

# nrtc **FUNDING ALERT!**

Professional assistance for today's unprecedented funding opportunities



**Funding Amount: \$415.3 Million**

**BEAD Benefit of the Bargain APPLICATION**

## Program Details

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

**Administrator:** Iowa Department of Management

**Match Requirement:** 25% Match required

## Key Dates

- **July 16, 2025** – Benefit of the Bargain Round Application cycle opens
- **July 18, 2025** – Written question submissions due
- **July 22, 2025** – Responses to questions posted
- **July 30, 2025** – Benefit of the Bargain Round Application cycle closes
- **August 20, 2025** – Application review ends, preliminary awards made
- **August 28 to September 4, 2025** – Public Comment Period
- **September 4, 2025** – Final proposal due to NTIA

## 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

- Applicants can define project areas using the list of approved eligible BSLs

## 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

### Determination of Priority Broadband Projects vs Non-Priority Broadband Projects

- **Primary Scoring:** For project areas with multiple applications, the application with the lowest grant amount requested will be selected
- **Secondary Scoring:** Project areas receiving multiple applications within 15% of the lowest grant request will receive the following secondary scoring:
  - **20 Points** – Speed to Deployment
  - **60 Points** – Speed of Network (Relative Speed)
  - **20 Points** – Speed of Network (Latency)

## Application Process

- Applications are required to be submitted via the [Iowa Grants System](#)

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

## Links & Contacts

- [IA BEAD Landing Page](#)
- [IA BEAD BoB Round NOFA](#)
- [Broadband Map](#)
- Questions? Contact [broadband@dom.iowa.gov](mailto:broadband@dom.iowa.gov)

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