

# nrtc FUNDING ALERT!

Professional assistance for today's unprecedented funding opportunities



Funding Amount: **\$993.1 million**

## APPLICATION

### Program Details

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

**Administrator:** Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA)

**Match Requirement:** 25% Match required

### Key Dates

- **January 6 – March 7 (Deadline Extended!)** – Round 1 Application Window
- **March 7 – April 8** – Application Review
- **May 12 – June 11** – Round 2 Application Window

### 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

- Eligible areas will be 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 400 points):

#### Primary criteria

- **Minimal BEAD Outlay (up to 250 points):** How much funding (exclusive of mandatory 25% minimum match) is requested

#### Grant to project Cost

**150 points** for  $\leq 45\%$  of Total Project Cost

**120 points** for  $> 45\%$  to  $\leq 55\%$  of Total Project Cost

**80 points** for  $> 55\%$  to  $\leq 65\%$  of Total Project Cost

**40 points** for  $> 65\%$  to  $\leq 75\%$  of Total Project Cost

**0 points** for  $> 75\%$  of Total Project Cost

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

## Selection Criteria (cont'd)

### Cost Reasonableness

**50 points** for  $\leq 10\%$  of Reference Benchmark Cost Estimate

**35 points** for  $> -10\%$  to  $\leq 0\%$  of Reference Benchmark Cost Estimate

**25 points** for  $> 0\%$  to  $\leq 5\%$  of Reference Benchmark Cost Estimate

**15 points** for  $> 5\%$  to  $\leq 15\%$  of Reference Benchmark Cost Estimate

**5 points** for  $> 15\%$  to  $\leq 25\%$  of Reference Benchmark Cost Estimate

**0 points** for  $> 25\%$  of Reference Benchmark Cost Estimate

### Resiliency

**10 points** for network or power source redundancies for minimum of 50% of locations within the project areas

**10 points** for scalability in the network design

**10 points** for retrofitting and/or hardening its existing broadband infrastructure assets

**10 points** for burying at least 75% of fiber cables within the project area

**10 points** for other network resiliency measures

- **Affordability (up to 75 points):** for offering most affordable price for symmetrical 1 Gbps service

**75 points** for  $< \$85.55$

**65 points** for  $\$99.80 - \$85.55$

**50 points** for  $\$114.07 - \$99.81$

**0 points** for  $< \$85.55$

- **Fair Labor Practices (up to 50 points):** for record of and plans to be in compliance with Federal labor and employment laws

### Secondary Criteria

- **Speed to Deployment (up to 10 points):** for providing services not later than four years after the date on which the subgrantee receives the executed subgrant agreement.

**10 points** for  $< 24$  months

**8 points** for  $24 - 36$  months

**6 points** for  $36 - 42$  months

**4 points** for  $42 - 47$  months

**0 points** for  $48$  months

- **Technological Requirements (up to 35 points):**

**35 points** for Up to 10 Gbps download and 10 Gbps upload or greater

**25 points** for Up to 10 Gbps download and 2.5 Gbps upload

**20 points** for Up to 2.5 Gbps download and 1 Gbps upload

**5 points** for Up to 1 Gbps symmetrical

- Opportunity Evaluation
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## Selection Criteria (cont'd)

### Open Access for Priority Projects

**10 points** for Open Access Policy

- **Local and Tribal Coordination (up to 25 points):**  
**15 points** for Local and/or Tribal Coordination – Letter of Support  
**10 points** for Local and/or Tribal Coordination Engagement Plan  
**Community Anchor Institutions (up to 20 points):** for serving CAIs in the proposed Project Area
- **Workforce Development (up to 25 points):** for advancing equitable workforce development and job quality objectives

### **\*\*Non-Priority Broadband Projects Only\*\***

- **Minimal BEAD Outlay (up to 250 points):**  
**Grant to project Cost**  
**150 points** for ≤ 45% of Total Project Cost  
**120 points** for > 45% to ≤ 55% of Total Project Cost  
**80 points** for > 55% to ≤ 65% of Total Project Cost  
**40 points** for > 65% to ≤ 75% of Total Project Cost  
**0 points** for > 75% of Total Project Cost  
**Cost Reasonableness**  
**50 points** for ≤ 10% of Reference Benchmark Cost Estimate  
**35 points** for > -10% to ≤ 0% of Reference Benchmark Cost Estimate  
**25 points** for > 0% to ≤ 5% of Reference Benchmark Cost Estimate  
**15 points** for > 5% to ≤ 15% of Reference Benchmark Cost Estimate  
**5 points** for > 15% to ≤ 25% of Reference Benchmark Cost Estimate  
**0 points** for > 25% of Reference Benchmark Cost Estimate  
**Resiliency**  
**10 points** for network or power source redundancies for minimum of 50% of locations within the project areas  
**10 points** for scalability in the network design  
**10 points** for retrofitting and/or hardening its existing broadband infrastructure assets  
**1 points** for burying at least 75% of fiber cables within the project area  
**10 points** for other network resiliency measures
- **Affordability (up to 75 points):** for offering most affordable price for symmetrical 1 Gbps service  
**75 points** for <\$85.55  
**65 points** for \$99.80 - \$85.55  
**50 points** for \$114.07 - \$99.81  
**0 points** for <\$85.55

- Opportunity Evaluation
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## Selection Criteria (cont'd)

- **Fair Labor Practices (up to 50 points):** for record of and plans to be in compliance with Federal labor and employment laws
- **Speed to Deployment (up to 10 points):** for providing services not later than four years after the date on which the subgrantee receives the executed subgrant agreement.
  - 10 points** for <\$85.55
  - 8 points** for \$99.80 - \$85.55
  - 6 points** for 36 - 42 months
  - 4 points** for 42 – 47 months
  - 0 points** for 48 months
- **Technological Requirements (up to 45 points):**
  - 35 points** for Up to 10 Gbps download and 10 Gbps upload or greater
  - 25 points** for Up to 10 Gbps download and 2.5 Gbps upload
  - 20 points** for Up to 2.5 Gbps download and 1 Gbps upload
  - 5 points** for Up to 1 Gbps symmetrical
- **Open Access for Priority Projects**
  - 10 points** for Open Access Policy
- **Local and Tribal Coordination (up to 25 points):**
  - 15 points** for Local and/or Tribal Coordination – Letter of Support
  - 10 points** for Local and/or Tribal Coordination Engagement Plan
- **Community Anchor Institutions (up to 20 points):** for serving CAIs in the proposed Project Area
- **Workforce Development (up to 25 points):** for advancing equitable workforce development and job quality objectives

## Application Process

- Applicants must have been approved during the Pre-registration Phase

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

## Links & Contacts

- [BEAD Application](#)
- [BEAD Application Guide](#)
- [Prequalification Phase Guide](#)
- [BEAD Application Checklist](#)
- [AZ BEAD Map](#)
- [BEAD IPV I](#)
- [BEAD IPV II](#)
- Send Application questions to: [broadband@azcommerce.com](mailto:broadband@azcommerce.com)
- Send Technical Support questions to: [<ready.net>](mailto:<ready.net>)

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