nrtc FUNDING ALERT!

Professional assistance for today's unprecedented funding opportunities

Funding Amount: $868 million

APPLICATION

Program Details

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

Key Dates

- **30 December 2024 –** Round 1 application opens
- **12 February 2025 –** Round 1 application deadline
- **TBD –** Round 2, Round 3 Application Timeline

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

- Elible 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 100 points):
Primary criteria

- **Minimal BEAD Outlay (up to 45 points):** How much funding (exclusive of mandatory 25% minimum match) is requested. All projects will be completed with some combination of BEAD funds and an applicant's proposed match, which must cover no less than 25% of the project cost, except for BSLs that exceed the extremely high-cost threshold. Points based on two categories:
    - **BEAD Outlay Per BSL:** The IBO calculates the BEAD outlay per broadband serviceable location (BSL) for unserved and understerved areas. The cost-efficient application receives 40 points, with others receiving points based on their relative efficiency.
    - **Provider Match Percentage:** Projects must provide a minimum of 25% match to BEAD funds, with scoring based on the percentage of applicant funding.
- **Affordability (up to 20 points):** Measures the commitment to offer the most affordable price for 1 Gbps/1Gbps service in the project areas. An application will receive 20 points if the service package for 1Gbps/1Gbps is $100 or less per month, including all taxes, fees, and charges. Applicants with more expensive costs will receive a percentage of total points based on their distance from $100 a month.

Selection Criteria (cont'd)

- **Fair Labor Practices (up to 15 points):**
  - Applicants must show past and future compliance with federal labor laws and, optionally, submit a narrative about using a highly qualified workforce.
    - **5 points** given for narrative response that displays compliance and continued compliance
    - **5 points** awarded for evidence of their plans to utilize a qualified workforce
    - **5 points** for applicants with no OSHA violations in the past 3 years

Secondary criteria

- **Service Levels in Project Area (up to 12 points):** The prospective subgrantee must submit the total number of broadband serviceable locations it plans to serve, as well as the total number of BSLs that are unserved, underserved, and served. Scoring based on the percentage of unserved BSLs in the project area and the percentage served.
  - **Served Locations (10 points):** The IBO will sum the total number of unserved and underserved locations and calculate the percentage that is unserved. The applicant receives 1 point for every 10% that is unserved.
  - **Served Locations (2 points):** Applicants will also be scored on the percent of total BSLs that are served. Up to 20% of BSLs in a project area may be served.
- **Speed to Deployment (up to 3 points):** Commitment to complete deployment within four years, with preference for earlier dates. The IBO will award points in this category based on the number of years before the 4-yer deadline that the applicant commits to complete deployment.
- **Local Coordination and Support (up to 5 points):** Proving local coordination and support from a local government leader. Letters of support may be given from local leaders and groups, including County Commissioners, County Councils, Auditors, Mayors, and City Councils. Applicants who receive a basic letter with limited details will be awarded 1 point.

Application Process

- Applicants must have been approved during the Prequalification Phase
- Round 1 will remain open for 45 calendar days. ISPs will have the opportunity to create their own project areas comprised of Census Blocks.
- Projects selected during Round 1 will become preliminarily awarded and serve as the foundation for the IBO to create project areas for the remaining BSLs during Rounds 2 and 3.

Links & Contacts

- Subgrantee Selection Guide
- Application Portal
- Subgrantee Selection Landing Page
- Webinar Replay
- Letters of Support Guidance
- BEAD Landing Page
- Contact IndianaBroadband@iot.in.gov with questions