nrtc CHALLENGE ALERT!

Professional assistance for today's unprecedented funding opportunities

Funding Amount: $793 million

APPLICATION

Program Details

Program Name: Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD)
Administrator: Missouri Office of Broadband
Match Requirment: 25% Match required

Key Dates

- **July 28, 2025:** Benefit of the Bargain Application cycle opens
- **August 15, 2025:** Benefit of the Bargain Application cycle closes **7:59 a.m.**
- **August 15 – 18, 2025:** Close the Gap Bid Confirmation (Opens 12:00 p.m. ET, Closes 7:59 a.m. ET)
- **August 20 – August 28, 2025:** Negotiation period

Eligible Projects

- **Priority Broadband Projects are:** Applications that propose to construct end-to-end fiber-optic facilities to all unserved and underserved BSLs in a Project Funding Area

Eligible Applicants

- Nonprofit organizations
- Local governments
- Rural Electric Cooperatives
- Telephone Cooperatives
- Public-private partnerships, with private or nonprofit partners registered in MO
- Private Companies
- Public Utility District
- Public or Private Utilities

Eligible Areas

- Application areas are created by aggregating eligible BSL's into project areas

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 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 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
    - **Up to 95 points** – Speed of technology
    - **Up to 5 points** – Speed to Deployment

Application Process

- Applicants must have been approved during the Prequalification Phase.

Links & Contacts

- [Ohio BEAD Benefit of the Bargain Application Overview](#)
- [Ohio BEAD Benefit of the Bargain Technical Assistance presentation](#)
- [Ohio BEAD Grant program webpage](#)
- For more information, contact: bbohchallenge@development.ohio.gov