



# **State Connections**

**The broadband working group for state legislators**

**First Friday of Every Month**

**4:00 ET / 3:00 CT / 2:00 MT / 1:00 PT**

***WE WILL BEGIN SHORTLY!***

## **Agenda**

**(Start Recording)**

- BEAD – Comparing Broadband Technologies (Tom Reid with Reid Consulting Group)
- BEAD Status Updates (Drew Garner, Benton Institute)
- Digital Equity Grant Terminations & Attorney General Lawsuits (Drew Garner, Benton Institute)
- Rep Louis Riggs, MO
- Rep Matt Pierce, IN

# Comparing Broadband Technologies – Tom Reid

- **Presentation of Broadband Technology 101 can be found here:**  
<https://showmebroadband.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/ShowMe-Broadband-101-16-July-2025-as-presented.pdf>
- **Upload capacity is one of the biggest trouble area for technologies to meet.**
- **Speed thresholds:**
  - **25/3 was adequate in 2012**
  - **100/20 was adequate in 2020**
  - **Neither of these are adequate for the future**
- **Fixed wireless scalability is only about 100/20**
- **Cable capacity is about 1 Gig**
- **Fiber is now doing 800 Gig**
- **Need to be planning needed capacity for 2055**

# **Comparing Broadband Technologies – Tom Reid**

- **Not all fiber deployment is the same**
  - **Can be split and shared**
  - **Can be specific to one user**
- **Myth - People are subscribing to lowest speed packages – NOT CORRECT**
- **The needed level playing field for broadband between urban and rural is not happening**
- **One important piece on the cost of broadband is the difference in the operating costs between technologies.**

# BEAD Updates



*Drew Garner, Benton Institute*

## Key Points

- All technologies in the mix
- States make project-by-project determinations
- But NTIA has final say

## States Will Need Your Support

- Understand your states process
- Consider supporting the Final Proposal (letter template available)

# Digital Equity Act Grant Updates



*Reid Sharkey, Benton Institute*

## Key Points

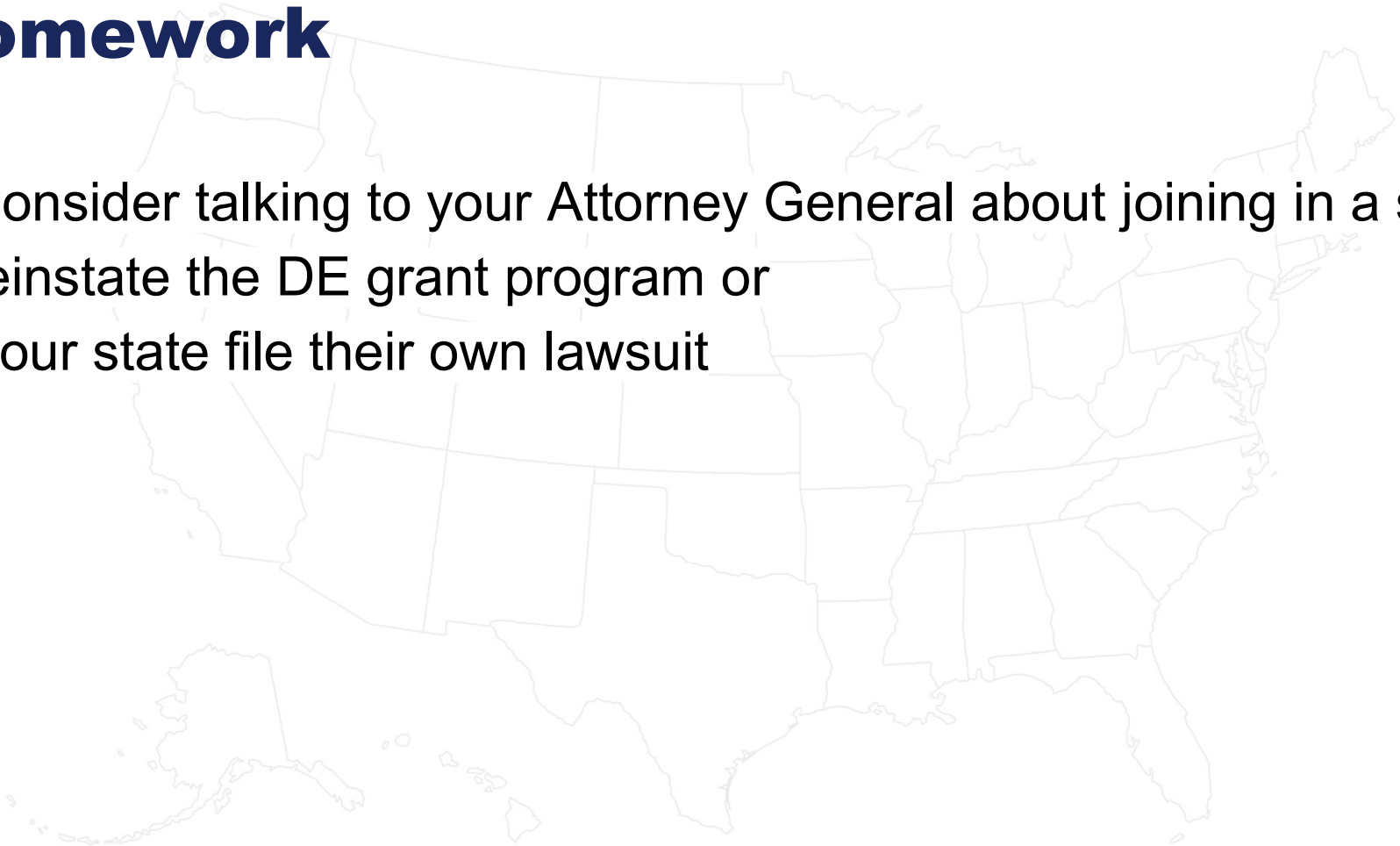
- Grants terminated May 8th
- Loss of funding for job skills, cybersecurity, telehealth, etc

## States Taking Legal Action

- Encourage your state to join/lead a lawsuit (letter template available)

# Homework

- Consider talking to your Attorney General about joining in a suit to reinstate the DE grant program or
- Your state file their own lawsuit



# Contact Information



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