PENNSYLVANIA BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Good News!

The PBDA has released its Draft BEAD Volume II.

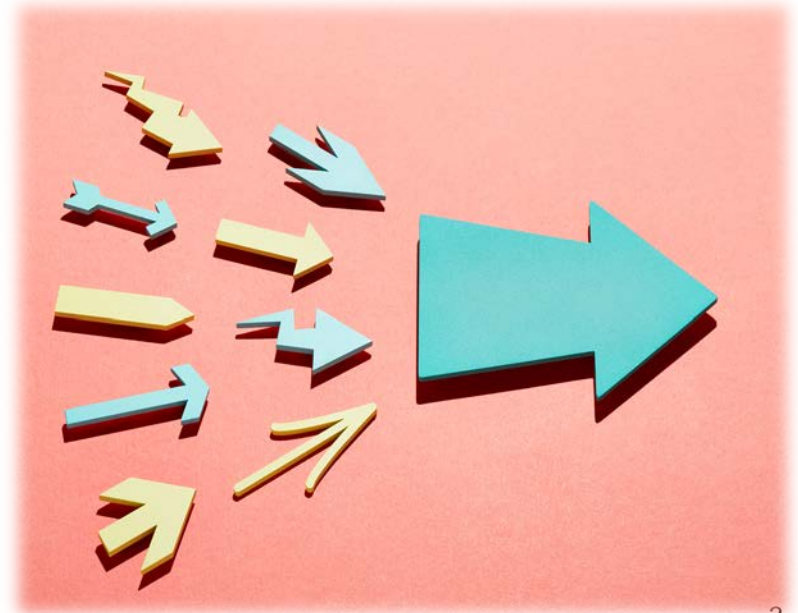**We are seeking public comment, and this is an opportunity to have an impact.**

Purpose:

- To provide an overview of the PBDA's Volume II
- To provide common understanding and context
- To ensure reviewers know how to access PBDA resources

Webinar Agenda:

- Volume I Review and Status
- Volume II Purpose and Need
- Volume II Key Element Review
- Timeline and Next Steps
- Questions

Purpose:

Affirms adherence to the basic elements of NTIA's guidelines and allows the PBDA to lay the foundation for success.

Public Comment (Closed October 10, 2023):

Includes critical components for the implementation of BEAD funding

- NTIA requirements
- Guidance on elements such as the application process
- Scoring criteria
- Labor standards
- Requirements
- Commonwealth policies.

Next Steps
- Approval by the PBDA Board
- NTIA Submission
  - NTIA submission deadline of December 27, 2023
  - NTIA feedback/approval anticipated in early 2024

Purpose: Refines and defines the foundational key elements needed to enable successful implementation of BEAD funding.

Released for public comment 10/16/2023!

Includes 15 critical elements, which:
- Confirm for NTIA our adherence to their guidelines and requirements
- Builds the foundation for success
- Leads into our final proposal

Next Steps:

- Continuing engagement and outreach as requested
- Review, response, and evaluation of comments received
- Finalization of Volume II
- NTIA Submission
  - NTIA submission deadline of December 27, 2023
  - NTIA feedback/approval anticipated in early 2024

VOLUME II KEY ELEMENT REVIEW

- Objectives
- Local, Tribal, & Regional Broadband
  - Planning Coordination
- Local Coordination
- **Deployment Subgrantee Selection**
- **Non-deployment Subgrantee Selection**
- Eligible Entity Implementation Activities
- **Labor Standards and Protections**
- **Workforce Readiness**
- Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs)
  - Women's Business Enterprises (WBEs)
  - Labor Surplus Firms Inclusion
- **Cost and Barrier Reduction**

- Climate Assessment
- **Low-Cost Broadband Service Option**
- **Middle-Class Affordability**
- Use of 20 Percent of Funding
- Eligible Entity Regulatory Approach
- Certification of Compliance:
  - BEAD Requirements
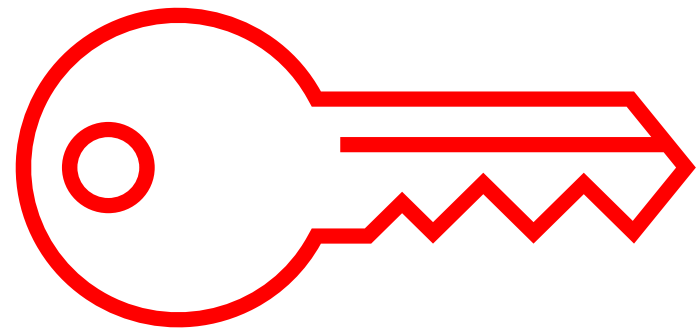
Priority-Focused:

Everyone is free to comment on the entire document, BUT some elements have the biggest impacts on the program and communities:

- Low-Cost Broadband Service Option
- Middle-Class Affordability
- Cost and Barrier Reduction
- Labor Standards and Protections
- Workforce Readiness
- Deployment Subgrantee Selection
- Non-deployment Subgrantee Selection
- Workforce

Objectives & Local, Tribal, and Regional Broadband Planning Coordination:

- These sections were satisfied through our completion of the 5-Year Action Plan.

- Public comment on the 5-Year Action Plan was collected and implemented.

Local Coordination Overview

- Topic-specific subcommittees that include industry groups and non-profits are open to public attendance.

- The PBDA has facilitated or attended over 30 community events.

- Representative Board of Directors

- Robust communication systems

- Dedicated website

Coordination ⟩⟩ Positive Impacts

The PBDA anticipates continuing these efforts throughout the program development and implementation.

VOLUME II KEY ELEMENT REVIEW

Deployment Subgrantee Selection & Non-deployment Subgrantee Selection

A highly detailed approach to eliminate vagueness, produce quality applications, and ensure the greatest positive community impacts.

- The process by which subgrantees will submit project/request details

- Who, What, Where, When, How, Impacts, Sustainability

- Provides accountability for both the applicant and the PBDA

- Extremely critical element in the overall program success

| Application | Regulation Evaluation | Community Impact Evaluation | Award of Funds | Implementation |

Labor Standards, Protections, & Workforce Readiness,

Advancing equitable workforce development and job quality objectives to develop a skilled and diverse workforce.

- Comprehensive, Equitable and Inclusive Workforce Development

- Promotion of partnerships and training

- On-ramps into broadband-related jobs

- Sustainable job quality and benefits

- Engagement of labor & community-based organizations

- Maintaining worker representation

- Ensuring diversity

Application → Regulatory Evaluation → Implement → Workforce Training
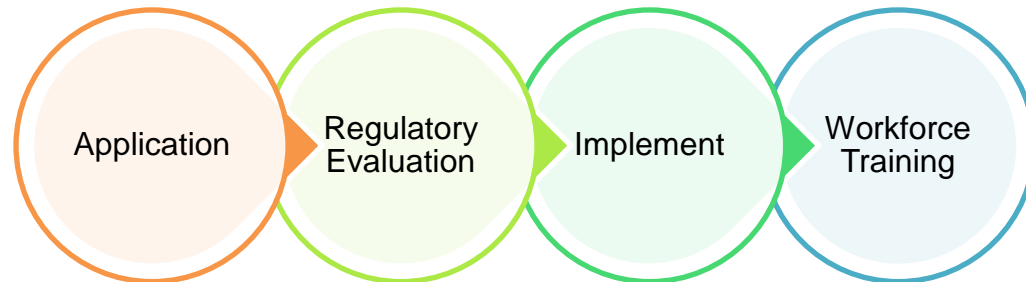
Cost and Barrier Reduction

Increasing the efficiency of implementation actions to ensure sustainability and lower the costs of building broadband infrastructure.

- Prioritizing the use of existing infrastructure where possible

- Local government coordination

- Multi-agency permitting coordination

- Right-of-way coordination efforts

A state-wide working group has been established to identify and address permitting and coordination efforts.

Low-Cost Broadband Service Option & Middle-Class Affordability

- Affordable Connectivity Benefit access and eligibility

- Defines and prioritizes basic service level.

- Cost to the subscriber is $30 per month or less, inclusive of all taxes, fees, and charges.

- Established how high-quality broadband services are available to all middle-class families at reasonable prices.

Affordability

Accountability

Access & Opportunity

VOLUME II COMMENT NEED

Your Opinion, Perspective, and Perception are valued!

It will ensure the following for Volume II:

- Meets NTIA requirements

- Fits the Commonwealth's diverse communities

- Is perceived as intended

- Is Impactful
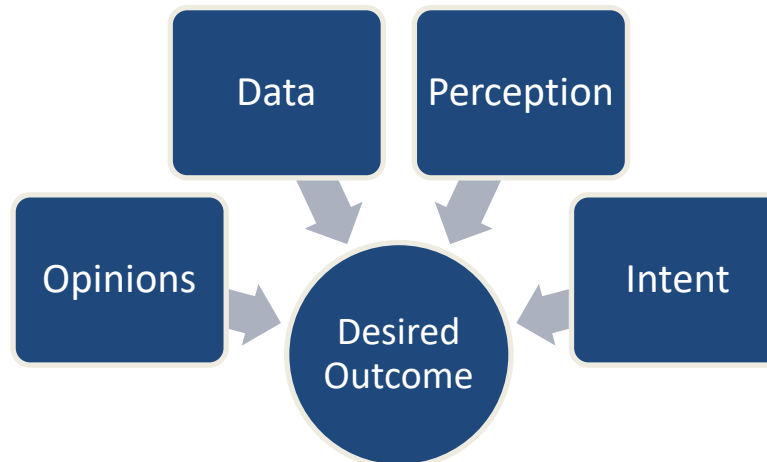
After Volume II Public Comment:

- Evaluation of Comments

- Volume II Modifications

- Final Board Approval

- Submission to NTIA for Final Approval

- Implementation

Public Comment — Evaluation Of Comments — Incorporation Of Comments — Final Draft of Plan — NTIA Approval — Implementation

PBDA Website:

https://dced.pa.gov/programs-funding/broadband-in-pennsylvania/

Broadband Resources

Internet for All

    – **Community Events**

    – **Digital Access Survey**

Broadband Service Map

Internet Service Provider Contact List

FCC Speed Test App

FCC National Broadband Map

    – **Challenges to the Map Data**

PA's Statewide Broadband Plan

Broadband Educational Webinars

Latest News in Broadband

PBDA Overview

About

Board & Sub-Committee Meetings

Annual Reports

PBDA Sub-Committees

PBDA Event Request Form

Federal & State

Capital Projects Fund (CPF) Program

    – **COVID-19 ARPA PA Broadband Infrastructure Program**

    – **CPF BIP Challenge Process**

    – **BIP: PA Broadband Service Availability Map** �

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

    – **Volume II of BEAD: Public Comment Period**

    – **5-Year BEAD Action Plan**

Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)

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Volume II will be available online for public review for 30 days:

To submit feedback, you can visit:

https://dced.pa.gov/programs-funding/broadband-in-pennsylvania/infrastructure-investment-and-jobs-act/broadband-equity-access-and-deployment-bead/

Volume II Timeline:
- Public comment period opens on **Monday, October 16th**
- Public comment period closes on **Tuesday, November 14th (11:59 pm)**
- Presentation to PBDA Board of Directors on **Thursday, November 30th**
- Submission to NTIA (pending Board approval), **week of December 4th**

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Volume II Document Location:

- https://dced.pa.gov/programs-funding/broadband-in-pennsylvania/infrastructure-investment-and-jobs-act/broadband-equity-access-and-deployment-bead/

Please utilize the PA Broadband Development Authority's Resource Account for questions regarding the BEAD Initial Proposal Volume II or the process to submit comments.

Pabroadbandauthority@pa.gov

Questions?