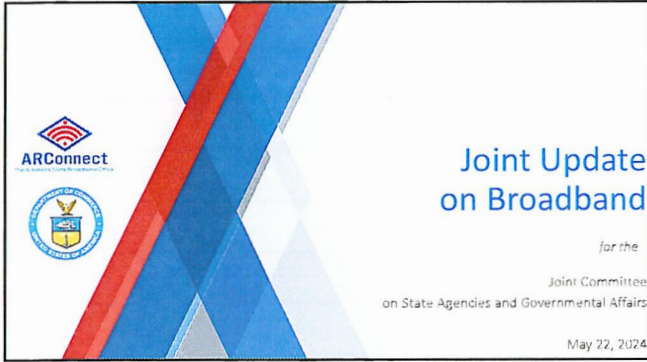
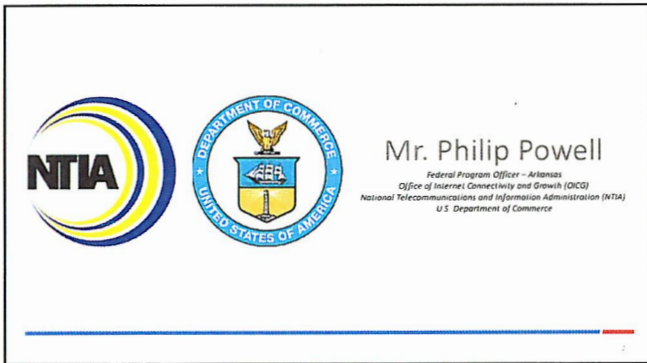


HANDOUT D



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3

Introduction to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is a once-in-a-generation investment in infrastructure and competitiveness.

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

- \$1.2T bill passed by Congress and signed into law by President Biden on November 15, 2021
- Largest ever investments in high-speed Internet, rail and transit, clean energy, and water
- Allocated funding to over 350 distinct programs across more than a dozen federal departments and agencies

This historic legislation will:

- Deliver clean water to all families and eliminate the nation's lead service lines
- Ensure every American has access to affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet service
- Repair and rebuild roads and bridges
- Improve transportation options and reduce greenhouse emissions
- Upgrade our nation's airports and ports to strengthen our supply chains
- Make the largest investment in passenger rail since Amtrak's creation
- Build a national network of electric vehicle chargers
- Upgrade power infrastructure to deliver clean, reliable energy
- Make infrastructure resilient against the impacts of climate change, cyber-attacks, and extreme weather events
- Deliver the largest investment in tackling legacy pollution in US history

Please see [Build.gov](https://www.bipartisaninfrastructure.gov) for more details on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

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Ensuring High-Speed Internet Access to All

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests ~\$65B to ensure everyone in America has access to Internet service.

Goal is to build infrastructure that provides reliable high-speed internet access to all Americans for today and tomorrow...

...with a focus on making high-speed internet service affordable and reliable so everyone can participate in the economy...

...and providing the resources needed to equitably expand the adoption and use of the internet so everyone can experience the benefits.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests roughly \$65B into high-speed internet efforts through 7 federal programs:

Administered by NTIA

- Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program (\$42.45B)
- Digital Equity Planning, Capacity and Competitive Grants (\$2.73B)
- Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (\$2.06B)
- Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program (\$1.0B)

Administered by other federal agencies

- Affordable Connectivity Program (\$14.2B)
- Rural Broadband Programs at the Department of Agriculture (\$2.0B)
- Private Activity Bonds (\$0.6B)

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Introduction to BEAD

6

BEAD Program Introduction

BEAD program will provide ~\$42.5B for infrastructure planning and implementation.

Funding pool
\$42.45B

A program to get all Americans online by funding partnerships between states or territories, companies and stakeholders, to build infrastructure where you need to and increase adoption of high-speed internet service.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Entities eligible to apply for this program include:

- All 50 States
- The District of Columbia and Puerto Rico
- Other Territories: U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Example eligible uses of funds include:

- Planning for deployment of the Internet
- Deploying or upgrading fiber net service
- Installing Internet in multi-tenant buildings
- Implementing adoption and digital equity programs
- Workforce and job training

ESTIMATED TIMELINE

2023: NDRD live 5/13, Due 7/18

2023: LQI

2023: State plan

2023: Initial proposal

2024: Due 270 days after planning funds received

2024: Due 180 days after new QATA mass and notice of funding amounts issued

2024: Final proposal

2024: Due 365 days after initial proposal approval

2024: 4-year implementation

2024: Final proposal

2025: Final proposal

2025: Final proposal

NTIA, NEA, FCC

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Goals of the BEAD Program

BEAD helps deliver high-speed Internet access, affordability, and adoption.

- Access**
 - Increases access for unserved and underserved households to ensure that all Americans have access to high-speed Internet service
 - Ensures Americans have access to high-quality, high-speed Internet service to support full participation in the 21st century economy and beyond
- Affordability**
 - Supports affordability of high-speed Internet services, esp. in low-income households
 - Fosters a system that promotes long-term, sustainable, affordable solutions
- Adoption and equity**
 - Enables investment in digital skills training to increase the number of households adopting high-speed Internet service and narrow adoption disparities
 - Makes investments to ensure Americans can participate in economy & society, reducing inequities across sectors, including healthcare, workforce & education

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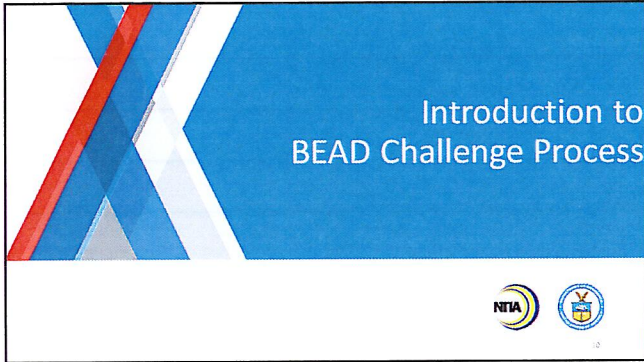
Ensuring Complete Coverage

The BEAD Program requires complete coverage of unserved locations and underserved locations (where funding permits)

- States and Territories must serve all unserved locations (including multi-tenant buildings)**
Unserved locations without reliable Internet service and with download speeds <25 Mbps, upload speeds <3 Mbps, and latency <100ms
- States and Territories must serve all underserved locations**
Underserved locations without reliable Internet service and with download speeds <100 Mbps, upload speeds <20 Mbps, and latency <100 ms
- NTIA strongly urges States and Territories serve Eligible Community Anchor Institutions**
 - Eligible Community Anchor institutions are entities (e.g., school, library, hospital) that facilitate greater use of high-speed Internet service by vulnerable populations and have download speed <1 Gbps
 - Other eligible uses include affordability programs, cybersecurity training, workforce development, etc.
 - If state/territory wants to use funds for other eligible uses instead of eligible Community Anchor Institutions, then it must provide a strong rationale

Note: If a state/territory has a plan to deploy service to all unserved and underserved locations within its jurisdiction, it may pursue non-deployment initiatives before or while deployment projects are underway

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What is the BEAD Challenge Process and Why is it Important?

The BEAD Challenge Process will determine the locations and community anchor institutions within each jurisdiction that are eligible for BEAD funding.

- Key step towards achieving BEAD goals**
 Before the BEAD program can meet the goal of 100% accessible and affordable broadband, all unserved locations, underserved locations, and eligible Community Anchor Institutions must be identified.
- Helps ensure accurate results**
 An evidence-based, fair, transparent, and expeditious BEAD Challenge Process, as outlined in the NOFO and Policy Notice, helps ensure accurate results, an efficient process, and a precise allocation of resources.
- Gathers information needed before running the subgrantee selection**
 The subgrantee selection process cannot be run without first having an accurate and comprehensive list of eligible locations and CAIs.

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What is the BEAD Challenge Process and How Does it Differ from the FCC Challenge Process?


The FCC is collecting data from Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and creating a map to identify unserved locations. This map will be used as a starting point during the BEAD challenge process to identify unserved locations, underserved locations, and CAIs eligible for BEAD funding.

FCC CHALLENGE PROCESS	BEAD CHALLENGE PROCESS
The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) maintains new broadband coverage maps (Broadband DATA Maps) using data collected from Internet Service Providers (ISPs). The FCC accepts challenges on a continuous basis with challenges allowed to both the locations (or fabric) and availability data.	States and Territories will develop a challenge process for stakeholders to challenge whether a location or CAI is served, underserved, or unserved. The BEAD timelines will be determined by each state/territory but must comply with NTIA requirements. NTIA requires that the entire challenge process be completed within 90 days per the Policy Notice.
NTIA will use the FCC's Broadband DATA Maps to determine how much BEAD funding is provided per state or territory.	This will determine the locations and community anchor institutions within each jurisdiction that are eligible for BEAD funding.

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The Role of States/Territories and NTIA

NTIA and States and Territories will work together to design a BEAD Challenge Process, but only the States and Territories will run the Challenge Process.



NTIA's Role

- ✔ NTIA will approve and/or send required modifications to states and territories about their BEAD Challenge process design
- ✘ NTIA will **NOT** run the BEAD Challenge process
- ✔ NTIA will validate the results of the BEAD Challenge process



States' and Territories' Role

- ✔ States and territories will design and get approval of their BEAD Challenge process
- ✔ States and territories will run the BEAD Challenge process
- ✔ States and territories will send the results of the BEAD Challenge process to NTIA for approval
- ✔ States and territories will run their subgrantee selection process

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What Happens After the Challenge Process?

After the BEAD Challenge Process is completed, Eligible Entities send the final determinations of each unserved location, underserved location, and CAIs to NTIA for approval.

WHAT WILL STATES BE DOING?

- After resolving each challenge and at least 60 days before allocating grant funds for network deployment, the state/territory must provide public notice of the final classification of each:
 - Unserved location
 - Underserved location
 - Eligible Community Anchor institution within the jurisdiction of the state/territory
- States and Territories must also notify NTIA of any modifications to the initial Proposal that are necessitated by successful challenges to its initial determinations.

WHAT SHOULD CHALLENGERS BE DOING?

- Eligible Challengers should pay attention to their State/Territory Broadband Office and be on the lookout for the public notice of final classification
- Once Eligible Entities have provided public notice of their final classifications, challengers should review the published data.
- This list will be used for the next step in allocating BEAD funds, the subgrantee selection process.

WHAT IF I'M NOT A CHALLENGER?
Contact your local government units, non-profits, and eligible broadband service providers.

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Thank You




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ARConnect
The Arkansas State Broadband Office









Mr. Glen Howie
State Broadband Director
The Arkansas State Broadband Office
Arkansas Department of Commerce

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The Arkansas State Broadband Office



The Arkansas State Broadband Office was established in 2019 and has administered broadband infrastructure grants since 2020.

 Glen Howie State Broadband Director	 Kimberly Young Business Operations
 Lane Bailey Deputy Director	 Emma French Program Operations
 Kamelle Gomez Digital Opportunity Manager	 Pravallika Kotharu Project Manager
 Joseph Givens Project Manager	 Andrew Marecki AmeriCorps Fellow


Vision
Eliminate the digital divide and establish an era of efficient, next-generation opportunity, society, and government

Three Pillars of Broadband
Access, Affordability, and Opportunity


Everyday Mission
Deploy broadband to as many unserved and underserved Arkansans as possible

17

ARC Projects Awarded To Date



182 Projects **\$533.2M** Total Grants **129K** Households



Projects by Completion Status

Completion Status	Count
Completed	129
Underway	53
Not Started	0

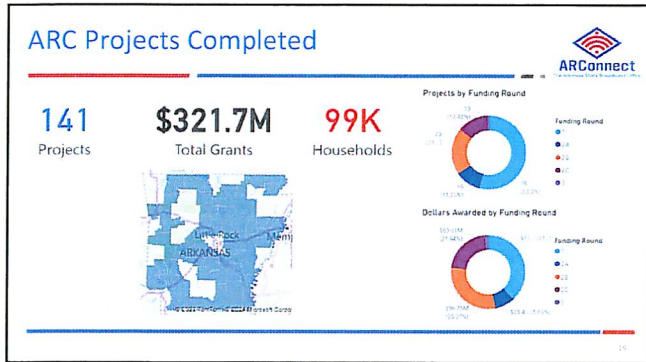
Projects by Funding Source

Funding Source	Count
State	129
Federal	0
Local	0

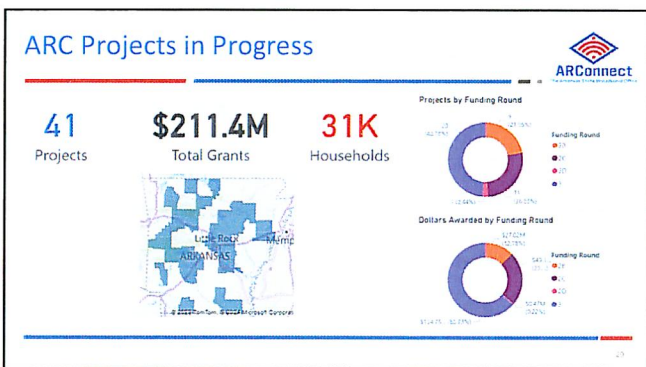
Grants Awarded by Funding Source

Funding Source	Amount
State	\$533.2M
Federal	\$0M
Local	\$0M

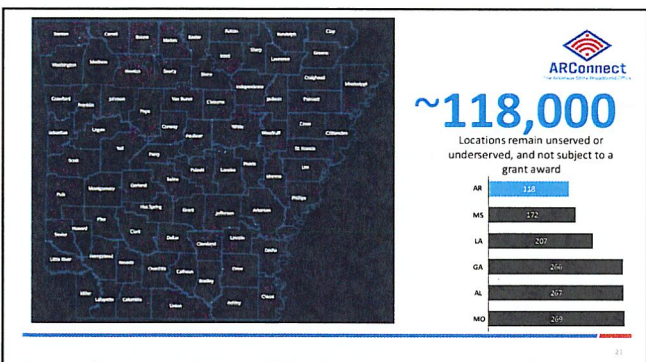
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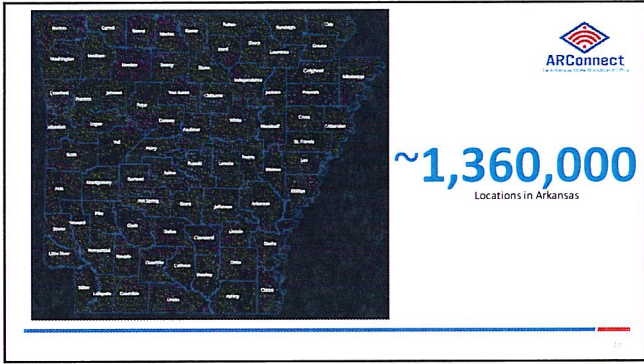
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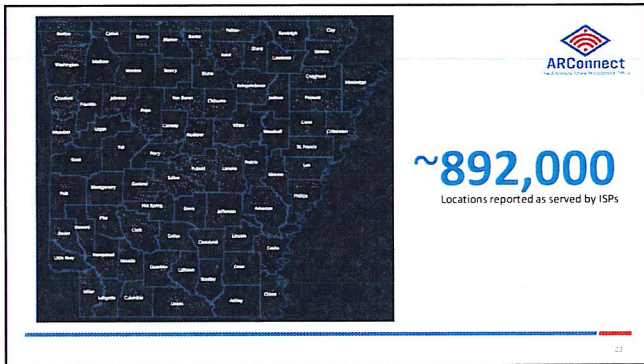
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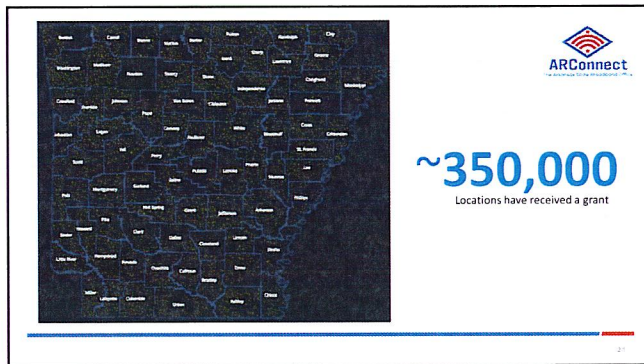
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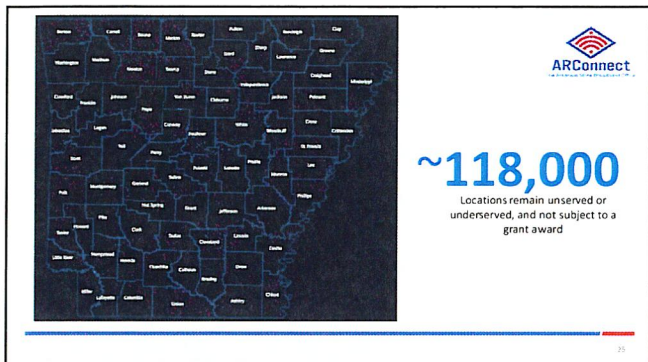
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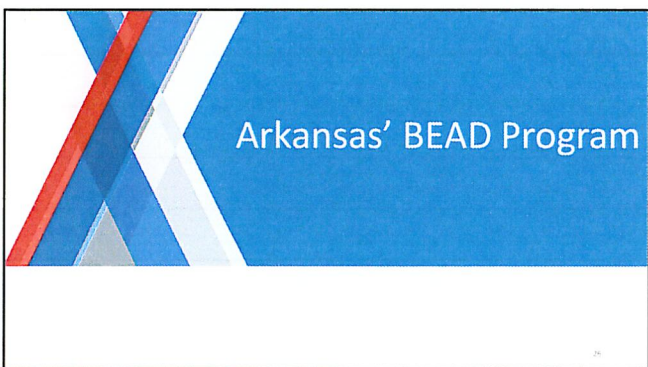
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Historic Moment for Arkansas

ARConnect

ARKANSAS TO RECEIVE OVER \$1B TO EXPAND BROADBAND IN STATE

BACK TO ALL NEWS

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (June 26, 2023) – Today, the Arkansas Department of Commerce, along with Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders, announced that Arkansas will receive \$1.024,302,093.86 from the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The funds will be used to expand broadband access in Arkansas and work on affordability and digital skills needs throughout the state.

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2023: A Year of Organizing and Planning

75 COUNTY ROADSHOW

878 TOTAL ARKANSANS INTERACTED WITH

- 13 STEPS FOR COFFEE
- 2 COFFEEHOUSE SIZES
- 1 TRENACO SKIETER

5,967 TOTAL MILES DRIVEN

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Potential of the BEAD Program

Now is a historic moment for broadband in Arkansas...we must seize it!

<p>\$1.024B in funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1/19 states to receive \$1B+ 9th per capita 	<p>Mandate to reach ~118,000 locations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goal of 90%+ fiber build 	<p>Challenging execution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Double the work, in a quarter of the time Labor, supply chain, and inflation could slow progress 	<p>Non-deployment</p> <p>Education, healthcare, small business, agriculture</p>
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Complexity of the BEAD Program


<p>1 Unprecedented in size</p> <p>\$1B in 365 days</p>	<p>Where Arkansas "customize" (to a degree)</p> <p>Planning & deployment timelines Non-deployment activities Scoring methodology (e.g., weighting of certain criteria)</p>
<p>2 Higher level of state planning required</p> <p>Multiple phases of planning documents requiring approval by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA); emphasis on mapping and analytics; entire state will go up for bid at one time</p>	<p>Where states cannot "customize"</p> <p>Subgrant selection process design: Technology mix for broadband infrastructure Order of funding priorities (e.g., unserved first) Overall process components (e.g., challenge process) Certain scoring criteria (must include specific elements, e.g., subsidy level & affordability metrics) Trust allocation level</p>
<p>3 Less flexibility to "customize" planning and deployment</p> <p>Prescriptive process design (e.g., subgrantee selection) and specificity in use of funds (all to deployment until certification of ability to reach 100% connectivity)</p>	

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Arkansas Has Met or Exceeded NTIA Timelines




Gathering input from Arkansasans



- County-level
- County-level + focus group
- Regional meeting locations


Statewide tour of all 75 counties
 Launch of County Broadband Committees (48)
 Established industry roundtables across workforce and infrastructure, with more to come
 Gathered survey feedback from over 12,500 Arkansans

Defining a vision for BEAD



Organized input into a Five-Year Action Plan
 Analyzed current state of broadband in Arkansas

Drafting detailed proposals

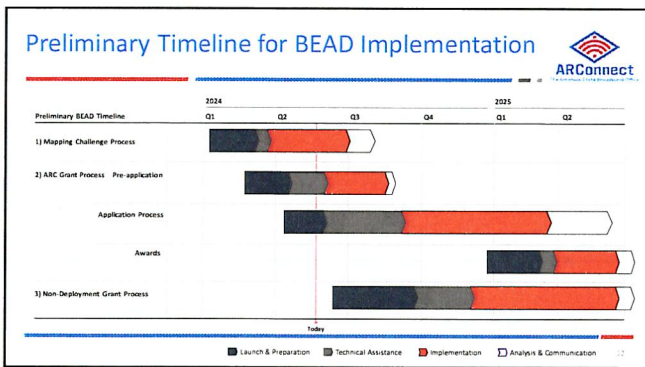


Compiled list of ~118K residential and business locations and Community Anchor Institutions (e.g., libraries, fire departments)
 BEAD Initial Proposals Volume I & II submitted for public comments and to NTIA for approval, ahead of deadlines

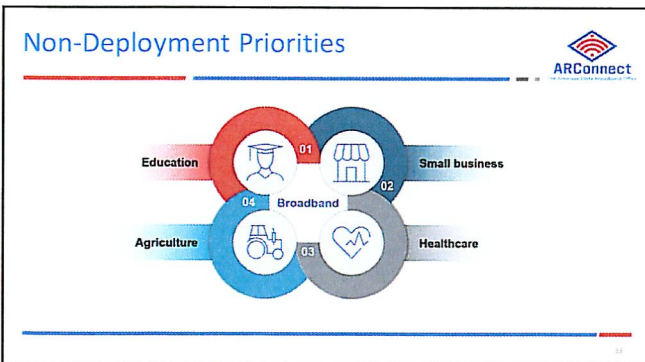
All required BEAD planning document milestones have been met. The documents have entered the "curing process" with NTIA.

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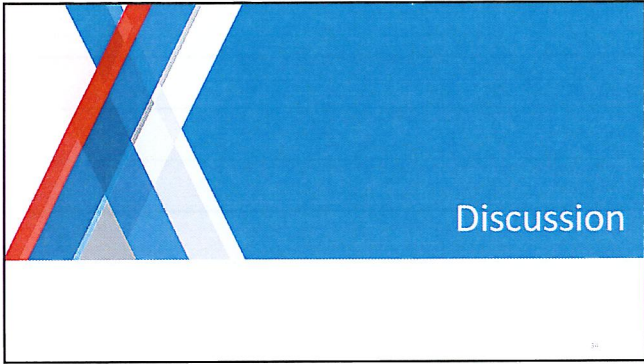
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