



# FUNDING ALERT!

Professional assistance for today's unprecedented funding opportunities



Funding Amount: **\$1.04 billion**

## APPLICATION

### Program Details

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

**Administrator:** Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO)

**Match Requirement:** 25% Match required

### Key Dates

- **January 23, 2025** – Application window opens for Wave 1 applications
- **February 26, 2026** – Application window closes for Wave 1 applications
- **TBD** – Dates for Wave 2 and Wave 3 applications

### Eligible Applicants

- Entities that can deploy broadband are eligible to apply. Eligible entities include but are not limited to:
  - Cooperatives
  - Nonprofit Organizations
  - Public-Private Partnerships
  - Private Companies
  - Public or Private Utilities
  - Public Utility Districts
  - Local Governments

### Eligible Projects

- Wave 1 eligibility: Applications where 10% or more of the proposed Project Area is composed of Hard-to-Serve Project Area Units and that are Priority Broadband Projects (end-to-end fiber)

## Eligible Areas

- Project Area Units (PAU's) were determined by the broadband office

## 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, Non-State match (up to 20 points):** Points awarded based on the degree to which non-state match exceeds 30%
  - 60% or more – 20 points
  - 55-59.9% - 17 points
  - 50-54.9% - 14 points
  - 45-49.9% - 11 points
  - 40-44.9% - 8 points
  - 35-39.9% - 5 points
  - 30-34.9% - 2 points
  - Less than 30% - 0 points

## Selection Criteria (cont'd)

- **Minimal BEAD Outlay, Financial Need (up to 30 points):** Points awarded on the percentage of the amount requested vs State's published reference cost
  - 0 – 19.9% – 30 points
  - 20-39.9% - 27 points
  - 40-59.9% - 24 points
  - 60-79.9% - 21 points
  - 80-99.9% - 18 points
  - 100-119.9% - 15 points
  - 120-139.9% - 12 points
  - 140-159.9% - 9 points
  - 160-179.9% - 6 points
  - 180-199.9% - 3 points
  - 200 % or more – 0 points
- **Affordability (up to 15 points):** Points awarded on a calculation to determine the difference in the commitment and the reference price of \$100 for 1G/1G, Priority Broadband projects and \$30 for Other Last-Mile Broadband Deployment projects
  - **7.5 to 15 points:** For applications **offering a price lower than the reference price**, there will be an upward adjustment to the baseline score of 7.5  
Score =  $7.5 + 7.5 * [(reference\ price - commitment\ price) / reference\ price]$
  - **0 to 7.5 points:** For applications **offering a price higher than the reference price**, there will be a downward adjustment to the baseline score of 7.5 minimum  
Score =  $7.5 - 7.5 * [(commitment\ price - reference\ price) / reference\ price]$
- **Fair Labor Practices (up to 15 points):**
  - **7 points** – Submission of a Project Labor Agreement (PLA)
  - **5 points** – No prior violations of compliance with federal labor and employment laws
  - **3 points** – Forward looking commitments to comply (with claw-back provisions)

## Selection Criteria (cont'd)

### Secondary criteria

- **Speed Deployment (up to 3 points):**
  - 3 points given for completing the build within 2 years
  - 0 points given for completing the build within 4 years
- **Network Speed & Latency (up to 4 points):**
  - 4 points for 1Gbps/1Gbps and 100ms max latency
  - 2 points for 100/100 Mbps and 100ms max latency
  - 0 points for 100/20 Mbps and 100ms max latency
- **Open Access and Use of Existing Network (up to 3 points):** Scoring on the submission of evidence for three categories:
  1. Description of wholesale services offered and associated rates
  2. Evidence of retail ISP partners
  3. Evidence of publicly available open access policy
    - 3 points for qualifying evidence in all 3 categories
    - 2 points for qualifying evidence in 2 of the 3 categories
    - 0 points for qualifying evidence in less than 2 categories
- **Local Coordination – Evidence of community support (up to 5 points):** Points awarded for the depth and breadth of community support shown for project
- **Local Coordination – Verified financial commitment (up to 5 points):** Points awarded based on level of financial investment by community members and organizations

## Application Process

- Applicants must be registered in the [Grant Accountability and Transparency Act \(GATA\)](#) Portal at the time of application
- Airtable and Smartsheet submission platforms will be used, templates for submission can be found in the [Application Guidebook](#)

## Links & Contacts

- [IL BEAD Application Guidebook](#)
- [IL BEAD Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#)
- [Illinois Broadband Map](#)
- [IL Office of Broadband](#)
- [IL BEAD Program](#)
- [Training and Resources](#)
- [IL BEAD IPV1](#)
- [IL BEAD IPV2](#)
- Questions: [broadband@illinois.gov](mailto:broadband@illinois.gov)

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