nrtc FUNDING ALERT!

Professional assistance for today's unprecedented funding opportunities

Funding Amount: **$1.04 billion**

Application

Program Details

Program Name: Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD)
Administrator: Illinois Office of Broadband
Match Requirement: Minimum 25% of the total project cost

Key Dates

- **July 1, 2025 –** BEAD Benefit of the Bargain Application window opens
- **July 18, 2025 –** BEAD Benefit of the Bargain Application window closes
- **Every Tues & Thurs from 1-2 pm CT –** Connect Illinois Office Hours

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 Applicants

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

Eligible Areas

- Project Area Units (PAU's) were determined by the broadband office

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

- **Primary Scoring**: Applications within the same project area, the application with the lowest grant request will be selected

- **Secondary Scoring**: Applicants within 15% of the lowest grant request for the same application area, the following scoring will be applied
  - **5 points** – Speed to Deployment
  - **45 points** – Speed of Network
  - **50 points** – Preliminary/Provisional Subgrantee in previous BEAD round

Application Process

- Applicants must be registered in the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) Portal at the time of application
- Airtable and Smartsheet submission platforms will be used, templates for submission can be found in the Application Guidebook

Links & Contacts

- IL BEAD Application Guidebook
- IL BEAD Subgrantee selection website
- Illinois Project Area Selection Map
- IL Office of Broadband
- IL BEAD Program
- Training and Resources
- Questions: broadband@illinois.gov

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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 Byron Tuley at 319-298-4754 or btuley@nrtc.coop

Electric Cooperatives: Contact Mark Davis at 614-395-5856 or mdavis@nrtc.coop