Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Program Next Steps

What are the next steps in the Program now that the Final Proposal has been approved?
BEAD Program next steps can be found on the PBDA BEAD Program webpage.

What is the deadline for completing projects funded through BEAD?
Projects funded through BEAD must be completed and the initiation of service undertaken within four years of the date of a fully executed BEAD agreement and receipt of the grant award.

Eligibility

Can PBDA confirm what type of pre-award expenses are approved for the BEAD Program?
Any pre-award expenses are incurred at the provisionally approved BEAD Grantee's own risk. Any pre-awarded expenses must be identified in the project budget, and such expenses shall be subject to approval by PBDA and NTIA.

Grant Application

Where can I find the program guidelines and other resources related to grant application?
Resources for this funding opportunity can be found on the BEAD Program Page.

What are the prevailing wage rate requirements for BEAD?
BEAD projects must adhere to Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage (PW) laws. The PA Dept. of Labor and Industry (L&I) is the agency that makes all prevailing wage determinations, including prevailing wage rates and rate classifications. Applicants are encouraged to contact L&I with specific questions about Prevailing Wages by phone 1.800.932.0665 or email pwquestions@pa.gov.

How can grantees obtain Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Rates?
Grantees can obtain prevailing wage rates pertinent to their project using the following methods.

1. Following the traditional process of requesting wage rates via the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry website.

What does PBDA consider "long-term" as it relates to Long-Term Fiber Lease?
A long-term fiber lease is a minimum of 10 years.

Does the Build America, Buy America Act apply to BEAD?
Yes. Grantees must comply with all applicable federal laws through the BEAD grant process.
This includes the Build America, Buy America Act.

Data, Mapping, Eligible BSLs

Where can I find a map and/or data about the Commonwealths BSLs?
Please see "Additional Information" on the BEAD Program Page.

Program Specific

What is low-cost service option (LCSO)?
BEAD grant recipients must offer at least one low-cost broadband service option (LCSO) for eligible subscribers, with the LCSO set by the BEAD grant recipient. The LCSO must offer speeds of at least 100/20 Mbps and latency performance of no more than 100 milliseconds. The BEAD grant recipient must offer the LCSO throughout the 10-year federal period of interest, or in the case of a LEO, the 10-year period of performance. Each applicant for BEAD grants must propose its LCSO as part of the application. If an applicant for BEAD grants seeks flexibility to change the LCSO rate over time, then it must state in its application the methodology that it will use to change the LCSO in the future. More information about LCSO can be found in PBDA's updated BEAD guidelines.

The PBDA reserves the right to update this document on a regular basis. Continue to check back for new information.