

nrtc **FUNDING ALERT!**

Professional assistance for today's unprecedented funding opportunities



Funding Amount: \$272 Million

APPLICATION

Program Details

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

Administrator: Maine Connectivity Authority

Match Requirement: 25% Match required

Key Dates

- **July 10, 2025** – Benefit of the Bargain Round Application cycle opens
- **July 24, 2025** – Benefit of the Bargain Round Application cycle closes
- **August 2025** – Staff review period, negotiations, and public comment period
- **September 4, 2025** – Final proposal due to NTIA

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

- Project Service Areas are designated by Maine: [BEAD Project Service Area Viewer](#)

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 Projects vs Non-Priority Broadband Projects

- **Primary Scoring:** For project areas with multiple applications, the application with the lowest grant amount requested will be selected
- **Secondary Scoring:** Project areas receiving multiple applications within 15% of the lowest grant request will receive the following secondary scoring:
 - **20 Points** – Speed to Deployment
 - **40 Points** – Speed of Network and Other Technical Capabilities
 - **40 Points** – Application previously selected for Preliminary Award

Application Process

- Prequalification is required
- Applications can be submitted through the MCA Grant Portal: [BEAD Project Application - MCA Grants Portal](#)

Links & Contacts

- [Maine BEAD Landing Page](#)
- [Broadband Map](#)
- [Broadband Grant Portal](#)
- [BEAD FAQ](#)
- Questions? Contact bead@maineconnectivity.org

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