



Minnesota Office of Broadband Development Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Update

September 24, 2025

MN Results and Data of Interest

76,000 eligible BEAD BSL's (Broadband Serviceable Locations)

- Total applications: **110**
- **22** ISPs (Internet Service Providers) participated in the Restructured BEAD Round
 - Fiber: **19**
 - LEO (low earth orbiting aka Starlink/Amazon Kuiper) : **0**
 - Wireless: **3**
- **52,643** locations received applications (prior to Direct Negotiation)

Where We Are At

- **September 4**, Minnesota's Final Proposal submitted to NTIA
 - *Turnaround times for curing have ranged from 24 to 72 hours for OBD to get back requested changes and updates*
- **December 4**, NTIA has committed to review and finalize by (90 days after submission)
 - *60 days for NTIA*
 - *30 days for NIST*

Overview of Preliminary Awards, Program Cost

Preliminary Program Costs

Total Eligible Project Cost	\$ 568 million
Total Grant Amount (BEAD request)	\$ 391.6 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	57.7%	43,339	89%	\$345,000,000
Satellite	24.8%	18,651	2%	\$14,000,000
Licensed Fixed Wireless	17.5%	13,031	9%	\$22,000,000
<i>Totals</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>75,021</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>\$381,000,000</i>

All figures are estimates until final revisions received and confirmed.

New, NTIA Cost Threshold

As part of NTIA's Restructuring Policy Notice published on June 6, 2025, NITA “... reserves the right to reject any proposed deployment project or specific BSL connection for which costs to deploy are excessive, as determined by NTIA based on the cost characteristics of the area to be served.”

On September 22, NTIA released cost thresholds for the BEAD program in Minnesota which asked providers to justify their costs based on the following thresholds:

- 65-85th percentile, \$10,000 to \$20,000 per BSL – provider needs additional explanation for cost (25 applications)
- 85th to 85th plus 15%, \$20,000 to \$23,000 – possibility for extraordinary circumstances to be explained by provider and try to get price under \$20,000 (1 application)
- Over 85th plus 15% percentile, \$23,000 – providers have 72 hours to renegotiate price (4 applications)

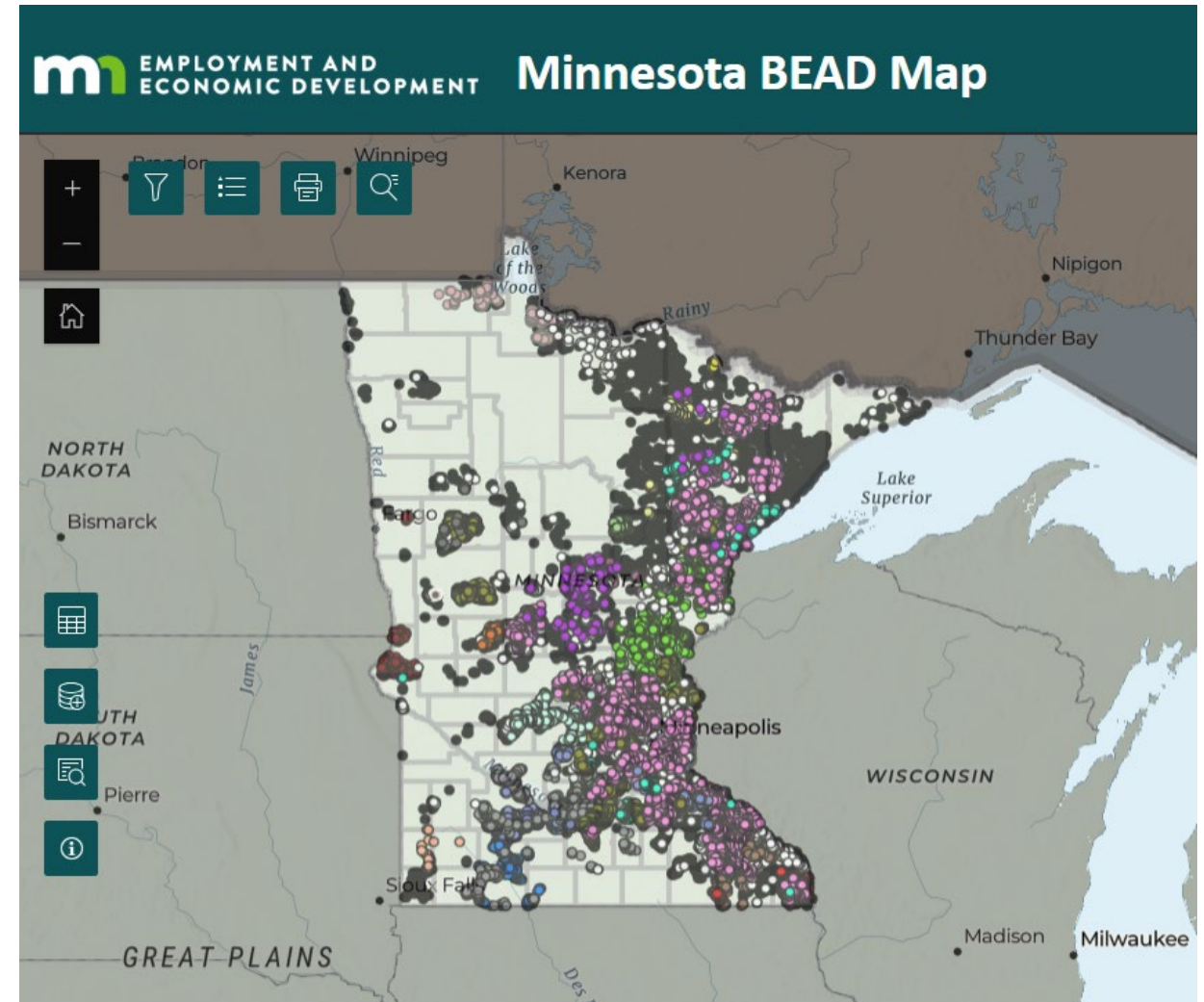
BEAD Map & Served Locations

View the status of BSLs on the Minnesota BEAD MAP:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/920b770a657d453cbe854332ef8ff540>

- The map provides an overview of the BEAD program across Minnesota
- Zoom in on individual BSLs to view preliminary award offers, including the applicant and technology type
- Other layers include: No BEAD Locations, BEAD Eligible Locations, and NTIA-Defined High-Cost Areas

Subject to change prior to NTIA Approval



Next steps for BEAD in Minnesota

- OBD is still in curing with NTIA and as that winds down, OBD will be reaching out to each applicant to ensure applications are complete and offer pre-contracting consultation
- NTIA has 90-days to review, cure and finalize by December 4, 2025
 - Immediately following approval, OBD anticipates contracting to begin in December 2025
 - Some projects could begin construction as early as late spring/summer 2026

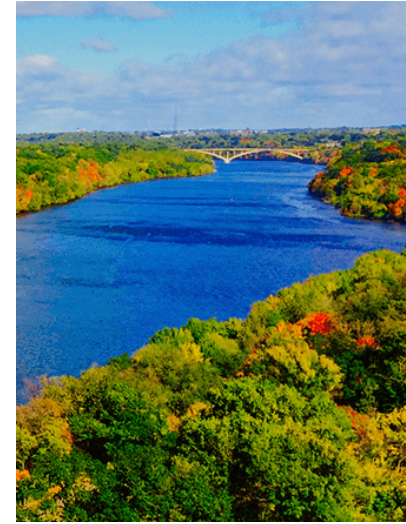
New staff added to the Office of Broadband Team

- Megan Messerole
- Broadband Environmental and Land Use Coordinator
- Started in April 2025
- Background in Archaeology and Cultural Resources Management
- Will assist ISPs with navigating the BEAD permitting process.



How BEAD permitting is different than MN State Funded Projects

- Federal funding triggers federal laws including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA), among others.
- OBD will act as the Joint Lead Agency, but NTIA is still the lead federal agency.
- OBD will work with ISPs to take a more hands-on approach with Environmental and Historic Preservation permits and submit that information to NTIA
- Time frames for Environmental and Historic Preservation will likely take longer than state funded projects
- Depending on impacts, an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) may be needed.



How BEAD permitting is different than MN State Funded Projects

- The contract BEAD ISPs sign will have language related to the Federal Environmental and Historic Preservation requirements
- Examples:
 - Construction can NOT begin in any part of the project area until federal requirements are complete and OBD provides a "Notice to Proceed"
 - Grantee must provide a milestone schedule identifying specific deadlines and describing how Grantee proposes to meet these timing requirements
 - If project plans change after NEPA is complete, the grantee will need to notify OBD.
 - If any potential archeological resources or buried human remains are discovered during construction, Grantee must immediately stop work in that area, secure that area, and keep information about the discovery confidential, except to notify OBD.



Questions?

Minnesota Office of Broadband Development

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

deed.broadband@state.mn.us

bree.maki@state.mn.us

651-259-7610

Stay connected and sign up for newsletter updates from OBD at

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