

# nrtc **FUNDING ALERT!**

Professional assistance for today's unprecedented funding opportunities



**Funding Amount: \$1.2 billion**

## **ROUND 1 APPLICATION**

### **Program Details**

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

**Administrator:** Broadband Expansion and Accessibility of Mississippi (BEAM)

**Match Requirement:** 25% Match required

### **Key Dates**

- **May 15, 2025** – BEAD round 1 applications open
- **Deadline – pending subject to NTIA guidance**

### **Eligible Applicants**

- Approved Letter of Intent participants

### **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**

- Eligible areas were determined by the Mississippi Challenge Process. BEAM will update eligible locations [at this page](#)

## 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):

- **Minimal BEAD Outlay (up to 35 points):** Points award based on a calculation of the net BEAD outlay (grant amount) vs total project costs and match as a percent of total project costs
- **Affordability (up to 30 points):** Points awarded based on applicants's 1 Gbps/1 Gbps monthly pricing, the less expensive the monthly rate, the more points awarded
- **Fair Labor Practices (up to 10 points):** Applications will be reviewed for requested certifications and narratives regarding historical compliance and plans to comply with federal labor laws
- **Speed to Deployment (up to 8 points):** Applications will be scored based on the proposed timelines for deployment
- **Community Support (up to 8 points):** Applications will be awarded points for community support based on the number(s) of letters received from citizens and elected officials

## Selection Criteria (cont'd)

- **Network Scalability and Other Technical Capabilities (up to 9 points)** Points are awarded for network usable life, network scalability, and network resilience

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

## Application Process

- All applicants must have been approved during the Letter of Intent phase; Round 1 applications will only be Priority Broadband Projects, Other Last Mile Broadband Projects will be scored differently and during Round 2

## Links & Contacts

- [Broadband Expansion and Accessibility of Mississippi BEAD Homepage](#)
- [BEAD Application Guide](#)
- [BEAD Application Page](#)
- [MS BEAD Application Webinar](#)
- [BEAD Project Areas](#)
- [MS Initial Proposal Vol. II](#)
- Questions: [BEAM Contact Form](#)

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