



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY  
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# PENNSYLVANIA BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

# PROCESSES IN MOTION



**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.**

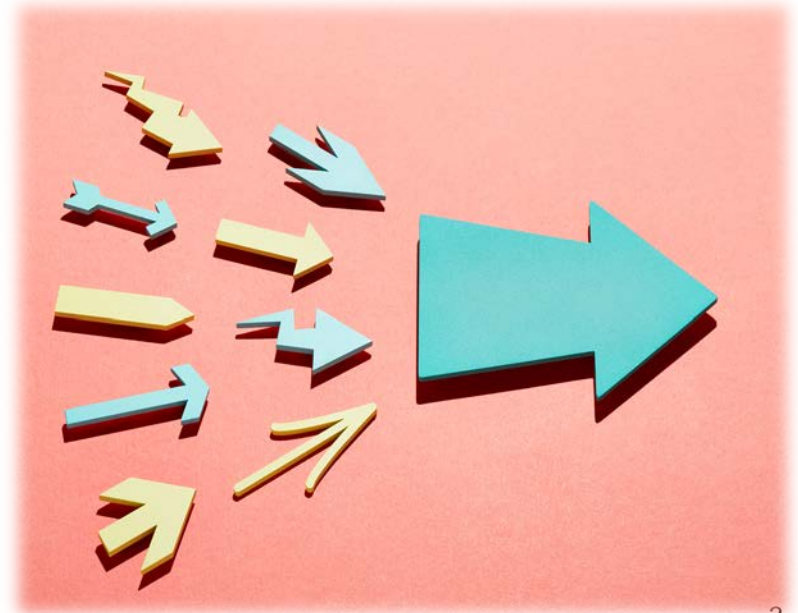
# WEBINAR PURPOSE AND AGENDA

## **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



# VOLUME I REVIEW AND STATUS: BEAD INITIAL PROPOSAL

## **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

# VOLUME II PURPOSE AND NEED: BEAD INITIAL PROPOSAL

**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:

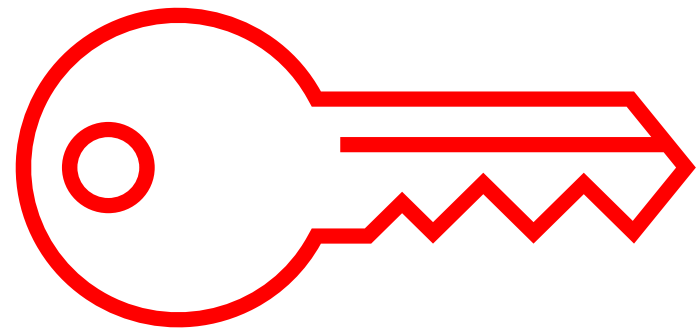
- Confirm for NTIA our adherence to their guidelines and requirements
- Builds the foundation for success
- Leads into our final proposal

## **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



# VOLUME II KEY ELEMENT REVIEW

## **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



## VOLUME II KEY ELEMENT REVIEW

### **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.





# VOLUME II KEY ELEMENT REVIEW

## 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



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

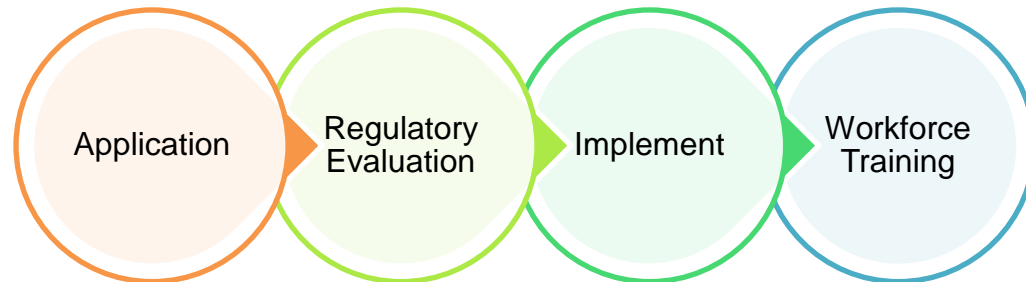


# VOLUME II KEY ELEMENT REVIEW

## **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



# VOLUME II KEY ELEMENT REVIEW

## 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.

# VOLUME II KEY ELEMENT REVIEW

## 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.

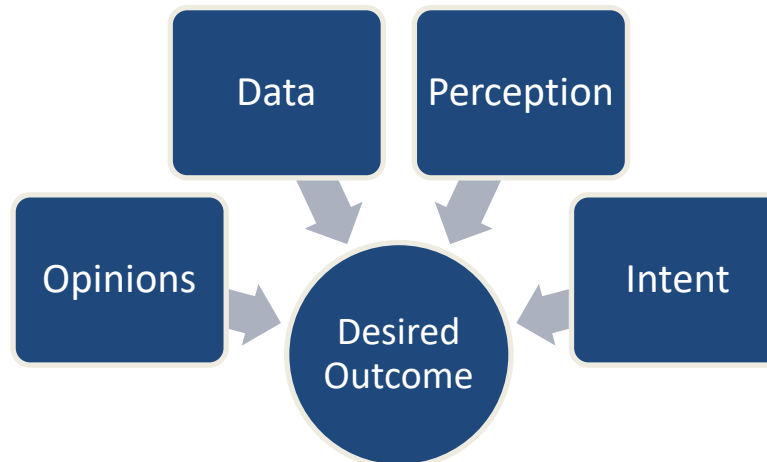


# VOLUME II COMMENT NEED

**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



# WORKFLOW TO REACH IMPLEMENTATION

## After Volume II Public Comment:


- Evaluation of Comments
- Volume II Modifications
- Final Board Approval
- Submission to NTIA for Final Approval
- Implementation



# OVERVIEW OF PBDA RESOURCES

## 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](#)



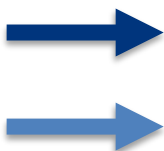
### PBDA Overview

- [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 \(ACP\)](#)





# VOLUME II PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS

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**

# OVERVIEW OF PBDA RESOURCES

## Volume II Document Location:

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



[DCED](#) > [Programs & Funding](#) > [Broadband in Pennsylvania](#) > [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#) > Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)

High-speed internet access is no longer a luxury. Rather, it is a necessity to equally participate in today's economy. Access to high-speed internet helps to ensure public safety, increase opportunities for our businesses and workforce, and provides an equal opportunity for students. The [Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment \(BEAD\) program](#) appropriates \$42.45 billion for states, territories, the District of Columbia (D.C.), and Puerto Rico (P.R.) to use for broadband deployment, mapping, and adoption projects.

On June 26, 2023, NTIA released state allocations and Pennsylvania has been awarded \$1.16 billion in federal funding. The Authority will now begin designing its Initial Proposal which is due on December 27, 2023.

Learn more about the program on the [Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program Fact Sheet](#).



*Pennsylvania Allocation – Internet For All*



### Volume II of BEAD: Public Comment Period

The Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority (PBDA) has drafted its [Volume II of the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment \(BEAD\) Proposal](#), as required through the National Telecommunication and Information Administration's BEAD Notice of Funding Opportunity and supplemental guidance. Volume II includes critical components of PBDA's plans for implementing BEAD grant funding, to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to high-speed internet. To draft the document, PBDA complied with NTIA requirements and guidance on elements such as the application process, scoring criteria, labor standards, and other requirements, as well as Commonwealth policies.

Volume II will be available for public review and comment for the required 30 days, **from October 16, 2023 through November 14, 2023**. Upon receipt and consideration of comments and Board approval, PBDA will submit the Volume for consideration to the NTIA prior to the submission deadline of December 27, 2023.

The public is asked to share comments by 11:59PM on November 14, 2023.

[Submit Feedback](#)

Any questions on Volume II of the BEAD Initial Proposal can be directed to [PABroadbandAuthority@pa.gov](mailto:PABroadbandAuthority@pa.gov).

## PBDA CONTACT INFORMATION

**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](mailto:Pabroadbandauthority@pa.gov)**

Questions?