



FUNDING ALERT!



Professional assistance for today's unprecedented funding opportunities

Funding Amount: \$628 million

Program Details

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

Administrator: Montana Broadband Office (MBO)

Authorizing Legislation: Montana Senate Bill 531

Funding Details

Award: To Be Announced

Match Requirement: not less than 25%

Key Dates

March 12 – April 11 - Prequalification Open for 30 days

May 2024 – Main Round Applications open for 45 days pending NTIA approval

Eligible Applicants

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

Eligible Areas

- Providers will be allowed to define project areas using existing Census Block Groups (CBGs)
- A list of CBGs, associated Broadband Serviceable Locations, and benchmarking will be published before the main round application window opens

Eligible Projects

The [BEAD NOFO](#) outlines all requirements. Subgrantees must:

- Meet mandated financial requirements
- Demonstrate capability to provide broadband service
- Propose a project that provides 100/20 service to all locations within service area and within required timeline
- Certify ability to comply with all mandates from NTIA and the State of Montana

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
- Engineering design, permitting, and work related to environmental, historical, and cultural reviews
- Personnel costs, including salaries and fringe benefits for staff and consultants
- Network software upgrades
- 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

Application Process

Montana encourages early involvement to gauge project scope and allow for coordination to enhance connectivity across all communities

- Applicants must [register their organization](#) before initiating an application
- Complete and submit the [Prequalifying Application](#)

Links & Contacts

- [MT BEAD Prequalification Application Guide](#)
- [MT BEAD Prequalification Prior Experience Template](#)
- [MT BEAD Executive Authority Template](#)
- [MT BEAD Legal Opinion Template](#)
- [MT BEAD Existing Broadband Projects Template](#)
- Submit questions on BEAD Prequalification to: [Contact \(mt.gov\)](#) or email: connectmt@mt.gov

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