nrtc FUNDING ALERT!

Professional assistance for today's unprecedented funding opportunities

Funding Amount: $826.5 million

APPLICATION

Program Details

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

Key Dates

- **September 12 –** Application Window Opens
- **October 28, 2024 at 11:59 pm MT – Application Deadline**

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 projects to unserved (25/3 Mbps or less) and underserved (between 25/3 and 100/20 Mbps) broadband serviceable locations

Eligible Areas

- Applicants will select project areas from the Project Area Map
- Project area do not need to be contiguous

Eligible Costs

- Construction, improvement, and/or acquisition of facilities and telecom 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
- Network software upgrades
- Engineering design, permitting, 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, pre-apprenticeships, community college and/or vocational training for broadband-related occupations

Selection Criteria

Scoring (maximum of 498 points)
Primary criteria

- **Minimal BEAD Outlay (up to 200 points)**
  - **100 points** for total match
  - **100 points** for Project Cost efficiency

- **Affordability (up to 200 points):** Cost of symmetrical 1 Gbps service
  - **10 points** for Urban Rate Survey (URS) or below
  - **25 points** for 20% or more below URS
  - **75 points** for 30% or more below URS
  - **100 points** for 40% or more below URS
  - **150 points** for 50 % or more below URS
  - **175 points** for 60% or more below URS
  - **200 points** for 70% or more below URS

- **Fair Labor Practices (up to 98 points):** details past compliance with federal fair labor laws, and commit to following federal fair labor practices:
  - **20 points** for certification of compliance
  - **20 points** for compliance with federal employment laws
  - **15 points** for disclosure of applicant violations
  - **15 points** for disclosure of sub/contractor violations
  - **15 points** for wage information
  - **13 points** for workplace safety committees

Secondary criteria

- **Speed to Deployment (up to 28 points)**Points will be calculated as follows:
  - **29 points** for build completion in <25 months
  - **18 points** for completing the build within 25-35 months
  - **10 points** for completing the build within 36-41 months
  - **6 points** for completing build within 42-47 months
  - **0 points** for completing build > 48 months

- **Speed of Network and other Technical Capabilities (Up to 25 points)**
  - **25 points** for XGS-PON – 10 Gbps upload & 10 Gbps download or greater
  - **20 points** for XG-PON – 2.5 Gbps upload & 10 Gbps download or greater
  - **15 points** for G-PON - 1 Gbps upload & 2.5 Gbps download
  - **10 points** for E-PON – 1 Gbps upload & download

- **Open Access (up to 14 points)**
  - **5 points** for details regarding Open Access policy
  - **5 points** for a description of wholesale services & rates
  - **4 points** for Identification of retail ISP partners and status of MOU

- **Local & Tribal Coordination (up to 10 points)**
  - **5 points** for Local and Tribal Coordination & Consultation meeting
  - **5 points** for Local and Tribal Letter of Support

- **Equitable Workforce Development & Job Quality (up to 49 points)**

- **Community Impact (up to 40 points)**
  - **8 points** to increase Broadband Adoption & Digital Literacy
  - **8 points** for Major Economic Development
  - **8 points** for Broadband Planning Initiative
  - **8 points** for Strategic Partnerships
  - **8 points** for State Plan

Application Process

- Apply and manage grant application in the Advance Colorado Grant Portal

Links & Contacts

- BEAD Grant Program Guidelines
- BEAD Grant Program Project Workbook
- BEAD Grant FAQs
- BEAD Project Area Map
- Submit questions on BEAD to: Advance_CBO@state.co.us

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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 919-473-5070 or ckennedy@nrtc.coop

Electric Cooperatives: Contact Chris Bradley at 703-787-7170 or cbradley@nrtc.coop