nrtc FUNDING ALERT!

Professional assistance for today's unprecedented funding opportunities

Funding Amount: **$1.86 billion**

Program Details

Program Name: Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program
Administrator: California Public Utilities Commission
Match Requirement: 25% Match required

Key Dates

- **September 16, 2025** – Prequalificaiton period open
- **September 23, 2025** – Prequalificaiton period closes
- **September 16, 2025 –** Benefit of the Bargain Round 2 Application cycle opens
- **September 23, 2025** - Benefit of the Bargain Round 2 Aplication cycle closes

Applicants whose Prequalification Applications are currently in Qualified status **do not** need to submit or revise their applications

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
- Tribal entities

Eligible Areas

- Applicants will create a project area by selecting one or more contiguous Project Area Units (PAU's) on the interactive map

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

Application Process

- Applicants must have been approved during the Prequalification Phase

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, additional selection criteria will be applied according to speed and latency requirements of the statute and NOFO

- [BEAD 2.0 CPUC Prequalification Guide](#)
- [BEAD 2.0 Rules and Resources](#)
- [CA BEAD application portal](#)
- [BEAD events and presentations](#)
- [CA BEAD program](#)
- Questions: BEAD@cpuc.ca.gov