# Ohio's Broadband Vision

Bring reliable, affordable, high-speed internet to every Ohioan, in their home and in their community.

Promote the creation of world- class broadband networks throughout the state, via the use of best-in-class technologies.

Enable participation in the modern economy.

Empower Ohioans through training and digital skills.

Connecting a home to the internet
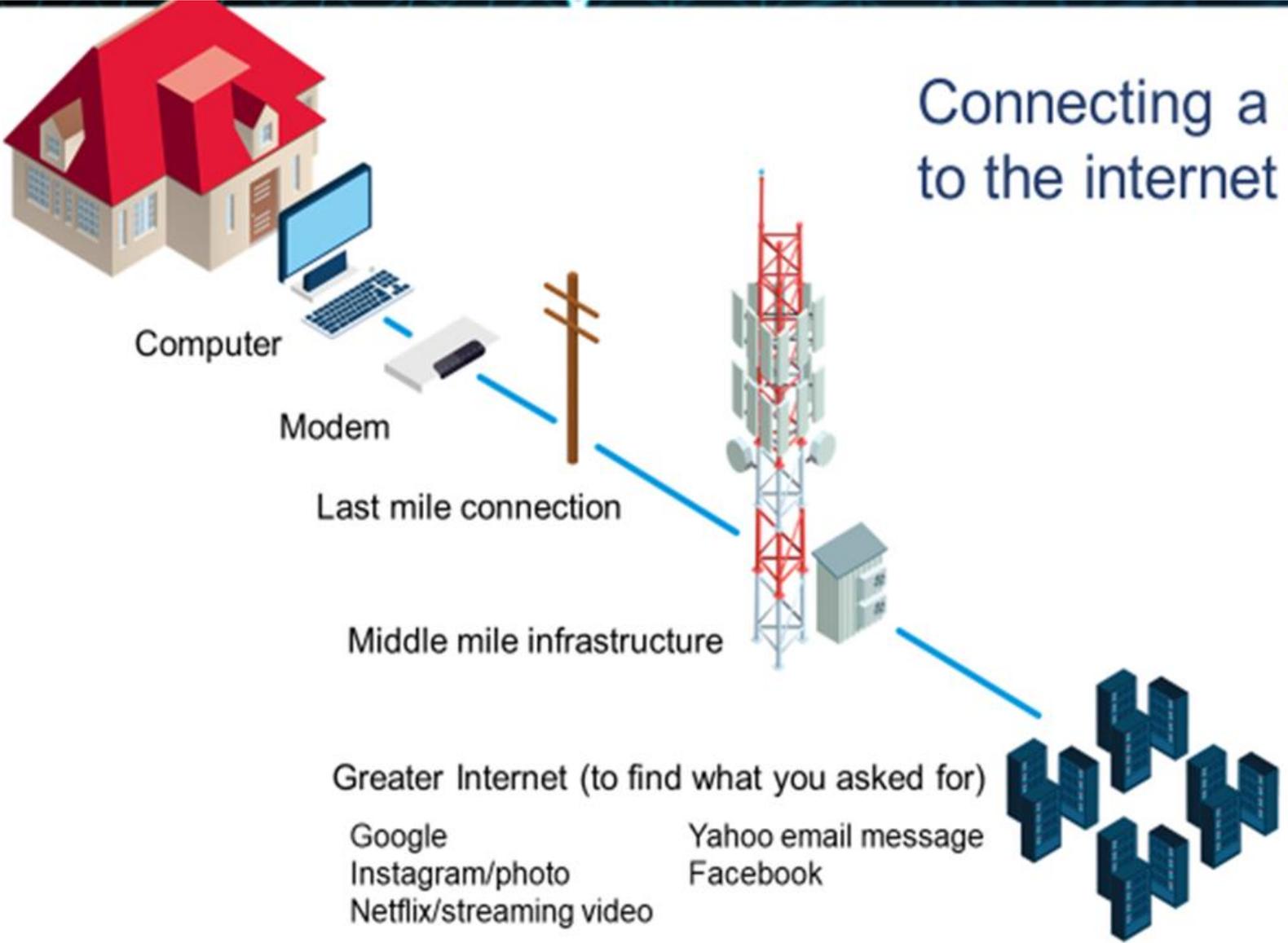
Computer

Modem

Last mile connection

Middle mile infrastructure

Greater Internet (to find what you asked for)

Google
Instagram/photo
Netflix/streaming video

Yahoo email message
Facebook

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Definitions

Fiber-optic Technology
Converts electrical signals carrying data into light and send the light through transparent glass fibers about the diameter of a human hair. Fiber transmits data at speeds much faster than DSL and cable, typically tens and even hundreds of Mbps.

Last Mile
The physical infrastructure of a broadband network that serves as the last leg of connection to a home or business from an internet service provider (ISP).

Middle Mile
The physical infrastructure of a broadband network needed to enable internet connectivity; connects last mile (local) networks, like ISPs, to the greater internet.

Underserved
The IIJA defines "underserved" locations as one without broadband service offering speeds of 100/20 Mbps.

Unserved
The IIJA defines an "unserved" location as one without any broadband service at all or with internet service offering speeds below 25/3 Mbps.

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Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant
Round 2 Updates

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ORBEG Round 2

+ BroadbandOhio and the Broadband Expansion Program Authority released ORBEG Round 2 on October 6, 2023. The application window is open and closes at 5:00 PM on January 5.

+ ## House Bill 33 Changes

  - Section 122.40 of the Ohio Revised Code (O.R.C.) does not permit ORBEG funding to be used for the construction of wireless broadband infrastructure, unless the proposed project falls within the federally defined extremely high-cost area, will not be funded

  - Tier 2 (100/20) service must be provided. Anything under 100/20 is considered **underserved**, and anything under 25/3 is **unserved.**

+ ## Scoring Changes

  - Broadband Provider Experience Based on Years Provider Has been Providing Tier 2 Service.

  - Broadband Service Speed Based on a Graduated Scale Rating Broadband Service Cost.

  - Tier 2 Service Coverage or Greater to Eligible Addresses in an Eligible Project.

  - Rating Broadband Service Cost- Calculating Grant Cost Percentile.

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Broadband Pole Replacement and Undergrounding Program

Broadband Pole Replacement and Undergrounding Program

+ Sec. 191.02 of House Bill 33 established the Ohio Broadband Pole Replacement and Undergrounding Program within the Department of Development to advance the provision of qualifying broadband service access to residences and businesses in an unserved area by reimbursing certain costs of pole replacements, mid-span pole installations, and undergrounding.

+ **Start Date**

- Applications are currently available and are accepted on a rolling basis.

+ **Who Can Apply**

- Providers may apply for reimbursement under the program if the provider has paid for any of the following costs in association with the deployment of broadband infrastructure:
  - Pole replacement costs
  - Mid-span pole replacement costs
  - Undergrounding costs

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Community Accelerator Program

Community Accelerator Program

+ Designed to help communities across Ohio leverage historic broadband infrastructure funding.

+ Free 10-week program offers structured engagement for communities to **identify broadband goals**, **gather data**, **understand funding options**, and **target capital dollars to support implementation**.

+ First Cohort June 2022

+ Second Cohort August 2023

+ BroadbandOhio is working with partners to plan the next cohort

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Upcoming Funding Opportunities

US Treasury Capital Projects Fund

+ $268.5 million allocation for Ohio

+ Projects

  - Appalachian Community Innovation Campuses (Ohio Facilities Construction Commission) - $90 million
  - ORBEG Round 2- $78.5 million
  - Multi County Fiber Build SW Ohio- $60 million
  - Affordability Grants- $20 million
  - Line Extension Program- $10 million
  - Student Connectivity Grants Round 2- $7 million
  - Western Ohio Independent Fiber Consortia Pilot Project- $3 million

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CPF ORBEG Funding Timelines

2023	2024

ORBEG

October: Publish scoring criteria and application

November : Application period opens

January: Application period closes

February/March: Challenge period

April: Awards announced

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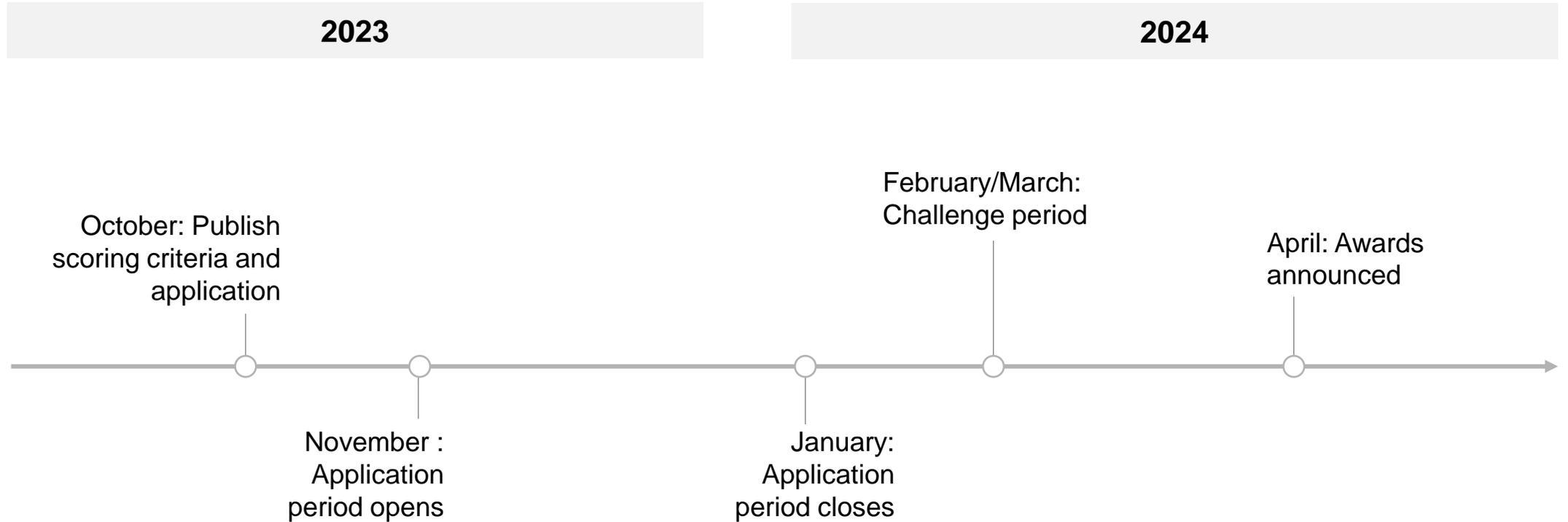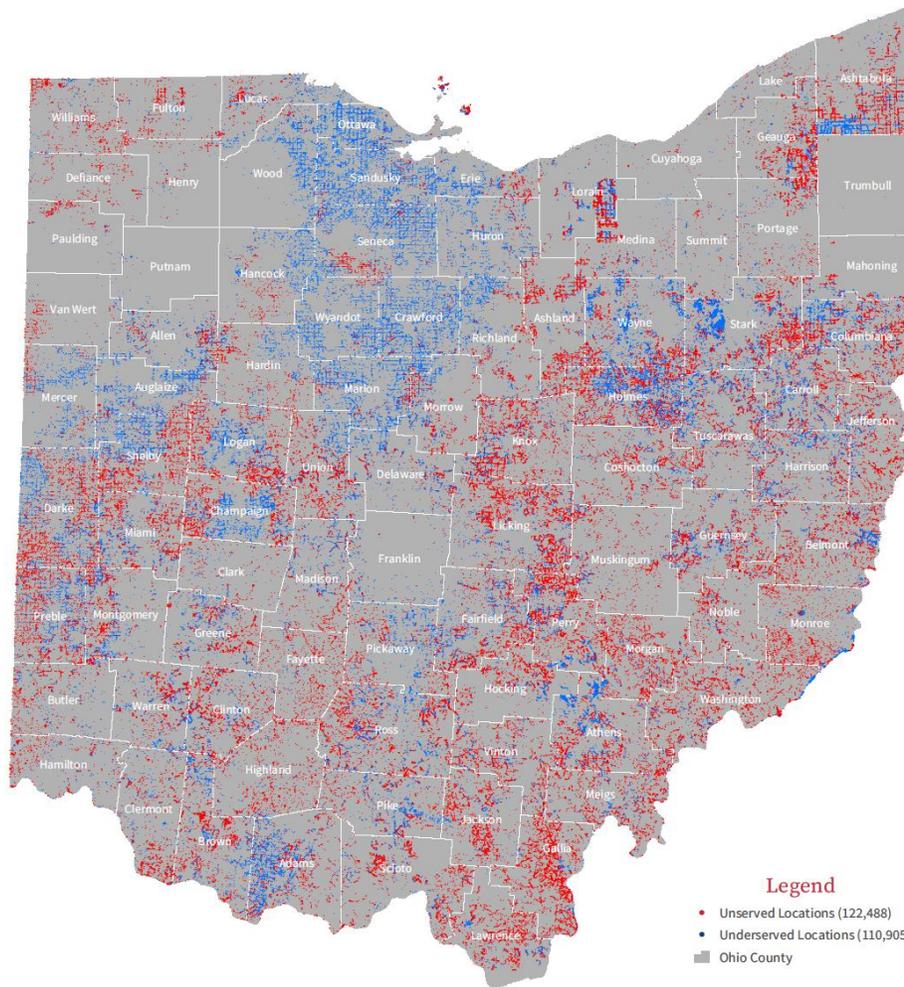
Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program and Digital Equity Act

BroadbandOhio
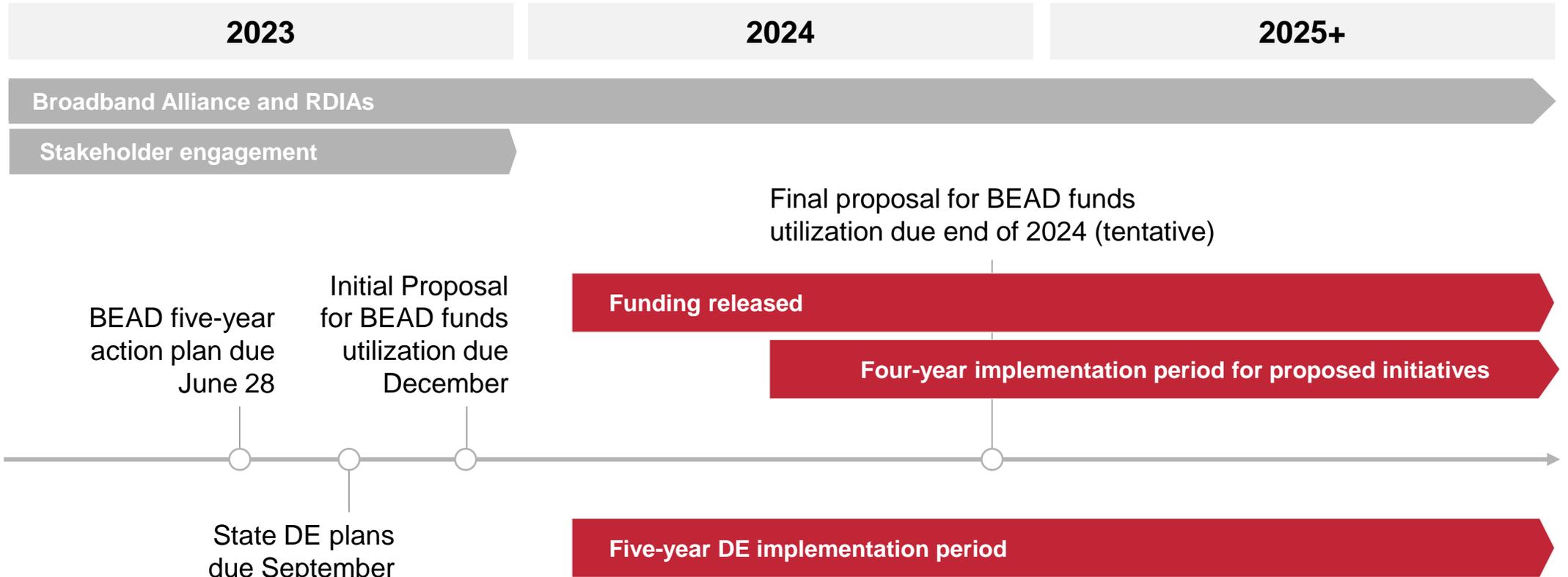## Unfunded Locations
Unserved and Underserved Categories

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Legend

- • Unserved Locations (122,488)
- • Underserved Locations (110,905)
- ▮ Ohio County

This map shows the locations in Ohio lacking adequate broadband service that have not been touched by the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF), Connect America Fund II (CAF II), or the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant (ORBEG) programs. Any location with broadband service slower than 25/3 (mbps download/upload speeds) is unserved. A location with broadband service of at least 25/3 but lower than 100/20 is underserved.

Funded Locations*	99,585
CAF II	3,228
ORBEG	50,406
RDOF	45,951
Unfunded Locations	233,393
Unserved	122,488
Underserved	110,905

*Not shown on map

BEAD and DE Funding Timelines

2023	2024	2025+

Broadband Alliance and RDIAs

Stakeholder engagement

BEAD

Final proposal for BEAD funds utilization due end of 2024 (tentative)

BEAD five-year action plan due June 28

Initial Proposal for BEAD funds utilization due December

Funding released

Four-year implementation period for proposed initiatives

DE

State DE plans due September

Five-year DE implementation period
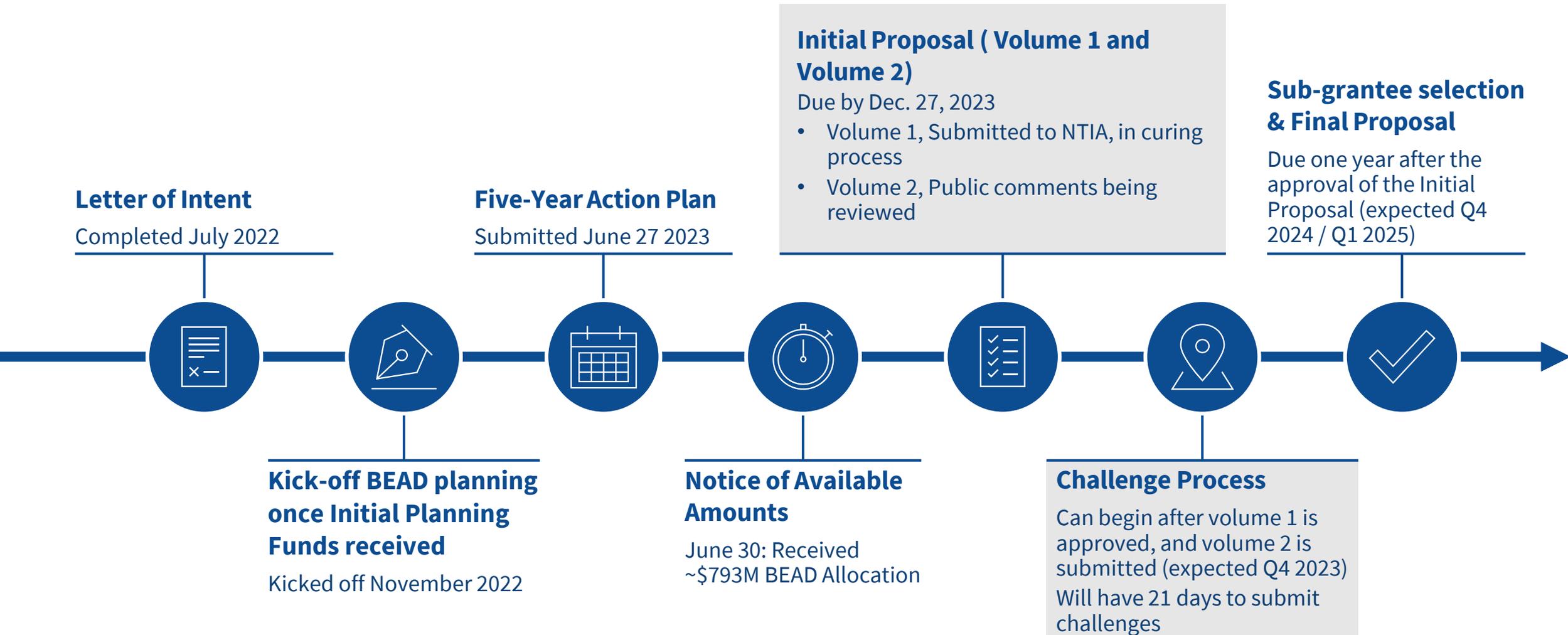
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Digital Equity Act

+ **October 2022**
  + Received $1.4 million to do a state digital equity plan
  + March to June 2023
    + Hosted regional planning sessions with communities
    + 100,000 surveys
  + Created Regional Digital Inclusion Alliances
    + Northwest Ohio - Toledo Lucas County Public Library
    + Northeast Ohio - Cleveland Foundation
    + Central Ohio - Smart Columbus
    + Southeast Ohio - Buckeye Hills Regional Council
    + Southwest Ohio - The United Way of Greater Cincinnati
  + August 2023
    + Awarded more than $600K in pilot grant funding
  + **Q1 of 2024 – Capacity Grant funding from NTIA**

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Process

What's next in the BEAD Process

Letter of Intent
Completed July 2022

Five-Year Action Plan
Submitted June 27 2023

Initial Proposal (Volume 1 and Volume 2)
Due by Dec. 27, 2023
- Volume 1, Submitted to NTIA, in curing process
- Volume 2, Public comments being reviewed

Sub-grantee selection & Final Proposal
Due one year after the approval of the Initial Proposal (expected Q4 2024 / Q1 2025)

Kick-off BEAD planning once Initial Planning Funds received
Kicked off November 2022

Notice of Available Amounts
June 30: Received ~$793M BEAD Allocation

Challenge Process
Can begin after volume 1 is approved, and volume 2 is submitted (expected Q4 2023)
Will have 21 days to submit challenges

Source: NTIA Initial Proposal Webinar materials

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Preliminary view of the Ohio BEAD Challenge Process

Process overview

Stakeholder engagement	Publication of Eligible locations	Challenge	Rebuttal	Final Determination

Active engagement of stakeholders to publicize the timing, documentation and process details of BEAD Challenge process via public channels, and technical assistance webinars

Publish the full universe of locations potentially eligible for BEAD in an online portal

Stakeholders who can access the portal:
- Local government
- Providers
- Non-profits

Challenges submitted in an online portal

Challenges must be visible to the service provider whose service availability is being contested

Only the challenged service provider may rebut the challenge of a location or area with evidence

If rebutted, the location(s) are disputed

The state makes the final determination of the classification of each disputed location, either declaring the challenge sustained or rejected

all submitted challenges and rebuttals to be publicly posted before final determinations are made, including

Process details to be determined, based on NTIA guidance, review and decision

- Timing of the challenge process (NTIA decision)
- Evidentiary requirements (NTIA decision)
- Tool/solution to be used for submitting challenges (Guidance to be released by NTIA)

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Contact Information

Peter Voderberg
Peter.Voderberg@development.ohio.gov
(614) 869-8110

Development Email:
broadbandohio@development.ohio.gov

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