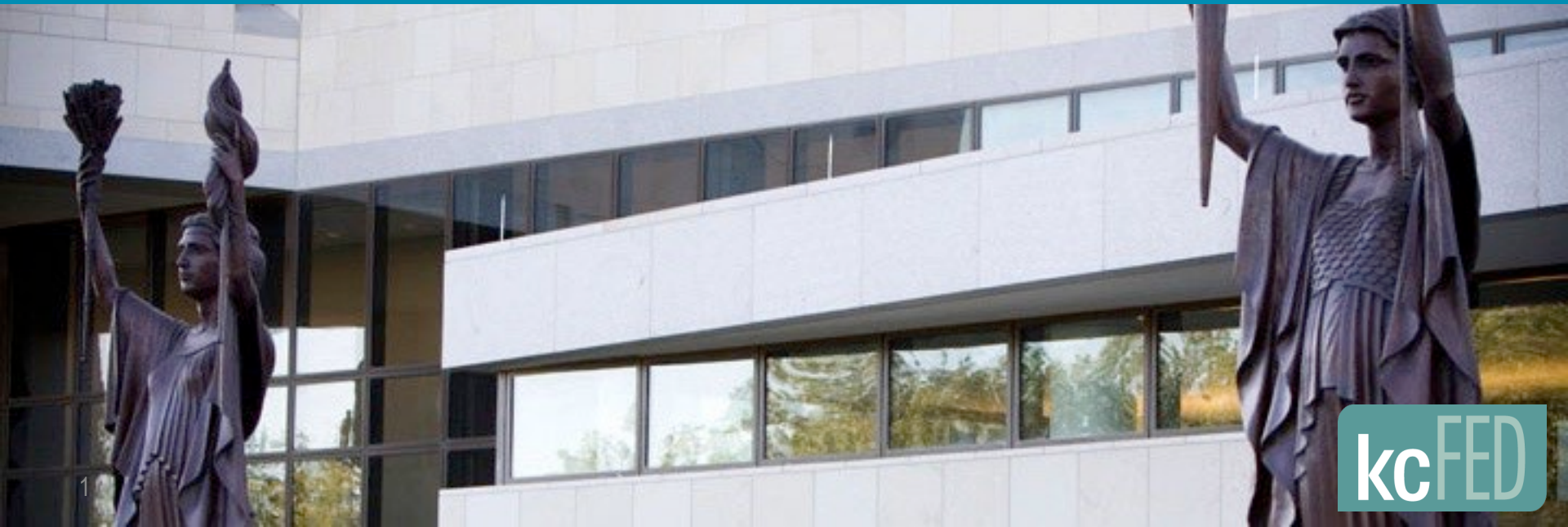


# Partnering on Broadband and Digital Inclusion

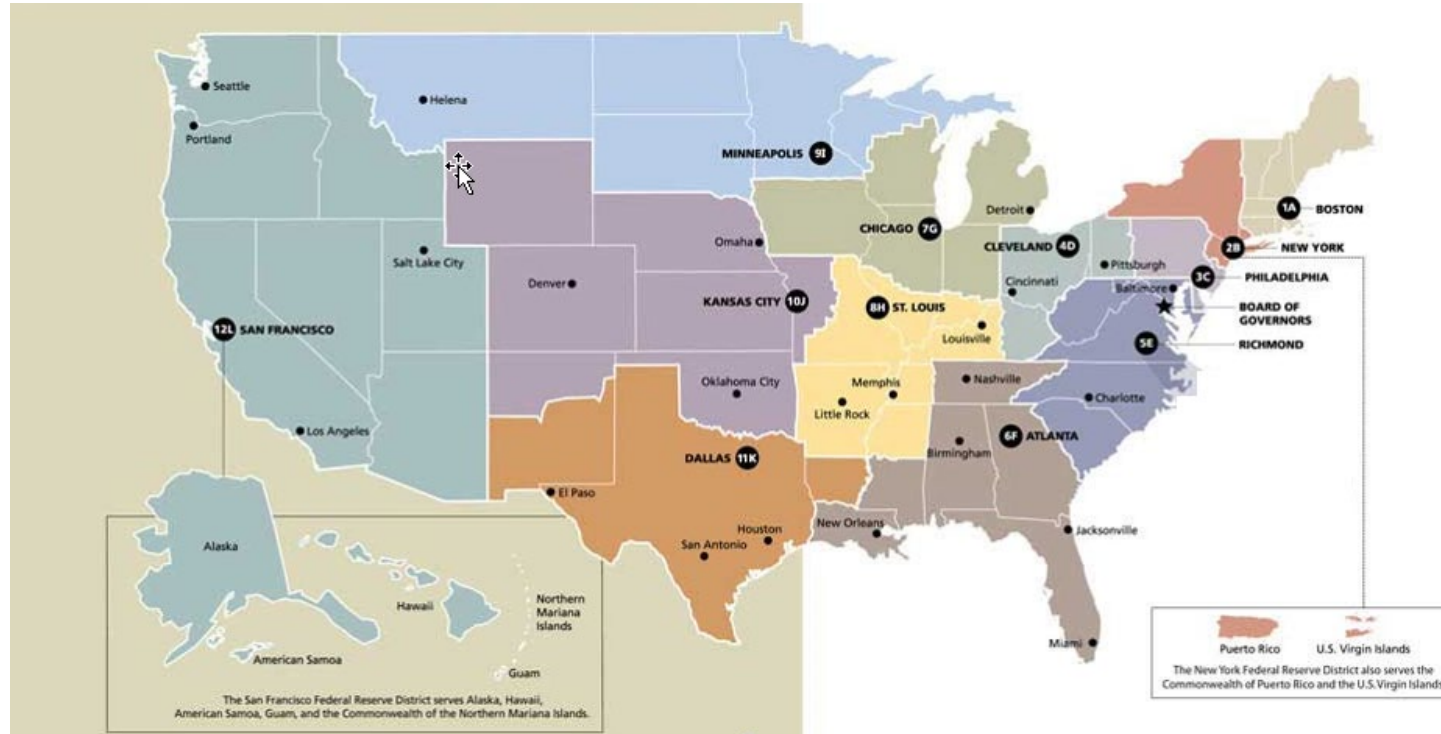




*Jeremy Hegle  
Community Development Advisor  
Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City*

*The views in this presentation do not necessarily represent  
the views of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City nor  
the Federal Reserve System*

# The Federal Reserve System



# The Work of the Kansas City Fed

The Kansas City Fed fosters the stability, integrity and efficiency of the nation's monetary, financial and payments systems to promote a stable, healthy economy.



# *disconnected*

*seven lessons on fixing the digital divide*



# Affordable Devices

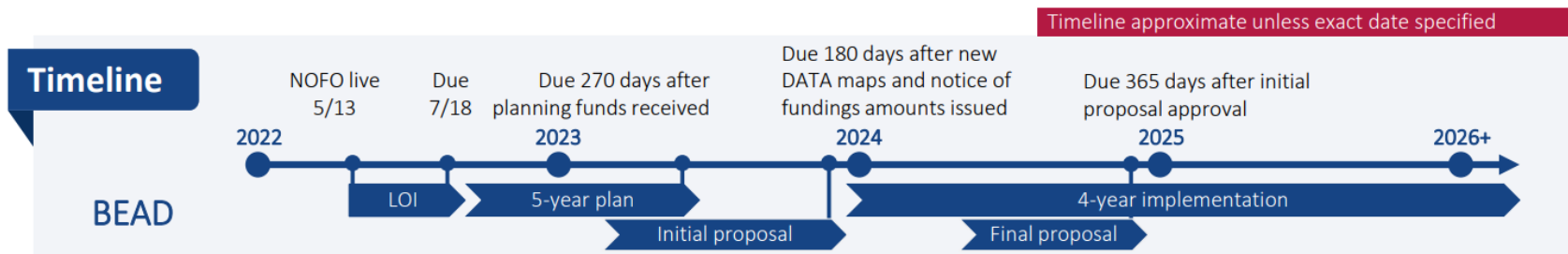


# INVESTING IN Rural Prosperity



## *Chapter 15: Bringing Broadband to Rural America: The Role for Philanthropy*

# Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment (BEAD) Program





# A few considerations



*This isn't a field of dreams.*

*Just because we build it, doesn't mean they'll come.*

# A Few Considerations

*“But our analysis suggests that less than half of this prior (broadband) funding has been distributed due to challenges with application approvals, map definitions and the like. So, we could see difficulties with the latest rounds of funding as well...*

*...Another challenge is that many communities don't have the capacity — either in terms of people or in terms of technology — to distribute funding.”*



Tom Barkin  
President,  
Federal Reserve Bank of  
Richmond

# The Urban Digital Divide

*“In the urban sphere, there is little need to build large infrastructure networks or undertake complex studies. Rather, the solutions need to be centered around education, digital literacy, and demonstrating the internet’s relevance and benefits.”*

# Digital Inclusion

The activities necessary to ensure that all individuals and communities, including the most disadvantaged, have access to and use of information and communication technologies.

At the most basic level, this can be thought of as a three-legged stool supported by:

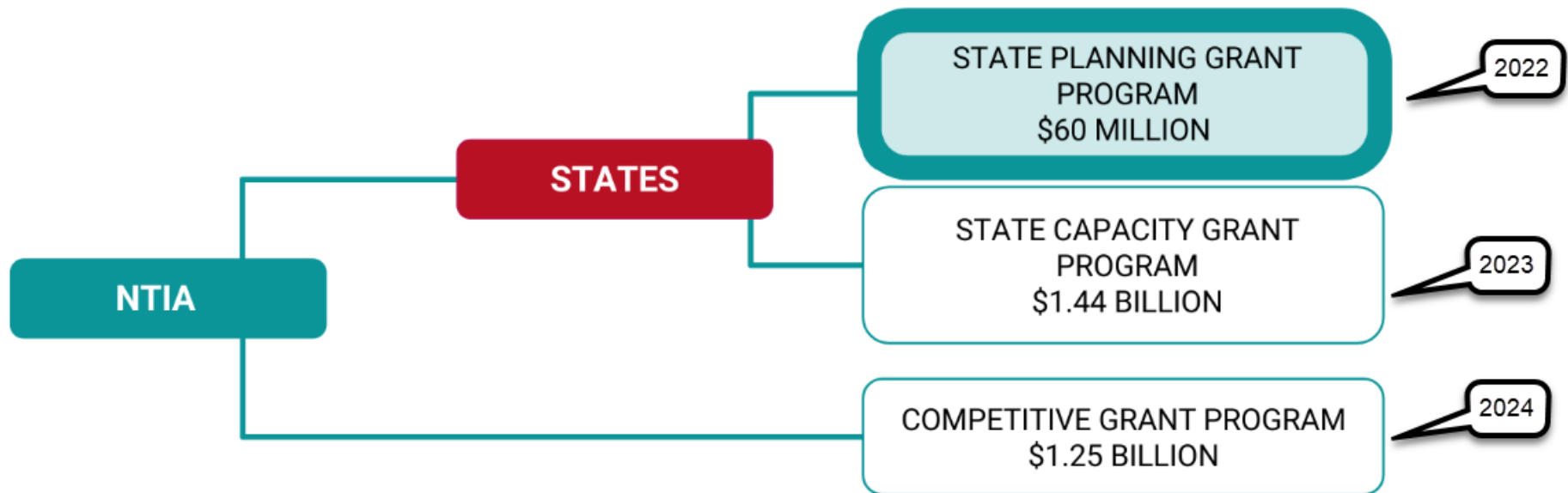
1. Affordable, robust broadband internet service
2. Internet-enabled devices that meet the needs of the user
3. Access to digital literacy training

Experts and practitioners increasingly are adding the following elements to the definition: high-quality technical support, and applications and online content designed to enable and encourage self-sufficiency, participation and collaboration.

# Federal Funding for Digital Inclusion

- 2021: Emergency Broadband Benefit
- 2022: Affordable Connectivity Program
- 2022: State Digital Equity Planning Grants

# Notice of Funding Opportunity



# DEP Grant Highlights

- Governors apply through July 12
- Tribal communities can also apply
- September 29: Earliest date funds distributed

# DEP Grant Highlights

DEP should be linked to BEAD programs

- Create overlap between state DEA and BEAD planning teams
- Establish formal and direct communication and collaboration pathways between DEA and BEAD planning teams



# Digital Equity Plans Must Include:

- A digital equity needs assessment
- An asset inventory of existing DI resources, programs, plans, and strategies
- A coordination and outreach strategy
- A description of how existing local digital equity plans will be incorporated

# Digital Equity Plans Must Include:

- A description of how the state will engage and partner with:
  - Workforce agencies
  - Community-based organizations and labor organizations
  - Higher education institutions
- A timeline for implementation of the plan
- Outline of coordination across DEA, BEAD, and other federal or private DE funding

# A Final (re)Consideration

*...Another challenge is that many communities don't have the capacity — either in terms of people or in terms of technology — to distribute funding.”*

*The Last Mile for Stimulus*

*April 16, 2021*



Tom Barkin  
President,  
Federal Reserve Bank of  
Richmond



Jeremy Hogle

[Jeremy.Hogle@KC.FRB.Org](mailto:Jeremy.Hogle@KC.FRB.Org)