastructure built near unserved residential areas
- Accountability with providers
- Fiber infrastructure is an economic development advantage
- Workforce recruitment and retention
- Examples: Hungry Valley and Hawthorne with E-rate

Government Connectivity Strategy Template

Planning for a government-private WAN includes the following four steps

- Survey government departments and community anchor institutions
- Evaluate nearby connectivity opportunities to assist in prioritization
  - State Facilities
  - Unserved neighborhoods
- Design the government-private WAN
- Issue an RFP asking for both the:
  - Government Private WAN
  - Private provider willing to serve nearby unserved areas

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PHASE II

Use of IIJA Funds for Broadband

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

Infrastructure

- $42.5B in broadband formula grants to States- **BEAD Fund**
- $1B Middle Mile competitive grant program
- $2B for Tribal Broadband competitive grants

Affordability and Digital Equity

- $14.5B Affordability Connectivity Program – Subsidy to go to $30/month for non-Tribal|$75/month for Tribal- individual application
- $2.75B in broadband adoption/digital equity programs

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

Program Priorities

1. **Unserved Locations:** less than 25/3 Mbps

2. **Underserved Locations:** less than 100/20 Mbps
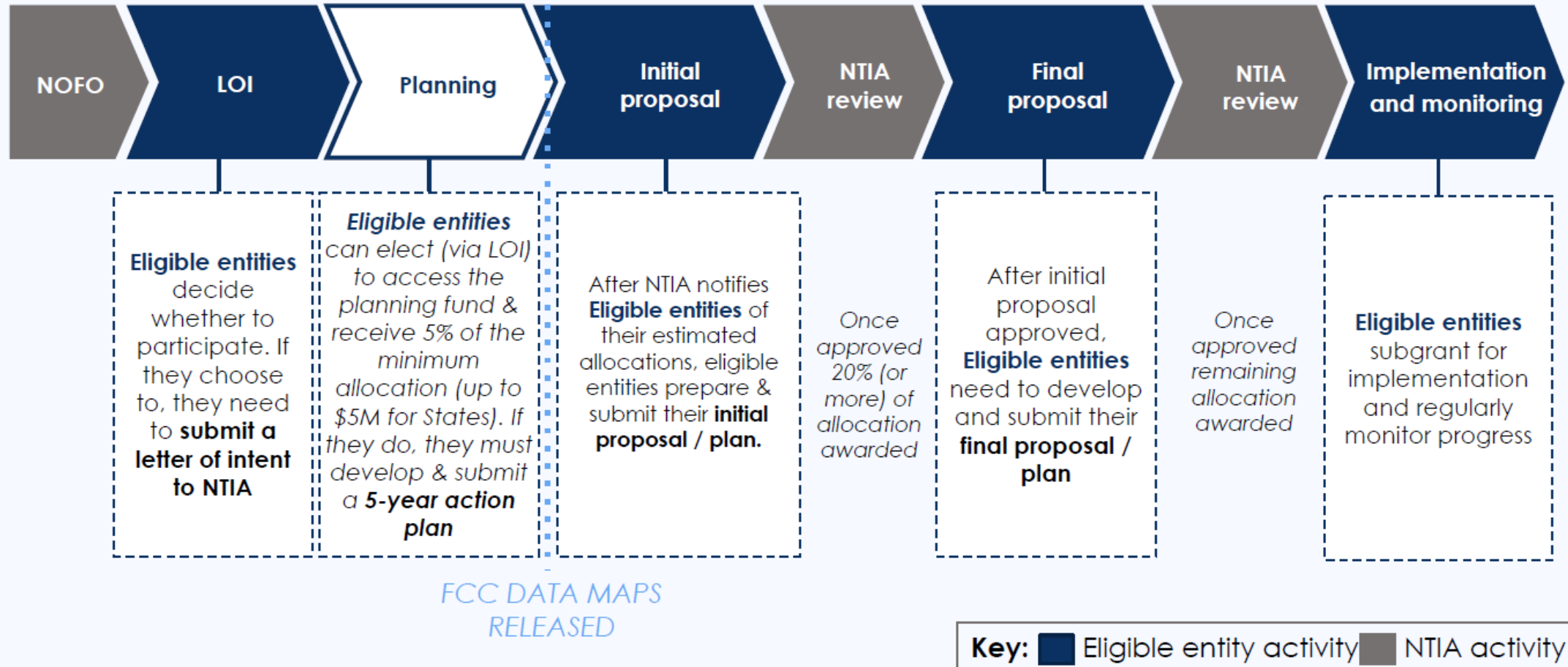
3. **Community Anchor Institutions:** less than 1 Gbps

Requirements

Network: 100/100 Mbps

Matching: 25% match

Low-Cost Plan: Must participate in ACP and offer a Low-Cost Plan

BEAD (III/III) | THERE ARE THREE KEY (AND ONE OPTIONAL) STEPS FOR ELIGIBLE ENTITIES TO RECEIVE FUNDING ALLOCATION

NOFO → **LOI** → **Planning** ┊ **Initial proposal** → **NTIA review** → **Final proposal** → **NTIA review** → **Implementation and monitoring**

Eligible entities decide whether to participate. If they choose to, they need to **submit a letter of intent to NTIA**

Eligible entities can elect (via LOI) to access the planning fund & receive 5% of the minimum allocation (up to $5M for States). If they do, they must develop & submit a **5-year action plan**

After NTIA notifies **Eligible entities** of their estimated allocations, eligible entities prepare & submit their **initial proposal / plan.**

Once approved 20% (or more) of allocation awarded

After initial proposal approved, **Eligible entities** need to develop and submit their **final proposal / plan**

Once approved remaining allocation awarded

Eligible entities subgrant for implementation and regularly monitor progress

FCC DATA MAPS RELEASED

Key: ▮ Eligible entity activity ▮ NTIA activity

Note: funding amounts inclusive of all administrative set-asides

State Role

1. Engage communities throughout the state

2. Build local capacity and provide tools

3. Define a State grant plan with objective priorities, specifically identified projects, and an awards process, based on federal rules

4. Seek federal approval for local projects

5. Distribute funds and assist with project implementation

County Broadband Action Team Role

1. Help ensure providers that have already won federal funds in individual counties meet deployment milestones

2. Identify community needs for broadband infrastructure and affordability programming with an eye towards Universal Access

   a. Local Government is best positioned to convene stakeholders and ensure unserved communities are not left behind

3. Create a list of priorities based on the needs identified

4. Solicit partnerships to meet priorities from service providers in a fair, open, competitive, neutral manner

5. Develop infrastructure and digital equity proposals together with service provider partner(s) that align to the State Connectivity Strategy and the federal funding requirements

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