

Alaska Broadband Office Broadband and Digital Empowerment Update



Thomas Lochner, Director

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Senate Finance
Committee
March 25, 2025

Alaska Broadband Office Mission

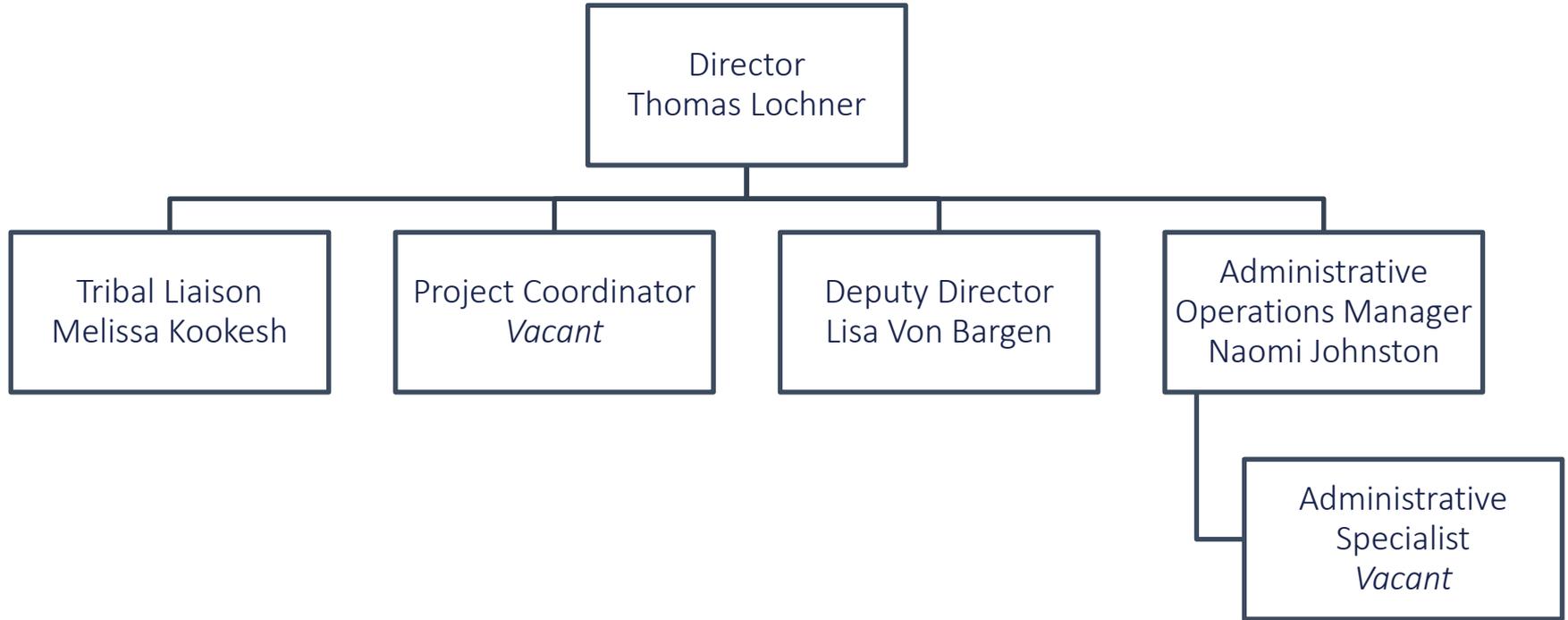
Facilitate access to the full benefits of broadband to all Alaskans with improved quality of service and lower costs.



Alaska Broadband Office

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Alaska Broadband Grant Program



Alaska Broadband Office

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State Partners

Division of Community and Regional Affairs

- Grant Administration
- Mapping Analytics and Data Resources

Department of Natural Resources

- Office of Project Management and Permitting
- Mining, Land, and Water

Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

- Project Coordination
- Permitting

Department of Environmental Conservation

- Permitting



Alaska Broadband Grant Program

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Funding Source: Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program from the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

\$42.45 BILLION FOR ALL STATES AND TERRITORIES

Alaska's Allocation: \$1,017,139,672.42



Alaska Broadband Grant Program

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Major Accomplishments

Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Broadband Grant Program

- The Alaska Broadband Office (ABO) submitted its Initial Proposal Volume II (the grant program structure) on December 27, 2023.
- The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) approved the State of Alaska's Initial Proposal Volume II on October 10, 2024.
- The ABO launched the Alaska Broadband Grant Program application period December 16, 2024, with an application close of April 14, 2025.

BEAD State Challenge Process

- The NTIA approved the State of Alaska's assessment of the Served, Unserved, and Underserved Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) on December 31, 2024.



Alaska Broadband Grant Program

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Current Alaska Broadband Grant Program Elements

Criterion (Pass/Fail)

1. Applicant License and Registration Information
2. Organizational and Managerial Capability
3. Financial Capability
4. Other Public Funding Disclosure
5. Technical Capability
6. Project Sustainability
7. Compliance with Applicable Federal, State, and Local Laws
8. Civil Rights and Nondiscrimination Law Compliance
9. Cybersecurity and Supply Chain Risk Management (C-SCRM)
10. Weather/Climate/Natural Hazard Threat Assessment and Mitigation Plan
11. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Requirements
12. Indian Tribe/Tribal Entity Proof of Support
13. Low-Cost Option
14. Middle Class Affordability
15. Application and Grant Agreement Certification

Scoring

PRIMARY CRITERIA SCORING -- 75 Points

- A. Minimal BEAD Program Outlay (30 Points)
 - A.1. Minimal BEAD Program Outlay Per Location
 - A.2. 100% Connections
 - A.3. Matching Funds
- B. Affordability (25 Points)
 - (A) Fiber projects, or
 - (B) Other (Non-Fiber Projects)
- C. Fair Labor Practices (20 Points)

SECONDARY CRITERIA SCORING -- 25 Points

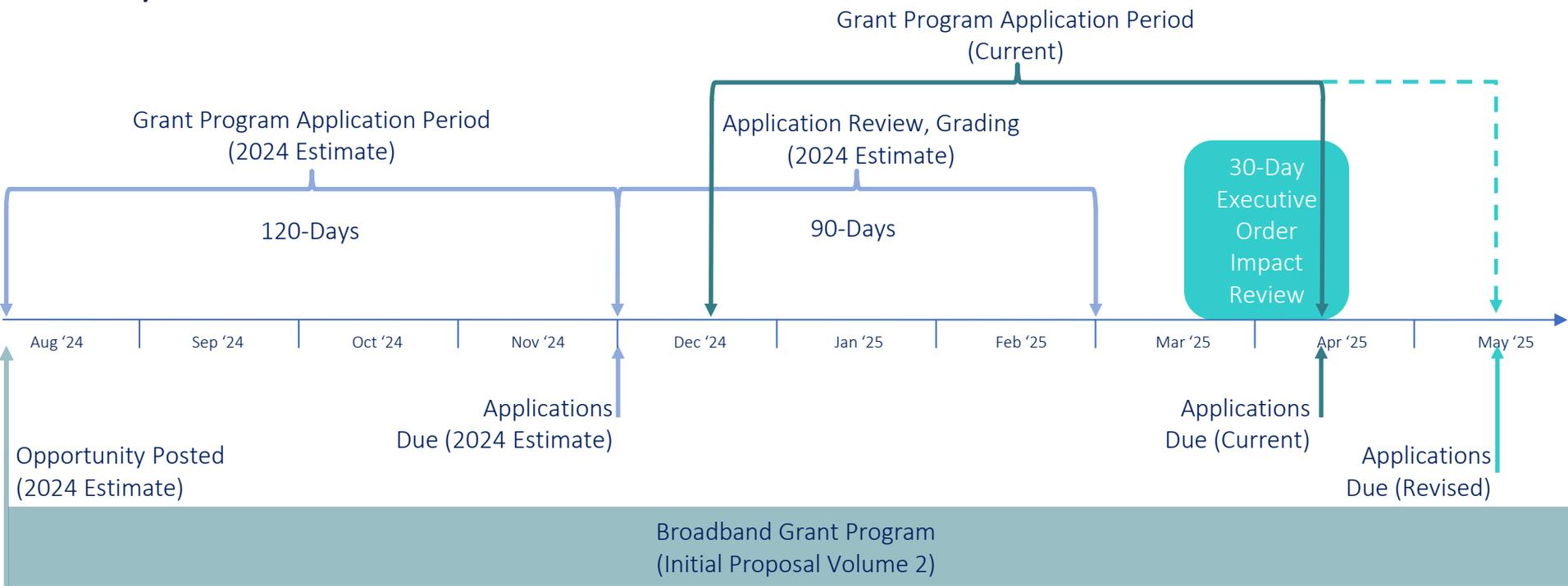
- D. Speed to Deployment
- E. Speed of Network and Other Technical Capabilities
- F. Non-Traditional Providers
- G. Use of State of Alaska / Department of Natural Resources / Office of Project Management and Permitting



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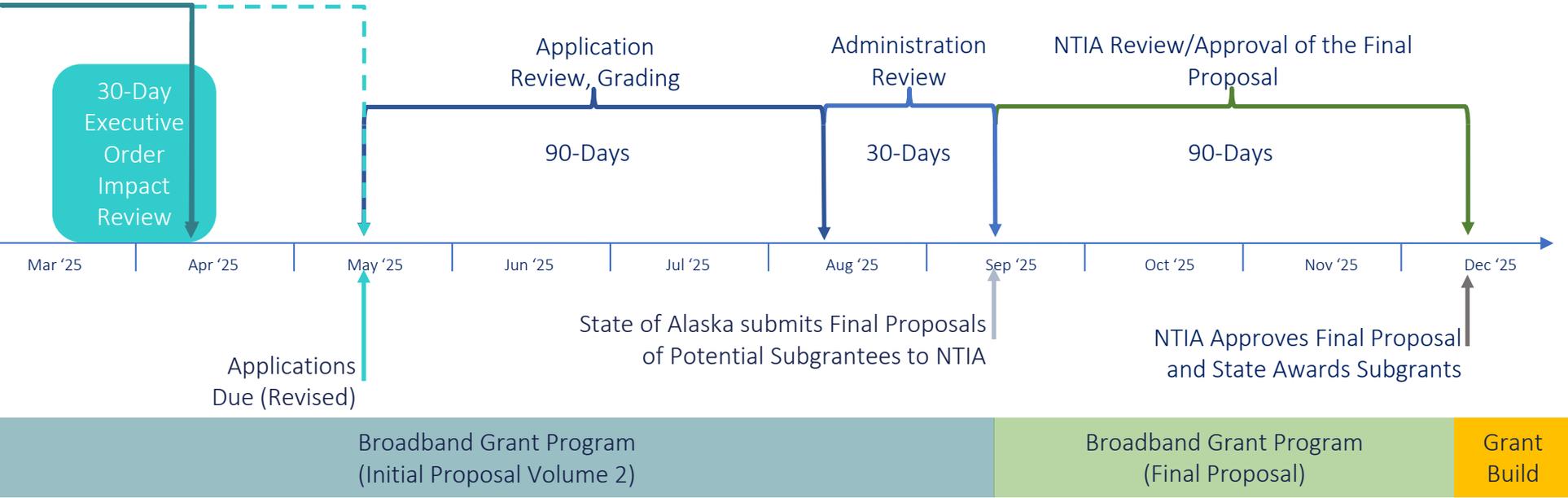
Broadband Grant Program Timeline – 2024 Estimate, 2025 Current, and 30-Day Review



Alaska Broadband Grant Program

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Broadband Grant Program Timeline – 2025 Projection



All timelines estimated based on the best available information and may change.



Alaska Broadband Grant Program

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Alaska Digital Empowerment Capacity Grant Program



Funding Source: Digital Equity Act from the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

\$2.75 BILLION FOR ALL STATES AND TERRITORIES

- Planning Grants: \$60 Million – Alaska Awarded: **\$567,800.00**
- Capacity Grants: \$1.44 Billion – Alaska's Award: **\$5,631,769.64**
- Competitive Grants: \$1.25 Billion – Alaska's Award: TBD



Alaska Digital Empowerment Capacity Grant Program

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Major Accomplishments

State of Alaska Digital Empowerment Capacity Grant Program

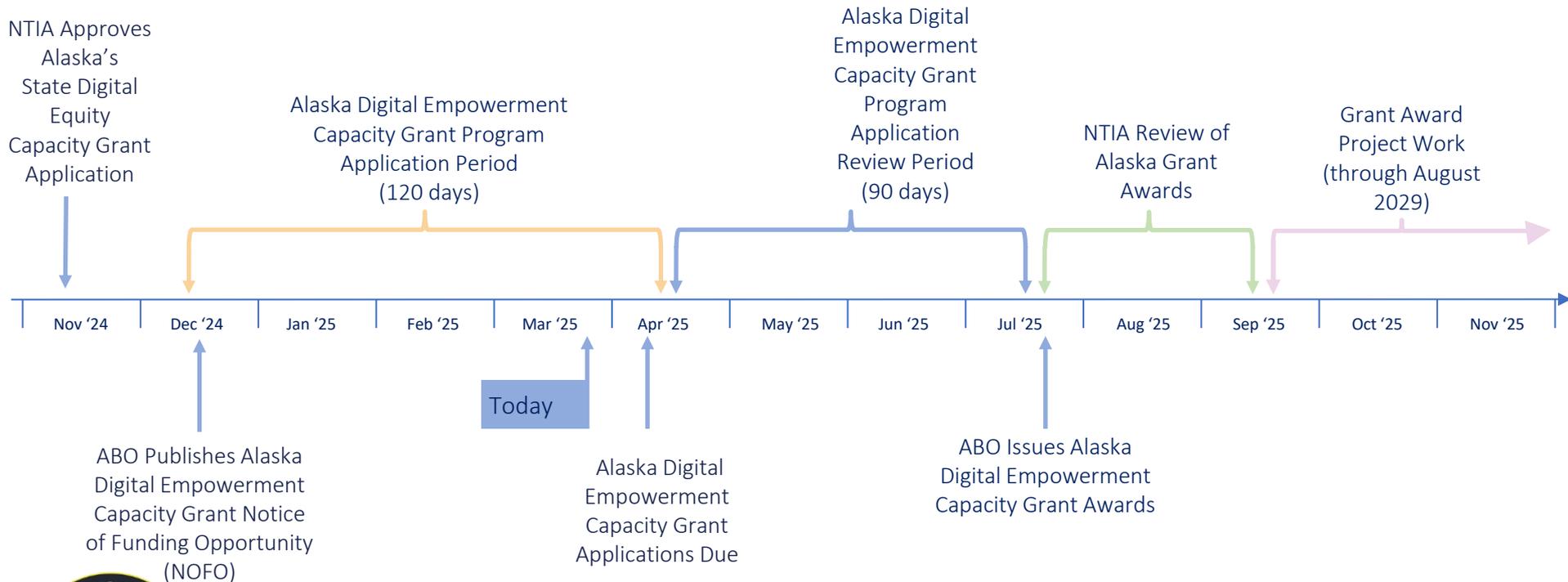
- The NTIA approved the State of Alaska's Digital Empowerment Capacity Grant Program on November 10, 2024
- The ABO launched the Alaska Digital Empowerment Capacity Program application period on December 13, 2024, with an application close of April 12, 2025
- Successful applicants will receive a portion of \$5.6 Million



Alaska Digital Empowerment Capacity Grant Program

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Alaska Digital Empowerment Capacity Grant Dates & Timeline



Alaska Digital Empowerment Capacity Grant Program

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Thank You

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