



Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD)

BEAD Federal Funding

Overview

The [Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment \(BEAD\)](#) program is a \$42.45 billion federal funding program established by the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The BEAD program aims to help everyone in America get affordable, reliable high-speed internet by funding infrastructure deployment programs.

In June 2023, Pennsylvania received \$1.16 billion in BEAD funding from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to assist in the expansion of high-speed broadband infrastructure across the state.



Pennsylvania's Five-Year Action Plan

The Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority (PBDA) [Five-Year Action Plan](#) was approved in October 2023 and outlines how the BEAD funds will be used. The plan was developed with input from residents, businesses, and industry partners. The plan's three priorities are to:

1. Expand broadband infrastructure in areas with the most need,
2. Work with Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) to provide digital literacy training and access to high-speed broadband, and
3. Support existing efforts to inform residents about affordability programs and funding administered by government and community organizations.

Contact

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Initial Proposal Volume I & II

Federal guidance required Pennsylvania to prepare an Initial Proposal for funding in two parts. PBDA successfully submitted and received approval for both volumes in 2024. [Volume I](#) provides an outline of existing broadband funding and identifies unserved/underserved Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) and Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs), as well as the BEAD Challenge Process. [Volume II](#) includes local coordination efforts, subgrantee selection processes, implementation activities, labor standards and workforce readiness, low-cost service options, affordability, and more.

BEAD Challenge Process

As a recipient of BEAD funds, PBDA is required to conduct a [BEAD Challenge Process](#). The 90-day process started in spring 2024 and will validate and finalize the Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) and Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) eligible to be served by BEAD funded networks. Any changes made to BSL data during this challenge process will be based on evidence submitted by qualified participants.