

Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority
Outreach & Education Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday April 12, 2023
Virtual - Microsoft Teams Meeting

Sub-Committee members in attendance:

- Lisa Davis
- Carrie Nace
- Sarah Hammond
- Bailey Thumm
- Kevin Sunday
- Molly de Aguiar
- Amy Sturges

Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) staff in attendance:

- Kalie Snyder
- Julia Brinjac
- Pam Frontino
- Greg Alliger

Guests in attendance:

- Nicole Ugarte, NTIA
- Brian Barno, Broadband Communications Association of PA
- Jim Mercante, Chester County Digital Equity Coalition
- Elana Frazier, Michael Baker International
- Leanne Doran, Michael Baker International
- Courtney Accurti, Michael Baker International
- Elizabeth Crow, Michael Baker International
- Kate Rivera, Technology Learning Collaborative
- Barrett Sheridan, PA Office of Consumer Advocate
- Sami Azzouz, Conexon
- Florence Mauchant, HT Capital Advisors LLC
- Phillip Jones, Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank
- Jackie McCarthy, JSI
- Richard Muth, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

I. Call to Order

Chair Sunday called the meeting to order at 3:01 PM, and asked Kalie Snyder to conduct roll call and housekeeping items.

II. Approval of April 12, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Chair Hammond asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented to the committee. Bailey Thumm motioned the approval. Molly de Aguiar seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

III. CPF-BIP Guidelines Approved

Chair Hammond asked Pam Frontino to provide an update on the approved guidelines and explained the 30-day posting requirement prior to opening the application window on May 10, 2023. She mentioned the press release that was provided on the program and that the Authority is working on an FAQ that will be released in the coming weeks. She also shared that there will be a video overview of the program as well as a walk-through of the Department's Electronic Single Application (ESA) system that will be used to submit applications. Pam also encouraged potential applicants to reach out with any questions or if they would like to review potential project ideas.

Molly de Aguiar asked what kind of applications can be expected through this program. Pam shared the list of eligible applicants, and specific types of projects the program focuses on, one being last mile extension and second large regional projects. She then offered the priorities based on technology type. Molly asked if there was a preference for supporting certain applicant types, for example local governments over private providers. Pam mentioned that scoring is still being finalized for the program, but that Treasury has provided guidance to prioritize local government and non-profits over private providers, but that we anticipate a large interest from the provider side.

Chair Sunday asked if the Authority will be approving applications on a rolling basis or if it will be all together. Pam confirmed that it would be all at once due to the challenge period that is built into the program guidelines and the adjudication process. Kalie provided comments on the timeline for the adjudication process and Pam closed that we anticipate awarding applications in the 4th quarter of 2023.

IV. CPF Facilities Program

Pam provided a high-level overview of the Community Facilities Projects program. This program will have a total fund of \$45 million and will be geared to improvements of Community Anchor Institutions (CAI) local government or community projects, improve/acquire/construct buildings that are open to the community. For example a local library that would make improvements to the facility to increase access to work, education, and telehealth services.

She also commented that we will be designing a stakeholder feedback form similar to the BIP program, to gain more input and thoughts which was helpful for the BIP program. The Authority anticipates launching this program in mid-late summer and shared that there will not be a challenge process for this program, which will shorten the review time.

Chair Hammond asked for questions regarding this program. There were none.

V. Mapping Update

Kyle Snyder provided an update on the Authority's mapping efforts. He commented on the challenges submitted and are working through the adjudication process with providers. We

submitted over 50,000 challenges and of those 17,250 have been upheld, which means they will be considered unserved and positively impact our BEAD allocations. We anticipate this process being complete in the next 2 months.

He also shared that we have access to validation services for address, which means we have GIS files of every address in the commonwealth and will compare to the postal service and then FCC data. This will help us identify incorrect and/or missing locations in the commonwealth.

He finally shared that we're working to build out a map to identify the unserved/underserved areas as well as CAIs across the state which will assist interested applicants in identifying project areas.

Chair Hammond asked for questions, there were none.

VI. New Business

Chair Sunday asked Kalie to provide an update on local government application feedback. Kalie shared that we are working with legal on the process to ensure a proper process. She mentioned that we anticipate having additional information to share in the coming weeks.

Kalie then shared details of the upcoming community engagement events to gather community residents, industry professionals, and subject matter experts to gather data on needs and deficiencies. She also shared that we would be looking to ask the committee to assist in crowd building and awareness for these events.

Kalie then shared that the write-up on the LearnACP program was shared with the committee last week and if anyone did not receive it to reach out.

Chair Sunday asked if there were other items for new business. There were none.

VII. Public Comment

Chair Sunday called for public comment. There were none.

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Sunday asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion made by Molly de Aguiar. Motion seconded by Bailey Thumm. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 3:29 PM