COMPLETING THE NM BROADBAND HIGHWAY

Presentation to the **Rural Economic Opportunities Task Force (REOTF)**
August 23, 2022
Kelly Schlegel, Broadband Director
Office of Broadband Access and Expansion

Acronyms

- NTIA- National Telecommunications and Information Administration
- BEAD – Broadband Access Equity and Deployment
- ARPA – American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
- TCP- Tribal broadband Connect Program
- CNMC - Connect New Mexico Council
- USDA- US Dept of Agriculture
- FTTH/FTTP – Fiber to the Home/Fiber to the Premise

Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF)

- Kelly Schlegel appointed Director of Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) by the GOV 08/11 & was on site 08/14
- Building the strategy, the team, and the staff
- Meeting near-term urgent + important federal milestones enable the capture of funding
  - Middle Mile
  - BEAD (Last mile)
  - Digital Equity
- Rural Path Forward - Rural areas are dependent on a robust Middle Mile framework and its funding/construction timeline, but leap-frog activities are also being sought by OBAE

OBAE APPROACH AND PLAN

The Five OBAE Pillars

Foster Collaboration and Partnerships:
(e.g., SEN, PEN, RFN, Connect NM Council, Tribes and Pueblos, P3s, ISPs, Telcos, Coops, Counties, Border states, Nonprofits, Coalitions, Consortiums, Collectives, etc.)

Support a Robust Fiber State-wide Middle Mile

Plan the Foundation for Broadband (BB) Connectivity within 5-Year Period

Create and Adopt Innovative Approaches (e.g., Spectrum, best practices, lessons learned, best in class tools)

Nurture Alternative Technologies (e.g., MM Wireless, HAPS, Satellite, Photoelectronics, Mesh Networks, etc.)

Robust middle mile provides framework for last mile in rural areas but alternative technologies help leap-frog timeline .

OBAE Framework

Primary Goals

- **Universal internet** access to all homes, businesses & community anchors
- **Universal mobile wireless** access
- *Free & secure **gigabit broadband** to all schools & libraries*
- Happy connected people

Guiding Approach

- **Engage & empower** communities & providers
- **Align public investment** with demonstrated need
- **Promote innovation** & technology diversity

Tools & Tactics

- **Last Mile** Access: Target resources through mapping & iterative pilot program
- **Middle Mile** Infrastructure: Align Local, State & Federal Investment
- **Digital Equity** Programming: Ensure that all barriers to true internet access and digital economy participation are eliminated

Rural Areas are integral to happy connected people. State needs to help drive servicing rural areas that are not commercially viable.

FEDERAL FUNDING AND TIMELINES

100% Connectivity: >$1B Funding Enables BB Buildout

NTIA Digital Equity Funds

- ⓾Submitted plan <u>July 12</u>. Releases $740K Planning Funds
- ⓾Engaged SME contractors for community + tribal outreach and Digital Equity (DE) Planning
- Outreach and detailed planning September 2022 - September 2023
- Submit detailed plan October 01 2023. Releases DE implementation funds
- Implement DE Plan October 2023 - 2025

$30M+*

NTIA BEAD Funds

- ⓾Submitted GOV Letter of Intent (LOI) July 18.
- ⓾Submitted plan <u>August 15</u>. Releases $5M planning funds
- Submit detailed plan May 2023. Releases broadband infrastructure funds
- Award grants when funding released
- Implement Last Mile 2024+

$700M+*

NTIA MM Funds

- Architecting State-Coordinated Statewide MM Plan. ISP or ISP coalitions may submit independently.
- On track for <u>September 30</u> submittal. Releases middle mile infrastructure funds.
- Award Grants when funding released
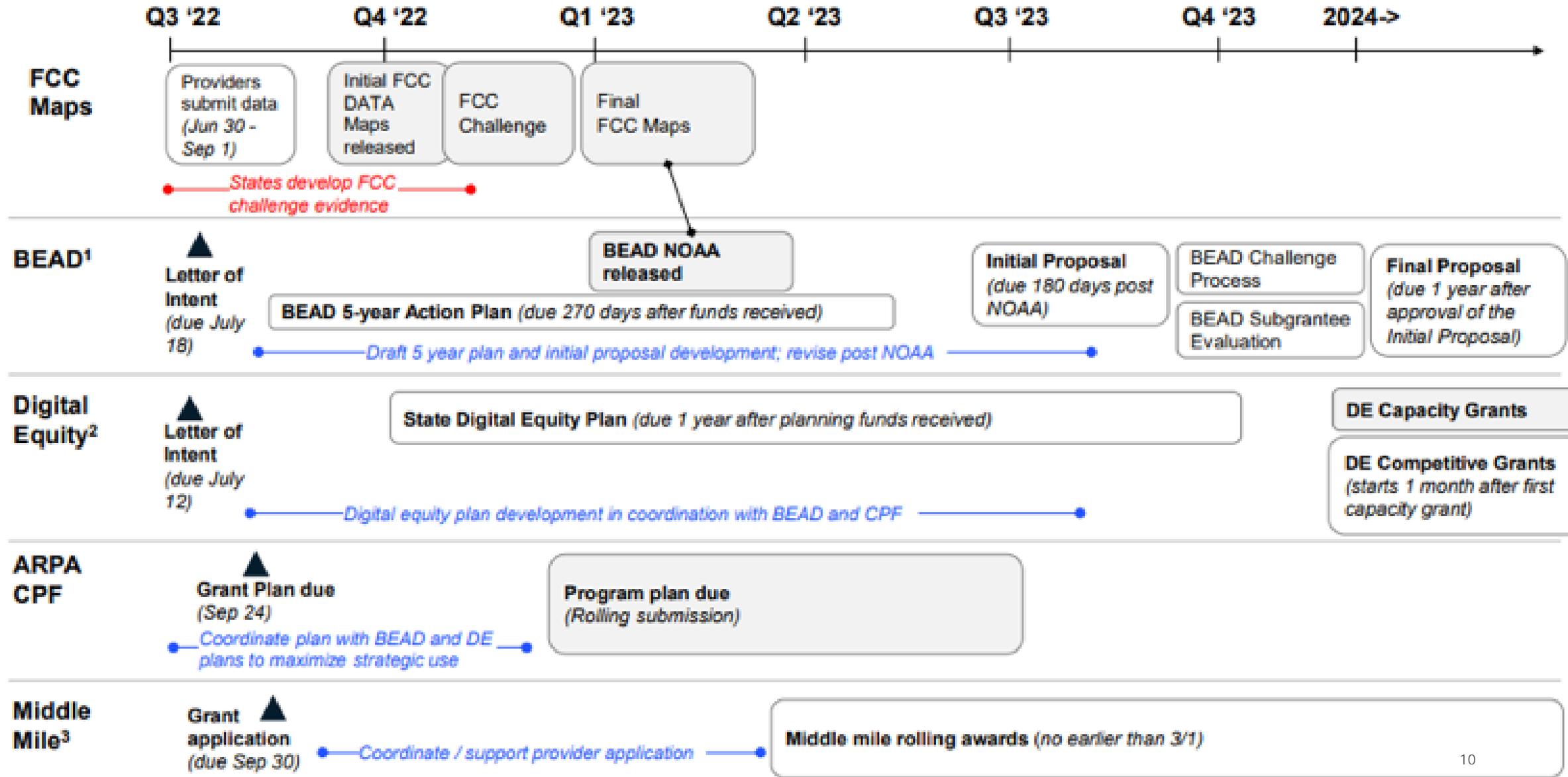- Implement Middle Mile 2023+
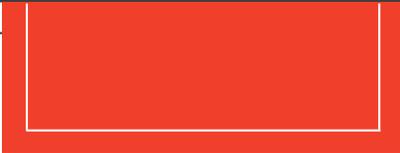
$50M -100M*

*estimates

100% Connectivity: >$1B Funding Enables BB Buildout (cont.)

Connect NM Council

- Council members appointed, Interim Chair Selected and Established Six Working Groups
- Allocated $70M by Legislature for MM and Last Mile deployment
- Rule Making in process
- Award Grants 2023+

$70M

ARPA

- Developed Pilot Grant Program, application and scoring criteria
- On track for Week of August 8 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
- Award Round 1 of grants starting Fall 2022
- Implement Middle Mile/Last Mile 2022+

$123M

Tribal Connect Fund

- Announcement of Round 1 August 11 $146M – 5 applications won
- Round 2 - TBD
- Implementation 2022+

$200M*

USDA Funds

- Six NM Awardees announced for loans and grants
- Implementation 2022+

$57M

* estimate

FEDERAL FUNDING TIMELINES

| | Q3 '22 | Q4 '22 | Q1 '23 | Q2 '23 | Q3 '23 | Q4 '23 | 2024-> |

FCC Maps
- Providers submit data (Jun 30 - Sep 1)
- Initial FCC DATA Maps released
- FCC Challenge
- Final FCC Maps
- *States develop FCC challenge evidence*

BEAD[1]
- Letter of Intent (due July 18)
- BEAD 5-year Action Plan *(due 270 days after funds received)*
- BEAD NOAA released
- Initial Proposal *(due 180 days post NOAA)*
- BEAD Challenge Process
- BEAD Subgrantee Evaluation
- Final Proposal *(due 1 year after approval of the Initial Proposal)*
- *Draft 5 year plan and initial proposal development; revise post NOAA*

Digital Equity[2]
- Letter of Intent (due July 12)
- State Digital Equity Plan *(due 1 year after planning funds received)*
- DE Capacity Grants
- DE Competitive Grants *(starts 1 month after first capacity grant)*
- *Digital equity plan development in coordination with BEAD and CPF*

ARPA CPF
- Grant Plan due (Sep 24)
- Program plan due (Rolling submission)
- *Coordinate plan with BEAD and DE plans to maximize strategic use*

Middle Mile[3]
- Grant application (due Sep 30)
- *Coordinate / support provider application*
- Middle mile rolling awards *(no earlier than 3/1)*
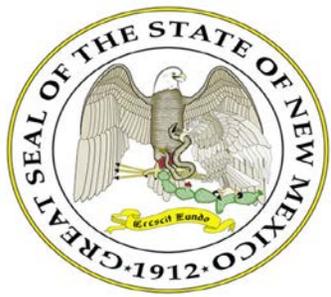
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ARPA NOFO

Notice of Funding Opportunity

◦ Announcement of Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and press released <u>week of August 8</u> for ARPA Capital Projects Fund ($123M)
  ◦ Fund "ready" Middle Mile and Last Mile projects

◦ Application, Handbook and Method of Submittal, 4 Webinars

◦ Three Types of Projects:
  ◦ Fiber to the Premise (FFTP),
  ◦ Fixed Wireless (FW) (where FFTP is not feasible)
  ◦ Alternative Technologies (where Fixed Wireless is not feasible)

◦ Technical Assistance will be available

◦ Grant reviewers being identified and trained

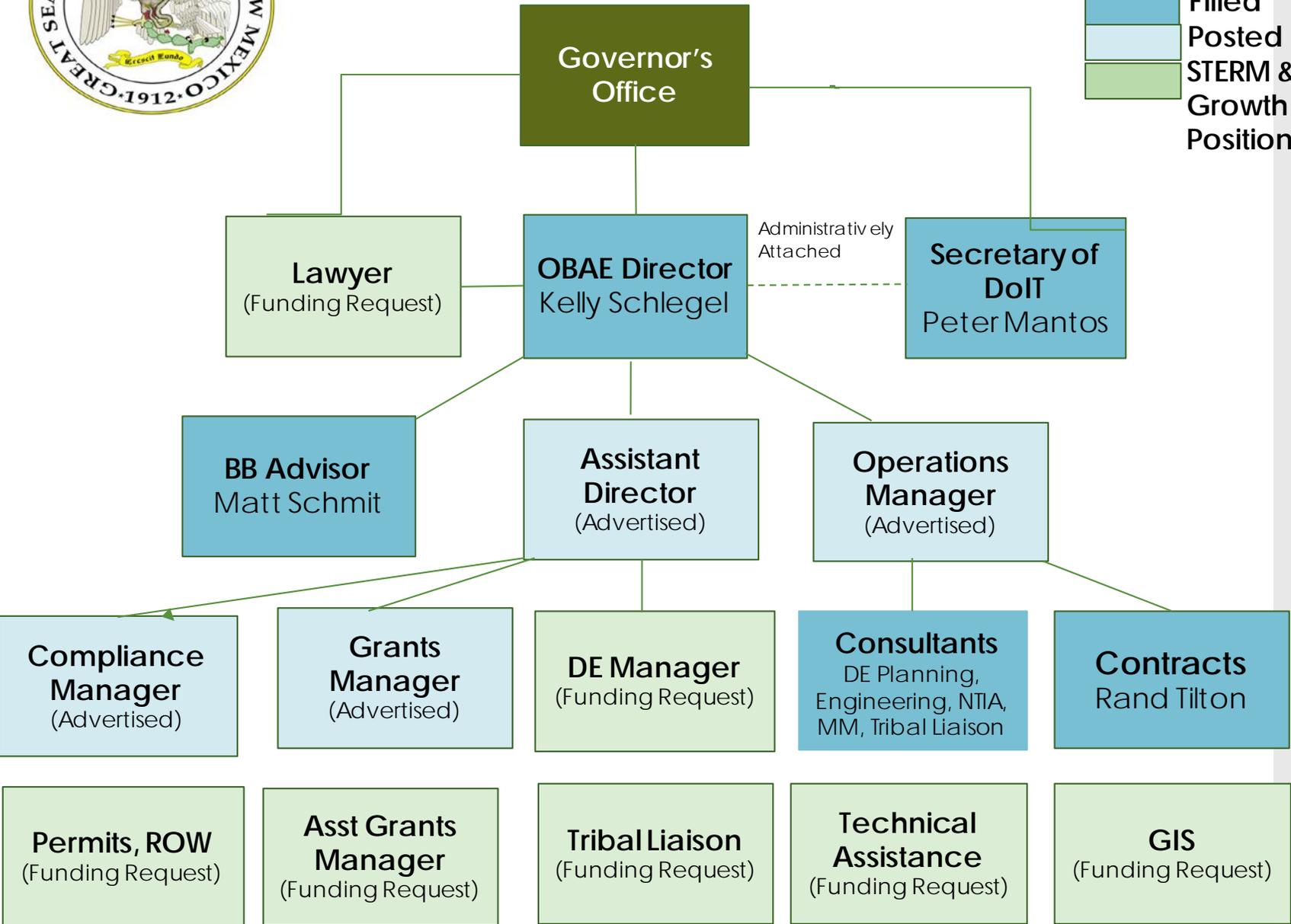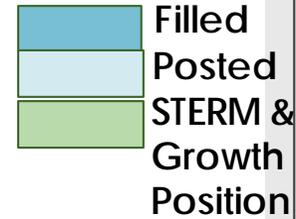◦ Three waves: Now thru Sept 23; Dec 9 and Feb 27

*Subject to Appropriation

All 3 technologies help rural areas

BUILDING OBAE CAPACITY

OBAE Organizational Chart

Governor's Office

Filled
Posted
STERM & Growth Position

Lawyer (Funding Request)

OBAE Director Kelly Schlegel

Administratively Attached

Secretary of DoIT Peter Mantos

BB Advisor Matt Schmit

Assistant Director (Advertised)

Operations Manager (Advertised)

Compliance Manager (Advertised)

Grants Manager (Advertised)

DE Manager (Funding Request)

Consultants DE Planning, Engineering, NTIA, MM, Tribal Liaison

Contracts Rand Tilton

Permits, ROW (Funding Request)

Asst Grants Manager (Funding Request)

Tribal Liaison (Funding Request)

Technical Assistance (Funding Request)

GIS (Funding Request)

OBAE Staff-Up Ensures Broadband Execution Success

- Review, score and award grants for MM and Last Mile
- Technical assistance on grants
- Form key collaborations
- Community and tribal engagement
- DE Planning and Implementation
- Technical assistance on deployment
- Collaborate on School Education Network Deployment
- Coordinate Statewide Middle Mile Initiative
- Collaborate with Connect New Mexico Council

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RURAL PATH FORWARD

New Mexico Broadband Grant Program Map

Rural areas are dependent on a robust Middle Mile framework and its funding/construction timeline, but leap frog activities are also being sought

- Certain Regions and Counties amenable to Fixed Wireless
  - Deployment is months instead of years
  - Fiber has to be within range (5-10 miles)
  - Cost is 1/3 the price
- Certain regions and Counties need alternative technologies
  - Example is Sceye High Altitude Platform Stations (tower in the sky)
  - Significantly less towers and fiber required
  - Working with Economic Development Dept (EDD) for funding
  - Encouraging application for ARPA Notice of Funding
- Investigating rural medical clinics quick connectivity to save rural citizens to drive to specialist appts
- Rural areas benefit from Statewide education network as meet me points for eventual FFTH
- Digital Equity and Community Engagement is through the County
- ROW and Permit work is major piece of rural network connectivity
- Serving the unserved and underserved where not commercially viable is major mission of state

OBAE Next Steps

- CY-3Q22
  - Build staff and office capacity
  - Award first pilot program grants (ARPA Capital Projects Fund)
  - RFI for additional stakeholder feedback ahead of NTIA MM submission
  - Submit NTIA MM application - September 30
  - Tribal Summit Sept 12 and "Digital Inclusion Week" event – October 3-7
  - Complete rulemaking for Connect NM Broadband Grant Program
  - Complete written Statewide Broadband Strategic Plan
  - Researching ROWs and Permits

- CY-4Q22
  - Phase 1 of 4 detailed DE planning
  - Plan community and tribal surveys
  - Phase 1 of detailed BEAD Planning
  - Onboard new OBAE staff
  - Support SEN buildout
  - Progress Rural Early Wins
  - Strategy for ROWs and Permits

Question & Answer