



# Minnesota Office of Broadband BEAD Updates

December 18, 2025

# BEAD Final Proposal Timeline

- OBD submitted the draft of the BEAD Final Proposal on **September 4** to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) after a busy, BEAD summer:
  - July 8: NTIA approved Minnesota's IP BEAD Correction Letter required as part of NTIA's Restructuring BEAD Policy Notice.
  - July 14 - July 24: Prequalified applicants (all technologies) submitted applications for the Restructured BEAD Round, compliant with the updated changes to the NTIA's June 6 Restructuring BEAD Policy Notice.
  - August 5 - August 8: Direct Negotiation (All providers & technologies) for locations that did not receive bids in the Restructured BEAD Round.
  - August 28, 2025: Final Proposal posted for a 7-day public comment period.
  - August 28 - September 3: OBD statewide information sessions providing an overview of the Final Proposal, steps for public comment, and next steps for BEAD in Minnesota.
- OBD has so far had 18 rounds of curing with NTIA on the draft of the Final Proposal
  - Waivers update
- We expect approval on the Final proposal by the end of the year

# BEAD in Minnesota Recap + Preliminary Program costs

Original BEAD Allocation - **\$652 Million**

BEAD Project Grant Request - **\$381 million**

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

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**

# BEAD awards by County

Locations to be served by BEAD - **74,739 locations across 80 counties**

BEAD locations not served due to excessive cost 158 locations in one county

Now available on the OBD BEAD webpage: [mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/bead/](https://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/bead/)

## BEAD Awards (preliminary)

In 2025, OBD led the prequalification process and grant award selection for NTIA's BEAD program. This work ensured that eligible providers and partners could participate in expanding high speed internet access across Minnesota. To learn more about how the program was structured and implemented, you can explore the **Archived BEAD Materials** dropdown below, providing a complete record of Minnesota's BEAD activities prior to award announcement.

- [BEAD Eligible Locations](#) (XSLX) (6/30/2025)
- [Approved BEAD Participants](#) (PDF) (8/8/2025)
- [BEAD Preliminary Award Map](#) (Last updated 11/21/2025, new update coming soon)
- [Preliminary BEAD Awards by County and Entity](#) (XLSX) (12/17/2025)

58% - locations served by **fiber** expansion in Minnesota  
25% - locations served by **LEOs** (low earth orbiting satellite)  
17% - locations served by **fixed wireless**

## Minnesota BEAD Awards - Locations

Preliminary Awards by County with Provisional Winner, Technology Type and Location Count

**Minnesota's Preliminary BEAD awards are not final and require review and approval by the Nation**

County	Ace Telephone Association	Amazon Kuiper Commercial Services LLC	AMG Technology Investment Group, LLC d/b/a Nextlink Internet	CTC
Technology Type	Fiber	Low Earth Orbit Satellite	Fixed Wireless	Fiber
Aitkin		261		
Anoka		496		
Becker		188		
Benton		270		
Big Stone		21		
Blue Earth		10	71	
Brown		1	26	
Carlton		292		
Carver		111		
Cass		46		
Chippewa		4		
Chisago		210		
Clay		13		

# After Final Proposal Approval: Subgrantee Next Steps

After Final Proposal approval, OBD will prioritize signing subgrantee agreements and preparing for NEPA and permitting processes as is outlined in [NTIA guidance](#).

This will mean in the next 6 months:

## **ALL subgrantees will be required to:**

- Review NTIA resources and guidelines and ensure subgrantee applications are complete and commitments finalize. This means:
  - Updating Budget and Schedules to conform with BEAD reporting requirements
  - Uploading NEPA Geospatial Data and NEPA Questionnaire
  - Undergoing Pre-contracting Risk Assessment Review submitting Bill of Materials (BOM)
- Begin NEPA/Permitting activities
- Sign final subgrantee agreement and required certifications

## **As necessary and if applicable subgrantees will be:**

- Finalizing the Network Design (if necessary)
- Certifying Cybersecurity Plans and Supply Chain Risk Management plans are in place
- Certifying Compliance with BABA
- Submit Letter of Credit or Performance Bonds
- Submit Tribal Consent (if applicable)

# Unknowns and Concerns

- Timeline for approval from NIST
- Office of Government Accountability
  - <https://www.broadband.io/c/get-broadband-grant-alerts-news/u-s-accountability-office-says-ntia-s-bob-implementation-ntia-didn-t-follow-congressional-rules>
- Non-deployment Funds
  - <https://www.fischer.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/news?ID=99D2C89A-72DC-4071-925A-DCA2E7C8F261>
- Executive Order on AI, Net Neutrality, etc.
  - <https://broadbandbreakfast.com/white-house-issues-pledges-to-withhold-bead-funds-from-states-with-onerous-ai-laws/?ref=broadband-breakfast-news-newsletter>

# OBD Contact + Resources

**Minnesota Office of Broadband Development**

**[mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/](https://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/)**

**[deed.broadband@state.mn.us](mailto:deed.broadband@state.mn.us)**

**651-259-7610**

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**[mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/contact/](https://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/contact/)**