

nrtc **FUNDING ALERT!**

Professional assistance for today's unprecedented funding opportunities

Funding Amount: \$813 million

Program Details

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

Administrator: Tennessee Dept of Economic & Community Development (TNECD)

Match Requirement: 25% Match Required

Key Dates

- **July 7, 2025** – Prequalification period open
- **July 16, 2025** – Prequalification period closes
- **July 7, 2025** – Benefit of the Bargain Round Application cycle opens
- **July 16, 2025** – Benefit of the Bargain Round Application cycle Closes
- **July 9, 2025** - Office Hours from 10:30 – 11:30 am CT
- **July 11, 2025** - Office Hours from 1:00 – 2:00 pm CT
- **July 15, 2025** – Office Hours from 1:30 – 2:30 pm CT

Eligible Projects

- Qualifying last-mile broadband infrastructure to unserved 25/3 Mbps or less and underserved between 25/3 Mbps 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

- Project Area Units (PAU's) were determined by the broadband office

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

Scoring 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
 - **10 points** – Speed to Deployment
 - **70 points** – Speed of Network
 - **30 points** – Other Technical Capabilities
 - **25 points** – Previously selected awardee

Application Process

- Applications must be submitted through the SmartSimple grant portal

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

Links & Contacts

- [Benefit of the Bargain Qualification Application](#)
- [Benefit of the Bargain Grant Application](#)
- [BEAD Guidebook](#)
- [Benefit of the Bargain Webinar](#)
- [Benefit of the Bargain Webinar Recording](#)
- For questions, email: ECD.Communications.Office@tn.gov

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