

nrtc **FUNDING ALERT!**

Professional assistance for today's unprecedented funding opportunities



Funding Amount: **\$1.86 billion**

Program Details

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

Administrator: California Public Utilities Commission

Authorizing Legislation: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

Funding Details

Award: \$1.86 Billion

Match Requirement: 25%

Key Dates

March 25 – BEAD portal opens for prequalification and application submissions

April 9 – **Prequalification application deadline**

April 23 – **Grant application window closes**

August 19 – Subgrantee selection & preparation of final proposal

August 20 – Public comment on final proposal opens

September 15 – Public comment on final proposal closes

September 18 – Resolution considered by commission

October 2 – Submission of Final proposal to NTIA

Eligible Applicants

- Cooperatives
- Nonprofit organizations
- Public-private partnerships
- Private companies
- Public or private utilities
- Public utility districts
- Local governments
- Tribal entities

Eligible Areas

- California has made a post-challenge process mapping tool available here: <https://register.challenge.cpuc.ca.gov/register/bead/map>
- Applicants will create a project area by selecting one or more contiguous Project Area Units (PAU's) on the interactive map.
- Each application must comprise a proposal for a project serving 100% of the unserved and underserved locations within a selected project area.

Eligible Projects

- Last-mile broadband infrastructure to unserved <25/3 Mbps and underserved, between 25/3 and 100/20 Mbps locations
- Priority given to projects consisting solely of end-to-end fiber

Eligible Costs

- Construction, improvement, and/or acquisition of facilities and telecommunications equipment, including 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 MDU 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

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

Selection Criteria

Priority Projects:

Scoring (maximum of 100 points):

- **Affordability – up to 35 points**
 - Commitment to offer symmetrical 1Gbps service at \$55 per month, inclusive of taxes and fees
- **Fair Labor Practices – up to 20 points**
 - Points awarded: (1) history of compliance with federal and state labor laws; (2) commitments to future compliance with federal labor laws; and (3) the quality and contents of labor practice-related items
- **Minimum BEAD Outlay – up to 20 points**
 - For matching funds equal to 65% or more, 1 point will be deducted for every 2 fewer percentage points of match offered
- **Speed to Deployment – up to 5 points**
 - For completion within 2 years of receiving funds
- **Equity – up to 10 points**
- **Resilience – up to 10 points**

Application Process

- [Register for an account](#) before beginning or submitting the prequalification or project application
- Approved applicants can log in at bead.grant.cpuc.ca.gov

Links & Contacts

- [BEAD Project application guide](#)
- [BEAD Resources and templates](#)
- [CA BEAD application portal](#)
- [BEAD application checklist](#)
- [BEAD events and presentations](#)
- [CA BEAD program](#)
- [BEAD FAQ's](#)
- Questions: BEAD@cpuc.ca.gov

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