Three Key Aspects of Effective Broadband Planning & Policy

- Proven Performance
- Proven Platforms
- Sustainability
Where to Start?
• **Recognizes States are in Different Stages of “Evolution”**
  - Some have long-standing offices and/or multiple rounds of grants
  - Others just starting to form and have never run a grant
  - Most somewhere in between

• **Regardless of Staging, BEAD will be Different!**
  - Statutory prescriptions on priorities – scalability; area eligibility
  - Statutory prescriptions on policies – e.g., interconnection & low-cost option
  - Timelines and planning cycles – LOIs; action plans; initial & final proposals; FCC maps; grant programs; challenge processes
  - Questions outstanding – weighting/scoring? other strings?
Broadband Infrastructure Playbook

• Playbook Aims to Give States a “Running Start”
  – Covers “life cycle” of program administration -
    – Office formation & best practices
    – BEAD application to NTIA
    – Grant program design
    – Grant program administration

• Offers Checklists/Templates & Case Studies/Best Practices
  – Examples of how other states have done things
  – Statutory prescriptions on policies – interconnection & low-cost option
  – Highlights important goals – consumer focus & sustainability

• Updates Will Come After NTIA Releases NOFO
Key Aspect 1: Proven Performance

• Look to proven performance for future results
  – Vetting of providers is critical – cf., RDOF

• Local presence, local knowledge, & experience all should matter
  – Hard-to-serve areas are harder to serve if you don’t know them
  – Track records of performance in building networks and delivering services are important – look to responsible stewards
  – Learning on the job how to troubleshoot a customer router problem at 3am is no way to run a broadband network
Key Aspect 2: Proven Platforms

• Look to proven platforms for future results
  – Vetting of platforms is critical – cf., RDOF
  – Look at where so many of the mapping errors come from

• These are government/taxpayer funds – not an emerging technology speculation fund
  – Betting on platforms to do things that haven’t been done before on a widespread basis is not an effective use of funds
  – Don’t waste a generational opportunity to deliver services to consumers on speculation and promises
  – Law also requires prioritizing “scalable” networks
Key Aspect 3: Sustainability

• Don’t fly “Mission Accomplished” banners once networks are built
  – The job isn’t done with the network is done
  – Goal here is not networks for networks’ sake, but rather delivery of services for users that will be affordable and keep pace with demand

• Focus on sustainability is essential – and easy to overlook
  – Ongoing importance of universal service policies & mechanisms
  – Failures of federal policy last 10 years should be instructive