

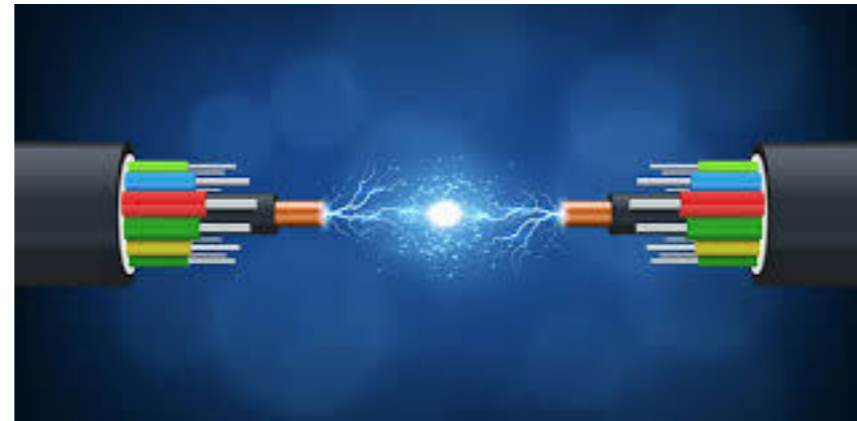
Attention: Deadline is Extended for BEAD Prequalification Applications

New Mexico Office of Broadband Access & Expansion sent this bulletin at 10/24/2024 09:31 AM MDT

Bringing Connectivity to Your Community



OBAE Extends Deadline for BEAD Prequalification Applications



There's good news if you need more time to apply for funding for broadband deployment through the federal Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program.

OBAE has extended the deadline to submit Prequalification Applications to **November 15**. The original deadline was November 1.

OBAE has decided to allow more time to apply for Prequalification Applications because it's still finalizing the list of eligible serviceable locations for broadband with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). That process will help ensure that other federal funding programs are accurately accounted for to avoid duplication of funding and to make sure that unserved and underserved areas are not miscategorized.

An underserved location is one that does not have access to broadband speeds of at least 100Mbps download and 20 Mbps uploads.

OBAE tentatively plans to release funding information and application materials on **November 15** and to begin accepting applications in early 2025.

Local governments, Tribal communities, nonprofits, internet service providers, cooperatives and other entities are eligible to apply for BEAD funding. BEAD is the state's largest funding program to deploy broadband infrastructure.

The state was allocated \$675 million for the BEAD program.

Prospective applicants must submit a Prequalification Application to apply for BEAD funding.

These Prequalification Applications will help the state determine whether an entity has the technical capability and financial stability to deploy broadband and meet federal and state requirements.

OBAE will decide whether an entity can move forward with a formal application by using the following criteria:

- Financial capabilities
- Managerial capabilities
- Technical capabilities
- Legal and regulatory compliance
- Operational capabilities
- Ownership
- Stewardship of other public funding

Once Prequalification Applications are evaluated and approved, entities will formally apply for their suggested broadband projects based on broadband-dry areas. Both the state and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration must approve the final applications.

For more information about BEAD, state and federal requirements and the prequalification process, [CLICK HERE](#).

If you have any questions, please contact OBAE at: Broadband@connect.nm.gov

If you have questions about any of these opportunities, please contact us via email at Broadband@doit.nm.gov.

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