

December 6, 2023

Arizona Commerce Authority

Submitted online at <https://www.azcommerce.com/broadband/arizona-broadband-equity-access-deployment-program/>

RE: Public Comment from the Brennan Center for Justice on “Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD) Initial Proposal, Volume II”

We urge you to engage state and local election officials as important community stakeholders in the BEAD program, and also to consider designating polling locations as potential "community anchor institutions" (CAI) under this program. Election officials play a critical role in their local communities, and seeking their input will ensure that this plan takes election infrastructure needs into consideration. In addition, ensuring that the GIS data and other data about connectivity that has been collected and mapped as part of this project are shared with election officials may help election officials with improving voter list accuracy and polling location or vote center siting, both of which may limit or prevent voter disenfranchisement.