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Statewide Digital Equity Planning Group Meeting

January 25, 2023

AGENDA

- Welcome
- Broadband for All and the State Digital Equity Plan
- NTIA - Digital Equity Plan
- State Digital Equity Planning Process Update
- Q&A/Public Comment

Welcome and Objectives

Jared Johnson

Deputy State Chief Information Officer and Chief Deputy Director

California Department of Technology

SDEP APPROACH Statewide Planning Group

The Statewide Planning Group will advise the CDT on execution of the State Digital Equity Plan (SDEP) across the following plan components:

- Statewide Public Engagement
- Local and Regional Outreach
- California Digital Equity Survey and Asset Inventory
- Outcome Area Working Groups
- Statewide Planning Group

SDEP APPROACH Statewide Planning Group

SPG Members Organizations			
California Broadband Council Members		**+ Eight Covered Populations and Outcome Area Experts**	
Department of Technology	Department of Transportation	Department of Housing & Community Development	Department of Aging
Public Utilities Commission	California Emerging Technology Fund	Department of Correctional Rehabilitation	Department of Rehabilitation
Governor's Office of Emergency Services	Department of Food & Agriculture	Department of Public Health Services	Labor and Workforce Development Agency
Department of Education	California State Library	GO-Biz	Rural Counties Representative of California
Department of General Services	Governor's Office of Tribal Affairs	Government Operations Agency	Department of Social Services
		Department of Veterans Affairs	Office of Data and Innovation

Meeting Logistics and Cadence

SPG meetings will be open public meetings and announced in advance of each meeting.

The 2023 meetings will take place at 12:00pm – 2:00pm PT:

- January 25
- April 26
- July 26
- October 25

Broadband for All and the State Digital Equity Plan

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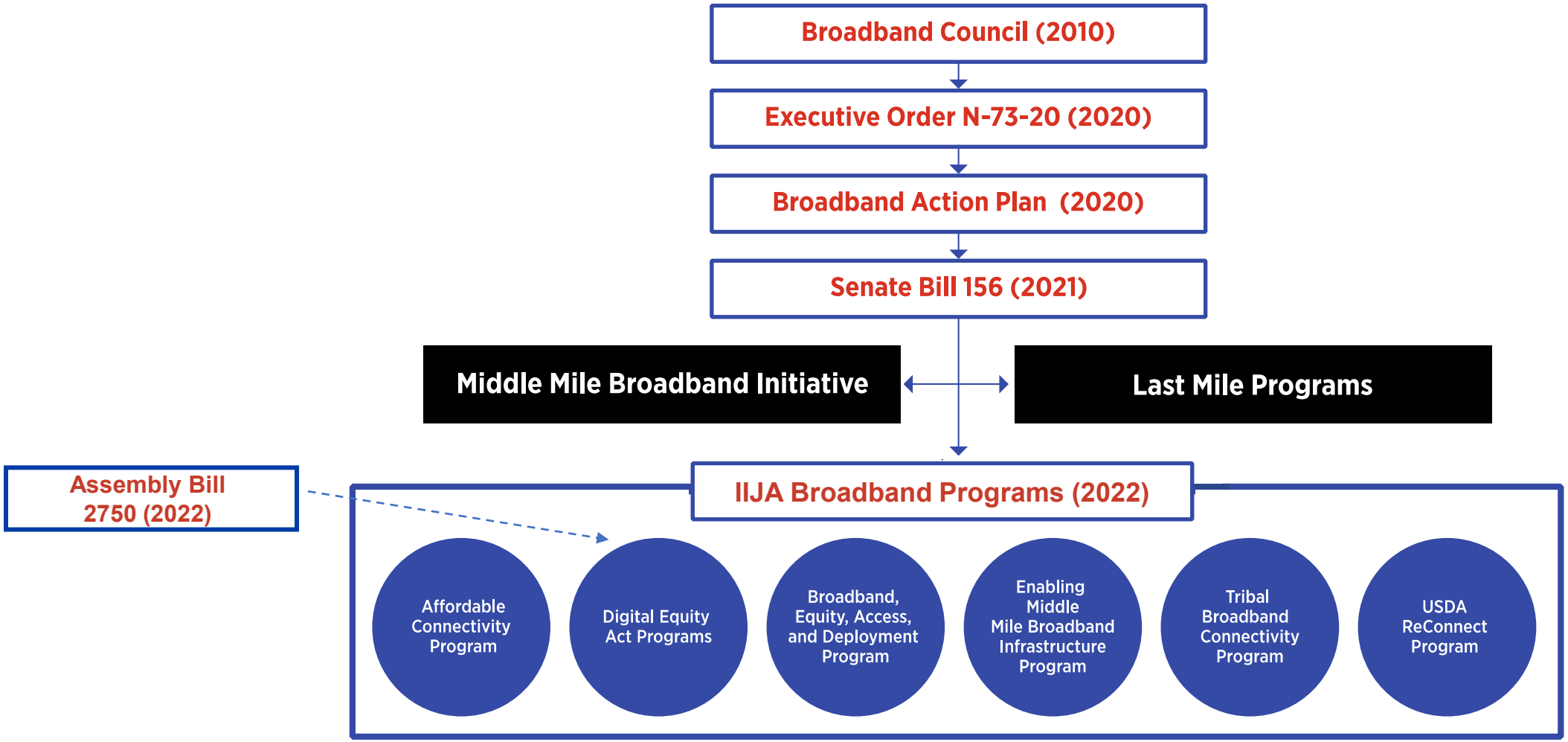
“Californians’ ability to access and use broadband is the difference between being able to fully engage in life and being cut off.”

Access

Affordability

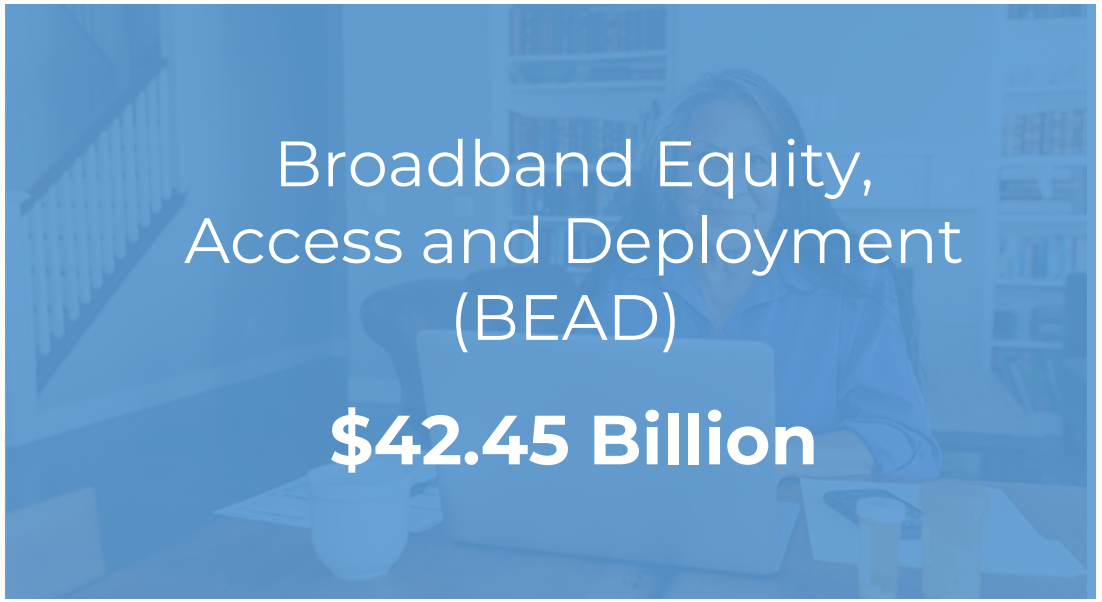
Adoption

Digital Literacy & Inclusion


Broadband Council (2010)
Executive Order N-73-20 (2020)
Broadband Action Plan (2020)
Senate Bill 156 (2021)
Middle Mile Broadband Initiative
Last Mile Programs
Assembly Bill 2750 (2022)
IIJA Broadband Programs (2022)
Affordable Connectivity Program
Digital Equity Act Programs
Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment Program
Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program
Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program
USDA ReConnect Program

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT (IIJA)

The IIJA invests roughly $65 billion to support broadband deployment and adoption and promote digital equity in states.



IIJA Statute: https://www.congress.gov/117/plaws/publ58/PLAW-117publ58.pdf

BACKGROUND SDEP and BEAD Plan Coordination

- CDT administering entity for Digital Equity Planning program
- CPUC administering entity for Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment program
- Planning processes will be coordinated
- Extensive statewide and local engagement and input
- When completed, both plans will be integrated and unlock hundreds of millions of additional dollars to achieve Broadband for All

The Digital Equity Act prioritizes investments for eight "Covered Populations"

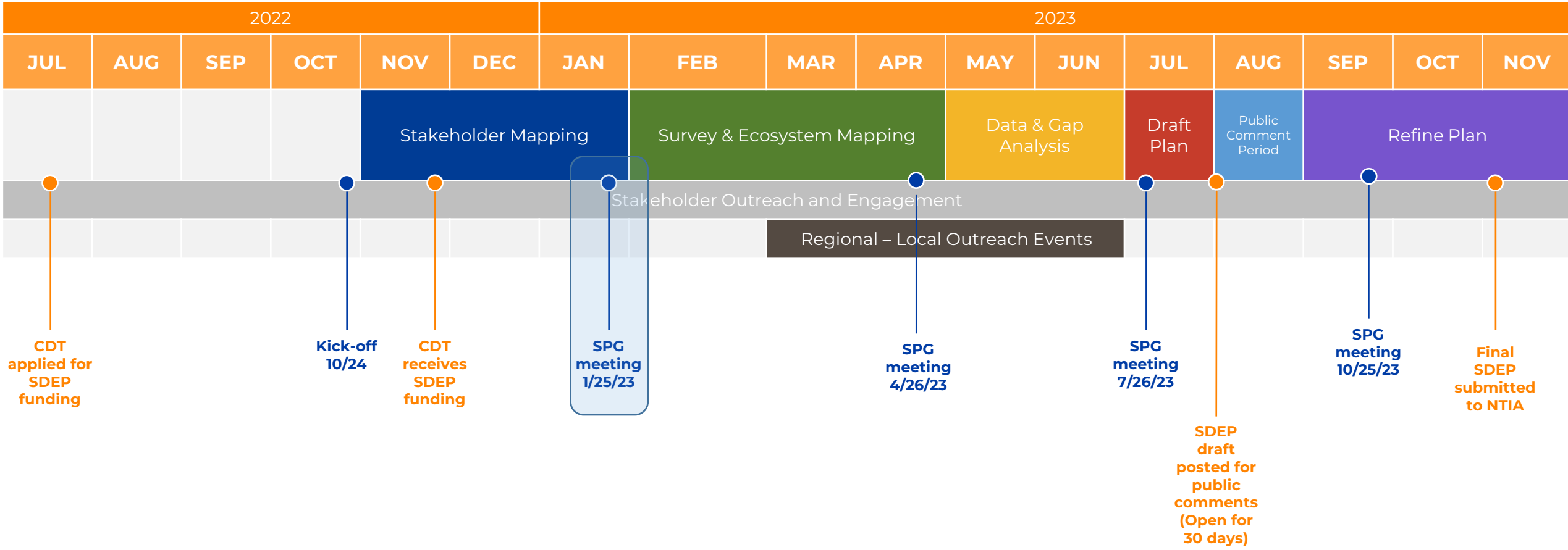
1. **Individuals living in covered households**
   With household income at or below 150% Federal Poverty Level
2. **Aging individuals** (60+)
3. **Incarcerated individuals**
   other than individuals who are incarcerated in a Federal correctional facility
4. **Veterans**
5. **Individuals with disabilities**
6. **Individuals with language barriers**
   including individuals who are English learners and have low levels of literacy
7. **Members of a racial or ethnic minority group**
8. **Individuals who primarily reside in rural areas**

The planning process will consist of five components:

1. Statewide Planning Group (SPG)
2. Outcome Area Working Groups (OAWGs)
3. California Digital Equity Survey(s)
4. Regional - Local Events
5. Statewide Public Engagement

California State Digital Equity Planning (SDEP) Timeline

Important milestones for State Digital Equity Planning:



Q&A State Digital Equity Planning Process Update

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NTIA Requirements and Timeline

Gladys Palpallatoc
Federal Program Officer California
US Department of Commerce, NTIA

Digital Equity Act created three programs to promote digital equity and inclusion

Funding pool
$2.75B

Three programs that provide funding to promote digital inclusion and advance equity for all. They aim to ensure that all communities can access and use affordable, reliable high-speed Internet to meet their needs and improve their lives.

PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHTS

The Digital Equity Act created three programs:

State Planning
- $60M formula funding program to develop digital equity plans

State Capacity
- $1.44B formula funding program to implement plans & promote digital inclusion

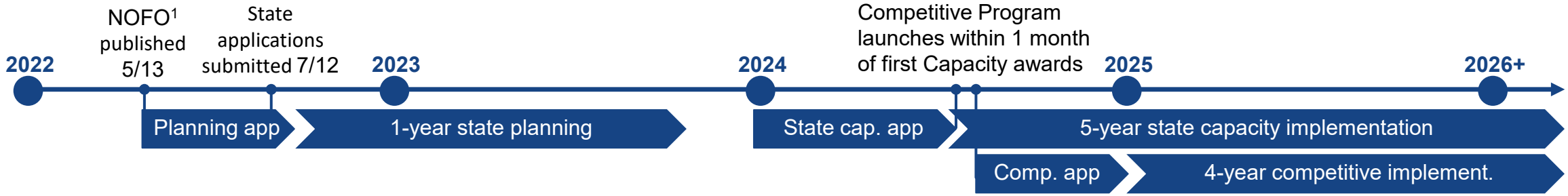
Competitive
- $1.25B to implement digital equity and inclusion activities

Example eligible uses of funds across three programs include:

Developing digital equity plans; states must develop a plan to be eligible for state capacity grants	Making awards to other entities to help make digital equity plans	Improving accessibility and inclusivity of public resources
Implementing digital equity plans and related activities	Providing digital literacy and digital skills education	Facilitating the adoption of high-speed Internet

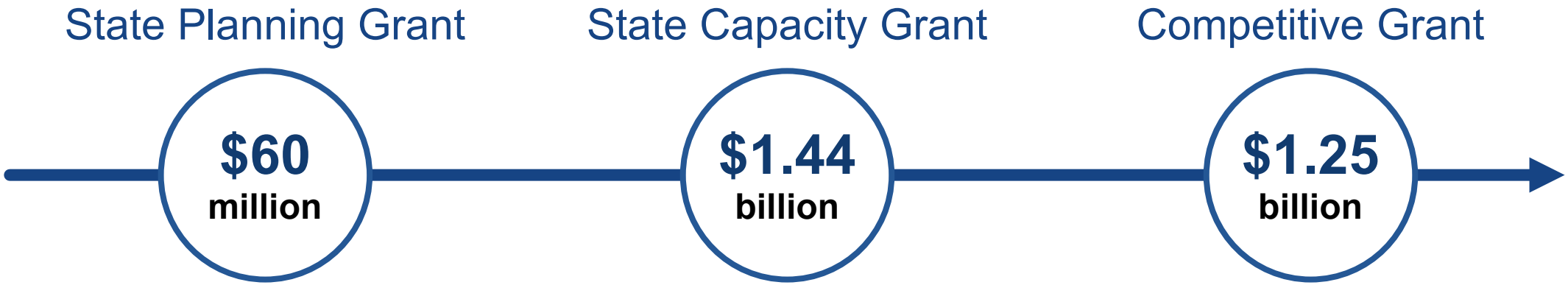
ESTIMATED TIMELINE

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified



1. Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), available here

There are two state formula grant programs, which are separate but connected, and a third competitive grant program



	State Planning Grant	State Capacity Grant	Competitive Grant
Who	Open to **U.S. States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico (States)**	Open to U.S. States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, that **completed the State Planning Program**	Open to **certain entities**, such as political subdivisions, Tribal entities, nonprofits, community anchor institutions, local educational agencies, and workforce development orgs
What	Grants will be used to **develop a State Digital Equity Plan**	Grants will be used to **implement State Digital Equity Plans**	Grants will be used to **develop and implement digital inclusion activities**

Other U.S. territories, Indian Tribes, Alaska Native entities, and Native Hawaiian orgs have a separate statutory set-aside and separate program requirements under the State Planning and Capacity Programs, as detailed on the next page

States are eligible for two distinct funding streams and must participate in planning to receive capacity

State Planning Grant Program

Plan NOFO → **App** → **NTIA review & approval** → **Develop Plan**

State Planning Grant Applications were due **July 12, 2022**

NTIA reviews & approves participation, and awards planning grant

NTIA expects to complete its review and process awards by mid-December

Develop a State DE Plan **within a year of the planning grant award (ongoing)**

State Capacity Grant Program

Capacity NOFO → **App** → **NTIA review & approval** → **Implement and monitor**

Only entities who completed the planning grant program can apply for a capacity grant

NTIA reviews & approves application. Funds are awarded annually over 5 years based on each year's appropriation

Implement and monitor progress regularly

States will be able to apply for the capacity grant program after the year-long state planning process, estimated to be at the beginning of 2024.

Key: State activity NTIA activity

Focus of this presentation

State Digital Equity Plan components (I/II)

1. The **identification of the barriers to digital equity** faced by covered populations
2. **Measurable objectives for documenting & promoting** broadband technology; the online accessibility of public resources and services; digital literacy; secure online privacy / cybersecurity; consumer devices and tech support
3. An assessment of how the **objectives will impact and interact** with the State's economic and workforce goals; health, education and civic engagement outcomes; and delivery of other essential services
4. A description of how the State **plans to collaborate with key stakeholders** (e.g., anchor institutions, municipal government, educational agencies, non-profits) to achieve objectives
5. A list of organizations with which the administering entity for the State **collaborated in developing and implementing the Plan**
6. A stated **vision for digital equity**
7. A **digital equity needs assessment**, including an assessment of the baseline and the State's identification of the barriers to digital equity

State Digital Equity Plan components (II/II)

8. An **asset inventory**, including current resources and strategies that promote digital equity and existing digital equity plans and programs

9. A **coordination and outreach strategy**, including opportunities for public comment by, collaboration with, and ongoing engagement with the covered populations and the full range of stakeholders

10. Description of how **municipal, regional, and/or tribal digital plans will be incorporated**

11. An **implementation strategy** (1) establishing measurable goals, objectives, proposed core activities, (2) setting out measures ensuring the plan's sustainability, and (3) adopting mechanisms to ensure that the plan is regularly evaluated and updated

12. Explanation of how the strategy **addresses gaps in existing efforts** to address barriers to digital equity

13. Description of how the State intends to accomplish the implementation strategy by **partnering with workforce organizations and institutions of higher learning**

14. A **timeline** for implementation of the Plan

15. Material indicating how the State will coordinate its use of Digital Equity Capacity Grant funding and **Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) funding**

State Digital Equity Plans may propose a variety of digital inclusion activities to later be implemented with capacity grant funds

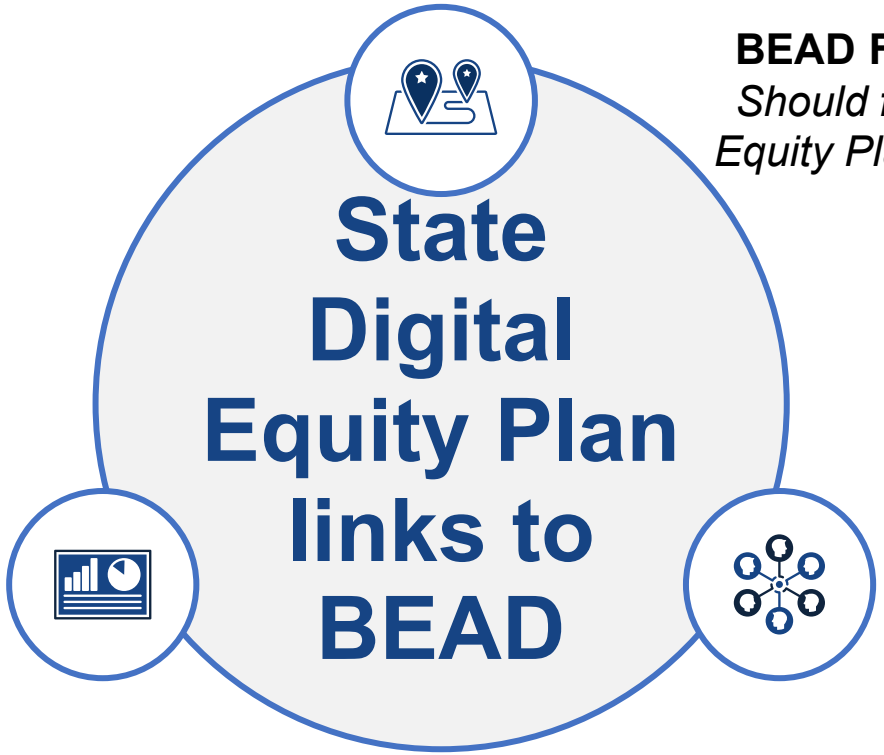
Example Uses of State Planning Grant Program funds

Develop or update State Digital Equity Plans to include:

- Pursuing digital inclusion activities
- Facilitating adoption of broadband
- Implementing training and workforce development programs
- Providing equipment and software for broadband services
- Constructing or upgrading public access computer centers

State Digital Equity Plans are closely linked to requirements for the BEAD Program

States and territories should view the State Planning Grant Program NOFO and the BEAD NOFO holistically under a **singular, unified objective of closing the digital divide**



BEAD Five-Year Plans
Should fully incorporate State Digital Equity Plans

BEAD Initial and Final Proposals
Should be informed by and complementary, sequenced, and integrated with State Digital Equity Plans

Local Coordination
Should ensure overlap between planning teams and form communication pathways to reduce the burden and confusion on community stakeholders

Q&A NTIA Requirements and Timeline

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State Digital Equity Planning Process

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The planning process will consist of five components:

1. Statewide Planning Group (SPG)
2. Outcome Area Working Groups (OAWGs)
3. California Digital Equity Survey(s)
4. Regional - Local Events
5. Statewide Public Engagement

Outcome Area Working Groups

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INTRODUCTIONS Six Outcome Area Working Groups

1. **Education**
2. **Health**
3. **Digital Literacy and Inclusion**
4. **Essential Services, Accessibility and Civic Engagement**
5. **Workforce and Economic Development**
6. **Tribal Collaboration**

OAWG STAFF

Scott Adams, Cole Przybyla, Laura Sasaki, Anh Nguyen

Contractors + Graduate Student Assistants

OUTCOME AREA WORKING GROUP Objectives

Outcome Area Working Groups will convene subject matter experts and practitioners together to develop strategies that align with SDEP priorities, through the lens of the digital equity barriers of the eight covered populations.

Working group objectives

1. Develop a statewide stakeholder map for outcome area
2. Conduct an asset inventory of programs, plans and services for outcome area
3. Promote and encourage participation in the digital equity survey
4. Conduct gap analysis for outcome area
5. Develop recommendations to CDT for inclusion in the SDEP

SDEP APPROACH Outcome Area Working Groups

WORKING GROUPS		
Outcome Areas	**Co-chairs**	**Key Parties**
Education	California State University, Department of Education, University of California, California State Library, Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC), California Community Colleges	• School districts & higher education, • CBOs serving youth, & families
Health	California Department of Public Health, Insure the Uninsured Project, California Coverage and Health Initiatives, Office of Planning and Research, Covered California, Department of Aging, California Health and Human Services	• Community health providers, clinics, health-focused CBOs
Digital Literacy and Inclusion	California Emerging Technology Fund, Department of Aging, California State Library, California Department. of Technology, California Public Utilities Commission	• Device providers, including refurbishers • Digital inclusion practitioners • ISPS
Essential Services, Accessibility & Civic Engagement	California Department of Technology, Government Operation Agency, Office of Data and Innovation, Office of Emergency Services, Department of Rehabilitation, League of Cities, California State Association of Counties, Department of Developmental Services	• Assistive technology experts (UI/UX) • Senior and disability-serving CBOs
Workforce and Economic Development	California Community Colleges, Labor and Workforce Development Agency, GO-Biz, Fiber Broadband Association, California Public Utilities Commission, Office of Data and Innovation, California State Library, California Forward, NextGen Policy, Fiber Optic Association	• CBOs, Labor • ISPS, Major Employers, small businesses, DVBE
Tribal Collaboration	California Department of Technology, California Public Utilities Commission, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Golden State Net, Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California	• Tribal Chairpersons Associations • Tribes

GRADUATE STUDENT ASSISTANTS

Kamaljit Kaur Gill
Education Working Group

Latifa Mbarak
Health Working Group

Camila Saldarriaga
Digital Literacy Working Group

Rida Fayyaz
Workforce and Economic Development Working Group

Noelle Fa-Kaji
Essential Services, Accessibility, and Civic Engagement Working Group

Zachary Ferguson
Tribal Collaboration Working Group

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Digital Equity Data Gathering

- Stakeholder Mapping
- Digital Equity Ecosystem Mapping Tool
- Digital Equity Phone and Online Survey

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STAKEHOLDER MAPPING

Key stakeholders may include, but are not limited to those listed below

- County and municipal governments
- ISPs & Technology Companies
- Community anchor institutions
- Indian Tribes, Alaska Native entities, and Native Hawaiian organizations
- Nonprofit organizations
- Organizations that represent covered populations
- Civil rights organizations
- Entities that conduct workforce development programs
- State and local agencies responsible for education and literacy activities
- Public housing authorities

Digital Equity Ecosystem Mapping (DEEM)

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DIGITAL EQUITY ECOSYSTEM MAPPING

Take Action: Use the DEEM tool

The Digital Equity Ecosystem Mapping tool tracks **all Digital Equity** programs and resources throughout California and will inform how grant resources may be distributed. The mapping tool will help identify:

- What is working, what can be duplicated, and what is missing in each region.
- Barriers to achieving digital equity in every California county.

Timeline

- Launch Q1 2023

DIGITAL EQUITY ECOSYSTEM MAPPING

Who should participate in DEEM?

All entities, coalitions, practitioners, researchers and funders with existing and planned programs and services that provide access to digital equity resources in communities throughout California.

How do I know if I offer digital equity programs and services?

Digital equity programs and services may include activities that enable individual and community access to:

- Reliable, affordable broadband internet service
- Digital devices to access the internet
- Digital skills training programs
- Other services to leverage technology to enhance employability, education, health, and other beneficial uses of the internet.

CDT is seeking to identify all such efforts across the state, **whether or not your organization considers itself to be a "digital equity" organization**.

Digital Equity Survey

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DIGITAL EQUITY SURVEY

Survey

CDT will distribute a statewide **Digital Equity Survey** to residents of California as a civic engagement tool to identify barriers to digital equity, especially for Covered Populations.

The survey is intended to capture information about internet access, internet affordability, and internet adoption for residents in California households.

Timeline

Launch Q1 2023

Scope

Two versions of the survey will be shared in **all 58 counties** and will oversample for the **eight covered populations:**

- **Online survey**
- **Phone survey**

Local Events

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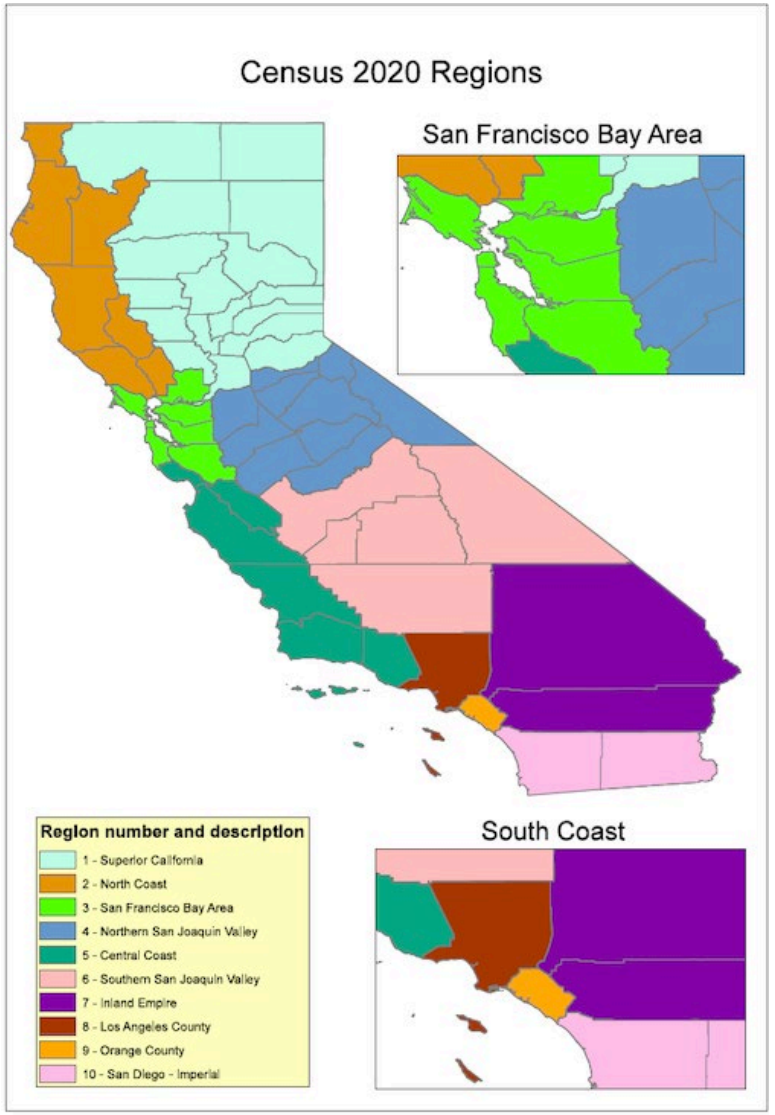
Local and Regional Outreach Events

20 local/regional engagement events throughout the state

Attendees will include:

- Elected and tribal leaders
- Schools
- Libraries
- Nonprofits
- Small businesses / DVBE
- Internet service providers
- Philanthropic entities



Stakeholder Engagement and Relations

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STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND RELATIONS

Communications plan to reach engage community groups, local and tribal agencies, and the general population in every corner of the state.

- Create a campaign to engage community organizations, private sector stakeholders, local and tribal agencies and California residents.
    - Encourage Californians to share their feedback for the State Digital Equity Plan through the **Digital Equity Online Survey local outreach events**.
- Make all communications accessible through in-language translations.

Q&A

THANK YOU!

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