

**Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority**  
**Data & Mapping Sub-Committee Meeting**  
**December 13, 2023**  
**1:00 PM – 2:00 PM**  
Virtual Meeting  
Dial-In: +1 267-332-8737  
Phone Conference ID: 180 157 00# \*

**Guests in Attendance**

**Sub-committee members and voting designees in attendance:**

- Lisa Schaefer, CCAP, Chair
- Bill Kiger, Pa One Call, Vice Chair
- Julie Tritt Schell, PA E-Rate Coordinator
- Steve Schwerbel, Wireless Internet Service Providers Association
- Dr. Kyle Kopko, Center for Rural Pennsylvania

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

- Kyle Snyder
- Kalie Snyder
- Ted Ritsick
- Greg Alliger
- Jesse Suders

**Guests in Attendance**

- Harry Crissy
- Kevin Cassidy
- Tom Beresnajak
- Jennifer Algoe Keaton
- Jim Mercante
- Chuck Napier
- Rob Troxell

**I. Call to Order**

Vice-Chair Kiger asked Kyle Snyder to conduct roll call.

**II. Approval of September 13, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

Vice-Chair Kiger called for a motion to approve the September 13, 2023, minutes. Motion was made by Julie Tritt-Schell. Vice-Chair Kiger asked for a vote. Motion passed unanimously.

**III. CPF Update**

- a. BIP
- b. Multi-purpose Facilities Program

Kyle reported that CPF has gone through the challenge window adding that the rebuttal phase will close today. Challenges will be adjudicated, and award notifications are tentatively set for quarter one 2024. He reminded that 231 applications were received from 46 applicants with a total request of approximately \$1 billion dollars requested. Kyle asked for questions from committee

Bill Kiger asked if the list of providers available. Kyle said there is a table on the web application and placed link in the chat.

Julie Tritt-Schell asked for clarification on selection of awardees. Kyle informed that once rebuttal closes , rebuttals will be compared to challenges and then adjudicate those challenges. Applications will be reviewed with this updated scope, which will be followed by scoring.

Julie then asked if the PBDA was pleased with the saturation of applications. Kyle responded that there was a good mix of projects, larger vs. smaller providers and of applicants.

Vice-Chair Kiger asked if there were applications from municipalities. Kyle responded that municipalities did partner with ISPs and letters from municipalities were also received but Kyle will have to check on applications submitted by municipalities.

#### **Multi-Purpose Facilities**

Kyle explained that this is different in that it is a general construction grant . Kyle went on to explain the facilities and projects that would be eligible for these funds and gave example of a library needing repairs to make their space safe.

Kyle placed the guidelines in the chat and shared that the application for this grant will be open January 11<sup>th</sup>, through April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024. He added that it is a \$44 million fund and that the minimum/maximum range for projects is \$250K - \$2 million.

Julie asked if an announcement was made to the list serve regarding this program. Kalie Snyder said that the notification is going out today and dropped a note in the chat regarding these guidelines. Lisa Schaffer asked about the distro list/who will be receiving this notification. Julie asked for more specifics regarding eligible applicants and reach out to Pam for clarification. Kalie added that the PBDA is planning to hold a webinar.

#### **IV. BEAD Planning Update**

- a. Initial Proposal
- b. BEAD challenge

Kyle shared that Volume I of the Initial Proposal (IP), was submitted to the NTIA after board approval and it now being cured with NTIA. The Board also approved Volume II and that will be submitted to the NTIA before 12/27/23. The challenge process will tentatively begin in early Spring 2024. How the grant will be administered, criteria, project areas, workforce, affordability, etc.

BEAD challenge begins after approval of the IP, followed by subgrantee selection. PBDA will work applicants on defining project areas and when there is a list of applicants and who will be receiving awards. The Final Proposal is then created and submitted to the NTIA. The FP is due one year from approval of IP.

Steve Schwerbel asked if NTIA has asked PBDA to make any significant changes. Jesse Suders said there were a few items that the NTIA requested clarification but nothing that had large impact.

Steve then shared that WISPA released a state-by-state dashboard that addresses high cost per location threshold and how it can be used for cost savings. It is a public tool. Steve will drop that in the chat.

#### **V. Public Comment**

Kyle conducted public comment.

Jim Mercante from Chester County asked what the role is of a municipality in the subgrantee approval/ selection.

Kyle responded that ISPs are encouraged to work with local municipalities to strengthen the public outreach aspect and to show there's cohesion in the planning.

Jesse added that the PBDA is looking into situations where ISPs and municipalities are not engaged.

Bill Kiger asked Kyle if he's been able to get started on the One Call API (Application Programming Interface). Kyle said it has been reviewed but will revisit once IP and CPF is wrapped.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

Vice-Chair Kiger asked for approval to adjourn the meeting. The adjourned the meeting at 3:28pm.