



Questions to Consider Answering for Comments

1. Current Workforce State Inquiry

- How would you describe the status of broadband technology skills within the workforce?
 - Example comment to make
 - I believe that broadband technology skills in the workforce are lacking and need the investment of time and money for training. 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), community organizations, schools, and other organizations with ties to communities will be vital to communicate with underrepresented communities and ensure that there is a well-trained diverse workforce ready for the Broadband infrastructure being built.
- What workforce needs and challenges are most prominent regarding broadband technology skills?
 - Example comment to make
 - The lack of the number of people needed in our state who are qualified to fill the positions needed to build and maintain the infrastructure. Programs to train residents to apply for these positions.

2. Strategies for Skill Development & Recruitment

- In your opinion, what are the most impactful strategies or approaches for cultivating a proficient broadband workforce?
 - Example comment to make
 - The most impactful strategies to cultivate a proficient workforce would be through engagement with local nonprofits (501(c)(3) and 501 (c)(4)), and community organizations) to communicate with underrepresented communities about the need for them to be trained for these positions.
- What programs are needed to support the development of broadband-related skills?
 - Example comment to make
 - Programs that are needed to support broadband-related skills are the engagement with local nonprofits (501(c)(3) and 501 (c)(4)), and community organizations) to communicate with underrepresented



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communities about the need for them to be trained for these positions. In addition, apprenticeships and programs in community colleges are subsidized to attract a diverse workforce that represents the communities.

- **Statement to make in comment periods:** 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), community organizations, schools, and other organizations with ties to communities should be funded and considered to provide training (use of the internet, how to connect, and even to champion initiatives of getting people to train to join the workforce).
- How can we ensure that efforts for workforce development are inclusive and extend opportunities to underrepresented communities?
 - Example comment to make
 - By working with 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), community organizations, schools, and other organizations with ties to underrepresented communities you will be using the best practice to ensure that efforts for workforce development are inclusive and extend opportunities to underrepresented communities.

3. Identifying Barriers & Planning Next Steps

- What obstacles or difficulties do you foresee in implementing workforce development strategies for broadband expansion?
 - Example comment to make
 - The obstacles I foresee in implementing workforce development strategies for broadband expansion are if the state does not work with 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), community organizations, schools, and other organizations with ties to underrepresented communities. This is needed to make sure we are getting people trained and ready to fill the many positions needed for this much-needed building of the broadband infrastructure.
- What immediate actions or measures do you recommend taking?
 - Example comment to make
 - Some immediate actions I believe are needed for the State to take is contacting and or getting a list together of 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), community organizations, schools, and other organizations with ties to underrepresented communities. This is important because



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underrepresented communities trust these organizations and efforts to train a workforce will rely on these organizations with ties to the communities to ensure a diverse well-trained workforce.

4. Grid Impact

- Has the state considered how expanded Broadband will impact their energy grid and do they have plans to improve their grids?
 - Example comment to make
 - With the potential for thousands of new broadband users, that would connect many more devices to the networks and that will need to be charged, has the State considered the impact on the energy grid? How is the State taking measures to account for this?

5. Community Anchor Institutions (CAI's)

- **Statement to make in comment periods:** Improving broadband connectivity for Community Anchor Institutions needs to be a priority in underrepresented communities. What the State needs to understand is some of these communities cannot afford to have internet for their households. To make sure underrepresented populations do not fall further behind in the technology divide CAIs must be built up so these communities have a place to access the internet at acceptable speeds.
- Will state-funded projects for civic organizations to address shortcomings (i.e. teaching community members how to use devices to access broadband, etc.) in broadband accessibility be available?
 - Example comment to make
 - State-funded projects for civic organizations (501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), community organizations, schools, and other organizations with ties to underrepresented communities) to address shortcomings (i.e. teaching community members how to use devices to access broadband, etc.) in broadband accessibility. This is important to ensure underrepresented communities will have the knowledge to be successful in accessing the internet at home and shorten the gap in access.



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- Is the process for bidding for any leftover funds to help the community easy to apply for and as inclusive as possible (community organizations, representative applicant pool)?
 - Example comment to make
 - The process for bidding for any leftover funds to help the community needs to be easy to apply for and needs to be as inclusive as possible (community organizations, representative applicant pool). 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), community organizations, schools, and other organizations with ties to communities are essential to building trust in their communities and getting their communities excited about training opportunities.

6. Cyber Security

- Is there a plan in place for Cyber Risk Management?
 - Example comment to make
 - Considering the amount of potential new users to broadband networks, what measures is the State taking for Cyber Risk Management and teaching new users how to access the internet safely?

7. For other examples of relative topics to comment on during the Public Comment Period for the State Digital Equity and Inclusion Plan (DEI), and State BEAD Initial Proposal Volumes I & II, please look at the LULAC State BEAD Scorecard