



Joint Agency Priority Goal | Action Plan | FY 2022 – FY 2023

Ensure all Americans have access to high-speed, affordable, and reliable broadband

Goal Leaders:

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Goal Team - USDA

USDA Rural Development Team

<u>Innovation Center</u>	<u>Telecom Programs</u>
Senior Lead: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jacki Ponti-Lazaruk (Chief Innovation Officer) Team Leads: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jim Barham (Assistant Chief Data Officer)• Kasey Martin (Data Analytics Division)	Senior Lead: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Laurel Leverrier (Deputy Administrator) Team Lead: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ken Kuchno (Deputy Assistant Administrator)
<u>Broadband Federal Funding Workstream – Agency Partners</u> <p>Department of Commerce (NTIA), Federal Communications Commission, Institute of Museum & Library Services, Office of Management and Budget, Appalachian Regional Commission, Delta Regional Authority, Department of Health & Human Services, Department of the Interior, Department of Treasury, Department of Education, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Labor, Department of Veterans Affairs, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Housing & Urban Development, and National Science Foundation.</p>	

Goal Team - Commerce

Department of Commerce and NTIA Team

Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth

Senior Lead:

- Doug Kinkoph (Associate Administrator)

Team Lead:

- Susannah Spellman (Deputy Associate Administrator)

Office of the Secretary

Commerce Infrastructure Coordinating (CIC) Group:

- Ben Page, CIC Lead
- Office of Policy and Strategic Planning
- Office of Performance Excellence
- Office of Acquisition Management
- Office of General Counsel

Broadband Federal Funding Workstream – Agency Partners

Department of Agriculture (RD), Federal Communications Commission, Institute of Museum & Library Services, Office of Management and Budget, Appalachian Regional Commission, Delta Regional Authority, Department of Health & Human Services, Department of the Interior, Department of Treasury, Department of Education, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Labor, Department of Veterans Affairs, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Housing & Urban Development, and National Science Foundation.

Goal Overview

Goal statement

- By September 30, 2023, the Departments of Agriculture and Commerce will expand affordable and reliable access to broadband service by funding projects, which, when completed, will provide at least 550,000 households with reliable and affordable access to high-quality internet service.

Problem to Be Solved

- More than 30 million Americans live in areas where there is no broadband infrastructure to provide internet access with minimally acceptable speed. This is a particular problem in rural communities throughout the country. Additionally, the United States has among the highest broadband costs compared to other OECD countries. The COVID-19 pandemic also brought into focus the impact broadband access has on community well-being and prosperity. It revealed the critical need to close broadband gaps in order to support health access, remote learning, remote work options, and other capabilities to strengthen all communities.

What Success Looks Like

- High-quality internet service is accessible to all Americans so they can do their jobs, participate equally in school learning, access health care, and to stay connected. Through investment, communities of greatest need, including unserved and Tribal communities, will have more equitable access to broadband. Additionally, all 56 States and Territories (S&Ts) are fully prepared to deploy broadband investment funds by having a 5-year Broadband Action Plan and Digital Equity Plan that address broadband access, deployment, adoption, and use.

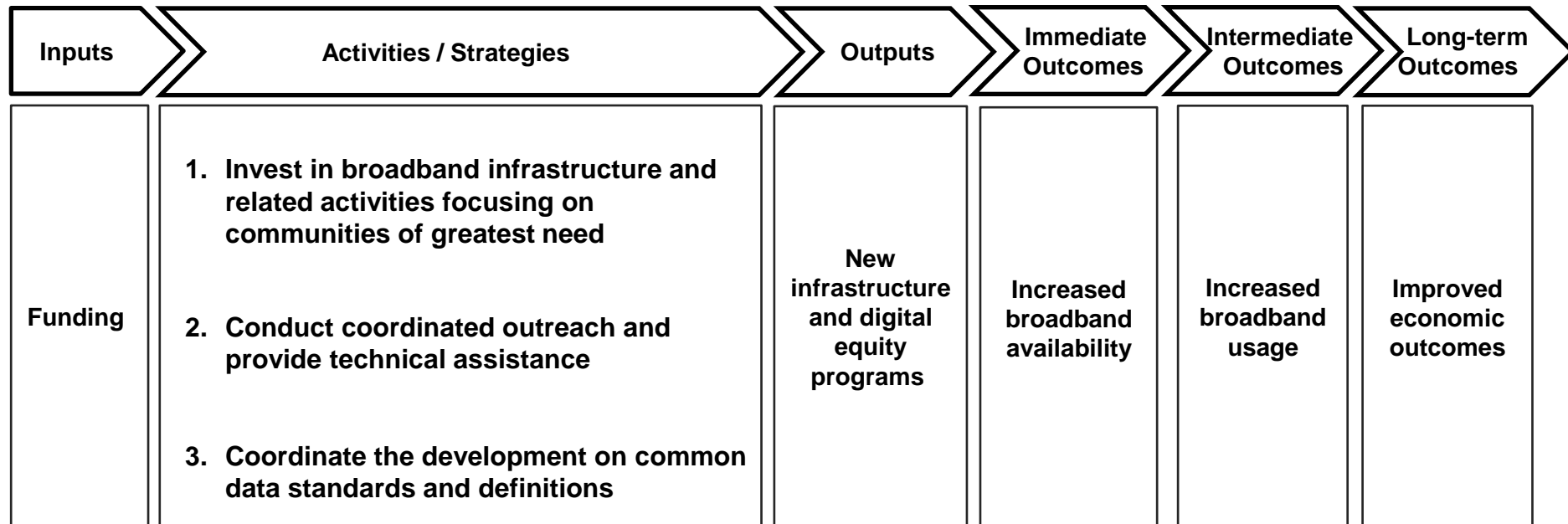
NOTE: According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Digital Economy Paper No. 237 data reported by <https://www.broadbandsearch.net/blog/internet-costs-compared-worldwide#post-navigation-2>

Goal Overview

Access to broadband is at the foundation of digital economy ecosystem strategies, which includes growing the economy with digital jobs, technical skill-building, entrepreneurship, and smart amenities to retain and attract working-age adults, particularly in rural and tribal communities. Strong digital economies enable communities to chart their own courses toward prosperity.

The Departments of Agriculture and Commerce have received over \$50 billion to ensure all Americans have access to high-speed, affordable, and reliable broadband. Both Departments will make investments in broadband infrastructure and related activities, conduct coordinated outreach and provide technical assistance in coordination with applicable Federal agencies, to promote American household access to affordable, reliable, high-speed internet service.

This Joint APG focuses on the first two years of a multiyear effort. Coordination with the States and Territories (S&T) and tribal areas where these investments will take place is critical to the success of this APG. As such, all 56 S&Ts will develop 5-year Broadband Action Plans and Digital Equity Plans that will be submitted to NTIA. Additionally, common data standards are needed to analyze program effectiveness and make decisions on future investments. The logic model below shows how this APG's activities/strategies will lead to the desired impacts.



Goal Overview

Working jointly, the Departments of Agriculture and Commerce will coordinate on three key activities / strategies to increase American household's access to affordable, reliable, high-speed internet service. The following provides an overview of the joint actions associated with these activities / strategies and programs that contribute to this two-year APG.

1. Invest in broadband infrastructure and related activities focusing on communities of greatest need

- The Departments of Agriculture and Commerce will administer funds to deploy broadband infrastructure that connect rural, tribal, and unserved communities across the United States. Grant support and funding enable communities to access robust broadband connections, internet-enabled devices, and the skills to succeed in the digital world.
- *Community Connect Grants; Rural Broadband Access Loans; Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan; ReConnect Loan and Grant Program; Broadband Infrastructure Program; and Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program*

2. Deliver coordinated technical assistance and outreach

- The Departments of Agriculture and Commerce will coordinate technical assistance and outreach to streamline efforts and promote awareness of funding opportunities. NTIA will execute a multi-faceted state and territory outreach and technical assistance program that will result in the submission of 5-year State and Territory (S&T) Action Plans and Digital Equity Plans. These S&T Action Plans outline broadband implementation strategies and are necessary to receive funding for broadband infrastructure.
- *ReConnect Loan and Grant Program; Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program; State Digital Equity Planning Program*

3. Coordinate the development of common data standards and definitions

- The Departments of Agriculture and Commerce, in cooperation with the Treasury and the Federal Communications Commission, will establish common data standards for broadband deployment metrics to help Federal agencies identify where investments have been made and understand where gaps may exist. These standards and definitions will facilitate reporting from broadband grant programs administered by Commerce, Treasury, and USDA to support efforts to allow policymakers and the public to identify where broadband funding has been made available by the Federal Government, the impact that such investment has over time, and areas that need further investment.

Goal Overview

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and U.S. Department of Commerce will achieve this Joint APG through funding authorized by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) 2021 and the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021. The following provides a more detailed overview of the specific programs that contribute to this two-year APG.

Department of Agriculture - Rural Development Programs

- **ReConnect Loan and Grant Program.** This program will provide over \$3.5 billion in loans and grants toward the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service in eligible rural areas.
- **Community Connect Grants.** Provide financial assistance to eligible applicants that will provide broadband service in rural, economically-challenged communities where service does not exist.
- **Rural Broadband Access Loans.** Offer financial assistance to eligible applicants that will construct, improve, or acquire facilities and equipment needed to provide service in eligible rural areas.
- **Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans.** Offer financial assistance to eligible service providers that will construct, improve, or expand telecommunication and broadband networks in rural areas.

Department of Commerce - NTIA Programs

- **Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program.** Funded by the IIJA, the BEAD program allocates \$42.45 billion in funding to states and territories to develop broadband plans and support administer a subaward process within the state or territory to deploy broadband infrastructure.
- **State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program.** Authorized by the Digital Equity Act, this program will make available \$60 million from the IIJA for States and Territories to develop Digital Equity Plans.
- **Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program.** Provides up to \$980 million to eligible tribal entities to expand access to and adoption of broadband service on tribal lands. The IIJA provides \$2 billion in additional grant funding for NTIA's existing Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program.
- **Broadband Infrastructure Program.** A \$288 million broadband deployment program directed to partnerships between a state, or one or more political subdivisions of a state, and providers of fixed broadband service to support broadband infrastructure deployment to areas lacking broadband.

Goal Strategies

Strategy 1: Invest in broadband infrastructure and related activities focusing on communities of greatest need

Joint Activities

- The Departments of Agriculture and Commerce will ensure equitable broadband access by investing in broadband infrastructure with a focus on communities of greatest need, including rural communities and tribal lands.

Department of Agriculture Activities

- Fund projects to provide rural households in socially vulnerable and tribal communities with improved reliable and affordable broadband service.
 - These activities are conducted by the following programs: *Community Connect Grants, Rural Broadband Access Loans, Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan, and ReConnect Loan and Grant Program*
- Socially Vulnerable Community means a community or area identified in the Center for Disease Control's Social Vulnerability Index with a score of .75 or higher. A GIS layer identifying the Socially Vulnerable Communities can be found at <https://www.usda.gov/reconnect>.
- **ReConnect 100% Grant:** If at least 75 percent of the geographic area of an applicant's Program Funded Service Areas consists of Socially Vulnerable Communities, there is no matching fund requirement and applicants may apply for grant funds to construct the broadband facilities.
- **Mission Area Key Performance Indicator 5.1:** E-connectivity: Number of households across all Rural Development (RD) program areas with RD-funded new and/or improved e-connectivity services.

Department of Commerce Activities

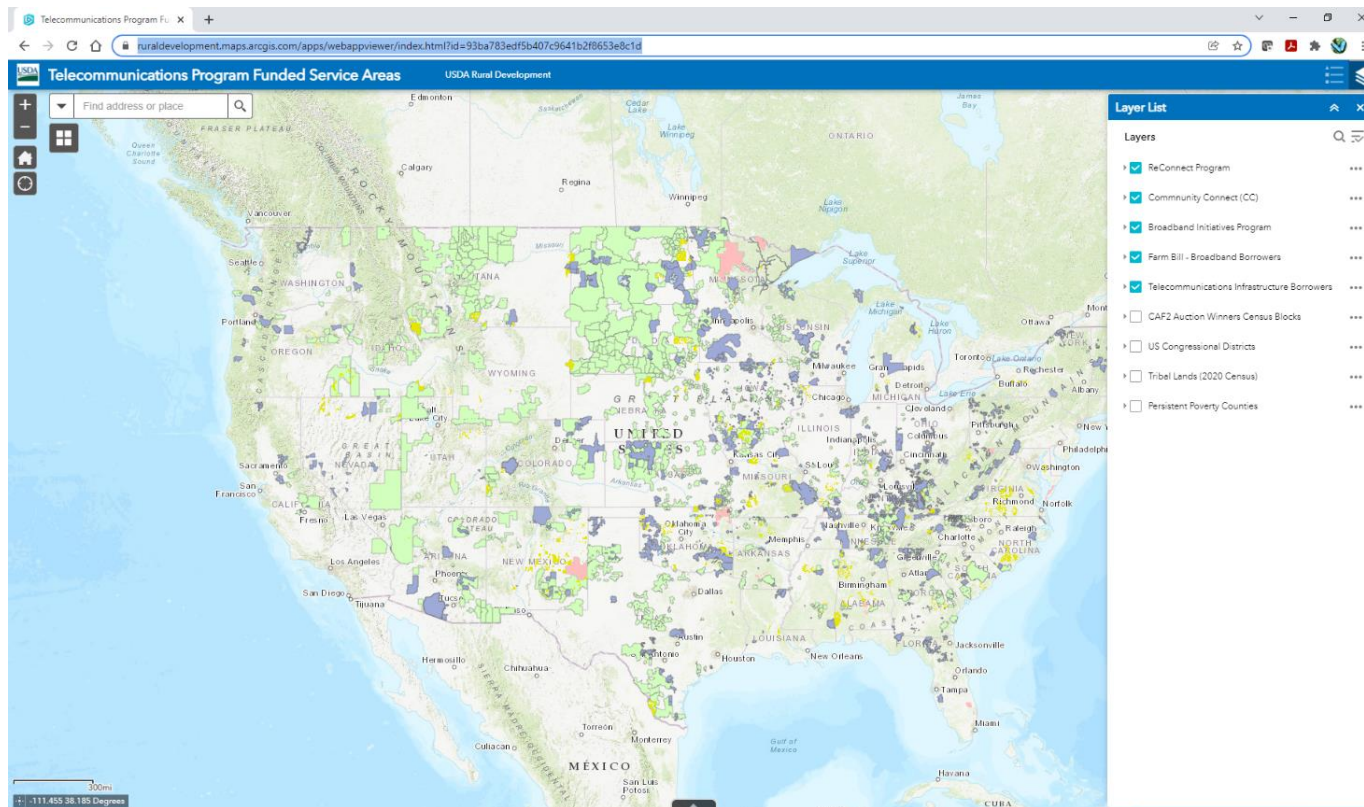
- Fund projects to tribal and unserved households with reliable and affordable access to broadband service. NTIA will leverage the awarded projects from its current broadband grant program to support broadband access to unserved (below 25/3 Mbps) and tribal communities
 - These activities are conducted by the following programs: *Broadband Infrastructure Program and Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program*

Goal Strategies

Strategy 1: Invest in broadband infrastructure and related activities focusing on communities of greatest need

Department of Agriculture Activities

- The Telecommunications Program Funded Service Areas highlight the locations of RD funded Broadband projects.



Goal Strategies

Strategy 2: Deliver coordinated technical assistance and outreach

Joint Activities

- The Departments of Agriculture and Commerce will deliver coordinated outreach events, technical assistance materials, webinars, and/or in-person technical assistance on a quarterly basis to support broadband planning, deployment, adoption, and use.

Department of Agriculture Activities

- **Targeted Outreach:** USDA's Rural Utilities Service will host webinars, provide technical assistance, and work with partners to increase applications that include Socially Vulnerable Communities in Program Funded Service Areas. USDA will also provide technical support to eligible rural and tribal areas in every State, State Jurisdiction, and Territory through at least one engagement with Rural Development (RD) Telecom Program staff, RD General Field Representatives (GFRs), or RD state office staff.
 - These activities are conducted under the following USDA programs: *ReConnect Loan and Grant Program, Community Connect Grants, Rural Broadband Access Loans, Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan*

Department of Commerce Activities

- Provide technical assistance to support 56 States and Territories in their submission of a 5-year Broadband Action Plan for that respective state and territory to close the digital divide.
- The Department of Commerce will also provide technical support to all 56 States and Territories in the development of a Digital Equity Plan to support digital inclusion and equity in their respective state or territory.
 - These activities are conducted under the following Department of Commerce programs: *Broadband Equity Access, Deployment (BEAD) Program, and State Digital Equity Planning Program*
- NTIA has started technical assistance (TA) efforts in preparation for the launch of the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program and the Digital Equity State Grant Program and will institute a robust TA engagement model to support state and territory success in their broadband and digital equity planning efforts to close the digital divide.

Goal Strategies

Strategy 2: Deliver coordinated technical assistance and outreach (*Continued*)

Department of Commerce Activities (*Continued*)

- Leverage existing NTIA State Broadband Leader's Network (SBLN) monthly meeting convenings with state broadband leaders.
- Develop and execute focused technical assistance (TA)/engagement model to support a spectrum of state and territory support needs.
- Develop broadband planning and related capacity/environment strategic analysis materials for states and territories, share in one-to-many webinar/in-person sessions and one-on-one sessions.
- Manage, develop tools, and share access to data sets (e.g., National Broadband Availability Map, Indicators of Broadband Need) that can provide state and territory specific broadband data for analytical support.
- Support states and territories' understanding and use of to-be-developed Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Location-Specific Broadband Availability Maps.
- Host in-person events/sessions to provide TA and promote state-to-state collaboration and sharing of best practices.
- Provide specific guidance in the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and in related TA materials to promote comprehensive, strategic 5-Year Broadband Action Plans.
- Provide guidance on the Digital Equity State Planning NOFO and related TA materials to support the development of State and Territory Digital Equity Plans.
- Develop and execute a focused Federal Program Officer support model for each state and territory to provide focused outreach, engagement, and TA support.

Goal Strategies

Strategy 3: Coordinate the Development of Common Data Standards and Definitions

Joint Activities

- The Departments of Agriculture and Commerce will establish common data standards and definitions to support the development of a set of standard broadband reporting metrics. Data standards will include, but are not limited to the location of the improved broadband service, type of institution that received service, provider of the service, etc.
- The Departments will develop a data dictionary to accompany the data standards that provides details on the data standards to ensure common understanding and application.

Goal Targets – Joint Commerce and USDA

Achievement statement		Key indicators	Quantify progress			Frequency
By...	We will...		Target value	Starting value	Current value Q3 FY 2022	Update cycle
9/30/2023	provide at least 550,000 households with reliable and affordable access to high-quality internet service.	# of households	550,000	0	193,544	Quarterly
9/30/2023	deliver coordinated outreach and technical assistance on a quarterly basis to support broadband planning, deployment, adoption, and use.	# of outreach and technical assistance sessions	8	0	2	Quarterly

Note: The number of households includes 155,203 through Commerce and 38,341 through USDA.

Goal Targets – Commerce Only

Achievement statement		Key indicators	Quantify progress			Frequency
By...	We will...		Target value	Starting value	Current value Q3 FY 2022	Update cycle
9/30/2023	fund projects, which, when completed, will provide at least 200,000 Tribal households with reliable and affordable access to broadband service.	# of Tribal households with broadband	200,000	0	14,203	Quarterly
9/30/2023	fund projects, which, when completed, will provide at least 130,000 households in unserved areas (less than 25 Mbps/3Mbps) with affordable broadband service through the Broadband Infrastructure Program.	# of unserved household with broadband	130,000	0	141,000	Quarterly
9/30/2023	Receive State/Territory 5-Year Broadband Action Plans	# of State/Territory Broadband Action Plans	56	0	0	Quarterly
9/30/2023	Receive State/Territory Digital Equity Plans	# of State/Territory Digital Equity Plans	56	0	0	Quarterly

Note: On February 25, 2022, NTIA announced thirteen grant awards for their Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP). These awards, once deployed over the next 1-5 years, will provide broadband access to 130,000 households. NTIA made a last BIP award in May 2022, adding 10,000 more households.

Goal Targets –USDA Only

Achievement statement		Key indicators	Quantify progress			Frequency
By...	We will...		Target value	Starting value	Current value Q3 FY 2022	
9/30/2023	fund projects to provide at least 25,000 rural households in socially vulnerable communities and tribal communities with more reliable and affordable broadband service through collaboration with other federal funders.	# of socially vulnerable and Tribal households	25,000	0	16,846	Quarterly
9/30/2023	provide technical support to eligible rural and tribal areas in every state, state jurisdiction, and territory through at least one engagement with Rural Development (RD) Telecom Program staff, RD General Field Representatives (GFRs), or RD state office staff.	# of technical support engagements	40	0	31	Quarterly

Key indicators – Joint Commerce and USDA

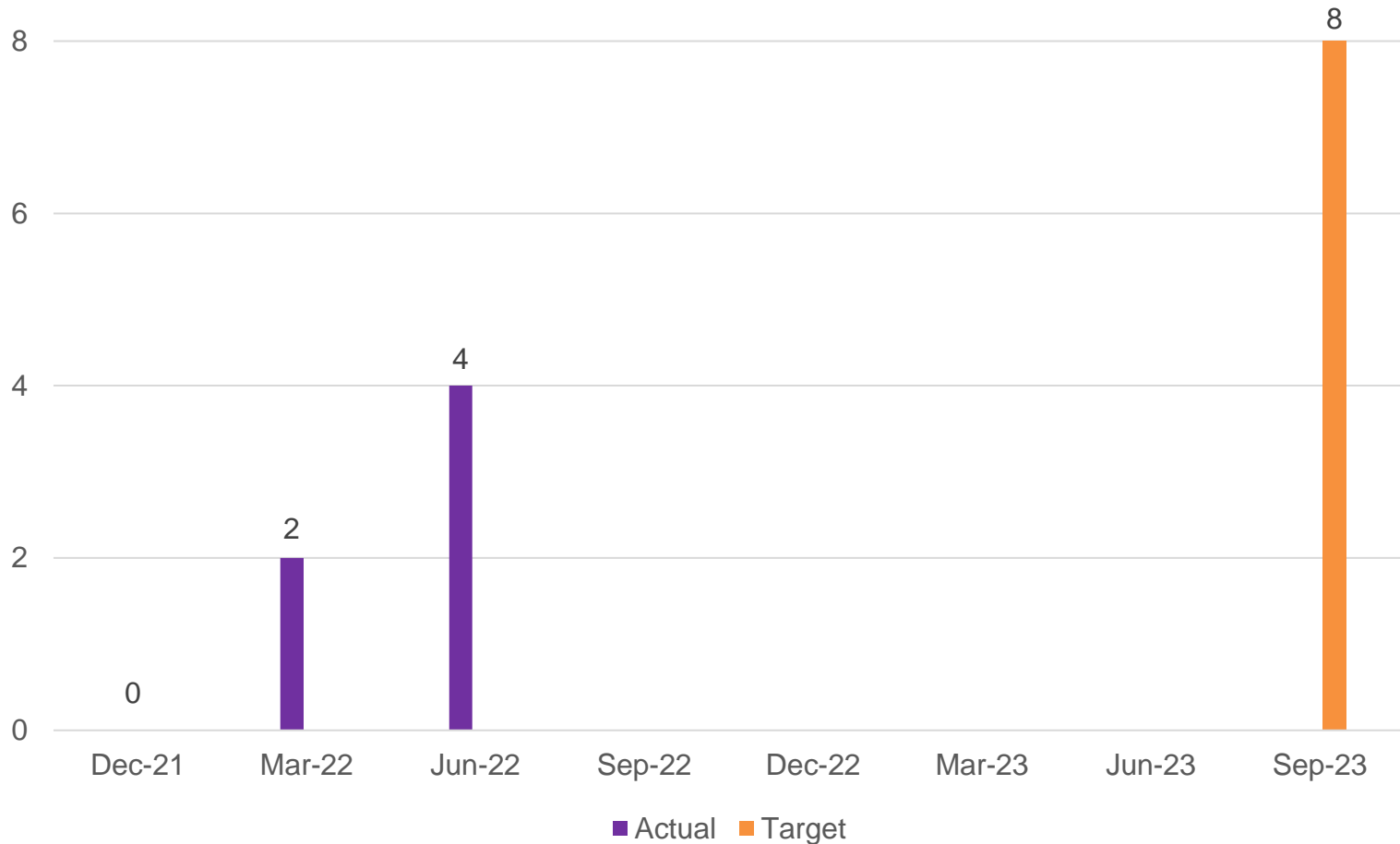
Number of households that will be provided reliable and affordable access to high-quality internet service from funded projects



Note: The number of households includes 155,203 households through Commerce and 38,341 through USDA.

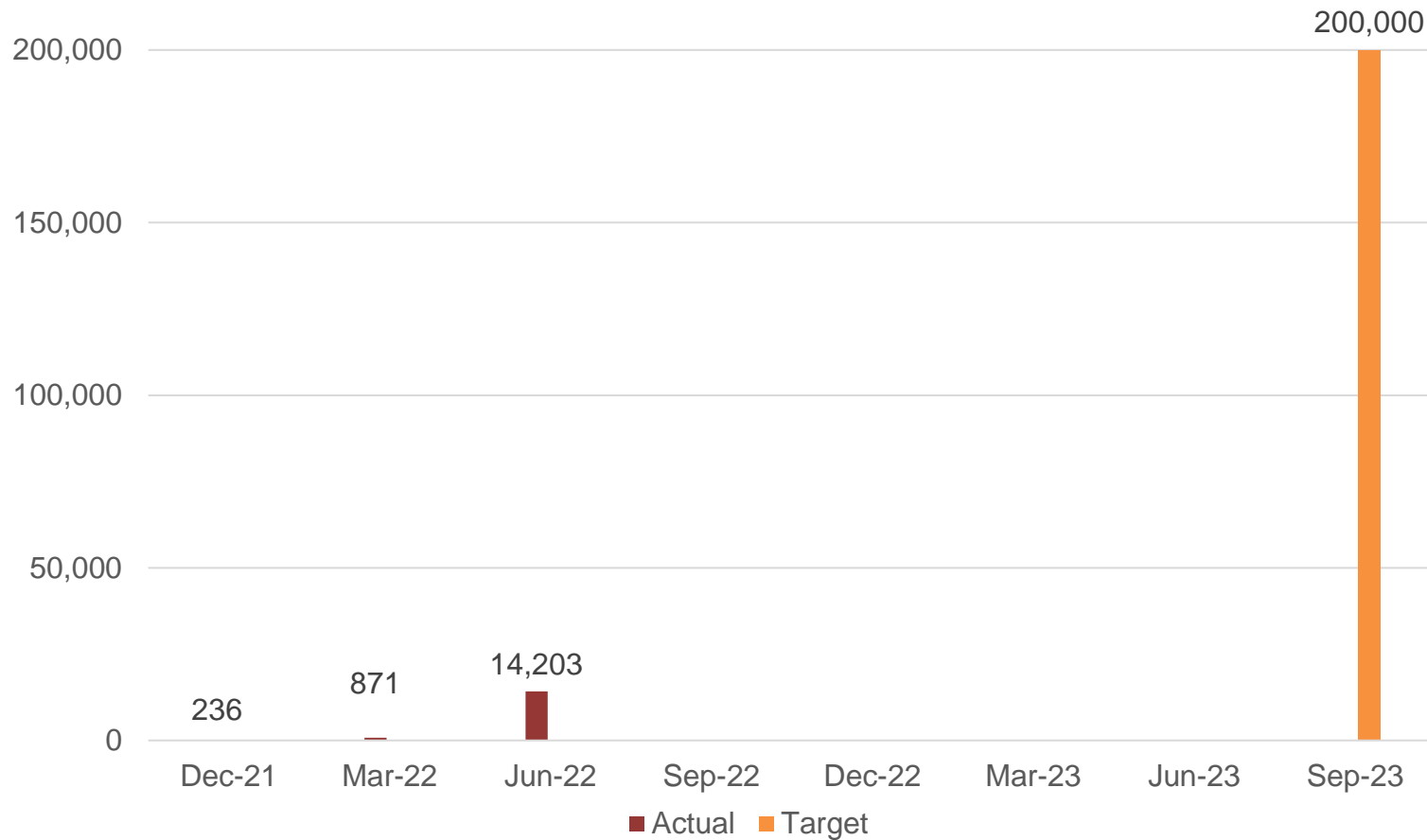
Key indicators – Joint Commerce and USDA

Number of outreach and technical assistance sessions



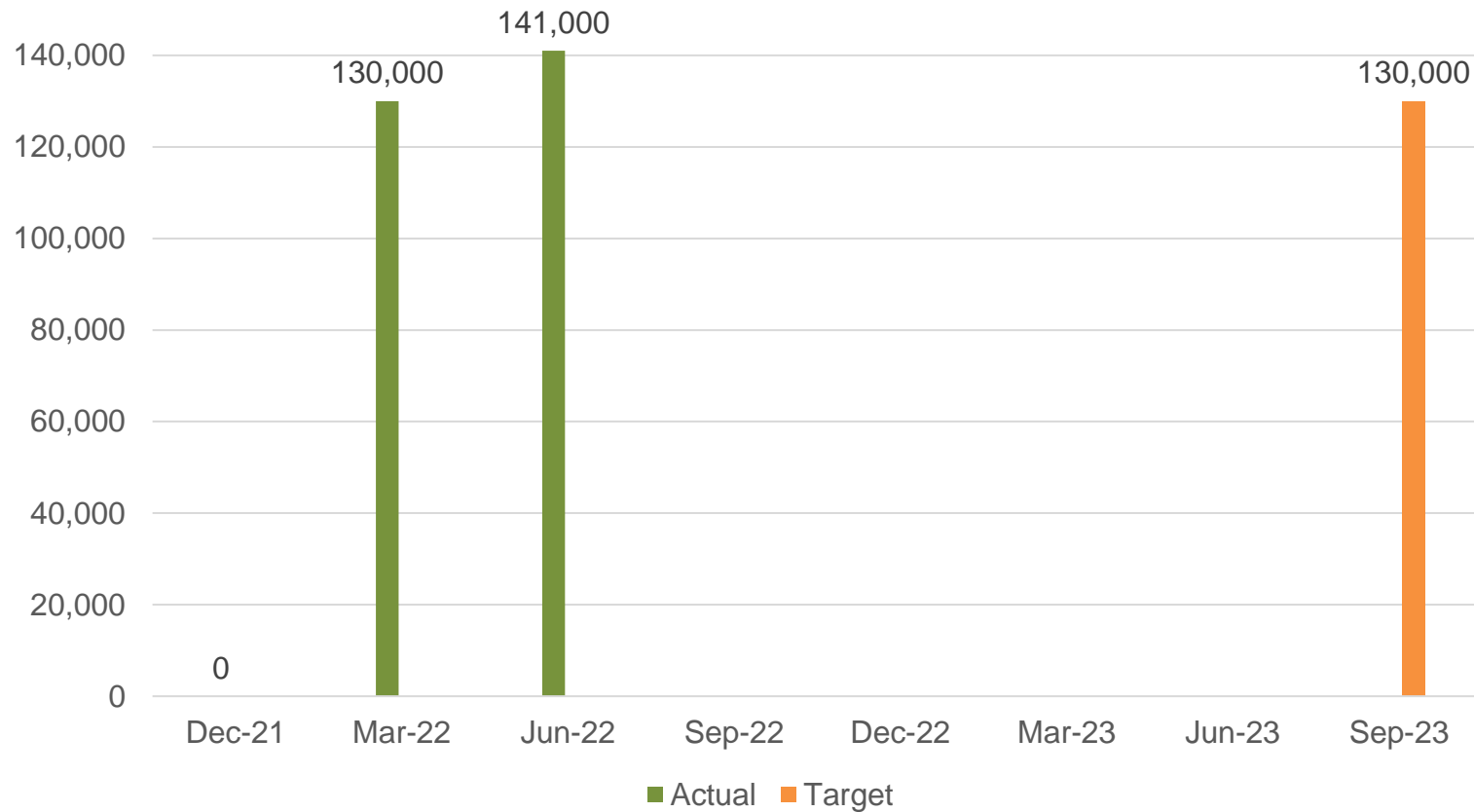
Key indicators – Commerce Only

Number of Tribal households that will be provided with reliable and affordable broadband service



Key indicators – Commerce Only

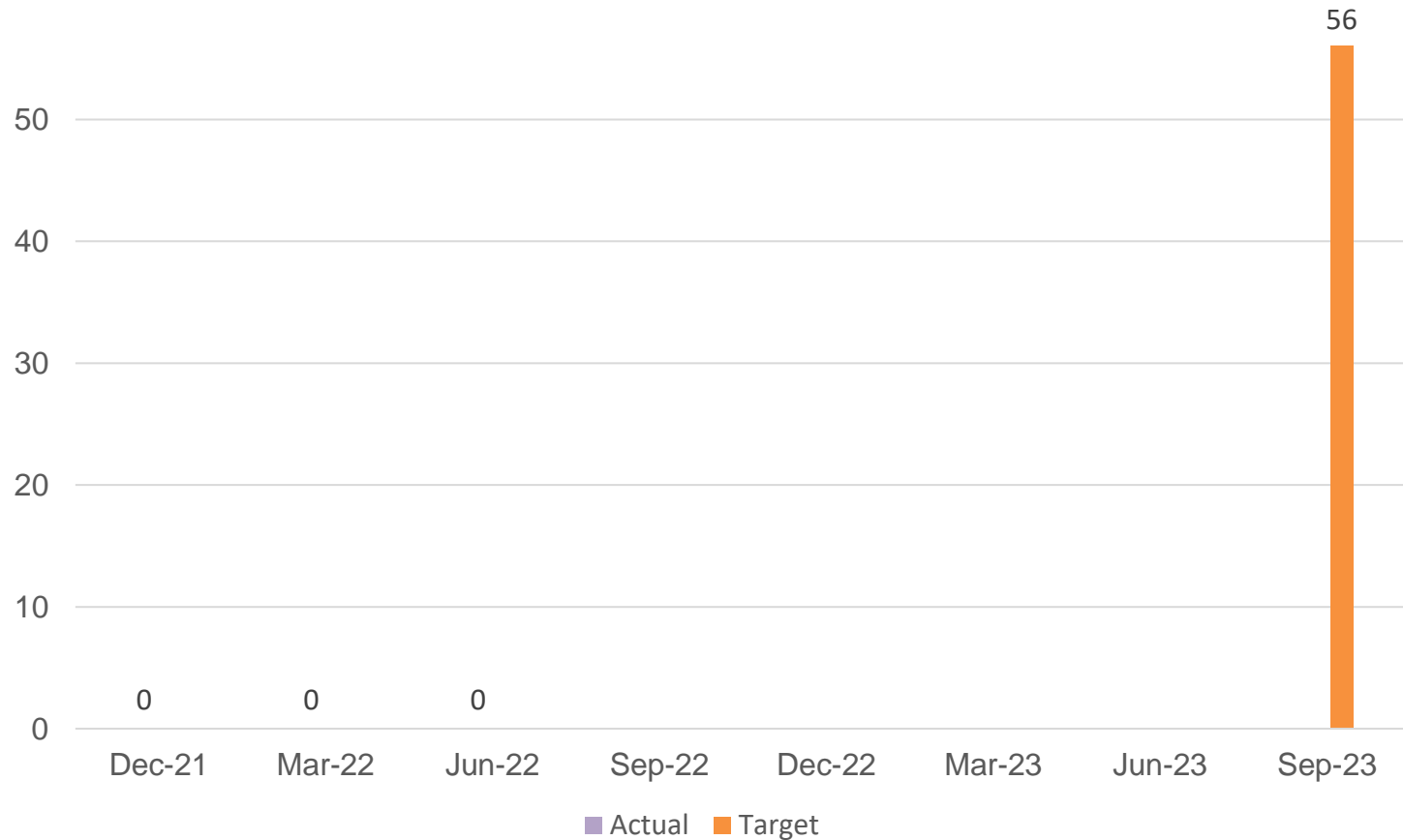
Number of unserved household that will be provided with reliable and affordable broadband service



NOTE: On February 25, 2022, NTIA announced thirteen grant awards for their Broadband Infrastructure Program. These awards, once deployed over the next 1-5 years, will provide broadband access to 130,000 households.

Key indicators – Commerce Only

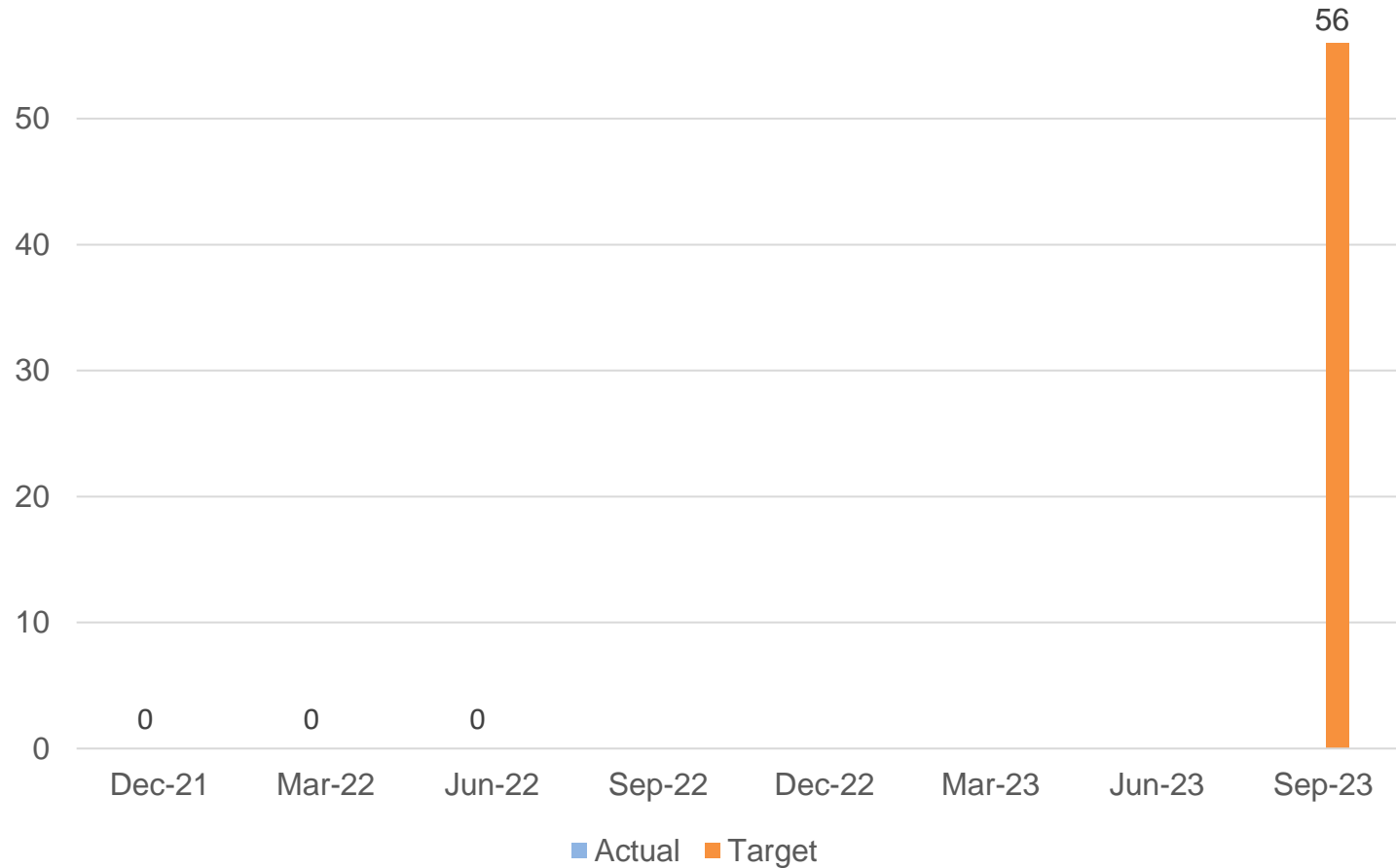
Number of State/Territory Broadband Action Plans



NOTE: Commerce expects to start receiving broadband action plans in Q4 FY 2022.

Key indicators – Commerce Only

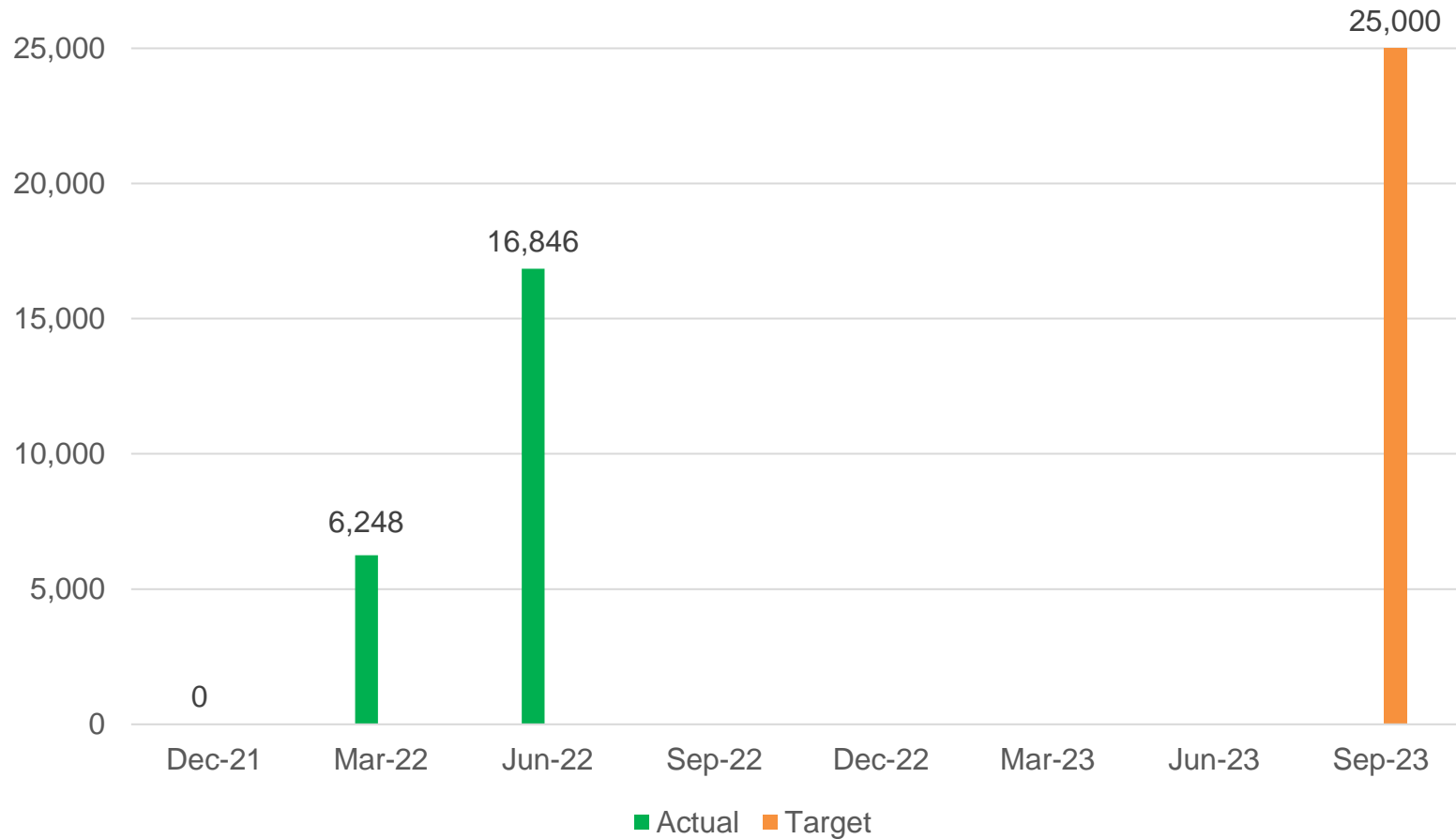
Number of State/Territory Digital Equity Plans



NOTE: Commerce expects to start receiving digital equity action plans in Q3 FY 2023.

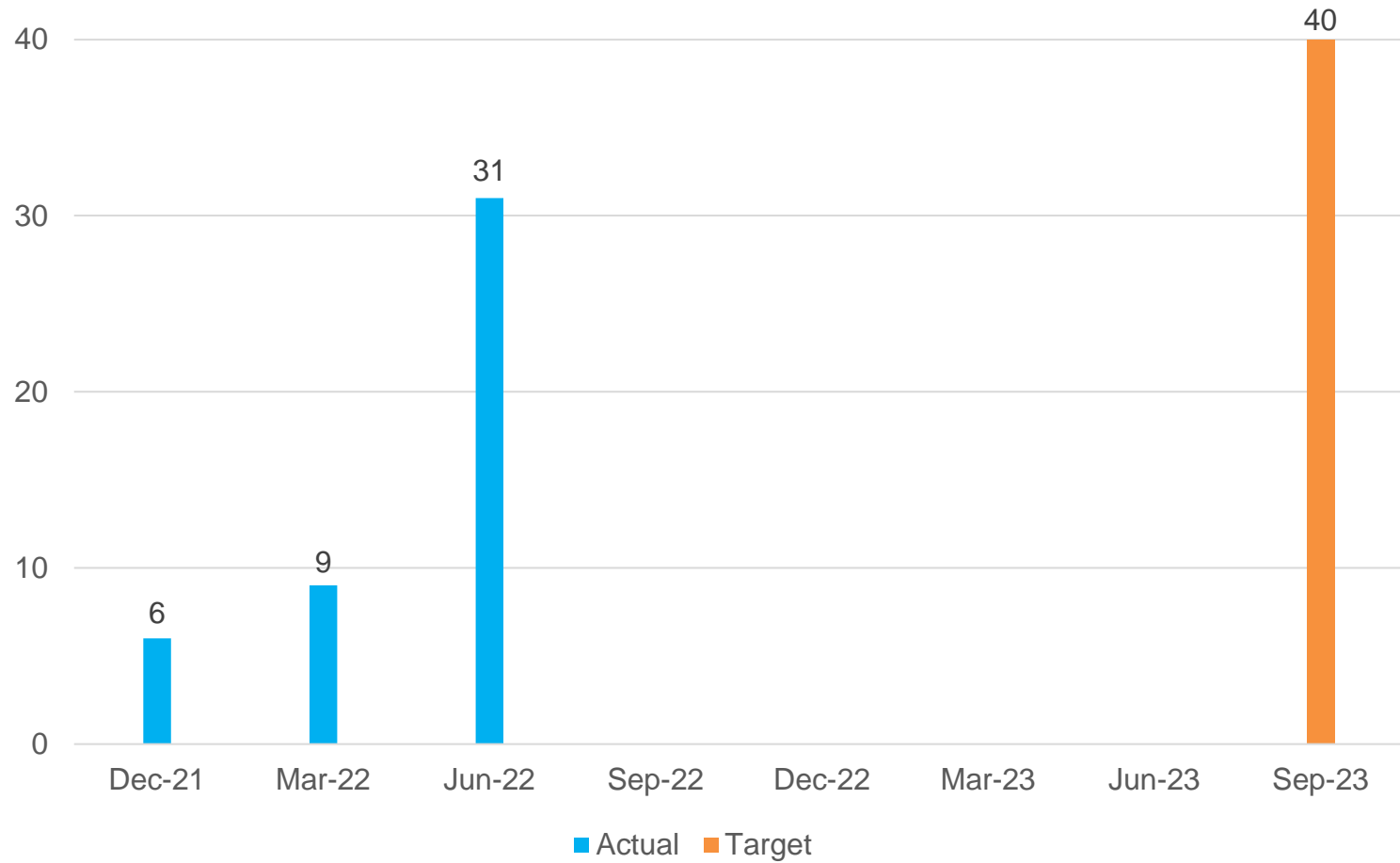
Key indicators – USDA Only

Number of socially vulnerable and Tribal households that will be provided with reliable and affordable broadband service



Key indicators – USDA Only

Number of technical support engagements



Key milestones – Commerce Only

Milestone Summary					
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Change from last quarter	Owner	Comments
1. Invest in broadband infrastructure and related activities					
Number of awards	Q1, FY22	Completed		NTIA	5 Tribal Broadband Connectivity Awards
Number of awards	Q2, FY22	Completed		NTIA	22 awards: 9 Tribal awards, 13 BIP awards
Release BEAD NOFO and Guidance on 5-Year Action Plan	Q3, FY 22	Partial	*Q4, FY22	NTIA	NOFO published on May 13, 2022, *5 Year Action Plan Guidance delayed
Release Digital Equity State Planning NOFO and Guidance on Digital Equity Plan	Q3, FY 22	Partial	*Q4, FY22	NTIA	NOFO published on May 13, 2022, *DE Guidance delayed
Number of Awards	Q3, FY22	On track		NTIA	30 Awards: 29 Tribal, 1 BIP awards
Receive 10 State/Territory 5-Year Broadband Action Plans	Q4, FY 22	On track		NTIA	
Number of Awards	Q4, FY22	On track		NTIA	
Receive 10 State/Territory 5-Year Broadband Action Plan	Q1, FY23			NTIA	
Receive 15 State/Territory 5-Year Broadband Action Plan	Q2, FY23			NTIA	
Receive 15 State/Territory 5-Year Broadband Action Plan	Q3, FY23			NTIA	
Receive 10 State/Territory Digital Equity Plans	Q3, FY23			NTIA	
Receive 6 State/Territory 5-Year Broadband Action Plans	Q4, FY 23			NTIA	
Receive 46 State/Territory Digital Equity Plans	Q4, FY23			NTIA	

Key milestones – Joint Commerce and USDA

Milestone Summary					
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Change from last quarter	Owner	Comments
2. Deliver coordinated technical assistance and outreach					
Host USDA-Commerce Joint Technical Assistance/Outreach Event	Q2, FY 22	Complete		USDA Telecom and NTIA	This included two occasions where NTIA and Rural Development participated in inter-agency panels to discuss Federal funding available to support broadband programs. The first session occurred on Jan 20, 2022, with 297 attendees and the second session occurred on Feb 10, 2022, with 106 attendees.
Host USDA-Commerce Joint Technical Assistance/Outreach Event	Q3, FY 22	Partial		USDA Telecom and NTIA	There were no external TA events but there were internal TA interactions. This included two occasions where NTIA and Rural Development participated in inter-agency panels with State Rural Development Directors.
Host USDA-Commerce Joint Technical Assistance/Outreach Event	Q4, FY 22			USDA Telecom and NTIA	
Host USDA-Commerce Joint Technical Assistance/Outreach Event	Q1, FY 23			USDA Telecom and NTIA	
Host USDA-Commerce Joint Technical Assistance/Outreach Event	Q2, FY 23			USDA Telecom and NTIA	
Host USDA-Commerce Joint Technical Assistance/Outreach Event	Q3, FY 23			USDA Telecom and NTIA	
Host USDA-Commerce Joint Technical Assistance/Outreach Event	Q4, FY 23			USDA Telecom and NTIA	

Key milestones – Commerce Only

Milestone Summary					
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Change from last quarter	Owner	Comments
2. Deliver coordinated technical assistance and outreach (1/2)					
Technical Assistance Sessions / Engagements / Tools or Materials for States and Territories (5)	Q1, FY22	Complete		NTIA	Held four State Broadband Leaders Network (SBLN) meetings with states and territories. Held one virtual listening session with the general public, including states and territories, to provide overview of new IIJA programs and solicit input on technical assistance they want from NTIA
Technical Assistance Sessions / Engagements / Tools or Materials for States and Territories (5)	Q2, FY22	Complete		NTIA	Held 4 SBLN meetings; held 4 virtual listening sessions, held 2 pre-NOFO TA sessions, held 2-day SBLN Summit (in person & virtual) with States and Territories. 12 in total, 17 cumulative
Technical Assistance Sessions / Engagements / Tools or Materials for States and Territories (10)	Q3, FY22	Complete		NTIA	Held 6 SBLN meetings with states and territories; hosted 13 webinars on IIJA programs; conducted 1:1 office hours and met with 37 public entities, released 14 TA materials to the public. 32 TA events/materials in total
Host FY 22 Annual State/Territory BEAD/Digital Equity Conference	Q3, FY 22	Delayed		NTIA	Scheduled for August 2022
Technical Assistance Sessions / Engagements / Tools or Materials for States and Territories (10)	Q4, FY22	On track		NTIA	

Key milestones – Commerce Only

Milestone Summary					
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Change from last quarter	Owner	Comments
2. Deliver coordinated technical assistance and outreach (2/2)					
Technical Assistance Sessions / Engagements / Tools or Materials for States and Territories (10)	Q1, FY23	On track		NTIA	
Technical Assistance Sessions / Engagements / Tools or Materials for States and Territories (10)	Q2, FY23	On track		NTIA	
Technical Assistance Sessions / Engagements / Tools or Materials for States and Territories (10)	Q3, FY23	On track		NTIA	
Technical Assistance Sessions / Engagements / Tools or Materials for States and Territories (10)	Q4, FY23	On track		NTIA	
Host FY 23 Annual State/Territory BEAD/Digital Equity Conferences	TBD, FY23			NTIA	

Key milestones – USDA Only

Milestone Summary					
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Change from last quarter	Owner	Comments
2. Deliver coordinated technical assistance and outreach					
Provide technical support sessions	Q1, FY22	Complete		USDA	Conducted 6 webinars focused on providing background on ReConnect and application assistance. A total 2,136 participants attended the webinars.
Provide technical support sessions	Q2, FY22	Complete		USDA	USDA Telecom conducted 2 multi-day workshops and a Tribal-specific webinar during Q2 FY22. These sessions focused on providing background on ReConnect and application assistance and were attended by 1,732 participants. Three events in total conducted
Provide technical support sessions	Q3, FY22	Complete		USDA	<p>Conducted 3 webinars with a total 897 attendees to assist potential applicants on how to prepare for Round 4 ReConnect funding and Telecom's Distance Learning & Telemedicine (DLT) Program.</p> <p>As of June 30, Telecom's General Field Representatives (GFR) have conducted 37 technical support engagements in 19 different States.</p> <p><i>Note: The Current Value in Slide 15 is capturing national events and those GFR engagements that occur in different States.</i></p>

Key milestones – Joint Commerce and USDA

Milestone Summary					
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Change from last quarter	Owner	Comments
3. Coordinate the Development of Common Data Standards and Definitions					
Develop draft data specifications needed for "funded locations map"	3Q, FY22	Completed		NTIA	NTIA (in consultation with FCC, USDA, Treasury)
Solicit input from agencies and integrate	4Q, FY22	On Track		NTIA	NTIA (in consultation with FCC, USDA, Treasury)
Finalize data specifications and data collection standard	1Q, FY23			NTIA	NTIA (in consultation with FCC, USDA, Treasury)
Federal broadband funding agencies begin providing data in the new format to NTIA and the FCC	3Q, FY23			USDA and NTIA	USDA, NTIA (and Treasury and FCC)
Integrate federal data into FCC "funded locations" map	4Q, FY23			FCC	FCC, 18 months from IIJA passage
Common Data Standards and Definitions completed	4Q, FY23			USDA and NTIA	USDA, NTIA (and Treasury and FCC)

Narrative – FY 2022 Q3 Joint Commerce and USDA

Joint

- Commerce and USDA are **On track** to accomplish the main target.
- Commerce and USDA are currently accepting applications for their respective broadband programs and will be able to report funds obligations and household potentially served for Q3 and Q4 FY22.
- RD and NTIA continue to coordinate outreach and TA efforts. For Q3, this included two occasions where NTIA and RD participated in inter-agency panels with State Rural Development Directors.
- Commerce and USDA have funded additional broadband projects that, when implemented, will provide broadband to more than 190,000 households.

Department of Commerce

- During the last quarter, NTIA released the Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs) for the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program, Middle Mile Grant Program, and State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program.
- During the last quarter, NTIA announced additional Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) grant awards. These awards, once deployed, over the next 1-5 years, will provide broadband access to 14,000+ households.
- Over the last quarter, NTIA hosted 6 State Broadband Leaders Network (SBLN) meetings with States and Territories to provide technical assistance and support their respective broadband deployment and digital equity planning efforts.
- During the last quarter, NTIA hosted thirteen webinars including 3 pre-NOFO 3 post-NOFO TA sessions, overviews of BEAD, DE, and MM applications process, and a tribal focused session. These were open to the general public and an average of 421 people attended each webinar.
- In April and May 2022, NTIA held pre-NOFO formal office hours and had 1:1 TA instances with 37 public entities.
- Over the last quarter, NTIA published 14 TA Materials included a program info sheet, an application guidance, an application checklist and packet, and FAQs for all three BIL programs (BEAD, DE, MM).

Department of Agriculture

- During the last quarter, USDA Telecom funded broadband projects that, when implemented, will provide broadband to over 34,000 households. Furthermore, USDA Telecom continues to prioritize Socially Vulnerable and Tribal Communities with over 16,000 households expected to have more reliable and affordable broadband service.
- During the last quarter, USDA Telecom conducted 3 webinars with a total 897 attendees to assist potential applicants on how to prepare for Round 4 ReConnect funding and Telecom's Distance Learning & Telemedicine Program.
- As of June 30, Telecom's General Field Representatives (GFR) have conducted 37 technical support engagements in 19 different States.

USDA Rural Development

Data accuracy & reliability

Verification and Validation

- Each broadband service provider applicant submits projected service area. USDA Telecom's General Field Representatives (GFRs) validate the service area through field inspection, and if needed, recommend changes to the proposed service area. The final proposed service area polygon is analyzed using ArcGIS mapping services to determine the number of potential households served by the project.

Data Source(s)

- Proposed service area shapefile
- American Community Survey for demographic data

Level of Accuracy Required for Intended Use

- Using the data referenced above, USDA can accurately report at the end of each quarter on whether it has met its planned milestones.

Data Limitations

- The designated service area used for this analysis may be altered due to changes during the project construction phase.

How the Agency Compensates for Data Limitations

- USDA clearly distinguishes between the proposed service areas and final project service areas.

Department of Commerce

Data accuracy & reliability

Verification and Validation

- For both the Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP) and the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) grant programs, the awarded applicants submit projected service area. NTIA's staff reviews and validates the service area and number of potential households serviced with the awarded applications and recommends changes, as appropriate. NTIA leverages Census and geo-spatial data to verify the application (and awardee's) determine the number of households in a proposed service area, as well as other relevant data sets in NTIA's National Broadband Availability Map.

Data Source(s)

- Geo-spatial data provided by the awarded applicant
- American Community Survey for demographic data
- NTIA's National Broadband Availability Map

Level of Accuracy Required for Intended Use

- NTIA relies on the awarded applicant's verified data to accurately report at the end of each quarter on whether it has met its planned milestones.

Data Limitations

- The designated service area used for this analysis may be altered due to changes during the project implementation phase.

How the Agency Compensates for Data Limitations

- NTIA clearly distinguishes between the proposed service areas and final project service areas.

Additional information

Contributing Programs

Organizations:

- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Rural Development
- U.S. Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)

Program Activities:

- USDA Rural Development Programs – ReConnect Loan and Grant Program, Community Connect Grants, Rural Broadband Access Loans, Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans
- NTIA Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth – Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program, State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program, Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, Broadband Infrastructure Program

President's Management Agenda:

- Priority 2 – Delivering excellent, equitable, and secure Federal services and customer experience

Regulations:

- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act 2021
- Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021

Policies:

- Executive Order 14036: Promoting competition in the American Economy

Other Federal Activities:

- Federal Communications Commission (FCC) – Provide broadband availability mapping resources and information on past and current FCC funding broadband investments in infrastructure
- U.S. Treasury – Information on past and current Rural Utility Service (RUS) funding broadband investments in infrastructure

Stakeholder / Congressional Consultations

NTIA executed a Request for Comment in Q2 FY 2022 on policy, program development, and implementation considerations for the new Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.