nrtc FUNDING ALERT!

Professional assistance for today's unprecedented funding opportunities

Funding Amount: **$1.2 billion**

APPLICATION

Program Details

Program Name: Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD)
Administrator: Washinton State Broadband Office (WSBO)
Match Requirement: 25% Match required

Key Dates

- **March 18, 2025 – May 16, 2025** – Round Two Application Deadline at 11:59pm (PDT)

Eligible Applicants

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

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

- Project Areas that did not receive a preliminary award in Round One

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):

Primary criteria

- **Minimal BEAD Outlay (up to 40 points):** How much funding (exclusive of mandatory 25% minimum match) is requested, Score calculated as 140 – percent of reference cost requested. For example, if 50% of the reference cost is requested, 90 points given
- **Affordability (up to 20 points):**
  - **20 points** for offering 1/1 Gbps for less than $75/month
  - **10 points** for offering 1/1 Gbps between $75 - $84.99/month
  - **0 points** for offering 1Gbps for more than $85/month

Selection Criteria (cont'd)

- **Fair Labor Practices (up to 15 points):**
  Pre-existing ISPs
  - o **3 points** for compliance with federal labor and employment laws
  - o **3 points** for disclosure of applicant violations
  - o **3 points** for disclosure of contractor and/or subcontractor violations
  - o **3 points** for wage information
  - o **3 points** for workplace safety committees

  New Entrants
  - o **5 points** plan for compliance with federal labor and employment laws
  - o **5 points** plan for Wages
  - o **5 points** plan to establish workplace safety committees

Secondary criteria

- **Speed to Deployment (1 point)**
  - o **1 points** for project completetion date in under 3 years
  - o **.05 point** for project completion between 3 and <4 years
  - o **0 points** for project completion after 4 years

- **Open Access (up to 8 points):**
  - o **4 points** for 2 or more committed ISPs above and beyond the applicant with signed contracts
  - o **4 points** for 1/1 Gbps wholesale cost less than $40 per connection
  - o **2 points** for 1/1 Gbpa wholesale cost for $40 - $50 per connection

- **Local and Tribal Coordination (up to 8 points):**
  - o **4 points** for LoS from county, city, or tribal governments
  - o **4 points** for records of local or tribal government consultations

- **Adoption and Navigation (up to 8 points):**
  - o **5 points** for provision of subsidized end-user digital devices
  - o **3 points** for other digital navigation services (e.g., digital literary services, educational resources for digital resources)

Application Process

- Apply through the WSBO BEAD Grant Portal

Links & Contacts

- [WA BEAD NOFO](#)
- [Get Ready for BEAD Checklist](#)
- [WA BEAD Home Page](#)
- [Eligible Project Areas – Round Two](#)
- [WA BEAD IPV I](#)
- [WA BEAD IPV II](#)
- Send application questions to: crystal.schoelkopf@commerce.wa.gov
- ZoomGrants Tech Support Desk: Questions@ZoomGrants.com or (866) 323-5404 ext. 2