

The logo for the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) consists of the letters "MBI" in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

MASSACHUSETTS
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at the MassTech
Collaborative

BEAD Program Update

December 4, 2024

Today's Webinar Guidelines

- This Webinar is being recorded and will be posted to the BEAD Webpage.
- MBI will not be answering questions during the session. If questions arise during the presentation, please put them in the Q&A chat and MBI will develop a FAQ document and post to the BEAD webpage.
- MBI reserves the right to mute or dismiss participants that behave in an inappropriate manner.

Agenda

1. Introduction and BEAD Overview
2. BEAD Timeline Review
3. BEAD Deployment Program Requirements
4. BEAD Deployment Application Process

Meeting Objectives

- Timeline for Subgrantee selection
- Preview program requirements
- Engage stakeholders to build pipeline of qualified applicants

MBI BEAD Deployment Team



Michael Baldino

- MBI Director and General Counsel
- Will serve as oversight on BEAD program



Karen Jenkins

- Broadband Grants Manager
- Lead PM on BEAD Program



Madison Trepanier

- Project Manager, Operations
- Operations Support

MA Current State

- Gap Networks Grant Program
 - Expanding access to approximately 3,000 BSLs in over 125 communities
- Remaining locations
 - All remaining eligible BSLs after Gap Networks will be covered through BEAD
 - List will be published by MBI after final approval of Challenge Process results by NTIA
- Goal: Universal Service



Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD)

BEAD projects are designed to provide fiber connectivity directly to the end user (last mile), including unserved, underserved, and CAIs.

Broadband Deployment

01

Unserved Locations

MBI awards funding in a manner that prioritizes Unserved Service Projects.

02

Underserved Locations

Once MBI certifies that it will ensure coverage of all unserved locations, it may then prioritize Underserved Service Projects.

03

Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs)

NTIA Strongly urges that MBI serves eligible Community Anchor Institutions next

- Ensure deployment of gigabit connections to community anchor institutions such as libraries and community centers that lack such connectivity.
- Eligible Community Anchor: entity (e.g., school, library, hospital) that facilitates greater use of high-speed Internet service by vulnerable populations and have download speed <1 Gbps.



BEAD funds prioritize projects that demonstrate they will be able to ensure service to all unserved and underserved locations.

Challenge Process Update

MBI anticipates having Challenge Process Results in early December.

Challenge Phase:

Eighty-three users representing 66 organizations registered for the challenge portal. Registered users entered 33,665 challenges into the portal. An additional 14,449 challenges were created as pre-challenge modifications (3,548) and area and multiple dwelling unit (MDU) challenges (10,901), bringing the total number of challenges to 48,114.

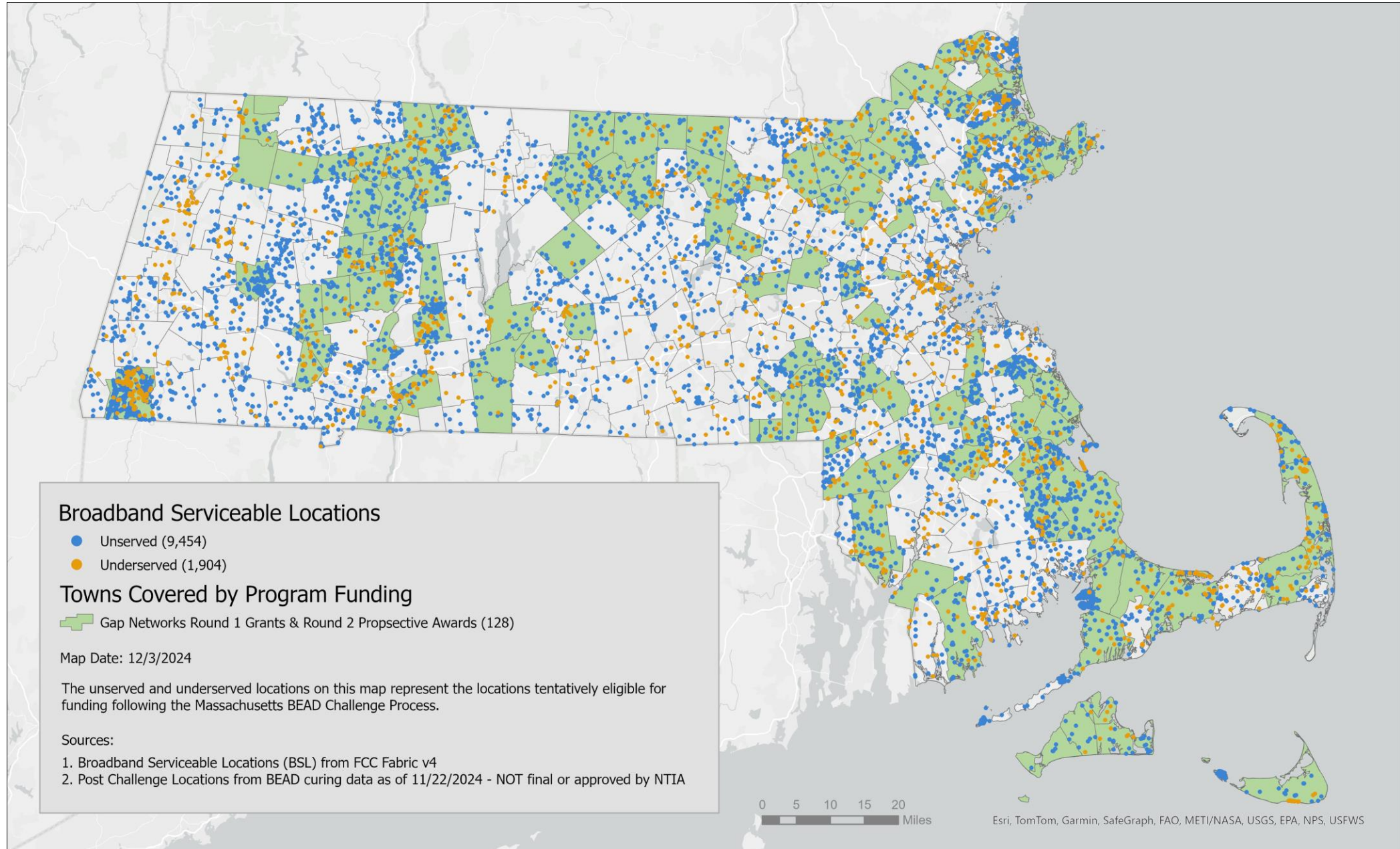
Rebuttal Phase:

During the Rebuttal Phase of the Challenge Process MBI received 5091 rebuttals.

NTIA Approval:

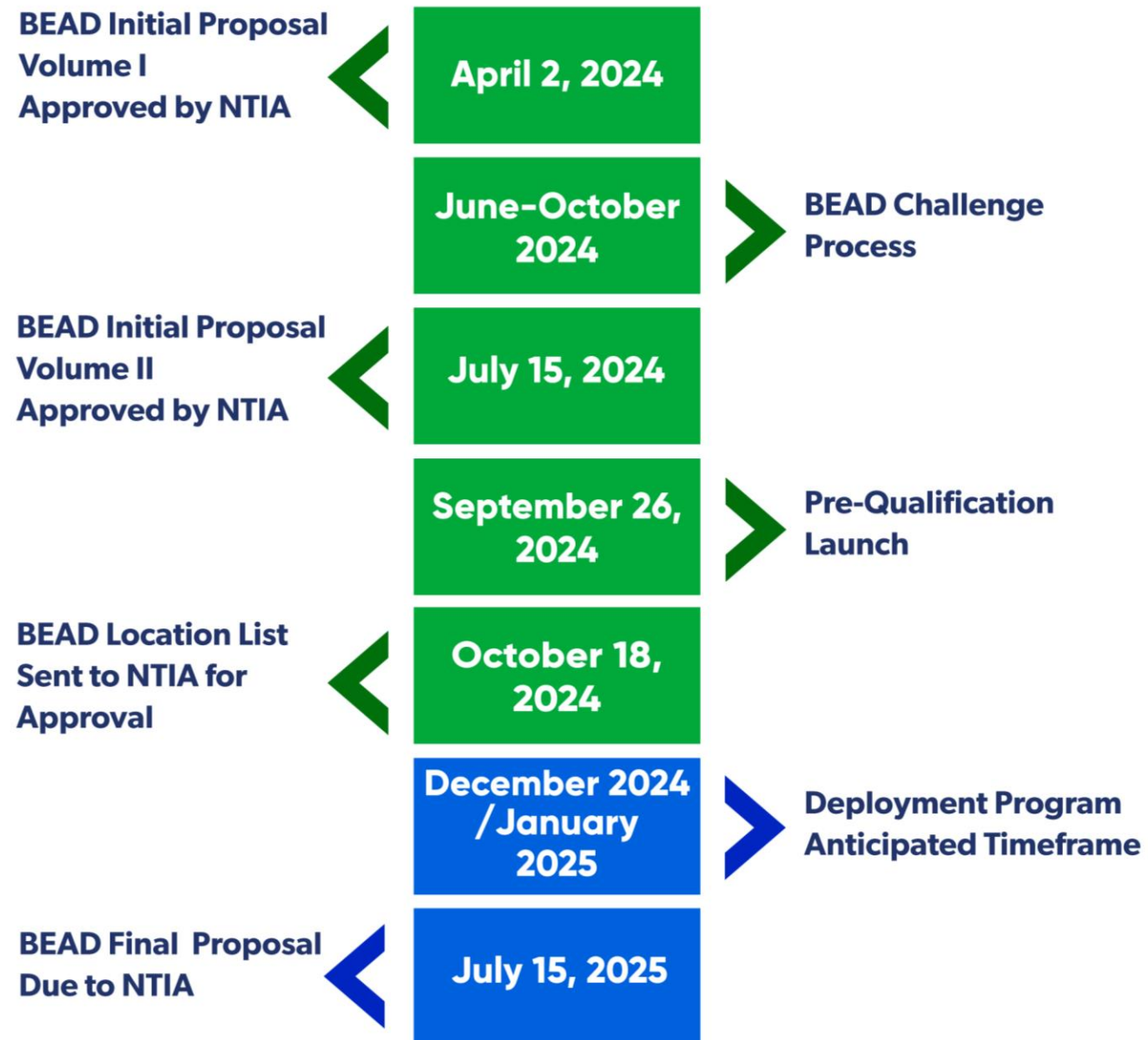
MBI recently completed curing with NTIA, still waiting for final approval of the challenge process results

Provisional Map of Locations



BEAD Timeline Round I

Timeline



Eligible Entities

Who can apply for BEAD Funding?

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), tribal government, 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

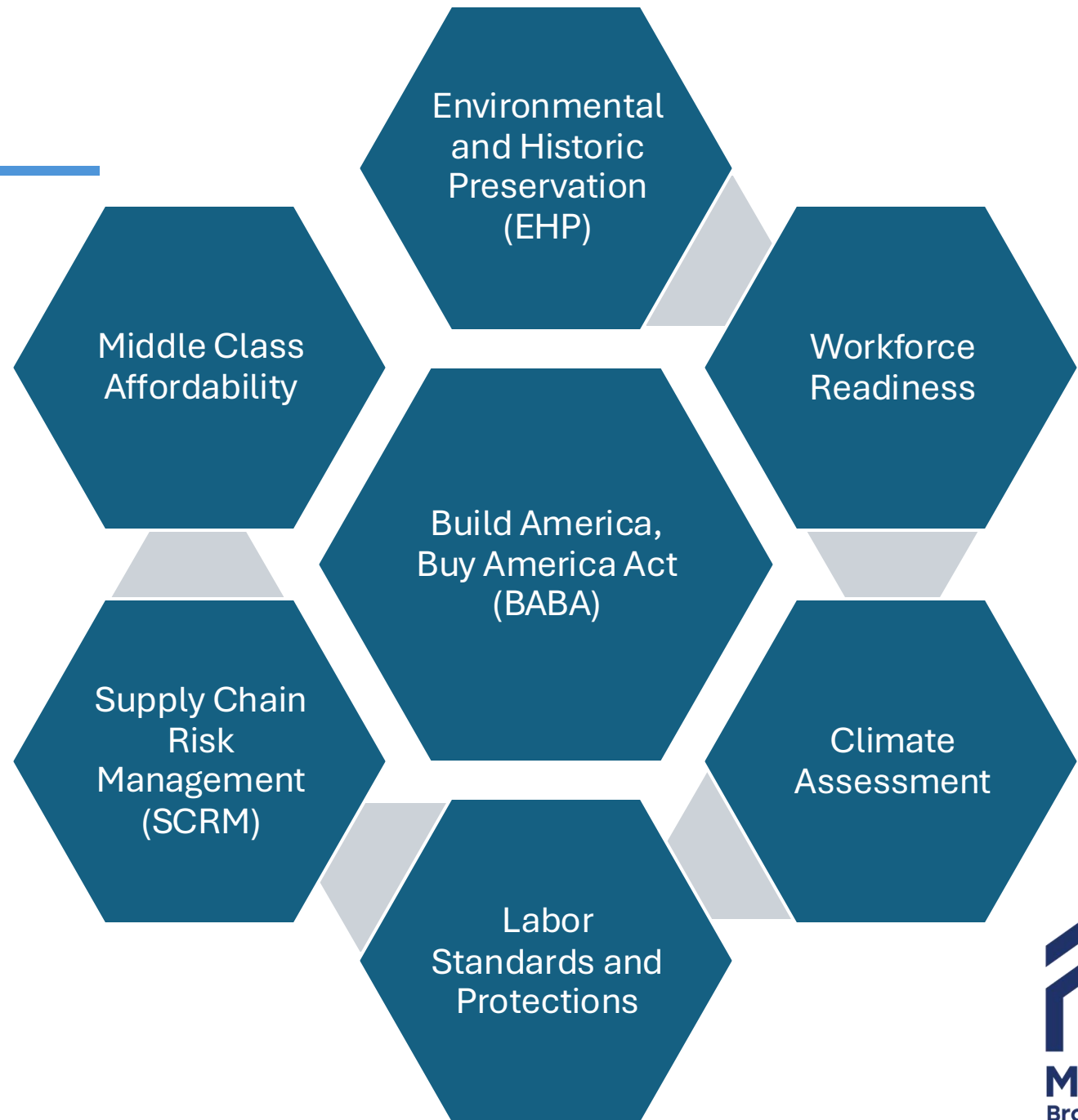
Applicants interested in applying for BEAD funding will have to complete MBI's Pre-Qualification Application prior to accessing the Deployment Program Application. Applicants who have already been Pre-Qualified by MBI will be able to directly access the Program Application.

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

Program Elements

Applicants should be prepared to submit information on the following topics with their full BEAD program application. For a full list of requirements please reference [MBI's BEAD Initial Proposal Volume II](#)



Priority Broadband Project & Extremely High-Cost Per Location Threshold (EHCPLT)

Commitment to Universal Broadband Access

- Prioritize end-to-end fiber deployment.
- Ensure sufficient funding for all unserved and underserved locations.

Project Types

- **Priority Broadband Projects:** End-to-end fiber-optic facilities reaching all end users.
- **Other Last-Mile Broadband Projects:** Involve some BSLs not receiving end-to-end fiber services.

Application and Selection

- Applicants must select a project type (Priority or Other Last-Mile).
- Applications will share core questions but have distinct scoring criteria.

Assessment Process

- BEAD allocation to determine feasibility of fiber-only deployment.
- If fiber is not cost-effective (using the EHCPLT), alternative technologies may be utilized, with preference given to fiber.

Goal

- Maximize fiber deployment while balancing cost-efficiency and universal coverage.

Application Process

MBI anticipates launching the Deployment Solicitation and Application on December 19, 2024. ***This date is subject to change, pending NTIA approval of Challenge Process results.***

Pre-Qualified Applicants

- Will be notified and able to access the BEAD Deployment Application through their Submittable account upon release

New Applicants

- Will have to create a Submittable Account
- Fill out BEAD Pre-Qualification Form
- Fill out BEAD Deployment Application

Due to the nature and complexity of the application, MBI strongly suggests starting the application as soon as possible to allow time for questions or support.

Additional Info & Resources

MBI Launched the [Final Proposal RFP](#) on November 22, 2024

Refer to [MBI's BEAD Initial Proposal Volume II](#) for additional information and evaluation criteria

Bookmark the [BEAD Webpage](#) for announcements and resources

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Email broadband@masstech.org with any questions



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Thank You

Please email
broadband@masstech.org with
any additional questions

