October 6, 2023

Cheryl Andrews-Maltais, Tribal Chairwoman
Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) Tribal Council
20 Black Brook Road
Aquinnah, MA 02535-1546

Dear Chairwoman Andrews-Maltais:

As the Commonwealth of Massachusetts prepares to deploy federal funds to increase internet connectivity and advance digital equity and inclusion, engagement and collaboration with all Nations and communities is integral as we move forward to develop detailed funding plans. To that end, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts invites you to a consultation at a mutually agreeable date and time to discuss the availability, reliability, and affordability of high-speed internet for the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) Community.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) allocated $42.45 billion to create the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, as well as the Digital Equity Act (DEA) of 2021, which provides $2.75 billion to further advance federal goals relating to digital equity and digital inclusion. Massachusetts has been allocated $147M in BEAD funds. The DEA amount will be announced in the coming months. The consultation will include representatives from two state organizations implementing broadband and digital equity programs under the BIL, specifically the Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED) and the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), the State's officially designated Broadband Office.

EOED and MBI respectfully propose the consultation occur in person at an accessible location convenient to the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), however we will facilitate a video conference and/or hybrid meeting option if that is preferable.

This discussion will provide opportunities for tribal nation leaders and EOED and MBI to have a dialogue to better identify and understand tribal priorities and needs with the goal of advancing Massachusetts' support for and collaboration with tribal nations and to improve the internet connectivity of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah). EOED and MBI will summarize the broadband and digital equity programs and would like to cover the following topics during the

consultation session (although we welcome your suggestions for additional topics that you would like to address):

- Massachusetts Broadband Maps
- Program timelines and eligibility
- The development of the Statewide Digital Equity Plan
- The development of a BEAD Initial Proposal
- The digital equity and connectivity challenges encountered by the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)
- Opportunities to submit comments on, and plans for inclusion in, the State's proposals to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)

We value your input as we work to improve the State's programs and strengthen partnerships with tribe nations and Indigenous community organizations. EOED and MBI remain committed to respecting tribal sovereignty while working together to leverage capacity, expertise, and resources to achieve the greatest impact on connectivity issues affecting the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah).

For more information on the planning process for federal broadband and digital equity funding, please visit www.broadband.masstech.org. As the MBI Director and General Counsel, I will serve as your primary point of contact. I can be reached at (508) 870-0312, ext.222 and baldino@masstech.org.

Tribal officials are also welcome to submit feedback at any time to my email address or my mailing address:

Massachusetts Broadband Institute
Att: Michael Baldino
75 North Drive
Westborough, MA 01581

I look forward to hearing back from you regarding your willingness to participate in a consultation meeting at a mutually agreeable date and time.

Sincerely,

Michael Baldino
Director and General Counsel, Massachusetts Broadband Institute

October 6, 2023

Brian Weeden, Tribal Chairman
Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Council
483 Great Neck Road
South Mashpee, MA 02649

Dear Chairman Weeden:

As the Commonwealth of Massachusetts prepares to deploy federal funds to increase internet connectivity and advance digital equity and inclusion, engagement and collaboration with all Nations and communities is integral as we move forward to develop detailed funding plans. To that end, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts invites you to a consultation at a mutually agreeable date and time to discuss the availability, reliability, and affordability of high-speed internet for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Community.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) allocated $42.45 billion to create the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, as well as the Digital Equity Act (DEA) of 2021, which provides $2.75 billion to further advance federal goals relating to digital equity and digital inclusion. Massachusetts has been allocated $147M in BEAD funds. The DEA amount will be announced in the coming months. The consultation will include representatives from two state organizations implementing broadband and digital equity programs under the BIL, specifically the Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED) and the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), the State's officially designated Broadband Office.

EOED and MBI respectfully propose the consultation occur in person at an accessible location convenient to the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, however we will facilitate a video conference and/or hybrid meeting option if that is preferable.

This discussion will provide opportunities for tribal nation leaders and EOED and MBI to have a dialogue to better identify and understand tribal priorities and needs with the goal of advancing Massachusetts' support for and collaboration with tribal nations and to improve the internet connectivity of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. EOED and MBI will summarize the broadband and digital equity programs and would like to cover the following topics during the consultation session (although we welcome your suggestions for additional topics that you would like to address):

- Massachusetts Broadband Maps
- Program timelines and eligibility
- The development of the Statewide Digital Equity Plan
- The development of a BEAD Initial Proposal
- The digital equity and connectivity challenges encountered by the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
- Opportunities to submit comments on, and plans for inclusion in, the State's proposals to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)

We value your input as we work to improve the State's programs and strengthen partnerships with tribe nations and Indigenous community organizations. EOED and MBI remain committed to respecting tribal sovereignty while working together to leverage capacity, expertise, and resources to achieve the greatest impact on connectivity issues affecting the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe.

For more information on the planning process for federal broadband and digital equity funding, please visit www.broadband.masstech.org. As the MBI Director and General Counsel, I will serve as your primary point of contact. I can be reached at (508) 870-0312, ext.222 and baldino@masstech.org.

Tribal officials are also welcome to submit feedback at any time to my email address or my mailing address:

Massachusetts Broadband Institute
Att: Michael Baldino
75 North Drive
Westborough, MA 01581

I look forward to hearing back from you regarding your willingness to participate in a consultation meeting at a mutually agreeable date and time.

Sincerely,

Michael Baldino

Michael Baldino
Director and General Counsel, Massachusetts Broadband Institute

AGENDA

TRIBAL CONSULATION

MASSACHUSETTS BROADBAND INSTITUTE – MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TRIBE

DECEMBER 6, 2023 AT 11:00 AM

LOCATION: 483 GREAT NECK ROAD SOUTH, MASHPEE, MA

1. Invocation

2. Opening Remarks and Introductions – One representative of each group will provide opening remarks and share expectations for this meeting. During introductions, each person should state their name, title and role within their respective organization or entity.

    a. Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe

    b. NTIA

    c. MBI

3. Overview on Trust Responsibilities to Federally Recognized Tribes – Councilman David Weeden

4. Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Broadband Presentation – Led by Raymond Diaz

5. Broadband and Digital Equity Federal Funding (Brief Overview)

6. Tribal Government Perspective and Tribal Member Needs, Challenges and Opportunities

    a. Initial Discussion Questions and Topics

        i. What general information about the Tribe and its members would you like MBI to be aware of?

        ii. What are the barriers to broadband adoption for Tribal members, such as availability of broadband service, quality of broadband service, access to internet-connected devices, digital literacy and skills?

        iii. What is the awareness and level of participation of Tribal members in the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program?

        iv. How will the $9.1 million grant from the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grant Program address any of these barriers. What is the status and timeline for this project?

v. Would the Tribe be willing to share maps that delineate Tribal Lands and that show areas where Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grant Program (TBCGP) funding will be deployed?

vi. How does the Tribe view its relationship with Internet Service Providers (ISP)?

vii. Is the Tribe interested in becoming an ISP?

viii. Are there are any existing digital equity programs that are serving the needs of Tribal members and who is providing services?

ix. What are the workforce needs of Tribal members? What existing programs are addressing these needs? Are there workforce challenges that could be addressed through broadband and digital equity support?

x. What is the Tribe's vision for success? How can federally funded programs contribute to achieving this vision?

xi. What other issues, concerns or topics would the Tribe like to discuss?

7. Next Steps For Continued Dialogue and Engagement

   a. Statewide Digital Equity Plan and BEAD Initial Proposal

   b. Designation of Primary Points of Contact

   c. Areas and Timing for Ongoing Engagement and Collaboration

Expected Attendees (In Person and Zoom)

MBI	NTIA	Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and Consultants
Michael Baldino, MBI Director and General Counsel	Stuart Freiman, Federal Program Officer	Brian Weeden, Chairman, Tribal Council
Josh Eichen, Director of Program Development	Rebecca Seewald, Broadband Program Specialist	David Weeden, Tribal Council
Jody Jones, Senior Program Director		Ellen Sharpe, Mashpee Wampanoag Broadband Project Director
Executive Office of Economic Development		Dr. Edward Avant, Broadband Task Force
Peter Larkin, Special Advisor		Barbara Jonas, Broadband Task Force

MBI	NTIA	Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe and Consultants
		Jordan Keliinui, Technical Advisor, Broadband Task Force
		Rebekah Salguero, Tribal Attorney
		Brad Munroe, Consultant, Fujitsu
		Raymond Diaz, Consultant, Fujitsu
		Mark Galione, Consultant, World Wide Tech

Agenda

- Introductions
- Federal Funding Overview
- MBI Programs
  - Gap Networks Grant Program
  - Broadband, Equity, Access & Deployment (BEAD)
  - Municipal Digital Equity Planning
  - Apartment Wi-Fi
- Affordable Connectivity Program
- Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
  - Tribe Overview
  - Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Project
  - Connectivity and Digital Equity Needs
- Next Steps

MASSACHUSETTS TECHNOLOGY COLLABORATIVE

OUR MISSION: We strengthen the competitiveness of the tech and innovation economy by driving strategic investments, partnerships, and insights that harness the talent of Massachusetts.

MBI
MASSACHUSETTS BROADBAND INSTITUTE

Mission: To partner with municipalities and service providers to close the digital divide in targeted areas of the Commonwealth.

MassCyberCenter

Mission: To support the cybersecurity ecosystem, compete as the national cybersecurity leader, and strengthen the resiliency of the public and private sector.

MeHI
MASSACHUSETTS eHEALTH INSTITUTE

Mission: To lead as the single best destination for digital health innovation with focus on accelerating innovation; health data transparency and access; and improving healthcare outcomes and costs.

THE INNOVATION INSTITUTE

Mission: To create conditions for growth in the innovation economy.

Cam
MASSACHUSETTS CENTER for ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

Mission: To foster the most complete, most connected, and fastest manufacturing ecosystem from innovation through production.

Federal Funding Priorities

Serve the Unserved:
$145M – Gap Networks Program (August Launch)

Quality of Service:
$22M – Residential Retrofit Program (Fall/Winter 2023)

Ensure Universal Service, Affordability:
$147M - NTIA Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Grant (Q1 or Q2 2024)

Digital Equity:
$75M – Digital literacy, devices, Wi-Fi, etc.

Massachusetts is Positioned to Achieve 100% Universal Service and Lead the Nation in Connectivity

Availability

Every location has high-speed internet **available**.

Adoption

Every resident can **utilize** and **afford** the internet.

Quality of Service

Every location has **reliable** service.

Broadband Infrastructure Gap Networks Grant Program

*Mass Broadband Institute launches new broadband grant program*

Overview
- $145 million program funded through ARPA Capital Projects Fund
- First source of federal broadband infrastructure funds to be deployed in MA
- Primary objective is to increase availability of broadband by "connecting the unconnected"

Eligible Locations
- Homes, businesses and community anchor institutions that do not have access to broadband service of at 100 Mbps download speeds and 20 Mbps upload speeds

Eligible Applicants
- Private entities and Public Private Partnerships
- Local governmental entities, including MLPs
- Native American Indian Tribes
- Co-operatives, electric co-operatives and utilities
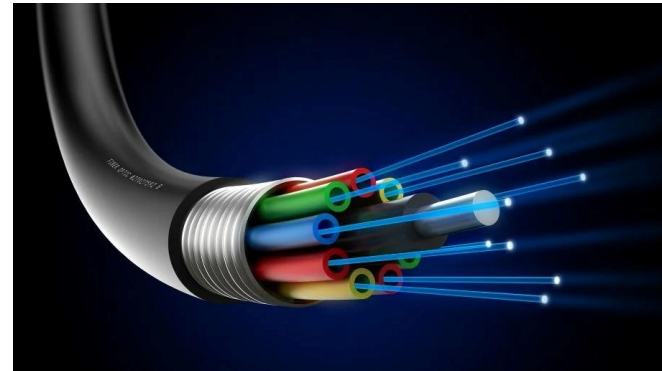
Schedule
- Program launches week of October 23
- Two competitive grant solicitation rounds (1st round deadline – 12/11/23; 2nd round deadline – 4/17/24

6

Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD)

BEAD projects are designed to provide fiber connectivity directly to the end user (last mile), including unserved, underserved, and CAIs.

Broadband Deployment

01 **Unserved Locations**
MBI awards funding in a manner that prioritizes Unserved Service Projects.

02 **Underserved Locations**
Once MBI certifies that it will ensure coverage of all unserved locations, it may then prioritize Underserved Service Projects.

03 **Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs)**
NTIA Strongly urges that MBI serves eligible Community Anchor Institutions next
- Ensure deployment of gigabit connections to community anchor institutions such as libraries and community centers that lack such connectivity.
- Eligible Community Anchor: entity (e.g., school, library, hospital) that facilitates greater use of high-speed Internet service by vulnerable populations and have download speed <1 Gbps.

Non-Deployment Uses

04 **Access, Adoption, and Equity**
MBI can apply any remaining funding to pursue eligible access-, adoption-, and equity-related uses, as well as any other uses approved by the Assistant Secretary that support the Program's goals.

BEAD funds prioritize projects that demonstrate they will be able to ensure service to all unserved and underserved locations.

Why is the BEAD Challenge Process Important?

The BEAD Challenge Process is vital because it determines the **locations and community anchor institutions** within each jurisdiction that are **eligible for BEAD funding.**

Key step toward achieving BEAD goals

Before the BEAD program can meet the goal of providing accessible and affordable broadband, all unserved locations, underserved locations, and eligible Community Anchor Institutions must be identified.

Helps ensure accurate results

An evidence-based, fair, transparent, and expeditious BEAD Challenge Process, as outlined in the NOFO and Challenge Process Policy Notice, helps ensure accurate results, an efficient process, and a precise allocation of resources.

Gathers information needed before running the subgrantee selection

The subgrantee selection process cannot be run without first having an accurate and comprehensive list of eligible locations and CAIs.
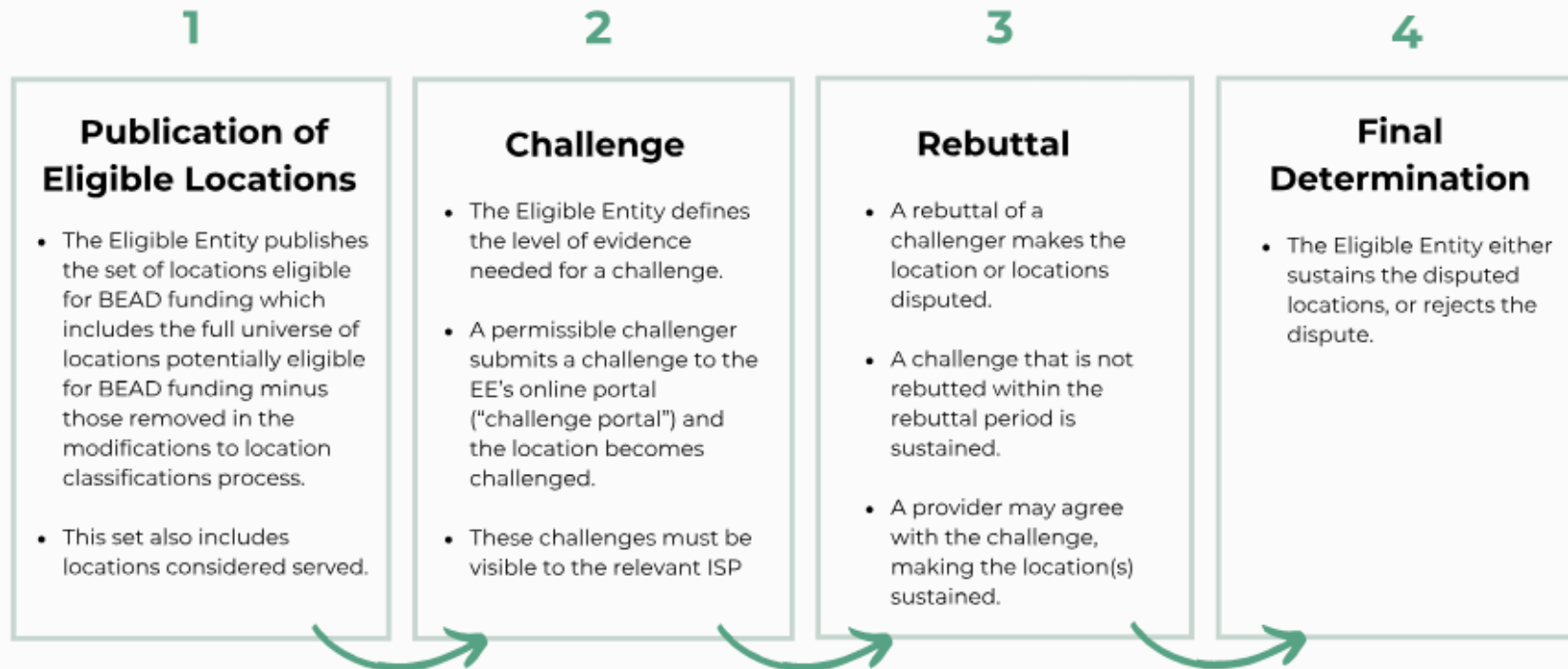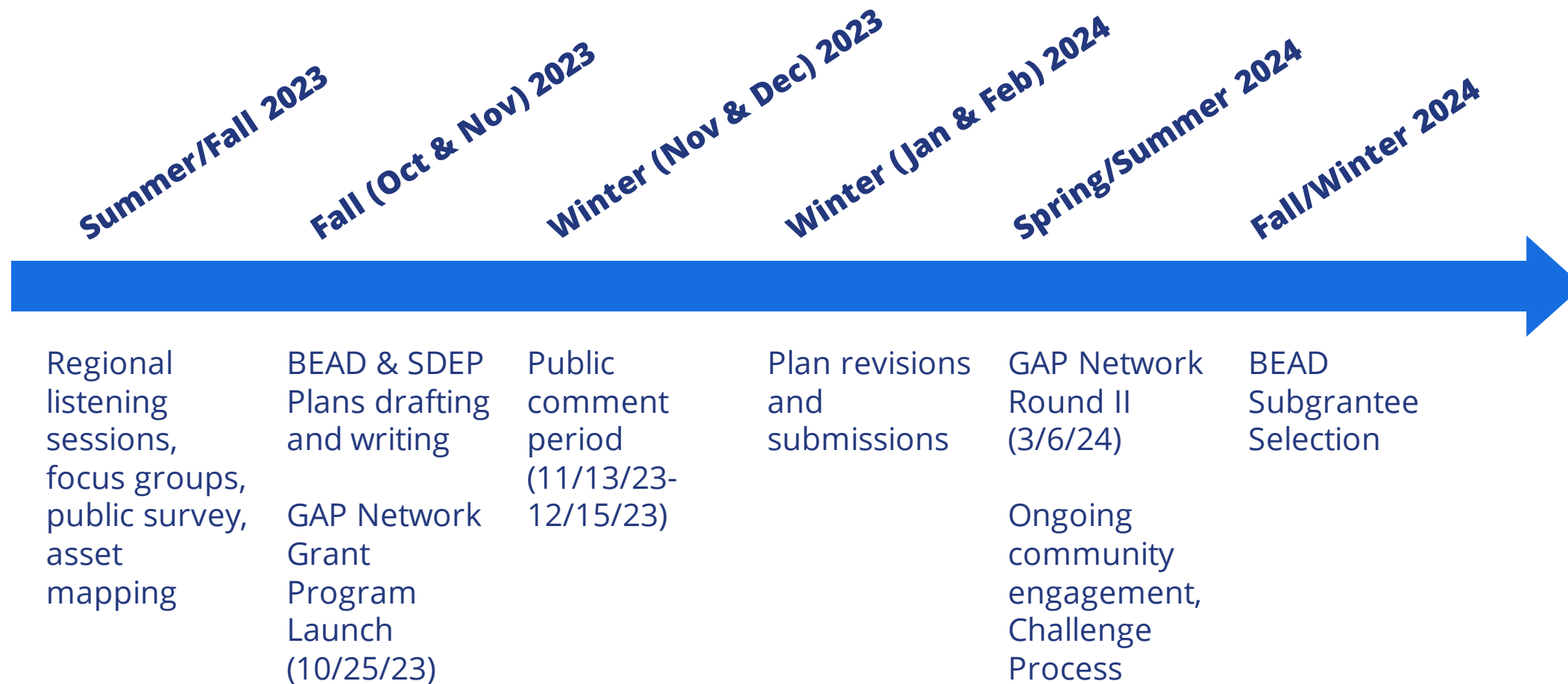
BEAD Challenge Process

BEAD CHALLENGE PROCESS DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

1
Publication of Eligible Locations

- The Eligible Entity publishes the set of locations eligible for BEAD funding which includes the full universe of locations potentially eligible for BEAD funding minus those removed in the modifications to location classifications process.

- This set also includes locations considered served.

2
Challenge

- The Eligible Entity defines the level of evidence needed for a challenge.

- A permissible challenger submits a challenge to the EE's online portal ("challenge portal") and the location becomes challenged.

- These challenges must be visible to the relevant ISP

3
Rebuttal

- A rebuttal of a challenger makes the location or locations disputed.

- A challenge that is not rebutted within the rebuttal period is sustained.

- A provider may agree with the challenge, making the location(s) sustained.

4
Final Determination

- The Eligible Entity either sustains the disputed locations, or rejects the dispute.

Who can challenge?

- Local governments
- Tribal governments
- Nonprofit organizations
- Internet service providers

Timeline

Summer/Fall 2023

Fall (Oct & Nov) 2023

Winter (Nov & Dec) 2023

Winter (Jan & Feb) 2024

Spring/Summer 2024

Fall/Winter 2024

Regional listening sessions, focus groups, public survey, asset mapping

BEAD & SDEP Plans drafting and writing

GAP Network Grant Program Launch (10/25/23)

Public comment period (11/13/23-12/15/23)

Plan revisions and submissions

GAP Network Round II (3/6/24)

Ongoing community engagement, Challenge Process

BEAD Subgrantee Selection

→ *Visit broadband.masstech.org/internetforall to stay connected*

Massachusetts Digital Equity Plan: Public Comment Period

Internet for All statewide activities provided input into this draft plan which is ready for the public's feedback and input prior to submission.

Two report files will be available for review starting **Monday, November 13, 2023.**

Feedback can be submitted by **Tuesday, December 15, 2023,** either by online form or mailing to MBI's address.

https://broadband.masstech.org/internetforall

Free Wi-Fi in Affordable Housing

<u>Massachusetts Apartment Wi-Fi Initiative</u>

- One of six initiatives launched under Massachusetts Digital Equity Partnerships Program.

- Partner – Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)

- Support to establish residential Wi-Fi networks at multi-unit housing sites operated by public and non-profit affordable housing providers.

- MBI covers all capital costs associated with network design, construction, and equipment, and the first year of ongoing operating expenses.

Projects result in **free**, in-unit high speed internet access without the need for a broadband subscription. Addresses affordability barrier to broadband adoption for low-income households.

For more information go to: https://www.mapc.org/our-work/expertise/digital-equity/apartment-wi-fi/

Take the next step by completing the online expression of interest form - https://forms.gle/kmPKy3h7RPBPmcWH6

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MASSACHUSETTS BROADBAND INSTITUTE

MAPC

Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program

Municipal Application Status
- Approved Application

0 5 10   20   30   40
Miles

Map Date: 18 May 2023
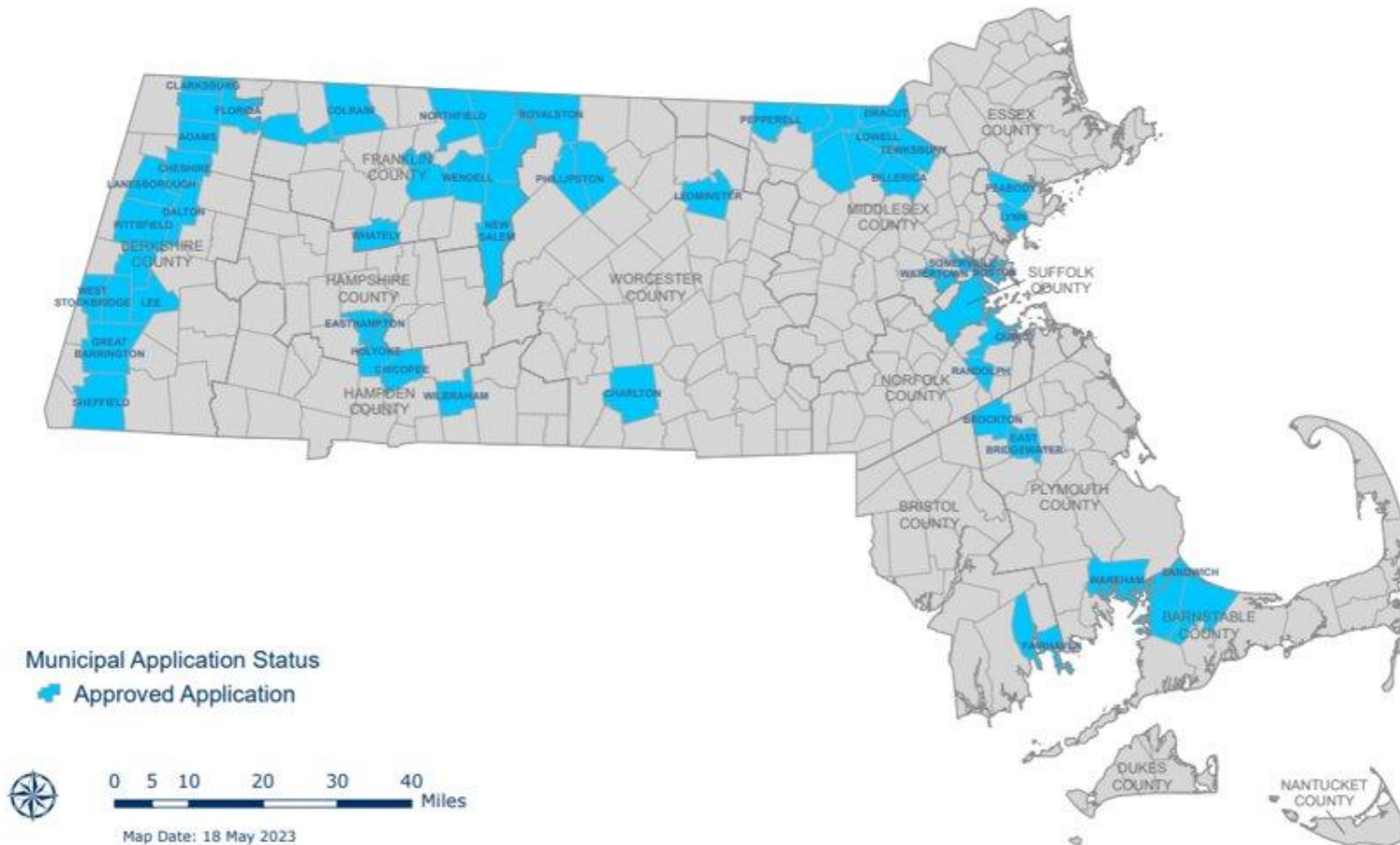
Pairing municipalities with a pre-qualified consultant to undergo a digital equity planning process **at no cost** to the city or town. Regional applications are encouraged!

Program Goals:

- Guide **municipal decision-making** related to services and infrastructure that will increase access, adoption and usage of the internet.

- Prepare municipalities to **submit grant proposals** to existing or forthcoming state or federal programs to support digital inclusion activities.

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Connecting Households With

THE AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is a new federal government program that helps families pay for home Internet and connected devices. The ACP benefit provides:

UP TO	UP TO	A ONE TIME DISCOUNT OF
$30	**$75**	**$100**
/month	/month	
Discount on Internet Service	Discount on Internet Service for Household on Qualifying Tribal Lands	For a Laptop, Tablet or Desktop Computer

Affordable Connectivity Program

Help low-income families access the internet:

- ✓ Access to healthcare/telehealth
- ✓ Pursue employment opportunities
- ✓ Educational attainment
- ✓ Access to government services
- ✓ Staying connected to family and friends

Resources

- ACP Toolkit - https://www.fcc.gov/acp-consumer-outreach-toolkit
- Consumer FAQ - https://www.fcc.gov/affordable-connectivity-program-consumer-faq
- Find Participating ISPs - https://www.affordableconnectivity.gov/companies-near-me/

Massachusetts ACP Adoption

1,042,310 eligible households

ENROLLMENT

339,596 enrolled

702,714 not enrolled

NATIONAL

33% Massachusetts
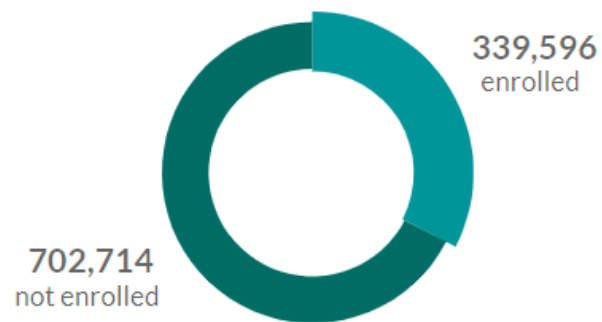
39% National
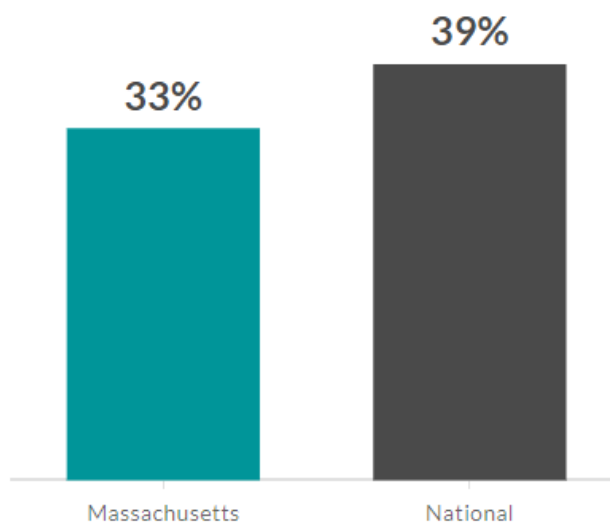
ENROLLMENT OVER TIME

340k
325k
313k
299k
284k
271k
261k
253k
244k
241k
236k
228k

Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug
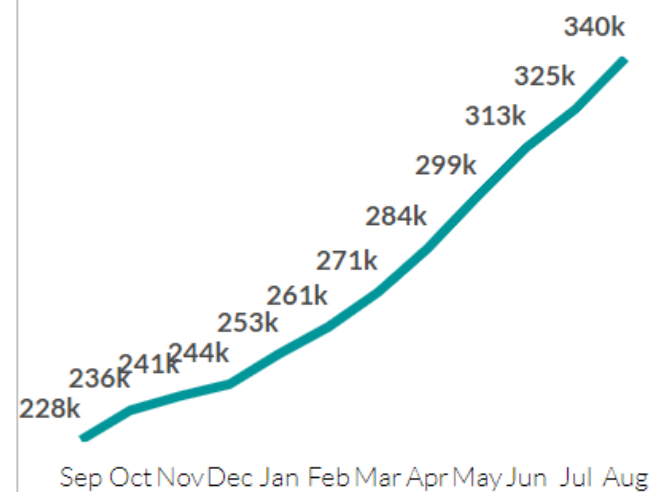
MBI Team

Director

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Technical Director
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