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# INTERNET FOR ALL

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## Local Coordination Summary Report March 2024



U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration

## **Technical Assistance on Local Coordination for BEAD & Digital Equity**

States and territories are required to coordinate with a variety of stakeholder groups on the [Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment \(BEAD\)](#) and [Digital Equity \(DE\)](#) programs and must document their local coordination and outreach activities. This involves providing a detailed description of their efforts to engage Tribal and local governments, community groups, industry, union and worker organizations, and underrepresented populations (among others) in their BEAD Five-Year Action Plan, Initial Proposal, and Final Proposal. States and territories are also strongly encouraged to integrate their local coordination efforts with any outreach and coordination efforts required pursuant to the Digital Equity Act.

NTIA supported state/territory broadband offices in meeting this requirement by co-hosting multiple day-long workshops to convene key stakeholders from within the state/territory. These workshops were intended to both open lines of communication between the state and territories and local stakeholders and establish a process for ongoing engagement and coordination with them in the development of these plans.

### **Local Coordination Requirements**

The following are BEAD and DE Notices of Funds Opportunities (NOFO) requirements related to local coordination that informed event planning:

- Full Geographic Coverage of the Eligible Entity
- Meaningful engagement and outreach to diverse stakeholder groups
- Utilization of multiple awareness and participation mechanisms and different methods to convey information and outreach
- Establishment, documentation, and adherence to clear procedures to ensure transparency
- Outreach and direct engagement of unserved and underserved communities, to include historically underrepresented and marginalized groups and/or communities. In the context of the Digital Equity Act, this may include the “covered populations”:
  - Individuals who live in “covered households” (i.e. a household, the income of which for the most recently completed year is not more than 150 percent of an amount equal to the poverty level, as determined by using criteria of poverty established by the Bureau of the Census.?)
  - Aging individuals
  - Incarcerated individuals (other than individuals who are incarcerated in a Federal correctional facility)
  - Veterans
  - Individuals with disabilities
  - Individuals with a language barrier (including those who are English learners and have low levels of literacy)
  - Individuals who are members of a racial or ethnic minority group
  - Individuals who primarily reside in a rural area

### **Guidelines to Co-Host a Local Coordination Workshop**

NTIA outlined the following guidelines for jointly co-hosting these workshops with the state/territory broadband office based on the program NOFOs:

#### **1. Secure the support of the state or territory’s county, municipal, and/or township associations.**

The local government associations are critical partners for the state to connect every community and area within its borders. NTIA encouraged states to involve the county,

municipal, and township (where applicable) associations, either through co-hosting or significant agenda representation.

**2. Build an inclusive invite list.**

NTIA recommended an inclusive invite list for these workshops which included: relevant state/territory departments (e.g., Transportation, Public Utilities Commissions); Congressional or state legislators or staff; local elected officials or staff; Tribal Governments and communities; state and local public safety officials; libraries; community anchor institutions; community development groups and organizations; academic community; healthcare community; faith-based community. organizations that represent and support the agricultural Industry (e.g., Farm Bureau, University Ag Extensions); labor unions; economic development agencies and organizations; workforce development agencies and organizations; chambers of commerce; and Internet service providers.

Additionally, NTIA recommended the inclusion of covered populations as defined by the DE NOFO and referenced above.

**3. Develop a relevant agenda.**

NTIA provided a selection of recommended workshop sessions to ensure stakeholders discussed issues that will facilitate progress toward “Internet for All.” NTIA also strongly suggested that panels include a wide and diverse range of stakeholders ranging from local and Tribal governments to other types of stakeholders referenced above.

**4. Create an event that encourages participation.**

The purpose of this event is to engage broadband stakeholders in the state to spur collaboration. NTIA encouraged the following logistical details for state/territory broadband offices to consider to ensure full participation:

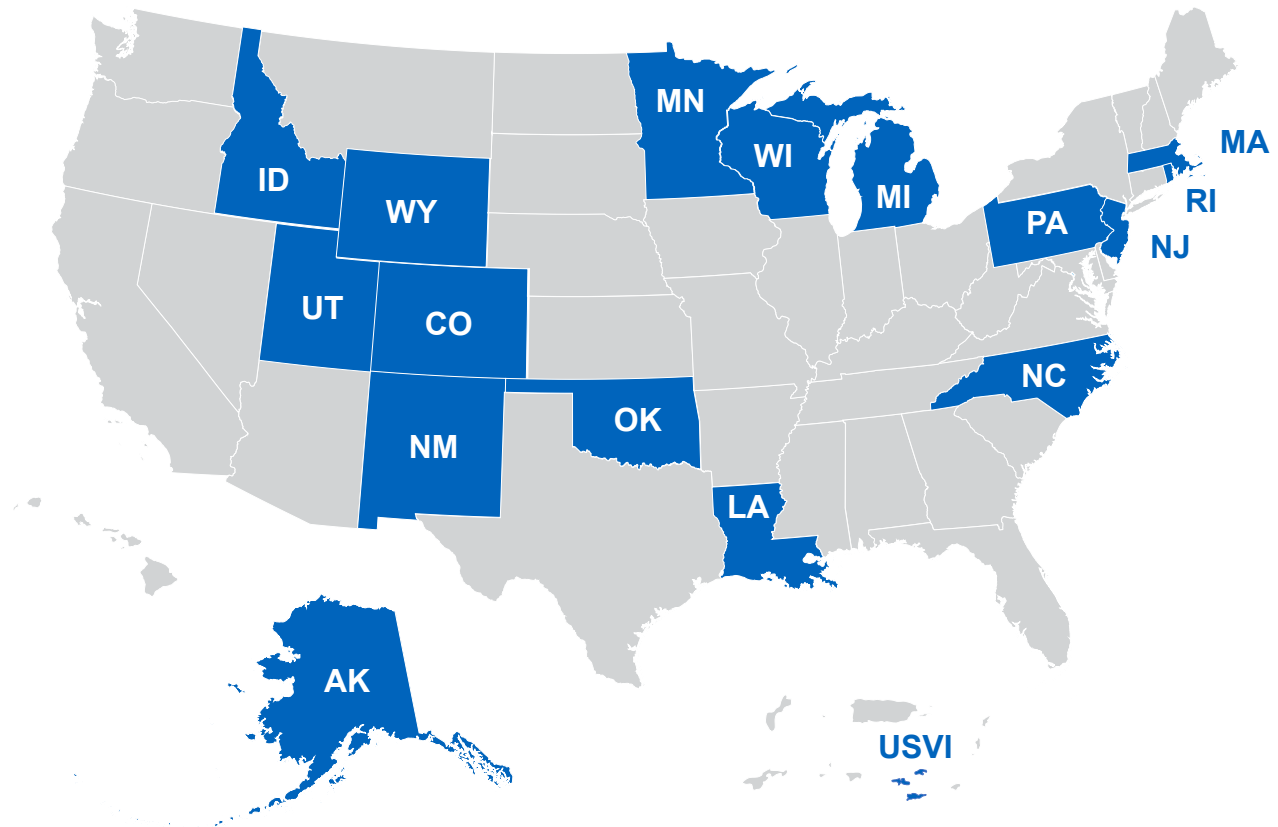
- *Timing:* The workshop should not take place during any other major event happening in their state/territory.
- *Length:* The workshop should last one to one and-a-half days.
- *Location:* The workshop should take place in a location that allows for relatively easy attendee travel. NTIA provided a virtual option at all events for those unable to participate in-person.
- *Size:* the event size should range from 150 to 300 in-person attendees as conversations are most productive with a smaller group of participants. There was no limit to the number of virtual attendees.

**5. Maintain ongoing communication.**

Following the workshop, states were encouraged to follow up with attendees to continue conversations about plan development, provide updates, and promote open dialogue with the state broadband office. These workshops are the beginning of ongoing stakeholder engagement NTIA requires of state and territory broadband offices as part of the BEAD and DE programs. Additionally, NTIA provided each co-host key event takeaways and next steps to facilitate continued stakeholder dialogue.

## Local Coordination by the Numbers

Between August 2022 and November 2023, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration co-hosted events in **17** states and territories with **48** co-hosts where we facilitated exchanges around more than **15** unique broadband agenda topics.



Altogether, these engagements connected NTIA with thousands of local and regional broadband stakeholders with representation from the following key partner groups: federal and state governments, tribal corporations/communities, academic institutions, community development groups, nonprofit organizations, industry, media, and others.

## Impact of Local Coordination Events

The infographic below outlines the impact of the 17 local coordination events NTIA co-hosted.



**5,045**

Stakeholders engaged



**39%** Government (Federal, State, and Local)



**5%** Tribal Corporations/Communities



**3%** Community Development Groups



**12%** Nonprofit Organizations



**6%** Academic Institutions



**31%** Industry



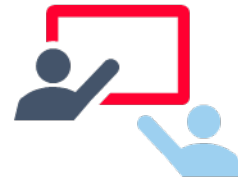
**4%** Other

**24**



Technical Assistance  
resources shared

**5**



Federal partners  
participating as presenters

U.S. Department  
of Treasury

U.S. Department of  
Housing & Urban  
Development

U.S. Department  
of Agriculture

U.S. Department  
of the Interior

Federal Communications Commission

## Non-NTIA Hosted Events

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NTIA is supporting states and stakeholders through monthly technical assistance webinars and regularly scheduled cohort meetings (i.e. the State Broadband Leaders Network, Tribal Broadband Leaders Network, and Digital Equity Leaders Network).

In addition, our team members supported over **5,212** state- and stakeholder-hosted events, small group convenings, and one-on-one meetings from the launch of the BEAD and DE NOFOs on May 13, 2022 to December 20, 2023. Below is a snapshot of the types of events NTIA has participated in by region:

### Alaska and Territories

- April 12, 2023: Summit: Puerto Rico Broadband Program, hosted by the Puerto Rico Broadband Program
- April 21, 2023: Alaska Digital Equity Summit, hosted by the Rasmuson Foundation

### Midwest

- October 20, 2022: County Broadband Summit, hosted by the Illinois Association of County Board Members, Illinois Broadband Office, and the Benton Institute
- March 9, 2023: Rural Broadband Association Legislative Conference, hosted by the Indiana Rural Broadband Association

### Northeast

- September 9, 2022: New York City Panel Discussion on Digital Equity, hosted by the New York City Office of Technology & Innovation
- December 8-9, 2023: 2022 Maine Broadband Summit, hosted by the Maine Broadband Coalition

### Northern Plains

- January 19, 2023: 2023 Kansas Broadband Summit, hosted by the Kansas Office of Broadband Development and the Wichita State University
- May 4, 2023: South Dakota Broadband Summit, hosted by Connect South Dakota

### Southeast

- October 26, 2022: 2022 Rural Broadband Summit, hosted by the Georgia Municipal Association
- January 26-27, 2023: Florida Associations of Counties Broadband Summit, hosted by the Florida Association of Counties

### Southwest

- October 4, 2022: "Connecting All Missourians" Kick-Off Summit, hosted by the Missouri Department of Economic Development
- November 18, 2022: The Future of Rural Texas 2022, hosted by the Texas Rural Funders

### West

- September 30, 2022: Governor Sisolak's Infrastructure Summit, hosted by the Nevada Governor's Office of Science, Innovation, and Technology
- October 24, 2022: Broadband for All Summit: Digital Equity and BEAD Kickoff, hosted by the California Department of Technology and the California Public Utilities Commission