nrtc FUNDING ALERT!

Professional assistance for today's unprecedented funding opportunities

Funding Amount: **$652 Million**

APPLICATION

Program Details

Program Name: Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD)
Administrator: MN Department of Employment and Economic Development
Match Requirement: 25% Match required

Key Dates

- **July 14, 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

- MN is allowing applicant to define application areas.

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:
  - **80 Points –** Speed to Deployment
  - **10 Points –** Network Latency
  - **10 Points –** Previously selected award

Application Process

- Prequalification is required

Links & Contacts

- MN BEAD Home Page
- Restructured Application Guide
- Broadband Map
- Broadband Grant Portal
- Technical Questions? Contact mnhelpdesk@ready.net