

INTERNET FOR ALL

Final Proposal

Iowa Department of Management (DOM)



U.S. Department of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Environmental and Historic Preservation

DOM worked to ensure comprehensive compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. § 300101 et seq.) with respects to the administration of the BEAD program in several ways. DOM is committed to continuing such efforts moving forward to support NEPA and NHPA compliance for its subgrantees. DOM assigned internal BEAD staff with education and experience in the environmental field to lead this process.

DOM took several steps to ensure NEPA and NHPA compliance internally and for its subgrantees. This included posting technical guidance on applicable NEPA/NHPA topics during BEAD application aid prospective subgrantee's understanding of the requirements and streamline the EHP process. DOM encouraged prospective subgrantees to design their projects and other eligible activities to minimize the potential for adverse impacts on the environment.

Additionally, DOM fulfilled responsibilities as a Joint Lead Agency in relation to NEPA/NHPA requirements by requiring prospective subgrantees whose projects or activities contained construction and/or ground disturbing activities to submit all required environmental documentation to DOM for submission with the Final Proposal. DOM analyzed the potential environmental impacts of awardee projects and other eligible activities that sought to utilize BEAD funding. Further, projects that failed to comply with EHP regulations were not considered to receive BEAD funding.

DOM will employ a structured methodology to evaluate subgrantee projects and activities for compliance with the NEPA guidance. Upon approval of Iowa's Final Proposal, DOM will use the Environmental and Statewide Assessment Project Tracking Tool (ESAPTT), which serves as the central system for creating and managing NEPA project records. Each subgrantee project entered into ESAPTT will undergo a preliminary review to determine the applicability of categorical exclusions (CEs) consistent with federal regulations.

DOM staff will assess and document the presence or absence of any extraordinary circumstances that may require further environmental review. This evaluation ensures that no significant environmental impacts are overlooked. All findings, including documentation of CE applicability or the need for additional analysis, will be recorded within the ESAPTT to maintain transparency and compliance.

Upon completion of this evaluation, draft NEPA documentation and relevant project information will be compiled and transmitted electronically via the ESAPTT to the NTIA for review and concurrence. This integrated workflow facilitates timely, accurate, and consistent environmental review, ensuring that subgrantee projects funded under the

BEAD program meet federal environmental standards while advancing broadband deployment across Iowa.