nrtc 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, 2025 –** Application window closes for Wave 1 applications
- **TBD –** Dates for Wave 2 and Wave 3 applications

Eligible Applicants

- Entites 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 eligiblity: Applications where 10% or more of the proposed Project Area is composed of Hard-to-Serve Project Area Units and that are Priority Broadbrand 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

- 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