

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

- **July 8, 2025** – Benefit of the Bargain Application Window Opens at 4:00 pm MST
- **July 22, 2025** – Benefit of the Bargain Application Window Closes at 4:00 pm MST
- July 23, 2025 – August 15, 2025 – ACA Application Review and Evaluations
- August 25, 2025 – Final Proposal Public Comment Period Opens
- September 1, 2025 – Final Proposal Public Comment Period Closes
- September 4, 2025 – Final Proposal Deadline to NTIA

Eligible Applicants

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

Eligible Projects

- Qualifying last-mile broadband infrastructure to unserved 25/3 Mbps or less and underserved between 25/3 Mbps and 100/20 Mbps locations

Eligible Areas

- Project areas will be determined by the ACA

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

Determination of Priority Broadband Project vs Non-Priority Broadband Project

Priority Broadband Projects (maximum of 500 points):

Primary criteria

- **Minimal BEAD Outlay (up to 250 points):** How much funding (exclusive of mandatory 25% minimum match) is requested
 - 250 points** for $\leq -15\%$ of the Subsidy Available per BSL
 - 225 points** for $\leq -15\%$ to $\leq -10\%$ of the Subsidy Available per BSL
 - 200 points** for $> -10\%$ to $\leq 0\%$ of the Subsidy Available per BSL
 - 175 points** for $> 0\%$ to $\leq 5\%$ of the Subsidy Available per BSL
 - 150 points** for $> 5\%$ to $\leq 15\%$ of the Subsidy Available per BSL
 - 0 points** for $> 15\%$ of the Subsidy Available per BSL

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

Selection Criteria (cont'd)

Secondary Criteria (up to 250 points)

- **Speed to Deployment (up to 50 points):** for providing services no later than four years post executed grant agreement
 - 50 points** for <24 months
 - 40 points** for 24 – 36 months
 - 30 points** for 36 - 42 months
 - 20 points** for 42 – 47 months
 - 0 points** for 48 months
- **Speed of Network and Other Capabilities for Priority Broadband Projects (up to 150 Maximum Points):** ACA will evaluate long-lasting capital assets using a sliding scale system under the following categories:
- **Speed of Network and Latency (up to 75 points):**
 - 75 points** ≤ 10 Gbps download and 2.5 Gbps upload or greater, maximum latency of 100ms
 - 50 points** ≤ 1 Gbps download and upload, maximum latency of 100ms
 - 25 points** ≤ 1 Gbps download and 250 Mbps upload, maximum latency of 100ms
 - 10 points** ≤ 250 Mbps download and 100 Mbps upload, maximum latency of 100ms
 - 0 points** < 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload, maximum latency of 100ms
- **Other Capabilities (up to 75 points):** Minimum simultaneous supported usage
 - 75 points** ≥ 100 Mbps downstream and ≥ 10 Mbps upstream
 - 60 points** ≥ 80 but < 100 Mbps downstream and ≥ 8 but < 10 Mbps upstream
 - 45 points** ≥ 40 but < 80 Mbps downstream and ≥ 4 but < 8 Mbps upstream
 - 30 points** ≥ 20 but < 40 Mbps downstream and ≥ 2 and < 4 Mbps upstream
 - 15 points** ≥ 5 Mbps < 20 Mbps downstream and ≥ 1 but < 2 Mbps upstream
 - 0 points** < 5 Mbps downstream and 1 Mbps upstream
- **Preliminary/Provisionally Selected Subgrantees – (up to 50 points):**
 - 50 points** Preliminary/Provisionally Selected Subgrantees during Round 1
 - 0 points** Other Applicants

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

Selection Criteria (cont'd)

Non-Priority Broadband Projects

Primary Criteria

- **Minimal BEAD Outlay (up to 250 points):** How much funding (exclusive of mandatory 25% minimum match) is requested
 - 250 points** for $\leq -15\%$ of the Subsidy Available per BSL
 - 225 points** for $\leq -15\%$ to $\leq -10\%$ of the Subsidy Available per BSL
 - 200 points** for $> -10\%$ to $\leq 0\%$ of the Subsidy Available per BSL
 - 175 points** for $> 0\%$ to $\leq 5\%$ of the Subsidy Available per BSL
 - 150 points** for $> 5\%$ to $\leq 15\%$ of the Subsidy Available per BSL
 - 0 points** for $> 15\%$ of the Subsidy Available per BSL

Secondary Criteria

Speed to Deployment for Non-Priority Broadband Projects **(up to 50 points):**

- **Speed to Deployment (up to 50 points):** for providing services no later than four years post executed grant agreement
 - 50 points** for < 24 months
 - 40 points** for $24 - 36$ months
 - 30 points** for $36 - 42$ months
 - 20 points** for $42 - 47$ months
 - 0 points** for 48 months
- **Speed of Network and Other Capabilities for Priority Broadband Projects (up to 150 points)**
 - 150 points** ≤ 10 Gbps download and 2.5 Gbps upload or greater, maximum latency of 100ms
 - 100 points** ≤ 1 Gbps download and upload, maximum latency of 100ms
 - 75 points** ≤ 1 Gbps download and 250 Mbps upload, maximum latency of 100ms
 - 50 points** ≤ 250 Mbps download and 100 Mbps upload, maximum latency of 100ms
 - 0 points** < 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload, maximum latency of 100ms
- **Preliminary/Provisionally Selected Subgrantees (up to 50 points):**
 - 50 points** Preliminary/Provisionally Selected Subgrantees during Round 1
 - 0 points** Other Applicants

Application Process

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

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

Links & Contacts

- [Benefit of the Bargain Application](#)
- [Evaluation Criteria and Scoring Rubric](#)
- [AZ BEAD Map](#)
- Send Application questions to: broadband@azcommerce.com
- Send Technical Support questions to: broadband@azcommerce.com

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