March 2024 Newsletter - Indiana Broadband Office

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IBO March Newsletter

The Indiana Broadband Office (IBO) hopes you had a great March. Our Digital Equity team is so excited to announce that last Friday March 29th, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) began making the $1.44 billion Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program available to each state and territory. This means the IBO will apply for the Capacity Grant Program within the next 60 days and then begin to implement Indiana's Digital Equity Plan with our state's allocation of funding.

Please read more about this program [here](#) and the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) [here](#).

Our office was also busy starting the Challenge Phase of the [Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)](#) program. The deadline for the Challenge Phase has been extended until April 17th, so there are just over two more weeks to submit challenges.

Challenge Process Ends April 17th

The Indiana BEAD Challenge Phase ends April 17th. If you haven't already registered as a permissible challenger, you can do so on https://connectingindiana.com/register/bead now. Once you have been approved you will be granted credentials to the platform from which you can add additional users and submit any number of challenges. All of the Indiana Challenge Process resources can be found on our [website](#). This includes recorded webinars, slide decks, flyers, challenge guides, etc. If you have any Challenge Process related questions, please email IBOChallenge@iot.IN.gov.

IBO Open Office Hours

The IBO is hosting **open office hours** for the duration of the Challenge Phase. These sessions are an open forum for members of the public and permissible challengers to ask the IBO questions about the work our office is doing.

Sessions will be every Tuesday and Thursday from 2 - 3pm EST. There will be one Zoom link that will give access to every session on any day.

All are welcome during any session to speak with our broadband experts! See you all there!

Zoom link for every session: **[(here)](#)**

Tuesday - April 2, 2024

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 pm EST [(Calendar invite)](#)

Thursday - April 4, 2024

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 pm EST [(Calendar invite)](#)

Tuesday - April 9, 2024

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 pm EST [(Calendar invite)](#)

Thursday - April 11, 2024

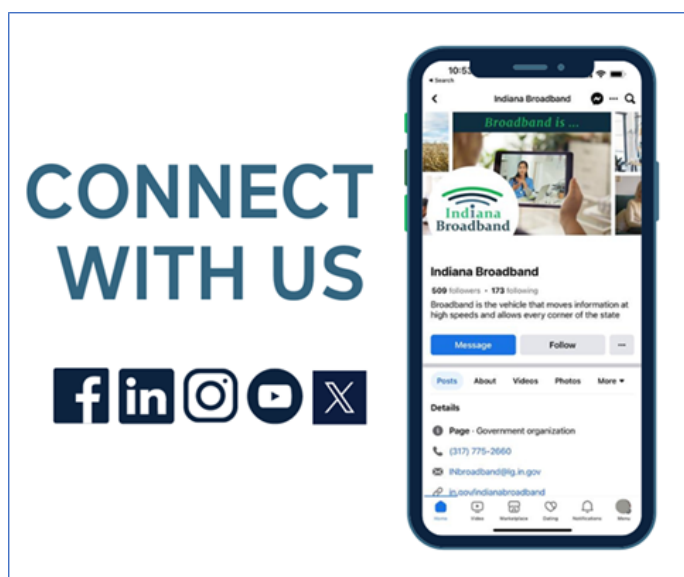Time: 2:00 - 3:00 pm EST [(Calendar invite)](#)

Where's Steve?

Throughout March Infrastructure and Broadband Administrator **Steve Cox** and the IBO team traveled to six counties for the Association of Indiana Counties (AIC) district meetings. We visited Greencastle, Auburn, Plymouth, Hagerstown, Florence, and Huntingburg.

Steve spoke about the BEAD program and how units of local government can participate in the Challenge Process. It was great to connect with county officials, eat wonderful food, and travel around the state!

Thank you to the AIC for hosting us and planning these educational district meetings.

Let's Connect!

We want to hear from you. If you have general questions or concerns, email IndianaBroadband@iot.IN.gov. To stay updated on our latest work, follow us on Facebook, Twitter (X), Instagram, LinkedIn and check out our website.

We encourage you to forward this newsletter to anyone who might be interested and urge them to sign up for our newsletter here. See you in March!

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