INTERNET FOR ALL

Kansas Permitting Workshop
Meeting the Permitting Challenge

April 25, 2024

NTIA

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

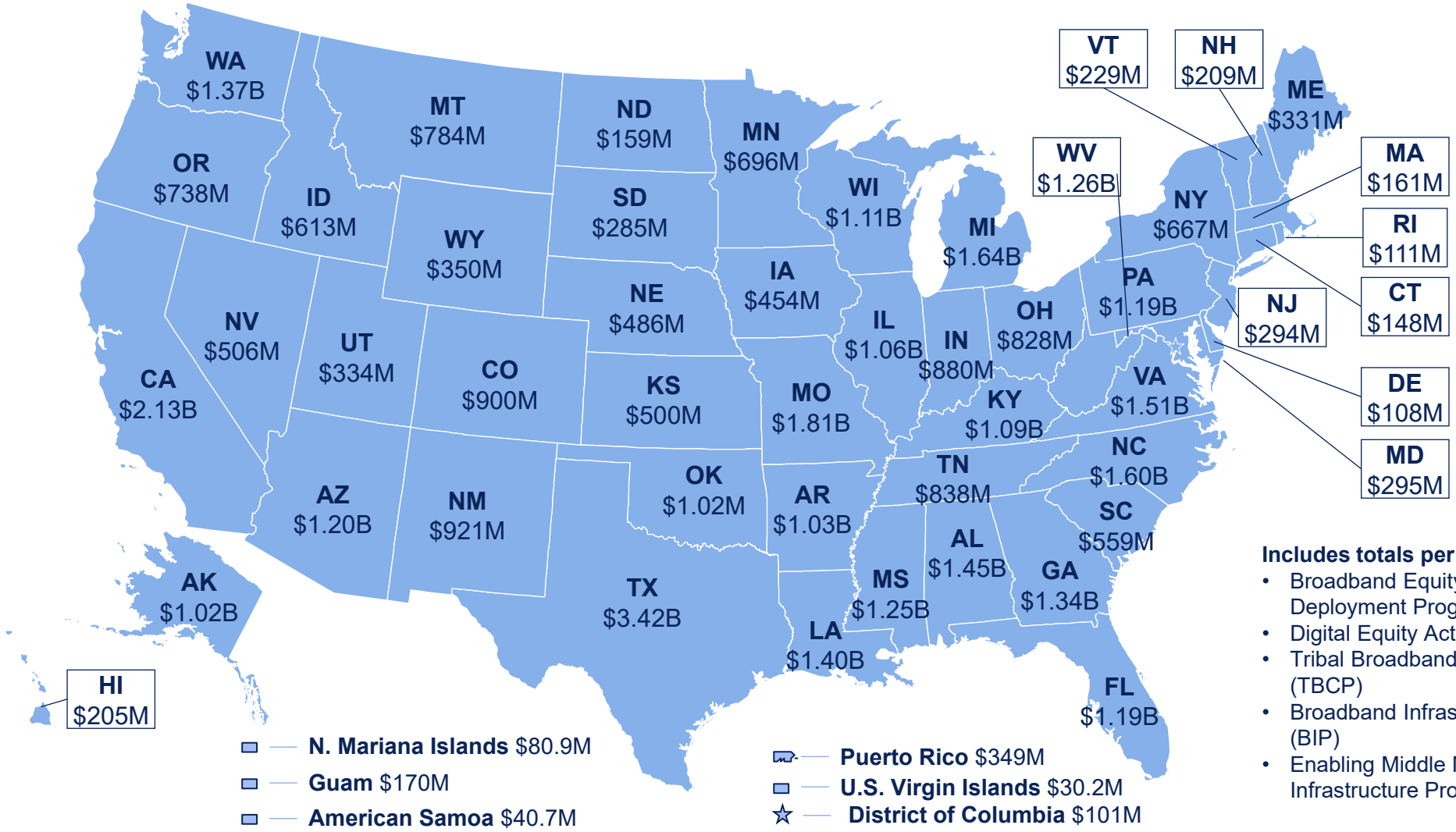
NTIA's Broadband Grant Programs

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (CAA) and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) authorized **$49.5B across 7 programs** to achieve universal access to reliable, high speed, and affordable Internet

Program	Funding Source	Purpose
Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program (BEAD)	IIJA **$42.45B** *Formula*	Planning and execution of competitive broadband subgrants to deploy infrastructure and promote accessibility and equity
State Digital Equity Planning and Capacity Grant Programs	IIJA **$1.5B** *Formula*	Promote achievement of digital equity, support digital inclusion activities, and broadband adoption
Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program	IIJA **$1.25B** *Competitive*	Promote achievement of digital equity, support digital inclusion activities, and broadband adoption
Middle Mile Deployment Grant Program	IIJA **$1B** *Competitive*	Encourage expansion and extension of middle mile infrastructure and promote resiliency
Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP)	CAA + IIJA **$1B (CAA) + $2B (IIJA)** *Competitive*	Build broadband infrastructure deployment projects, use and adoption and equitable distributions
Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program	CAA **$268M** *Competitive*	Support purchase of broadband service, equipment and devices, and hiring/training of IT personnel
Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP)	CAA **$288M** *Competitive*	Support broadband infrastructure deployment to areas lacking broadband, especially rural areas

Key: CAA = Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021; IIJA = Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

Internet For All | NTIA Funding by State/Territory



Includes totals per state from:

- Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program
- Digital Equity Act Programs
- Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP)
- Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP)
- Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program

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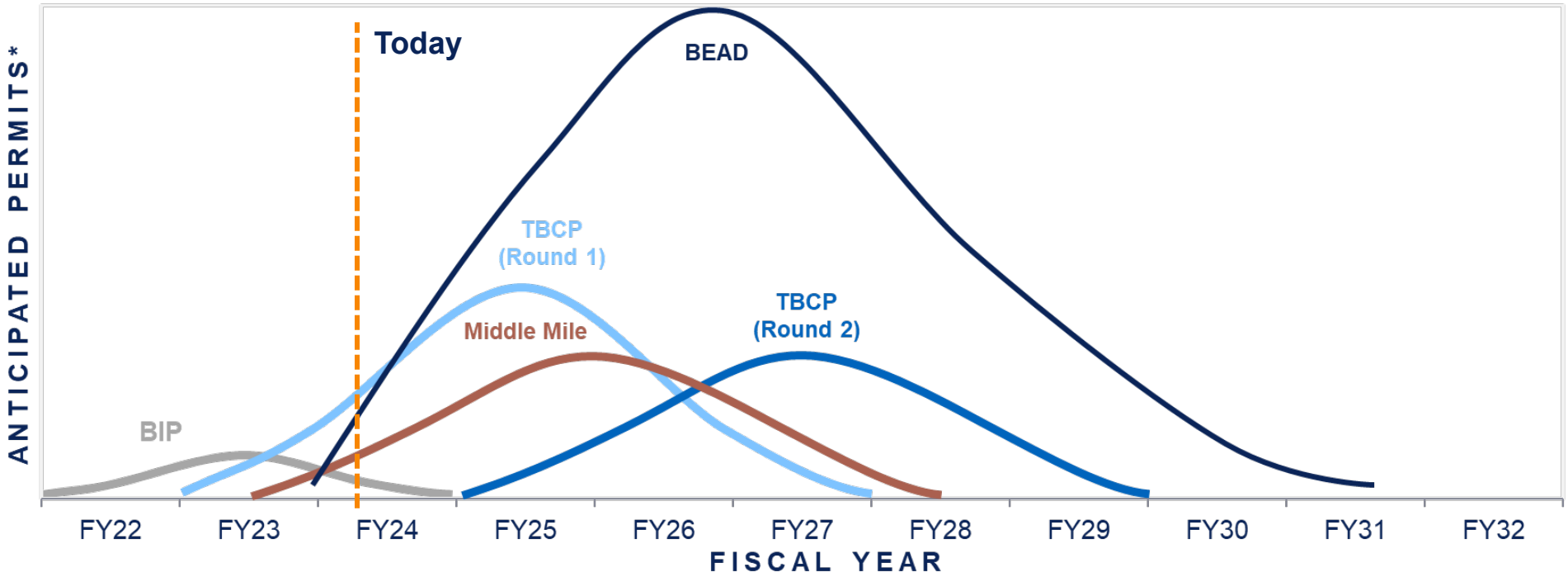
Conceptual Timeline for Permitting Influx

The highest volume of permitting activity is anticipated for projects funded by the BEAD Program. BEAD projects may initiate beginning in late 2024, with permitting activity expected to reach its peak in 2026-2027.

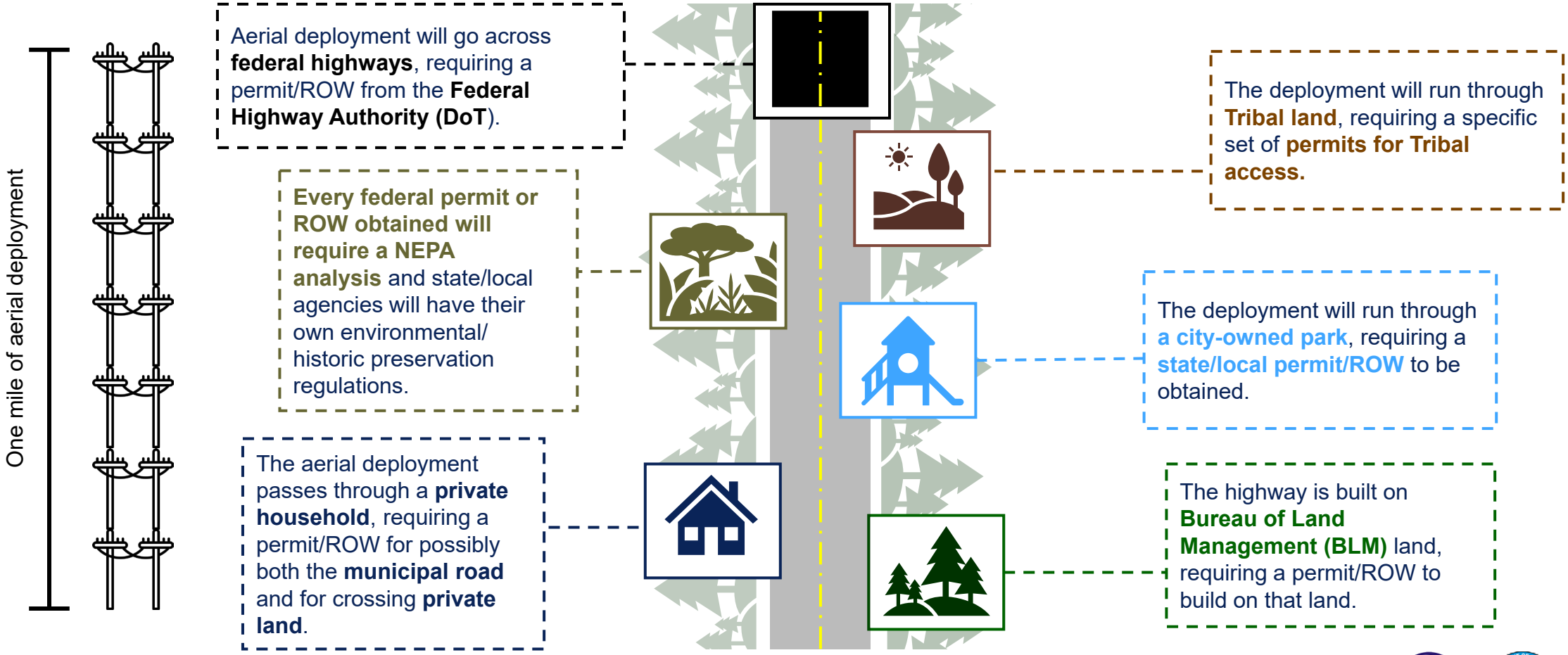


Permitting requests and processes across infrastructure programs, including broadband, will have compounding effects on federal resource management agencies, requiring greater resources to meet permitting needs.

**Note: This timeline is conceptual in nature and not intended to depict accurate permitting magnitude.*

Permitting Landscape

Construction of a simple one-mile broadband deployment can require various local, state, and/or federal permits.

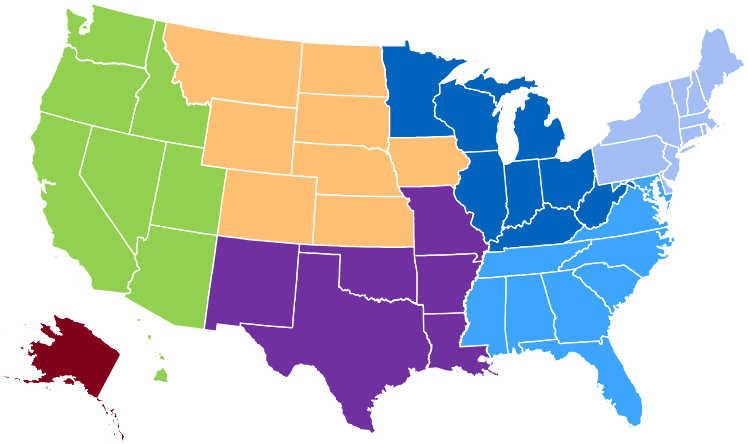


Programmatic Efficiencies & Tools

Regional Permitting Interagency Broadband Meetings

NTIA has held regional interagency broadband permitting meetings between September 2023 and March 2024 to share permitting information and establish relationships with key federal participants.

REGIONAL INTERAGENCY MEETINGS



Purpose: Share permitting information, key program deadlines, and foster a bi-lateral dialogue between NTIA and other federal agencies across the permitting landscape.

Regions:

- September 2023: Northern Plains
- October 2023: **Midwest**
- November 2023:**West**
- December 2023: Northeast
- January 2024: **Southeast**
- February 2024: **Southwest**
- March 2024: **Alaska/Territories**

8 agencies represented:

- Army Corps of Engineers
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Land Management
- Forest Service
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Parks Service
- Federal Highway Administration
- NOAA

230+ Total Federal Participants

NHPA Section 106: Program Comment Amendment

In 2017, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) issued a ***Program Comment for Communications Projects on Federal Lands and Property*** to expedite review of broadband deployments by providing Federal land and property management agencies with a uniform Section 106 review standard tailored to broadband build outs.

PROGRAM COMMENT AMENDMENT

- ***NTIA requested that the ACHP make the program comment available to all agencies for all broadband projects everywhere***
- *The ACHP* consulted with SHPOs, Tribes, federal agencies, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and broadband stakeholders and *issued the amendment on March 14, 2024*
- In addition to expanding the availability of the program comment, the ACHP has:
  - Expanded exclusions for pole replacements at industry's request
  - Provided the option for applying the program comments to reviews including National Historic Landmarks and Tribal lands upon agreement of the National Park Service or affected Tribe
  - Added a provision addressing compensation for consulting parties that is consistent with its past guidance (if an agency or applicant requests a consulting party to perform specific duties, a contractual agreement is appropriate)
- The program comment simplifies and clarifies historic preservation review rules for broadband infrastructure and limits or removes Section 106 review requirements if certain conditions apply
- Historic properties and threatened and endangered species are the top two environmental resource risk areas for broadband projects

NTIA did not previously have a comprehensive broadband program alternative, requiring each project review to be negotiated independently.

NTIA NEPA Update

NTIA has added 36 Categorical Exclusions and developed a programmatic strategy to facilitate NEPA compliance.

NEPA

30 New Categorical Exclusions
The Council on Environmental Quality approved 30 new Categorical Exclusions that are available as of Federal Register Publication on April 2, 2024.

Adoption of Six Additional Categorical Exclusions from FirstNet
NTIA supplemented the new Categorical Exclusions by adopting six from FirstNet (Federal Register Notice) and clarifying that Departmental Categorical Exclusions remain available for IFA programs.

Adoption of Programmatic Environmental Impact Statements (PEIS) Applicable in Each State and Territory
NTIA is revalidating and adopting the analysis in the First Responder Network Authority's Regional Programmatic Environmental Impact Statements (PEISs). Eligible Entities that evaluate the analysis in the PEIS covering their state may streamline many project specific NEPA reviews by "tiering off" the detailed NEPA studies and incorporating Best Management Practices (BMP) or mitigation measures.

Web-based GIS Permitting and Environmental Screening Templates

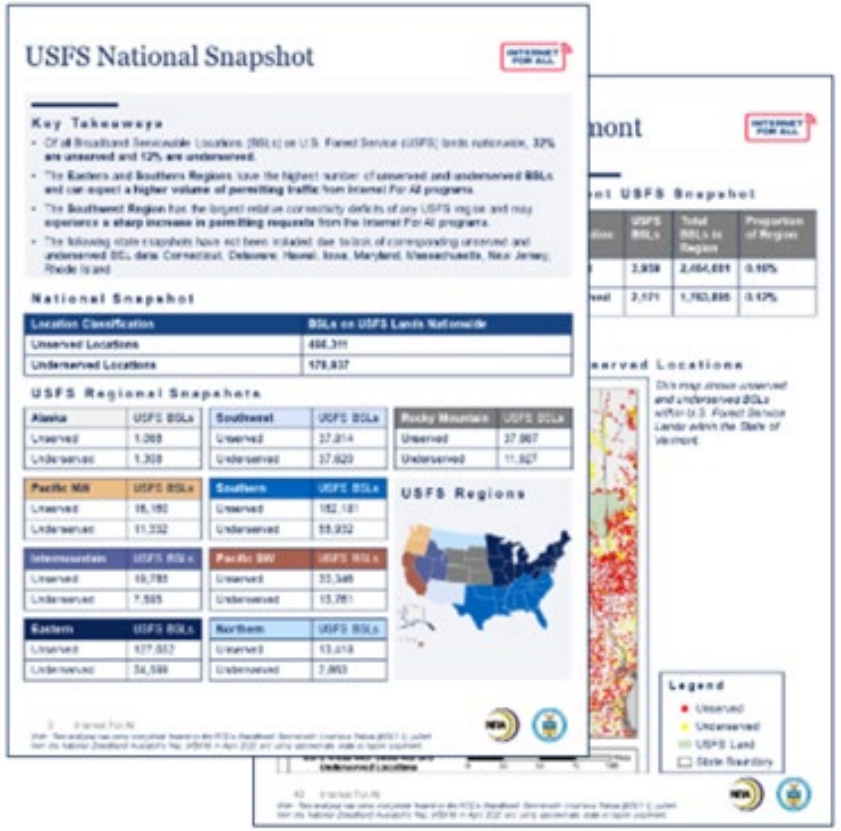
Integrated BEAD Project Tracking System

Technical Assistance and Support

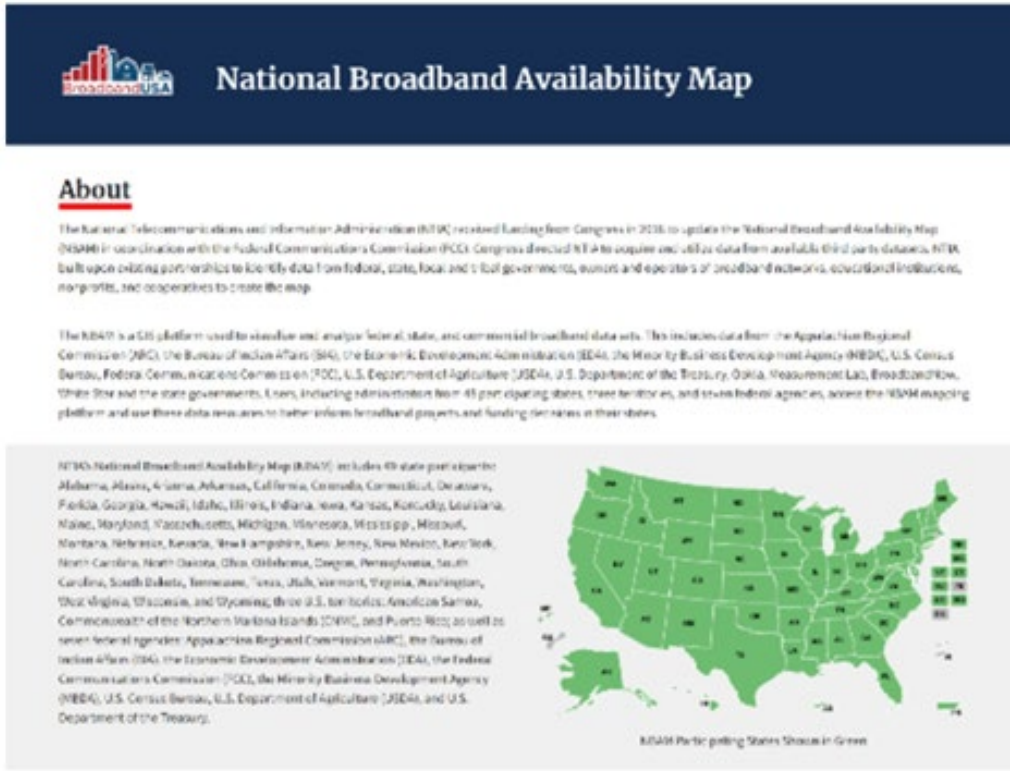
Mapping and Data Tools

NTIA offers mapping and data tools for permitting and environmental reviews to federal agency partners and Eligible Entities.

AGENCY HEAT MAP RESOURCES



NBAM PERMITTING LAYERS

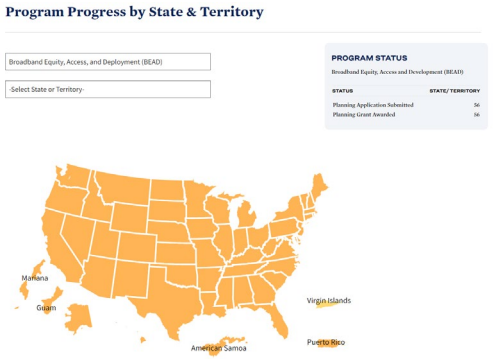


Additional Resources

NTIA provides resources on the Internet For All program, BEAD, and permitting guidance to support successful broadband deployment.

Internet For All Website

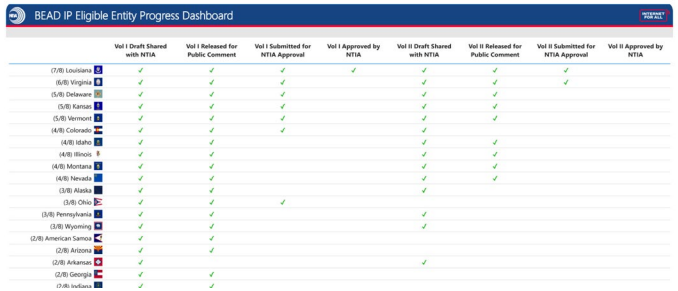
For detailed program information about the Internet For All Grants, use InternetForAll.gov to search by program.



Interactive Funding Map

BEAD Program Resources

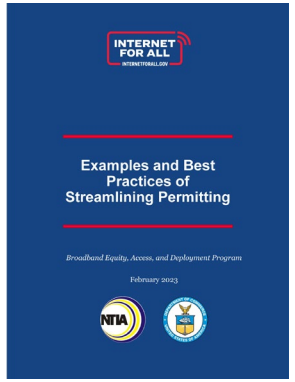
NTIA offers BEAD Program Resources including policy guidance and technical assistance.



BEAD Initial Proposal Progress Dashboard

NTIA Permitting Guidance

NTIA has compiled a Permitting Technical Assistance page on available permitting and EHP resources.



Permitting Best Practices: Case Studies

For more information, visit the BroadbandUSA State and Local Government webpage.

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Thank you!

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