



WEST VIRGINIA

Economic Development

WestVirginia.gov

West Virginia's Broadband Investment Plan

**Investing West Virginia's Funding under the American Rescue Plan Act to Expand and
Improve Broadband Services**

September 8, 2021

This Webinar Will Be Recorded

DISCLAIMERS

- Programs are proposed and parameters are subject to change prior to final publication
- Some programs propose to use funding allocated to the State of West Virginia under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Program parameters are subject to ARPA, U.S. Treasury Rules, and other federal and state requirements
- Visit the U.S. [Treasury's website](#) for additional information.

PROPOSED ARPA BROADBAND PROGRAMS

FOUR PROPOSED PROGRAMS

1. Line Extension Advancement and Development (LEAD)

- Expansions of existing fiber and cable networks

2. Major Broadband Project Strategies (MBPS)

- New networks or major expansions of existing networks

3. GigReady Incentive

- A state incentive for ISP and local governments and organizations to pool some of their ARPA allocations or other local funding

4. Wireless Internet Networks (WIN)

- Expansions or upgrades of existing fixed wireless networks

WV ARPA Broadband Investment Plan

<https://broadband.wv.gov/>



[ABOUT](#) [NEWS CENTER](#)



[TAKE THE SPEED TEST →](#)

[BROWSE THE MAPS →](#)

WEST VIRGINIA BROADBAND INVESTMENT PLAN

Grant Program Information and Application Links

Link list will be updated as information is released

WVDED, Broadband Enhancement Council and State Broadband Office issue Request for Comment Regarding Unserved Areas, comment period open until Sept. 7.

August 13, 2021

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — The West Virginia Department of Economic Development

Program Resources

[Preliminary Target Area Mapping Tool](#)

Request for Comment on Address Data

[Comment Form \(Own Network\)](#)

[Comment Form \(Other Network\)](#)

[Upload Comment Form Here](#)

[FAQ](#)

Preliminary Target Area Data

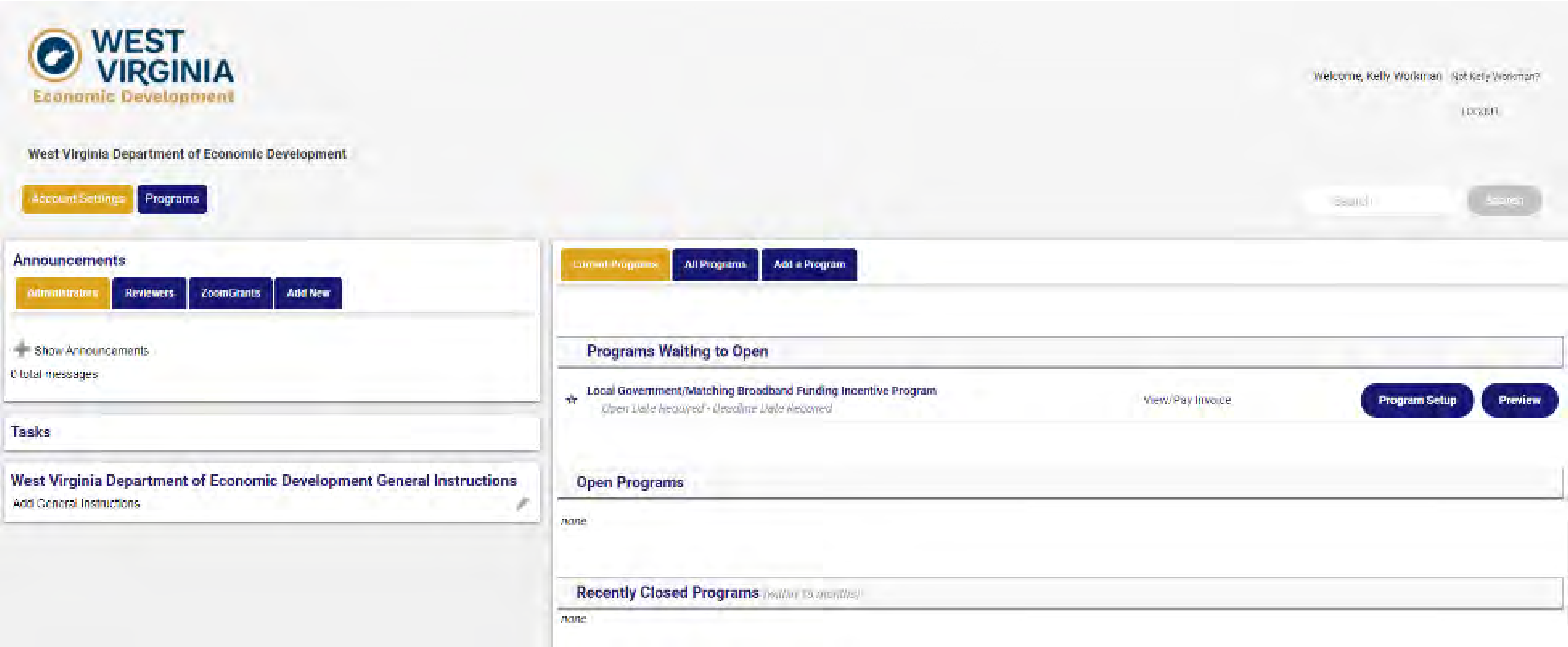
[Address CSV](#)



WEST VIRGINIA
Economic Development

WV ARPA Broadband Investment Plan – Grants Portal

<https://broadband.wv.gov/>



Performance dashboard, providing the ability to establish custom applications and content, reports and queries, financial management, project administration, monitoring, auditing and closeout functions.

KEY DOCUMENTS TO REVIEW AND UNDERSTAND

DOCUMENTS WILL BE PUBLISHED AT OR SHORTLY AFTER PROGRAM LAUNCH

1. Program Procedures
2. Program Rules
3. Guide to Reporting and Compliance Obligations for West Virginia ARPA Broadband Investment Plan Recipients
4. Target Area Maps
5. Application questions and required documents template in ZoomGrants portal

Applicants should also read and understand U.S. Treasury Rules and Guides for ARPA Funding.

PROPOSED FUNDING LEVELS

FUNDING LEVELS SUBJECT TO CHANGE DEPENDING ON APPROPRIATIONS & TREASURY RULES

LEAD	MBPS	GigReady	WIN
• \$25 million	• \$40 million	• \$30 million	• \$25 million

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

PROJECTS MUST BE ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE FOR FUNDING

- Applicants must be an eligible applicant to the program
- Projects must extend last-mile service to unserved addresses in Target Areas
- Projects must provide required speeds and be technically feasible
- Applicants must have a credible plan to complete the project within the required timeline
- Applicants must provide the minimum required match
- Proposed costs must be reasonable and proportional to the difficulty of the project

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

ELIGIBILITY VARIES BY PROGRAM

LEAD

- ISPs operating an existing fiber or cable network

MBPS

- ISPs
- Local governments and affiliated organizations

GigReady

- County and municipal governments
- Affiliated organizations (EDCs, RPDCs, etc.)
- Private partnership strongly encouraged

WIN

- ISPs operating existing wireless network

SPEED REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM AND PREFERRED

LEAD

- At least 100/20 Mbps, scalable to 100/100 Mbps
- 1000/500 Mbps preferred

MBPS

- At least 100/20 Mbps, scalable to 100/100 Mbps
- 1000/500 Mbps preferred

GigReady

- At least 100/20 Mbps, scalable to 100/100 Mbps
- 1000/500 Mbps preferred

WIN

- At least 25/3 Mbps
- 100/20 Mbps preferred

REQUIRED COMPLETION TIMELINE

REQUIRED COMPLETION TIMELINE FROM AWARD OF GRANT

LEAD	MBPS	GigReady	WIN
•12 Months	•24 months	•24 months	•12 months

6-month extensions permitted for delays not caused by the applicant

MINIMIUM MATCH REQUIREMENTS

MATCH REQUIREMENT BY PROGRAM

LEAD

- At least \$500 per passed premise

MBPS

- At least \$500 per passed/covered premise

GigReady

- At least 25% of project cost

WIN

- At least \$400 per covered premise

ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

GIGREADY PROGRAM

- Projects must have a strong governance and management structure
- Projects must identify key private partners and vendors

MBPS PROGRAM

- Applicants which are not local governments must have letters of support from municipalities or counties
- Applicants which are local governments or affiliated organizations must:
 - have a strong governance and management structure
 - identify key private partners and vendors

GRANT-ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES

ELIGIBLE PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND COSTS INCLUDE:

- One-time capital expenditures made after the date of the grant award announcement
- Facilities necessary to deliver last-mile broadband service to unserved addresses
- Grant funds provided on a reimbursement basis
- Match must pay for grant-eligible expenses

EVALUATION CRITERIA

SCORING CRITERIA FOR ALL PROGRAMS

- Technical/Operational
 - Project Readiness
 - Speed of Proposed Services
- Financial
 - Cost-Efficiency
 - Matching Funds
- Broadband Development Impact
 - Affordability
 - Community Impact

Priority will go to those projects that score well in all three categories

EVALUATION CRITERIA

ADDITIONAL SCORING CRITERIA FOR GIGREADY AND MBPS PROGRAMS

- Technical/Operational
 - Operational Readiness
- Financial
 - Financial Resiliency
- Broadband Development Impact
 - Community Support (MBPS Program)

ESTIMATED TIMEFRAME

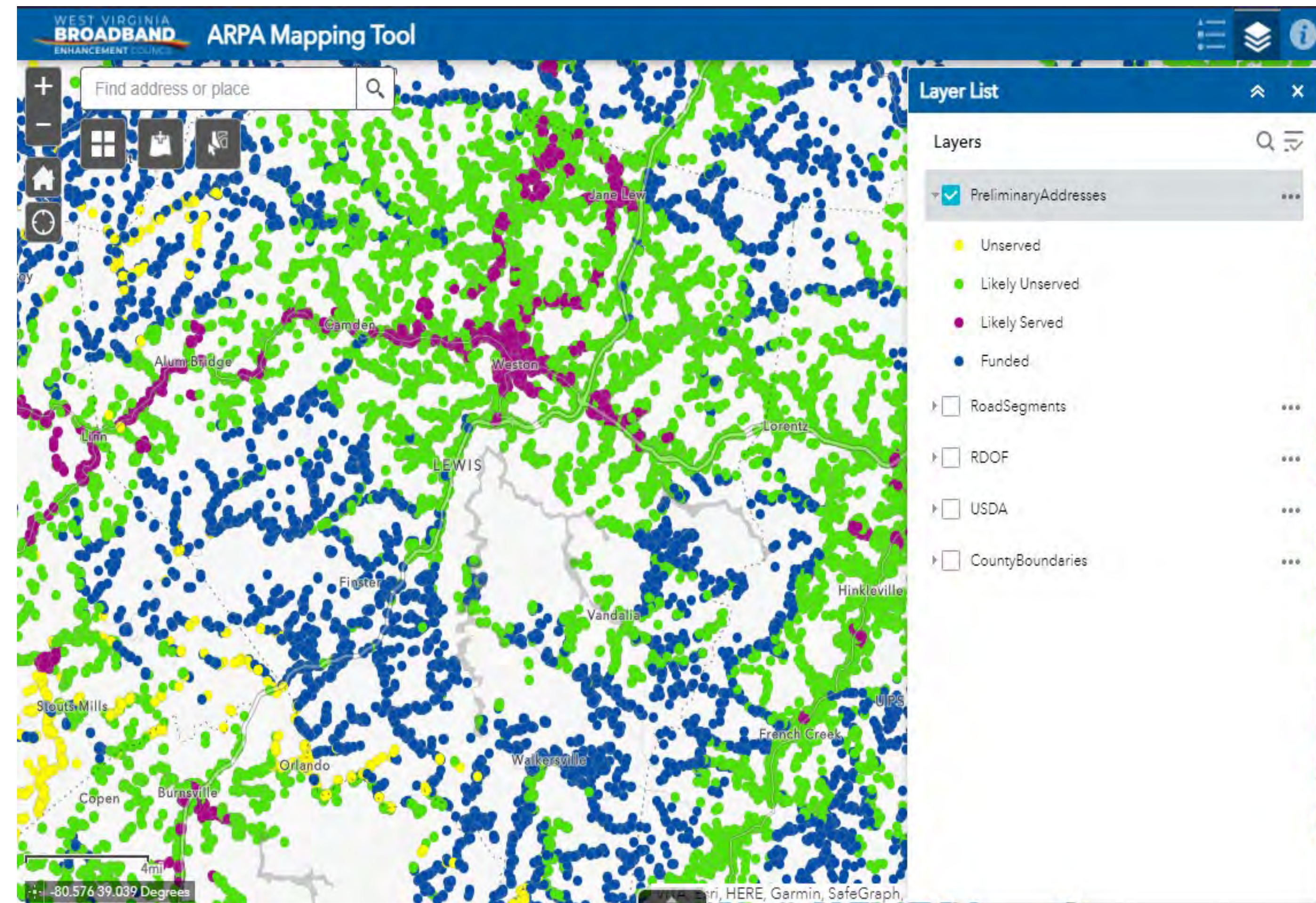
PROGRAM ROLL-OUT

- Program Procedures and Rules published early fall 2021
- Grant Application Portal opens shortly afterward
- LEAD Program accepts applications in multiple rounds through the end of January 2022
 - Funding decisions in late 2021 through early 2022
- GigReady accepts applications on a rolling basis through the end of January 2022
 - Funding decisions in multiple rounds starting in early 2022 through fall 2022
- MBPS accepts applications in one round due by the end of January 2022
 - Funding decisions early 2022
- WIN Programs accept applications in multiple rounds through the end of January 2022
 - Funding decisions in late 2021 through early 2022

Timeframes may change due to sources of funds and timing of funds availability.

WV ARPA Broadband Investment Plan – Preliminary Target Areas and Comment Process

- The Programs for the Broadband Investment Plan define projects and eligibility for funding at the address level
- Based on statewide address data developed by the West Virginia Statewide Addressing and Mapping System
- Four classifications of eligibility at the address level: “Unserved,” “Likely Unserved,” “Likely Served,” and “Funded.”



PRELIMINARY TARGET AREAS

CLASSIFICATIONS

- **Unserved** – Addresses that do not have current access to internet service of 25/3 Mbps and not in an area with existing state, federal, locally funding. This classification was determined for any address within an unserved census block with speeds less than 25/3 Mbps reported by the latest release of the FCC Form 477 (not counting satellite)
- **Likely Unserved** – Potentially unserved addresses are located within census blocks that are considered served by FCC Form 477. Due to the limitations of FCC Form 477 reporting, these addresses have been classified as “Likely Unserved.” This classification is inferred from patterns of unserved adjacent census blocks and technology type reported
- **Likely Served**– Addresses that located within census blocks that are considered served by FCC Form 477 due to fiber or cable where the pattern of service strongly suggests that they are likely served
- **Funded**– Addresses located in areas that will receive service from state, federal, or local funding. Many funded addresses may be unserved today, but already have a funded project

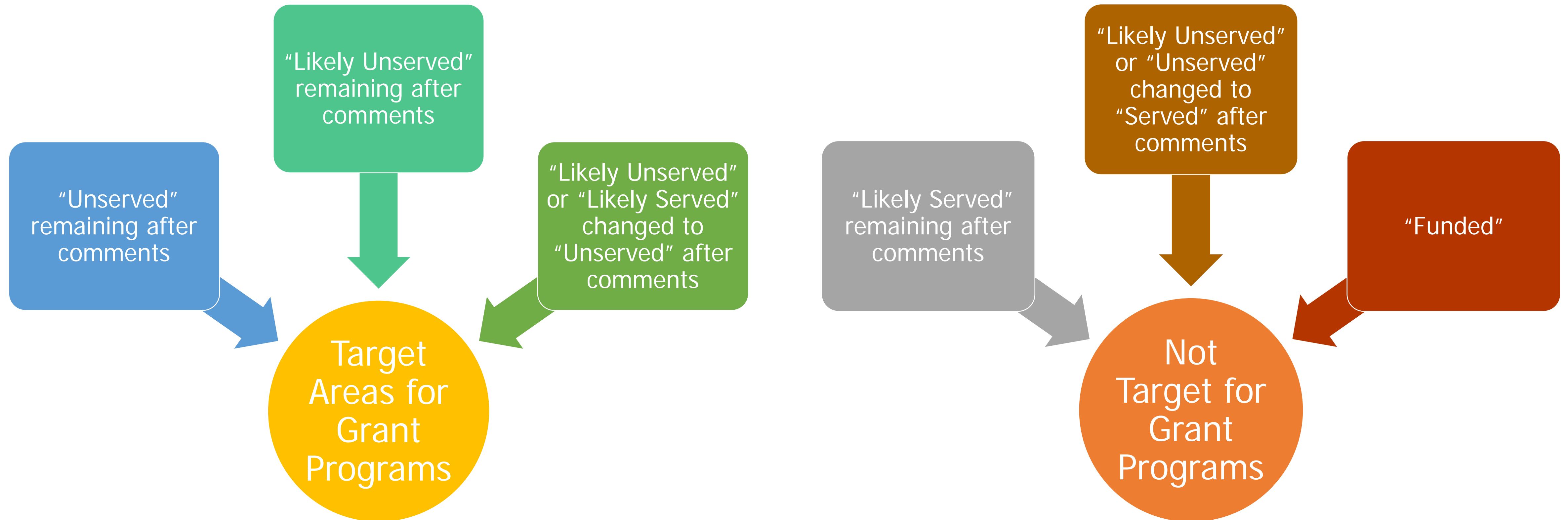
TARGET AREAS COMMENT PERIOD

REQUEST FOR COMMENT

- The Request for Comment Period is part of the address eligibility determination process
- The Request for Comment period is intended to receive information from ISPs and local organizations to identify broadband availability more accurately at the address level
- To prevent overbuilds, the Request for Comment will help improve the accuracy of broadband availability maps and determine eligibility for grant funding
- The Request for Comment Period closed September 7, 2021

DEFINING ELIGIBLE AREAS FOR GRANT PROGRAMS

CLASSIFICATION OF ADDRESSES FOR GRANT PROGRAM BASED ON PRELIMINARY MAPS AND COMMENTS



GIGREADY PROGRAM

Applications come from one or more local or county governments, or affiliated organizations (including regional efforts)

Projects may be fully planned at the time of application, or may need substantial planning prior to a decision on implementation funding

The Program will offer technical assistance to applicants who need it to develop a full project proposal

- Assistance provided in an accelerated process
- Applicant must form an empowered planning committee
- Extent of technical assistance subject to number of applications, timeline, and project viability

Applicants must be willing to pledge funds to a project, in addition to state-granted funds

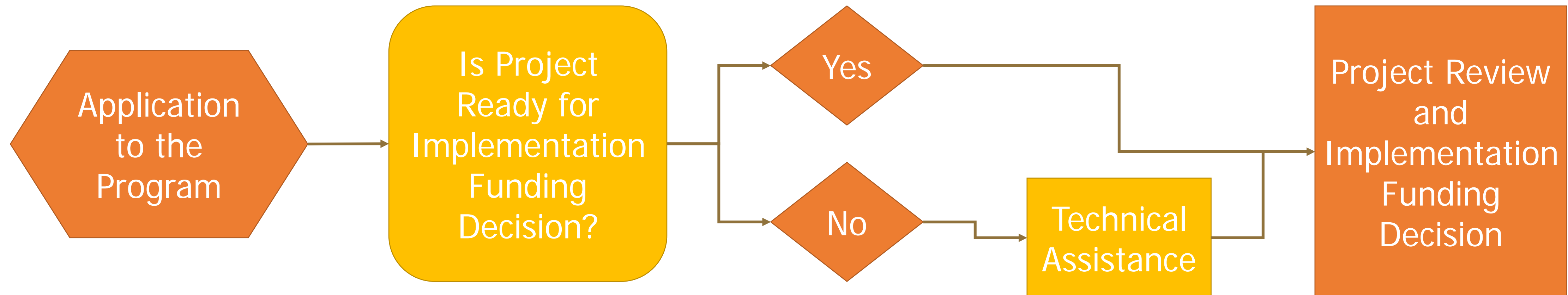
- Minimum of 25% of project cost
- Pledge is non-binding until proposed project cost is defined

Smart and Local

A program that helps Counties and Cities effectively use their ARPA funding to help solve broadband problems in their communities

GIGREADY PROGRAM

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND THE PATH TO IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING



GIGREADY PROGRAM

TECHNICAL SUPPORT ACTIVITIES—WHEN NEEDED

- Identify targeted unserved areas
- Create high-level designs and cost estimates for potential projects
- Prepare business-case analyses
- Solicit, select, and structure agreements with private partners / vendors
- Identify and apply for additional federal funding
- Seek additional match from private partners
- Plan for efficient utilization of all funding streams for broadband expansion

GIGREADY PROGRAM

TECHNICAL SUPPORT IS NOT

- A planning grant
- A substitute for an applicant retaining its own qualified technical expertise
- Detailed network engineering and design
- Project management or construction management
- An applicant's own financial oversight and fiscal management
- An applicant's own oversight of legal and reporting obligations

POST-AWARD REPORTING AND MONITORING

OVERSIGHT OF PROJECTS AFTER AWARD WILL BE AS IMPORTANT AS SELECTION OF PROJECTS

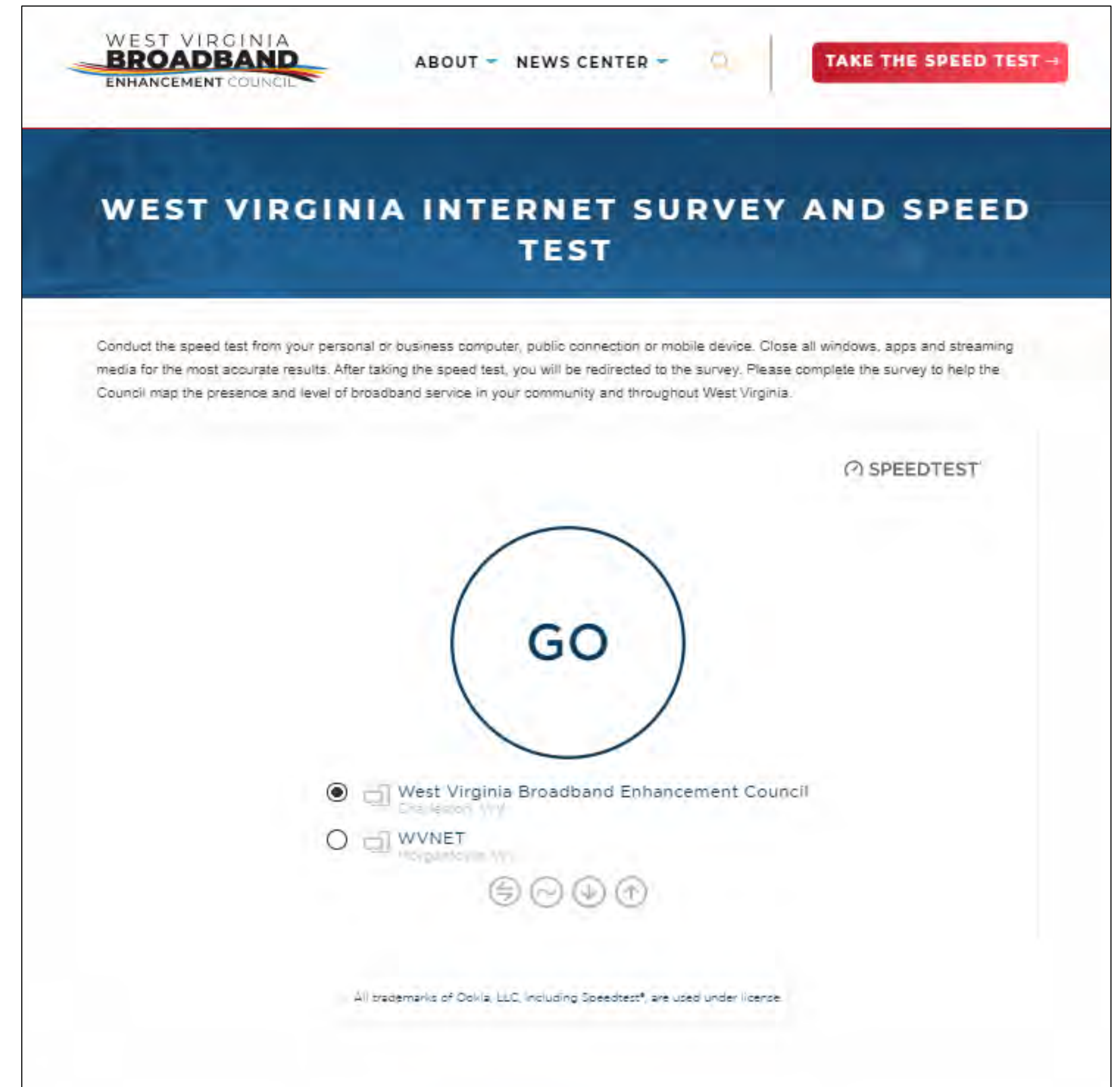
- Submission of network designs and as-builts
- Review of expenses and requests for reimbursement
- Progress reporting to meet state and federal obligations
- Field audits to verify constructed plant completeness and quality
- Participation in state broadband mapping

Ensure funds are spent to connect West Virginians!



Internet Speed Test and Survey

Please inform your communities about the West Virginia Internet Speed Test and Survey located at broadband.wv.gov



An aerial photograph of the Idaho State Capitol building, featuring a prominent blue and gold dome. The building is situated on a hill overlooking a river valley. The scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of a sunset or sunrise, with long shadows and a hazy sky. The text "Q&A" is overlaid in the center in a white, sans-serif font.

Q&A



West Virginia Development Office
State Capitol Complex
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Building 3, Suite 600
Charleston, WV 25305

(304) 558-2234

westvirginia.gov