

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 26, 2024 CONTACT: highspeednv@gov.nv.gov

## State of Nevada Launches \$400 million High Speed Nevada Phase III Subgrantee Selection

The State of Nevada, Governor's Office of Science, Innovation and Technology (OSIT) today announced the start of subgrantee selection for Phase III of the High Speed Nevada Initiative (HSNV). Phase III will award over \$400 million to deploy faster internet service to over 52,000 unserved and underserved residential and community locations in Nevada.

"The goal of the High Speed Nevada Initiative is that all Nevadans have access to high-speed internet that is affordable, reliable and scalable," **said Brian Mitchell, Director of OSIT.** "This is a big moment for Nevada and for the tens of thousands of Nevadans that do not have high-speed internet service. We look forward to receiving applications and closing the digital divide together."

Funding for HSNV Phase III will come from primarily Nevada's allocation of Broadband Equity Access Deployment (BEAD) and will fund 'last-mile' broadband deployment projects, or projects within communities and neighborhoods that bring connectivity to the home. Nevada received \$416 million in BEAD funding from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

As described in its Initial Proposal Volume II, OSIT has grouped unserved and underserved locations and eligible Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) into Regional Project Areas (RPAs). OSIT will conduct a fair, open, and transparent subgrantee selection process to allocate funding to winning applicants to serve all the eligible locations within an RPA. <u>The Nevada Regional Project</u> <u>Area Map</u> was designed to visualize the RPAs across the state. Defined by OSIT, these project areas will guide the distribution of funding to awardees.

Phase III will build off OSIT's earlier announcement of a \$250 million 2,500 middle mile network in Phases I and II. <u>The Nevada Middle Mile Network</u> will deploy broadband infrastructure with sufficient bandwidth that is needed to provide high-speed, affordable, reliable connections in residential and community areas that are unserved today.

All applicants for funding must first become pre-qualified. Applicants may submit pre-qualification materials at any time prior to the pre-qualification deadline of October 7, 2024. Following prequalification, applicants may submit application materials through the Application Portal. All applications are due October 10, 2024.

All application materials are now available on the OSIT website. Today begins a 45-day clock to submit applications. OSIT has posted the link to the Pre-Qualification portal, the Request for Applications, templates, GIS data, technical assistance webinars, and other information on the OSIT website: <u>https://osit.nv.gov/Broadband/BEAD/</u>. OSIT will post a link to the Application Portal in early September. OSIT will also post answers to questions in a written FAQ on the same webpage.

Created by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program provides federal funding to all fifty states for broadband planning, deployment, mapping, equity, and adoption activities. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is the federal agency responsible for administering the BEAD Program. The IIJA allocated \$42.5 billion to the BEAD Program and Nevada was allocated \$416 million. To read the BEAD Notice of Funding Opportunity, which establishes the rules for the BEAD Program, <u>click here</u>.

The Nevada Governor's Office of Science, Innovation and Technology (OSIT) is responsible for realizing Nevada's broadband vision: every Nevadan has access to high-speed internet that is affordable, reliable, and scalable. Part of OSIT's work to realize that vision is administering the BEAD Program in Nevada. The BEAD Program is an important part of the <u>High Speed Nevada</u> Initiative. Nevada's 5-Year Action Plan, which establishes Nevada's vision for broadband deployment and digital equity, the goals and objectives, and the priorities, strategies, and activities the State will take to realize our vision can be found <u>here</u>.

Questions should be directed to <u>HighSpeedNV@gov.nv.gov</u>

Additional information about the BEAD program can be found here: <a href="https://osit.nv.gov/Broadband/BEAD/">https://osit.nv.gov/Broadband/BEAD/</a>



Nevada Governor's Office of Science, Innovation and Technology