SAHF Overview of IIJA Investments in Broadband and Digital Inclusion, November 2022

Background: The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), enacted in November 2021, provides $65 billion in broadband investments through the (1) Affordable Connectivity Program; (2) Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment ; (3) Digital Equity Act. These investments cover the three types of barriers that prevent resident of affordable housing properties from equitable internet connectivity: availability (design/infrastructure), access (cost of broadband subscription), and adoption (technical skills). Below is a chart that details the programs, with information SAHF members should understand including eligibility; timing; and which barrier each program is seeking to address and how. We have included links to NOFOs where available, and bolded key issues. We have further highlighted where SAHF members may have most interest in engaging-- either as a direct applicant, partner, or stakeholder.

Program		Highlights	Availability	Access	Adoption
Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)		*Funding:* **$14.2 Billion.** The ACP is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per household. *Timing:* **Resident can enroll in ACP now**. ACP rolled over from EBB on December 31, 2021 and will continue until funding runs out or Congress renews/ changes the program. Based on the latest estimates of spend down, this program may run through 2024. *Eligibililty:* **H**ousehold's income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guideline**s**, with automatic eligibility for participation in federal assistance programs (Lifeline, Medicaid, SNAP, SSI, Veteran's Benefit, Public Housing, free and reduced school lunch, Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition program. **The FCC is currently working with HUD to expand eligibility data matching for residents of assisted multifamily properties but this has not yet been implemented. On a November call, FCC said this could be "soon".**		Eligible households can receive a discount of up to $**30/month toward internet services**	**One-time discount of up to $100]to purchase** a computer or tablet if household contributes $10-$50 toward purchase price.
ACP Outreach Grant Programs *(includes 4 grants. The three listed to the right are the most relevant for SAHF members. The fourth is for Tribal grants.)*	National Competitive Outreach Program	*Funding:* **$60 Million**, with states receiving a minimum $500k and territories a minimum $250k for outreach activities. FCC anticipates grants ranging in size from $50k to $1 million. *Timing: **NOFO open now, submission deadline is** January 9, 2023, at 11:59 PM EST.* Grant recipients must expend within 24 months, with a projected period of performance start date of March 2023. *Eligible applicants:* **Large pool including nonprofits**, housing agencies, state and local governments. Applicants requesting near or at the recommended maximum funding amount of **$1 million will need to demonstrate an ACP outreach and/or application assistance strategy that is multi-state, national-level, and/or regional level**, with the ability to passthrough to local-based eligible entities, as applicable.		Eligible activities are expected to **increase awareness of and encourage participation** in the ACP	
	Your Home Your Internet (YHYI) Program	*Funding:* **$5 million for a 1-year ACP outreach pilot program** for **federally-assisted households. Expected ~20 pilot participants.** *Timing:* **NOFO open now, submission deadline is January 9, 2023, at 11:59 PM EST.** *Eligible applicants:* The NOFO states that applicants must be "state, local, and Tribal housing agencies (including housing authorities). **Tenant associations and non-profit and community-based entities that have a partnership with a federal, state, local, or Tribal housing agency participating in the Your Home, Your Internet Pilot may also apply for YHYI funding" This language appears to make it more difficult for private owners, including SAHF members, to participate but SAHF and partners are seeking clarity and flexibility from FCC.** Priority for funding will be given to those applicants that target a broad geographic area and/or large number of people in the target audiences, incorporate effective tracking and performance measurements; target LI households; propose a cost-share or cost-match.		Participants can propose activities like developing new promotional materials, hands on application assistance and site-based outreach.	
	Navigator Pilot Program (NPP)	*Funding:* **$5 million to support ACP outreach activities by trusted, neutral third-party entities** Timing: NOFO open now, submission deadline is January 9, 2023, at 11:59 PM EST. Eligible applicants: The NOFO states that applicants are t**r**usted, third party entities that **include but are not limited to state and local institutions of higher learning, state veterans' affairs offices, state and community libraries.** SAHF members could make the case that they are a trusted 3rd party. This program has the same priorities and similar performance measures to YHYI.		Same activities as YHYI	

Program		Funding / Timing / Preferences	Eligible uses (internet)	Eligible uses (Wi-Fi)	Eligible uses (digital equity)
Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program		*Funding:* **$42.5 billion total funding, with minimum $100 million allocations to States and territories**. •Additional funding allocations will be based on percent of unserved and underserved households after FCC releases maps in Fall 2022. *Timing:* All 50 States and the territories have submitted their LOI for funding. The **FCC must now issue data maps and NOFAs based on those allocations**. States have 180 days from receiving funds to submit an initial proposal (including prioritizations) and 270 days from receiving funds to submit a 5-year plan. **BEAD will have a four year implementation ending in 2026-2027**. *Relevant preferences:* States **must prioritize residential buildings that (1) have a substantial share of unserved households** or (2) are in locations where the number of households with an **income at or below 150 percent of the poverty line** is higher than the national percentage. States are **encouraged to support connectivity for Community Anchor Institutio**ns (including affordable housing nonprofits)	Eligible uses include in**stalling internet in multifamily properties, deploying or upgrading internet** in underserved areas or improving access to community anchor organizations	Eligible uses include mo**nthly costs for Wi-Fi and maintenance during the period of performance of the grant** (4 yrs.).	Eligible uses include dig**ital adoption, and digital equity programs; workforce development programs, digital literacy programs and vocational training**
Digital Equity Act	**State Digital Equity Planning Grants**	*Funding:* $60 million to states and territories. NOFO application for States were due July 12, 2022 with the expectation of awards this Fall, and territories closes on January 17, 2023.			Plans to **bring in stakeholders**, assess data, and to ensure effective use of capacity funding
	State Digital Equity Capacity Grants	*Funding:* $1.44B for state digital equity capacity grants. *Timing:* States must begin no later than 2 years after NTIA begins awarding the State Digital Equity Planning Grants. Upon receipt of the planning funds, States have one year to complete plan, and then can apply.			Five year program to implement digital equity plan
	Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program	*Funding:* $1.25 billion over 5 years to achieve same goals as state program, but **open to a larger pool of applicants including nonprofits.** Timing: NOFO expected soon			Training programs; equipment or digital technology at low or no cost; construct, upgrade, or operate public access computing centers

Notes: States and local governments also have access to American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds that they can allocate to broadband projects. As of June 2022, states have allocated $8 billion in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) for broadband activities. The Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund allocated $10 billion to states and territories to fund broadband projects that directly enable work, education, health monitoring, with a prioritization for projects that promote digital equity.