

# 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

- **November 12, 2024 - January 31, 2025** – Round One Application Deadline at 11:59pm (PST)

### 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

- Determined by the broadband office challenge process

## 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

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

## Selection Criteria (cont'd)

- **Fair Labor Practices (up to 15 points):**

- **Pre-existing ISPs**

- **3 points** for compliance with federal labor and employment laws
- **3 points** for disclosure of applicant violations
- **3 points** for disclosure of contractor and/or subcontractor violations
- **3 points** for wage information
- **3 points** for workplace safety committees

- **New Entrants**

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

### Secondary criteria

- **Speed to Deployment (1 point)**

- **1 points** for project completion date in under 3 years
- **.05 point** for project completion between 3 and <4 years
- **0 points** for project completion after 4 years

- **Open Access (up to 8 points):**

- **4 points** for 2 or more committed ISPs above and beyond the applicant with signed contracts
- **4 points** for 1/1 Gbps wholesale cost less than \$40 per connection
- **2 points** for 1/1 Gbps wholesale cost for \$40 - \$50 per connection

- **Local and Tribal Coordination (up to 8 points):**

- **4 points** for LoS from county, city, or tribal governments
- **4 points** for records of local or tribal government consultations

- **Adoption and Navigation (up to 8 points):**

- **5 points** for provision of subsidized end-user digital devices
- **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](#)

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

## Links & Contacts

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

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