State of Florida Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment (BEAD) and Digital Adoption and Use (DAU) Plan

Public Workshop

June 28\textsuperscript{th}, 2023
Bradenton, Florida
Welcome!

➢ Please sign in and take a name tag

➢ Locate on the map approximately where you live. Place a color mark on that location using…
  • **Green** if your Internet connection is good
  • **Yellow** if the connection is spotty
  • **Red** if the connection is poor
Your facilitators for today’s meeting

Toree Ennis  
Consultant  
Thomas Howell Ferguson

Katie Smith  
Director, Office of Broadband  
Florida Department of Economic Opportunity

Susana Linares  
Spanish Translator  
Thomas Howell Ferguson
## Today’s agenda

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The mission of FloridaCommerce is to advance Florida’s economy by championing the state’s economic development vision and administering state and federal programs and initiatives to help visitors, citizens, businesses, and communities.

The Office of Broadband within FloridaCommerce works with local and state government agencies, community organizations and private businesses to increase the availability and effectiveness of broadband Internet throughout the state. Through these partnerships, the Office of Broadband encourages investment in grant funding opportunities that focus on the expansion of broadband.
Broadband is high-speed Internet that connects us with one another – and the world!

Broadband is a type of telecommunications. It refers to wide bandwidth that can transport multiple signals over a "broad" range of frequencies, allowing many data streams to be sent at once, over high speeds. Broadband uses technologies like DSL, cable, and fiber to deliver internet access to homes and businesses.

High-speed Internet is a generic term used for Internet service that is faster than the average. Traditionally, the way to determine if a connection is high-speed is to test its ability to connect multiple devices simultaneously to allow streaming and access to modern applications.

The terms “Broadband” and “High-Speed Internet” are often understood to mean the same thing when internet speeds are at Federal Communications Commission (FCC) standards or higher (i.e., speeds of at least 25 megabytes per second (Mbps) when downloading data and 3Mbps when uploading).

For purposes of this presentation, when discussing infrastructure or technology, we will use the term “broadband.” When discussing the service provided, we will use the term “high-speed Internet.”

Source: National Telecommunications Information and Administration.
Broadband generates wide-ranging benefits...

- **Health** (e.g., telehealth)
- **Economic development** (e.g., job creation and e-commerce)
- **Government services** (e.g., improved traffic lights)
- **Public safety** (e.g., disaster/emergency response)
- **Education** (e.g., remote learning)
- **Quality of life** (e.g., entertainment)

...and enables people to participate fully in our modern economy

- 77% of all jobs require at least some technology skills
- 48% of hiring managers say that candidates lack the skills needed to fill open jobs
- 29% of students without basic digital skills say they won’t consider post-secondary studies


From: 

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The benefits of broadband span a wide array of public and essential services.
The 2017-2021 American Community Survey (ACS) conducted by the United States Census Bureau estimates that the State of Florida is home to around 8 million households. Among these households, the ACS finds that:

- **74%** of households have a broadband Internet subscription through fiber, cable, or DSL. This translates to some **2 million** households that have not adopted broadband wireline services.*
- **94%** of households in Florida have a computer, suggesting that **490,000** households do not have access to this computing device.

*Wireline technologies include fiber, cable, and DSL
Florida is participating in two Federal programs that aim to increase the availability and effectiveness of broadband:

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

- **Objective:** Achieve universal, high-speed coverage by building infrastructure and increasing adoption.
  - $42.45B nationally
  - Funds the deployment of high-speed Internet in unserved and underserved locations

**Digital Equity Act Program**

- **Objective:** Ensure all communities can participate and meaningfully use high-speed Internet.
  - $1.5B for states
  - Funds activities that promote affordable access, digital skills, and devices
The Digital Adoption and Use Program promotes access to high-speed Internet, digital skills, and devices

**Overview**
- **$2.75B** across 3 programs
- Provides funding to promote digital inclusion and advance digital literacy
- Aims to ensure that all communities can access and use affordable, reliable, high-speed internet to meet their needs

**Program Descriptions**
- **State Planning:** $60M formula funding program to develop digital adoption and use plans
- **State Capacity:** $1.44B formula funding program to implement plans & promote digital inclusion
- **Competitive:** $1.25B to implement digital inclusion activities

**Eligible Uses of Funding**
- Developing & implementing digital adoption and use plans
- Awarding funds to other entities for their digital adoption and use plans
- Providing digital literacy and digital skills education
- Facilitating adoption of high-speed Internet

**Covered Populations**
Activities are focused on meeting the needs of specific populations, including:
- Low-income households
- Aging populations
- Incarcerated individuals
- Veterans
- People with disabilities
- People with language barriers
- Racial/ethnic minorities
- Rural inhabitants

*The State of Florida will be using the term “Digital Adoption and Use Plan” in place of “Digital Equity Act Plan”*
The Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program supports the deployment of broadband infrastructure

Program Overview
- $42.5B for states, D.C., Puerto Rico and U.S. Territories
- Funding for partnerships between states/territories, communities, and stakeholders for building broadband infrastructure
- Aims to get all Americans online and increase adoption of high-speed Internet

Program Priorities
- Unserved locations (those below 25/3 Mbps)
- Underserved locations (those below 100/20 Mbps)
- Community anchor institutions (Without gigabit connections) Entities must also prioritize persistent high-poverty areas and offer a low-cost plan to all their subscribers.

Eligible Uses of Funding
- Planning for deployment of Internet
- Deploying/upgrading Internet
- Installing Internet in multi-tenant buildings
- Implementing digital adoption and use programs
- Implementing workforce and job training

Subgrantee Selection Process
- States create their own challenge process for FCC maps
- Subgrantee selection process must be competitive and open to non-profits, cooperatives, P3s, private companies, and more
- States set selection criteria using NTIA parameters

BEAD Plan Development Process
- BEAD 5-Year Action Plan Summer 2023 Develop understanding of broadband needs and identify activities to achieve effective high-speed coverage.
- Initial Proposal Late 2023 Submit a proposal elaborating on key activities described in the 5-Year Action Plan and use of BEAD grant funds.
- Plan Implementation 2024-2028 States have four years to carry out the approved activities.
Community Organizations
- Serve as thought partner as states design their outreach strategies
- Advocate for community interests across programs

Individuals
- Attend in-person meetings during planning phase to provide feedback
- Participate in digital skill and literacy courses funded by programs

Local Governments
- Collaborate with states to develop DAU plan and during BEAD planning
- Apply for federal Digital Equity Capacity and competitive grants

Community Anchor Institutions
- Benefit from BEAD funding for faster internet
- Apply for federal Digital Equity Competitive Grant
- Advocate for community interests across programs

Tribal Government
- Coordinate, consult and partner with states during BEAD and DAU planning
- Apply for federal Digital Equity Capacity grants

Telecom Providers
- Provide feedback on hurdles (regulatory, financial, etc.) to expanding broadband
- Apply to be a BEAD subgrantee

Note: Telecom providers may include government-owned entities

Every stakeholder plays an integral role in the development and implementation of these programs
Group Discussion (15 min)
What do members of your community use the internet for?

10 min
What are the barriers your community members face when trying to access the internet?

10 min
What kind of support or programs would help you connect and get the most benefit from Internet access and technology?

10 min
Interactive Activity #1 (10 min)
Interactive Activity #2 (10 min)
Q&A (10 min)
We are hosting public meetings and webinars across the State of Florida this summer.

**Regional Public Meetings**

1. University of North Florida / June 30 @ 5:30PM EST
2. Big Bend Technical College / July 6 @ 5:30PM EST
3. Gulf Coast State College / July 7 @ 2:30PM EST
4. Collier County South Regional Library / July 10 @ 5:30PM EST
5. Miami Dade College / July 11 @ 11:00AM EST

**Webinars**

1. Friday, July 14, 2023 @ 10:30AM EST
2. Monday, July 23, 2023 @ 2:00PM EST
3. Wednesday, July 26, 2023 @ 2:00PM EST

Scan the QR code or visit floridajobs.org for more information:
Thank you!

Please contact Broadband@deo.myflorida.com with any follow-up questions or feedback.