



Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)
DRAFT Final Proposal + Public Comment Information Session

Office of Broadband Development

Today's Agenda

- BEAD process in Minnesota
- Overview of the DRAFT Final Proposal
- How to submit a Public Comment on the Final Proposal
- Next steps for BEAD in Minnesota
- Questions

Disclaimer: This information is a draft and its contents, including financial information, subgrantee award conditions and commitments, are all subject to change until NTIA final approval. Funding amounts and locations may be adjusted after location verification and prior to contract finalization.

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)

- **June 6** National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) issued BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice
- **July 8** NTIA approved Minnesota's Initial Proposal BEAD Correction Letter
- **July 14-24** Prequalified applicants (all technologies) to submit applications for the Restructured BEAD Round, compliant with the updated changes to the NTIA's June 6 Restructuring BEAD Policy Notice
- **August 5-8** Direct Negotiation (All providers & technologies) for locations (BSLs) that did not receive any bids in the Restructured BEAD Round
- **August 28** Final Proposal will be posted to the [OBD BEAD webpage](#) for a 7-day public comment period, information sessions to be held virtually and in-person around the state beginning August 28
- **September 4** Final Proposal due to NTIA

NTIA's June 6 Restructuring BEAD Policy Notice – What changed?

- Technology neutral approach
- Lowest cost to deployment
- Removal of labor/employee requirements
- Elimination of climate change requirements
- End of net neutrality requirements
- Removal of DEI-driven coordination requirements
- Removal of non-traditional providers
- End rate regulation
- Required use of the Environmental Screening and Permitting Tracking Tool (ESAPTT)

Overview of the Final Proposal

The Minnesota Office of Broadband Development (OBD) has drafted the following DRAFT Final Proposal, as required under the Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD). Upon receipt and consideration of comments to this document, OBD will submit this document for consideration and approval to the National Telecommunications and Information Association (NTIA), the administrators of BEAD, including the Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

- BEAD Draft Final Proposal
- Interactive BEAD Final Proposal Map
- Final Proposal Data Uploads
- Public Comment Form
- Revised BEAD Grant Agreement Template

RESTRUCTURED Priority Broadband Definition

- Demonstration of **ease and ability to scale**
 - Ability to deliver at least 100/20 Mbps
 - Minimal-latency service to all BLSs simultaneously upon deployment
 - Account for evolving technologies
- Reliability of projects
 - Minnesota evaluated **reliability of projects** to apply the Priority Broadband Project definition based on the geography

Overview of Preliminary Awards, Program Cost

Preliminary Program Costs

Total Eligible Project Cost	\$ 568 million
Total Grant Amount (BEAD request)	\$ 381 million
Total Match Provided	\$ 187 million
Average Cost per location	\$5,098
Lowest Cost per location for a project	\$490
Highest Cost per location for a project	\$36,575

All figures are estimates until final revisions received and confirmed.

Overview of Preliminary Awards – Technology Types

Technology Type	BSLs covered (locations)		BEAD investment (costs)	
Fiber/Coax Cable	56%	41,739	89%	\$345,000,000
Satellite	26.5%	19,841	2%	\$14,000,000
Licensed Fixed Wireless	17.5%	13,033	9%	\$22,000,000
<i>Totals</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>74,668</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>\$381,000,000</i>

All figures are estimates until final revisions received and confirmed.

BEAD in Minnesota Recap

Original BEAD Allocation - \$652 Million

BEAD Project Grant Request - \$381 million

56% - awards will go to fiber expansion in Minnesota

26.5% - awards will go to LEOs (low earth orbiting satellite)

17.5% - awards will go to fixed wireless

How to submit a comment on the Final Proposal

Final Proposal and its attachments are available now on the [OBD BEAD webpage](#).

Submit a Public Comment on Minnesota's BEAD Final Proposal no later than **Wednesday September 3:**

- **Preferred:** Complete and submit this online form, [Minnesota BEAD Final Proposal Public Comment Form](#)
- Email deed.broadband@state.mn.us with the subject line, "Minnesota BEAD Final Proposal Public Comment"
- Call (651)-259-7610 and leave a message with your comment
- Submit by written response only available to attendees of the in-person regional events

Next steps for BEAD in Minnesota

- **August 28 to September 3:** OBD will hold 5 in-person regional public comment events and a Tribal partner specific webinar. **Details are available on the [OBD BEAD webpage](#).**
 - Friday Aug. 29, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., Southwest Initiative Foundation (SWIF), Hutchinson
 - Tuesday Sept. 2, 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), Owatonna
 - Tuesday Sept. 2, 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., Northwest Minnesota Foundation (NWMF), Bemidji,
 - Wednesday Sept. 3, 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., West Central Initiative Foundation (WCIF), Fergus Falls,
 - Wednesday Sept. 3, 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., Northspan, Duluth
- Final Proposal submitted to NTIA, September 4, 2025
- NTIA has 90-days to review, cure and finalize by December 4, 2025
 - Construction starts late spring/summer 2026

Contact

Minnesota Office of Broadband Development

mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/

deed.broadband@state.mn.us

651-259-7610

Stay connected and sign up for newsletter updates from OBD at

mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/contact/