

**Summary of NTIA’s May 13, 2022 Notice of Funding Opportunities:
State Digital Equity Planning Programming**

Background: The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) establishes the State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program, which provides \$60 million grant programs for States and territories to develop State Digital Equity Plans. Each State will be tasked with identifying barriers to digital equity and strategies for overcoming these barriers.

NOFO	Summary	Relevant Dates
<p>State Digital Equity Planning Program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans Are Required for Later Digital Equity Funding Grants: State Digital Equity Plans are key components of any State application for a State Digital Equity Capacity Grant, for which NTIA has allocated \$1.44 billion. “[S]hould [a State] seek State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program funds in the future, it will be required by Section 60304(d)(2)(B) of the Infrastructure Act to include in its application the State Digital Equity Plan described in Section 60304(c), the development of which is being funded exclusively through this NOFO.” (6, 10) • Territories and Tribes Are Included: Under the NOFO, U.S. territories and possessions (other than Puerto Rico), Indian Tribes, Alaska Native entities, and Native Hawaiian organizations may also seek grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts to develop their own digital equity plans. Tribal entities can also provide input into the digital equity plans of the States in which they are located. (3, 6) • Coordination with BEAD: NTIA expects that BEAD Five-Year Action Plans and Initial Proposals will “fully incorporate” a State Digital Equity Plan. States and territories should, at a minimum, establish “formal and direct communications and collaboration pathways” between teams involved in planning. Coordination should also consider overlap between State Digital Equity teams and BEAD Program teams. (6-7) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete applications for States are due on July 12, 2022 • Territories, tribes, and native entities must submit Letters of Intent by July 12, 2022 • NTIA expects to select applicants and process awards by September 15, 2022 • The earliest start date for awards is September 29, 2022 • Within a year of a grant award, States must develop State Digital Equity Plans, solicit and respond to public comments, and finalize the plans

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tentative Awards: The NOFO provides Tentative Award Allocation Amounts per State, Territory, and Tribal entities. (13) • No Cost-Sharing or Matching Requirements. (15) • Eligible Subgrantees: Grant funds can be used to make subgrants to: (1) community anchor institutions; (2) county and municipal governments; (3) local educational agencies; (4) Indian Tribes, Alaska Native entities, or Native Hawaiian organizations; (5) nonprofit organizations; (6) organizations that represent individuals with disabilities, aging individuals, individuals with language barriers, veterans, and individuals incarcerated in non-federal correctional facilities; (7) civil rights organizations; (8) entities that carry out workforce development programs; (9) agencies of the State that are responsible for administering or supervising adult education and literacy activities in the State; (10) public housing authorities in the State; and (11) a partnership between any of the entities described previously. (19) • Statutory Requirements: The statutory requirements for State Digital Equity Plans are found in Section 60304(c)(1) of the Infrastructure Act, and include: (1) identification of barriers to digital equity faced by Covered Populations in the State; (2) measurable objectives for documenting and promoting, among each Covered Population located in that State—(a) the availability of, and affordability of access to, fixed and wireless broadband technology; (b) the online accessibility and inclusivity of public resources and services; (c) digital literacy; (d) awareness of, and the use of, measures to secure the online privacy of, and cybersecurity with respect to, an individual; and (e) the availability and affordability of consumer devices and technical support for those devices; (3) an assessment of how the measurable objectives identified in item 2 of this Section IV.C.1.b.i will impact and interact with the State’s—(a) economic and workforce development goals, plans, and outcomes; (b) educational outcomes; (c) health outcomes; (d) 	
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	<p>civic and social engagement; and (e) delivery of other essential services; (4) in order to achieve the measurable objectives identified in item 2 above, a description of how the State plan to collaborate with key stakeholders in the State, which may include—(a) community anchor institutions; (b) county and municipal governments; (c) local educational agencies; (d) where applicable, Indian Tribes, Alaska Native entities, or Native Hawaiian organizations; (e) nonprofit organizations; (f) organizations that represent—(i) individuals with disabilities, (ii) aging individuals, (iii) individuals with language barriers, (iv) veterans, and (v) individuals incarcerated in state correctional facilities, (g) civil rights organizations; (h) entities that carry out workforce development programs; (i) agencies of the State that are responsible for administering or supervising adult education and literacy activities in the State; (k) [sic] public housing authorities in the State; and (l) [sic] a partnership between any of the entities described in clauses (a) through (k); (5) a list of organizations with which the Administering Entity for the State collaborated in developing the Plan. (20-21)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOFO Minimum Requirements: In addition to the statutory requirements under the Infrastructure Act, the NOFO requires that State Digital Equity Plans include, at a minimum: (1) a stated vision for digital equity; (2) a digital equity needs assessment; (3) an asset inventory; (4) a coordination and outreach strategy for each category of covered populations; (5) a description of how municipal, regional, and/or Tribal digital equity plans will be incorporated; (6) an implementation strategy that is holistic and addresses the barriers to participation in the digital world; (7) an explanation of how the implementation strategy addresses gaps in existing efforts to address barriers identified in the Infrastructure Act; (8) a description of how the State intends to accomplish implementation by engaging with workforce agencies, labor and community-based organizations, and institutions of higher learning; (9) an implementation timeline; and (10) a description 	
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	<p>of how the State will coordinate its use of State Digital Equity Capacity Grant funding and its use of any funds it receives in connection with the BEAD Program, or other federal or private digital equity funding. (21-22)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Buy America: Non-federal entities should, to the greatest extent practicable, provide a preference for the “purchase, acquisition, or use of goods, products, or materials produced in the United States (including, but not limited to, iron, aluminum, steel, cement, and other manufactured products).” The requirements of 2 C.F.R. § 200.322 must be included in “all subawards, including all contracts and purchase orders for work or products pursuant to this program.” (32)• Contracting with Small and Minority Businesses, Women's Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Area Firms: Non-federal entities must take all necessary affirmative steps to ensure that minority businesses, women’s business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible, in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.321. (32)	
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