

(C) is accessible—

- (i) to individuals with disabilities; and
- (ii) in languages other than English.

**(b) Authority to contract and enter into other arrangements**

The Assistant Secretary may award grants and enter into contracts, cooperative agreements, and other arrangements with Federal agencies, public and private organizations, and other entities with expertise that the Assistant Secretary determines appropriate in order to—

- (1) evaluate the impact and efficacy of activities supported by grants awarded under the covered programs; and
- (2) develop, catalog, disseminate, and promote the exchange of best practices, both with respect to and independent of the covered programs, in order to achieve digital equity.

**(c) Consultation and public engagement**

In carrying out subsection (a), and to further the objectives described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b), the Assistant Secretary shall conduct ongoing collaboration and consult with—

- (1) the Secretary of Agriculture;
- (2) the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development;
- (3) the Secretary of Education;
- (4) the Secretary of Labor;
- (5) the Secretary of Health and Human Services;
- (6) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;
- (7) the Secretary of the Interior;
- (8) the Federal Communications Commission;
- (9) the Federal Trade Commission;
- (10) the Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services;
- (11) the Administrator of the Small Business Administration;
- (12) the Federal Co-Chair of the Appalachian Regional Commission;
- (13) State agencies and governors of States (or equivalent officials);
- (14) entities serving as administering entities for States under section 1723(b) of this title;
- (15) national, State, tribal, and local organizations that provide digital inclusion, digital equity, or digital literacy services;
- (16) researchers, academics, and philanthropic organizations; and
- (17) other agencies, organizations (including international organizations), entities (including entities with expertise in the fields of data collection, analysis and modeling, and evaluation), and community stakeholders, as determined appropriate by the Assistant Secretary.

**(d) Technical support and assistance**

The Assistant Secretary shall provide technical support and assistance, assistance to entities to prepare the applications of those entities with respect to grants awarded under the covered programs, and other resources, to the extent practicable, to ensure consistency in data reporting and to meet the objectives of this section.

**(e) Authorization of appropriations**

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this sec-

tion, which shall remain available until expended.

(Pub. L. 117-58, div. F, title III, § 60306, Nov. 15, 2021, 135 Stat. 1228.)

**§ 1726. General provisions**

**(a) Nondiscrimination**

**(1) In general**

No individual in the United States may, on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity that is funded in whole or in part with funds made available to carry out this subchapter.

**(2) Enforcement**

The Assistant Secretary shall effectuate paragraph (1) with respect to any program or activity described in that paragraph by issuing regulations and taking actions consistent with section 2000d-1 of title 42.

**(3) Judicial review**

Judicial review of an action taken by the Assistant Secretary under paragraph (2) shall be available to the extent provided in section 2000d-2 of title 42.

**(b) Technological neutrality**

The Assistant Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, carry out this subchapter in a technologically neutral manner.

**(c) Audit and oversight**

Beginning in the first fiscal year in which amounts are made available to carry out an activity authorized under this subchapter, and in each of the 4 fiscal years thereafter, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Office of Inspector General for the Department of Commerce \$1,000,000 for audits and oversight of funds made available to carry out this subchapter, which shall remain available until expended.

(Pub. L. 117-58, div. F, title III, § 60307, Nov. 15, 2021, 135 Stat. 1230.)

**SUBCHAPTER III—ENABLING MIDDLE MILE BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE**

**§ 1741. Enabling middle mile broadband infrastructure**

**(a) Definitions**

In this section:

**(1) Anchor institution**

The term “anchor institution” means a school, library, medical or healthcare provider, community college or other institution of higher education, or other community support organization or entity.

**(2) Assistant Secretary**

The term “Assistant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

**(3) Commission**

The term “Commission” means the Federal Communications Commission.