We work to promote
a better life for Alaskans.

Broadband & Digital Equity
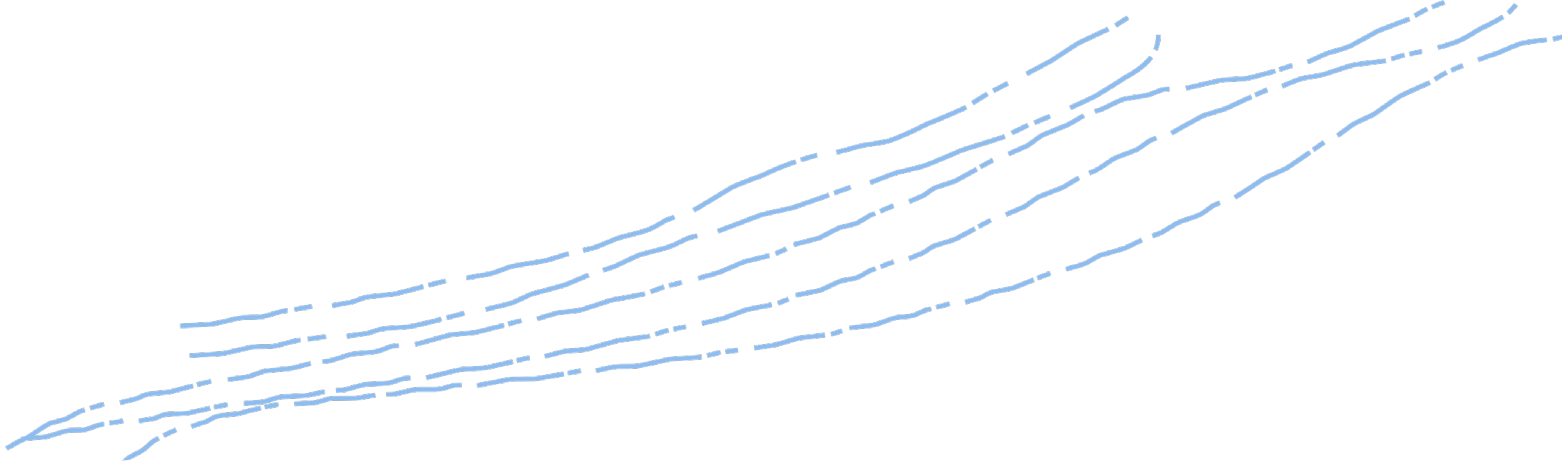
Rasmuson Foundation Board Member Kathy Hurlburt

RASMUSON
FOUNDATION

OUR HISTORY

- Founded in 1955 by Jenny Olson Rasmuson in honor of her late husband, Edward Anton Rasmuson
- Total charitable payments since 1955: $479 million

Why a Rasmuson Broadband Initiative?

Provide all Alaskans....

- access to high-speed, reliable broadband,

- at affordable prices,

- through an equitable and transparent process,

- that engages communities, and

- results in a strong governance structure that ensures programmatic goals and benefits are realized.

Rasmuson Broadband Initiative Goals
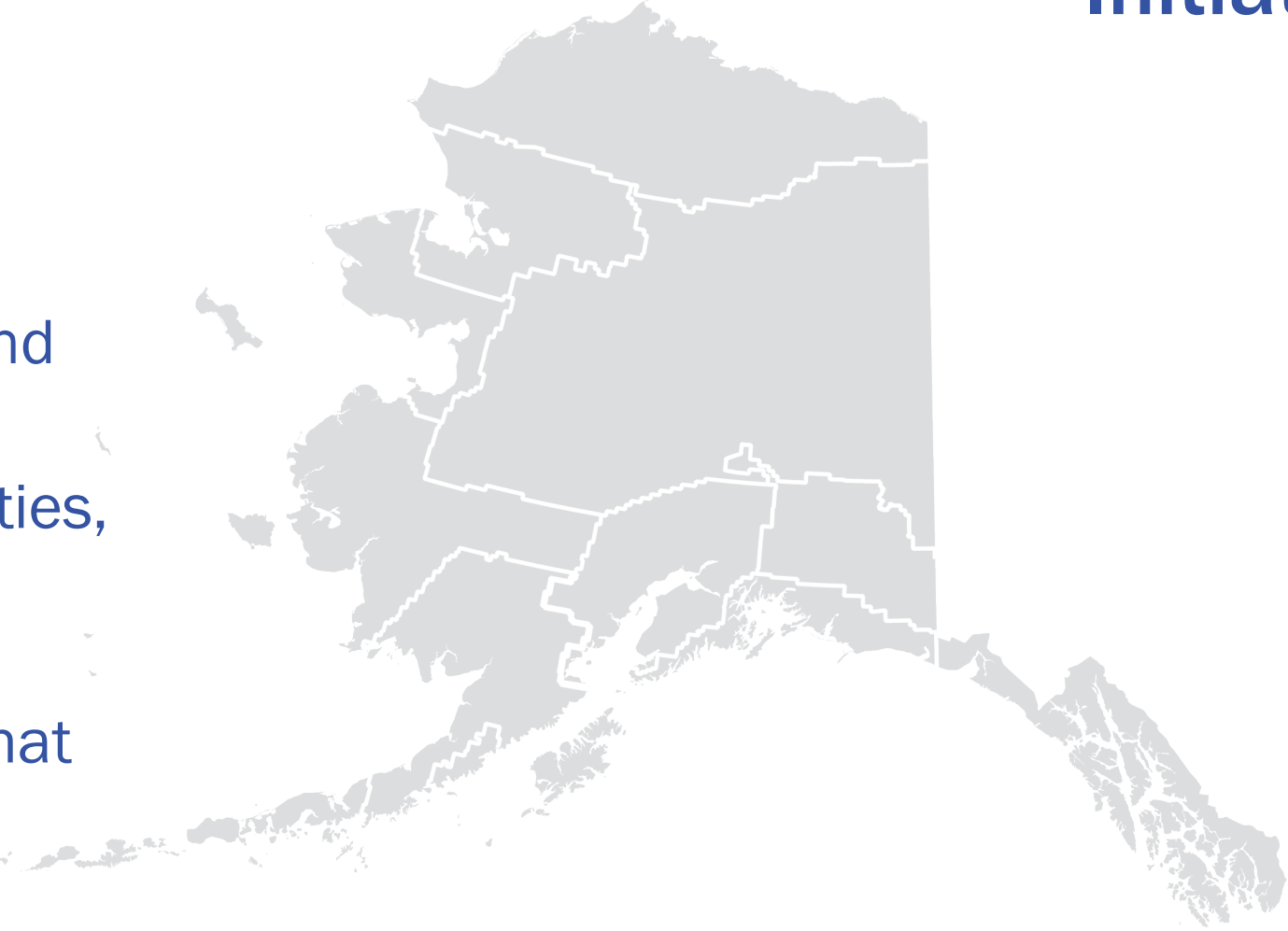
THE STATE of ALASKA
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

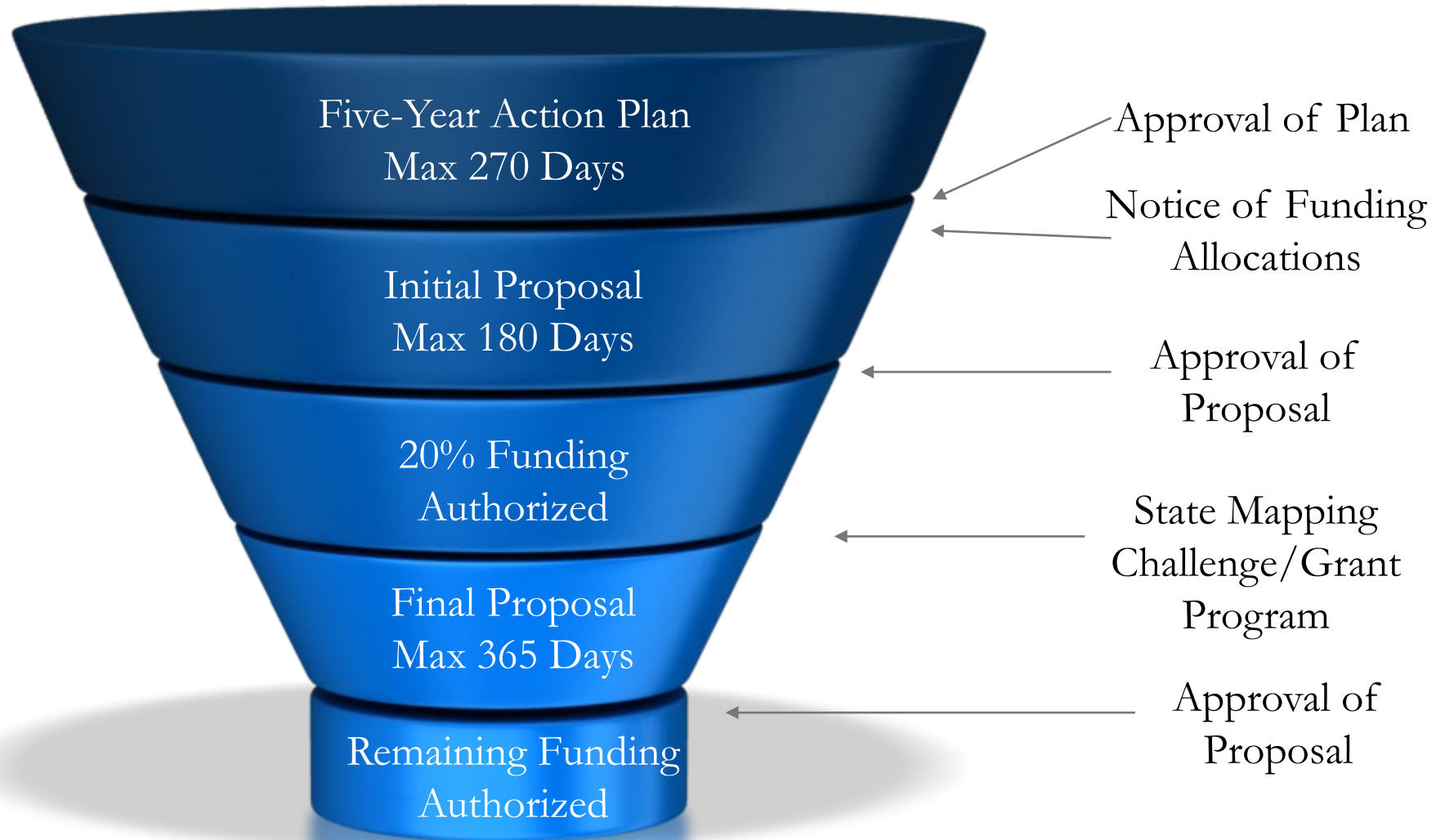**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

BEAD
FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN

Lisa Von Bargen, Senior Project Manager

September 8, 2022

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)

- $100 Million Minimum State Allocation

- 5% = $5 Million Planning Grant

- Application submitted August 15, 2022

- Award expected this Fall

- Milestone Deliverable: Five-Year Action Plan

- Maximum 270-day Timeline

Five-Year Action Plan Elements

- ☑ Outline of Broadband Office, Employees, Consultants & Contractors, Program of Work, and Anticipated Technical Assistance & Capacity Needs

- ☑ Broadband Funding Identification (Federal, State, Local, Tribal, Providers) and Broadband Affordability Data

- ☑ Deployment Barriers & Obstacles Identification

- ☑ Asset Inventory

- ☑ Digital Equity Inclusions & External Engagement Process

- ☑ Broadband Service Needs

- ☑ Comprehensive High-Speed Internet Plan

- ☑ Alignment with Other Statewide Social/Economic Plans

Enabling Middle Mile

- $1 Billion Nationwide

- Applications due September 30, 2022

- Estimated Review Complete February 16, 2023

- Estimated Awarded Notifications after March 1, 2023

- Grant Awards $5 Million - $100 Million

- Maximum 70% Federal Cost Share

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- Eligible Applicants:

  - State, Political Subdivision, Tribal Government, Technology Company, Electric Utility, Public Utility District, Telecom Company, Telecom Coop, Non-Profit Foundation, Non-Profit Corporation, Non-Profit Institution, Non-Profit Association, Regional Planning Council, Native Entity, Economic Development Authority, or any Partnership of Two or More Named Entities

Tribal Connectivity

- 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act
  - **$1 Billion**
- IIJA
  - **$2 Billion (Split between Initial & New Programs)**

- Successful Alaska Applicants To Date: **$96,109,668**

Native Village of Selawik	Cape Fox Corporation
Village of Clark's Point	Ketchikan Indian Community
Healy Lake Village	AFN
Kotzebue IRA	Skagway Traditional Council
Native Village of False Pass	Salamatof Native Association
Salamatof Tribe	Doyon, Limited
Ahtna IRC	

ReConnect 1-3

- **11** Awards Totaling **$210,352,323**
- More ReConnect 3 Awards Expected

Successful Applicants To Date:

Cordova Telephone Coop. x 2	AT&T Wireless x 2
Arctic Slope Telephone Assoc. Coop.	Matanuska Telephone Assoc.
Mukluk Telephone Assoc.	Unicom x 2
Nushugak Electric & Telephone Assoc.	AP&T Wireless
Bristol Bay Telephone Coop.	

ReConnect 4

- **Opened 9/6/22 ~ Closes 11/2/22**
- **$350 Million**

Community Connect

- 4 Awards Totaling **$9,979,593**

Successful Applicants To Date:

Arctic Slope Telephone Assoc. Coop.

Byte Networking, LLC

Interior Telephone (TelAlaska)

Cordova Telephone Coop.

Alaska Plan

- **13** Recipients
- **$543,762,240 (based on annual amounts)** over 10 Years (2017-2026)

———————————————————————————

Recipients:

- Adak Eagle Enterprises, LLC
- American Broadband Communications
- Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative, Inc.
- Bristol Bay Telephone Cooperative
- Bush-Tel, Inc.
- Circle Telephone & Electric
- Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative
- Cordova Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
- City of Kethikan
- Matanuska Telephone Association, Inc.
- Nushagak Electric & Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
- OTZ Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
- GCI

Lisa Von Bargen

Senior Project Manager

lisa.vonbargen@alaska.gov

907-660-7877

Q&A

What is Digital Equity?

The condition in which individuals and communities have the information technology capacity that is needed for full participation in the society and economy of the United States.
–National Telecommunications and Information Administration

THE DIGITAL EQUITY ACT

PROVIDES DIGITAL SKILLS TRAINING

AND EDUCATION TO LOW-INCOME POPULATIONS

IMPROVES ONLINE ACCESSIBILITY

OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

EMPOWERS RURAL COMMUNITIES

TO MEASURE AND ADDRESS THEIR OWN BROADBAND NEEDS

Digital Equity Planning Grants: Federal and Foundation Funding for Alaskan Voices

NTIA
- $60M Nationally
- Grants to States, DC, Territories
- Grants to Tribal Entities

Alaska Native and Tribal Entities
- Direct Grants from NTIA
- $50,000+ per entity
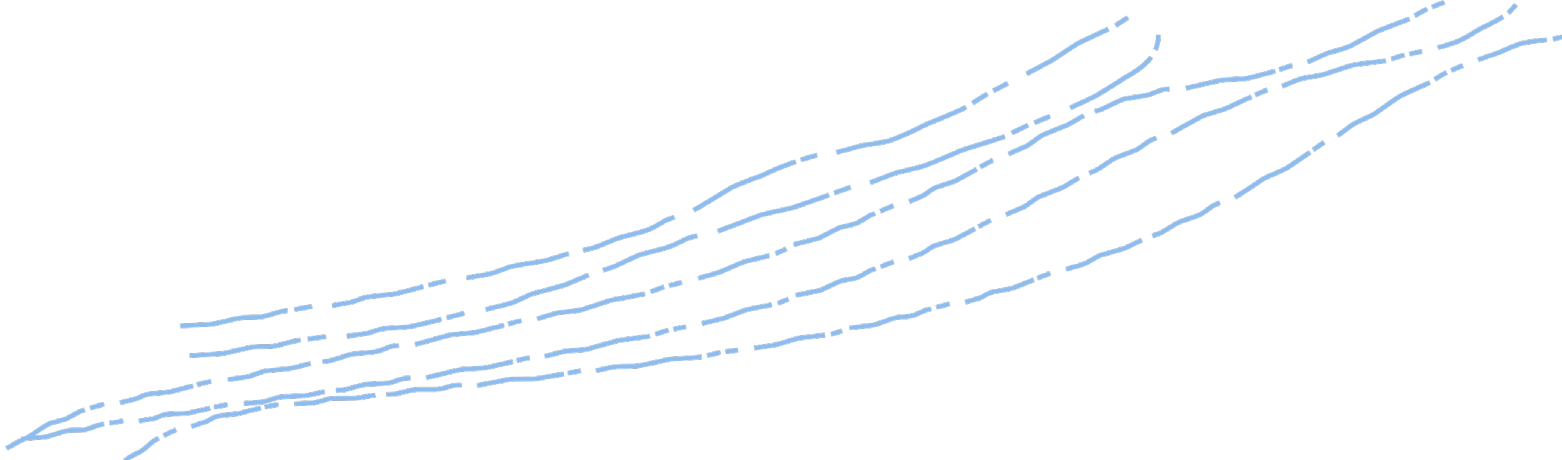- Potentially 100s of eligible entities in Alaska

Rasmuson
- $568,000 from NTIA
- Rasmuson Provides Additional funding

Partners
All Federal funding flowed through by Rasmuson

This Planning Will Lead to Implementation

- Each State will identify barriers to digital equity in the State and strategies for overcoming those barriers.

- NTIA will distribute Digital Equity Capacity Grants through states and national competitive grants

Some Key Requirements

The grant requires that the plan

- Consult with and address the needs of "covered populations"
- Be completed within 12 months of award
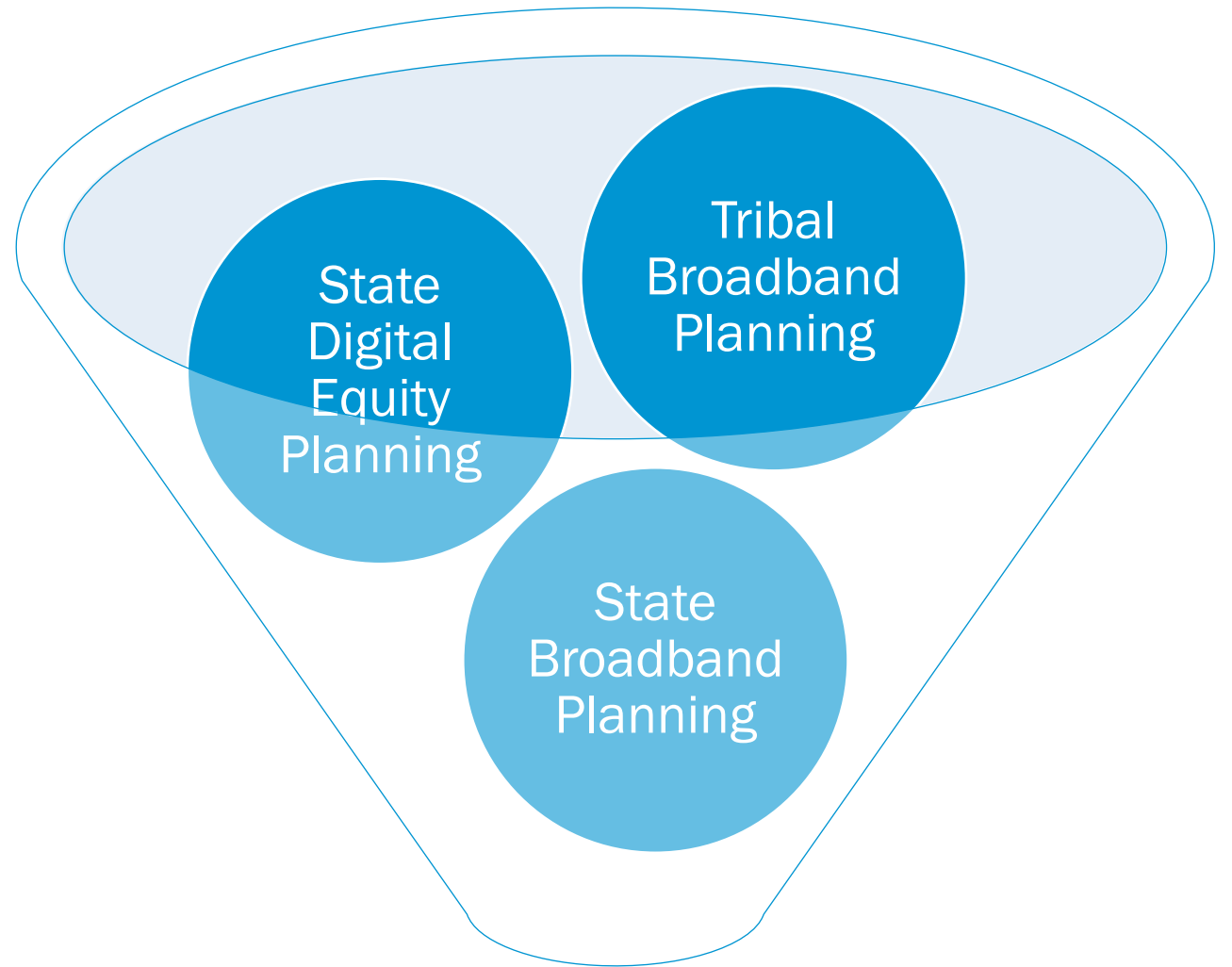
Rasmuson intends to

- Work with and through partners across Alaska and nationally
- Convene and facilitate discussions about a vision for Digital Equity, not dictate the vision

Covered Populations

- Individuals in covered households
- Individuals over age 60
- Rural residents
- **Covered Populations**
- Incarcerated individuals
- Members of a racial or ethnic minority
- Veterans
- Individuals with a language barrier
- Individuals with disabilities

Digital Equity Is Part of the State Broadband Plan

State Digital Equity Planning

Tribal Broadband Planning

State Broadband Planning

State Five-Year Broadband Action Pan

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The Planning Process

Listen and Understand

- Outreach to covered populations
- Data collection and analysis
- Other planning efforts

Consider

- Strategies that respond to identified needs and gaps
- Consult with a diverse Digital Equity Working Group

Reflect

- Draft Alaska's Digital Equity Plan & Encourage Comment
- Prepare for Implementation Efforts
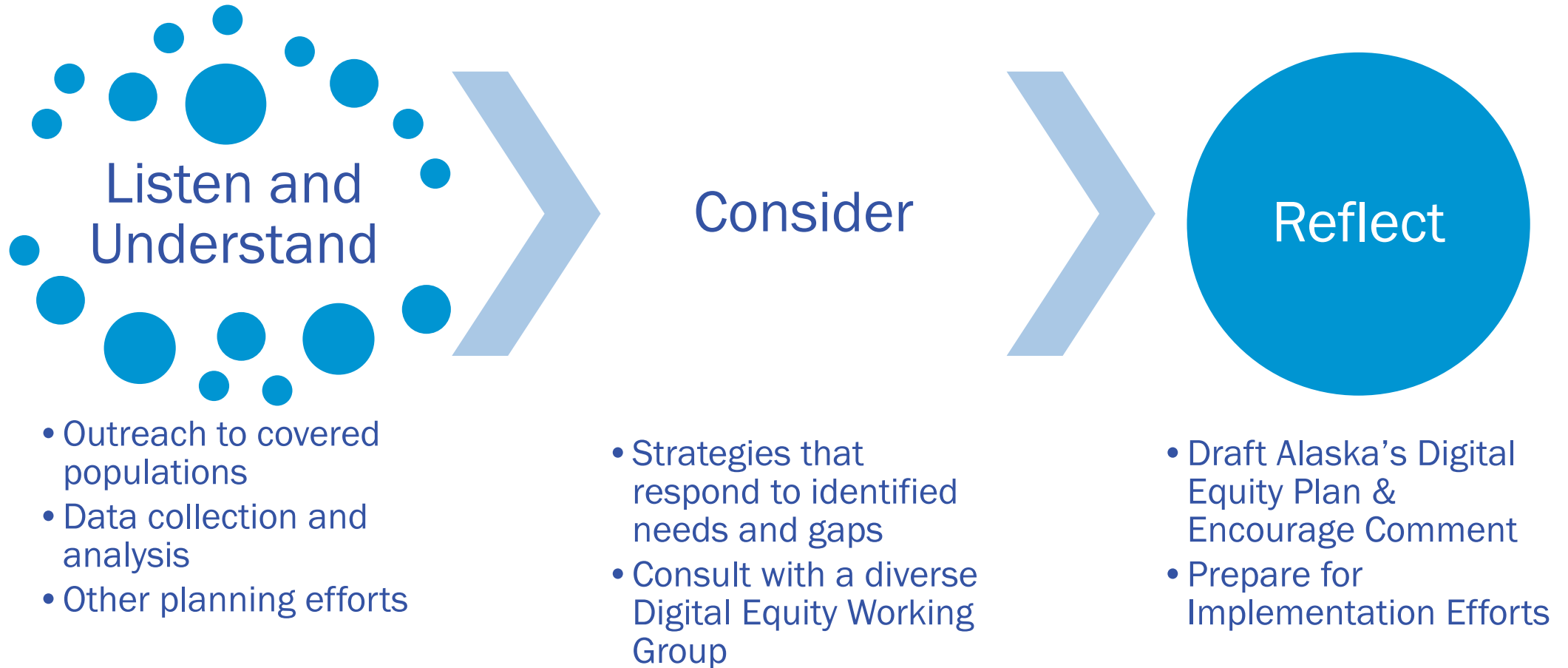
Communications Plan

- Listening sessions or public meetings (in-person and virtual)

- Websites and email addresses where public can directly submit comments

- Printed materials–brochures, fact sheets, etc.

- Social media, email, and traditional mail services

- Local advertisements and public service announcements

- Partnering with Community Anchor Institutions to help promote and distribute information

Listening Sessions

- Approximately 48 public meetings, traveling to covered populations across the state to ensure participation

- We are targeting October – March to conduct the bulk of these sessions

- Attendance at regularly scheduled events of covered populations and key stakeholders
.
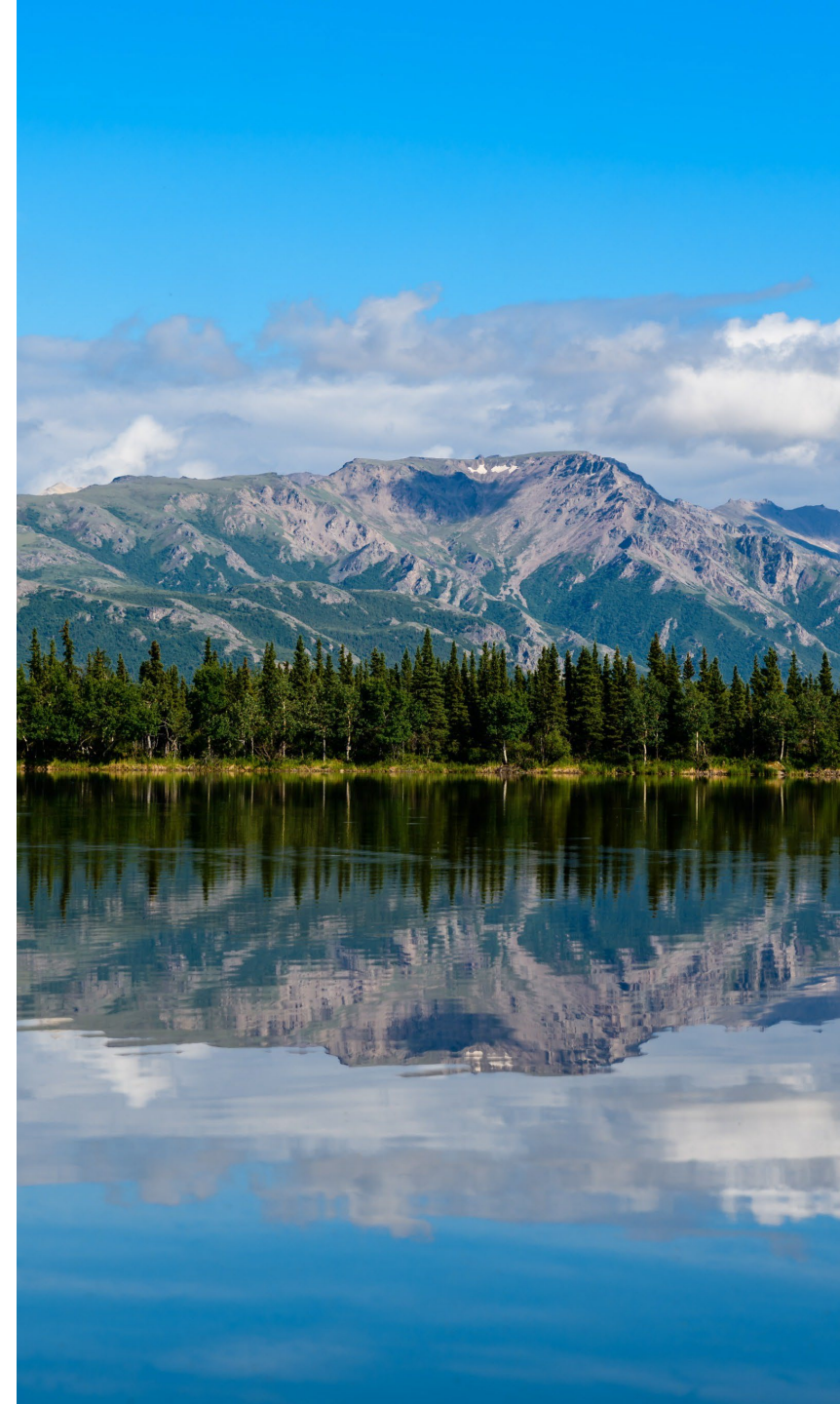
Existing Digital Equity Initiatives

- A required element of the plan will be an "asset inventory"
- This just means taking stock of what initiatives are already working to increase digital equity, such as:
  - Digital navigators
  - Digital literacy programs
  - Affordability programs
  - Equipment program
  - Developing digital content that meets the needs of covered populations

How Communities Can Help
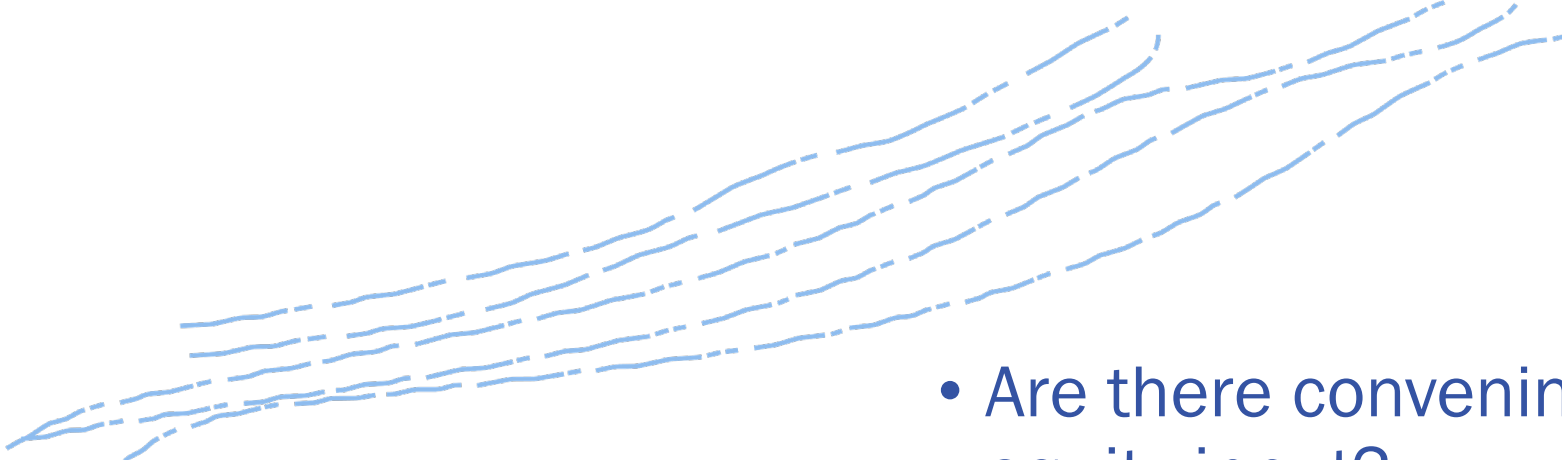
- Are there convenings we can join to get digital equity input?

- Are there covered populations in your community or region that may be especially difficult to reach, and how can we hear from them?

- Do you have any initiatives to address digital equity? Have you done or are you doing any digital equity planning? How can we find out?
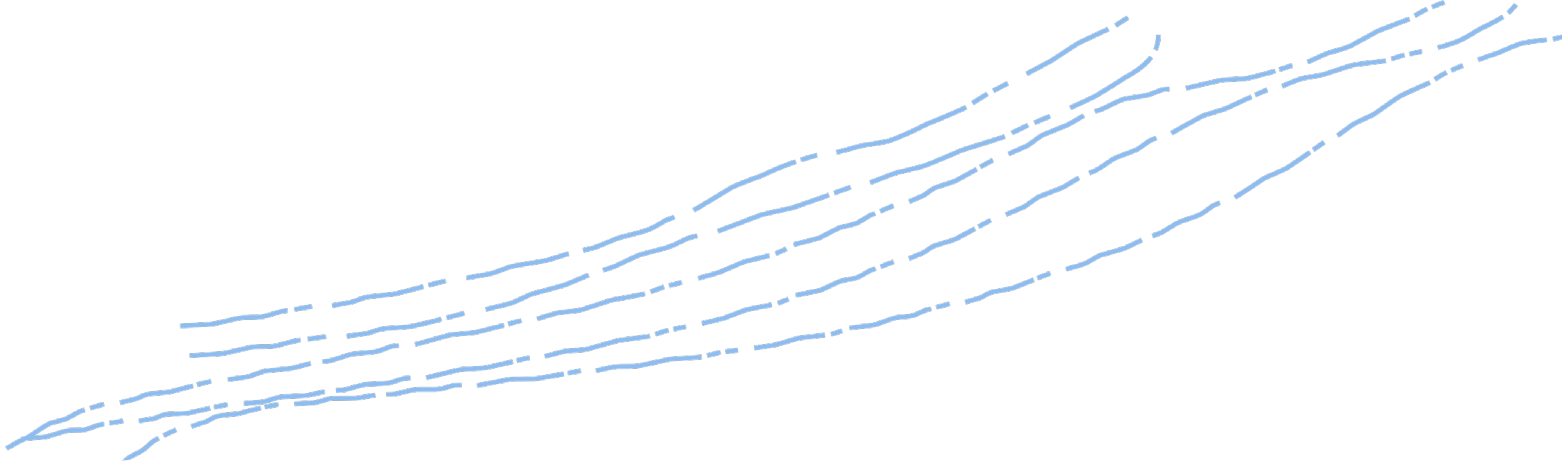
Alaska's Digital Equity Plan Will Include:

- A statewide vision for digital equity
- A digital equity framework and scorecard
- Plans for digital literacy innovation programs
- Proposed technology-related apprenticeship or other workforce opportunities
- Integration with the State's upcoming Economic Development Strategy, educational and health outcomes, and civic and social engagement
- Action steps to implement the Digital Equity Plan

Alaska Digital Equity Planning Contact

Stay tuned--an Alaska Digital Equity Plan website will be coming on the Alaska Broadband Office website.

In the meantime you can reach us at
broadband@rasmuson.org

Q&A

Elements of a State Broadband Plan

A data-based, actionable plan includes at least three key elements:

Current State

Data
A data-based assessment of existing conditions that provides a baseline for measuring progress over time

Tools & Resources
What your state brings to the table—and what other resources can be leveraged

Goals & Recommendations

Short-, medium-, and long-term goals around infrastructure, adoption, and other key outcomes

Implementation

Who is responsible for what, why, and when

Pew Analysis: Strategies for Crafting Effective State Broadband Plans

THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS

Gather Input and Feedback

- Create regular opportunities to share and collect information

- Plan far in advance, adjust as needed

- Inclusive and adaptive messaging for different audiences

- Consider engaging outside partners to support the work (academic institutions, a regional partner, or outside consultants) to help organize and collect input

Developing a Data Strategy

- Define how the data you collect will evaluate and inform the state and local goals

- Start with existing data

- Gather data from local entities and empower them for data verification

- Support ongoing data collection and evaluation

- Be as granular as possible

Emerging State Strategies

- Regional and local planning

- The role of libraries and other community anchors

- Continuing momentum from ACP

Listening and Visioning

In the coming months the Rasmuson Broadband team, the State Broadband Office and partners will be hearing from lots of Alaskans about broadband infrastructure, service, and Digital Equity needs...

..but we want to <u>start</u> hearing from you *right now.*

Please join your fellow Alaskans in a conversation about what we need and want to reach a positive broadband future for the entire state.

Instructions

- Please group yourselves by table. If your table is not full, please move to a different table to make a full table.

- Try to join a table with some people who didn't come with you today.

- Each table should choose a facilitator and scribe.

- Look for the instruction sheet and note sheets at each table for the facilitator and scribe.

Communities

- What communities (geographic or otherwise) do you represent here today?
- Which covered populations are represented in your communities?

Please spend 10 minutes discussing.

Covered Populations
- Persons in a low-income household
- Individuals over age 60
- Incarcerated individuals
- Veterans
- Individuals with disabilities
- Individuals with a language barrier
- Members of a racial or ethnic minority
- Rural residents

- What does Digital Equity mean to you?

- Do your communities experience a digital divide or a lack of digital equity? If so, how?

- What is the impact?

Please spend 15 minutes discussing

Efforts Underway

- How have you and/or your community already engaged in reducing the digital divide and connecting more Alaskans?

- What organizations—statewide, regional or local—are advancing digital equity within the covered populations?

- What projects are underway or envisioned to support more Alaskans getting online?

Please spend 20 minutes discussing.

Report Out Instructions

- Please select a reporter from each table. This can be the facilitator, scribe, or some other participant.

- We will take turns hearing from the reporter in each group.

- Report the "headlines" from each group's discussion—try to keep to 3 minutes or less, not a full recap.

- Reporters, please describe the group's discussion, not only your comments.

- We will collect the scribe's full notes to review with the planning team.

A Broadband Vision for Alaska

Imagine a future three to five years down the road. Great things have happened to bring residents, organizations and businesses in Alaska better broadband. How did it happen?

Questions to consider:

- What do we see that is new or different about how broadband is provided, accessed, or used?
- What good things are happening because better broadband is available and usable by all?
- What important things happened to get us there?

We will discuss as a group for 20 minutes. If there are more ideas than time permits, please write them down on the flipchart before you go.

Further Connections

- What are the best ways to connect with the covered populations in your communities and encourage residents to attend a listening session?
- Which community gatherings or events could provide an opportunity to meet with residents about digital equity?

Respond via survey or the QR Code on each table.

Engagement Form

We work to promote a better life for Alaskans.

Broadband@Rasmuson.org

RASMUSON FOUNDATION