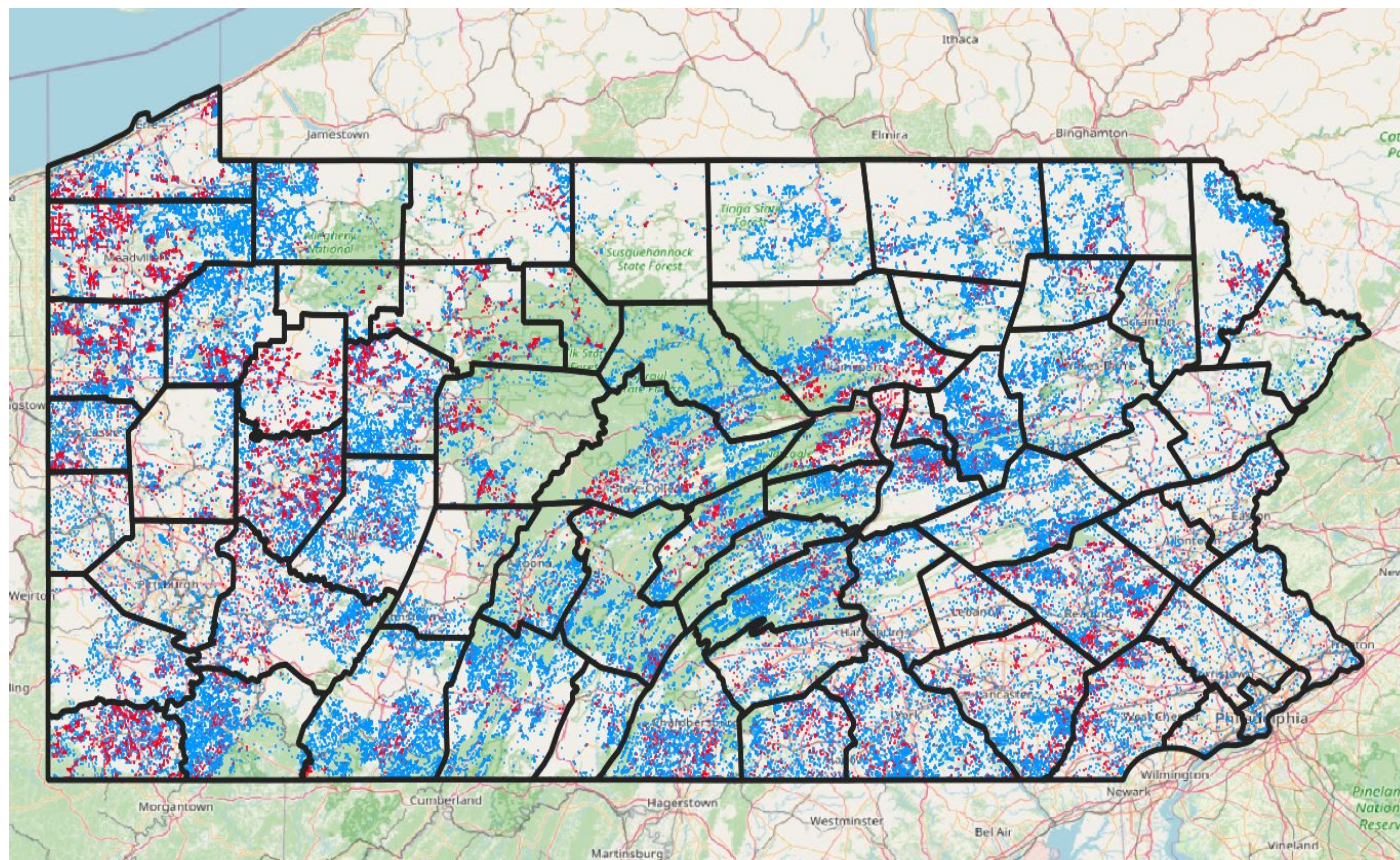Pennsylvania
Broadband Development Authority

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program Overview Session #2

Webinar Series

Presentation #2:

- Workforce Development
- Affordability Requirements
- Application Evaluation and Scoring

Workforce Development

- A comprehensive workforce plan that includes a framework with objectives and goals to develop a diverse workforce. Some elements will include:
  - A recruitment plan that focuses on building a diverse and sustainable workforce
  - A description of how applicants will prioritize hiring local workers, specifically historically underrepresented populations.

- PBDA strongly encourages that at least 15% of workforce is comprised of one or more of the following:
  - A directly employed workforce from local or regional areas of Pennsylvania.
  - Employees who have completed registered apprenticeships or pre-apprenticeships.
  - Employees are hired because of joint labor-management partnerships with a Pennsylvania local union or industry group.
  - On-the-job training opportunities to recruit new employees.

Commonwealth Workforce Transformation Program

- Also known as "CWTP"

- Introduced by Governor Shapiro's Administration in 2023

- To amplify project funding provided to Pennsylvania through IIJA

- Will train new workers, promote prevailing wages, and encourage local hiring preferences.

- Specific program details for CWTP are still being developed by the Office of the Governor and are not included in BEAD guidelines.

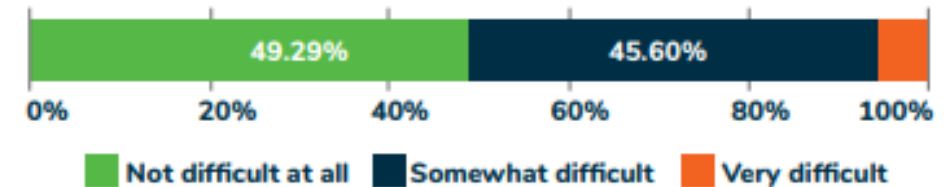- Applicants will indicate interest in the program application.

Affordability

Grantees must offer affordable broadband service options to all subscribers, which should include the following:

- An affordable price point that is inclusive of all taxes, fees, equipment, and charges billed to the customer.

- Consistent and reliable speeds of at least 100/20 Mbps.

- No data caps, surcharges, or usage-based throttling may be applied. The affordable service options must be made available to all locations within a grantee's proposed project area. Options should be available across an entire project service area.

- Applicants must submit a description of the approved plan to advertise the affordable service option to customers.

DIFFICULTY PAYING MONTHLY INTERNET BILL

49.29%	45.60%	

0%   20%   40%   60%   80%   100%

■ Not difficult at all   ■ Somewhat difficult   ■ Very difficult

Required Affordable Service Options

1. Low-Income Service Plan:

- To be offered to low-income households

- Costs equal to or less than 2% of the maximum eligible annual income, divided by 12.

- Currently, costs of $583.20 annually or $48.60 per month.

2. Middle Class Affordability Plan:
- Recommended Middle Class Affordability Plan is an affordable annual or monthly rate, inclusive of all taxes, fees, equipment, and charges billed to the customer.
- PBDA has determined that an affordable baseline for costs is $643 annually or $54 per month or less.

3. Administering Affordability Plans:

- Subscriber cost administration and compliance must be monitored and maintained by the grantee.

- For Low-Income Service Plans, applicants should include an explanation for how subscribers meet income eligibility requirements.

Application Evaluation and Scoring

The evaluation will be objective in nature, to include:

- Completeness of proposed services by the proposed project area.
- Proposed broadband speeds
- Reliability and technology preference
- Technological scalability to meet a minimum of 100/100 Mbps (where 100/20 Mbps is proposed)
- Detailed cost estimates
- Workforce development program investments
- Project cost match

Point Marion, PA

Scoring for Priority Broadband Projects

Criteria	Weight
1. Minimal BEAD Program Outlay	0-40 points, or 40% of 100
2. Affordability	0-25 points, or 25% of 100
3. Fair Labor Practices	0-15 points, or 15% of 100
4. Speed of Deployment	0-1 point, or 1% of 100
5. Equitable Workforce Development and Job Quality	0-10 points, or 10% of 100
6. Local Government Coordination	0-4 points, or 4% of 100
7. Open Access	0-5 points, or 5% of 100

Scanning for Other Last-Mile Broadband Projects

Criteria	Weight
1. Minimal BEAD Program Outlay	0-40 points, or 40% of 100
2. Affordability	0-20 points, or 20% of 100
3. Fair Labor Practices	0-15 points, or 15% of 100
4. Speed to Deployment	0-1 point, or 1% of 100
5. Speed of Network and Other Technical Capabilities	0-5 points, or 5% of 100
6. Equitable Workforce Development and Job Quality	0-10 points, or 10% of 100
7. Local Government Coordination	0-4 points, or 4% of 100
7. Open Access	0-5 points, or 5% of 100

Please email RA-DCPBDA_BEAD@pa.gov with questions.

Thank you!

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