# nrtc FUNDING ALERT!

**Professional assistance for today's unprecedented funding opportunities**

## Funding Amount: **$1.4 billion**

### APPLICATION

## Program Details

**Program Name:** Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD)
**Administrator:** Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA)
**Match Requirement:** 25% Match required

## Key Dates

- **April 7, 2025 –** Application cycle opens for prequalified ISP's
- **May 22, 2025 –** Application cycle closes
- **2nd and 3rd Quarter 2025 –** Negotiation process and/or second grant window open
- **3rd Quarter 2025** -Public comment and provisional award announcements

## Eligible Projects

- Qualifying last-mile broadband infrastructure to 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

- Each county will be designated as a separate application area

## Eligible Costs

- Construction, improvement, and/or acquisition of facilities and telecommunications equipment, including infrastructure for backhaul, middle and last-mile networks, and multi tenant buildings
- 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

**Scoring (maximum of 75 points):**

**Primary criteria**

- **Minimal BEAD Outlay (up to 40 points):** Points awarded to projects within a certain percentage of cost model benchmark, up to 10 points for proposals with higher match
- **Affordability (up to 20 points):** Most affordable price for 1/1 Gbps service
- **Fair Labor Practices (up to 15 points):** Points awarded to applicants with no labor/employment violations and commitment to fair labor practices

**Secondary criteria**

- **Speed Deployment (up to 1 points):** Service available under four-years
- **Community/Local government/Tribal government support (up to 10 points):** Points awarded based on extent of support documented
- **Percentage of unserved locations (up to 10 points):** Points awarded to projectscontaining higher percentage of unserved locations
- **Low-cost $30 per month residential service (up to 4 points)** awarded for commitment to offer $30 per month service to low-income households.

# Selection Criteria (cont'd)

**\*\*Non-Priority Broadband Projects Only\*\***

### Priority criteria

- **Minimal BEAD Outlay (up to 40 points):** Points awarded to proposals that fall within a cretain percatage of the cost model benchmark, up to 10 points for proposals with higher match.
- **Affordability (up to 20 points):** Most affordable total price for 100/20 Mbps
- **Fair Labor Practices (up to 15 points):** Points awarded to applicants with no labor/employment violations and a commitment to labor practices

### Secondary criteria

- **Speed Deployment (up to 1 points):** Service available under four-years
- **Community/Local government/Tribal government support (up to 10 points):** Points awarded based on extent of support documented
- **Speed of Network and Other Technical Capabilities (up to 10 points):** Points awarded based on speed of network and sufficient capacity (4 points), scalability (3 points), and cost-effective future upgrade and capital investment path (up to 3 points)
- **Lower-cost $30 per mont residential service (up to 4 points):** Awarded for commitment to offer $30 per month service to low-income households.

# Application Process

- Applicants must have been approved during the Prequalification Phase

# Links & Contacts

- [BEAD Program Process and Scoring](#)
- [BEAD Program Selection Process](#)
- [Alabama BEAD Program Resources](#)
- [Alabama BEAD Homepage](#)
- [AL BEAD IPV 1](#)
- [AL BEAD IPV 2](#)

---

**nrtc**

funding@nrtc.coop

Contact us for funding assistance. NRTC's Funding Practice offers key benefits including:

- Opportunity Evaluation
- Effective Grant Writing
- A Track Record of Success

**Telecom Companies:** Contact Chick Kennedy at 352-552-1317 or ckennedy@nrtc.coop

**Electric Cooperatives:** Contact Rodney Pugh at 706-878-9271 or rpugh@nrtc.coop