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OSIT ANNOUNCES \$5,000,000 BEAD PLANNING GRANT; START OF BEAD PLANNING PROCESS

CARSON CITY, NV (December 20, 2022) – The Office of Science, Innovation and Technology (OSIT) today announced the receipt of a \$5,000,000 Broadband Access Equity and Deployment (BEAD) Planning Grant from the US Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

“This grant is a giant step forward in our goal to get high speed internet in every corner of our state and create a more accessible and equitable Nevada for our future generations,” **said Nevada Gov. Steve Sisolak**. “Thank you to the National Telecommunication and Information Administration for investing in a long-term solution to expand high-speed internet and upgrade our nation’s infrastructure. I’m also grateful for the commitment by the Nevada Office of Science, Innovation and Technology to helping our state secure and implement this critical funding.”

The BEAD Program provides \$42.45 billion to expand high-speed Internet access by funding planning, infrastructure deployment and adoption programs.

Nevada will receive \$5 million to fund various activities including:

- Research and data collection, including initial identification of unserved locations and underserved locations;
- Publications, outreach, and communications support;
- Technical assistance to potential subgrantees, including through workshops and events;
- Developing an informed, cohesive Five-Year Action Plan.

“The BEAD fund will be critical to our efforts to ensure all Nevadans have access to an affordable, reliable, and scalable internet service,” **said Director Mitchell**. “We are looking forward to undertaking a statewide stakeholder engagement effort to ensure that these funds reach the Nevadans that need them the most.”

The BEAD planning process is an essential part of the High Speed Nevada Initiative. Over the next 270 days, OSIT will use planning dollars to create a Five-Year Action Plan. Once the plan is approved by the NTIA, the State will unlock additional funding to implement the plan.

As a part of the planning process, OSIT will work with communities across the state to assess needs for infrastructure and adoption. OSIT has created a series of maps with different data and metrics that describe the digital divide.

There are a number of ways to get involved in the planning process:

Making Sure Every Nevadan is Counted: The federal government will allocate funding to Nevada for places that do not have fast, reliable broadband service. The State needs help make sure that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has the most accurate information about broadband accessibility and quality in every community in Nevada. Your input will improve the accuracy of the map and ensure that federal funding for broadband is targeted at the areas of Nevada that need it the most. If the information about the broadband service offerings at your home needs to be corrected, we ask you to please submit an availability challenge at <https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/home>. Submitting an availability challenge is easy. Enter your address in the website. Select “Availability Challenge” on the right hand side above the listing of providers. Fill out the information and submit.

Submit a Speed Test: If you would like to find out how fast the internet service is at your home, [take a speed test](#). The results will also help inform an overall picture of internet speeds across the state.

Participate in the Planning Process: Local engagement is vital to our planning efforts. We believe in an inclusive, thorough, and fully statewide planning process. If you would like to add your voice to the plan, we want to hear from you! [Please complete this form](#) and we will be in contact with you.

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