



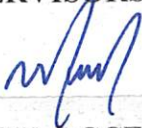
## CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

1020 Centre Pointe Boulevard • Pearl, Mississippi 39208 • (601) 981-1511 • Fax: (601) 981-1515

William Banks, President  
Sally Garland, Vice President  
Les Childress, Secretary-Treasurer  
Michael Monk, Chief Executive Officer

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** CMPDD AREA SUPERVISORS AND COUNTY ADMINISTRATORS

**FROM:** MIKE MONK, CEO 

**RE:** BROADBAND EQUITY, ACCESS AND DEPLOYMENT (BEAM) PROJECT

**DATE:** MAY 23, 2024

We are reaching out to you regarding the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) project managed by The Office of Broadband Expansion and Accessibility of Mississippi (BEAM). CMPDD has contracted with BEAM to be a resource for local governments participating in the Challenge Process. The role of CMPDD is essentially to help you with the process to include communication with homeowners, assistance with running speed tests, to ensure the test results are saved for submission, and to assist you in submitting challenges if needed.

Although the official Challenge period will not start until sometime in June, with your help we can begin identifying addresses and residences who may be candidates. This process will require the resident to visit the BEAM website and click on the option to run a speed test on their internet connection. The results will indicate if they are underserved. If they are underserved CMPDD can assist your office with completing the Challenge Process for the resident.

CMPDD has assigned Jay Wadsworth as the project lead and point of contact for local governments. Should your local government need assistance understanding or participating in the Challenge Process please reach out to Jay at [jwadsworth@cmpdd.org](mailto:jwadsworth@cmpdd.org) or by phone at 769-777-7316. The Challenge process is expected to begin sometime in June and will last about 30 days.

If you are not familiar with BEAM please visit their website at <https://www.beam.ms.gov/> to learn more about them and their mission.