



## Office of Broadband Development | Application Information Session

May 20, 2025

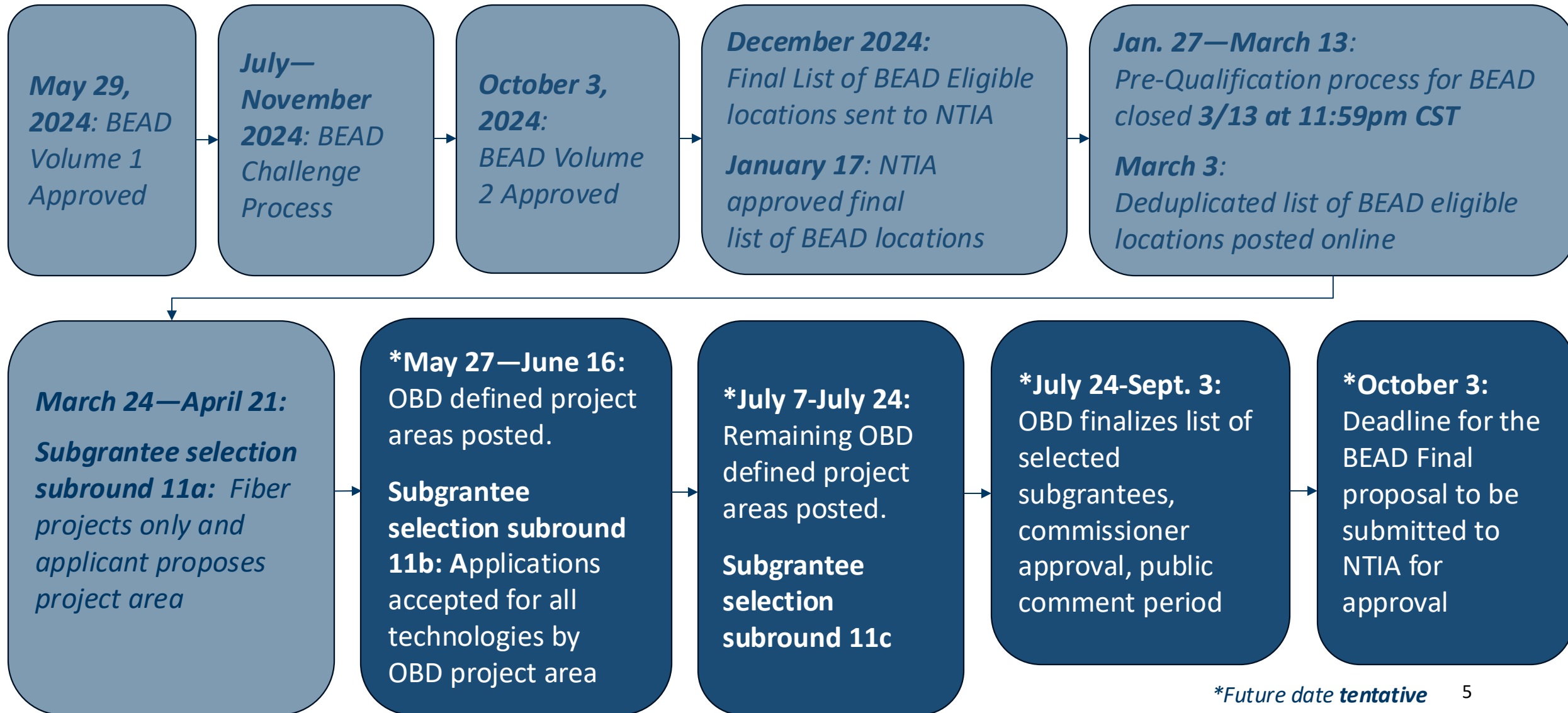
- Digital Opportunity Updates – Termination Notice
- BEAD Program Updates from round 11a, and expectations for 11b
- Review BEAD timeline and updates from OBD
- Time for Q+A and feedback

# Digital Opportunity Updates - Termination

- On May 9, 2025, DEED received notification from the federal government that it was immediately terminating the state's \$12 million grant from the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program. This funding was intended to reduce gaps in broadband access and expand digital skills and technology availability. All states received the same notification of cancellation.
  - MN's Digital Opportunity Plan, a deliverable from this program, focuses on ensuring every Minnesotan has the tools and skills needed to harness the full power of broadband and reap the benefits of a digital economy. The U.S. Department of Commerce had approved MN's Digital Opportunity Plan as part of the federal Digital Equity Act in 2024.
  - Due to this federal action, DEED will not be able to provide grants to local governments, organizations and small businesses to ensure these Minnesotans have the tools and skills to access and use the internet and digital technology. DEED is also forced to halt a planned statewide network of local experts to ensure Minnesotans everywhere have equitable access to get online.

- OBD is still evaluating applications
  - Revision requests will start going out.
  - Timeline for evaluation will need to be extended
- NTIA has notified OBD that there will be changes to the program announced in the coming weeks.
  - We don't know what these changes are except that NTIA has indicated it intends to streamline the program and make it more tech neutral.
  - Potential changes to future subgrantee selection rounds
- OBD intends to move forward as swiftly as we can once evaluations are complete, but we want to have a discussion with ISPs and registered applicants to be transparent in what we know and maintain engagement with the program

# BEAD Timeline in Minnesota



# Questions + Feedback

Stay up to date by signing up for our **biweekly email updates** at: [mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/contact/](https://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/contact/)