

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### **1. What is the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program?**

The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program, or BEAD Program, is an effort by Congress to ensure all unserved and underserved Americans have 100Mbps download capacity and 20Mbps upload broadband/internet capacity. Congress appropriated \$42,500,000,000 to be allocated to the states and territories based on the state or territories' need. Alaska was allocated \$1,017,139,672.42 to build fiber broadband/internet infrastructure to the unserved and underserved locations in the state.

In its original Notice of Funding Opportunity (NoFO), the BEAD Program is split into an Initial Proposal and a Final Proposal.

### **2. What is the Initial Proposal?**

The Initial Proposal is the development of the grant program by the Alaska Broadband Office (ABO). The Initial Proposal is further segmented into two volumes. Volume 1 is a public in-state challenge to the National Telecommunication and Information Administration's (NTIA) assessment of the served, underserved, and unserved locations in Alaska. Volume 2 is the development of the actual grant program.

### **3. What are the details of the Volume 1, In-state Challenge of the Initial Proposal?**

Under the guidelines by the NTIA, the Volume 1, In-state Challenge will be run in four stages. Each stage will run for 30 days each. The four stages are:

Stage 1: Broadband Serviceable Location (BSL) and Community Anchor Institutions (CAI) review

Stage 2: BSL and CAI challenge by Alaskans

Stage 3: BSL and CAI challenge rebuttal by providers

Stage 4: Mediation of BSL and CAI challenges and rebuttals by the ABO

### **4. What is the purpose of the Stage 1 review?**

The Stage 1 review is for interested parties to understand the categorization of their BSL or CAI. If there is a disagreement with the categorization, the interested party can submit a challenge in Stage 2.

### **5. How long will the Stage 1 review last?**

The Stage 1 review began on April 6, 2024, and will run for 30 days, concluding on May 5, 2024. The Stage 2 challenge will begin on May 6, 2024.

### **6. Is the map the ABO is using the same as the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Map?**

No. The ABO Volume 1, In-state Challenge map is different in a couple of ways. First, the ABO map classifies BSLs as served, underserved, unserved, or having an enforceable commitment. Second, the FCC map is updated every 6 months, whereas the ABO map is static as of the June 2023 FCC map.

### **7. What is an Enforceable Commitment?**

An Enforceable Commitment is a project to build infrastructure subsidized by either the state or federal government.