



Public Webinar  
July 14, 2023

*If you are not able to access the Teams chat, you may email your questions to [Broadband@deo.myflorida.com](mailto:Broadband@deo.myflorida.com).*

# Our Mission



The mission of FloridaCommerce is to advance Florida's economy by championing the state's economic development vision and administering state and federal programs and initiatives to help visitors, citizens, businesses, and communities.

The Office of Broadband within FloridaCommerce works with local, state, and federal government agencies, community organizations, and private businesses to **increase the availability and accessibility of broadband Internet** throughout the state. Through these partnerships, the Office of Broadband **encourages investment in grant funding opportunities** that focus on the expansion of broadband.



# Our Vision – A Connected Economy



## Florida's Strategic Plan for Broadband:

Provide guidance and implement programs for the provision of high-speed, reliable broadband Internet service access to all Florida communities in support of telemedicine, education opportunities, workforce development, business development, and community development.

## Three Steps to a Connected Economy:

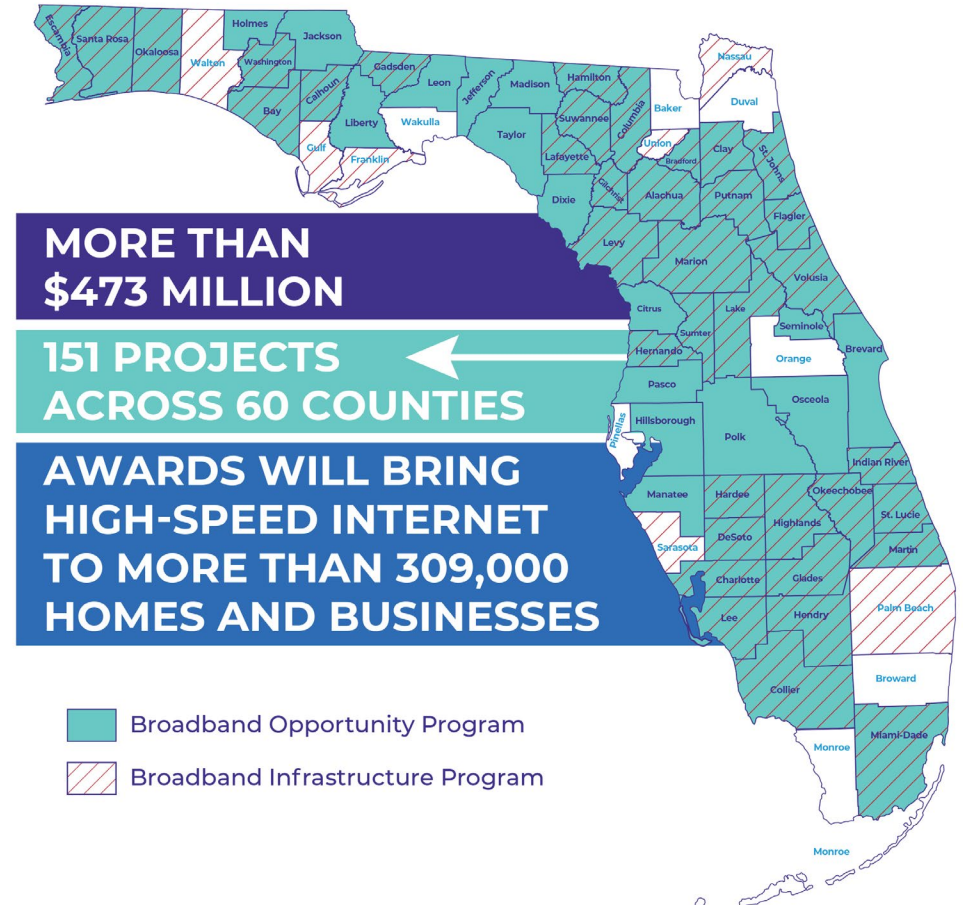
Fully realize broadband Internet connectivity and reach the goal of a Connected Economy bolstering the central tenets of supporting a robust workforce, educational opportunities, and health care access:

- 1) Availability;
- 2) Adoption, and
- 3) Use of digital content.



# Realizing a Connected Economy

- Initiated **Local Technology Planning Teams** in 67 counties.
- **The Florida Strategic Plan for Broadband** was delivered to the Governor, the President of the Florida Senate, and the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives on June 30, 2022.
- Posted the **Faster Florida Broadband Map on June 30, 2022**.
- Hosted **Rule-Making Workshops** around the state for public input.
- Hosted **Technical Assistance Webinars** specific to the Broadband Opportunity Program.
- **Finalized Rule 73C-50, F.A.C.** pertaining to the Broadband Opportunity Program.
- Submitted the **Broadband Opportunity Program Annual Report 2022** to the Governor, the President of the Florida Senate, and the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives on December 30, 2022.
- **Awarded more than \$226 million across 53 counties through Florida's state-administered Broadband Opportunity Program** launched in October 2022 bringing broadband Internet service to more than 250,000 unserved homes and businesses across the state.
- Launched the application cycle for the **Capital Projects Fund Broadband Infrastructure Program in February 2023**. In July, **Governor Ron DeSantis awarded more than \$247 million through the Broadband Infrastructure Program**, connecting more than 59,000 unserved and underserved businesses, homes, farms and anchor institutions like hospitals and libraries to high-speed Internet.





# Outreach and Initiatives

- Participate in the **NTIA State Broadband Leaders Network and BroadbandUSA**; Connected with **State Broadband Directors** across the country.
- Spoke with the **FCC leadership** regarding the National Broadband Maps and the Affordable Connectivity Program.
- Corresponded with **U.S. Congressional representatives and state legislative members**
- Partnered with the **Florida Regional Councils Association** to host 10 virtual workshops in 2021.
- Worked with the **DOT** on M-CORES, **DMS** on E-Rate and other broadband related programs, and **DOE** on the Career, Technical and Adult Education program for potential partnership opportunities.
- Participated in the **Florida Association of Counties Rural Caucus** discussion on broadband Internet expansion.
- Met with the **Communications Workers of America** to discuss union efforts.
- Worked with **Florida TaxWatch** for broadband conversations with legislators, industry representatives, partners, and associations.
- Met with over twenty-five (25) **Consultants and Internet Service Providers** around the nation on broadband best practices, grant program considerations, mapping, and strategic planning.
- Presented to the **Florida Rural Economic Development Association, U.S. Telecom- The Broadband Association, the Florida League of Cities, the National Rural Telecommunications Council, and the Florida Internet and Television Association.**



# Florida's next big initiative – the Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment (BEAD) program

The BEAD Program, part of the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), works to expand broadband infrastructure and connectivity programs, and includes federal funding for **broadband planning, deployment, mapping, equity, and adoption activities.**

The BEAD Five-Year Action Plan will complement Florida's Strategic Plan for broadband, building on Florida's efforts to champion Florida's vision to reduce the digital divide and strengthen the state's workforce, education, and health sectors through broadband Internet expansion.

The state of Florida was informed by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) that Florida's allocation under the BEAD Program is **\$1,169,947,392.70.**



# Your facilitators for today's Webinar



Katie Smith  
Director, Office of Broadband  
FloridaCommerce



Brett Kaiser  
Guidehouse



Sarah Beck  
Guidehouse



# Broadband is high-speed Internet that connects us to one another – and the world!



## Broadband Definition

Broadband is a type of telecommunications that can send data **over high speeds**. Broadband uses technologies like **DSL, cable, and fiber** to deliver internet access to homes and businesses.



## High-Speed Internet Definition

Traditionally, the way to determine if a connection is high-speed is to test its ability to **connect multiple devices simultaneously** to allow streaming and access to modern applications.





# Broadband encompasses a variety of technologies

**Digital  
Subscriber  
Line (DSL)**

**Cable**

**Fiber**

**Wireless**

**Satellite**



# The benefits of broadband span a wide array of public and essential services

***Broadband generates wide-ranging benefits...***



**Health** (e.g., telehealth)



**Economic development** (e.g., job creation and e-commerce)



**Government services** (e.g., improved traffic lights)



**Public safety** (e.g., disaster/emergency response)



**Education** (e.g., remote learning)



**Quality of life** (e.g., entertainment)

***and enables people to participate fully in our modern economy***

**77% of all jobs require at least some technology skills**

**48% of hiring managers say that candidates lack the skills needed to fill open jobs**

**29% of students without basic digital skills say they won't consider post-secondary studies**

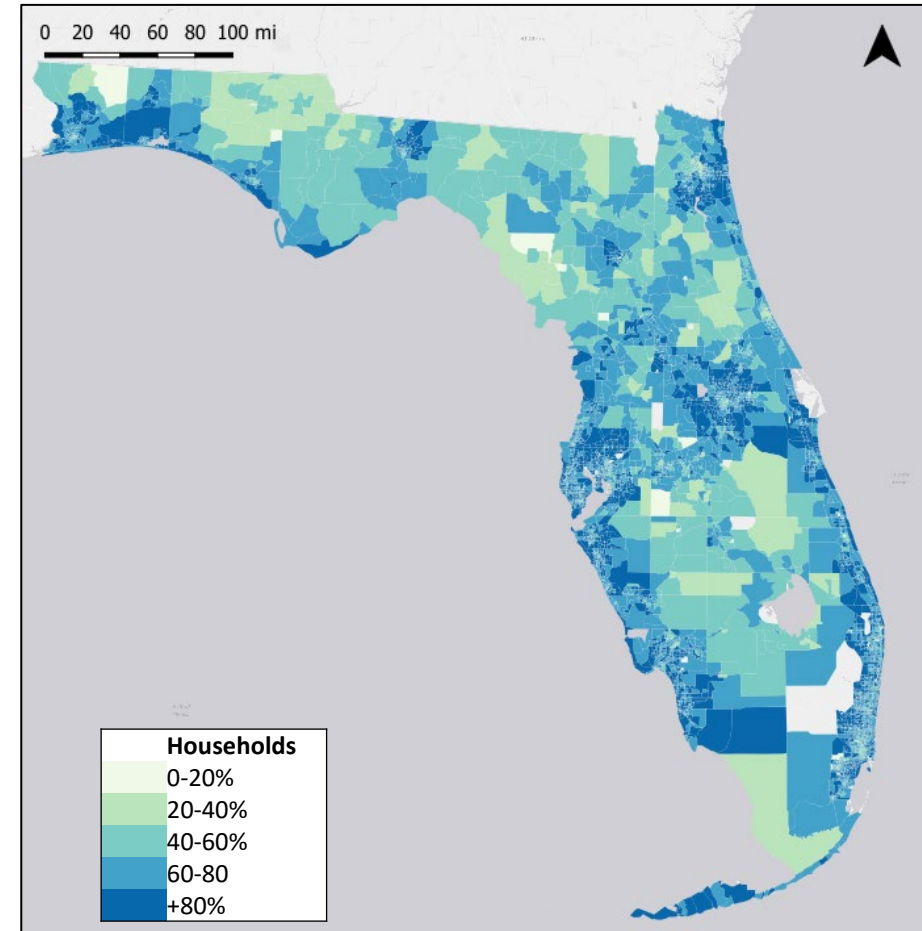
\*Source: American Community Survey Device Ownership data 2015-2019.



# The state will work with many stakeholders to ensure *a//* Floridians have access to broadband

- The **2017-2021 American Community Survey (ACS)** estimates that the State of Florida is home to around 8 million households:
  - **74%** of households have a broadband Internet subscription through fiber, cable, or DSL.
    - This translates to some **2 million** households that have not adopted broadband wireline services.\*
  - **94%** of households in Florida have a computer
    - This suggests that **490,000** households do not have access to this computing device.

\*Wireline technologies include fiber, cable, and DSL



**Percent of households with broadband Internet subscriptions by census tract in the State of Florida**  
Source: ACS 5-year estimates, 2021



# The state created county-level Local Technology Planning Teams to help in these efforts

Local Technology Planning Teams (LTPTs) are county-level, statutorily-created\* entities tasked with facilitating improved broadband access and digital adoption within their communities.

LTPTs represent a cross-section of the community which may include representatives from the following organizations and industries:

- Libraries
- K-12 education
- Colleges and universities
- Local health care providers
- Private businesses
- Community organizations
- Local governments

LTPTs perform a variety of functions, including:

- Work with rural communities to help understand their current broadband availability
- Locate unserved and underserved businesses and residents
- Identify opportunities to leverage assets and reduce barriers to the deployment of broadband Internet services in the community
- Proactively identify funding opportunities and assist with applying for federal grants for broadband Internet service

**Get involved in your county's LTPT!**

To identify your county's team leader, please email

[Broadband@DEO.MyFlorida.com](mailto:Broadband@DEO.MyFlorida.com).

\*Source: Section 288.9961(4)(b), Florida Statutes



# Florida is participating in two Federal programs to increase broadband availability & effectiveness

## Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program

**Objective: Achieve universal, high-speed coverage by building infrastructure and increasing adoption**

- ✓ \$42.45B nationally
- ✓ Funds the deployment of high-speed Internet in unserved and underserved locations

## Digital Equity Act Program

**Objective: Ensure all communities can participate and meaningfully use high-speed Internet**

- ✓ \$1.5B for states
- ✓ Funds activities that promote affordable access, digital skills, and devices





# The BEAD program supports the deployment of broadband infrastructure

Program Overview	Program Priorities	Eligible Uses of Funding	Subgrantee Selection Process
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Funding for <b>partnerships</b> between states/territories, communities, and stakeholders for building broadband infrastructure</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Unserved locations</b> (those below 25/3 Mbps)</li><li><b>Underserved locations</b> (those below 100/20 Mbps)</li><li><b>Community anchor institutions</b> (without gigabit connections), including libraries, schools, and medical health care facilities</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Planning</b> for deployment of Internet</li><li><b>Deploying/upgrading</b> Internet</li><li><b>Installing</b> Internet in multi-tenant buildings</li><li>Implementing <b>digital adoption and use programs</b></li><li>Implementing <b>workforce and job training</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Subgrantee selection process <b>must be competitive</b> and open to non-profits, cooperatives, P3s, private companies, and more</li><li>States <b>set selection criteria</b> using NTIA parameters</li></ul>

## BEAD Plan Development Process

We are here



**BEAD 5-Year Action Plan**  
*Summer 2023*



**Initial Proposal**  
*Late 2023*



**Plan Implementation**  
*2024-2028*



# The Digital Adoption and Use Program promotes high-speed Internet, digital skills, and devices

Overview	Programs	Eligible Uses of Funding	Covered Populations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides funding to promote <b>digital inclusion</b> and advance <b>digital literacy</b></li> <li>Aims to ensure that all communities can access and use <b>affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet</b> to meet their needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>State Planning</b> (\$60M)</li> <li><b>State Capacity</b> (\$1.44B)</li> <li><b>Competitive</b> (\$1.25B)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing &amp; implementing <b>digital adoption and use plans</b></li> <li><b>Awarding funds to other entities</b> for their digital adoption and use plans</li> <li>Providing digital literacy and <b>digital skills education</b></li> <li>Facilitating adoption of <b>high-speed Internet</b></li> </ul>	<p><i>Activities are focused on meeting the needs of specific populations, including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Low-income</b> households</li> <li><b>Aging</b> populations</li> <li><b>Veterans</b></li> <li>People with <b>disabilities</b></li> <li>People with <b>language barriers</b></li> <li><b>Racial/ethnic</b> minorities</li> <li><b>Rural</b> inhabitants</li> <li><b>Incarcerated</b> individuals</li> </ul>

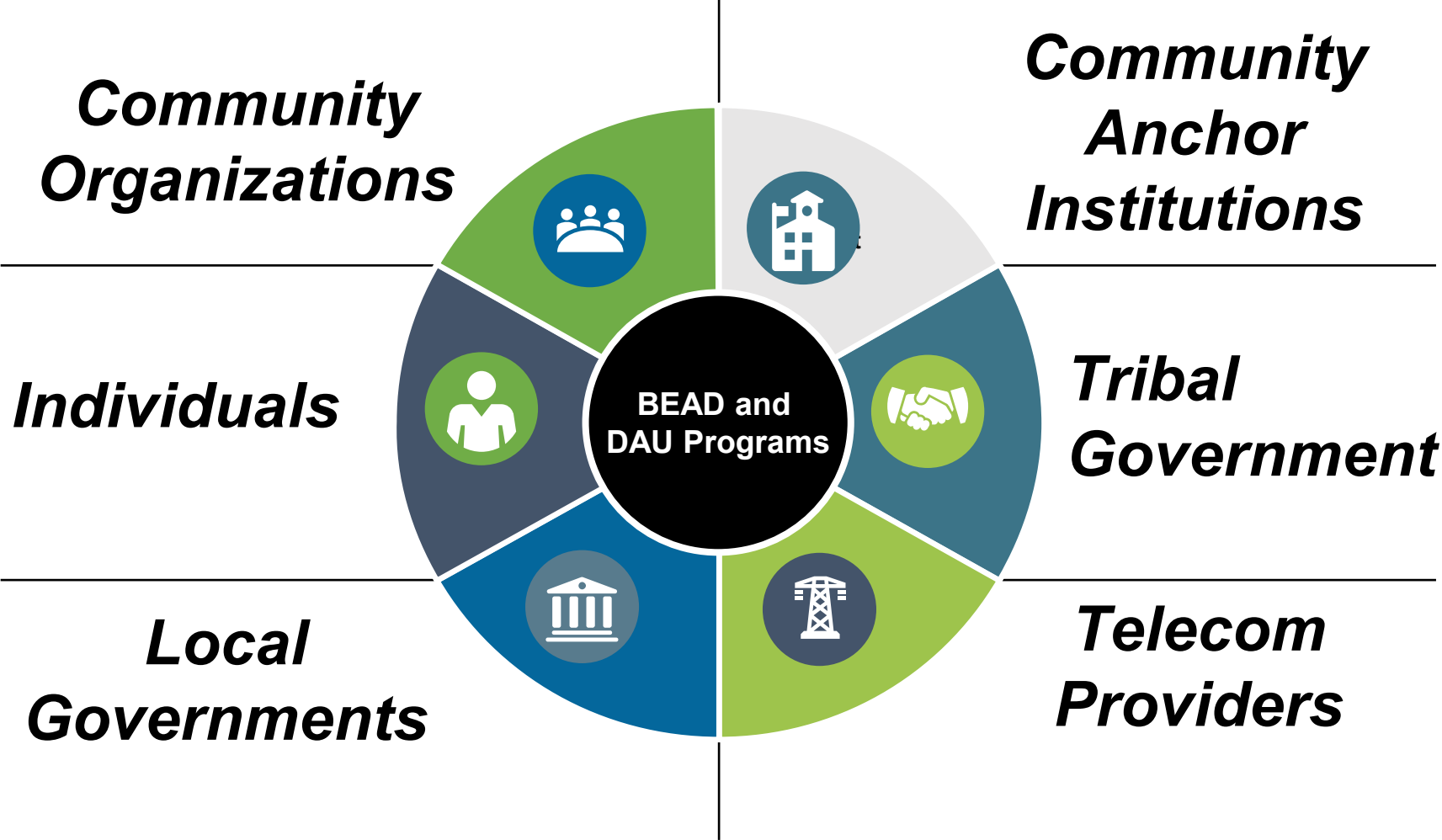
## DAU Plan Development Process



\*The State of Florida will be using the term "Digital Adoption and Use Plan" in place of "Digital Equity Act Plan"



# Each stakeholder plays an integral role in the plan development and implementation process



# How do you access the Internet? Select all that apply.

- A. Wi-Fi
- B. Ethernet cord
- C. Cellphone with a data plan
- D. Hotspot
- E. Public place (library, coffee shop)



**What challenges do you and your community face in accessing the Internet?**





# What type(s) of devices do you and your household use to access the Internet? Select all that apply.

- A. Smart phone
- B. Tablet
- C. Borrowed or shared tablet
- D. Laptop
- E. Borrowed or shared laptop
- F. Desktop
- G. Borrowed or shared desktop



**What kind of support or programs would help you connect and get the most benefit from Internet access and technology?**





# Q&A

*If you are not able to access the Teams chat, you may email your questions to [Broadband@deo.myflorida.com](mailto:Broadband@deo.myflorida.com).*



# Join us for other upcoming public webinars

	 <b>Webinars</b> 
1	Monday, July 24, 2023 @ 2:00PM EST
2	Wednesday, July 26, 2023 @ 2:00PM EST

Scan the QR code or visit [floridajobs.org/broadband](https://floridajobs.org/broadband) for more information:



**Please contact [Broadband@deo.myflorida.com](mailto:Broadband@deo.myflorida.com) with any follow-up questions or information about your LTPT.**

