Utah’s CARES Funds

“To achieve [CARES Act identified] purposes, the funding is to be used as follows:

Primarily to address digital inclusion and related technical support;

Secondarily to address other efforts that prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.”

IMLS directive to State Libraries

IMLS defined objectives for funds

- “Expand digital network access”
- “Purchase internet accessible devices”
- “Provide technical support services”

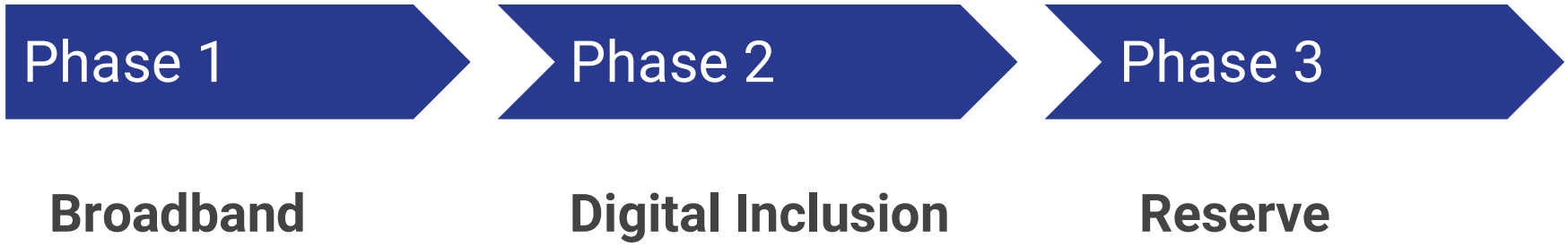
IMLS provided criteria for need

- SNAP
- Unemployment
- Broadband Access

Our solution:

3 Phase Approach

Phases


Phase 1
Phase 2
Phase 3
Broadband
Digital Inclusion
Reserve

Phase 1

Broadband

- 35% of funds
- Immediate project to expand broadband access
- Partner with UETN
- Target high need areas

Phase 1 | Immediate Broadband Expansion

Who is eligible?

Tribal libraries or chapter houses | Rural community centers such as libraries, museums, and government buildings

LTE Antennas

How it works

An LTE antenna uses multiple cell networks to create one stronger wifi network. The network is broadcast inside and outside the building for one mile in all directions. The network is free and open to anyone.

Long-term use

The State Library Division pays for equipment and up to 18 months of service. UETN provides set-up and secures "E-rate." The site pays for service after 18 months, estimated ~$200/mo.

Other Network Solutions

How it works

In buildings with an existing internet connection, the State Library Division provides an outdoor router, a wifi extender, or upgraded interior equipment. The network is broadcast outside the building for a limited range (~100 ft.).

Long-term use

The State Library Division pays for equipment. ITDRC volunteers set-up support. The site continues to pay for their current service. There should be no difference in cost.

Phase 2

Digital Inclusion

- 50% of funds
- Direct grants to libraries for digital inclusion projects
- USL provides resources and project ideas where requested

Phase 2 | Locally Designed Digital Inclusion Projects

Who is eligible?
Tribal libraries | Public libraries | Museums

Devices

Organizations purchase devices for community use

Support

Organizations provide resources to support new technology users

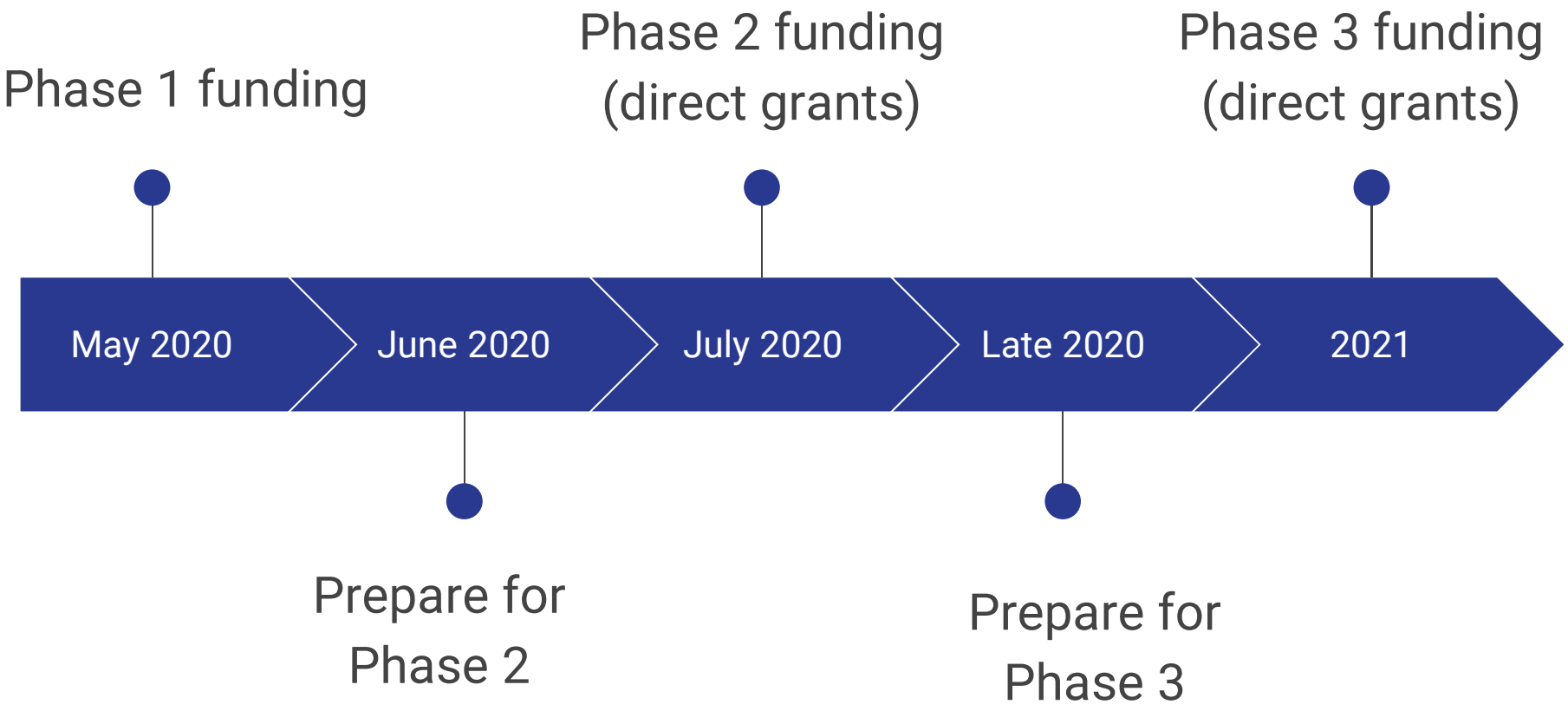
Connectivity

Organizations provide expanded access to internet

Phase 3

Reserve

- 15% of funds
- Direct grants to libraries
- Plan remains fluid
- Assess specific needs in transition to regular library operations


Phase 1 funding
Phase 2 funding (direct grants)
Phase 3 funding (direct grants)
May 2020
June 2020
July 2020
Late 2020
2021
Prepare for Phase 2
Prepare for Phase 3

Funding to Sustain Basic Operations

- Humanities funding
  - $5000 minigrants for operations costs opening in mid-May.
- Coronavirus Relief Fund
  - For 2020 costs necessary due to Coronavirus and not already in most recent approved budget.
  - Managed locally.

Questions?