



Internet For All Grant Programs

Funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

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

Minnesota Governor's Task Force on Broadband

November 30th, 2023 11:00AM CST



BEAD Program Introduction

BEAD program will provide ~\$42.5B 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 to and increase adoption of high-speed Internet service.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Entities eligible to apply for this program include:

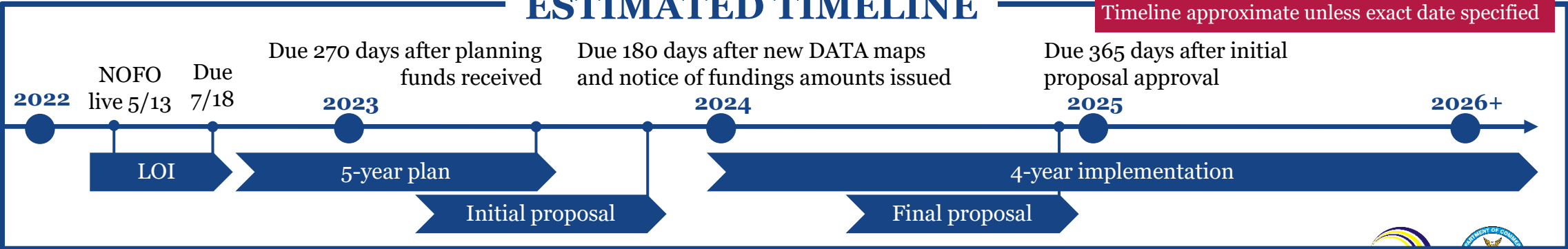
- All 50 States
- The District of Columbia and Puerto Rico
- Other Territories: U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Example eligible uses of funds include:

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

ESTIMATED TIMELINE

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified



Initial Proposal (IP) Submission



The IP is split into two volumes for faster review. Volumes I and II address all IP requirements in the BEAD NOFO and the Initial Proposal Funding Request is required if Eligible Entities want to receive funding upon IP approval.

Comprises the entire required Initial Proposal per the NOFO

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Volume I: Plan for Challenge Process

Sections of the IP for Volume I are:

- **Existing Broadband Funding** (3),
- **Unserved and Underserved Locations** (5);
- **Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs)** (6);
and
- **Challenge Process** (7).

This includes an overview of the Eligible Entity's evidence-based, transparent, fair, and expeditious challenge process (see Section IV.B.6 for details) and an overview of the process to minimize duplication of funding.

Volume I can be **submitted at any time before the deadline, and Eligible Entities are encouraged to submit it as early as possible.**

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Volume II: Initial Proposal

Sections of the IP for Volume II are:

- **Objectives** (1)
- **Broadband Planning Coordination** (2)
- **Stakeholder Coordination** (4),
- **Deployment Subgrantee Selection** (8),
- **Non-Deployment Subgrantee selection** (9),
- **Eligible Entity Implementation Activities** (10),
- **Labor Standards and Protection** (11),
- **Workforce Readiness** (12),
- **MBE/WBE/Labor Surplus Firms Inclusion** (13),
- **Cost and Barrier Reduction** (14),
- **Climate Assessment** (15),
- **Low-Cost Broadband Service Option** (16),
- **Use of 20 Percent of Funding** (17),
- **Eligible Entity Regulatory Approach** (18),
- **Certification of Compliance with BEAD Requirements** (19)
- **Middle Class Affordability Plan** (★)



Initial Proposal Funding Request

Requirements of the IP Funding Request are:

- **Project Narrative**
- **Budget Narrative**
- **Detailed Budget Justification**

Specific details are being determined in coordination with the Grants Office.

Note that Initial Proposal Funding Request documents aren't specifically listed in the BEAD NOFO, however, submitting an Initial Proposal Funding Request is required to access 20% or more in BEAD funding during the optional Initial Proposal funding round.

The Initial Proposal Funding Request cannot be approved until Volume I and Volume II are approved.



Every stakeholder plays a role in the BIL programs



Illustrative, non-exhaustive

Telecom provider

- Provide States, other territories, and Tribal / Native entities with background data on their baseline and digital equity needs



Community anchor institution

- Partner with States, other territories, and Tribal / Native entities to develop State Digital Equity Plans
- Advocate for community interests and needs



Community orgs

- Serve as a thought partner as States, other territories, and Tribal / Native entities design their outreach strategies
- Advocate for community interests and needs



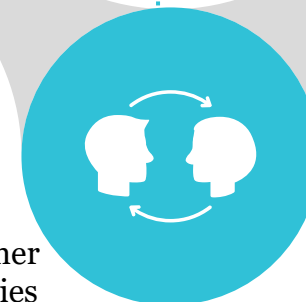
Tribal government

- Submit a letter of intent to participate in the DE Planning Grant Program
- Coordinate with relevant State(s) to develop state-wide Plans



Local government

- Collaborate with States, other territories, and Tribal entities to develop State Digital Equity Plans



Individual

- Participate in the planning process of your local jurisdiction



The NOFO acknowledges that “prospective subgrantees may be able to, or required, to demonstrate their capabilities in a variety of manners” and urges states and territories to “accommodate these differences in establishing their requirements,” inviting alternatives “if they are necessary and sufficient to ensure that the Program’s objectives are met.”

Some stakeholders have noted that the LOC requirement may have an adverse effect on smaller providers and could prevent them from participating in the BEAD program. To address these concerns, the waiver released today modifies the LOC requirement for subgrantees of all Eligible Entities in the following ways:

- **Allow Credit Unions to Issue LOCs.** The NOFO requires subgrantees to obtain a LOC from a U.S. bank with a safety rating issued by Weiss of B- or better. The waiver permits subgrantees to fulfill the LOC Requirement (or any alternative permitted under the waiver) utilizing any United States credit union that is insured by the National Credit Union Administration and that has a credit union safety rating issued by Weiss of B- or better.
- **Allow Use of Performance Bonds.** The waiver permits a subgrantee to provide a performance bond equal to 100% of the BEAD subaward amount in lieu of a letter of credit, provided that the bond is issued by a company holding a certificate of authority as an acceptable surety on federal bonds as identified in the Department of Treasury Circular 570.
- **Allow Eligible Entities to Reduce the Obligation Upon Completion of Milestones.** The waiver allows an Eligible Entity to reduce the amount of the letter of credit obligation below 25% over time, or reduce the amount of the performance bond below 100% over time, upon a subgrantee meeting deployment milestones specified by the Eligible Entity.
- **Allow for an Alternative Initial LOC or Performance Bond Percentage.** The NOFO requires that the initial amount of the letter of credit be 25% of the subaward (or the initial amount of the performance bond be 100% of the subaward under the option described above). The waiver allows the initial amount of the letter of credit or performance bond to be 10% of the subaward amount during the entire period of performance when an Eligible Entity issues funding on a reimbursable basis consistent with Section IV.C.1.b of the NOFO and reimbursement is for periods of no more than six months each.

By providing an expanded universe of potential issuers of LOCs and specific, permissible alternatives to the LOC requirement, NTIA remains faithful to our objectives of encouraging robust participation from a broad range of service providers while giving states and territories more ways to ensure that grant recipients can build a high-quality network and operate it for years to come. We appreciate those stakeholders who brought both their concerns and good solutions to the table. NTIA will continue to monitor the implementation of this requirement and may provide additional guidance as needed. States and territories are also free to request

Goals of the BEAD Program

BEAD helps deliver high-speed Internet access, affordability, and adoption.



Increases access for unserved and underserved households to ensure that all Americans have access to high-speed Internet service



Ensures Americans have access to **high-quality, high-speed Internet service** to support full participation in the 21st century economy and beyond



Supports **affordability** of high-speed Internet services, esp. in low-income households



Fosters a system that **promotes long-term, sustainable, affordable solutions**



Enables investment in digital skills training to increase the number of households adopting high-speed Internet service and narrow adoption disparities



Makes investments to ensure Americans can **participate in economy & society, reducing inequities** across sectors, including healthcare, workforce & education

Where Can I Find Additional Resources?



Use the below existing TA resources that can support your SBO in achieving the Initial Proposal requirements in a timely manner.



Challenge Process Policy Notice

Detailed Instructions

Provides detailed information and instructions regarding the BEAD State Challenge Process.



BEAD NOFO

Reference Document

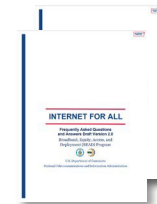
Information about the Initial Proposal and the Challenge Process can be found in the BEAD NOFO, Section IV.B.5 and Section IV.B.6.



FCC Broadband DATA Maps

Maps

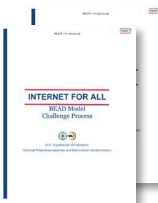
Maps created by the FCC that NTIA uses the results from to determine how much BEAD funding is provided per state or territory.



BEAD FAQs

Reference Document

Collection of Frequently Asked Questions that provide insight and additional context into the Initial Proposal and the Challenge Process.



BEAD Model Challenge Process

Reference Document

Serves as an example of how an Eligible Entity may choose to meet all requirements from Volume 1 of the Initial Proposal.



BEAD 201

Webinar

A more detailed and in-depth look into the BEAD Program and its requirements.





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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)





THANK YOU

