



OBAE to Begin Application Process for BEAD Funds

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Bringing Connectivity to Your Community



State to Open Application Process on Monday for \$675 million in Broadband Infrastructure Grants



The Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) has announced the next phase of the BEAD Program. Beginning on Monday, September 16, local governments, Tribal communities, non-profits, internet service providers, cooperatives and other entities may submit Prequalification Applications for the state’s largest funding program to deploy broadband infrastructure. BEAD applicants must submit a Prequalification Application in order to apply for BEAD funding.

The state will be awarding \$675 million in grants through the federal government’s Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program.

Beginning **September 16**, entities that want to build infrastructure for unserved communities may begin to submit **prequalification applications** to OBAE. These 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.

The regular prequalification process ends **November 1 at 11:59pm**.

However, there is a **Priority Deadline**: if an entity submits a prequalification application by October 14 at 11:59pm, it will get an accelerated review and complete applications will **receive a decision by November 1**.

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

OBAE will also conduct a **BEAD Prequalification webinar** on Monday, September 16 from 11am-12pm MST. The agenda will provide an overview of the BEAD Program, an explanation of the Prequalification process, instructions on how to submit a Prequalification application and will allow time for questions.

To register for the webinar, [CLICK HERE](#).

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.

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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