



BEAD Program

Webinar | NOFA Affordable
Devices

October 16th, 2024





Agenda

Introduction &
Funding Opportunity

5 Mins

Program Design

15 Mins

Evaluation Criteria

20 Mins

Timing and Next
Steps

5 Mins

Q&A

15 Mins



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“

High-speed Internet is an

essential service for all

”

“Broadband is an essential service, for everyone, everywhere” - Chairwoman Rosenworcel

Puerto Rico Broadband Program

THE PUERTO RICO BROADBAND PROGRAM IS CREATED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO THROUGH EXECUTIVE ORDER 2022-40.

Local and federal funds allocated for the construction of broadband infrastructure on the island.

We have a strategic plan for digital inclusion and infrastructure.

Construction of broadband infrastructure necessary to close the digital divide on the island.

The PR Broadband Program is working within BEAD to expand connectivity across the island...

Problem: Digital Divide

Many Americans lack access to **affordable, reliable high-speed internet**, limiting their ability to **access opportunities** in the economy, education, public health, and social connection.

The BEAD program aims to bridge this gap, bringing **high-speed internet to all**

BEAD initiative

BEAD, or the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program, is part of a federal initiative, led by the **National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)**, aimed at **expanding high-speed internet access**

BEAD for Puerto Rico

Through BEAD, Puerto Rico has been awarded over **\$334 million** in funding, over a **5-year period**, to **improve and expand broadband infrastructure and digital access** on the island

... to achieve this, PR Smart Island has identified 5 strategic programs

1 Conduit System

Given the impact of natural disasters on PR's broadband infrastructure, buried conduit is critical for long-term resilience against environmental challenges

2 Dig. Navigators & Literacy

Significant portion of PR's population lacks digital guidance and literacy needed to engage effectively with online services, especially across underserved communities

3 Affordable Devices

Access to affordable devices is a sig. barrier for many PR residents, particularly low-income households

4 Workforce Development

Critical to bridge local skilled labor gap in supporting the deployment of broadband infrastructure and related digital services

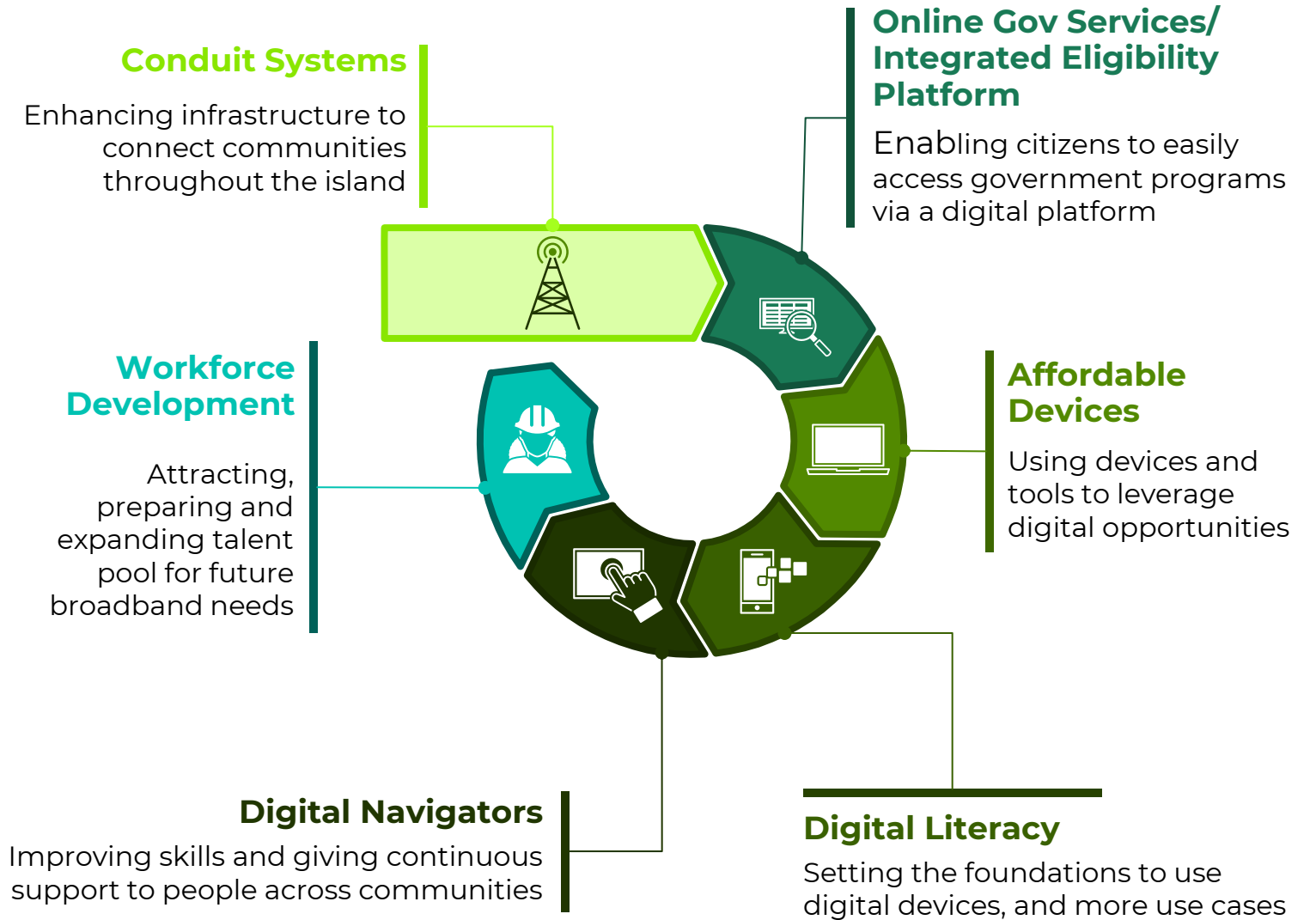
5 Online Gov't Services

Lack of centralized and accessible online gov't services in PR creates barriers for citizens to interact with gov't entities efficiently

Integrated Portfolio of BEAD Programs |

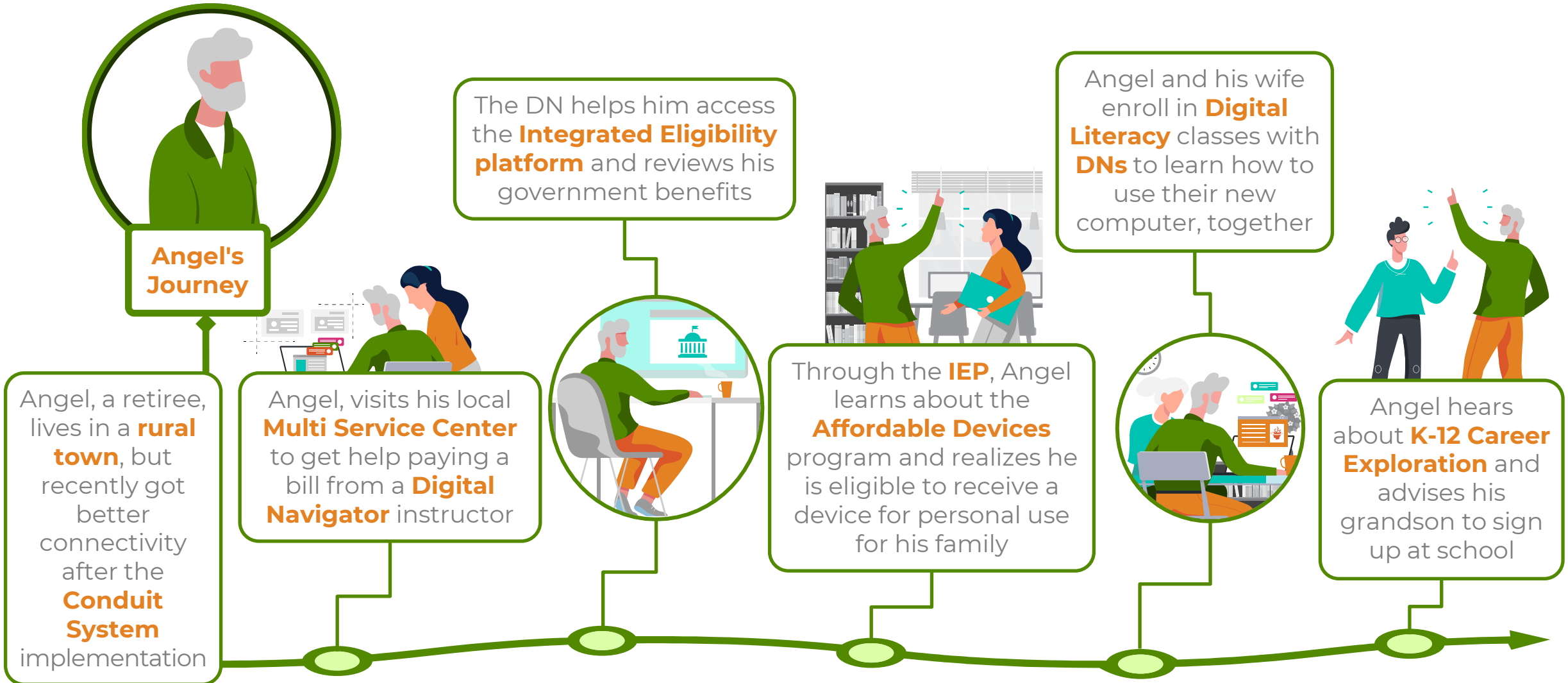
Bringing Puerto Ricans Online, closing the digital equity and maximizing our digital potential

Additional Infrastructure projects (e.g., Public Wi-Fi)

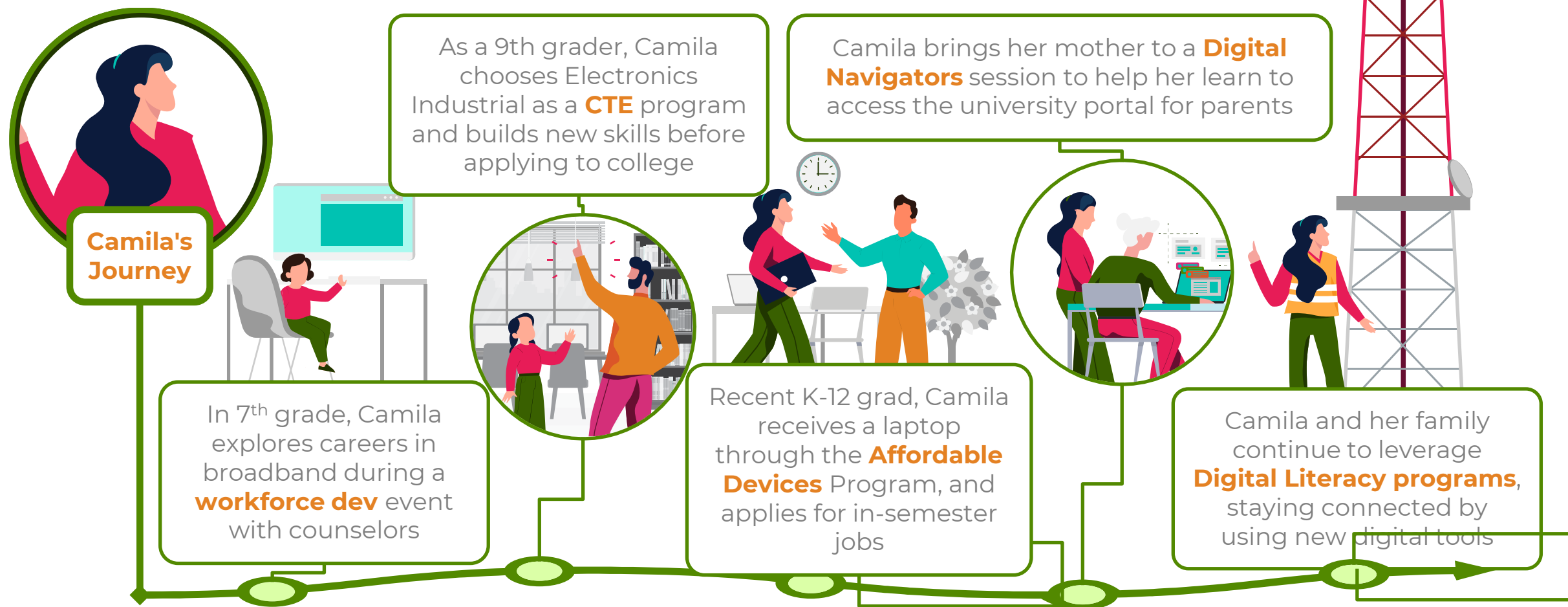


Leverage PRBP future assets (e.g., Multiservice Centers)

Senior Citizen Journey | Empowering Angel to build digital confidence and trust, and connect using modern tools and services



Student Journey | Empowering Camila and other students to develop digital skills and explore broadband careers



Context | Broad set of issues to tackle low broadband adoption in PR, device ownership being one of them



Low household internet access

- ◆ Nearly 30% of Puerto Ricans report no home access to the internet
 - Higher than the U.S. avg. (~10%), and 10 pps higher than the next-highest state
- ◆ Municipalities in the central region of Puerto Rico have only 18% home internet adoption



Low device usage and adoption

- ◆ Only 45% of households have a desktop or laptop, compared to 75% US average
- ◆ 25% of Puerto Ricans do not have a computing device. The highest rate in the United States

Source: Puerto Rico Digital Equity Plan, Puerto Rico Report



Lack of internet access at home, high cost of internet, lack of knowledge, poor service, physical disabilities, lack of technical support, housing insecurity, etc. [are the barriers to digital equity].

People have virtually no knowledge whatsoever of how to use a computer, how to use a tablet, how to navigate to job search. The most they could know how to do is with their cell phone and call the numbers they already have, which are already established.

- Participants at Digital Equity Listening Sessions from PRBP

96% of the population has a smartphone

Rationale | 55% of PR households do not have a desktop computer or a laptop



Affordability challenges in Puerto Rico restrict access to devices and connectivity ...

Cost of devices can be disproportionately high, which exacerbates existing inequalities

- Avg. smartphone and **laptop pricing in PR is comparable to those in the mainland US**, while median household **income in PR is less than one-third** of the US median outcome
- Majority of PR households qualified for the **Affordable Connectivity Program (72%), compared to 36% nationwide**
- Inability to afford new devices leads to use of outdated and insufficient hardware



... which prevents many residents from accessing crucial benefits and opportunities





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Summary Program Design

We are looking for organizations that are able to...

- Source devices prioritizing high volume and low cost, ensuring they have adequate quality, specs and software
- Define and implement an outreach and delivery plan to select and target specific eligible populations, in collaboration with partners
- Facilitate adoption of devices by facilitating digital literacy trainings or affordable internet options
- Provide technical support and ensure sustainability of the program in the long-run

Main outcomes for the Program are...

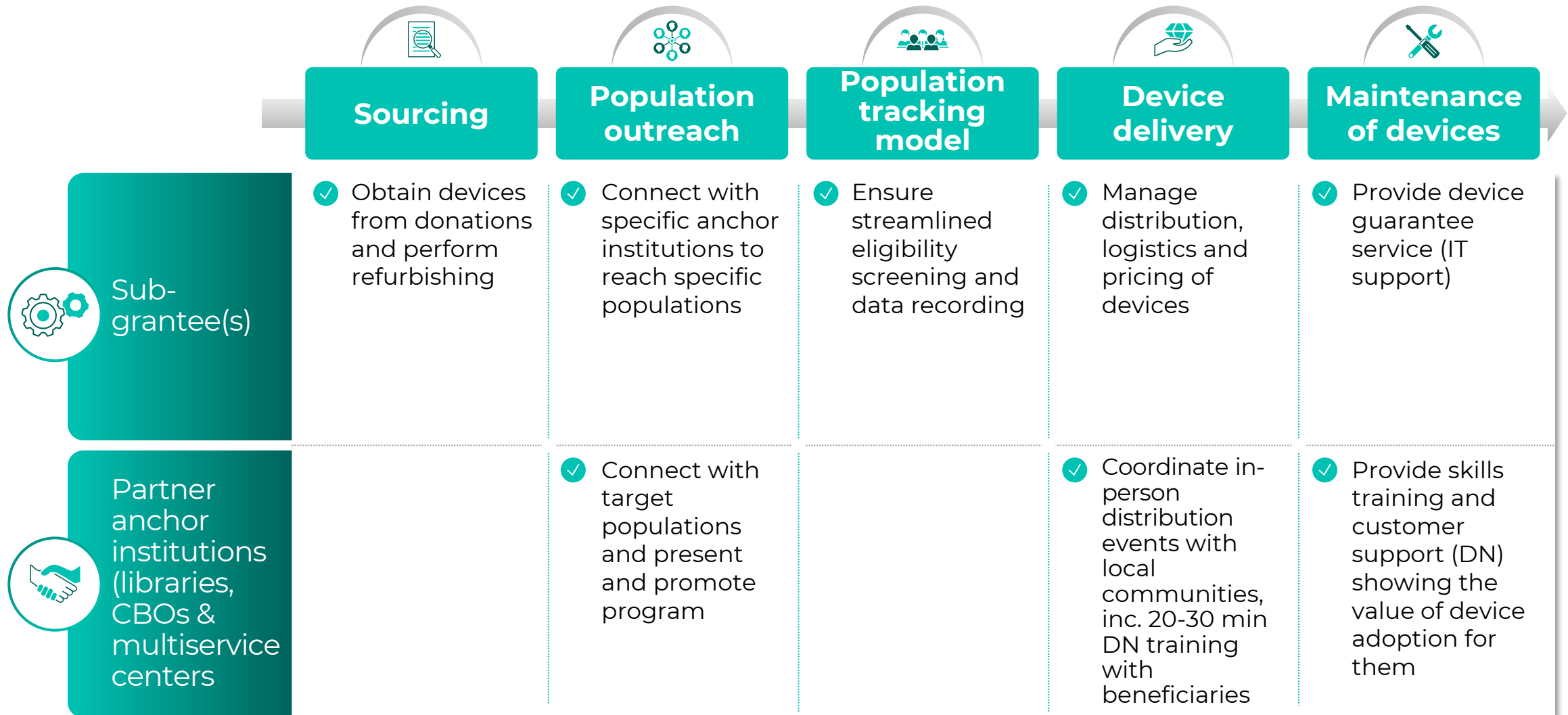
- Distribute between 150,000 to 200,000 free or low-cost devices to target populations in Puerto Rico in the next 5 years (2025-2029)
- Distribute ~1,000 devices to digital navigators / digital literacy delivery organizations.

Allowable uses of funds under the Affordable Devices Program

- Buy **devices** to be provided for beneficiaries
- Conduct **refurbishing of used devices** (on their own or via third parties)
- Rent **warehouse/facilities/vehicles** necessary for managing the distribution and logistics
- **Transport devices** to or within Puerto Rico
- Hire **program coordinator(s)** responsible for supporting program development, aligning with sourcing organizations and community organizations, and coordinating with PRBP office
- **Promote the program and reach potential beneficiaries** through marketing and outreach campaigns (on their own or via third parties), in coordination with the holistic efforts of the PRBP
- Hire **personnel to deliver the devices, provide technical support and follow-up** with the beneficiaries to promote device adoption
- Consider **options to provide connectivity** solutions for users eligible for devices
- **Provide digital literacy trainings** to some groups within the target beneficiaries
- **Other items** related to this project if approved by the PRBP

Proponents should detail the pricing for each item that they would require to conduct the program

Sample view of the role the sub-grantee will need to take in the program



Proponents must meet the following requirements

- 1 Proponents shall be companies [properly accredited to provide services in the broadband value chain in Puerto Rico](#) at the time of the submission of their Proposals and comply with all applicable Puerto Rico or U.S. laws and/or requirements.
- 2 Proponents must have [adequate resources to perform the project](#), or the ability to obtain them within the jurisdiction of Puerto Rico. It is critical that the proponents have [proficient Spanish speakers for interacting with the public](#).
- 3 Proponents must have a [satisfactory record of performance, integrity, and business ethics](#). Organizations included in SAM debarred list will not be allowed to participate in this NOFA.
- 4 Proponents shall provide a [listing and brief description of legal actions for the past five years](#).
- 5 Proponents must submit a [complete Proposal](#) covering all necessary topics outlined in this NOFA.
- 6 Proponents must upload [required documents as attachments](#) with response as detailed in Section 7 (Proposal Submission).
- 7 If a selected proponent is not [up-to-date and/or fails to diligently comply with Puerto Rico's contracting requirements](#), this will be cause to for-go any other contracting efforts and select the next qualified entry.



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Selection criteria for the Affordable devices NOFA



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Capacity and experience

- Capabilities / experience
- Logistics / distribution plan
- Resourcing
- Leadership commitment



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Device cost, quality and sustainability

- Device cost & overall cost efficiency
- Minimum specs and software
- Warranty and technical support
- Sustainability



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Community engagement and delivery

- Eligibility and distribution
- Partnerships with local entities
- Pricing/ownership model
- Complementing services (i.e., digital literacy & affordable internet)



What is expected in the submission? | Appendix 1 Form filled out (I)

General Information

Name of the organization

Registration number of the organization (EIN)

Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) from SAM.gov

Address of principal offices

Name of the point of contact

Email of the point of contact

Phone of the point of contact

Name of the legal representative

Position of legal representative

Legal status of legal representative

City of residence of legal representative

Email of the legal representative

Phone of the legal representative

Overall approach

Please describe your organization and explain **what is your overall plan/approach** to be able to deliver on the goals of the program

A. Capacity and Experience

A.1. Please describe your **experience in managing affordable device programs**, including the list, location and dates of programs and the number of devices distributed.

A.2. Please detail your **experience in managing the logistics and distribution of devices**.

A.3. Please describe the **logistical plans for device sourcing and distribution**, including sourcing methods, warehousing, and delivery coordination for this program. How will you ensure effective management of the **supply chain from purchase to delivery?**

A.4. Please explain the **resources (staff) that will be dedicated** to this program. Please also describe how the leadership at your organization will be involved and in this program.



What is expected in the submission? | Appendix 1 Form filled out (II)

B. Device cost, quality and sustainability

B.1. Please describe **how many devices you would propose to distribute** along the duration of the 5 years of the program (include # of devices per year). Detail this plan **including timelines and milestones** and a proposed disbursement schedule and its rationale. Please include the details of the **types of devices** you plan to provide.

B.2. Please describe the **minimum specifications that you will require/include for all devices**, as well as the **software and antivirus** that will be installed in all of them.

B.3. Please describe your plan to provide **technical support in Spanish and the warranties** that will be provided to the delivered devices.

B.4. Please explain your plan to ensure **that this program will be sustainable**, including the plan for ensuring recipients have ongoing access to devices after 3-5 years of usage (inc. complementary funding).

C. Community Engagement and Delivery

C.1. Please describe the **requirements and methodologies** that you propose to **select eligible program participants** of the preferred target populations. Please also detail how that plan will allow that there is no fraud and that impact analysis can be performed by PRBP

C.2. Please describe if you currently have **established relationships with community organizations**, such as schools, CBOs or non-profits in Puerto Rico or elsewhere. Please also describe if you have already **reached out to organizations** to be part of this program with you. Kindly detail which areas of Puerto Rico you anticipate working in and what populations you would target.

C.3. Please describe the sustainable **pricing and ownership model** that you propose for the beneficiaries and the rationale for it

C.4. Please describe how you intend to coordinate/embed/deliver **digital literacy courses as a pre-requisite to receive devices for specific populations**. Please also describe how you would decide to which populations you would give these courses and how would update these courses

C.5. Please explain how you propose to coordinate/embed/deliver **affordable connectivity to low-income beneficiaries**, how you would select target beneficiaries and under which conditions you would offer it.

What is expected in the submission? | Appendix 1 Form filled out (III)

Please provide specific details of the proposal pricing in an attachment

Item	Numerical value	Note/Explanation
Total Pricing Proposed for Scope of Work (\$)	[To be filled]	
Total Pricing for all Devices (\$)	[To be filled]	
Total Pricing of Affordable Internet (\$)	[To be filled]	
Total Pricing for Program Set-Up (\$)	[To be filled]	
Total Pricing for Program Marketing (\$)	[To be filled]	
Total Pricing for [Other items] (\$)	[To be filled]	
Total Pricing for [Other items] (\$)	[To be filled]	

Annual Split of the above Pricing Proposal

Items	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Total Cost
Pricing per year (\$)						
# Devices per year						
# beneficiaries of affordable internet						

Certification

Please provide below a certification and signature that all the information provided, including appendixes and attachments, is true and accurate.

- [To be completed]



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Next Steps



Read the NOFA in detail at smartisland.pr.gov



Review answers on Q&A document published on Monday October 21th



Submit your application by November 10th



Expected date for awards communications:
End of 2024 / Beginning of 2025



Once contract is signed: Start release of funds as per the NOFA



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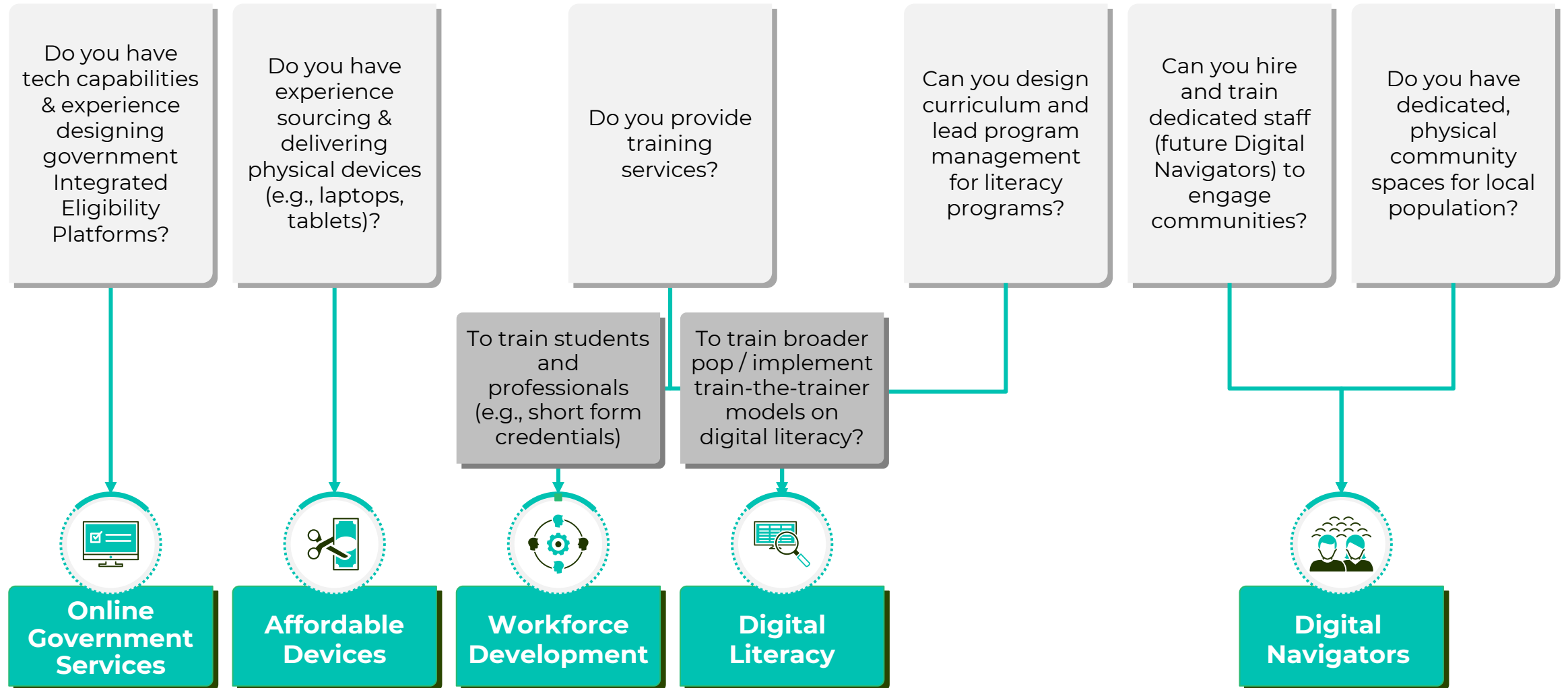
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Which NOFAs should you apply for? If you answer 'YES'...





GRACIAS

