



# FUNDING ALERT!



Professional assistance for today's unprecedented funding opportunities

Funding Amount: **\$628 million**

## Program Details

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

**Administrator:** Montana Broadband Office (MBO)

**Authorizing Legislation:** Montana Senate Bill 531

## Funding Details

**Award:** To Be Announced

**Match Requirement:** not less than 25%

## Key Dates

### BEAD Main Round Technical Assistance Webinars

Register in advance through the [Connect MT Website](#)

- **May 2, 2024** – Main Round Overview (10am MT)
- **May 10, 2024** – Main Round Financial (10am MT)
- **May 14, 2024** – Main Round Project Area Design & Scoring (11am MT)
- **May 16, 2024** – Main Round Technical (10am MT)
- **May 20, 2024** – Main Round Project Scoring (TBA)
- **May 21, 2024** – Main Round Environmental (TBA)
- **May 23, 2024** – Main Round program Requirements & Reporting (TBA)
- **May 31, 2024** – Main Round Q&A (TBA)
- **June 7, 2024** – Main Round Q&A (TBA)
- **June 14, 2024** – Main Round Q&A (TBA)

**May 2024 – Main Round Applications open for 45 days pending NTIA approval**

## Eligible Applicants

- Cooperatives
- Nonprofit Organizations
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Private Companies
- Public or Private Utilities
- Public Utility Districts
- Local Governments

## Eligible Areas

- Providers will be allowed to define project areas using existing Census Block Groups (CBGs)
- A list of CBGs, associated Broadband Serviceable Locations, and benchmarking will be published before the main round application window opens

## Eligible Projects

The [BEAD NOFO](#) outlines all requirements. Subgrantees must:

- Meet mandated financial requirements
- Demonstrate capability to provide broadband service
- Provides 100/20 Mbps service to all locations within service area and within required timeline
- Certify ability to comply with all mandates from NTIA and the State of Montana

## 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
- Engineering design, permitting, and work related to environmental, historical, and cultural reviews
- Personnel costs, including salaries and fringe benefits for staff and consultants
- Network software upgrades
- 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

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

## Application Process

Montana encourages early involvement to gauge project scope and allow for coordination to enhance connectivity across all communities

- Applicants must [register their organization](#) before initiating an application
- Complete and submit the [Prequalifying Application](#)

## Links & Contacts

- [MT BEAD Prequalification Application Guide](#)
- [MT BEAD Prequalification Prior Experience Template](#)
- [MT BEAD Executive Authority Template](#)
- [MT BEAD Legal Opinion Template](#)
- [MT BEAD Existing Broadband Projects Template](#)
- Submit questions on BEAD Prequalification to: [Contact \(mt.gov\)](#) or email: [connectmt@mt.gov](mailto:connectmt@mt.gov)

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