



ALASKA BROADBAND OFFICE

BROADBAND AND DIGITAL EQUITY UPDATE

Lisa Von Bargaen
Deputy Director

Southeast Conference
Mid-Session Summit
February 7, 2024



Alaska Broadband Office – Matrix Organization Chart

Department/Division Partners

Director

Administrative
Specialist

Deputy Director

Tribal Liaison

Division of Community and Regional Affairs

Grant Administration

Mapping Analytics and
Data Resources

Department of Natural Resources

Office of Project
Management & Permitting

Mining, Land & Water

Department of Transportation & Public Facilities

Project Coordination

Permitting

Department of Environmental Conservation

Permitting



Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION (NTIA) BROADBAND FUNDING PROGRAMS

Digital Equity Act (DE):

\$2,750,000,000

Broadband Equity, Access, and
Deployment (BEAD):

\$42,450,000,000



Understanding the Broadband Landscape

Alaska Broadband Office Activities:

- In partnership with many Alaskans, the ABO developed and submitted the State of Alaska Digital Equity Plan making the State eligible for an allocation of the \$1.44 billion Digital Equity Capacity Grant funds.
- The ABO developed and submitted the State of Alaska BEAD, Initial Proposal Volume 1 Challenge Process and are in the final approval process giving Alaskans a voice in where the infrastructure will be built.
- The ABO developed and submitted the State of Alaska BEAD, Initial Proposal Volume 2 Grant Program and are in the curing stage of the process.



Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment

ALLOCATED \$42.45 BILLION FOR ALL STATES AND TERRITORIES

Alaska's Allocation: **\$1,017,139,672.42**

DISBURSEMENTS OF ALASKA'S ALLOCATION

Grants will be based on percentage of locations that are:

- 1st Priority -- Unserved - less than 25Mbps/3Mbps
- 2nd Priority -- Underserved - less than 100Mbps/20Mbps and
- 3rd Priority -- Unserved Community Anchor Institutions - less than 1Gbps/1Gbps



Mapping Challenge

TYPES OF CHALLENGES

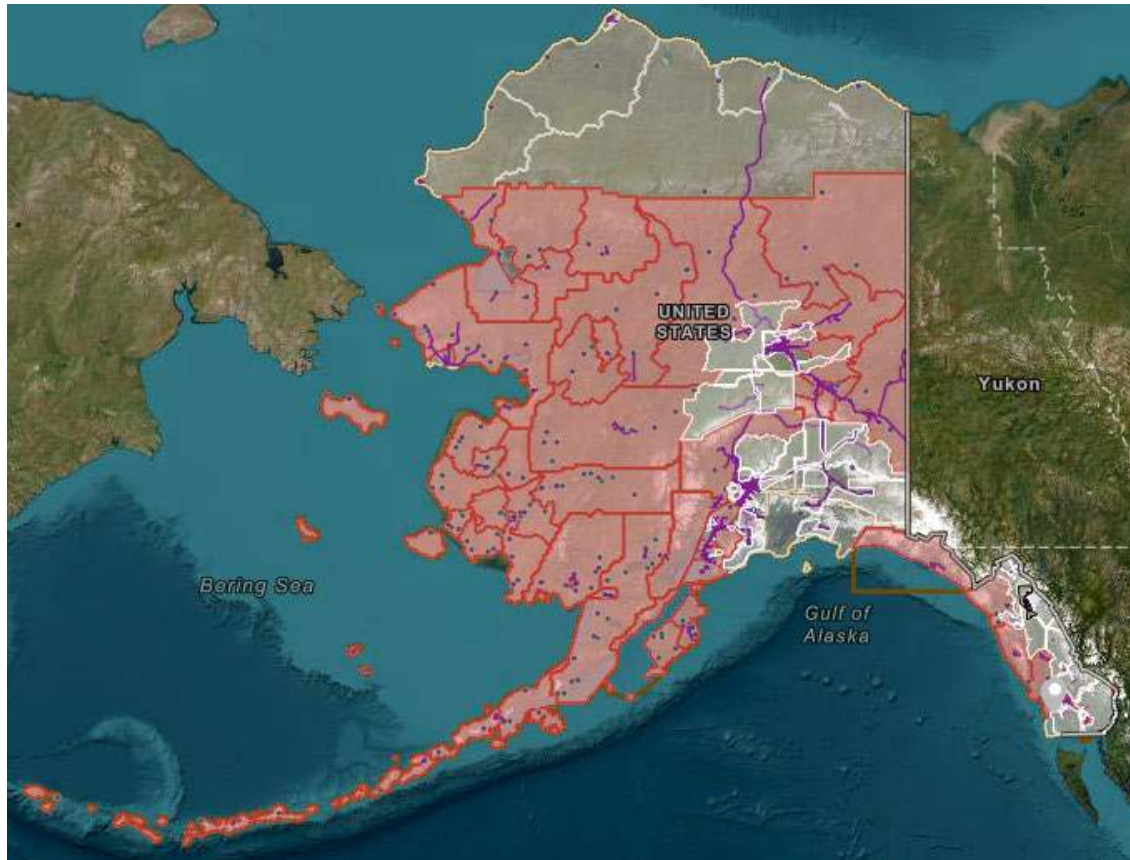
- BSL Level of Internet Service
 - Unserved, Underserved
- CAI Location
- CAI Level of Service
- Enforceable Commitments
- Planned Projects

ENTITIES AUTHORIZED TO SUBMIT CHALLENGES

- Local Governments (Cities & Boroughs)
- Tribal Governments
- Non-Profit Organizations
- Internet Service Providers (ISPs)

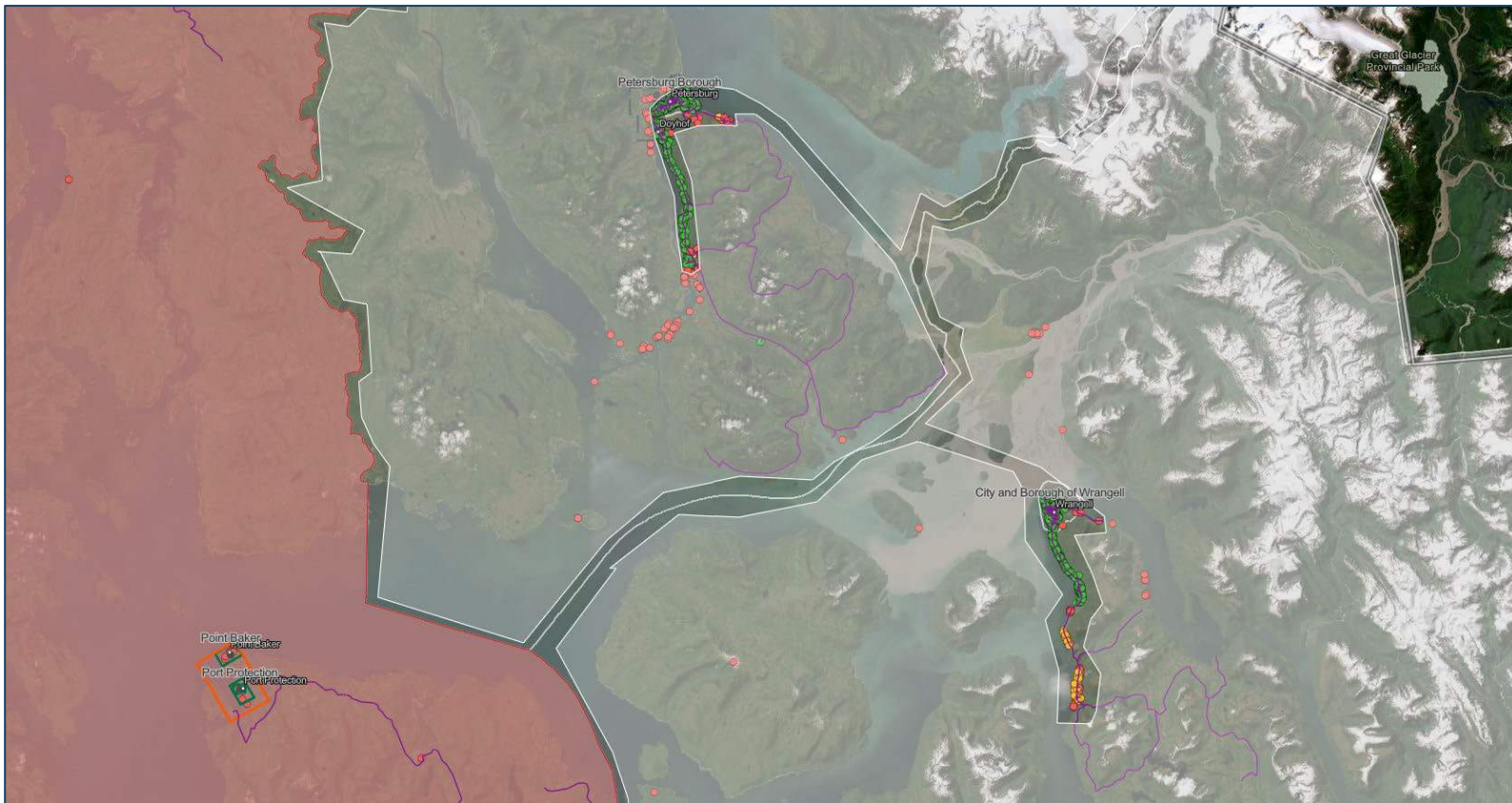


The NBAM/ABO Map: High-Cost (red) & Non-High-Cost





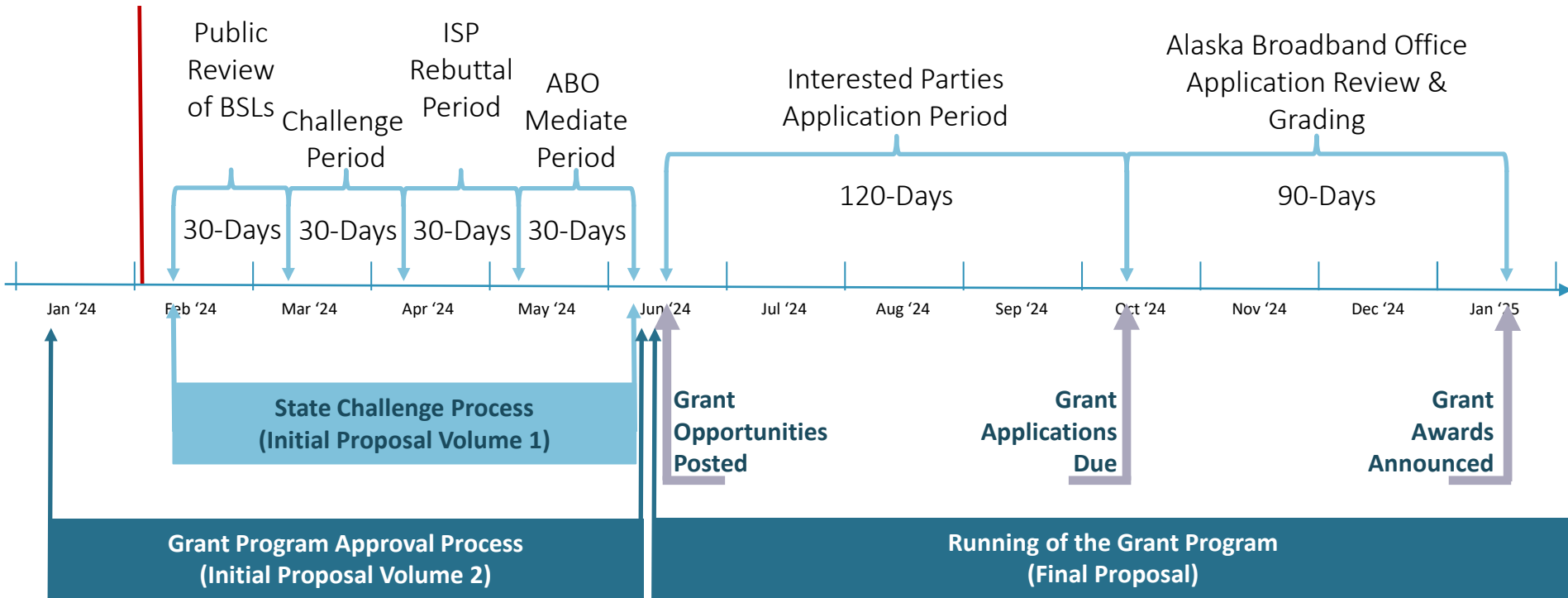
The NBAM/ABO Map: Central Southeast







BEAD Milestone Dates & ABO Timeline





Digital Equity – Digital Inclusion – Digital Literacy

ALLOCATED \$2.75 BILLION FOR ALL STATES AND TERRITORIES

- Planning Grants: \$60 Million – Alaska Awarded \$567,800
- Capacity Grants: \$1.44 Billion – Alaska's Award: \$11-\$13 Million (Est.)
- Competitive Grants: \$1.25 Billion – Alaska's Award: TBD

COVERED POPULATIONS

- Individuals with a Language Barrier
- Incarcerated Individuals
- Individuals with Disabilities
- Individuals in Low-Income Households
- Aging Individuals
- Veterans
- Individuals who are Members of a Racial or Ethnic Minority
- Individuals who Reside in Rural Areas



Understanding the Digital Equity Need



THE STATE
of ALASKA
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development

ALASKA BROADBAND OFFICE
550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1535
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Main: 907.269.8159
Fax: 907.269.8125

State of Alaska Digital Equity Plan

January 23, 2024



Cover art by Mititqua, Holly Nordlum, Inupiaq Artist

- Submitted January 23, 2024
- Plan KPIs = Key Response in Application for Digital Equity Capacity Grant
- Joint outreach by the Rasmuson Foundation, Alaska Federation of Natives, Alaska Municipal League, and many, many other non-profits and individuals



Digital Equity – Outreach

196 Digital Equity Listening Sessions

Akiachak	Healy	Manokotak	Savoonga
Akiak	Homer	McGrath	Seldovia
Alakanuk	Houston	Mekoryuk	Seward
Ambler	Hydaburg	Nanwalek	Sitka
Anchorage	Juneau	Napakiak	Sleetmute
Bethel	Kake	Napaskiak	Soldotna
Chitina	Kasigluk	Nenana	Talkeetna
Cooper Landing	Kenai	Newtok	Teller
Cordova	Ketchikan	Nome	Tok
Crooked Creek	Klawock	Noorvik	Toksook Bay
Dillingham	Kobuk	North Pole	Tununak
Eagle River/Chugiak	Kodiak	Palmer	Tyonek
Eureka	Kongiganak	Pilot Station	Unalaska
Fairbanks	Kotzebue	Point Lay	Utqiagvik
Galena	Kwethluk	Quinhagak	Valdez
Gambell	Lake Louise/Eureka	Russian Mission	Wasilla
Glacier View (virtual)	Lime Village	Saint Mary's	Wrangell
			Yakutat



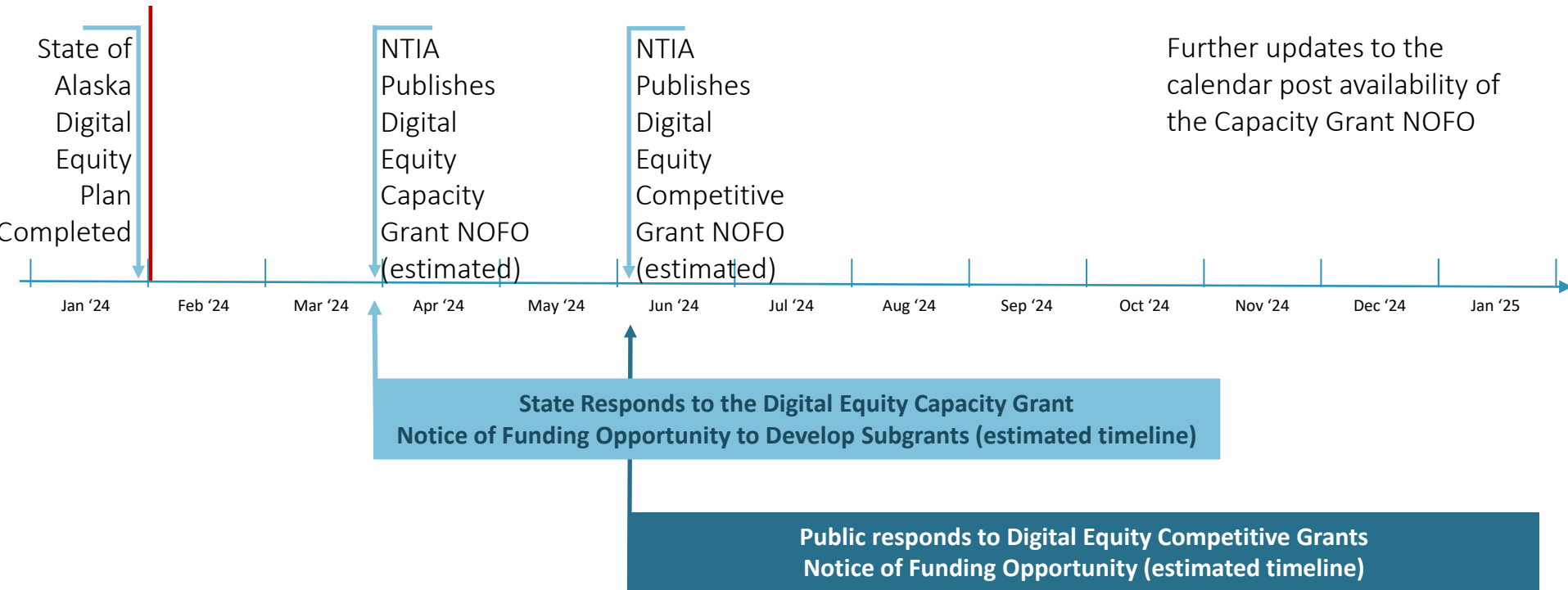
Understanding the Digital Equity Need

Matrix of Key Performance Indicators (KPI) to Requirements

KPI Reference numbers from the State of Alaska Digital Equity Plan	a. Affordability of access to fixed and wireless broadband technology	b. The online accessibility and inclusivity of public resources and services	c. Digital literacy	d. Awareness of, and the use of, measures to secure the online with respect to, an individual	e. Availability and affordability of consumer devices and technical support for those devices
1. Individuals with a Language Barrier	2.3.1.	2.3.5.	2.3.4.	2.3.2.	2.3.3.
2. Incarcerated Individuals	2.4.2.(B)	2.3.5.	2.4.2.(B)	N/A	2.4.2.(C)
3. Individuals with Disabilities	2.3.1.	2.3.5.	2.3.4.	2.3.2.	2.3.3.
4. Individuals in Low-Income Households	2.3.1.	2.3.5.	2.3.4.	2.3.2.	2.3.3.
5. Aging Individuals	2.3.1.	2.3.5.	2.3.4.	2.3.2.	2.3.3.
6. Veterans	2.3.1.	2.3.5.	2.3.4.	2.3.2.	2.3.3.
7. Racial and Ethnic Minorities	2.3.1.	2.3.5.	2.3.4.	2.3.2.	2.3.3.
8. Individuals Primarily Living in Rural Areas	2.3.1	2.3.5.	2.3.4.	2.3.2.	2.3.3.



Digital Equity Milestone Dates & ABO Timeline





BEAD and Digital Equity -- Workforce Development

Alaska Broadband Workforce Development Plan Goals:

- 1: Increase the number of Alaskans qualified to fill broadband construction and operations occupations,
- 2: Develop a diverse and inclusive regional broadband industry workforce, and
- 3: Strengthen and expand post-deployment capacity for residents to learn about and navigate education, training, and career opportunities, including self-employment, available using high-speed broadband access.



BEAD and Digital Equity -- Workforce Development

Alaska Broadband Workforce Development Plan Strategies:

- 1:** Implement the Broadband Workforce Development Plan and build a sustainable, standards-based program, with a focus on public-private partnerships to produce a highly skilled and technically trained workforce that can meet industry labor supply challenges,
- 2:** Build on the existing construction industry training and workforce efforts,
- 3:** Increase career awareness and information about telecommunications occupations and employment,
- 4:** Increase education and training programs that prepare students and adults for apprenticeship and entry-level employment in telecommunications occupations, and
- 5:** Put in place recruitment, training, and employment efforts focused on historically underrepresented groups.



Thank You

Lisa Von Bargaen
Deputy Director, Alaska Broadband Office
lisa.vonbargaen@alaska.gov
907-660-7877