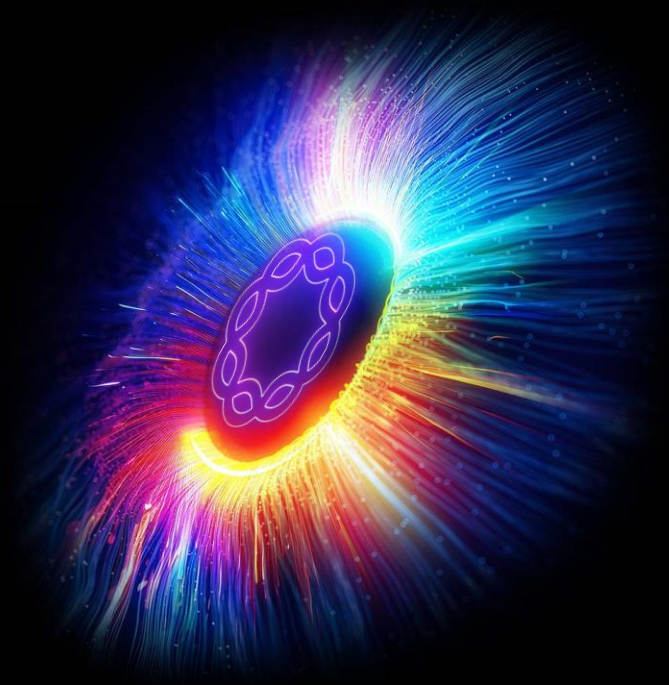
ribbon

# INSIGHTS



# Funding for Rural Broadband

**Joy Stewart**

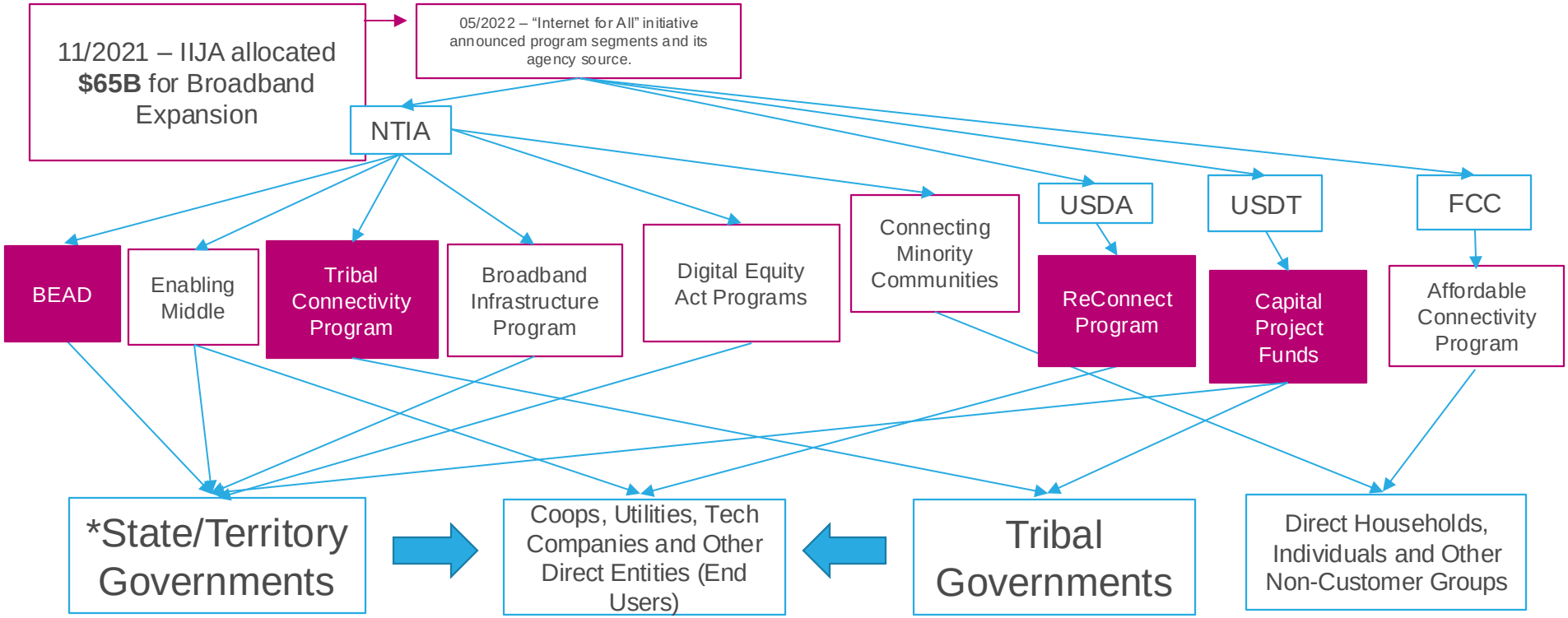
National Rural Customer Advocate

**Jack Breeding**

Rural and Tribal Nations

ribbon INSIGHTS

# Background Broadband Grant Programs




*The funding allocated to states are allocated to the programs created by their broadband divisions (ex. LA GUMBO program, NC GREAT program, etc.)

# Status of Current Government Funding Programs

ribbon INSIGHTS

# USDA ReConnect

**Eligible Entities:**

- Corporations
- LLC/Ps
- Coops
- State, local and territory governments
- Federally recognized Tribes

**Milestones:**

- Round 1 – $600M
- Round 2 - $550M
- Round 3 - $1B
- Round 4 - $750M
- Round 5 - $667M

**Types of Assistance:**

- 100% Grant
- 100% Loan
- 50% Loan / 50% Grant

**Usage of Funds:**

- Improvements
- Construction
- Acquisitions
- Preapplication expenses

# USDA Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans and Loan Guarantees

**Eligible Entities:**

- Cooperatives
- Nonprofits
- For-profit companies
- State and local governmental entities
- Federally recognized Tribes

**Types of Assistance:**

- Direct Loans
- Loan Guarantees

**Usage of Funds:**

- Improvements
- Expansions
- Construction
- Acquisitions
- Refinancing

**Eligibility Requirements:**

- Areas with a population of <5,000
- Be able to operate and maintain a telecommunications system, along with the financial feasibility of their projects.

# Capital Projects Fund - $10B

## Purpose

Aid states, territories, and Tribal governments fund capital projects that enable work, education, and healthcare monitoring in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Implementation

- States received their fund allocation in 2022.
- State programs were created to determine subgrantees. (ex. Texas BOOT Program)

## Focus

- broadband infrastructure
- digital connectivity technology
- critical infrastructure projects

# 5G Fund for Rural America

**Multi-round Reverse Auction**

- Phase I - $8B
- Phase II - $1B

**Current Status**

- As of **August 2024**, the FCC has relaunched the 5G Fund
- **The FCC has yet to announce the start date for the funding auction**

**Eligibility** determined based on broadband coverage data from the FCC's **Digital Opportunity Data Collection** initiative.

- Winning bidders must deploy networks with mobile broadband speeds of **>35/3 Mpbs**, with deployment milestones met over a six year period

# Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

**Program Goals:**

- Expand Broadband Infrastructure
- Improve Broadband Service Quality
- Promote Digital Equity

**Usage of Funds**

- Infrastructure
- Connecting underserved homes and businesses
- Providing digital literacy programs

**Eligible Entities:**

- Tribal Governments
- Tribal Organizations
- Tribal Entities

**Milestones:**

- Round 1 – $1.78B
- Round 2 - $980M

# Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD) - $42.45B

**Priorities:**

1. Unserved (<25/3)
2. Underserved (<100/20)
3. Community Anchor Institutions
4. Non-deployment projects (ex. Adoption)

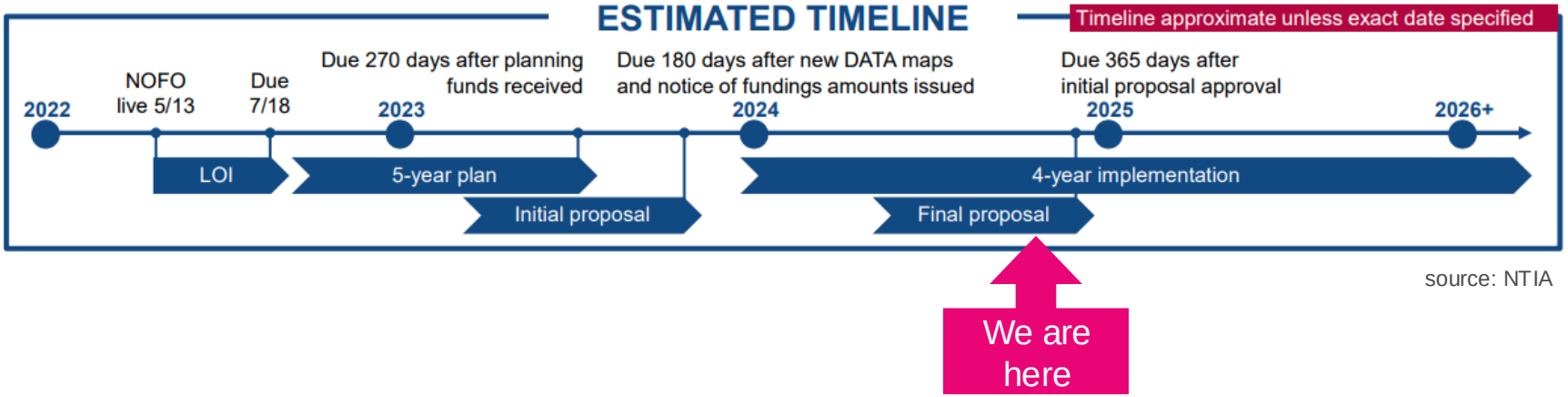
**Requirements:**

- Provide service of at least 100/20
- Participate in ACP or low-cost program
- Minimum of 25% match

**Example Eligible Uses:**

- Planning for deployment of internet
- Deploying or upgrading internet
- Installing Internet in multi-tenant buildings
- Implementing adoption and digital equity programs
- Workforce and job training

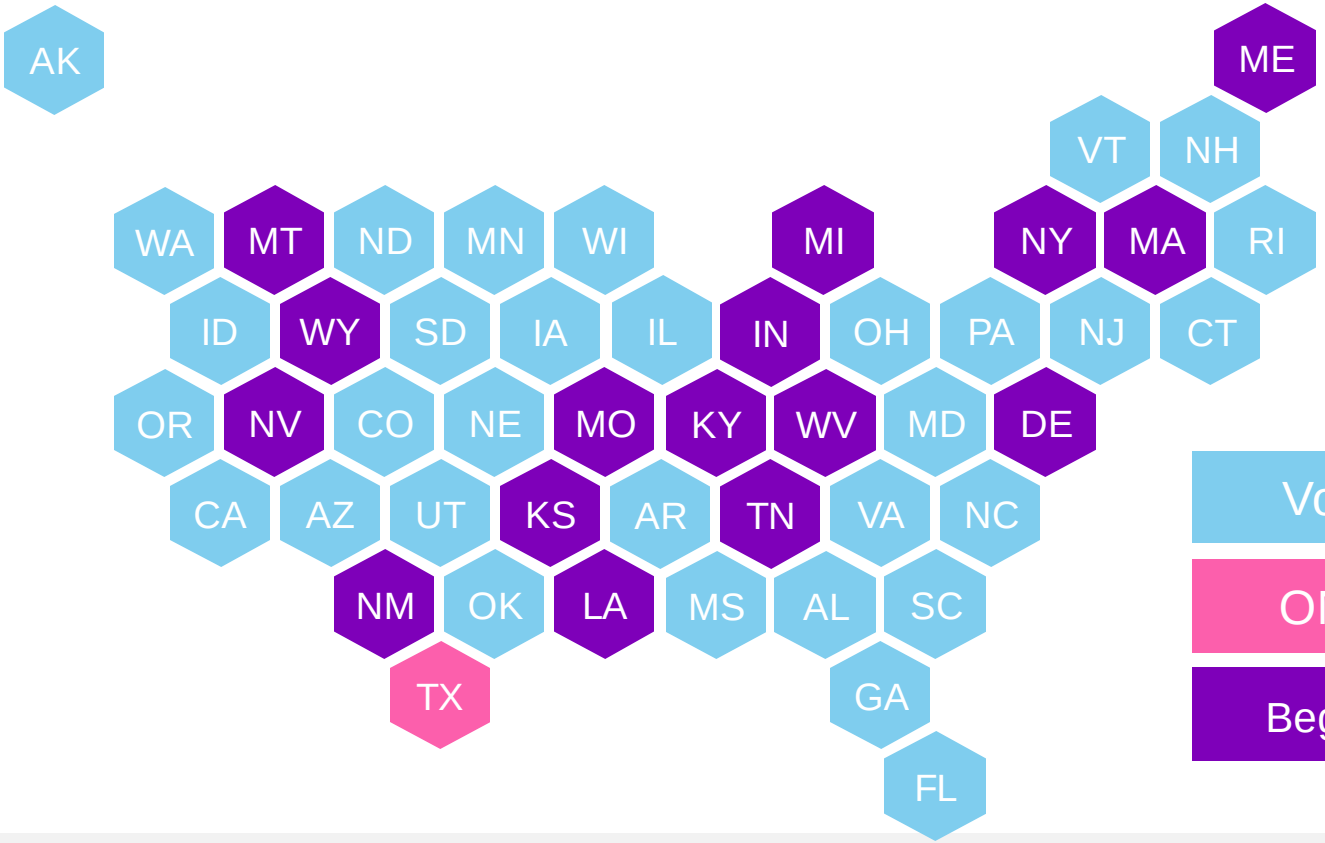
# Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD)




source: NTIA

- States have 365 days to submit a Final Proposal from the date of approval of both volumes of their Initial Proposal.
- Final Proposals will have to include preliminary grant awardees.

# Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD)




Vol I and II Approved

ONLY Vol I Approved

Began Selection Process

# Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD)

## Next Steps for Subgrantees

Get Involved with Your State Broadband Office

Review Data Maps and Work on Your High-Level Engineering Design

Submit Your Application

# Contact Us

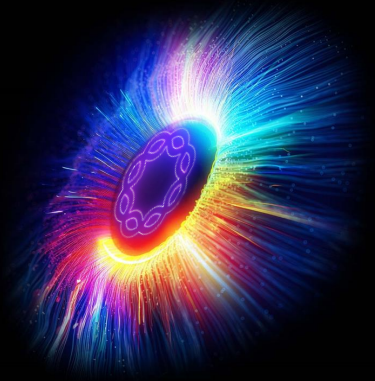
Joy Stewart
National Rural Customer Advocate
jstewart@rbbn.com
(919) 457-9535

Jack Breeding
Rural and Tribal Nations
jack.breeding@rbbn.com
(303) 898-4566


ribbon INSIGHTS

ribbon

# INSIGHTS



ribbon®

# Priority Info

Copyright © 2024, Ribbon Communications Operating Company, Inc. (“Ribbon”). All Rights Reserved.
www.rbbn.com

Ribbon Communications is a registered trademark of Ribbon Communications, Inc. All other trademarks, service marks, registered trademarks, or registered service marks may be the property of their respective owners.