



Broadband Technical Assistance Funding

Application Webinar August 12, 2024

The funding WSAC has available supports counties in planning for BEAD grant proposals and broadband deployment in their communities and offers when appropriate, technical assistance for preparing BEAD applications. This support includes county collaborations with Cities, Ports, PUDs, Tribes, and private or non-profit entities as they design, develop, and coordinate broadband networks.

A Webinar was held on August 12th to review questions regarding the funding opportunity, eligibility and application process. The following narrative is derived from those conversations and is meant to summarize and provide clarification. The webinar was recorded and can be found here:

<https://wsac-org.zoom.us/rec/share/aKAYasH1-9NIAAnThORICVAhpd7WvRnhhwZkkVyGTMrwwRXQAYrQT4nGhagspe3ZH0.kLI6xr0JT2VPdyDT>

Our intent is to work with each applicant to understand their set of circumstances and fully fund proposals whenever possible. This is not a standard competitive grant process; we will follow up with each applicant if we are missing information or need clarification. We understand each county has a different approach and is in a different phase of its Broadband deployment or BEAD grant application. By gathering detailed information from each county on current projects, we will gain a better understanding of the system. Not only can we fund projects that align with our approved activities, but we will also be prepared for future requests for funding.

Our application process is meant to gather broad data and be open to different models. We could not begin to guess all of the partnerships and levels of coordination, so we are relying on you to explain and crosswalk the information to justify that the requests match the allowable activities.

In order to recognize the variety of partnerships and who may take the lead on a project, we will strive to be creative and receptive to different contractual models. This includes the fiscal agent aspect as well. Our goal is to make sure counties are engaged and informed throughout the process. They need to ensure to WSAC that the approved activities are being accomplished and are satisfied with the results before any reimbursements can be finalized. We do not want to contract for the work to be done on their behalf, we are here to reimburse approved work within the scope of our contract with the Department of Commerce.

For entities other than counties that want to be the fiscal lead and receive reimbursements directly, please note that in your application. We will review each scenario and do our best to accommodate different models if it aligns with our objectives.

Arrangements between counties and other agencies still need to adhere to their requirements for contracting and providing services. We are not trying to circumvent any procedure or process or have the appearance this is gifting of public funds.

We encourage applicants to share Interlocal agreements, resolutions, MOU's, or other statutory documents that have been developed to recognize the authority on broadband in their county or region.