Agenda

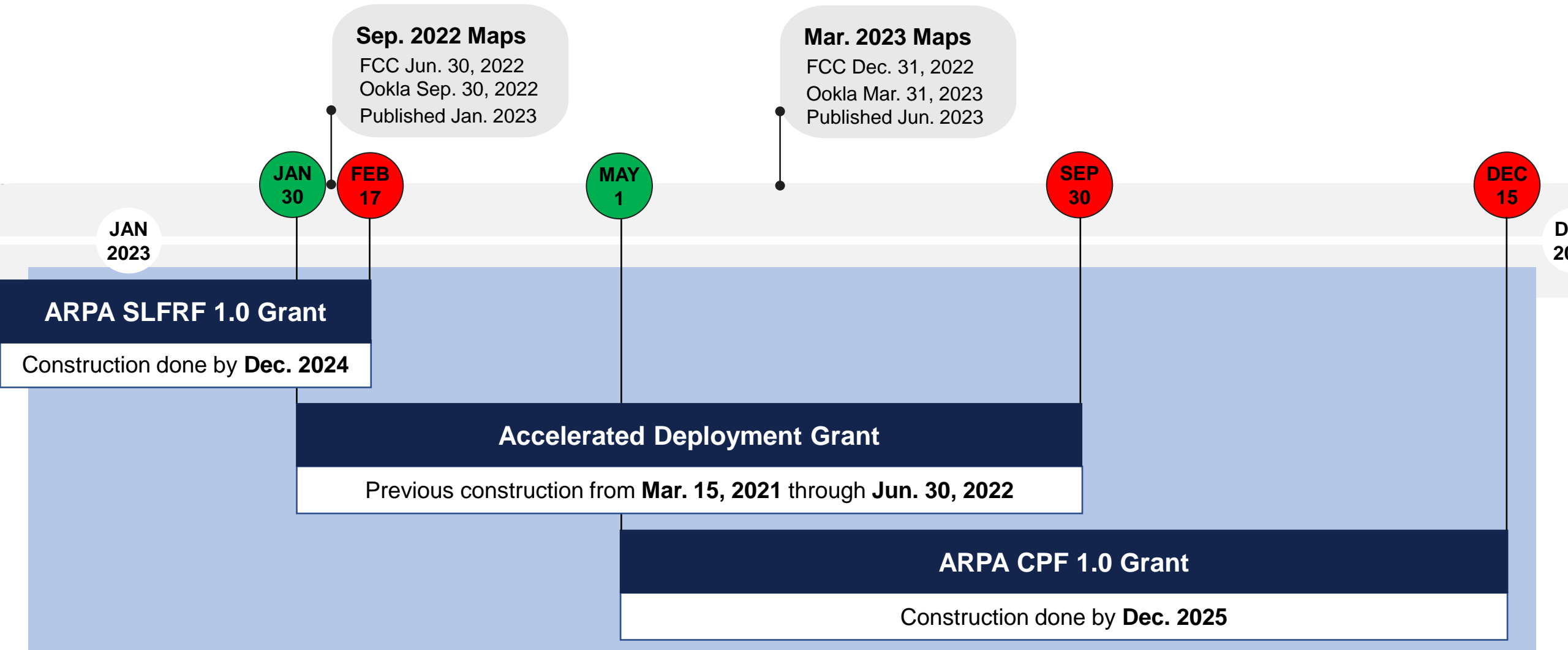|	
Welcome / Roll Call **Review / Approve Minutes** **Introductions**	Jim Stritzinger, Co-Chair Anna Berger, Co-Chair
ORS Deputy Executive Director	Andrew Bateman
SC Broadband Office Update	Jim Stritzinger, ORS
Digital Opportunity / BEAD Infrastructure Planning	Team
Other Business	All
Next Meeting – Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024 **Adjourn**	All

ARPA SLFRF Accelerated Deployment Grant

- **Awarding up to $25,193,089 across 10 ISPs**
- **Providing 50% match for work in unserved areas as of Sep. 2021**
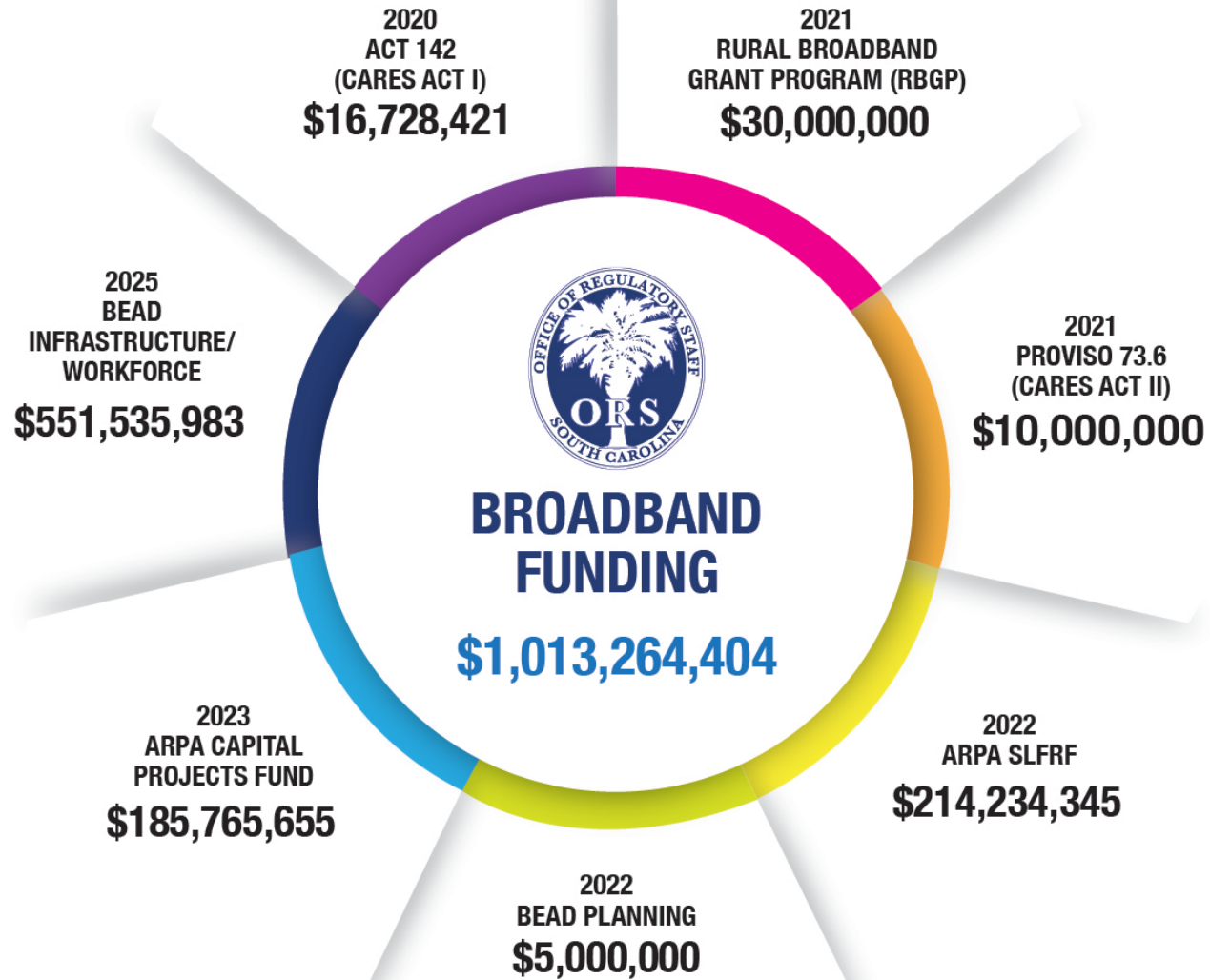- **Funding across 25 counties**

ARPA CPF 1.0 Grant Applications

- **Applications due Jul. 17, 2023**
- **Will award a portion of $185.8M CPF fund allocation**

2023 SC BROADBAND GRANT PROGRAMS

Sep. 2022 Maps
FCC Jun. 30, 2022
Ookla Sep. 30, 2022
Published Jan. 2023

Mar. 2023 Maps
FCC Dec. 31, 2022
Ookla Mar. 31, 2023
Published Jun. 2023

JAN 30

FEB 17

MAY 1

SEP 30

DEC 15

JAN 2023

ARPA SLFRF 1.0 Grant

Construction done by **Dec. 2024**

Accelerated Deployment Grant

Previous construction from **Mar. 15, 2021** through **Jun. 30, 2022**

ARPA CPF 1.0 Grant

Construction done by **Dec. 2025**

* All dates are subject to change without notice.

ORS.SC.GOV/Broadband

5-Year Action Plan, Initial Proposal & Digital Opportunity Plan

► **5-Year Action Plan / Initial Proposal:** To be eligible for the $42.5b Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) funding program, an Eligible Entity that receives Initial Planning Funds (as South Carolina did on December 8, 2022) must submit a Five-Year Action Plan. An Initial Proposal must be submitted later (see below for dates). While there is overlap between the two documents, and the Five-Year Action Plan will inform the Initial Proposal, they also cover different activities and sections, as outlined below.

► **Digital Equity Plan:** For those states seeking to access the remaining State Digital Equity Grant Program funds (totaling $2.69b), a Digital Equity Plan will be a key component of any application.
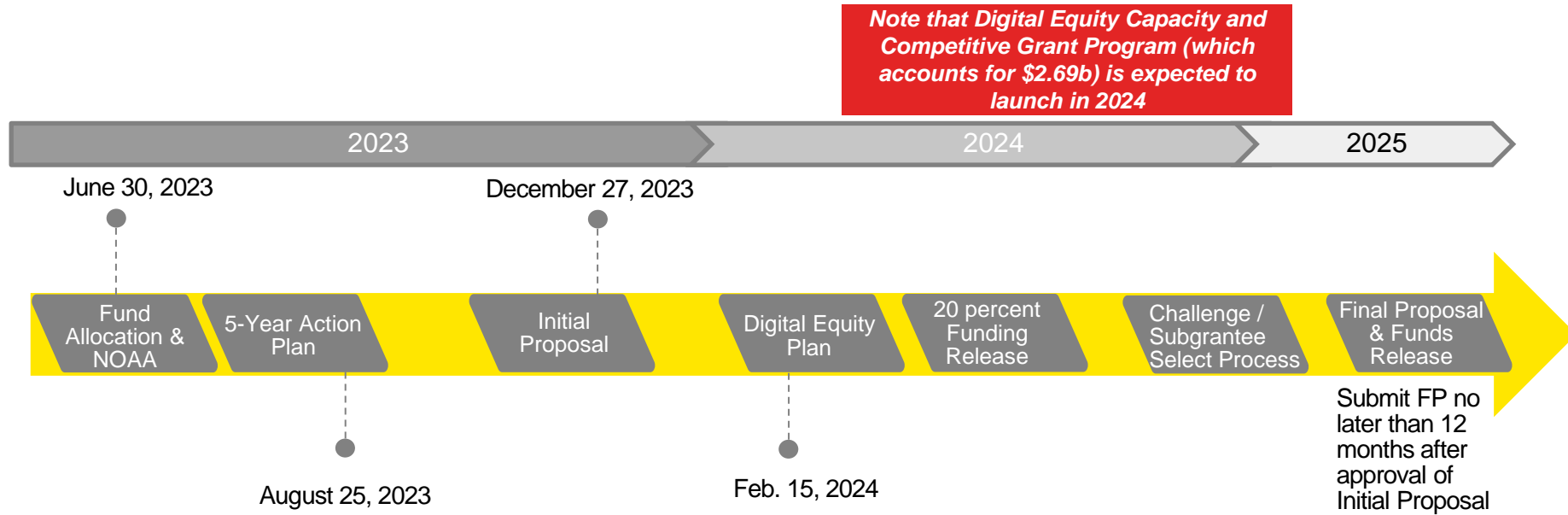
	5-Year Action Plan	Digital Opportunity Plan	Initial Proposal
Overview	Establishes State's broadband goals and priorities and serves as a comprehensive needs assessment that will inform future plans such as the Initial and Final Proposals.	Establishes a State's vision, goals and strategy for digital equity, with broadband affordability and adoption as key tenets.	Establishes how the State will ensure that every resident has access to reliable, affordable, high-speed broadband and the competitive process for selecting subgrantees.
Key Activities	• Documenting resources available • Needs and gaps assessment • Evaluating current and future state • Identifying priorities and activities	• Stakeholder outreach • Documenting assets and existing plans • Needs assessment (emphasis on covered populations)	• Outline long-term objectives • Describe how Community Anchor Institutions were determined • Describe challenge process • Provide climate threat assessment
Key Sections	• Vision, goals and objectives • Existing programs • Partnerships, asset inventory • Obstacles and barriers • Key execution strategies	• Strategy and objectives • Asset inventory • Coordination and outreach strategy • Implementation strategy	• Volume I Volume II Initial Proposal Templates
Submittal Date	**5-Year Action Plan**	**February 15, 2024**	180 days after NOAA of BEAD program **Dec 27th, 2023[2]**

[1] Digital Equity Planning funds were received on December 1, 2022
[2] Notice of Available Amounts (NOAA) occurred June 30th, 2023

Timelines

► Once the Five-Year-Action, Digital Equity, Initial Proposal and General Assembly Report are submitted in 2023, future activities include conducting a challenge process, the release of 20% of the total funds, the submittal of a Final Proposal, and finally the release of the full amount of BEAD funding upon approval of the Final Proposal.

Note that Digital Equity Capacity and Competitive Grant Program (which accounts for $2.69b) is expected to launch in 2024

| 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |

June 30, 2023

December 27, 2023

| Fund Allocation & NOAA | 5-Year Action Plan | Initial Proposal | Digital Equity Plan | 20 percent Funding Release | Challenge / Subgrantee Select Process | Final Proposal & Funds Release |

August 25, 2023

Feb. 15, 2024

Submit FP no later than 12 months after approval of Initial Proposal

Overview of SC BEAD Grant Program

- **$551.5 Million for Broadband Deployment and Non-Deployment Activities**

- **Up to 75% federal / 25% non-federal match**

- **Priority to fund:**

  1. **Unserved Residential - No technology options available**

  2. **Underserved Residential - DSL, Fixed Wireless, and Older Cable**

  3. **CAIs - Lack 1Gbps symmetric service**

  4. **Other Non-Deployment Activities**

Top 3 Things for BBAC related to BEAD

1. **Further identification of CAI's that meet the definition described in this Presentation**

   - **If it's not included in SCBBO list of CAIs it may not be eligible for BEAD funds - Due ASAP**

2. **Participate and message through communication outlets/channels upcoming public comment period for SC BEAD Initial Proposal**

   - **Messaging out to Network due before October 30th**

   - **Comments due before November 30th**

3. **Participate and message through communication outlets/channels upcoming BEAD map challenge process (Pending approval from NTIA on SC BEAD IP)**

Key Milestones for BEAD

- **Compilation of Volume I and II narratives/attachments**

  - ***Inventory existing CAIs (must be part of list SCBBO submits to NTIA)***

- ***Volume I and II posted for public comment***

  - **Volume I and II public comment period closes, SCBBO consolidates comments**

  - **Volume I and II submitted to NTIA**

  - **Volume I and II accepted after curing**

- ***Initial Posting of Challenge process:***

  - ***Overview of Process***

  - ***Challenge Timelines***

  - ***Instructions on how to challenge and rebut a challenge***

  - **Initial Posting of Served, Unserved, Underserved, CAIs**

  - ***Challenge Process Open and Close Date***

- **List of all Challenges and Rebuttals posted**

- **SCBBO submits all Challenges to NTIA**

- **NTIA Accepts Challenges**

- **Initiate BEAD Grant Program**

  - **SCBBO post final list of eligible unserved, underserved, and CAIs**

  - **Grant round Opens/Closes**

  - **Grant comment period Opens/Closes**

  - **Evaluate Applications for Gating Criteria**

  - **SCBBO Selection of Grants**

  - **Final Proposal sent to NTIA for approval**

  - **Pending NTIA approval, issue NTP to Applicant**

- **Project Initiation by ISP**

*BBAC Input Required.

► **Definition of a CAI as defined in draft Initial Proposal:**

Based on the statutory definition of "community anchor institution" as defined in 47 USC 1702 (a)(2)(E), the broadband office applied the definition of "community anchor institution" to mean a school, library, health clinic, health center, hospital or other medical provider, public safety entity, institution of higher education, public housing organization (including any public housing agency, HUD-assisted housing organization, or Tribal housing organization), or community support organization that facilitates greater use of broadband service by vulnerable populations, including, but not limited to, low-income individuals, unemployed individuals, children, and aged individuals.

► **The following categories and sources were further refined and used to organize facilities by type:**
   ► **Schools**
   ► **Libraries**
   ► **Local, State, Tribal Government Buildings**
   ► **Health clinic, health center, hospital, or other medical providers**
   ► **Public Safety Entity**
   ► **Institutions of Higher Education**
   ► **Community Support Organizations**

CAI Registration
QR Code

https://arcg.is/HeTqq0

Messaging on IP Public Comment Period

Required to message the start of SC's Public Comment Period for the Initial Proposal Volumes 1 and 2

The public comment period is intended to promote transparency by gathering feedback from stakeholders. Eligible Entities must conduct outreach and engagement activities to encourage broad awareness and participation during the public comment period, particularly among Tribal Governments, local community organizations, unions and worker organizations, and other underrepresented groups.

Eligible Entities may utilize outreach mechanisms including, but not limited to, public meetings, informational brochures, local media, relevant social media channels, and direct mail. Eligible Entities must provide a high-level summary of the comments received during the public comment period and demonstrate how the Eligible Entity incorporated feedback in its Initial Proposal submission, if applicable.

Public Comment Period on Initial Proposals Begin on 10.30.2023
Where to go for a copy of the IP:

https://ors.sc.gov/broadband/investments/state/bead

► ***Who Can Challenge***
  - ► Non-Profit Organizations
  - ► Units of Local and Tribal Governments
  - ► Internet Service Providers (ISPs)

► ***What Can be Challenged***
  - ► The identification of eligible CAIs as defined by the SCBBO
  - ► CAI eligibility determinations 1 GBPS service exist or does not exist
  - ► Residential BSL eligibility determinations
    - ► Availability
    - ► Speed
    - ► Latency
    - ► Data Cap
    - ► Technology
    - ► Business Only Service
    - ► Enforceable commitments
    - ► Planned Service

► ***Challenge Timeline/Process (90 Day)***
  - ► Eligible entities submit a challenge
  - ► ISP can rebut the challenge
  - ► SCBBO makes final determination

*Must inform all units of Local Government of Challenge process and set up regular touch points to address comments, questions, or concerns from Local Government, ISPs, and Non-Profits. SCBBO will set up a sign-up page for Challenge process updates.

*More details to come!

Thank you!