

nrtc **FUNDING ALERT!**

Professional assistance for today's unprecedented funding opportunities



Funding Amount: \$993.1 million

APPLICATION

Program Details

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

Administrator: Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA)

Match Requirement: 25% Match required

Key Dates

- **January 6 – February 5** – Round 1 Application Window
- **February 6 – March 8** – Application Review
- **March 9 – April 7** – Post-Round 1 Negotiations for Stranded BSLs Determination
- **March 24 – April 7** – Deferred Applications and Stranded BSLs Determination
- **April 12 – May 2** – Round 2 Application Window
- **May 2 – May 22** – Application Review
- **May 23 – June 21** – Post-Round 1 Negotiations for Stranded BSLs Determination
- **July 7 – July 31** – Deferred Applications and Stranded BSLs Determination

Eligible Applicants

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

Eligible Projects

- Projects deploying qualifying last-mile broadband infrastructure to unserved (25/3 Mbps or less) and underserved (between 25/3 and 100/20 Mbps) locations

Eligible Areas

- Eligible areas will be determined by the broadband office challenge process

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 400 points):

Primary criteria

- **Minimal BEAD Outlay (up to 250 points):** How much funding (exclusive of mandatory 25% minimum match) is requested

Grant to project Cost

150 points for $\leq 45\%$ of Total Project Cost

120 points for $> 45\%$ to $\leq 55\%$ of Total Project Cost

80 points for $> 55\%$ to $\leq 65\%$ of Total Project Cost

40 points for $> 65\%$ to $\leq 75\%$ of Total Project Cost

0 points for $> 75\%$ of Total Project Cost

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

Selection Criteria (cont'd)

Cost Reasonableness

50 points for $\leq 10\%$ of Reference Benchmark Cost Estimate

35 points for $> -10\%$ to $\leq 0\%$ of Reference Benchmark Cost Estimate

25 points for $> 0\%$ to $\leq 5\%$ of Reference Benchmark Cost Estimate

15 points for $> 5\%$ to $\leq 15\%$ of Reference Benchmark Cost Estimate

5 points for $> 15\%$ to $\leq 25\%$ of Reference Benchmark Cost Estimate

0 points for $> 25\%$ of Reference Benchmark Cost Estimate

Resiliency

10 points for network or power source redundancies for minimum of 50% of locations within the project areas

10 points for scalability in the network design

10 points for retrofitting and/or hardening its existing broadband infrastructure assets

10 points for burying at least 75% of fiber cables within the project area

10 points for other network resiliency measures

- **Affordability (up to 75 points):** for offering most affordable price for symmetrical 1 Gbps service

75 points for $< \$85.55$

65 points for $\$99.80 - \85.55

50 points for $\$114.07 - \99.81

0 points for $< \$85.55$

- **Fair Labor Practices (up to 50 points):** for record of and plans to be in compliance with Federal labor and employment laws

Secondary Criteria

- **Speed to Deployment (up to 10 points):** for providing services not later than four years after the date on which the subgrantee receives the executed subgrant agreement.

10 points for $< \$85.55$

8 points for $\$99.80 - \85.55

6 points for 36 - 42 months

4 points for 42 - 47 months

0 points for 48 months

- **Technological Requirements (up to 45 points):**

35 points for Up to 10 Gbps download and 10 Gbps upload or greater

25 points for Up to 10 Gbps download and 2.5 Gbps upload

20 points for Up to 2.5 Gbps download and 1 Gbps upload

5 points for Up to 1 Gbps symmetrical

- Opportunity Evaluation
- Effective Grant Writing
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Selection Criteria (cont'd)

Open Access for Priority Projects

10 points for Open Access Policy

- **Local and Tribal Coordination (up to 25 points):**
15 points for Local and/or Tribal Coordination – Letter of Support
10 points for Local and/or Tribal Coordination Engagement Plan
Community Anchor Institutions (up to 20 points): for serving CAIs in the proposed Project Area
- **Workforce Development (up to 25 points):** for advancing equitable workforce development and job quality objectives

Non-Priority Broadband Projects Only

- **Mimimal BEAD Outlay (up to 250 points):**
Grant to project Cost
150 points for ≤ 45% of Total Project Cost
120 points for > 45% to ≤ 55% of Total Project Cost
80 points for > 55% to ≤ 65% of Total Project Cost
40 points for > 65% to ≤ 75% of Total Project Cost
0 points for > 75% of Total Project Cost
Cost Reasonableness
50 points for ≤ 10% of Reference Benchmark Cost Estimate
35 points for > -10% to ≤ 0% of Reference Benchmark Cost Estimate
25 points for > 0% to ≤ 5% of Reference Benchmark Cost Estimate
15 points for > 5% to ≤ 15% of Reference Benchmark Cost Estimate
5 points for > 15% to ≤ 25% of Reference Benchmark Cost Estimate
0 points for > 25% of Reference Benchmark Cost Estimate
Resiliency
10 points for network or power source redundancies for minimum of 50% of locations within the project areas
10 points for scalability in the network design
10 points for retrofitting and/or hardening its existing broadband infrastructure assets
1 points for burying at least 75% of fiber cables within the project area
10 points for other network resiliency measures
- **Affordability (up to 75 points):** for offering most affordable price for symmetrical 1 Gbps service
75 points for <\$85.55
65 points for \$99.80 - \$85.55
50 points for \$114.07 - \$99.81
0 points for <\$85.55

- Opportunity Evaluation
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 - 10 points** for <\$85.55
 - 8 points** for \$99.80 - \$85.55
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 - 4 points** for 42 – 47 months
 - 0 points** for 48 months
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 - 35 points** for Up to 10 Gbps download and 10 Gbps upload or greater
 - 25 points** for Up to 10 Gbps download and 2.5 Gbps upload
 - 20 points** for Up to 2.5 Gbps download and 1 Gbps upload
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- **Open Access for Priority Projects**
 - 10 points** for Open Access Policy
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 - 15 points** for Local and/or Tribal Coordination – Letter of Support
 - 10 points** for Local and/or Tribal Coordination Engagement Plan
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- **Workforce Development (up to 25 points):** for advancing equitable workforce development and job quality objectives

Application Process

- Applicants must have been approved during the Pre-registration Phase

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

Links & Contacts

- [BEAD Application](#)
- [BEAD Application Guide](#)
- [Prequalification Phase Guide](#)
- [BEAD Application Checklist](#)
- [AZ BEAD Map](#)
- [BEAD IPV I](#)
- [BEAD IPV II](#)
- Send Application questions to: broadband@azcommerce.com
- Send Technical Support questions to: <ready.net>

- Opportunity Evaluation
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