



State Announces Next Big Step in BEAD Funding and Applications

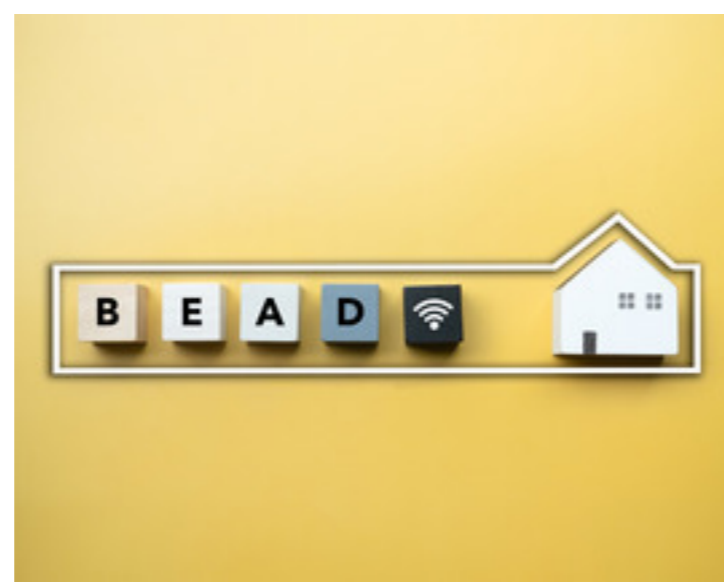
New Mexico Office of Broadband Access & Expansion sent this bulletin at 11/15/2024 04:52 PM MST

Bringing Connectivity to Your Community



Office of Broadband Access and Expansion Announces Next Phase of \$675 Million BEAD Program to Deploy Broadband Infrastructure

Today OBAE Releases Notice of Funding Opportunity



There's more progress to report on the state's largest broadband deployment program.

This morning, OBAE released the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the federal Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program. This marks the next step in the distribution of \$675 million in federal funding to award state-issued grants for broadband infrastructure across the state.

With the release of the NOFO, prequalified applicants can now begin preparing their formal applications for BEAD funding. OBAE tentatively plans to begin accepting applications in early January 2025, and it will release additional supplementary materials in the coming weeks, pending NTIA approval.

The NOFO sets forth the policies and procedures OBAE will follow to select recipients of BEAD funding from among the pool of prequalified applicants. Only prequalified applicants are eligible to apply for BEAD funding. OBAE has been accepting Prequalification Applications since September 16, and **those applications close today at 11:59pm.**

Local governments, Tribal communities, nonprofits, internet service providers, cooperatives and other entities that were successfully prequalified are eligible to apply for BEAD funding.

For more BEAD NOFO and application information, [CLICK HERE.](#)

The prequalification process allows prospective applicants to establish their qualifications and capabilities to plan, finance, deploy, and maintain broadband networks. Given the immense scope of the BEAD program, this critical step enabled OBAE to filter out potential applicants who do not meet the minimum criteria, ensuring **OBAE will only evaluate applications from organizations that meet federal and state requirements and are most likely to achieve the objectives of the BEAD Program.**

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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