

BEAD 2025: What Changed, What's Next, and What Communities Can Do

UW Extension Broadband
PSC Wisconsin Broadband Office
November 18, 2025



BEAD in Wisconsin

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

WI Allocated: \$1,055,823,574

Goal: Affordable, reliable internet for all

NTIA oversees to ensure compliance, approves initial & final proposal

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

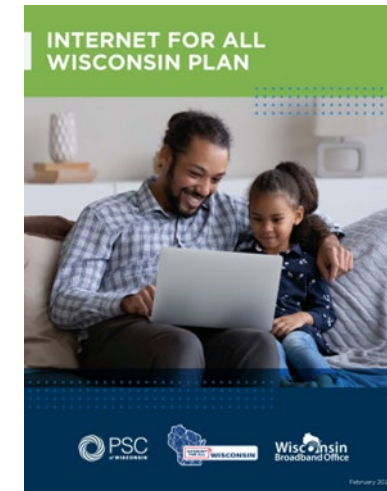
Subgrant Recipients are entities that will construct, own, operate broadband infrastructure, and comply with reporting



BEAD in Wisconsin

A tremendous amount of preparation work:

- Badger the FCC
- Internet for All Wisconsin Listening Tour
- BEAD Local Planning Grant
- Broadband Planning Toolkits for Local and Tribal Governments
- 5 Year Action Plan
- Initial Proposal Volume 1 and Volume 2, comment period and Commission Approval



This past summer at WBO

- BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice Released June 6: program changes and implementation
- “BEAD BOB” round: technology neutral, lowest cost wins
 - Lowered average cost per location awarded due to larger mix of technologies, but also decreased participation
- Negotiation: filling in gaps for 34,000 locations
- Final Proposal released for public comment
- Final Proposal reviewed and approved by Commission
- Final Proposal submitted to NTIA

Preliminary BEAD Summary by Technology

- **PRELIMINARY** awards: 174,337 locations, \$690 million
- Curing: continued revisions to meet evolving NTIA guidance
- BEAD Awards as of October 14, 2025

| Broadband Technology | Count of BSLs | % of BSLs |
|----------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Fiber | 132,620 | 76.1% |
| Fixed Wireless | 17,204 | 9.9% |
| LEO Satellite | 24,321 | 14.0% |
| Mixed | 192 | 0.1% |
| Grand Total | 174,337 | 100% |

Preliminary BEAD Summary by Entity

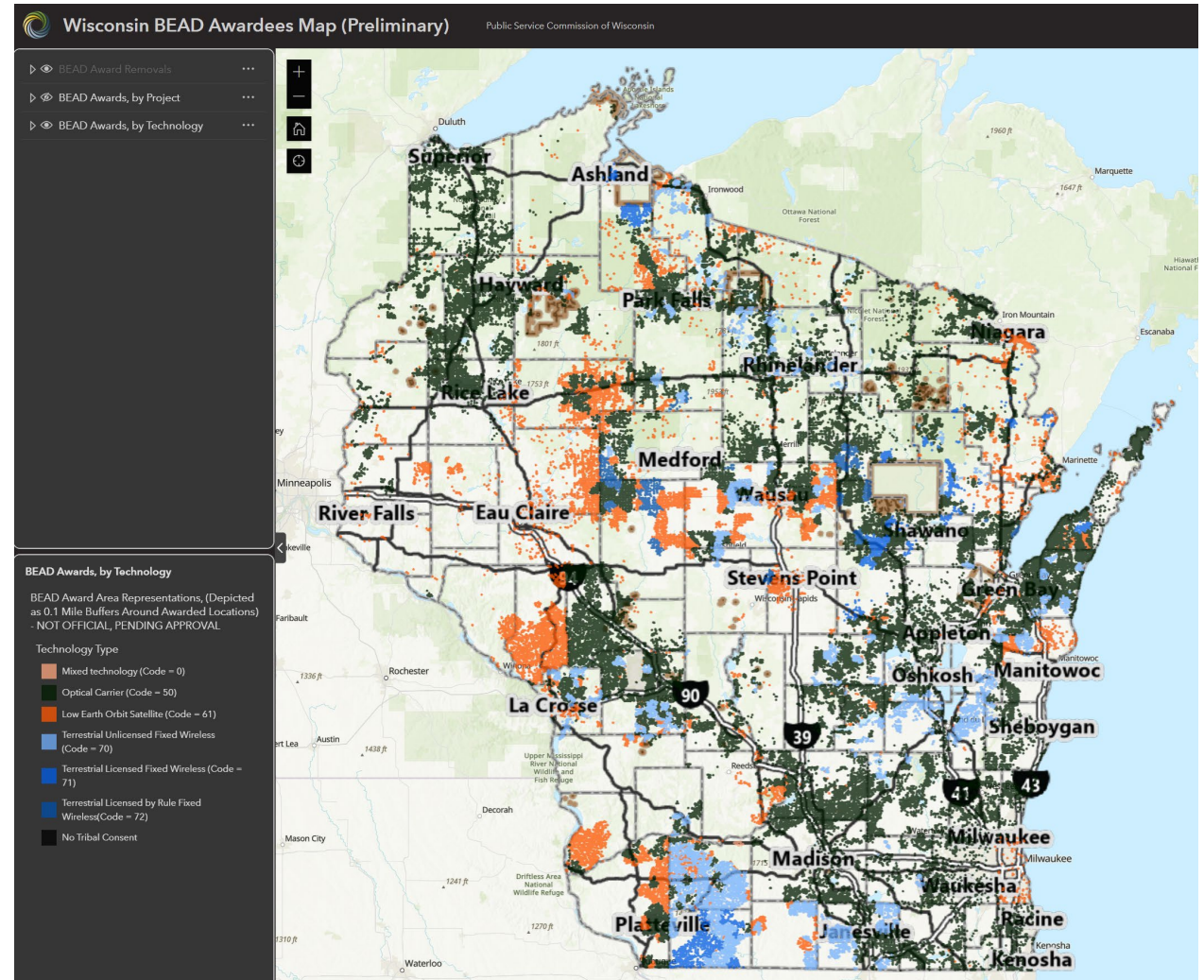
As of Oct 14, 2025



| Entity | Count of CAls | Count of BSLs | Match Funds (\$) | BEAD Award (\$) |
|--|---------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| AMG Technology Investment Group, LLC | - | 2,407 | \$673,577 | \$2,018,120 |
| Bertram Communications LLC | - | 30,748 | \$57,466,461 | \$172,374,078 |
| Bug TusseL Hilbert Communications | - | 21,369 | \$36,737,187 | \$88,973,895 |
| Comcast Cable Communications Management LLC | - | 860 | \$6,164,737 | \$5,922,848 |
| Connect Holding II LLC | 465 | 44,148 | \$128,009,092 | \$138,305,786 |
| Country Wireless | - | 1,085 | \$339,605 | \$1,017,730 |
| CTC Telcom Inc. | - | 6,856 | \$11,799,836 | \$35,390,428 |
| East Central Energy | - | 2,101 | \$7,193,085 | \$7,947,689 |
| Edge Broadband LLC | - | 2,251 | \$3,494,293 | \$3,073,711 |
| Frontier North Inc. | - | 6,195 | \$22,461,543 | \$33,281,212 |
| Hillsboro Telephone Company, Inc. | - | 44 | \$487,301 | \$704,000 |
| La Valle Telephone Coop | - | 675 | \$3,578,352 | \$4,781,752 |
| Lac du Flambeau Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa Indians | - | 932 | \$2,464,998 | \$7,390,616 |
| Lakeland Communications Group, LLC | - | 474 | \$537,147 | \$1,569,044 |
| Lemonweir Valley Telephone Company | - | 1,101 | \$4,043,532 | \$12,131,810 |
| Marquette-Adams Telephone Cooperative | - | 470 | \$1,957,947 | \$5,874,430 |
| Mount Horeb Telephone Company | 15 | 29 | \$115,132 | \$345,347 |
| NEIT Broadband LLC | - | 391 | \$2,367,039 | \$1,048,914 |
| NET LEC LLC. | - | 4,560 | \$3,003,454 | \$3,316,812 |
| Norvado Inc. | 11 | 9,469 | \$35,725,655 | \$40,498,651 |
| Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services | 12 | 5,122 | \$8,674,168 | \$21,558,140 |
| Richland Grant Telephone Coop | - | 331 | \$2,130,340 | \$2,449,425 |
| Sokaogon Chippewa Tribe | - | 4,527 | \$21,000,000 | \$56,582,973 |
| Space Exploration Technologies, Corp. | - | 24,321 | \$27,395,907 | \$36,582,860 |
| Spectrum Mid-America LLC | - | 1,221 | \$2,112,330 | \$6,335,769 |
| Waypoint Experts | - | 722 | \$1,141,044 | \$3,421,574 |
| Wisconsin Bell LLC dba AT&T Wisconsin | - | 753 | \$3,768,717 | \$1,105,785 |
| WITTENBERG TELEPHONE COMPANY INC. DBA CIRRRINITY LLC | - | 1,175 | \$963,429 | \$1,933,757 |
| Grand Total | 503 | 174,337 | \$395,805,908 | \$695,937,156 |

Preliminary Awards Map (updated 10/17/25)

- View preliminary awards by location, technology, awardee
- Includes “remove codes” for locations originally eligible but not needing BEAD funding
- **Note: Awards are pending NTIA approval**
- <https://maps.psc.wi.gov/apps/BEADAwardeesMap>





Sept. 4, 2025

Final Proposal submitted to NTIA



Dec. 4, 2025

NTIA review completed (goal)



Dec. 2025 – Feb. 2026

Project level onboarding will occur. A list of required documentation will be provided, attestations, affirmative action, intake questionnaire, tribal consent, NEPA, etc.



NEPA Compliance

NEPA compliance must be demonstrated before breaking ground.

WBO will gather entity level documentation in Grant Management System (GMS).
WBO will review any NTIA feedback on preliminary awards and take appropriate next steps.

Sept. – Dec. 2025

Grant Agreements can start to be put into place. Signatures are required within 60 days.

Dec. 2025 – Feb 2026

NTIA requires networks be completed within four years of execution of the grant agreement.
All projects expected to be completed by 2030.

Period of Performance

Awardees must continue operating the network and provide service to the BEAD locations for at least ten years.
NTIA requires longer performance period for LEO subgrantees that extends ten years after the locations are in service.

Following Project Completion



What's changed based on NTIA's policy notice

- Round One preliminary awards were required to be rescinded, and the state was required to do a benefit of the bargain (BOB) round for all eligible locations
- Definition of Community Anchor Institutions has been redefined
- "Engagement and Endorsement" piece from earlier BEAD application rounds was removed
- Previously approved nondeployment funds activities were required to be rescinded, and the state is waiting for federal guidance
- Prior two BEAD rounds would have deployed fiber to the premises service to 99.3 percent (185,163) of these locations at an average cost of \$5,004 per location
- As of October 14th, **Preliminary** awards have 76% locations receiving fiber, 9.9% wireless, 14% Low Earth Orbiting Satellite (LEO), and .1% mixed technologies



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What's Next for the BEAD Program:

- NTIA Curing and Approval of Final Proposal. Wisconsin anticipates December 4th based on NTIA's 90-day review
- For projects on Tribal Land, a formal resolution from the Tribal Governing body is required within 6 months. Projects without Tribal Consent will not be allowed to continue
- National Historic and Environmental Review Process and Determination
- State and local permitting
- Construction complete within four years of a signed grant agreement



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What communities can do:

- View preliminary awards by location, technology, awardee on PSC Map <https://maps.psc.wi.gov/apps/BEADAwardeesMap>
- Review WI BEAD Award Audit Data on ERF (<https://apps.psc.wi.gov/ERF/ERF/ERFhome.aspx> docket 5-BD-2025 #563887) for complete list of applicants in your area
- If you need assistance email Wisconsin Broadband Office BEAD inbox pscbeadgrants@wisconsin.gov

Docket ID: 5-BD-2025
(Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program)

They must be downloaded and opened in GIS software.

Access to - confidential and - incamera documents is restricted and logged.

- Paper documents must be requested from the [PSC Records Management Unit](#)

Clear Checkbox

DOWNLOAD Total Return: 1,202 rows

| Download | PSC Ref | Description | Document Type | Docket or Utility | Received Date | Filed By | Details |
|--------------------------|---------|--|----------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 566981 | PSC letter in response to NTIA email (150 KB) | Correspondence | 5-BD-2025 | 11/06/2025 01:34:00 PM | Jeremy Carolfi | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 566235 | Project: 993 - Country Wireless LLC - Country Wireless BEAD LOI - VIA Photon BABA (176 KB) | Correspondence | 5-BD-2025 | 10/29/2025 03:14:00 PM | Jeremy Carolfi | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 566234 | Project: 993 - Country Wireless LLC - Country Wireless BEAD LOI - ICT BABA (96 KB) | Correspondence | 5-BD-2025 | 10/29/2025 03:14:00 PM | Jeremy Carolfi | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 566233 | Project: 993 - Country Wireless LLC - Country Wireless BEAD LOI - Tarana BABA (260 KB) | Correspondence | 5-BD-2025 | 10/29/2025 03:13:00 PM | Jeremy Carolfi | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 563893 | BEAD BOB Award Audit Data Letter (122 KB) | Correspondence | 5-BD-2025 | 10/03/2025 12:25:00 PM | Beth Stiner | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 563888 | WI BEAD Award Audit Data User Guide (106 KB) | Correspondence | 5-BD-2025 | 10/03/2025 11:01:00 AM | Matthew Marcus | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 563887 | WI BEAD Award Audit Data (449 KB) | Correspondence | 5-BD-2025 | 10/03/2025 11:01:00 AM | Matthew Marcus | |



What communities can do:

- Review your broadband plan, review BEAD preliminary awards and direct negotiation (including map)
- Review Endorsement language
 - ***If there was a financial commitment, consult with Corporate Council***
- Speak with your provider if you were partnering on BEAD; speak with preliminary awardees if you have no prior relationship
- Engage with your broadband committee to keep on top of BEAD changes and begin long-term planning to address local needs
- Continue to follow WBO and UW Extension broadband newsletters to keep on top of non-deployment fund decisions
- Continue to speak with your elected officials about your community's broadband access, adoption, and affordability needs



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What UW Extension Broadband Specialists can do:

- Technical Assistance for your community is available
- Additional webinars are forthcoming
- Regional broadband workshops are tentatively planned for spring of 2026
- Important broadband updates will be provided in our newsletter
- New materials are constantly being added to the Extension Broadband Toolkit:

<https://economicdevelopment.extension.wisc.edu/broadband-toolkit/>



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Questions?

Thank you!

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