

Outreach & Education Sub-Committee
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**Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority
Outreach & Education Sub-Committee Meeting
Thursday June 27, 2024
2:30 PM – 3:30 PM**

Virtual Meeting
Dial-In: +1 267-332-8737
Phone Conference ID: 548 562 243#

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of April 24, 2024, Meeting Minutes
- III. Committee Member Update
- IV. New PBDA Resources
 - a. One-page Overviews
 - b. Low-Cost Service Plan Option Survey
- V. Capital Projects Fund Programs Update
 - a. Broadband Infrastructure Program
 - b. Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program
 - c. Digital Connectivity Technology Program
- VI. BEAD Challenge Process Update
- VII. Digital Equity Capacity Grant Update
- VIII. New Business
- IX. Public Comment
- X. Adjournment

**We are recording this meeting and your participation is your consent to being recorded.*

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Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority
Outreach & Education Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes
April 24, 2024
Virtual - Microsoft Teams Meeting

Sub-Committee members in attendance

- Sarah Hammond, Co-Chair
- Joe Gerdes
- Carrie Nace
- Amy Sturges
- Mark Critz
- Bailey Fisher

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

- Kalie Snyder, PBDA Outreach and Education Manager
- Kyle Snyder, PBDA Broadband Planning Specialist
- Greg Alliger, Broadband Program Manager
- Mary Markle, PBDA Executive Assistant

Guests in attendance

- Macie Delahoy, McKean County
- Kimberly Walker, Lackawanna County
- Carolyn Rumbarger, Sand Cherry Associates
- Florence Mauchant, NeverTechLate
- Monique Hales, Chester Upland School District
- Roy Hoover

I. Call to order

Meeting was called to order at 3:01pm. Kalie Snyder conducted roll call and housekeeping items.

II. Approval of the February 22, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Chair Hammond asked for comments or questions regarding the February 22, 2024, minutes and hearing none called for a motion to approve the minutes as presented to the committee. Motion was made by Joe Gerdes and seconded by Amy Sturges. Motion passed.

III. Capital Projects Fund (CPF) Programs Update

a. Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP)

Chair Hammond invited Greg Alliger to give BIP update. Greg stated that the PBDA Board of directors approved awardees on April 18th, with \$204 million going to fund 54 projects that will cover areas in 42 counties. The program now moves into the contract phase before projects will begin.

Kalie added that more details are on the PBDA program page.

Mark Critz stated that there is also \$202 million of private investments attached to these approved projects.

b. Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program

Kalie Snyder provided an update on the Multi-Purpose Community Facilities program application window closed on April 20th, with 599 apps received and \$860 million requested. Kalie reminded that \$45 million of funding is available. She noted that application review will begin shortly.

Kalie replied to Mark Critz's question stating that the minimum award is \$250K and \$2 million for the maximum.

c. Digital Connectivity Technology Program

Kalie went on to update on the Digital Connectivity Technology Program, which will result in the deployment of devices (laptops) to eligible entities across the Commonwealth. Guidelines were approved by the Board on April 18th and will be on the website shortly. As was done with previous programs, a webinar and office hours will be offered. She mentioned that a high level of interest is anticipated.

In response to Mark Critz, Kalie added that the \$20 million will be deployed in devices, not dollars with awardees being granted 20 to 200 laptops.

IV. BEAD Challenge Process

Kyle Snyder began by noting that a challenge process is required by each state. He explained that its purpose is to determine which BSLs, and CAIs are eligible for BEAD funding. He went on to explain permissible challengers, allowable challenges and how to access the BEAD challenge portal. He noted that challenges can be submitted from April 24th-May 23rd. Mark Critz asked if there will be internal work to improve the map or will challenges be made solely on challenges? Kyle replied that locations are not removed and went on to explain how challenges are utilized.

V. New Business

Chair Hammond announced that this is her last meeting as she will be leaving the PA AFL-CIO. She thanked Kalie and the committee. Mark Critz and Kalie thanked Sarah for her leadership.

Mark Critz suggested the addition to the website of a visual, user-friendly representation of CPF and BIP.

Kalie responded that she is drafting, for the website, one-pagers for these programs and others that will address what Mark mentioned.

Mark then mentioned that the awarding of the CPF grants was not publicized enough, especially in the publications directed to the rural communities. Kalie said she will follow up with Communications.

Kalie also mentioned that if the committee is hearing from entities that were not awarded, please let them know that communication and debriefs are upcoming.

Amy asked if there has been any response to the Broadband Ready Communities. Kalie offered to reach out to the infrastructure team for more on that.

VI. Public Comment

At Chair Hammond's request, Kalie conducted public comment. There was none.

VII. Adjournment

Chair Hammond asked for a motion to adjourn. Amy Sturges motioned; Bailey Fisher seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:41 PM.