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Professional Assistance for Today's Unprecedented Funding Opportunities

Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program (BEAD)

Program Name

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD) Program

$42.45 billion

Background

Administrator: National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), U.S. Department of Commerce
Authorizing Legislation: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)
Available Funds: $42.45 billion
Allocation Approach: Funds are allocated to all 50 U.S. States, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, and U.S. Territories (American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands)

Allocation Amounts per State

- $42.45 billion total to expand high-speed internet access through planning, infrastructure deployment and adoption programs
- Minimum allocation per state: $100 million. A State may request up to $5 million in Initial Planning Funds
- Minimum allocation of $25 million per territory. A territory may request up to $1.25 million in Initial Planning Funds
- Additional funds beyond the minimum $100 million to be allocated based on FCC mapping, to be released later in 2022

Key Dates

State Territory Letter of Intent Due: July 18, 2022
Initial Planning Funds Application Due: August 15, 2022
5 Year Action Plan: Due 270 Days after Initial Planning Funds received
Program Fund Allocation and Notice of Available Amounts
Initial Proposal – Due 180 days after release of Notice of Available Amounts
- 20% Funding Release – Upon approval of Initial Proposal
Challenge Process – Upon approval of Initial Proposal
Subgrantee Selection Process – Required before subgrantee selection
Final Proposal and Release of Remaining Funds

Eligible Entities

- 50 U.S. States
- Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico
- U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

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Eligible Areas

Unserved locations - No access to 25/3 Mbps
- Minimum latency must be 100 milliseconds
- Project areas in which not less than 80% of broadband serviceable locations are unserved

Underserved locations - No access to 100/20 Mbps
- Minimum latency must be 100 milliseconds
- Project areas in which not less than 80% of broadband serviceable locations are unserved or underserved

Eligible Projects

Projects that expand high-speed internet access and use, including:
- Infrastructure deployment, mapping, adoption, planning, capacity-building in state offices, local community outreach and coordination

Priority Broadband Projects are designed to:
- Provide broadband service that meets speed, latency, reliability, consistency in quality of service, and related criteria
- Be scalable to support increasing connectivity demands and support the deployment of 5G, successor wireless technologies, and other advanced services
- Those that use end-to-end fiber-optic architecture

Minimum 25% match requirement (a state could require more)

Mapping Issues

- Allocations beyond the $100 million minimum are dependent on mapping conducted by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
- Eligible Entities (States and Territories) will be notified of future submission deadlines following the FCC release of the maps
- FCC maps will be made available by the end of 2022 (anticipated)

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Selection Criteria

Primary Criteria - Eligible Entities must give the greatest weight (e.g., substantial points or credits) to the following criteria:
- *Minimal BEAD Program Outlay* - funding required to complete the project. Accounting for both total projected cost and prospective subgrantee's proposed match
- *Affordability* - prospective subgrantee's commitment to provide the most affordable total price to the customer for 1/1 Gbps service in the project area
- *Fair Labor Practices* – priority given to projects based on a prospective subgrantee's demonstrated record of and plans to maintain compliance with Federal labor and employment laws

Secondary Criterion - Eligible Entities must also give weight (a number of points or quantity of credits less than the amount given to the criteria above) to the following criterion:
- *Speed to Deployment* - all subgrantees must deploy the planned broadband network and begin providing services, in the project area, within four years of award

Additional Prioritization Factors - Eligible Entities may develop additional secondary criteria to be given weights that align with Eligible Entity and local priorities, subject to the requirement to give the greatest weight to the primary criteria and the approval of NTIA
- *Equitable Workforce Development and Job Quality* - subgrantee's enforceable commitments with respect to advancing equitable workforce development and job quality objectives
- *Open Access* - subgrantees' provision of open access wholesale last-mile broadband service for the life of the subsidized networks, on fair, equal, and neutral terms to all potential retail providers
- *Local and Tribal Coordination* - prospective subgrantee's support from the local and/or Tribal Government with oversight over the location or locations to be served

Allowable Costs

Eligible uses of funding include:
- Construction, improvement, and/or acquisition of facilities and telecommunications equipment required to provide qualifying broadband service
- Long-term leases (for terms greater than one year) of facilities required to provide qualifying broadband service, including indefeasible right-of-use (IRU) agreements
- Deployment of internet and Wi-Fi infrastructure within an eligible multi-family residential building
- Engineering design, permitting, and work related to environmental, historical and cultural reviews
- Personnel costs, including salaries and fringe benefits for staff and consultants for services directly connected to the implementation of the BEAD Program (project managers, program directors, and subject matter experts)
- Network software upgrades, including cybersecurity
- Training for cybersecurity professionals who will be working on BEAD-funded networks
- Workforce development, including Registered Apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships, and community college and/or vocational training for broadband-related occupations

Non-deployment eligible uses of funding:
- User training for cybersecurity, privacy, and other digital safety matters
- Remote learning or telehealth services/facilities
- Digital literacy
- Computer science, coding and cybersecurity education programs
- Implementation of Eligible Entity digital equity plans (to supplement, but not to duplicate or supplant, Planning Grant funds received by the Eligible Entity in connection with the Digital Equity Act of 2021)

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Allowable Costs (continued)

- Broadband sign-up assistance and technology support programs
- Multi-lingual outreach to support adoption and digital literacy
- Prisoner education to promote pre-release digital literacy, job skills, online job acquisition skills, etc...
- Digital navigators
- Direct subsidies for use toward broadband subscription, where the Eligible Entity shows the subsidies will improve affordability for the end user population (and to supplement, but not to duplicate or supplant, the subsidies provided by the Affordable Connectivity Program)
- Costs associated with stakeholder engagement, including travel, capacity-building, or contract support
- Other allowable costs necessary to carrying out programmatic activities of an award, not to include ineligible costs

Service and Related Obligations

State applicants must commit to a number of requirements, including:
- Efforts to include "non-traditional" broadband providers (i.e., municipalities, cooperatives, non-profits, Tribal Governments, and utilities)
- Affordability and Low-Cost Plans
- Public Awareness campaigns of low-cost options
- Consumer protections, including unlimited data usage
- Access to service under reasonable and nondiscriminatory terms & conditions
- Interconnection and Wholesale Access
- Cybersecurity & Supply Chain Risk Management
- Climate Resilience

Links & Emails

BEAD NOFO.pdf (doc.gov)
Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program | Internet for All
Internet for All
BEAD Planning Application Guidance.pdf (ntia.gov)
Funding Program: Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program (ntia.gov)
Webinars and Events
Please submit questions to BEAD@NTIA.gov