



Montana

Office of Public Instruction

ESSER Guidance Sessions – November 2023

Broadband Informational Update

Prepare, Prevent, and Respond

November 17, 2023

Speaker

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Goals For This Session

- Broadband Program Details
 - Digital Opportunity Plan
 - Broadband 5-year Action Plan
- Broadband Timeline
- Affordable Connectivity Program
- ESSER Team Support
- Resources and Wrap-Up
- Q&A





Broadband Program Details

Digital Opportunity Plan-

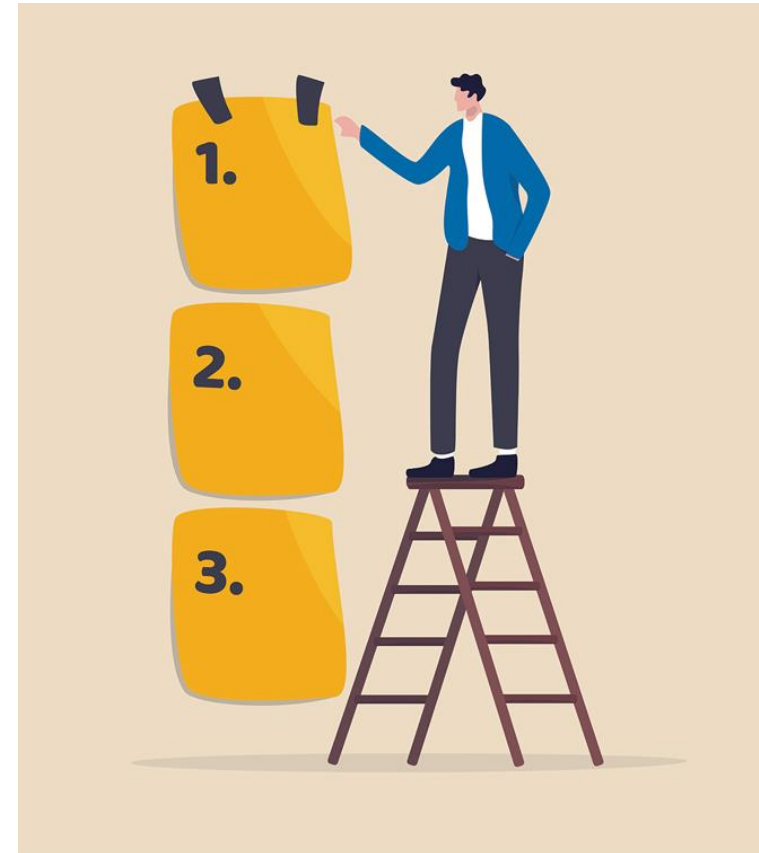
https://connectmt.mt.gov/_docs/2023.05.16_Digital-Opportunity-Plan.pdf

Goal: Close Montana's digital divide

Vision: Narrow the digital divide in support of Montana's economic, workforce, health, and educational goals by ensuring reliable, affordable internet access for all Montanans

Priorities:

- Broadband Availability and Affordability
- Online Accessibility and Inclusivity
- Digital Skills
- Device Availability and Affordability
- Online Privacy and Cyber-Security





Broadband Program Details

Broadband 5 Year Action Plan

https://connectmt.mt.gov/_docs/2023.05.16_BEAD-Five-Year-Action-Plan.pdfhttps://connectmt.mt.gov/_docs/2023.05.16_Digital-Opportunity-Plan.pdf

Objective	Goal
Broadband Deployment	Utilize Federal Funding to develop Broadband infrastructure
Broadband Access	Decrease percentage of unserved locations from 13% to 0% Decrease percentage of underserved locations Increase percentage of Montana residents with access to internet-capable devices
Broadband Adoption	Increase household adoption rates
Broadband Affordability	Increase percentage of eligible households enrolled in the Affordable Connectivity Program Increase percentage update of affordable plans
Digital Opportunity	Increase household adoption rates within covered populations
Economic Growth and Job Creation	Increase percentage of business locations with high-speed internet access

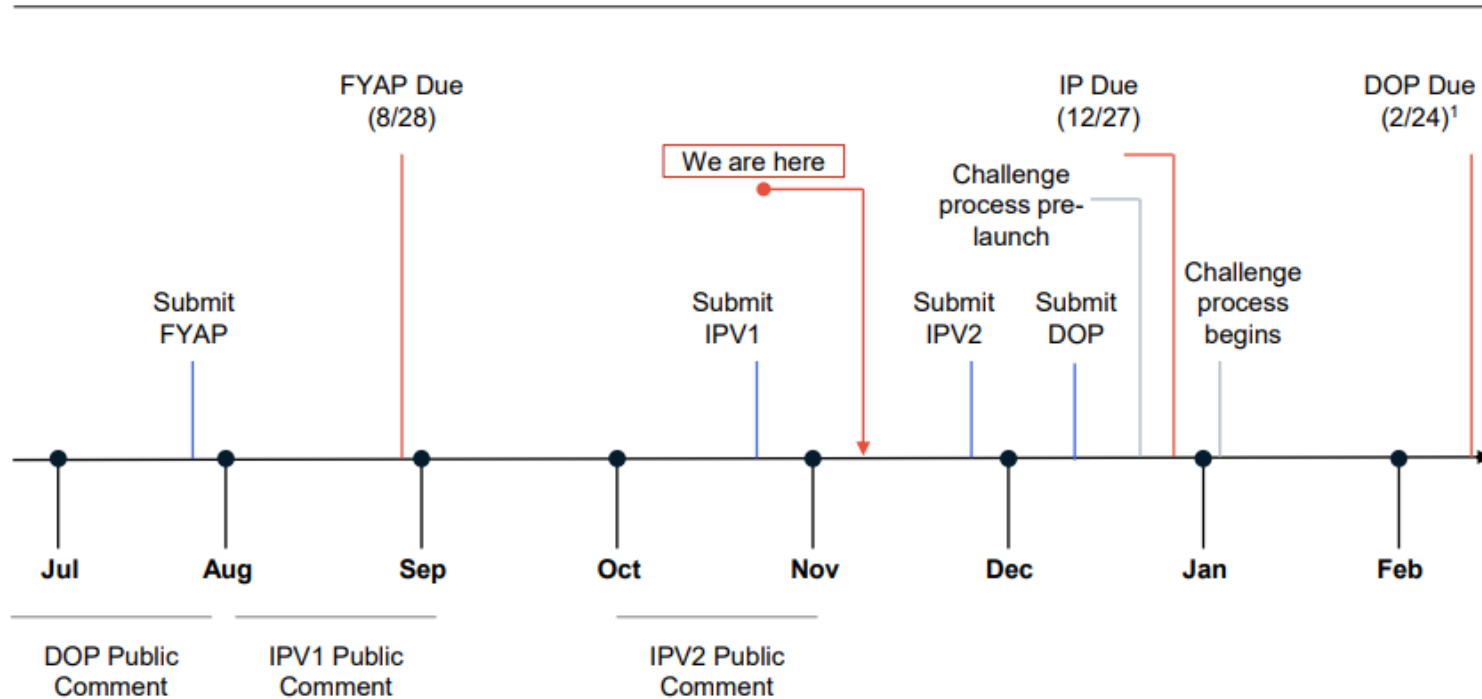


Broadband Timeline

BEAD timeline and draft agendas

As of 26 October 2023

Timeline of key BEAD milestones





Affordable Connectivity Program

Federal Communications Commission Affordable Connectivity Program:

<https://affordableconnectivity.gov/>

- Program Benefits

- Service discount up to \$30/month
- Service discount up to \$75/month on qualifying Tribal lands
- Device discount up to \$100 for a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer

- How to Qualify

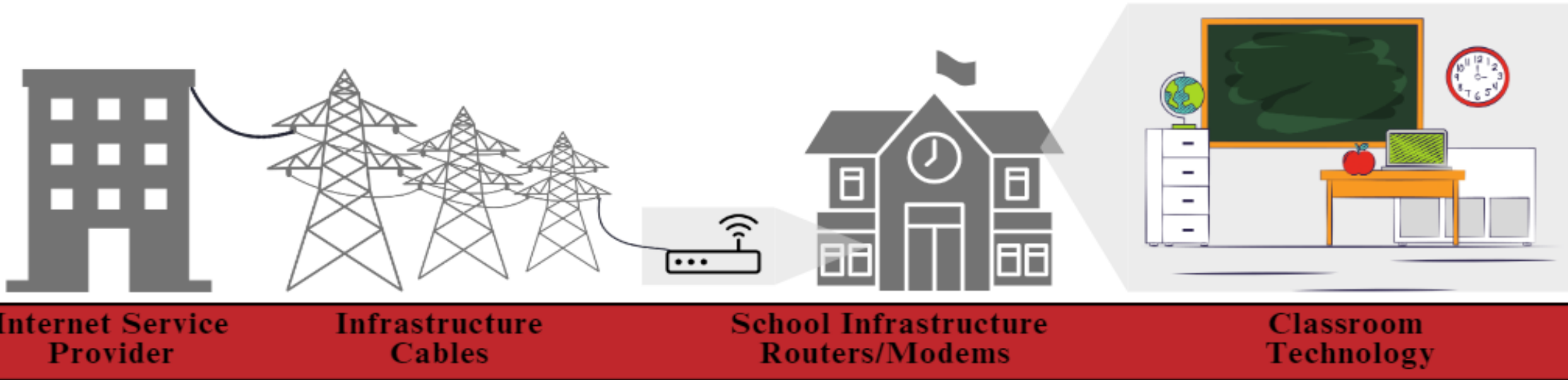
- You or you child or dependent are enrolled in government programs
- Based on you household income
- <https://affordableconnectivity.gov/do-i-qualify/>

- How to Apply:

<https://affordableconnectivity.gov/how-to-apply/>



ESSER Team Support



Office of Public Instruction Broadband in Montana

<https://opi.mt.gov/COVID-19-Information/ESSER/Broadband>



Broadband Resources

Montana Broadband Resources

Broadband Montana Website:

<https://www.broadbandmt.com/>

ConnectMT Broadband Program Website:

<https://connectmt.mt.gov/>

Montana Digital Opportunity Plan:

https://connectmt.mt.gov/2023.06.27_Digital-Opportunity-Plan_WEB.pdf

BEAD Five Year Action Plan:

https://connectmt.mt.gov/_docs/2023.07.25_BEAD-Five-Year-Action-Plan_vClean-FINAL-SUBMITTED.pdf

Office of Public Instruction Broadband:

<https://opi.mt.gov/COVID-19-Information/ESSER/Broadband>

Montana Speed Survey :

<https://mtspeedsurvey.com/surveys/connectmt/>

Internet Speed Test:

<https://www.speedtest.net/>

Broadband Montana Facts Sheet:

<https://www.broadbandmt.com/assets/docs/FACT%20SHEET.pdf>

Broadband Montana Glossary of Terms:

<https://www.broadbandmt.com/assets/docs/Glossary.pdf>

- Where will Broadband be in 2 years?
- What challenges have you encountered (past or present) with your internet or technology setup?
- Do you have dedicated IT staff at your location to help with technical challenges?



Q & A

Feel free to ask questions!

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