

# King County Regional Broadband & Digital Equity Planning

Community Technology Advisory Board  
Tuesday, May 9, 2023



# Agenda

## King County Regional Broadband and Digital Equity Report

- Internet for all
- Regional planning
- How you can join us

# Introduction

With the passage of the [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act \(IIJA\)](#), the federal government is making historic investments in broadband and digital equity aimed at [bringing all U.S. residents online](#). These programs will be implemented [at the state level](#). The successful implementation of this generational opportunity will rely on [coordination between the State and local stakeholders](#), including local and Tribal governments, community-based organizations, community anchor institutions, Internet Service Providers, and others.

## Introduction (continued)

King County IT and City of Seattle IT have been charged with collecting local feedback to help identify digital equity barriers, existing projects, needs assessment and potential path forward ideas for Washington State's Broadband Office (WSBO) statewide plan for the "covered populations" (next slide).

Two primary components:

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) – FCC will define allocation

Digital Equity – Washington state will define allocation



# COVERED POPULATIONS

## Program focused on “covered” populations



- Low-income Households;
- Aging individuals;
- Incarcerated individuals, other than individuals who are incarcerated in a Federal prison;
- Veterans;
- Individuals with disabilities;
- People with a language barrier, including English learners and low levels of literacy;
- Racial or ethnic minority group; and
- Rural populations.

The State digital equity bill (HB 1723) identified two additional underserved populations:

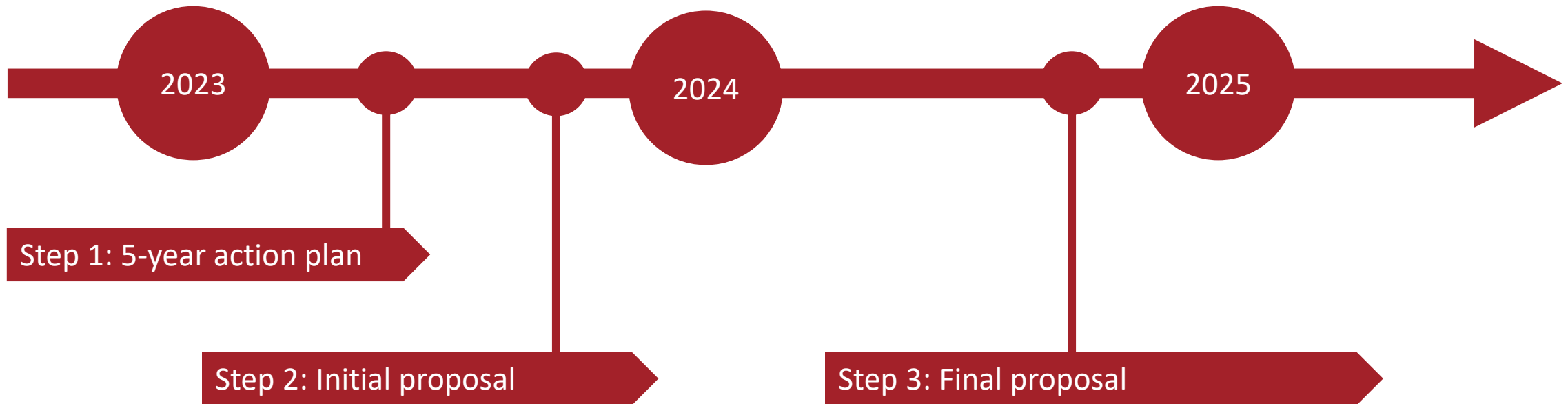
- Children and youth in foster care
- Those experiencing housing instability



# FEDERAL: Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD)

BEAD planning in Washington administered by the Washington State Broadband Office

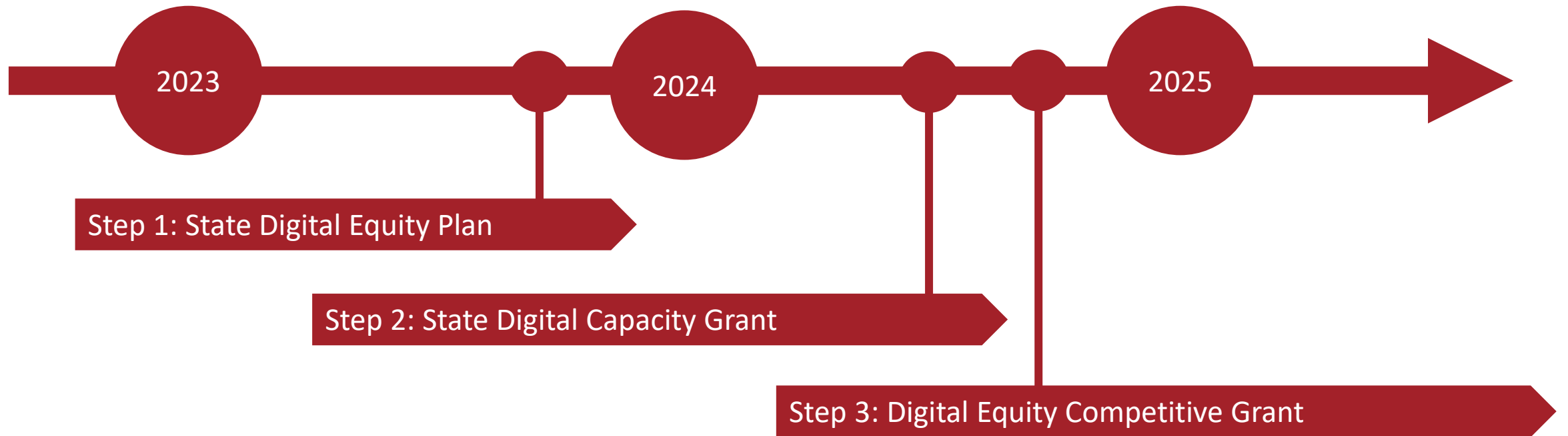
Securing federal funds requires a series of plans and proposals



# State: Digital Equity Act (DEA)

## Digital Equity planning in Washington

Securing DEA funding requires the state to use the State Digital Equity Planning Grant to develop the State Digital Equity Plan.





# PLANNING OVERVIEW

**Future federal funding requires two plans**

Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) 5-year plan (Due August)

Digital Equity Act State Plan (Draft due Sept and final in Dec)







# PLANNING OVERVIEW

**Local (County-wide) plans run through Washington State Department of Commerce**

State legislation supported local broadband and digital inclusion planning.

**Local plans make the case for money for projects the State will distribute and ask the federal government for.**





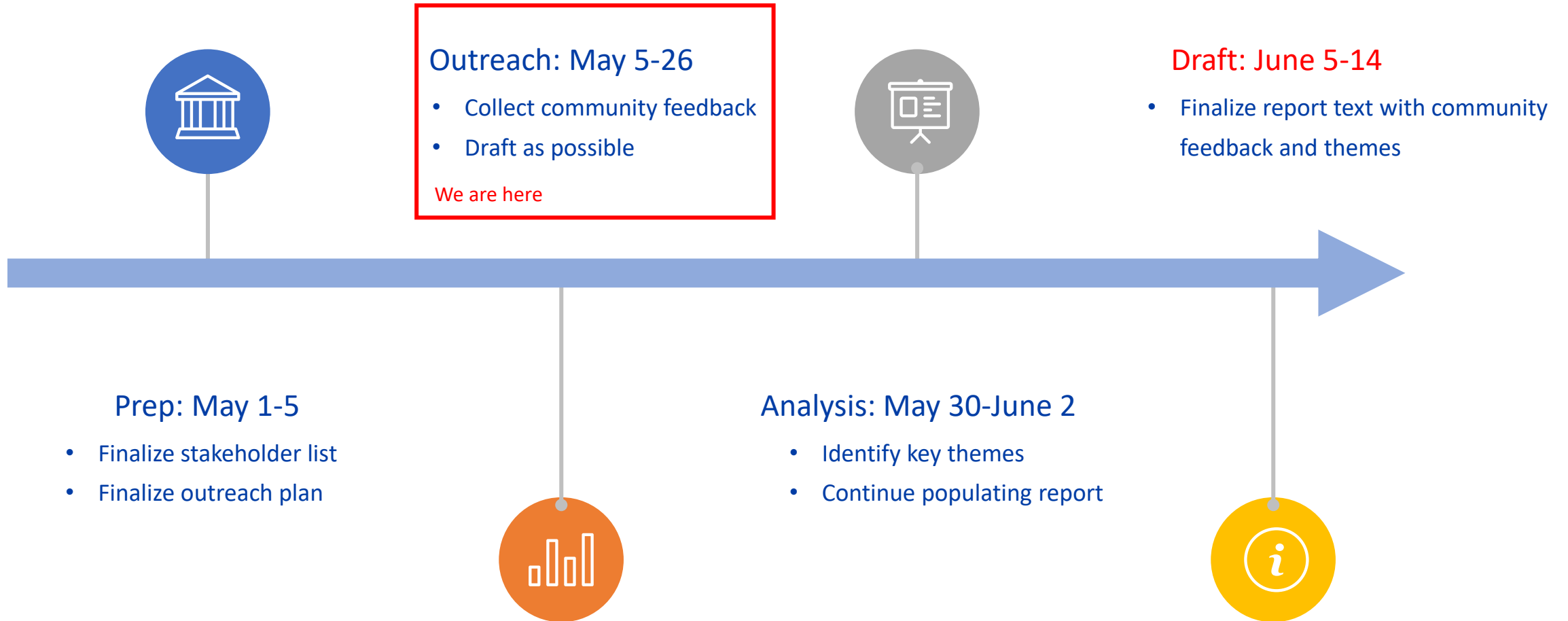
# PLANNING OVERVIEW

## King County leading local planning

- County lead on broadband
- County, City, DELN partner on digital equity plan
- Long-term will develop the King County Broadband Action Team (BAT)



# KING COUNTY: Sprint Timeline



Our focus now is completing the King County plan, which will feed the Washington State University-led state-wide plan



Winning the competitive bidding process requires a thorough, data-driven plan with community involvement.

We need your help.



# What are key organizations serving covered populations?

- Name

## BRAINSTORM

- Low-income Households;
- Aging individuals;
- Incarcerated individuals, other than individuals who are incarcerated in a Federal prison;
- Veterans;
- Individuals with disabilities;
- People with a language barrier, including English learners and low levels of literacy;
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- Rural populations.

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- Children and youth in foster care
- Those experiencing housing instability

# Key digital equity worksheets for local plans

- Worksheet #14: Digital Equity Asset Inventory
- Worksheet #15: Digital Equity and Access Needs Assessment
- Worksheet #16: Obstacles to Broadband Access and Adoption
- Worksheet #17: Potential Paths Forward for Digital Equity
- Worksheet #18: Key Points for Your Executive Summary

From [Writing Broadband Action and Digital Equity Plans: A workbook for Washington communities](#)

## COMPLETE WORKSHEETS

# Ways you can support us as we move to June 14!

- Complete worksheets
- Share worksheets with others
- Attend office hours as a guest in May:
  - Tuesdays and Thursdays 10-11am
  - Wednesdays 6-7pm
- Attend office hours as volunteer
- Review raw data to identify themes:
  - May 22 to June 2
- Review written responses before final submission
  - May 22 to June 9

## OPPORTUNITIES



# Can you help cover our technical support hours?

Tuesday 10-11am

Wednesday 6-7pm

Thursday 10-11am

9	10	11
16	17	18
23	24	25
30	31	1

## SUPPORT OTHERS

- Learn more about King County's planning efforts
- Ask any questions you might have about the worksheets
- Receive help filling out the worksheets
- Give recommendations for any additional stakeholders we should contact

# Can you help with the final report?

	Worksheet #14: Digital Equity Asset Inventory	Worksheet #15: Digital Equity and Access Needs Assessment	Worksheet #16: Obstacles to Broadband Access and Adoption	Worksheet #17: Potential Paths Forward for Digital Equity	Worksheet #18: Key Points for Your Executive Summary
Identify themes (May 22 – June 2)					
Draft (now – June 7)					
Review (May 22 – June 9)					

**IDENTIFY  
THEMES**

**REVIEW  
DRAFT**

# Other open opportunities

- Comment on proposed State plans
  - State listening sessions
  - Draft BEAD plan
  - Draft Digital Equity (DE) plan
- Refine King County plan with more specific projects and strategies
- Influence State requests for implementation funds

# Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD)

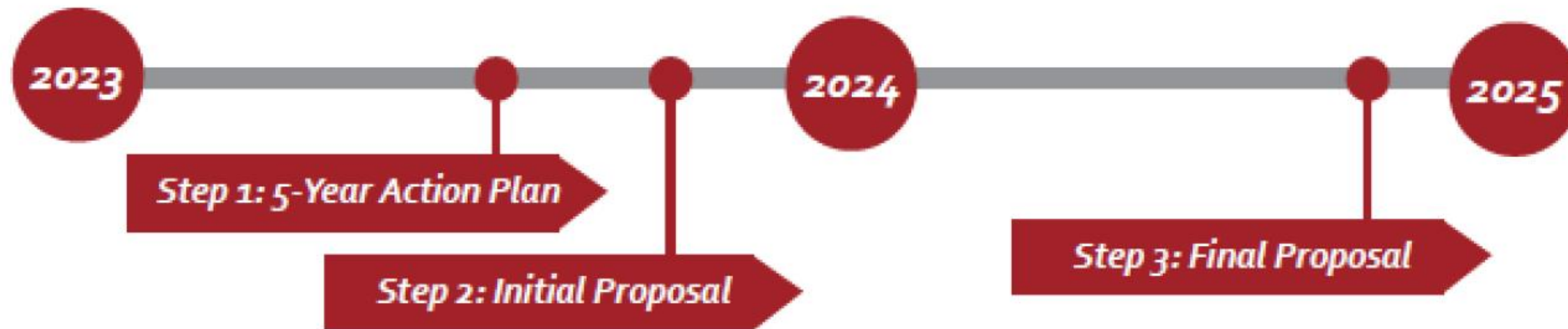
## BEAD Planning in Washington

The Washington State Broadband Office will be responsible for administering the statewide program under BEAD. To secure Washington's allocation, [WSBO](#) is required to develop a series of plans and proposals, which include a Five-Year Action Plan, Initial Proposal, and Final Proposal.

*Step 1: Due 270 days after  
planning funds received*

*Step 2: Due 180 days after new data maps  
and notice of fundings amounts issued*

*Step 3: Due 365 days after  
initial proposal approval*

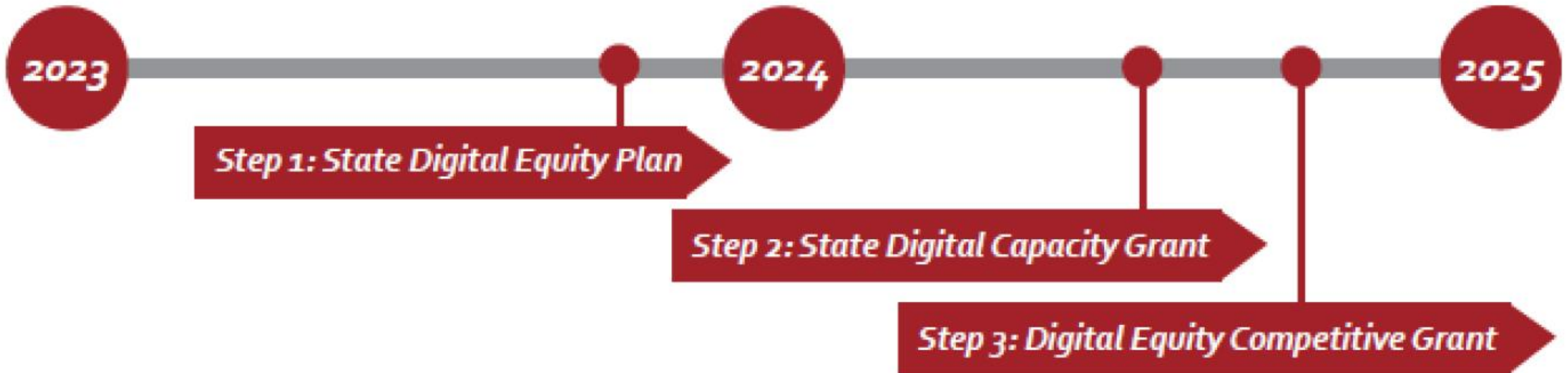


Source: National Telecommunications and Information Administration, "The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program: Program Details for Applicants" (webinar, May 2022, <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/2022-06/June-1-Webinar-Presentation.pdf>)

# Digital Equity Act (DEA)

## Digital Equity Planning in Washington

To secure Washington's allocation of DEA funding, [WSBO](#) is required to use State Digital Equity Planning Grant funds to develop a State Digital Equity Plan (SDEP).



# Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD)

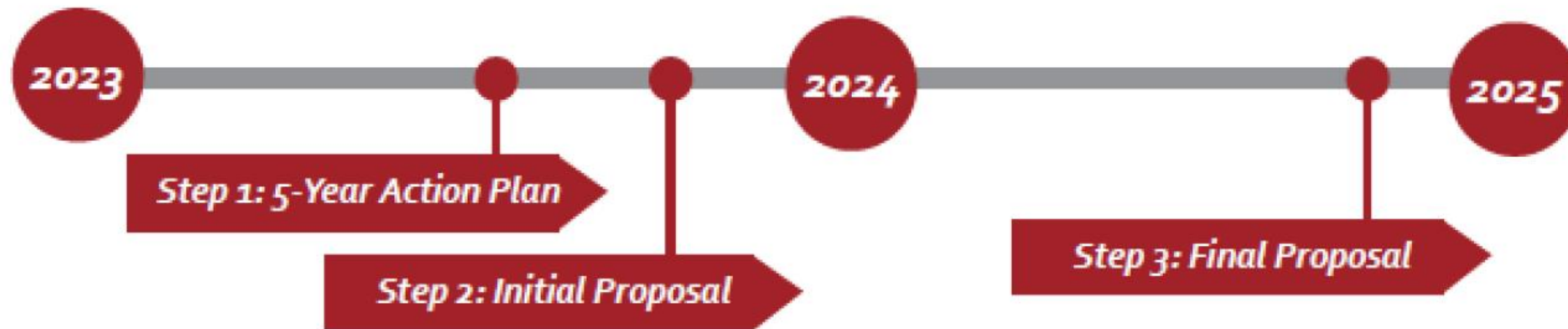
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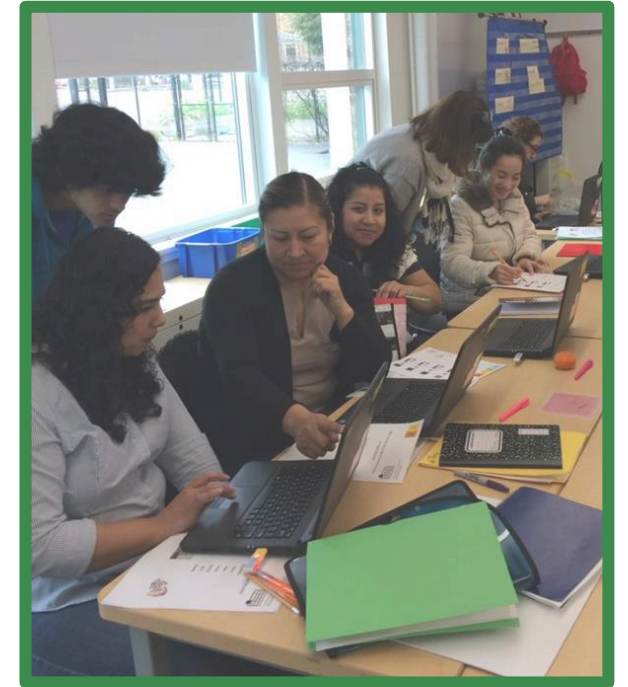
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# Timeline

<b>March</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Complete WSU scope and contract for funding</li><li>• Create Digital Equity Workgroup</li><li>• Start engagement with DELN meeting</li><li>• Start data inventory of services &amp; needs</li></ul>
<b>April</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community input: meetings &amp; online input</li><li>• Identify Digital Equity Gaps and Areas of Opportunity</li><li>• Discuss Potential Solutions</li></ul>
<b>May</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Complete drafts</li><li>• Solicit comments on drafts</li></ul>
<b>June</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Finalize plan</li><li>• 6/14/23 – Deliverables due to WSU/State Dept of Commerce</li></ul>
<b>July-August</b>	Comment on draft State BEAD plan
<b>Sept-October</b>	Comment on draft State Digital Equity Plan

## Background

- State legislation supported local broadband and digital inclusion planning
  - WA State contracted with WSU
    - WSU created workbook & worksheets  
*Writing Broadband Action Plans and Digital Equity Plans*
  - Local & Tribal plans inform State plans.



**Local plans make the case for money for projects the State will distribute and ask the federal government for.**

