



Internet For All Grant Programs

Funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

Administered by the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)

Governor's Task Force on Broadband (MN)

March 27th, 2023 - 10:40 AM CST





THE BROADBAND EQUITY ACCESS AND DEPLOYMENT (BEAD) PROGRAM

PROGRAM DETAILS FOR APPLICANTS

MARCH 2023



Today's webinar will focus on BEAD – the largest of the four high-speed Internet programs administered by NTIA¹

Today's focus

BEAD

\$42.45B

Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment Program

A program to get all Americans online by funding partnerships between states or territories, communities, and stakeholders to build infrastructure where we need it and increase adoption of high-speed internet.

DIGITAL EQUITY

\$2.75B

Digital Equity Act

Three programs that provide funding to promote digital inclusion and advance equity for all. They aim to ensure that all communities can access and use affordable, reliable high-speed internet to meet their needs and improve their lives.

TRIBAL

\$2.00B

Tribal Connectivity Technical Amendments

A program to help tribal communities expand high-speed internet access and adoption on tribal lands.

MIDDLE MILE

\$1.00B

Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure

A program to expand middle mile infrastructure, to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas.

1. National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)
Note: Funding amounts inclusive of all administrative set-asides

BEAD Program will provide ~\$42.45B for infrastructure planning and implementation

Funding pool
\$42.45B

A program to get all Americans online by funding partnerships between states or territories, communities, and stakeholders to build infrastructure where we need it and increase adoption of high-speed internet.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Entities eligible to apply for this program include:

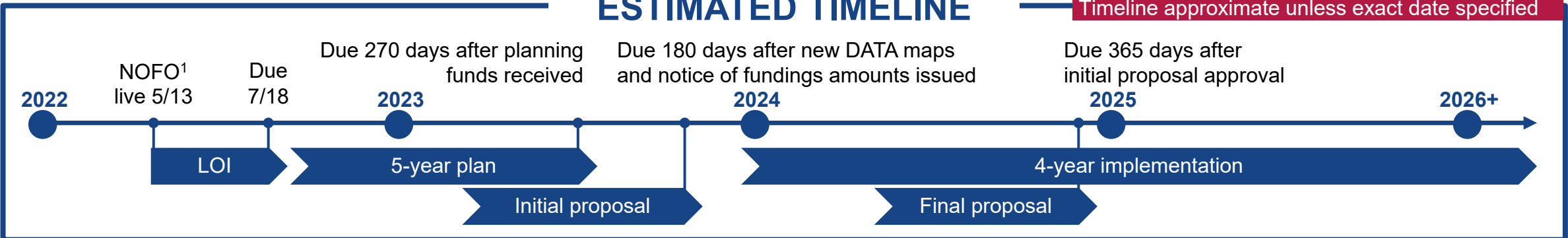
- All 50 States
- The District of Columbia and Puerto Rico
- Other Territories: U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Example eligible uses of funds include:

- ☆ Planning for deployment of Internet
- ☆ Deploying or upgrading Internet
- ☆ Installing Internet in multi-tenant buildings
- ☆ Implementing adoption and digital equity programs
- ☆ Workforce and job training

ESTIMATED TIMELINE

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified



1. Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), available [here](#).

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ELIGIBLE ENTITY APPLICATION PROCESS

FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN

Five-Year Action Plan | Eligible Entities that receive Initial Planning Funds must submit their Five-Year Action Plans

\$5M
funding
available

An Eligible Entity may choose to request ≤\$5M Initial Planning Funds

An Eligible Entity that receives Initial Planning Funds must submit a Five-Year Action

Example uses for Initial Planning Funds for planning and pre-deployment activities

- Establishing capacity in office of Eligible Entity running program
- Research and data collection
- Development of a preliminary budget for pre-planning activities
- Publications, outreach & communication support
- Providing technical assistance to potential subgrantees
- Training for employees (e.g., Eligible Entity, stakeholders, etc.)
- Conducting surveys of unserved, underserved, and underrepresented communities
- Local coordination, including capacity building

C

Local coordination | Eligible Entities to detail ongoing local coordination efforts and plan to fulfill future requirements



Geographic coverage



Coordination must incl. Tribal, rural, suburban, and urban areas

Each political subdivision and Tribal / Native entity must be given:

- Opportunity to submit a plan for Eligible Entity consideration
- Opportunity to comment on Eligible Entity proposals



Diverse stakeholders



Coordination must include a diversity of stakeholders

Eligible Entities must ensure Tribal / Native entities are involved in developing plans (incl. via a formal Tribal consultation process)

Example stakeholders include State agencies, CAIs, non-profits, etc.



Outreach mechanisms



Coordination must include multiple mechanisms to ensure broad awareness and participation

Example mechanisms include listening sessions, public meetings, websites, social media, etc.



Transparency



Coordination must include clear procedures to ensure transparency

Examples include websites, periodic reports, in-person meetings, etc.



Un-/underserved and under-represented communities



Coordination must target un-/underserved, and underrepresented communities that have historically faced barriers in participating in federal programs

Examples include an advisory board with representatives, surveys to better understand needs, etc.

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Five-Year Action Plan | Eligible Entities that receive planning funds must submit a Five-Year Action Plan

- 1 Details of the **existing broadband program**, including its activities, any previous entity-wide plans or goals for availability of broadband, and any prior experience awarding broadband deployment grants
- 2 **Current funding available for broadband deployment** or other related activities and the sources of that funding, including additional funds that may be pursued but are not yet in hand
- 3 **Existing efforts funded by the federal government** or an Eligible Entity within the jurisdiction of the Eligible Entity to deploy broadband and close the digital divide.
- 4 **Current employees** who will assist in implementing and administering the BEAD Program and their duties, as well as any existing contracted support, and any planned expansion
- 5 **Known or potential obstacles or barriers** to implementation and corresponding plans to address them.
- 6 **An asset inventory** that catalogues broadband adoption, affordability, equity, access, and deployment activities and provides details regarding any relevant partners
- 7 Details of its **external engagement process**, demonstrating collaboration with local, regional, and Tribal / Native entities
- 8 Available federal, Eligible Entity, or local **broadband availability and adoption data**
- 9 **Local broadband service needs and gaps**, including un- or underserved locations and CAIs without gigabit service, and/or any plans to make determinations where availability is unclear
- 10 **A comprehensive, high-level plan** for providing universal, reliable, affordable, high-speed broadband service throughout the jurisdiction
- 11 **Digital equity and inclusion needs, goals, and strategies**, including ways it plans to utilize BEAD funding, Digital Equity Act funding and/or other funding in concert
- 12 Alignment of the Five-Year Action Plan with **other existing and planned priorities**, incl. economic development, telehealth, workforce development, related connectivity priorities
- 13 **Technical assistance and additional capacity needed** for successful implementation of the BEAD Program

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ELIGIBLE ENTITY APPLICATION PROCESS

INITIAL PROPOSAL

Initial Proposal | Initial Proposals include 19 components

- Outline of **long-term objectives** ☆
- Support of **local, Tribal, and regional broadband planning efforts** ☆
- List of **existing efforts** to deploy broadband ☆
- Certification that **local coordination** was conducted
- Identification of **un- and underserved locations**
- Description of how **definition of CAI¹** was applied
- Detailed plan to conduct **challenge process**
- Detailed plan to **award subgrants**, including **Extremely High Cost per Location Threshold**
- Explanation of preferences for **non-deployment eligible activities**
- Description of **initiatives Eligible Entity will implement without subgrant**

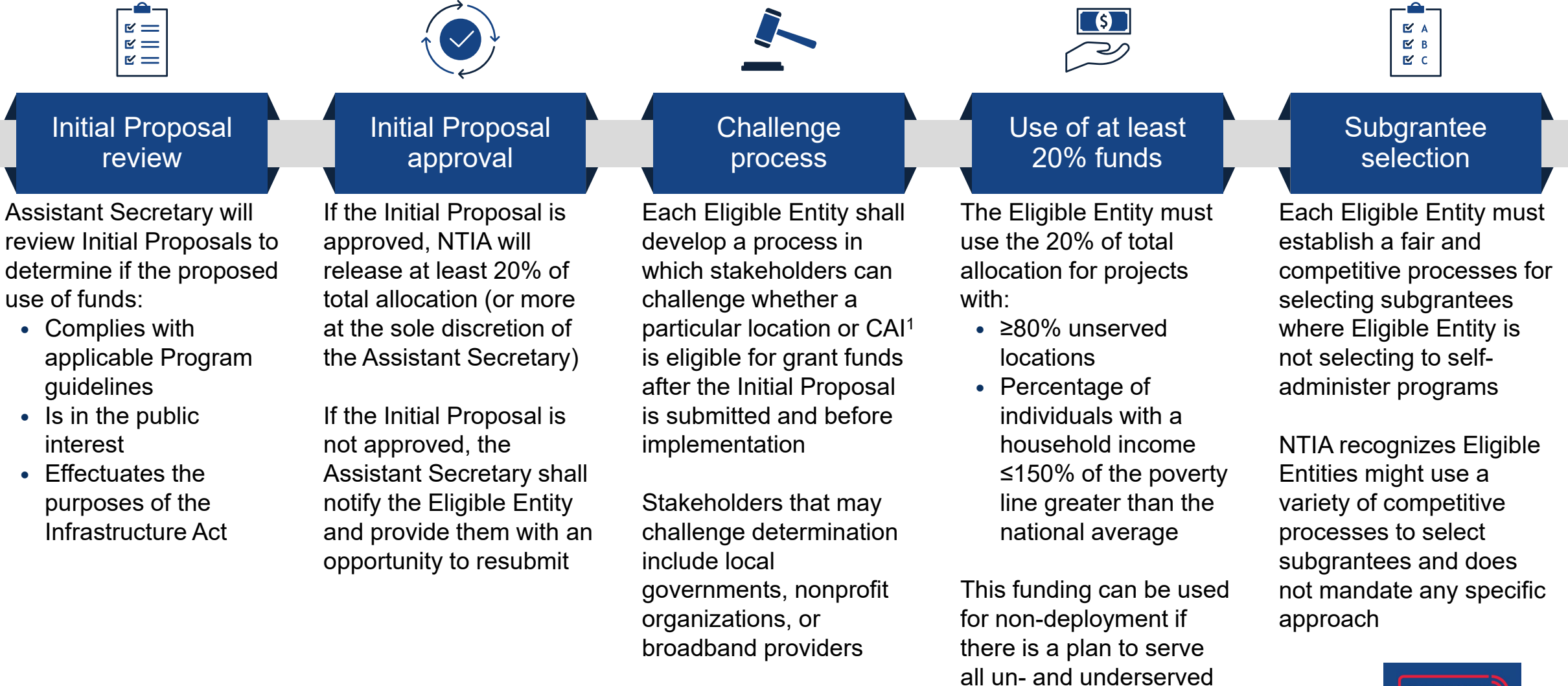
- Detail **use of strong labor standards** and plan for **labor-related subgrantee selection criteria**
- Detail plan to achieve a **diverse and highly-skilled workforce**
- Support of **minority- and women-owned businesses**
- Steps to **reduce costs and barriers** to deployment
- Assessment of **climate threats and mitigation methods**
- Description of **low-cost plans** to be offered
- Description of intended use of **20% funding**
- Disclosures around plans to waive laws that restrict **public sector participation**
- Certification of **intent to comply** with requirements

1. Community Anchor Institution

Legend | ☆ References to a completed Five-Year Action Plan satisfies this requirement

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Initial Proposal | If the Initial Proposal is approved, NTIA will release at least 20% of total allocation for select purposes



1. Community Anchor Institution

Initial Proposal | Eligible Entities must establish fair, open, and competitive processes for selecting subgrantees

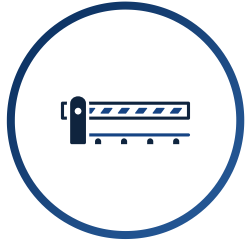
Principles for the Eligible Entity's subgrantee selection process:

- May fund an unserved or underserved project area as small as a **single location**
- May include **Middle Mile Infrastructure** in or through any area required to reach interconnection points or otherwise required to serve an unserved location, underserved location, or eligible Community Anchor Institution
- May not fund a project already subject to a **federal or State commitment** for broadband deployment unless Eligible Entity demonstrates to the Assistant Secretary that it is necessary to achieve the goals of the program and receives a waiver
- Must **maximize the public benefits** by maximizing match and reducing costs to consumers
- May seek bids for unserved locations, underserved locations, and CAs **collectively or separately**
- May not exclude **different types of subgrantees** from eligibility (e.g., cooperatives, nonprofits, public-private partnerships, private companies, public or private utilities, public utility districts, or local governments)
- May solicit proposals from prospective subgrantees at the **geographic level of its choosing** (e.g., per-location, per-census block, etc.) or ask prospective subgrantees to define their own proposed project areas
- Must include the **level of BEAD subsidy** required to serve a specific location
- May encourage providers to **expand their existing/proposed service areas** and may consider inducements (e.g., use State funds for match) if the Eligible Entity has **received no proposals** to serve a location that is unserved or underserved
- Must submit proof of the **Tribal Government's consent** to deployment to Unserved Service Projects or Underserved Service Projects that include any locations on Tribal Lands
- May decline to select a proposal that **exceeds the extremely high cost per location threshold**

Further guidance will be provided in subsequent webinars

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Initial Proposal | Eligible Entity must identify "Extremely High Cost per Location Threshold"

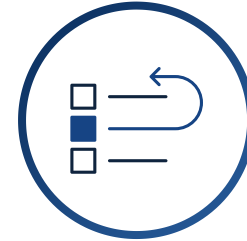


Eligible Entities must identify Extremely High Cost per Location Threshold in Initial Proposal

The Extremely High Cost per Location Threshold is a BEAD subsidy cost per location above which an Eligible Entity may decline to select a proposal if an alternative technology meeting would be less expensive

In the Initial Proposal, Eligible Entities must identify or detail a process for identifying an Extremely High Cost Per Location Threshold

NTIA expects Eligible Entities to set the Extremely High Cost Per Location Threshold as high as possible to help ensure that end-to-end fiber projects are deployed wherever feasible



Eligible Entities use Extremely High Cost per Location Threshold in subgrantee selection

An Eligible Entity may decline a proposal that requires a BEAD subsidy that exceeds the threshold if an alternative technology meeting the program's technical requirements is less expensive

If no technology meeting the program's requirements is deployable for a subsidy less than the threshold, an Eligible Entity is authorized to select a proposal involving a less costly technology that does not satisfy the program's baseline technical requirements



Initial Proposal | Matching funds $\geq 25\%$ of project costs are required for deploying broadband service projects

Requirement

Matching funds $\geq 25\%$ of project costs provided by subgrantee, an Eligible Entity, local government, a utility, a cooperative, a nonprofit, a for-profit company, regional planning or governmental organization, or any combination thereof

Preference for minimum subsidy

Eligible Entities are required to incentivize matches $> 25\%$ to reduce the federal share of projects and extend the reach of BEAD Program funding

Federal funds

Federal funds may not be used as matching funds, except as expressly provided to deploy broadband service under four acts¹

In-kind matches

Matching funds may be cash or in-kind contributions consistent with the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards set forth at 2 C.F.R. Part 200

Match waivers

The Assistant Secretary will grant match waivers only in extraordinary circumstances to serve the public interest and effectuate the purposes of the BEAD Program (e.g., projects in designated “high-cost areas”)

1. (1) The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Public Law 116-127; 134 Stat. 178), (2) the CARES Act (Public Law 116-136; 134 Stat. 281), (3) the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260; 134 Stat. 1182), and (4) the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2; 135 Stat. 4)

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ELIGIBLE ENTITY APPLICATION PROCESS

FINAL PROPOSAL

Final Proposal | Final Proposals include 15 components

- Plan that specifies the **outcome of the subgrantee selection process**
- Timeline** for implementation
- Processes for **oversight and accountability**
- Certification that **local coordination was conducted**
- Description of the **results of the challenge process**
- Certification that it will **serve all unserved locations**, if seeking to fund underserved, CAI, or other projects
- Description of all planned **uses of funding** that are **not** broadband infrastructure **deployment**
- Means by which **subgrantees were selected for non-deployment** eligible activities

- Description of efforts to support **participation of non-traditional providers**
- Implementation **status of plans** described in the Initial Proposal – *additional details on next slide*
- Specific commitments made by selected subgrantees to warrant a **Priority Broadband Project**
- Specific commitments made by subgrantees to warrant **benefits in selection (e.g., primary criteria)**
- Environmental** documentation and plan to comply w/ environment and national historic preservation reqs
- Plans to deploy to **Un-/Underserved Service Projects** and **Resolution of Consent** for projects on Tribal Lands
- Description of **unsuccessful applications** that were **affected by laws of the Eligible Entity**

Legend | References to a related requirement in the Initial Proposal

Final Proposal | Implementation status of plans detailed in Initial Proposal includes five components



Steps to streamline **permitting processes** and provide **cost-effective access** to poles, conduits, ROW¹, etc.



Labor and workforce activities, including how the Eligible Entity implemented and applied the labor-related subgrantee selection criterion required herein;



Utilization of **minority businesses, women-owned business enterprises**, and **labor surplus area firms**



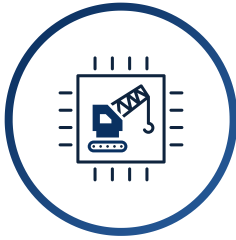
Low-cost plan requirements



Climate change and resiliency

1. Right-of-way

Final Proposal | NOFO provides specific examples of eligible uses of funds



Last-mile deployment-related uses

- Construction, improvement, and/or acquisition of facilities and telecom equipment
- Long-term leases of facilities required to provide qualifying broadband service
- Deployment of internet and Wi-Fi infrastructure in an eligible multi-family residential building
- Engineering design, permitting, and work for environmental reviews
- Personnel costs for BEAD implementation
- Network software upgrades, including, but not limited to, cybersecurity solutions.
- Training for cybersecurity professionals who will be working on BEAD-funded networks.
- Workforce development



Non-exhaustive

Non-last-mile-related uses

- User training with respect to cybersecurity, privacy, etc.
- Remote learning or telehealth services/facilities
- Digital literacy/upskilling and computer science, coding and cybersecurity education programs
- Implementation of Eligible Entity digital equity plans
- Broadband sign-up assistance and tech support
- Multi-lingual outreach to support adoption
- Prisoner education to promote pre-release digital literacy, job skills, online job-acquisition skills, etc.
- Digital navigators
- Direct subsidies for use toward broadband subscription
- Costs associated with stakeholder engagement, including travel, capacity building, or contract support



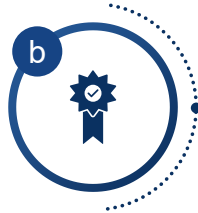
ELIGIBLE ENTITY AND SUBGRANTEE OBLIGATIONS

Eligible Entity obligations | Eligible Entities must meet eight programmatic requirements



Consider all provider types

May not exclude co-ops, nonprofits, public-private partnerships, private companies, utilities, public utility districts, or local government from eligibility



Ensure subgrantee accountability

Must include sufficient accountability procedures to ensure subgrantee compliance with Program reqs



Local coordination

Must coordinate with political subdivisions and local, Tribal, and community-based orgs



Equitable and nondiscriminatory distribution of funds

Must distribute funds and ensure subgrantee uses funds in an equitable and nondiscriminatory manner



Fair labor practices

Must give preferential weight to projects based on the strength of their fair labor practices



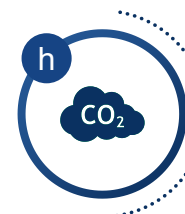
Highly skilled workforce

Must make appropriate investments to develop a highly-skilled, diverse workforce



Civil rights and nondiscrimination laws

Must require subgrantees to agree to abide by the non-discrimination requirements



Climate resiliency

Must demonstrate that they have sufficiently accounted for current and future weather- and climate-related risks

Select details on next slides

C

Local coordination | Eligible Entities to detail ongoing local coordination efforts and plan to fulfill future requirements



Geographic coverage



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Example stakeholders include State agencies, CAIs, non-profits, etc.



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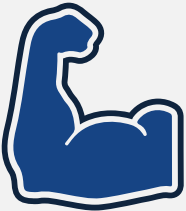
Un-/underserved and under-represented communities



Coordination must target un-/underserved, and underrepresented communities that have historically faced barriers in participating in federal programs

Examples include an advisory board with representatives, surveys to better understand needs, etc.

Fair labor practices and highly skilled workforce | Entities must also consider fair labor practices and plan for a highly skilled workforce



Fair Labor Practices

Eligible Entities are required to give **preferential weight** to projects based on the strength of the showing in their application on **fair labor practices**

Initial and Final Proposals must have descriptions of how subgrantees will:

- Demonstrate their compliance with **federal labor and employment laws**
- Ensure compliance in **their own labor and employment practices**, as well as those of their contractors and subcontractors



Highly Skilled Workforce

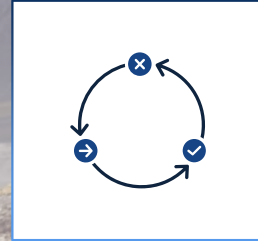
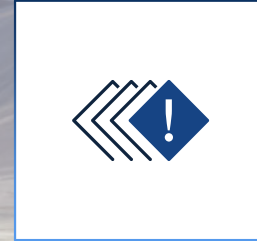
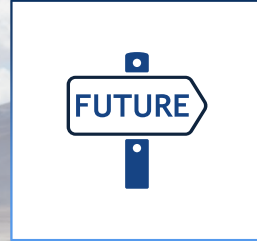
Eligible Entities and subgrantees should invest in developing a highly-skilled, diverse workforce for the new jobs that need to be filled

Initial and Final Proposals must include descriptions of how the EE will:

- Ensure subgrantees use a **highly trained workforce** able to carry out work safely and effectively
- Develop and promote **sector-based partnerships**
- Create **equitable on-ramps** into broadband-related jobs
- Ensure that the new jobs are available to a **diverse pool** of workers

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Climate resiliency | Applicants must account for current and future weather- and climate-related risks



Identify **geographic areas** for an initial hazard screening and time scales for such screenings



Identify the most important **weather and climate hazards** in these areas



Characterize **risks to new infrastructure** funded by BEAD for 20 years following deployment



Identify how the proposed plan will **avoid or mitigate the risks** identified



Detail the applicant's plans for periodically **repeating this process** over the life of the project

Subgrantee obligations | Subgrantees must meet three programmatic requirements

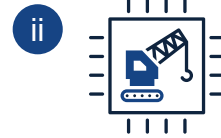


Network capabilities

Speed: $\geq 100/20$ Mbps or 1/1 Gbps for CAIs

Latency: 95% of measurements below 100 ms round-trip time

Outages: <48 hrs over any 365-day period except in the case of natural disasters or force majeure



Deployment requirements

Deadlines: Deploy and begin service not later than four years after subgrant received (with possible one year extension)

Milestones: Meet milestones established by Eligible Entities

Conduit access points: Include interspersed conduit access points at regular and short intervals for interconnection



Service obligations

Low-cost plan: Offer a low-cost option for all eligible subscribers

Consumer protections: Do not impose data usage caps

Access to service: Reasonable and non-discriminatory terms and conditions

Public notice: Conduct awareness campaigns to increase adoption

Interconnection and wholesale access: Permit interconnection for MM infrastructure receiving funding

Cybersecurity and supply chain: Adhere to baseline requirements

Service obligations | Subgrantees must offer at least one low-cost broadband service option for all eligible subscribers

Eligible Entities to propose "low-cost broadband service option" definition for approval

Eligible Entities shall submit a proposed definition to the Assistant Secretary for approval in their Final Proposal

In determining whether to approve a definition, the Assistant Secretary will consider, among other factors:

- 1 Cost to an Eligible Subscriber¹ after subsidies (both monthly and non-recurring charges)
- 2 Plan's basic service characteristics
- 3 Ability to apply Affordable Connectivity Benefit subsidy
- 4 Ability to upgrade to any new low-cost service plans offering with better technical specifications

The "low-cost broadband service option" is in addition to requirement to submit a **middle-class affordability plan** to ensure that all consumers have access to affordable high-speed internet access

Example definition for option that the Assistant Secretary is likely to approve

Speed: $\geq 100/20$ Mbps or FCC performance benchmark²

Upgrades: Permits eligible subscribers with one low-cost broadband service option to upgrade to another low-cost broadband service option with higher speeds at no costs

Latency: ≤ 100 ms

Data caps, surcharges, etc.: Not subject to data caps, surcharges, or usage-based throttling; subject only to the same acceptable use policies as other broadband plans

Subsidies: Subgrantees required to participate in ACP; eligible subscribers that are eligible for a subsidy can apply the subsidy to the option

Cost: $\leq \$30$ incl. taxes and fees for at least one option



1. Any household seeking to subscribe to broadband Internet access service that qualifies for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) or any successor program 2. The performance benchmark for fixed terrestrial broadband service established by the FCC pursuant to Section 706(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended



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For more information, please visit our websites or contact us at:

InternetForAll.gov for additional information on federal funding programs (InternetForAll@ntia.gov)

BroadbandUSA.ntia.doc.gov for technical assistance and grant program information
(BroadbandUSA@ntia.doc.gov)



