



## Joint Agency Priority Goal | Action Plan | FY 2022 – FY 2023 | FY 2023 Q4

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

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### Goal Leaders:

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Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information and Administrator

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Chief Innovation Officer  
USDA Rural Development Innovation Center

### Deputy Goal Leaders:

Doug Kinkoph  
Associate Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth

Laurel Leverrier  
Deputy Administrator  
USDA Rural Development Telecom

# Goal Team - USDA

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## USDA Rural Development Team

### Innovation Center

**Senior Lead:**

- Jacki Ponti-Lazaruk (Chief Innovation Officer)

**Team Leads:**

- Jim Barham (Assistant Chief Data Officer)
- Kasey Martin (Data Analytics Division)

### Telecom Programs

**Senior Lead:**

- Laurel Leverrier (Deputy Administrator)

**Team Lead:**

- Ken Kuchno (Deputy Assistant Administrator)

### Broadband Federal Funding Workstream – Agency Partners

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.

# Goal Team - Commerce

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## 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 Implementation Coordination (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

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## 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

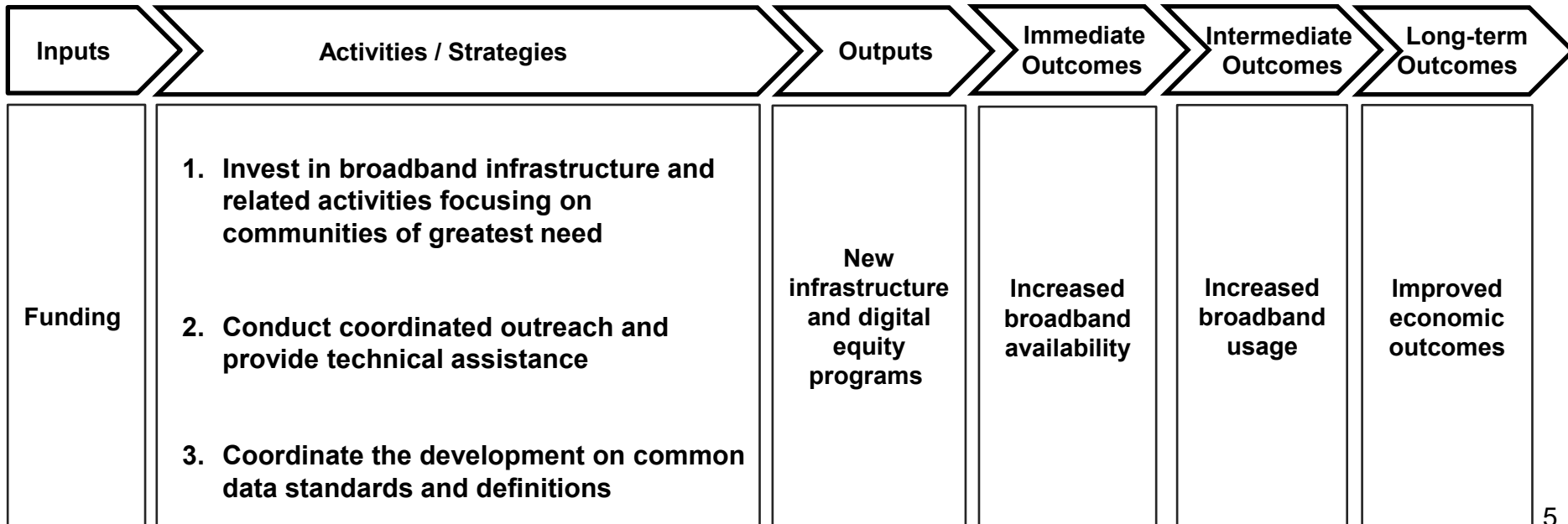
- High-quality internet service is accessible to all Americans so they can do their jobs, participate equally in school learning, access health care, and to stay connected. Through investment, communities of greatest need, including unserved and Tribal communities, will have more equitable access to 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.

# 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

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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

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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 to support and 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

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## 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 (i.e., below 25/3 Mbps) and tribal communities
  - These activities are conducted by the following programs: *Broadband Infrastructure Program and Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program*

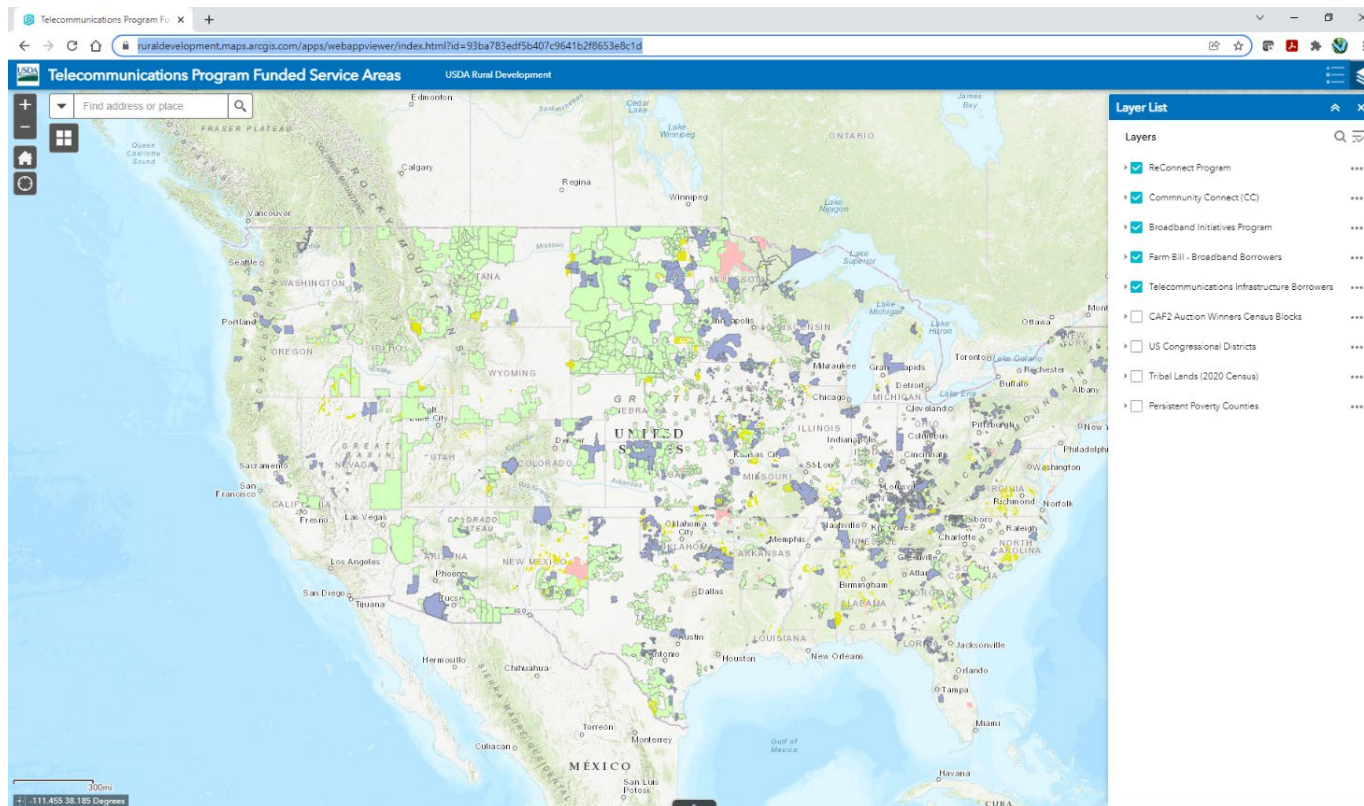


# Goal Strategies

## 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

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## 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

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## **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

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## **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 that provides details on the accompanying data standards to ensure common understanding and application.

# Goal Targets – Joint Commerce and USDA

Achievement statement		Key indicators	Quantify progress			Frequency
By...	We will...		Name of indicator	Target value	Starting value	Current value Q4 FY 2023
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.		# of households	550,000	0	540,102	Quarterly
9/30/2023	provide at least 550,000 households with reliable and affordable access to high-quality internet service.					
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	13	Quarterly

Note: The number of households includes 306,487 through Commerce as of Q4 FY 2023 and 233,615 through USDA as of Q4 FY 2023.

# Goal Targets – Commerce Only

Achievement statement		Key indicators	Quantify progress			Frequency
By...	We will...		Name of indicator	Target value	Starting value	Current value Q4 FY 2023
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.						
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	165,487	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 households 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	53	Quarterly
9/30/2023	Receive State/Territory Digital Equity Plans	# of State/Territory Digital Equity Plans	56	0	1	Quarterly

Note 1: 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, that added 11,000 more households.

Note 2: In Q4 FY 2023, NTIA awarded 43 additional tribal projects to connect 6,526 tribal households, bringing the total to 165,487 tribal households served through infrastructure deployment or subsidies.

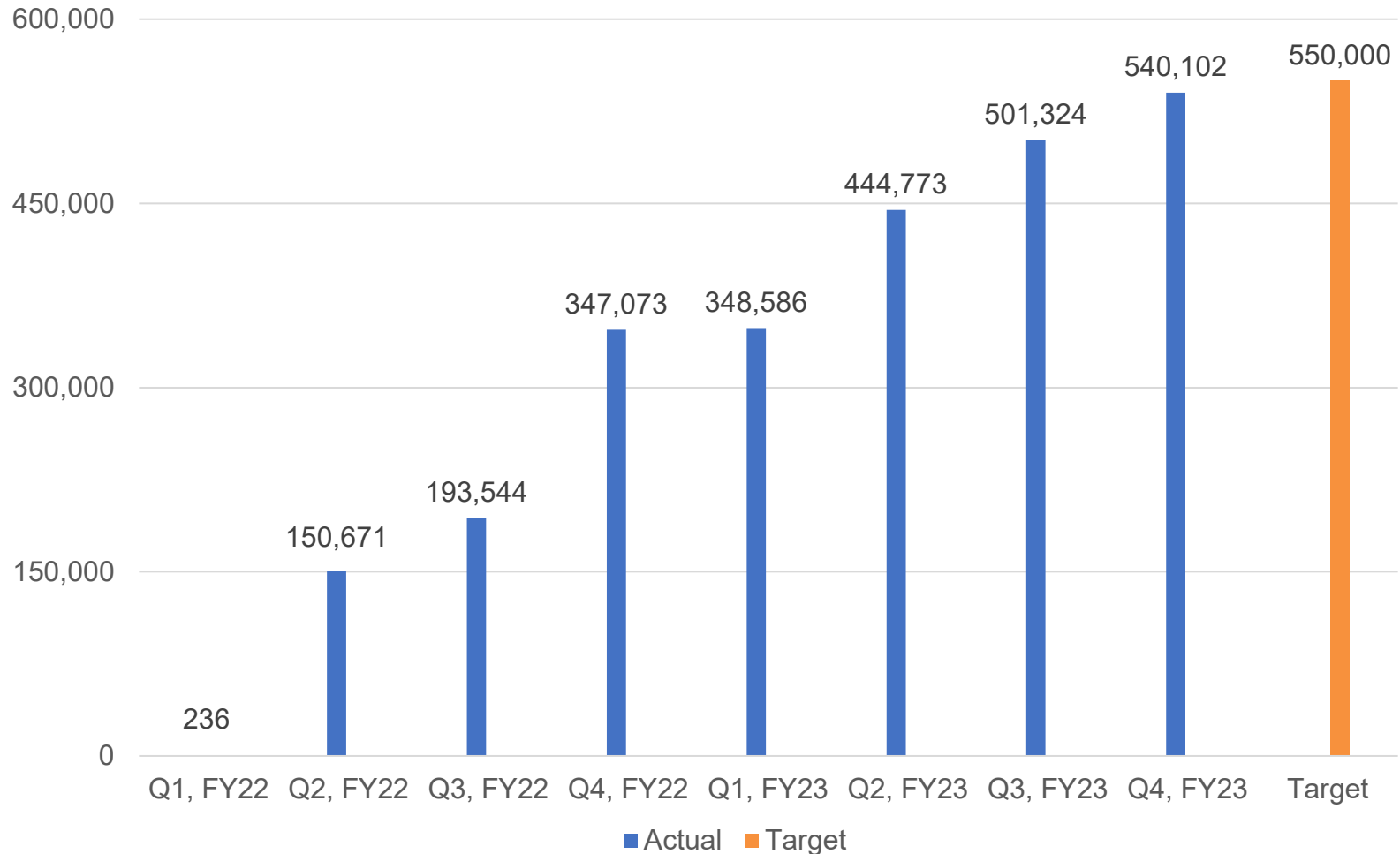
# Goal Targets –USDA Only

Achievement statement		Key indicators	Quantify progress			Frequency	
By...	We will...		Name of indicator	Target value	Starting value	Current value Q4 FY 2023	Update cycle
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.							
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	104,989	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	73	Quarterly	

Note: In Q4 FY 2023, there were 34,192 Tribal and socially vulnerable households served, which brings the USDA total to 104,989 households. USDA held 2 technical assistance (TA) engagements with States that had not received TA support previously, and held 1 national event, which brings the USDA total to 73 technical support engagements.

# 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

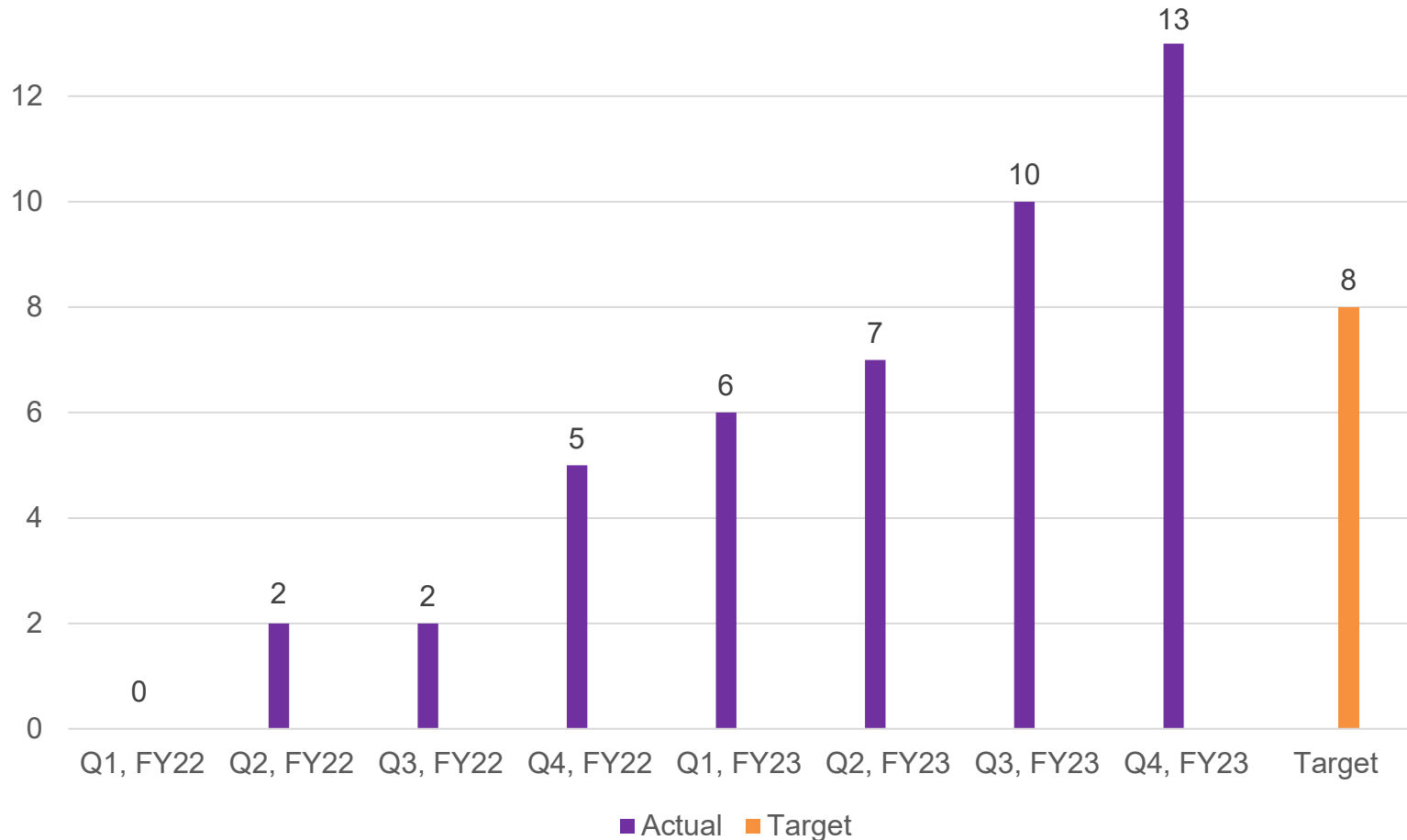


Note: The number of households includes 306,487 through Commerce and 233,615 through USDA.



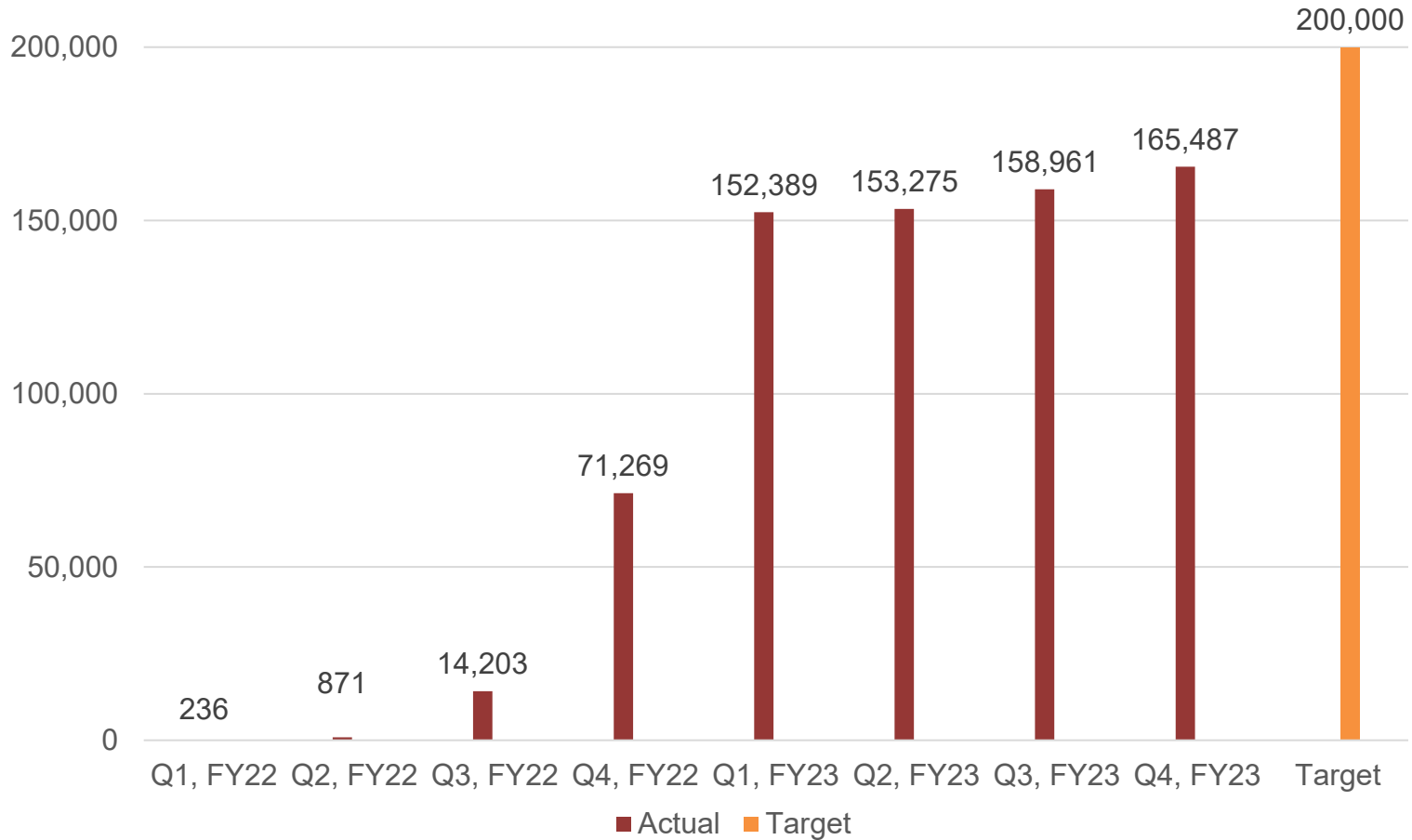
# Key Indicators – Joint Commerce and USDA

Number of outreach and technical assistance sessions



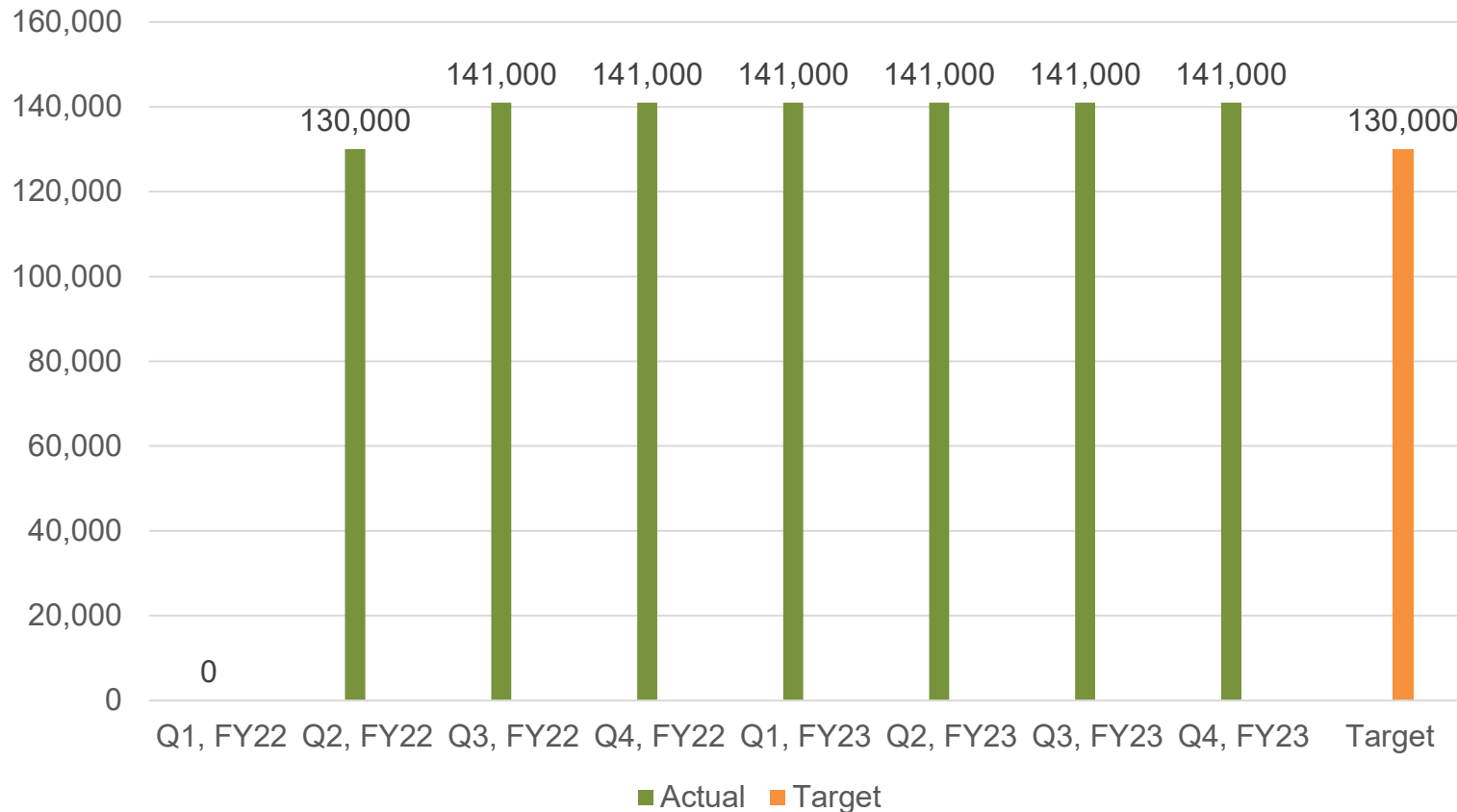
# Key Indicators – Commerce Only

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



# Key Indicators – Commerce Only

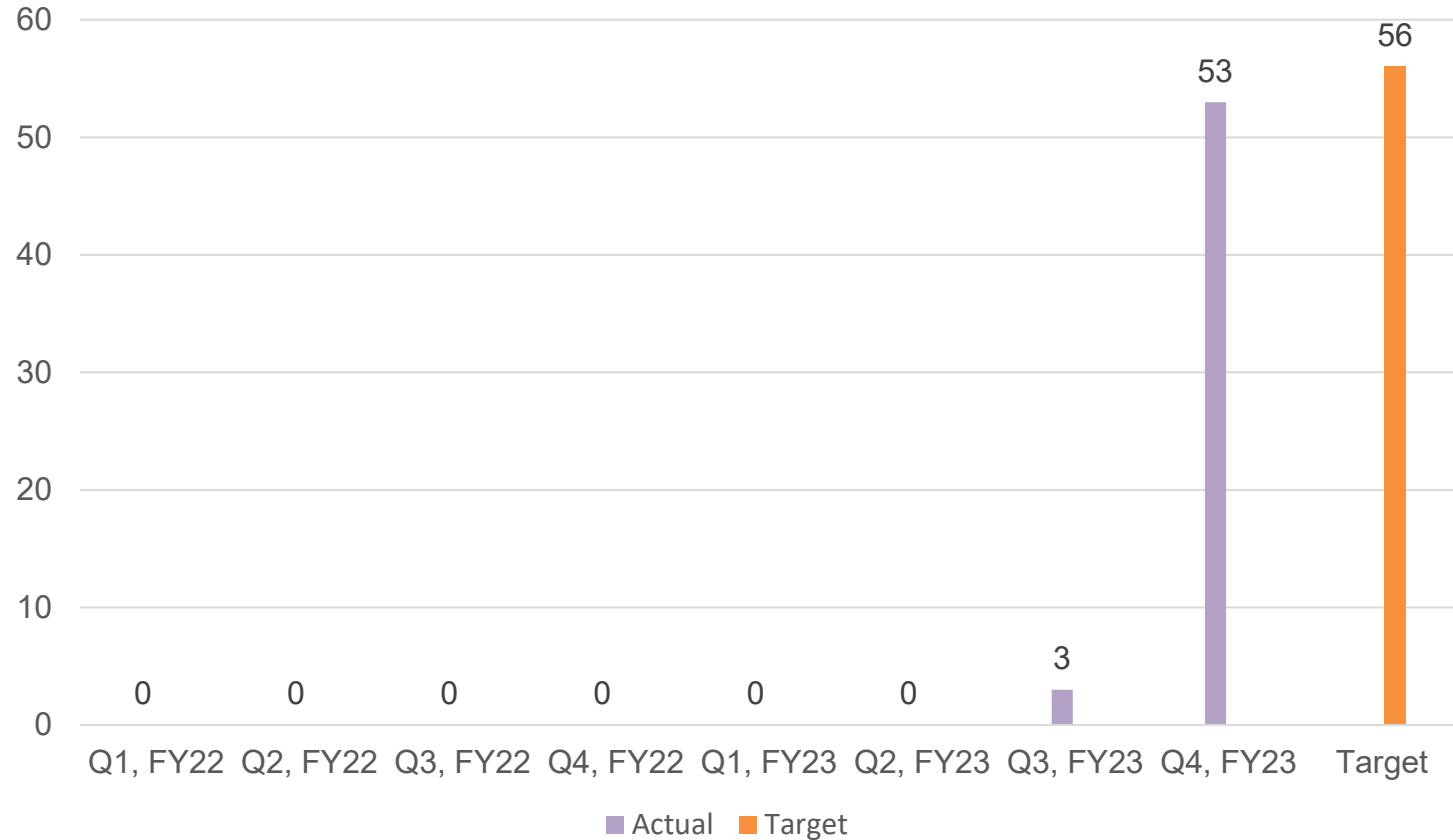
Number of unserved household that will be provided with reliable and affordable broadband service



NOTE: On February 25, 2022, NTIA announced thirteen grant awards for their Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP). These awards, once deployed over the next 1-5 years, will provide broadband access to 130,000 households. NTIA announced an additional BIP award in May 2022 that added 11,000 more households.

# Key Indicators – Commerce Only

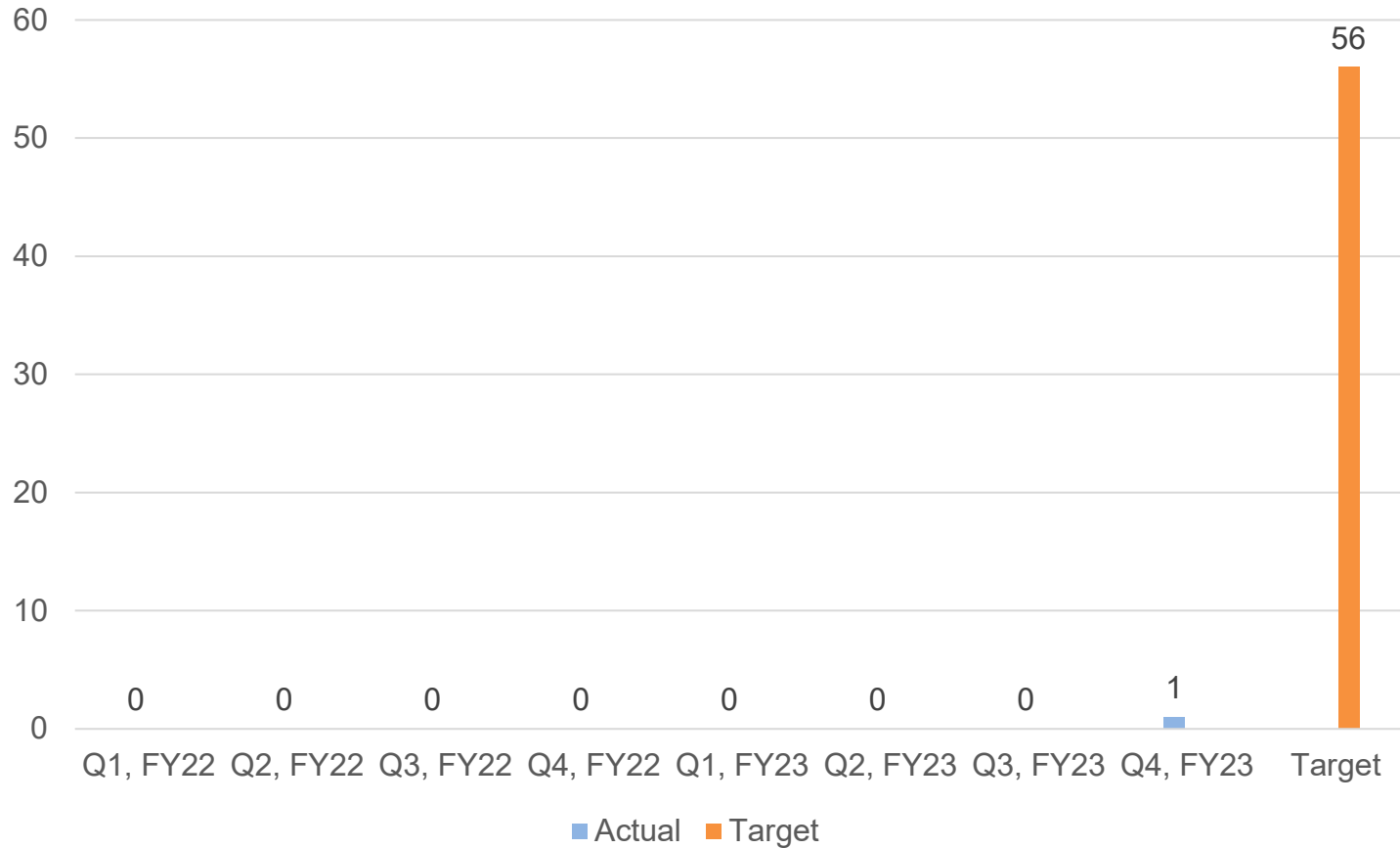
## Number of State/Territory Broadband Action Plans



NOTE: Commerce has received 53 of the expected 56 action plans. Commerce expects to receive action plans from New Hampshire, Florida, and the US Virgin Islands in early FY 2024.

# Key Indicators – Commerce Only

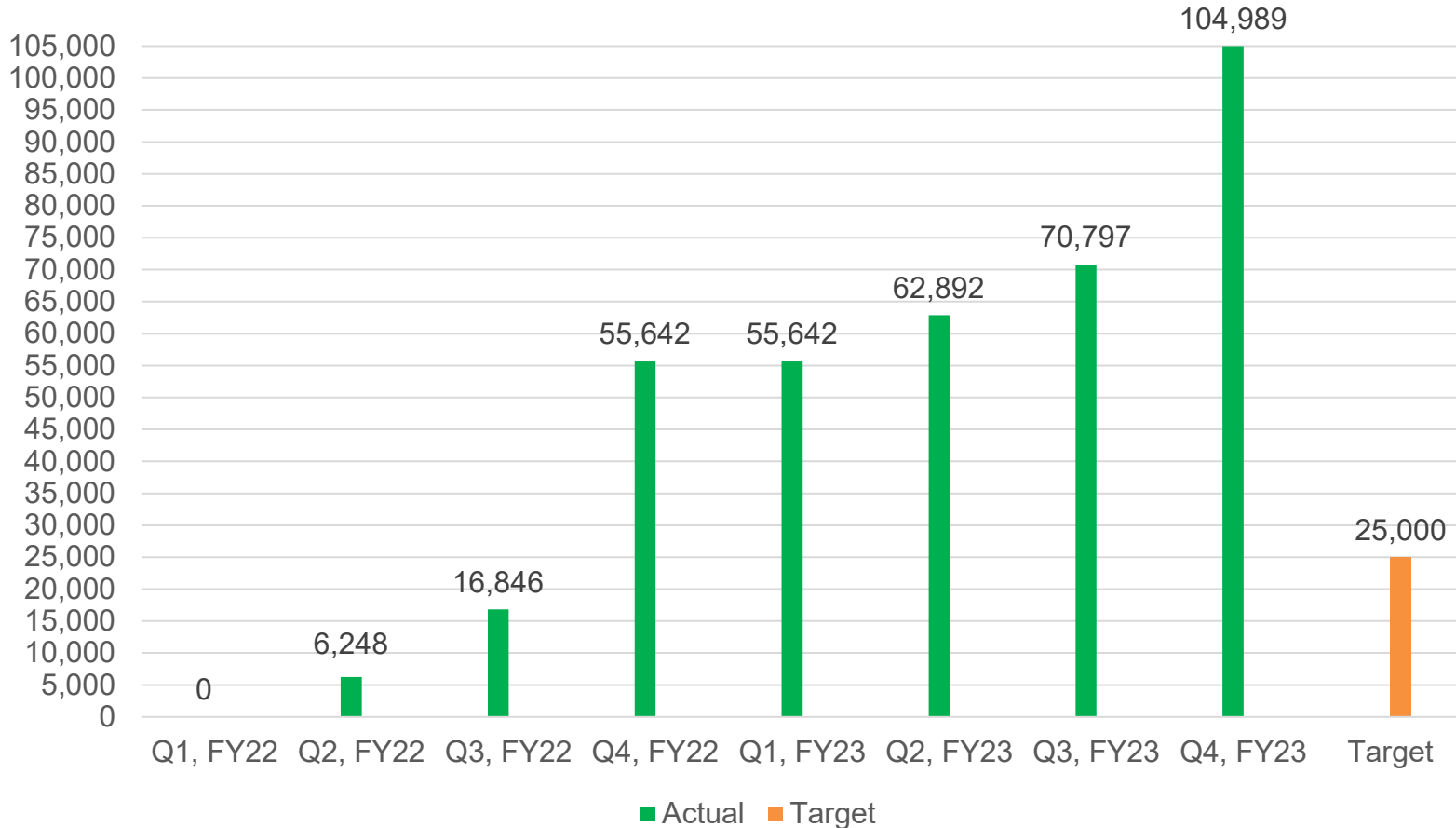
## Number of State/Territory Digital Equity Plans



NOTE: Commerce received fewer DE plans than expected because most states requested no-cost extensions. Commerce expects to receive the remaining 55 DE plans in Q1 and Q2 FY 2024.

# Key Indicators – USDA Only

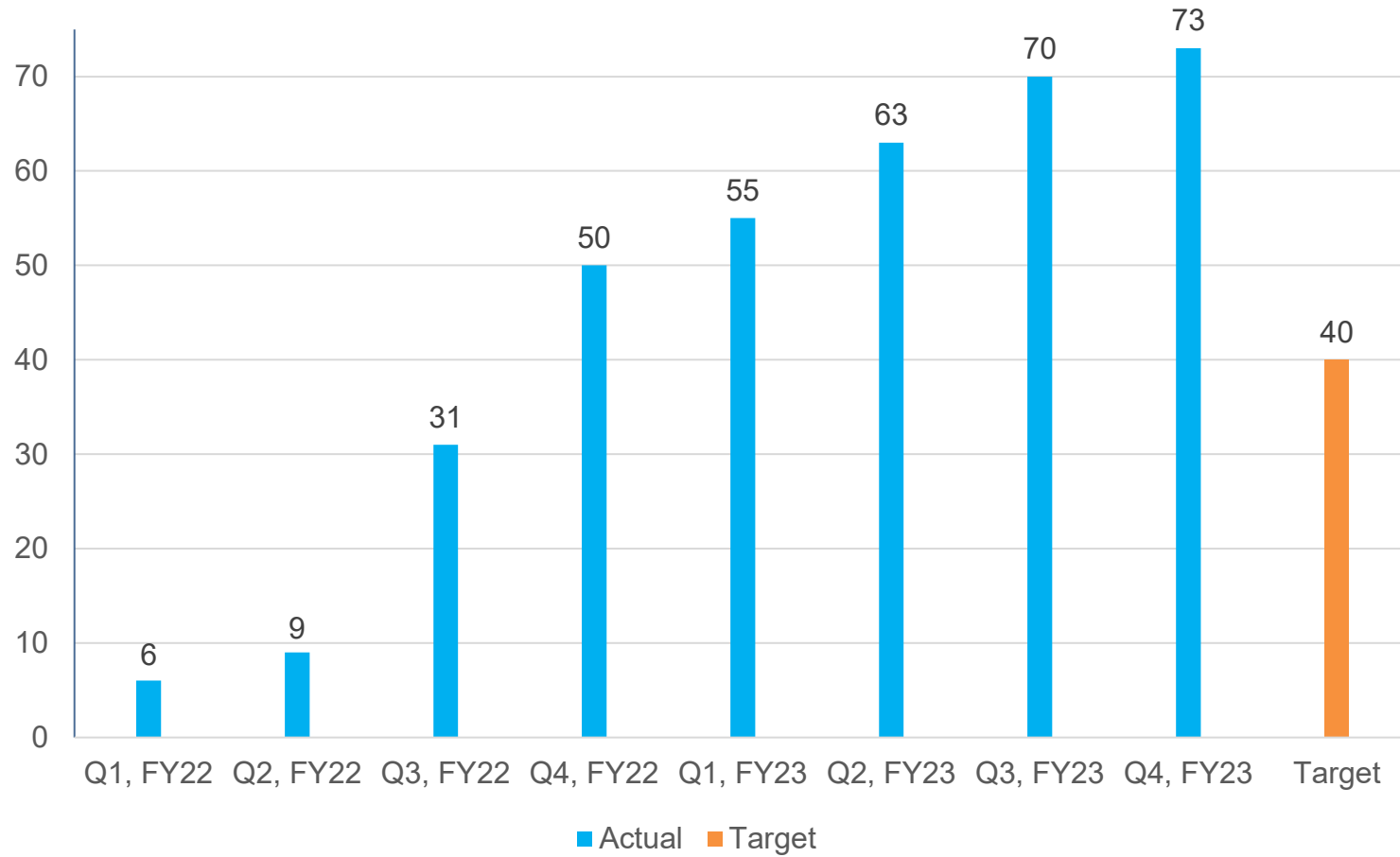
Number of socially vulnerable and Tribal households that will be provided with reliable and affordable broadband service



Note: In Q2 FY 2023, it was reported that 3,672 tribal and socially vulnerable households were served. This has since been corrected to the following: In FY 2023 Q2, there were 7,250 tribal and socially vulnerable households served which brings the USDA total to 62,892. This brings the USDA total for FY 2023 Q3 to 70,797 and the total for FY 2023 Q4 to 104,989.

# 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
<b>1. Invest in broadband infrastructure and related activities</b>					
Number of awards	Q1, FY22	Complete		NTIA	5 Tribal Broadband Connectivity Awards
Number of awards	Q2, FY22	Complete		NTIA	22 awards: 9 Tribal awards, 13 BIP awards
Release BEAD NOFO and Guidance on 5-Year Action Plan	Q3, FY22	Complete		NTIA	NOFO published on May 13, 2022, *5 Year Action Plan Guidance was delayed and released in Q4 FY 2022.
Release Digital Equity State Planning NOFO and Guidance on Digital Equity Plan	Q3, FY22	Complete		NTIA	NOFO published on May 13, 2022, *DE Guidance was delayed and released in Q4 FY 2022.
Number of Awards	Q3, FY22	Complete		NTIA	30 Awards: 29 Tribal, 1 BIP awards
Receive 10 State/Territory 5-Year Broadband Action Plans	Q4, FY22	Complete		NTIA	Received 53 of 56 Action Plans by Q4 FY 2023 with 3 expected in early FY 2024
Number of Awards	Q4, FY22	Complete		NTIA	46 Awards: 3 BEAD, 16 DE, and 27 Tribal
Receive 10 State/Territory 5-Year Broadband Action Plan	Q1, FY23	Complete		NTIA	Received 53 of 56 Action Plans by Q4 FY 2023 with 3 expected in early FY 2024
Number of Awards	Q1, FY23	Complete		NTIA	149 Awards: 61 Tribal, 52 BEAD, and 36 DE
Receive 15 State/Territory 5-Year Broadband Action Plan	Q2, FY23	Complete		NTIA	Received 53 of 56 Action Plans by Q4 FY 2023 with 3 expected in early FY 2024
Number of Awards	Q4, FY23	Complete		NTIA	48 Tribal Broadband Connectivity Awards
Receive 6 State/Territory 5-Year Broadband Action Plans	Q4, FY23	Behind Schedule		NTIA	Received 53 of 56 5-Year Action Plans, remaining 3 to come in early FY 2024.
Receive 46 State/Territory Digital Equity Plans	Q4, FY23	Behind Schedule		NTIA	Received 1 DE Plan. Due to states requesting no-cost extensions, the remaining plans are expected in Q1 and Q2 FY 2024.



# Key Milestones – Joint Commerce and USDA

Milestone Summary					
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Change from last quarter	Owner	Comments
<b>2. Deliver coordinated technical assistance and outreach (1/2)</b>					
Host USDA-Commerce Joint Technical Assistance/Outreach Event	Q2, FY22	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 on Feb 10, 2022, with 106 attendees.
Host USDA-Commerce Joint Technical Assistance/Outreach Event	Q3, FY22	Complete		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, FY22	Complete		USDA Telecom and NTIA	There were three coordinated outreach events for Q4, which included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State Broadband Leaders Network - Interagency Panel (8/4/2022).</li> <li>• National Tribal Broadband Summit – Interagency Panel (9/13/2022)</li> <li>• Western Telecommunications Alliance (WTA) Fall 2022 Educational Forum (9/11/2022– 9/14/2022)</li> </ul>

# Key Milestones – Joint Commerce and USDA

Milestone Summary					
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Change from last quarter	Owner	Comments
<b>2. Deliver coordinated technical assistance and outreach (2/2)</b>					
Host USDA-Commerce Joint Technical Assistance/Outreach Event	Q1, FY23	Complete		USDA Telecom and NTIA	Held a joint panel on Telehealth at an event in Idaho on November 15, 2022.
Host USDA-Commerce Joint Technical Assistance/Outreach Event	Q2, FY23	Complete		USDA Telecom and NTIA	Held a joint panel on Federal programs and the opportunity to braid Federal broadband funds on February 9, 2023, at the SBLN Summit
Host USDA-Commerce Joint Technical Assistance/Outreach Event	Q3, FY23	Complete		USDA Telecom and NTIA	USDA and NTIA held three joint panels in Utah, New Jersey, and New Mexico, which amplifies the important interagency shared mission of universal connectivity.
Host USDA-Commerce Joint Technical Assistance/Outreach Event	Q4, FY23	Complete		USDA Telecom and NTIA	USDA and NTIA held a joint panel with the US Treasury called “Collaboration on Federal Broadband Funding” at the State Broadband Leaders Network 2023 Summer Summit on August 15. USDA Telecom and NTIA had an opportunity to discuss the ReConnect and BEAD program on July 23. Unicom (CGI), NTIA, and USDA Telecom held a planning session on September 14.

# Key Milestones – Commerce Only

Milestone Summary						
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Change from last quarter	Owner	Comments	
<b>2. Deliver coordinated technical assistance and outreach (1/2)</b>						
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, which was both in person and 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, FY22	Complete	Q4, FY22	NTIA	Slightly delayed. Took place August 3-5, 2022.	
Technical Assistance Sessions / Engagements / Tools or Materials for States and Territories (10)	Q4, FY22	Complete		NTIA	Held 6 SBLN meetings; 3 DELN meetings; hosted 12 webinars on OICG programs. Conducted 65 1:1 meetings and published 20 TA materials.	

# Key Milestones – Commerce Only

Milestone Summary						
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Change from last quarter	Owner	Comments	
<b>2. Deliver coordinated technical assistance and outreach (2/2)</b>						
Technical Assistance Sessions / Engagements / Tools or Materials for States and Territories (10)	Q1, FY23	Complete		NTIA	Held 11 SBLN, DELN and TBLN meetings; conducted 7 webinars; held 2 in-person events in WI and ID; published 19 grant resources. 39 TA events/resources total.	
Technical Assistance Sessions / Engagements / Tools or Materials for States and Territories (10)	Q2, FY23	Complete		NTIA	Held 22 SBLN, DELN, and TBLN meetings, including the Winter 2023 Summit in DC; conducted 8 webinars; hosted 2 local events in OK and MN; published 19 TA documents. 51 events and resources in total.	
Host FY 23 Annual State/Territory BEAD/Digital Equity Conferences	Q2, FY23	Complete		NTIA	NTIA convened its Winter 2023 Summit in Washington, DC, in February. 275 people attended, 128 from State and Territory Broadband Offices.	
Technical Assistance Sessions / Engagements / Tools or Materials for States and Territories (10)	Q3, FY23	Complete		NTIA	Held 21 SBLN, DELN and TBLN meetings; conducted 16 webinar and online events; convened 7 in-person local coordination events, published 28 TA materials. 72 TA events and resources in total.	
Technical Assistance Sessions / Engagements / Tools or Materials for States and Territories (10)	Q4, FY23	Complete		NTIA	Held 12 SBLN, DELN, and TBLN meetings; conducted 12 webinars; convened 2 in-person events (1 SBLN event and 1 local coordination event in PA); published 12 TA materials. 38 TA events and resources in total.	

# Key Milestones – USDA Only

Milestone Summary					
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Change from last quarter	Owner	Comments
<b>2. Deliver coordinated technical assistance and outreach (1/2)</b>					
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	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. As of June 30, Telecom’s General Field Representatives (GFR) have conducted 37 technical support sessions in 19 different States, 22 events in total were conducted.
Provide technical support sessions	Q4, FY22	Complete		USDA	Telecom national program hosted 10 national events (including one 3-day workshop) totaling 1,675 attendees. USDA had 6 new State engagements and 3 national events from GFRs. Telecom GFRs also conducted 29 localized outreach and stakeholder events.
Provide technical support sessions	Q1, FY23	Complete		USDA	General Field Representatives (GFR) conducted 37 technical support sessions, including 5 sessions for States with no previous engagement.

Note: The number of technical support engagements include national events, such as webinars, and engagements by state. Multiple sessions held in one state are calculated as one technical support engagement.

# Key Milestones – USDA Only

Milestone Summary					
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Change from last quarter	Owner	Comments
<b>2. Deliver coordinated technical assistance and outreach (2/2)</b>					
Provide technical support sessions	Q2, FY23	Complete		USDA	<p>Telecom national program hosted 3 national events, totaling 719 attendees, which included a Listening Session for rural communities, a Listening Session for technical assistance providers, and a webinar on the Community Connect program.</p> <p>General Field Representatives (GFR) conducted 53 technical support sessions, including 5 sessions for States with no previous engagement.</p>
Provide technical support sessions	Q3, FY23	Complete		USDA	<p>Telecom national program hosted 5 national events, totaling 631 attendees. The national events were focused on the new Broadband Technical Assistance program.</p> <p>General Field Representatives (GFR) conducted 50 technical support sessions, including 2 sessions for States with no previous engagement.</p>

Note: The number of technical support engagements include national events, such as webinars, and engagements by state. Multiple sessions held in one state are calculated as one technical support engagement.

# Key Milestones – USDA Only

Milestone Summary					
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Change from last quarter	Owner	Comments
<b>2. Deliver coordinated technical assistance and outreach (3/3)</b>					
Provide technical support sessions	Q4, FY23	Complete		USDA	<p>Telecom national program hosted 1 national event, totaling 6 attendees. The national event was a Lunch and Learn about USDA Broadband programs for the Rural Community College Alliance.</p> <p>General Field Representatives (GFR) conducted 27 technical support sessions, including 2 sessions for States with no previous engagement.</p>

# Key Milestones – Joint Commerce and USDA

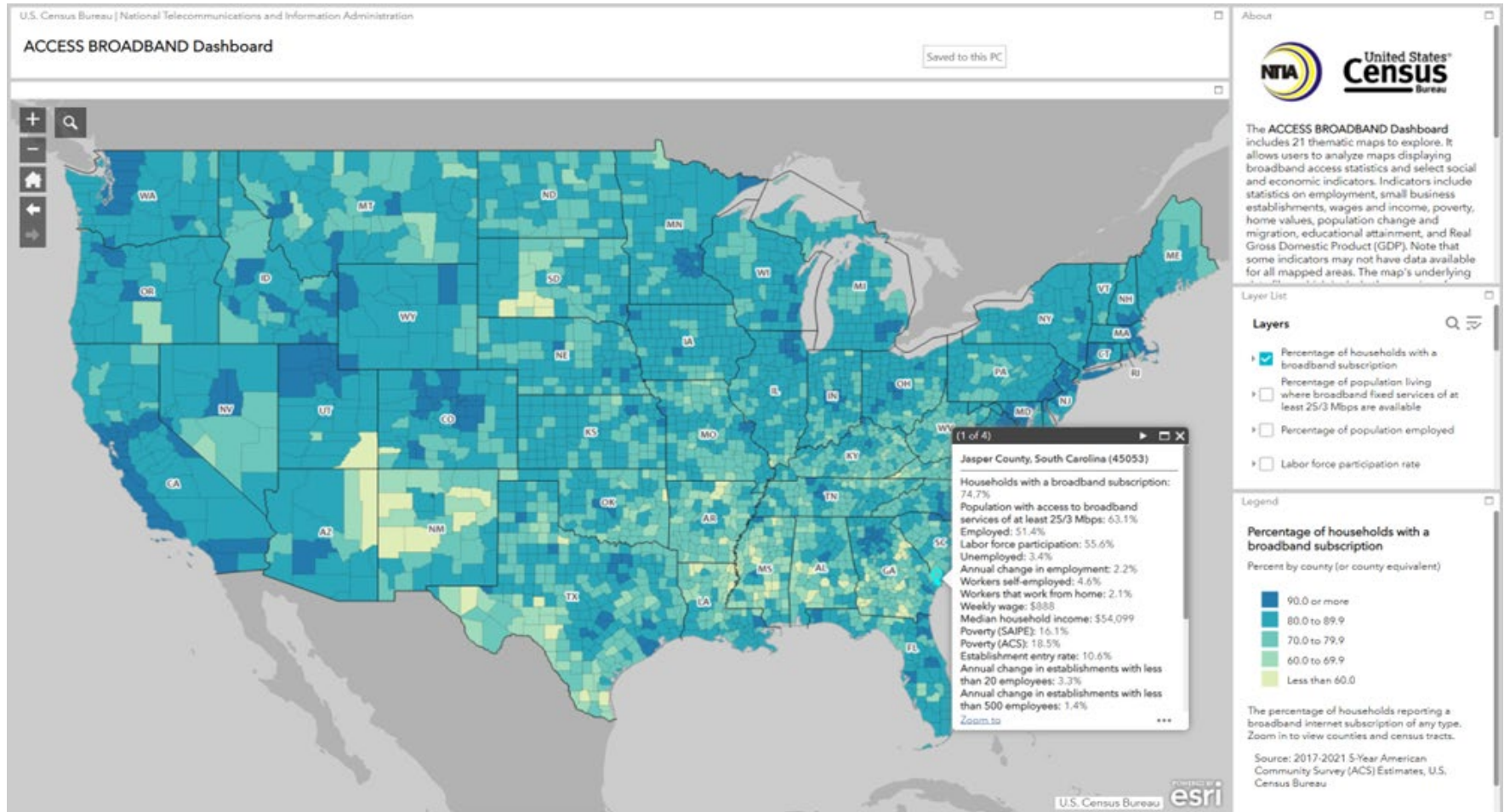
Milestone Summary					
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Change from last quarter	Owner	Comments
<b>3. Coordinate the Development of Common Data Standards and Definitions</b>					
Develop draft data specifications needed for "funded locations map"	Q3, FY22	Complete		NTIA	NTIA, in consultation with FCC, USDA, Treasury
Solicit input from agencies and integrate	Q4, FY22	Complete		NTIA	NTIA, in consultation with FCC, USDA, Treasury
Finalize data specifications and data collection standard	Q1, FY23	Complete		NTIA	NTIA, in consultation with FCC, USDA, Treasury. Completed in Q2 FY23.
Federal broadband funding agencies begin providing data in the new format to NTIA and the FCC	Q3, FY23	Complete		USDA and NTIA	USDA and NTIA, as well as Treasury and FCC, submitted data on awarded infrastructure projects to the FCC Broadband Funding Map.
Integrate federal data into FCC "funded locations" map	Q4, FY23	Complete		FCC	FCC published the data submitted by Federal agencies into the FCC Broadband Funding Map in June 2023, ahead of schedule.
Common Data Standards and Definitions completed	Q4, FY23	Complete		USDA and NTIA	USDA and NTIA, as well as Treasury and FCC, are following the common data standards to provide information to the FCC's broadband funding map.



# Access Broadband Dashboard

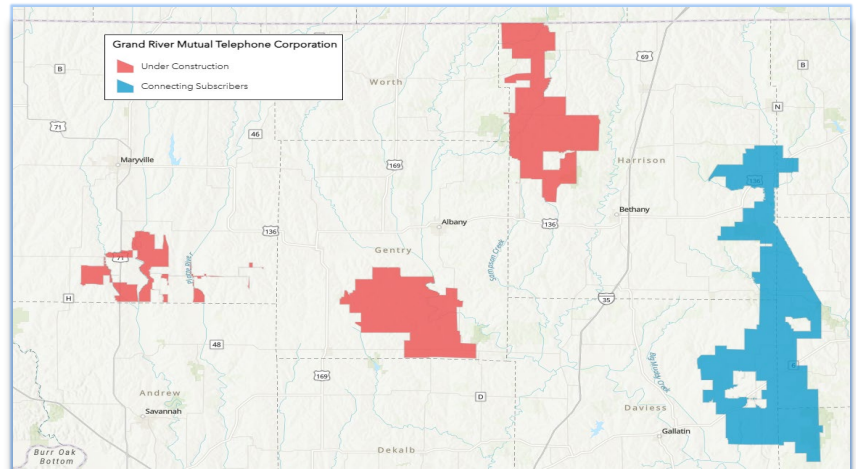
The Census Bureau and NTIA created the Access Broadband Dashboard for policymakers and the public to assess how changes in broadband availability and adoption could influence local economies.

This interactive dashboard allows the public to compare maps displaying broadband access statistics with overlay maps showing specific economic indicators. Indicators include statistics on employment, small business establishments, wages and income, poverty, home values, population change and migration, educational attainment, and real gross domestic product (GDP).





# Photos of On the Ground Progress



**Clockwise:** (1) ConnectMaine, a BIP recipient, prepares to dig site for fiber installation by barge. (2) The town of Washington in Maine held a broadband festival to celebrate the new broadband projects in their area. (3) A map that shows a Rural Development investment that will be used to deploy a fiber-to-the home network to connect 3,107 people, 521 farms, 59 businesses, and 9 educational facilities to high-speed internet in Daviess, Gentry, Grundy, Harrison, Livingston, Mercer and Nodaway counties in Missouri. (4) Construction of Mt. Moriah, Missouri Service Area begins. This service area will serve Livingston, Harrison, Grundy, 34 Mercer, and Daviess Counties, an area with a population of 2,072 people and 43 businesses.

# Narrative – FY 2022- 2023 Joint Commerce and USDA

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**APG not achieved yet significant progress made towards the performance target.** While Commerce and USDA did not fully achieve the ambitious objective established at the start of this goal cycle, this APG significantly advanced the overall goal of ensuring all Americans have access to high-speed, affordable, and reliable broadband.

During the past 2 years, Commerce and USDA successfully funded projects that, when implemented, will provide broadband to 306,487 and 233,615 households, respectively. At 540,102 total households, Commerce and USDA achieved 98.2% of their overall APG target of 550,000 households. The remaining 9,988, or 1.8%, will be achieved by May 2024. USDA and NTIA look forward to continuing their work to ensure all Americans have access to high-speed, affordable, and reliable broadband during another new two-year joint APG for FYs 2024 and 2025.

## Major Accomplishments

- Commerce and USDA excelled at coordinated outreach and Technical Assistance (TA) efforts. They held 13 joint TA sessions supporting broadband planning, deployment, adoption, and use. Each agency also exceeded its individual Technical Assistance targets, working to ensure that the broadband deployment projects the agencies funded are implemented successfully and preparing applicants and States and Territories to apply for or receive additional funding to ensure Federal funding focused on making sure all Americans have access to broadband.
- USDA Telecom exceeded its priority target of reaching 25,000 Tribal and Socially Vulnerable communities by connecting over 104,989 of these communities once projects are completed. This makes up a remarkable 45% of funded projects, and this success is attributed to the dedication of USDA staff to conducting outreach and technical assistance.
- NTIA provided excellent technical assistance for its applicants and grantees. NTIA held 88 SBLN, DELN, and TBLN meetings, convened three in-person summits, organized 13 local coordination events, hosted over 70 webinars, and provided more than 110 TA publications to its stakeholders to promote combined success.

## Major Challenge

- NTIA experienced delays in releasing TBCP's NOFO 2, pushing project awards into FY 2024. This caused NTIA to fall short of its goal to connect 200,000 tribal households by the end of FY 2023. The delay was due to a strategic decision to apply additional TBCP funding received in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to the five-time oversubscribed first TBCP NOFO.

# Narrative – FY 2022- 2023 Joint Commerce and USDA (Continued)

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## **FY 2023 Q4 Joint Commerce and USDA Milestones**

### **Department of Commerce**

#### **• Q4 FY 2023 Grant Awards:**

- NTIA awarded 28 additional tribal projects to connect 6,526 tribal households, totaling 165,487 tribal households served through infrastructure deployment or subsidies.
- NTIA received 53 BEAD 5-year action plans in Q4 FY 2023; 3 are expected in FY 2024. NTIA received one Digital Equity Plan in Q4. Most states have requested no-cost extensions on their Digital Equity Plans, pushing their due dates into Q1 and Q2 FY 2024.

#### **• Q4 FY 2023 Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Support:**

- NTIA exceeded its target to provide technical assistance and support broadband deployment and digital equity planning efforts. NTIA convened 7 State Broadband Leaders Network (SBLN) meetings, 3 Digital Equity Leadership Network (DELN) meetings, and 3 Tribal Broadband Leaders Network (TBLN) meetings.
- In August, NTIA convened 1 in-person SBLN meeting in Indiana with 120 attendees (67 virtual) from 51 different states and territories. The summit had numerous informative panels and discussion questions around many topics including sub-granting, workforce, climate resiliency, etc.
- NTIA hosted one in-person local coordination event in PA. 153 people attended in person, and another 106 attended virtually. Sessions at the event were about infrastructure best practices in PA, discussing regional barriers, and tools to break them down.

#### **• Q4 FY 2023 Broadband Data Standards:**

- NTIA, USDA, and Treasury provided information to the FCC to publish the Broadband Funding Map. NTIA, USDA, Treasury, and others continue to provide new and updated information for the Funding Map.

### **Department of Agriculture**

- In Q4 FY 2023, USDA Telecom funded broadband projects that, when implemented, will provide broadband to an estimated 48,832 households, including 34,192 households in Socially Vulnerable and Tribal Communities.
- In Q4 FY 2023, the Telecom national program hosted 1 national event, totaling 6 attendees, and General Field Representatives (GFR) conducted 27 technical support sessions, including 2 sessions for States with no previous engagement.
- From FY 2022 through Q3 FY 2023, USDA Telecom-funded broadband projects will provide broadband to an estimated 233,615 households. Of these projected households, 104,989, or 45%, are in Socially Vulnerable and Tribal Communities.

# Data Accuracy & Reliability – Commerce Only

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## 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 awardees, 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 Sources

- Geospatial 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.

# Data Accuracy & Reliability – USDA Only

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## Verification and Validation

- Each broadband service provider applicant submits projected service area. USDA Telecom staff (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 Sources

- 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.

# Additional Information

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## **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.