



FUNDING ALERT!

Professional assistance for today's unprecedented funding opportunities



Funding Amount: \$628 million

APPLICATION

Program Details

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

Administrator: Montana Broadband Office (MBO)

Match Requirement: 25% Match required

Key Dates

- **July 8, 2025** – Benefit of the Bargain Round Application cycle opens
- **July 25, 2025** – Benefit of the Bargain Round Application cycle closes

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 Applicants

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

Eligible Areas

- Broadband office defined Project Areas comprised of Census Block Groups (CBGs)
- CBGs in a project area do not need to be contiguous.

Eligible Costs

- Construction, improvement, and/or acquisition of facilities and telecommunications 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, 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, pre-apprenticeships, 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
 - **50 points** – Speed to Network and other Technical Capabilities
 - **50 points** – Applicant previously participated by submitting a Main Round application

Application Process

- Applicants must have been approved during the Prequalification process

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

Links & Contacts

- [Montana BEAD Benefit of the Bargain Guide](#)
- [Benefit of the Bargain Round Glossary](#)
- [MT Broadband Map](#)
- [Montana BEAD Benefit of the Bargain resource page](#)
- Submit questions on BEAD Main Round to: [Contact \(mt.gov\)](#) or email: connectmt@mt.gov

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