Defining Anchor Institutions
A Framework for Identifying CAIs in Every Community
Background: Why do we need to define CAIs?

States applying for BEAD funding are required to create:

- Five-Year Plans,
- Initial & Final Proposals

States must offer their own definitions of CAIs

BEAD NOFO offers a definition of CAIs

- States can expand the definition
- Must justify their reasoning
WHAT IS A COMMUNITY ANCHOR INSTITUTION?
### What is a CAI?

**Typically non-profit, public service organizations**
- Schools,
- Libraries
- Healthcare centers, etc.

**Gathering places for local communities**
- Rec centers
- Public housing
- Transportation hubs
- Houses of worship
- Fire and police stations, etc.

**Broadband access points**
- Connectivity
- Help with electronic devices and performing online activities
- Basic internet searches
- Online job applications
- Paying bills
- Email
- Device troubleshooting

**Providing Connectivity to the wider community**
- Wireless
- Hotspot lending devices, etc.
Can a for-profit be a CAI?

• In communities where there aren’t traditional anchors, a for-profit can serve as a CAI if they are the only point of gathering

• Bar & Grills (Montana)
• Entertainment centers, variety stores (Indiana)
• Grocery stores dedicated to specific ethnic groups, hair salons (Ohio)
How are states defining CAIs?

Most states choosing to adopt the NTIA definition provided in the BEAD NOFO:

“an entity such as a school, library, health clinic, health center, hospital or other medical provider, public safety entity, institution of higher education, public housing organization, or community support organization that facilitates greater use of broadband service by vulnerable populations, including, but not limited to, low-income individuals, unemployed individuals, children, the incarcerated, and aged individuals.”
Differences arise:

What each states consider CAIs, even within the NTIA defined categories

Based on data gathering methods

- Partnerships with universities
- FCC or state broadband maps
- State challenge process to ask CAIs to self-identify

Stakeholder input

What communities say is important to them
CAIs should be defined state-by-state, and community-by-community.
Top-down vs Bottom-Up: A framework for defining CAIs
Includes traditional categories of CAIs like those included in the NTIA definition.

Encompasses CAIs like schools, libraries, hospitals, higher ed, etc.

Sub-groups of traditional CAIs that extend the same functions.

Typically non-profit, public service organizations

Top-Down
Top-Down Examples

- Schools: Public and private schools (DE, HI, OH)
  Childcare centers (IN, OH)
- Institution of higher Education: Job training/Workforce development (VT)
- Public housing organizations: Homeless shelters (IN, VT)
  Halfway houses (OH)
  Refugee centers (OH)
- Public safety entities: Fire houses (IN, VT)
  EMS stations (OH, VT)
- Medical care providers: Urgent Care centers (OH)
  Nursing homes (OH)
- Health Clinic: Rural health clinics (OH)
Every community is different

Asking communities what's important to them
BEAD opened an opportunity for states to engage their local communities

Considers the kinds of institutions that serve the functions of CAIs, but don't fall under traditional categories

Where do people go to get connected to the internet/help with devices?

Communities that benefit from a bottom-up approach include

Sparsely populated, rural, unincorporated, low-income urban
Tribal nations often have non-traditional anchors

Included as "community support organizations"
“In rural areas, it is important to consider that these communities may not have access to the same resources and locations that other communities have, and places of community gathering may look quite different”

--Indiana Five-Year Plan (p. 34)
Bottom-up Examples (by state)

**Kansas**
- Local grocery store, grain elevators, pork rotunda

**Indiana**
- Religious centers, outdoor parks, car parks/gas stations, fairgrounds, public transportation stations

**Montana**
- Ranger stations, bar and grills

**Vermont**
- Houses of worship, correctional facilities and juvenile detention centers, public access television station facilities, and public outdoor spaces
Things to consider when defining CAIs

- States will use a combination approach to defining CAIs

- What kinds of institutions are available in local communities?

- Where do people go to access the internet and/or get help with devices?
Questions?
Comments?
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