

Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program Infrastructure Deployment Phase

Massachusetts was awarded \$147 million through the federal BEAD Program to ensure all broadband serviceable locations (BSLs) across the state have access to high-speed, reliable broadband. This program will fund infrastructure projects to connect unserved and underserved BSLs, and enable Massachusetts to achieve 100% universal service.



Eligibility

BEAD Deployment Phase Round 1

- » Project service areas will be defined by municipality.
- » The following types of entities may apply for BEAD grants:
 - » Private entities (e.g., corporations, limited liability companies, general partnerships, limited partnerships, etc.).
 - » Local governmental entities (e.g., municipalities or municipal light plants that offer broadband service), Native American tribes, and non-profit organizations.
 - » Co-operatives, electric co-operatives and utilities.
 - » Public Private Partnerships, which are long-term agreements between local government entities and private entities for the delivery and funding of broadband services.
 - » Other entities that develop and/or operate broadband networks and can demonstrate the experience, capacity and financial resources and stability to satisfy the grant obligations.

Program Requirements

To qualify for the BEAD Program, applicants are highly encouraged to participate in MBI's pre-qualification process, which will be open **September 26, 2024 – October 28, 2024***.

Applications will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- » Provide a 25% match
- » Commitment to provide affordable broadband service
- » Compliance with federal fair labor laws
- » Ability to provide service to project area within four years
- » Speed of network & other technical capabilities
- » Ability to serve Community Anchor Institutes (CAIs)
- » Ability to offer low-cost plans
- » Ability to serve multi-dwelling units (MDUs) at the enterprise level



*Pre-qualification is not required, however all BEAD Deployment Phase applicants are required to submit relevant qualification information during the application phase, if not submitted during pre-qualification.

Key Dates

Pre-qualification process opened on **September 26, 2024**, and will close on **October 28, 2024**.

BEAD Deployment Phase Round 1 is expected to launch in **December 2024**, pending NTIA approval of the final list of eligible broadband serviceable locations.

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