nrtc FUNDING ALERT!

Professional assistance for today's unprecedented funding opportunities

Funding Amount: $1.024 billion

APPLICATION

Program Details

Program Name: Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD)
Administrator: Arkansas State Broadband Office
Match Requirement: 25% Match required

Key Dates

- **July 7, 2025 –** Benefit of the Bargain Pre-registration opens
- **July 14, 2025 –** Benefit of the Bargain Pre-registration closes
- **July 7, 2025 –** Benefit of the Bargain Application window opens
- **July 14, 2025 –** Benefit of the Bargain Application window closes
- **July 28, 2025 –** Publication of Benefit of Bargain round results
- **July 29 to August 1, 2025 –** Negotiation, if needed
- **August 11, 2025 –** Public comment window opens
- **August 25, 2025 –** Public comment window closes
- **August 29, 2025 –** Final proposal submission to NTIA

Eligible Projects

- Qualifying last-mile broadband projectsto unserved (25/3 Mbps or less) and underserved (between 25/3 and 100/20 Mbps) locations

Eligible Applicants

- Cooperatives
- Nonprofit Organizations
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Private Companies
- Public or Private Utilities
- Public Utility Districts
- Local Governments

Eligible Areas

- Project areas will be discrete "Project Area Footprints" (PAF's) consisting of groups of Census Block Groups (CBS's).

Eligible Costs

- Construction, improvement, and/or acquisition of facilities and telecommunications equipment, infrastructure for backhaul, middle and last-mile networks, and MDUs
- Long-term leases of facilities to provide qualifying broadband service, including IRUs
- Deployment of internet and Wi-Fi within an eligible multi-family residential building
- Network software upgrades
- Engineering design, permitting, and work related to environmental, historical, and cultural reviews
- Personnel costs, including salaries and fringe benefits for staff and consultants
- Training for cybersecurity professionals working on BEAD-funded networks
- Workforce development including Registered Apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships, and community college and/or vocational training for broadband-related occupations

Selection Criteria

Determination of Priority Broadband Project vs Non-Priority Broadband Project

- **Primary Scoring**: Applications within the same project area, the application with the lowest grant request will be selected

- **Secondary Scoring**: Applicants within 15% of the lowest grant request for the same application area, the following selection criteria will be applied
    - **Preliminary subgrantee** – If selected as a preliminary grantee in a previous round, that applicant will be selected
    - **Speed of Network and Other Technical Capabilities** – If applicant not awarded using previous criteria, the applicant with the highest technical capabilities will be selected
    - **Speed of Deployment** – If applicant not selected using previous criteria, the applicant with the fastest speed to deployment will be selected

Application Process

- Applicants must have been approved during the Prequalification Phase

Links & Contacts

- ARConnect Benefit of Bargain Round Guidance
- ARConnect Benefit of Bargain Round Application User Guide - Supplemental
- AR Benefit of the Bargain Application Questions
- ARConnect BEAD Program Information landing page
- Questions: Arkansas Grants Program Helpdesk