

Title **0025** 08/30/2023

by **Anthony Tate** in **BEAD Initial Plan, Volume 1 Public Comment Form** id. 43892524

111 Edgeview Drive
Hendersonville, Tennessee
37075
United States
615-578-9053
anthony.tate@compudopt.org

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Please provide name **Anthony Tate**

Please provide address (Not required) n/a

Please provide email **anthony.tate@compudopt.org**

Please provide phone number (not required) n/a

Are you responding on behalf of an organization? **Yes**

Organizational affiliation (If applicable) **Compudopt**

The Kansas Office of Broadband Development (KOBD) is in the process of developing its BEAD Initial Proposal as required by the NTIA. This initial plan is divided into Volume 1 and Volume 2. Volume 1 includes initial identification of unserved and underserved locations, definition of community anchor institutions, proposed pre-challenge process location modifications, and the model challenge process. Please use this link to review the entire Initial Proposal Volume 1 document, and feedback on Volume 1 will be captured in the text boxes below. The comment portal will be open from August 1, 2023 through August 30, 2023. KOBD will then review all feedback and submit the Initial Proposal to the NTIA. To access a full copy of Volume 1 of the BEAD Initial Proposal along with accompanying documents, please use the links below:

<https://www.kansascommerce.gov/officeofbroadbanddevelopment/broadband-equity-access-and-deployment/>

I am responding to comments related to the following Volume 1 requirements **Requirement 6: Identification and application of Community Anchor Institutions (CAI)**

Comments relating to Requirement 6: Identification and

On behalf of Compudopt, a nationally recognized 501c(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to ending the digital divide, we appreciate the opportunity to offer our input and insights on your BEAD plan, and commend your commitment to bridging the digital divide in Kansas. At Compudopt, we believe in the transformative power of technology and have championed the cause of connectivity, digital access, skill development, and empowerment.

We believe that Compudopt serves as a vital community anchor group, collaborating closely with local partners wherever we have brick-and-mortar settings but also by offering programs remotely, as we have done across the country. Our Organization plays a pivotal role in fostering digital inclusion through device distributions and digital literacy and STEM education - particularly through partnerships with afterschool programs, libraries, universities, and various other institutions. Our Mission is to bridge the digital divide and empower individuals with the essential skills and resources needed in today's technology-driven world.

Our mission is to provide equal access and education to under-resourced youth and their communities. Since our founding in 2007, Compudopt has delivered over 262,000 hours of technology education and distributed over 63,000 computers to more than 67,000 households, impacting nearly 225,000 individuals across the United States.

YOUTH:

First and foremost, Compudopt addresses the critical issue of digital inequality among our youth. In today's digitally driven world, access to technology is synonymous with access to education. Compudopt equips underprivileged children with the tools they need to thrive academically and, ultimately, in life. By providing connectivity, computers and the essential digital skills, Compudopt bridges the educational divide, ensuring that no child is left behind due to lack of access.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Compudopt extends its mission to encompass unemployed individuals in our community. In an era where employment applications, job training, and remote work depend on digital literacy, Compudopt plays a pivotal role. It empowers unemployed individuals with the skills and resources they need to secure meaningful employment opportunities that would otherwise be out of reach. Everything we do at Compudopt is driven by our theory of change which states that bridging the digital divide is the key to economic mobility, especially for historically underserved populations.

ELDERLY:

Compudopt also extends its support to our elderly population, who may be overlooked in the digital age. By nearly every statistical measure available, our senior and elderly population remains the least connected, least digitally literate group of our society. The organization provides them with the means to stay connected with loved ones, access crucial healthcare information, and engage in a world that increasingly relies on technology.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I eagerly await the opportunity to discuss this matter further and explore how we can collaborate to strengthen our community through support for Compudopt.

Sincerely,

Megan Steckly
Chief Executive Officer
megan@compudopt.org

CAI List Upload (if applicable) n/a

By submitting the Public Comment Form (the "Form") and any supporting evidence, you attest that all information furnished is true and accurate to the best of your knowledge and that any attachments are free of malware or viruses. You also acknowledge that falsifying any information could result in legal action against you and will bar you from submitting public comments to this web site in the future. You authorize the Kansas Office of Broadband Development, Kansas Department of Commerce (KOBD) to contact you if further information is needed. You expressly acknowledge and consent to some personal information, including your name, address, phone, e-mail, organization you represent, and comments, being posted for public view on the Kansas Department of Commerce web site at www.kansascommerce.gov.

Anthony Tate

The KOBD will use its best efforts to redact any personal identifiable information outside of the above that is not considered in the public domain. By typing your name and date and by submitting the Form, you acknowledge, authorize, and consent to this Public Comment Privacy & Acknowledgments.
