



# Kansas Office of Broadband Development Opportunities & Asks

# Mission

The Kansas Office of Broadband Development (KOBD) was established in 2020 to help ensure all Kansans have the opportunity to live, work, learn, and compete in a global economy by improving universal access to quality, affordable, and reliable broadband.

# Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

- BEAD - Broadband Equity Access and Deployment
  - Planning Grant
  - Provides \$5M to states to build capacity, conduct research and data collection, training, and other needs
  - Funds expected early 2023
- Competitive Grants Released- Fall 2023
  - Minimum of \$100 Million per state
  - Contingent upon mapping

# Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

- DEA – Digital Equity Act Programs
  - State Digital Equity Planning: (\$60M) for states and territories to develop digital equity plans
    - *Approved funding for Kansas is \$692,000*
  - State Digital Equity Capacity: (\$1.44B) annual formula grant program for states and territories to implement digital equity projects and support local implementation plans
  - Digital Equity Competitive: (\$1.25B) annual competitive grant program to implement digital equity projects

# Who's Administering? - 4 agencies

- National Telecommunications & Information Administration (NTIA)
  - BEAD
  - Digital Equity
  - Tribal
- United State Department of Agriculture (USDA)
  - Reconnect
- Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
  - Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)
- Treasury Department
  - Capitol Projects Fund (ARPA)

# Meaningful Adoption and Use of High-Speed Internet Service

The Digital Equity Act focuses on addressing the needs of "covered populations" as defined by the statute

## Covered Populations

*Identity groups and communities disproportionately impacted by digital inequity*



Low-income households



People with disabilities



Aging populations



People with language barriers



Incarcerated individuals



Racial and ethnic minorities



Veterans



Rural inhabitants

# Language

- Digital Equity
  - NDIA: The condition in which all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in our society, democracy, and economy

## Digital Inclusion

- Includes affordable connectivity, devices, and digital skill literacy
- The activities necessary to ensure that all, including most disadvantaged, have access to robust broadband connections, internet-enabled devices that meet their needs; and the skills to explore, create and succeed in the digital world

# Language

- Digital Adoption
  - Individuals and groups who have access to broadband and choose to subscribe to broadband

## Digital Skills (Literacy)

- An individual's ability to find, evaluate, and clearly communicate information through typing and other media on various digital platforms



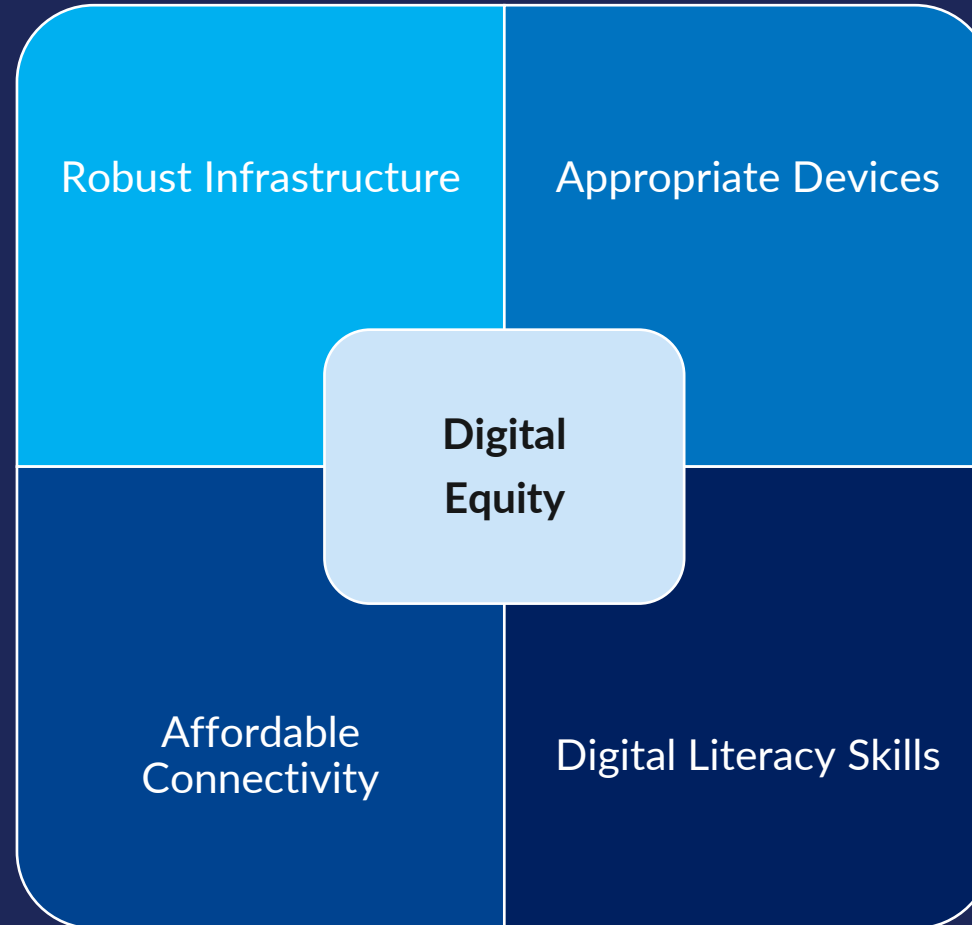
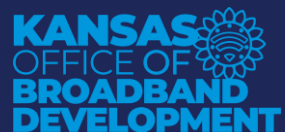
# DE Terms + Funding Opportunities

## Funding Opportunities - Infrastructure

- Coronavirus Capital Project Fund (CPF) – Broadband Infrastructure
- Broadband Access Equity and Deployment (BEAD)
- Broadband Acceleration Grant

## Funding Opportunities – Affordable Connectivity

- Affordable Connectivity Program
- Digital Connectivity Technology
- Digital Equity Competitive Grant
- Digital Equity Planning Grant
- Digital Equity Capacity Grant



## Funding Opportunities - Devices

- Affordable Connectivity Program
- Digital Connectivity Technology
- Digital Equity Competitive Grant
- Digital Equity Planning Grant
- Digital Equity Capacity Grant

## Funding Opportunities – Digital Literacy Skills

- Digital Connectivity Technology
- Digital Equity Competitive Grant
- Digital Equity Planning Grant
- Digital Equity Capacity Grant

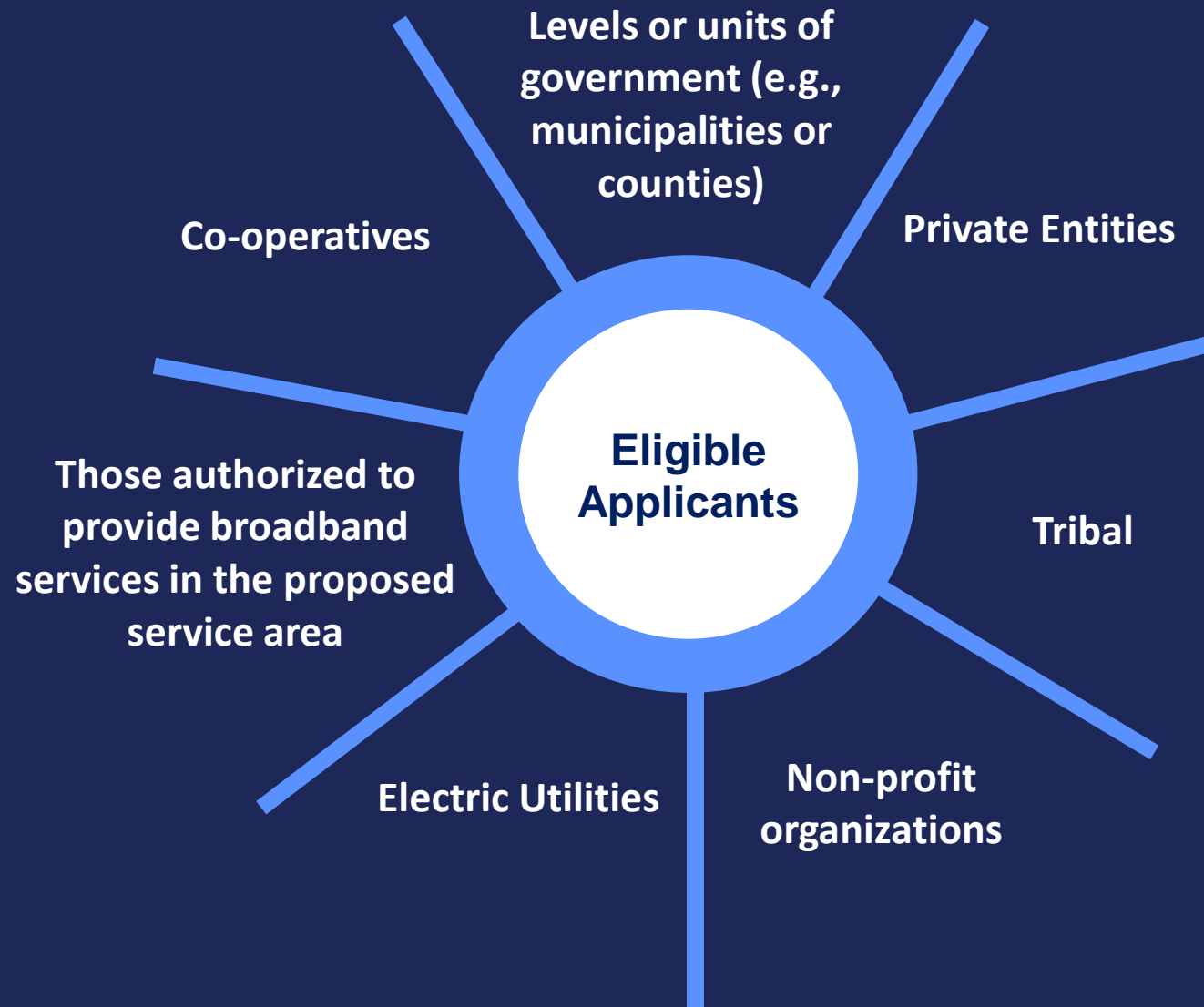


## Eligible Areas

Recipients may use these funds to make critical investments in broadband infrastructure in underserved areas

- Areas without access to reliable speeds of 100 Mbps download / 20 Mbps upload
- Provide latency of less than 100 milliseconds
- Eligible entities must provide a middle-class affordability and low-cost service options
- Must participate in Affordable Connectivity Program
- Must include robust stakeholder engagement in formation of five-year plans

# Eligible Applicants



# Eligible Costs

Capital expenses directly related to the deployment of a qualified broadband project, including:

## Pre-Project Development Costs

limited to 5% cap of grant funds; remaining pre-project development costs are eligible under matching funds



Data gathering



Feasibility studies



Engineering design



Work-related to environmental, historical and cultural review

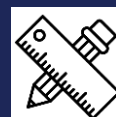
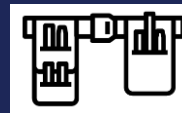


Permitting

## Equipment



## Supplies



## Materials



# Ineligible Costs

## Obligation / Debt Servicing

- Satisfaction of any obligation
- Payment of interest or principal on outstanding debt instruments

## Operational Expenses

- Operating expenses
- Short-term operation leases
- Maintenance expenses related to the project.
- Indirect labor costs (fringe/benefits, travel, meals, lodging, paid time off, etc.)

## Capital Assets / Infrastructure

- Acquisition of spectrum licenses
- Infrastructure not directly connected to service provision for an end-user in the proposed area
- Long-term capital asset purchases/leases, although cost allocation for use during the project period will be considered on a case-by-case basis



# Examples: Application Structure, Priorities, Evaluation and Compliance

# Submission Structure

## A. Project Proposal

- Project Executive Summary
- Service Area Maps
  - Public Map
  - Private Map
- Community Partners, Roles & Letters of Commitment
- Justification for the Project
- Adoption, Affordability, and Digital Inclusion Efforts (ACP participation required)

## B. Technical Project Plan

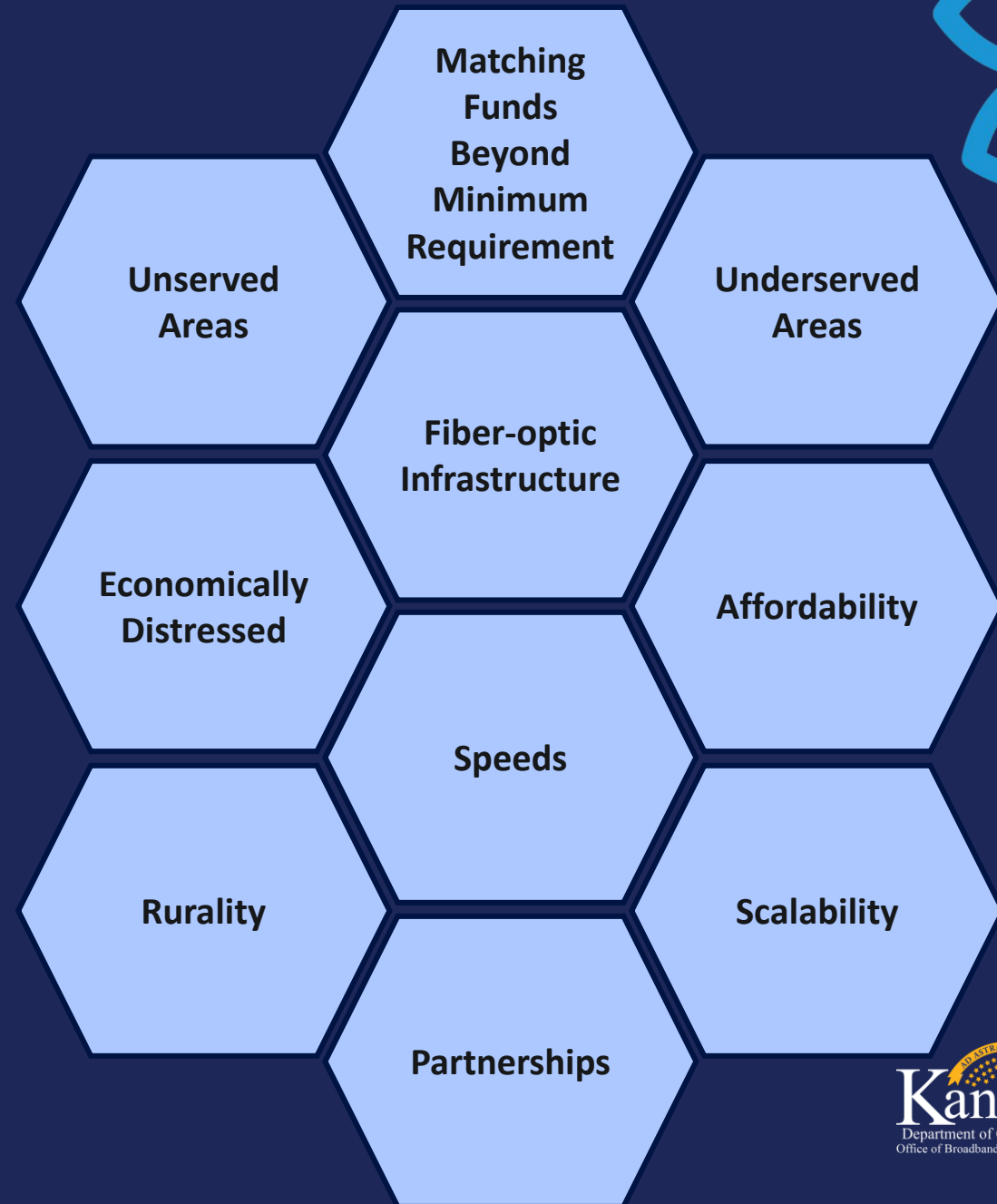
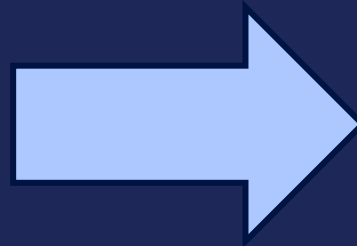
- Technical Project Summary
- Network Architecture
- Public and Proprietary Detailed Map of the Proposed Area
- List of Census Block Address Identifiers
- Project Plan and Milestones
- Long Term Investment Viability

## C. Financials

- Budget Narrative
- Project Budget Spreadsheet
- Financial Validation Documentation

# Project Priorities

Projects that deploy critical broadband infrastructure to address the following priorities





# State Program – Broadband Acceleration Grant (BAG)

- Funded in 2020 through the IKE Transportation Plan
- 10 year, \$85M competitive grant for broadband infrastructure
- Funding is \$5M/year in 2021-2023, and \$10M/year in 2024-2030
- Projects require a 50% match
- Areas covered must lack 25/3 service

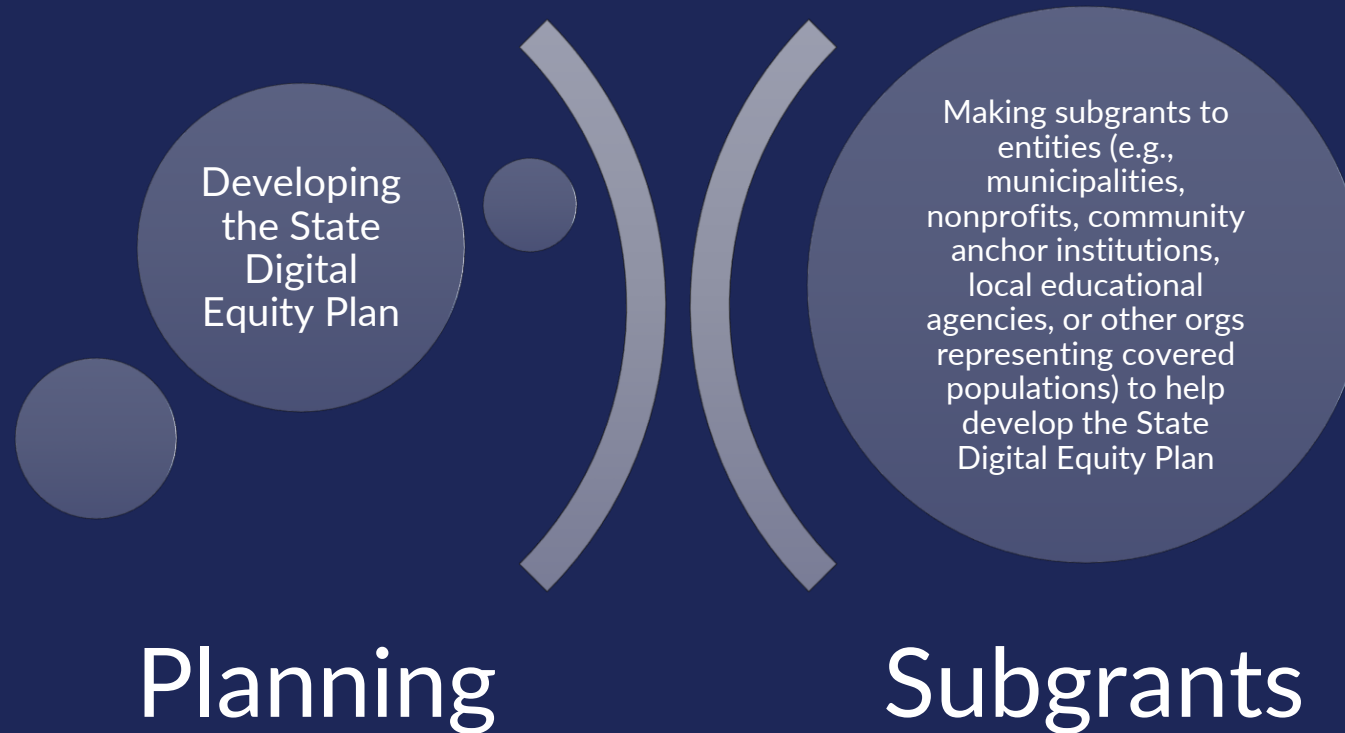
# Funding and Program Resources

Grant or Program Opportunity	Resource
State of Kansas Broadband Acceleration Grant	Kansas Department of Commerce, Office of Broadband Development
Capital Projects Fund (CPF) Broadband Infrastructure and Digital Connectivity Projects	US Department of Treasury
Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)	National Telecommunications and Information Administration



Our ask to you....

# State Digital Equity Plan



# Timeline + Dollars | 270 Days

Digital Equity + BEAD  
Dual Planning

- Dec 2022 (\$690K)

Submit Plan  
(publish + distribute)

- Aug 2023

Intentional  
Engagement

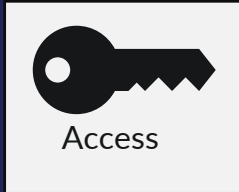
- Dec 2022 – June 2023
- Multiple engagement opportunities throughout the state to connect with covered populations.

Receive funds to  
implement plan +  
Subgrants

- 2024



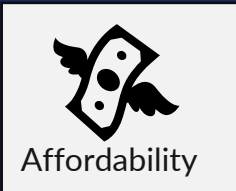
# Keep in Mind: Broader Goals



Promotes the availability of reliable, broadband technology through stakeholder outreach and engagement



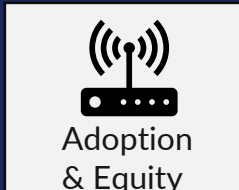
Advances the online accessibility of public resources and services



Promotes awareness of existing program (e.g., Affordable Connectivity Program) that help low-income households afford broadband service



Offers Internet equipment and software at low or no cost

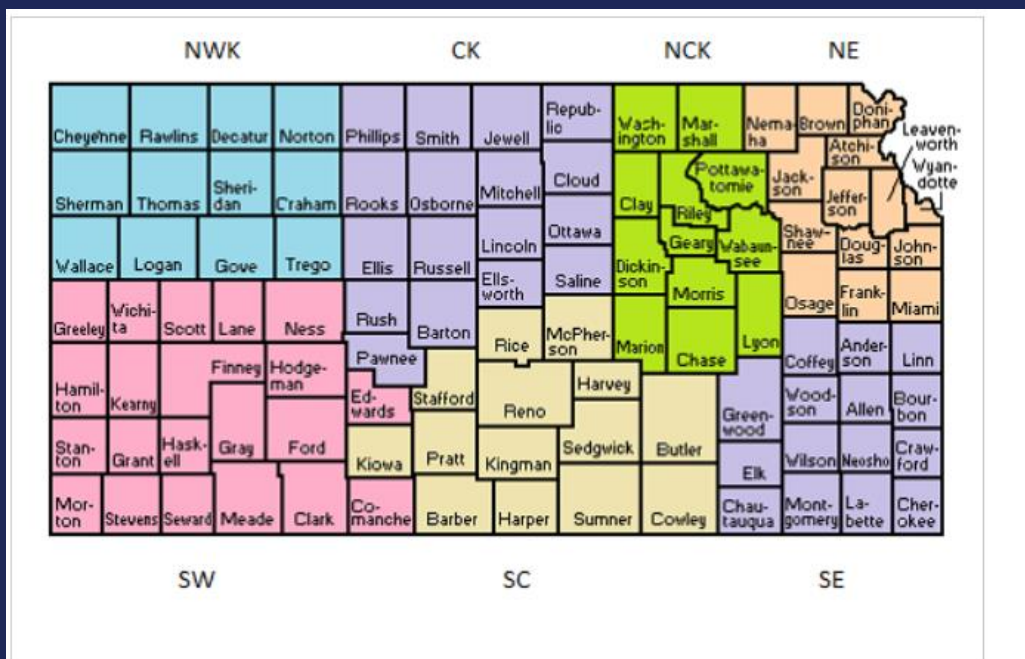


Narrows adoption disparities across covered populations by engaging with diverse stakeholders

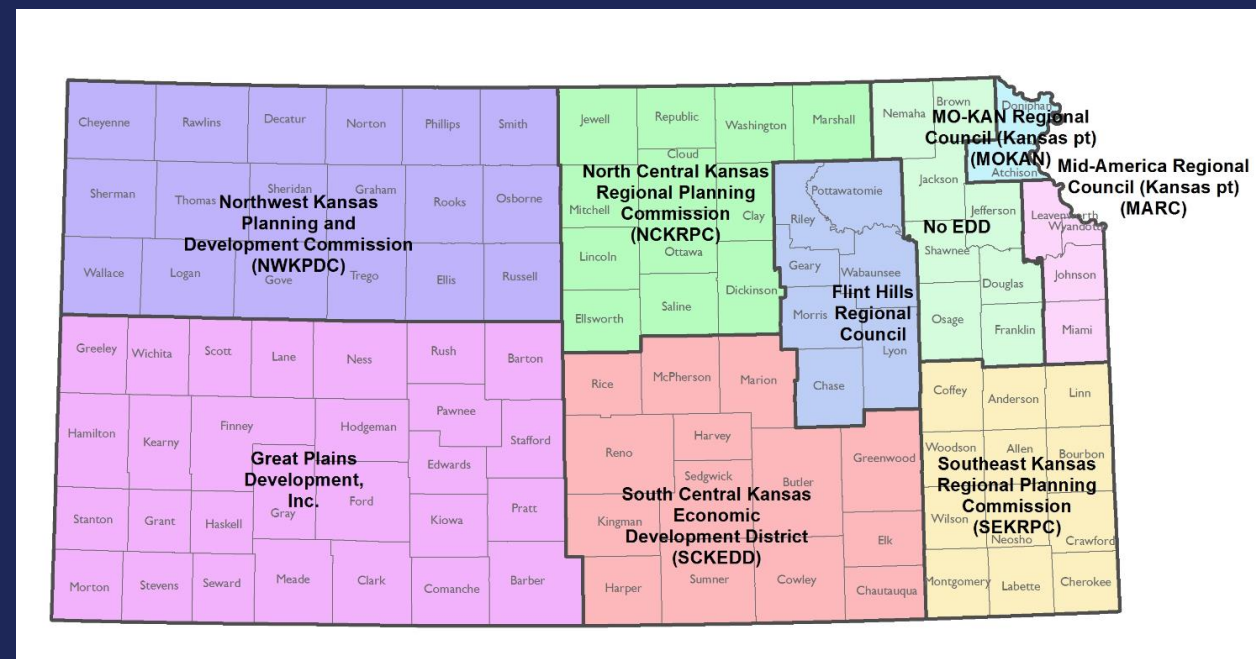


Implements digital inclusion programs that include digital skills and literacy training , technical support and workforce development

# Look for a Regional Mapping System



Library System Region Map



Economic Development Region Map

# Tentative | Save the Date



**Kansas Broadband Summit**  
**January 18**



# Identify: Connection Team

Economic Development

Library/Museum

Local Government

School/Education Sector

Broadband Community Champion

Organizations Serving Covered Populations

# Covered Populations

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# Ask: Share information with us and our partners.

- Asset Mapping
  - Who's being served?
  - What area they are being served?
  - What opportunities already exist?
- Partner & Stakeholder Information
  - Sign up for the KOBD Newsletter:
    - *Scan QR code and submit form below*





# Questions?