Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD)

Overview

The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program aims to help residents and businesses gain access to affordable high-speed internet through investments in broadband planning, deployment, mapping, equity, and adoption activities.

In June 2023, Pennsylvania received $1.16 billion in BEAD funding to assist with the above-mentioned efforts.

Who Is Eligible?

- Cooperative Organizations
- Not-For-Profit Organizations
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Private Companies
- Public or Private Utility Companies
- Public Utility Districts
- Municipalities or Units of Local Government
- Internet Service Providers Registered through the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

Eligible Projects

- Deploying and/or upgrading broadband network facilities in connection with a Broadband Serviceable Area (BSA)
- Data collection, broadband mapping, and planning to the extent necessary to facilitate the goals and deliverables of the BEAD program
- Eligible projects are limited to defined project areas and must meet the minimum of 95% Broadband Serviceable Location (BSL) coverage threshold.

How to Apply

BEAD guidelines were posted on September 20, 2024. Application Period One opened on Friday November 22, 2024 and closed on Friday February 7, 2025. Program guidelines, additional details, and FAQs are available on the BEAD Program Page.
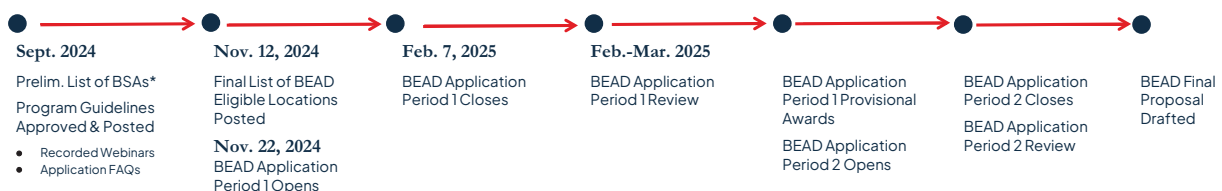
To be added to the distribution list please email pabroadbandauthority@pa.gov.

Contact

PA Broadband Development Authority (PBDA)
ra-dcpbda_bead@pa.gov | 1-866-466-3972
broadband.pa.gov

BEAD Program Timeline

The following estimated timeline for the BEAD Program is subject to change.

Sept. 2024
Prelim. List of BSAs*
Program Guidelines Approved & Posted
- Recorded Webinars
- Application FAQs

Nov. 12, 2024
Final List of BEAD Eligible Locations Posted

Nov. 22, 2024
BEAD Application Period 1 Opens

Feb. 7, 2025
BEAD Application Period 1 Closes

Feb.-Mar. 2025
BEAD Application Period 1 Review

BEAD Application Period 1 Provisional Awards

BEAD Application Period 2 Opens

BEAD Application Period 2 Closes

BEAD Application Period 2 Review

BEAD Final Proposal Drafted

*Broadband Serviceable Areas (BSAs) are areas within Pennsylvania containing one or more Census Block Groups with Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) eligible for BEAD funding.