Federal Funding Workstream -- Findings/Recommendations

Finding 1: In our assessment we found that no single program is an exact replica of another federal program. Where elements of programs share similarities, such as the types of facilities being financed or entities served, there is a significant opportunity to promote the use of consistent metrics, language, and data-collection practices to **enhance coordination across agencies, maximize program outcomes, and measure impact**. Recommendations to address this finding include:

1. Promote the exchange of programmatic and policy information between agencies that support broadband programs to encourage more efficient and targeted use of federal funds.

2. Design and implement a strategy for agencies' use of consistent, standardized language in funding announcements and/or tagging lexicon when describing their programs' funding opportunities related to broadband in order to facilitate easier public access to the information.

3. Encourage consistent data-collection across federal programs by developing broadband-related performance measures for agencies to incorporate into reports, application requirements, and awardee reporting.

4. Consolidate and make publicly available broadband-related performance metrics collected across federal agencies in formats that support public reuse and greater transparency.

Finding 2: Following one of the core principles of the American Broadband Initiative, federal broadband programs **should be responsive to stakeholders and clearly communicate funding opportunities**. While multiple agencies support broadband funding, improved interagency coordination and communication approaches would make information on programs and sources of funding more easily discoverable by the public. Recommendations to address this finding include:

5. Promote interagency collaboration to offer joint trainings, develop and share lessons learned, and explore opportunities to coordinate amongst federal funding sources to fill regional, programmatic, or other funding gaps (as appropriate).

6. Create public awareness of federal efforts to expand broadband access across the country through coordinated outreach and communications efforts across agencies. Consult with stakeholders to inform outreach methods to ensure a coordinated federal communications activities are responsive to their needs.

Finding 3: Our assessment found significant opportunity to **enhance coordination with other levels of government (State/local)** given these complementary sources of important funding to maximize the impact of resources. A recommendation to address this finding include:

7. Issue recommendations to improve programmatic coordination between State and Federal entities that fund broadband projects.