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BROADBAND FOR ALL

Maine Telehealth/Telemonitoring Advisory Group

February 2, 2023

Context

Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment (BEAD) Plan:

As recipient of \$5 million in Initial Planning Funds through BEAD from NTIA, MCA must submit a 5 year broadband plan for the state in order to access full Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Funding (\$95 million + formula allocation TBD).

Digital Equity Plan:

As recipient of \$542k in Digital Equity Planning Funds, MCA must submit a State Digital Equity Plan in order to access digital equity implementation funding (\$1.44B to states, formula allocation TBD).

BROADBAND ACTION PLAN:

These two NTIA required plans must be aligned, as they have shared objectives and a unified objective of closing the digital divide. MCA has combined the planning processes into one, resulting in a comprehensive broadband action plan with digital equity at its core. This ensures seamless integration, maximizes use of our resources, and avoids potential stakeholder fatigue and/or confusion.



Timeline

*February, March,
and April 2023*

May 2023

June 2023

July 2023

ENGAGEMENT PERIOD

- Community meetings
- Surveys and focus groups
- Stakeholder group meetings
- Industry and trade groups
- Regional and Tribal Broadband Partners, Maine Broadband Coalition, Digital Equity Taskforce
- April - board engagement

DRAFT COMPLETED

- Plan assembled by MCA staff
- Develop implementation framework with partners
- Reviewed by committee representing the stakeholder groups

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Plan is published for an extended public comment period, seeking feedback from all interested parties
- Board discussion and review

REVISE AND SUBMIT

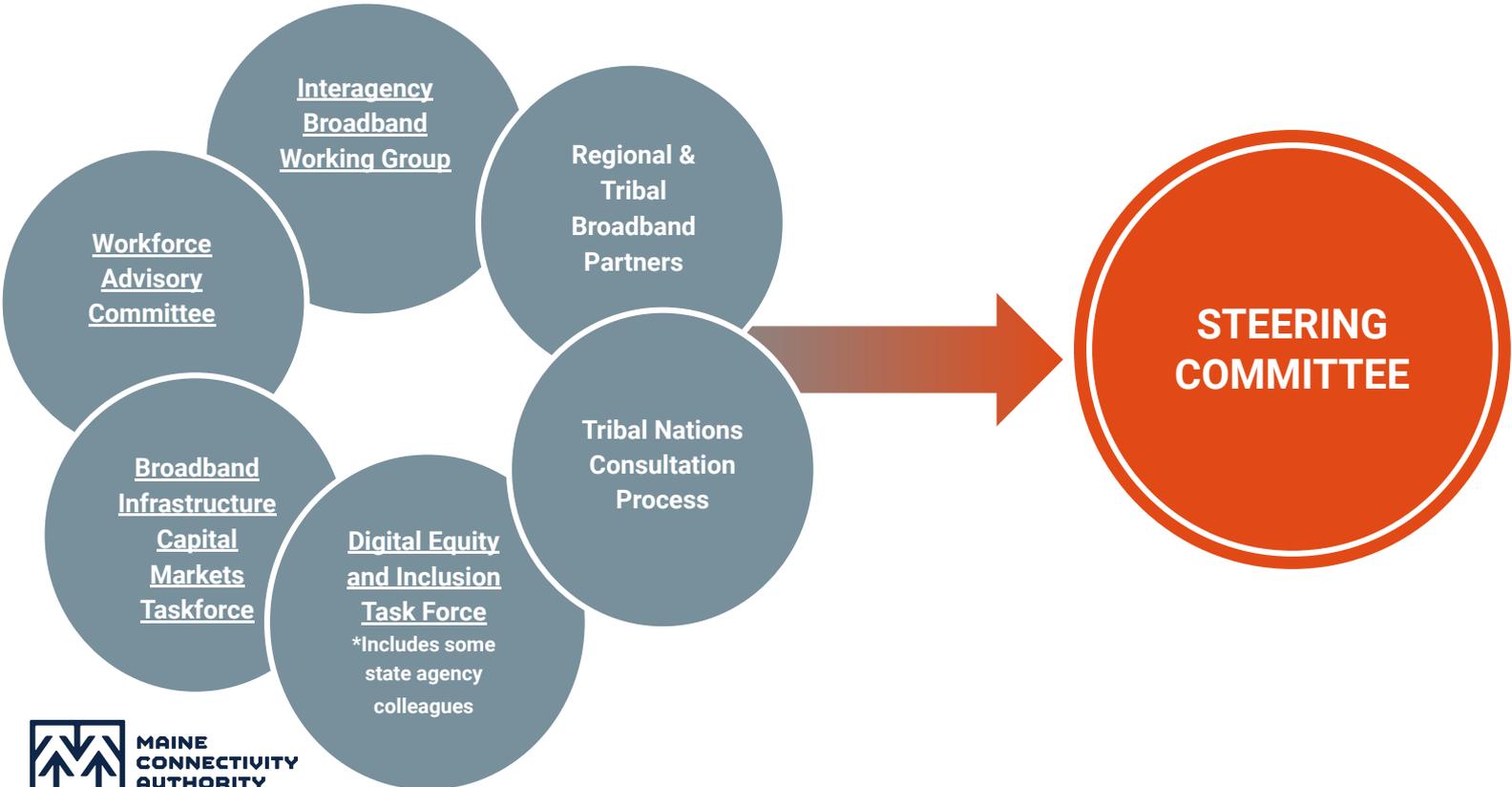
- Plan assembled by MCA staff
- Reviewed by steering committee



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Stakeholder Groups



Covered Populations

- individuals who live in covered households (ie. households with income \leq 150% federal poverty level);
- aging individuals;
- incarcerated individuals;
- veterans;
- individuals with disabilities;
- individuals with a language barrier, including individuals who—
 - are English learners; and
 - have low levels of literacy;
- individuals who are members of a racial or ethnic minority group; and
- individuals who primarily reside in a rural area.



Anticipated Deliverables

1. Roadmap for deploying BEAD funds in alignment with service needs and Digital Equity priorities.
 - a. Updated decision making process
 - b. Diversified geographic targets
 - c. Expanded impact

2. Diverse menu of projects and partnerships to achieve goals and leverage resources
 - a. Priorities for Digital Equity Implementation funding
 - b. Data to share with stakeholders to help prioritize digital infrastructure investments and monitor impact



How You Can Help

1. **Spread the word: publicize engagement opportunities** in your region, your field or sector, and your communities of influence.
2. Understand the process and timeline, **help us identify existing events where broadband can be part of the conversation**
3. **Share data:** existing research, surveys re telehealth and telemonitoring that may help inform our plan (esp about specific barriers, existing assets, gaps, opportunities)
4. Ensure that **healthcare partners are engaged** in each regional coalition/regional planning
5. **Share your recommendations:** how can Maine's broadband action plan facilitate telehealth and telemonitoring, particularly for covered populations?



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