



# **Wisconsin Broadband Office**

## **BEAD Update**

# What is BEAD

**Background:** The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law allocated \$42.5 Billion under the Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program for broadband infrastructure deployment

**WI Awarded:** \$1,055,823,574

**Goal:** 100/20 Mbps for all homes and businesses

**NTIA** oversees to ensure compliance, approves initial & final proposal

**PSC** operates allocation process: reviewing, scoring, and selecting recipients

**Subgrantee Recipients** are entities that will construct, own, operate broadband infrastructure, and comply with reporting

# BEAD Implementation

## 1) Qualifications: Letter of Intent

- Technical, Financial, Operation and Managerial Capacity

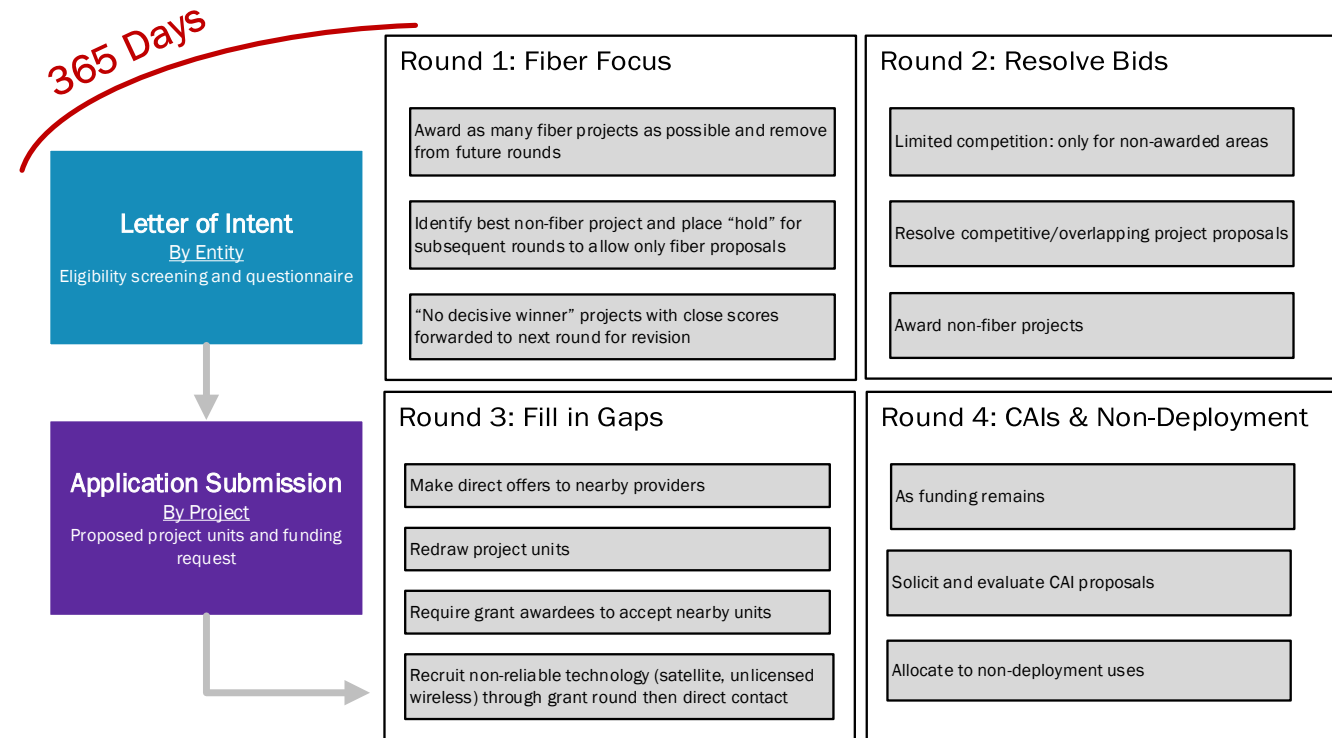
## 2) Grant rounds

## 3) Filling gaps through negotiation

## 4) Approvals:

- Final Proposal (NTIA)
- Permitting (fed, state, local)

## 5) Construction



Watch our [webinar](#) and read the [slides](#)

# BEAD subgrantee selection *Estimated* Timeline



<b>8/1/2024 – 10/1/2024</b>	Letter of Intent open / accepting submissions from prospective BEAD grantees
<b>9/1/2024 – 11/1/2024</b> <b>In Progress</b>	Letter of Intent Review: Entities meeting requirements invited to apply
<b>11/1/24 TBD – 1/30ish/2025</b>	Round 1 BEAD subgranting open to invited entities. PSC recommends endorsements complete by <b>1/15/2025</b>
<b>1/3/2025 – 2/1/2025</b>	Commission staff review period and preliminary awards
<b>2/1/2025 – 3/15/2025</b>	Round 2 BEAD subgranting open to certain new applications and to expand or modify unawarded Round 1 applications
<b>3/15/2025 – 4/15/2025</b>	Commission staff review period and additional preliminary awards
<b>4/15/2025 – 7/1/2025</b>	Round 3 BEAD negotiate with preliminary awardees, invite alternative technologies, non-competitive allocations
<b>7/1/2025 – 8/1/2025</b>	Draft Final Proposal out for public comment and then to the Commission and then submitted to NTIA for review and approval.



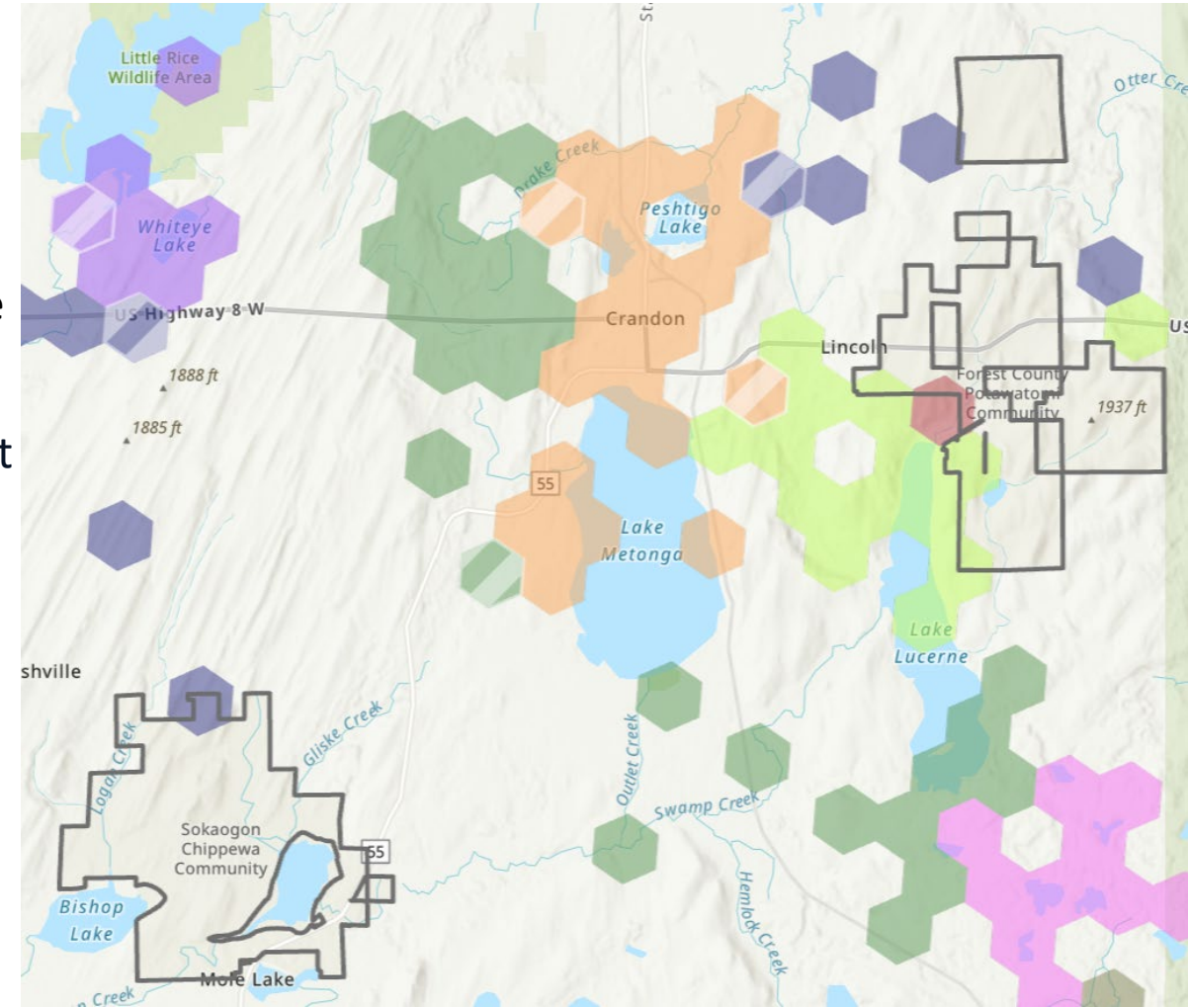
# Letter of Intent Applicants

35 entities submitted a LOI ([Docket 5-BD-2025](#)) **Approved** as of 11/11/2024, 2:48 PM

24-7 Telcom, Inc.	Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians	Bertram Communications LLC	Bruce Telephone Company	Cochrane Cooperative Telephone Company
Connect Holding II LLC	CTC Telcom, Inc.	East Central Energy	Frontier North Inc.	Hilbert Communications LLC
La Valle Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	Lemonweir Valley Telephone Company	Marquette-Adams Telephone Cooperative	Mediacom LLC	Midcontinent Communications
Mount Horeb Telephone Company	NET LEC, LLC.	Norvado Inc.	Ntera, LLC	Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services
Richland-Grant Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	Spectrum Mid-America, LLC	Starwire Technologies, LLC	Wisconsin Bell, LLC dba AT&T Wisconsin	AMG Technology Investment Group, LLC
Carsyn Soderstrom	City of Superior	Comcast Cable Communications Management, LLC	Conexon Connect, LLC	Country Wireless LLC
IBT Group USA LLC	NEIT Broadband, LLC	Sokaogon Chippewa Tribe	Surf Air Wireless LLC	USCC Services, LLC

# DRAFT Project Units Map

- **Groups of locations** nearby to each other that will be made available to BEAD applicants to be built as a single unit (or combination of units).
- Draft Project Units are groups of same-color locations.
- Nearby ineligible locations are not included in a project unit.
- Stripped areas are where two different project units are in same hex.
- Shaded hexagons are provided as a backdrop for context purposes, and **do not** constitute a boundary or area for a project unit. Users can click on a hexagon to receive summary information about project units nearby.
- Project units do not cross certain “hard boundaries” which include county borders, Tribal Lands, and certain railroads and islands.
- Draft Project Unit data is also available for download [here](#) (link opens an excel file).
  - Note some entities may be eligible for a [free license](#) from Cost Quest Associates.





# Engagement

- 5 points available.
- Applicant demonstrates that the planning of their proposal included outreach, engagement and coordination with local government, Tribal Nations, and as applicable any schools, libraries or community organizations that work with covered populations.
  - i. Up to 2 points for evidence of a public meeting to engage the community in the project planning
  - ii. Up to 2 points for a letter(s) of support from any municipal government included in the project area.
  - iii. Up to 1 point for a letter of support from the school district, the local public library or organization that supports a covered population in the project area.

# Endorsement

- 7 points
  - The Tribal Nation and/County where the project is located takes official action at a noticed, open meeting to affirmatively endorse the project. The action is memorialized in public minutes and an official letter of endorsement is provided.

The Resolution of Consent may follow the Tribal Government's standard format; NTIA will not provide a standard template for this requirement. The Eligible Entity must ensure that each certification document has the following:

- The appropriate Authorized Organization Representative signatures;
- Come from each Tribal Government governing authority (i.e., the Tribal Council), and/or other governing body, upon whose Tribal Lands the infrastructure will be deployed;
  - Applies to tribes specified in the Federally Recognized Indian Tribal List Act of 1994.
- Reference the BEAD NOFO and be dated after the approval of the Eligible Entity's Initial Proposal;
- The relevant context on the planned (f)(1) broadband deployment including:
  - The entities that will deploy and operate the network;
  - The broadband technologies that will be deployed on Tribal Lands;
  - The timeframe of the agreement; and
  - A description of the land proposed for use as part of the proposed project;

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- Identify whether the land is owned, held in Trust, land held in fee simple by the Tribe, or land under a long-term lease by the Tribe;
- If owned, identify the landowner; and
- Provide a commitment in writing from the landowner authorizing the applicant's use of that land for the propose project;
- Appears complete; and
- The name of the Resolution of Consent PDF is included in the deployment Project Data.



# Consent on Tribal Land

- Resolution of consent is required from the Tribal government before BEAD funding can be awarded to a project. If a Tribal Nation does not provide a resolution of consent, the project will not be eligible for award as proposed and the applicant may have the opportunity to resubmit the project in a subsequent round with adjustments to not include Tribal locations or traverse Tribal land.
- The WBO understands that a resolution of consent from a Tribal government can take a considerable amount of time, potentially hindering Tribal Nations from effectively endorsing projects within the sub granting time frame. The WBO will consider preliminary awarding projects that include Tribal locations and/or that traverse Tribal land if the applicant can provide a detailed description of Tribal consultation that has happened to date, any approval steps that have been met, and an anticipated timeline for receipt of a Tribal consent for the application.

# Resources

- [PSC BEAD Process](#)
  - [Initial Proposal Volume 1](#)
  - [Docket 5-BCH-2024](#)
  - [Initial Proposal Volume 2](#)
  - [Docket 5-BD-2025](#)
- [PSC Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Grant](#)
  - [Wisconsin BEAD Project Units Map \(Preliminary\)](#)
  - [BEAD Program FAQ BEAD Program FAQ Version 2](#)
  - [BEAD Engagement Endorsement FAQ](#)
  - [Extension's Writing BEAD Endorsement Letters: Sample Language](#)
- [PSC Digital Equity](#)
  - [Wisconsin Digital Equity Plan](#)



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**[PSC Website](#)**