



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity
OFFICE OF BROADBAND



Information Sheet

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD)



To learn more, scan the QR Code to visit the Illinois Office of Broadband's website

What is the BEAD Program?

The BEAD Program provides **\$42.45 billion** to expand high-speed internet access across the US over a five-year period. Illinois has been allocated **\$1.04 billion** in funding to ensure high-speed internet access is available to the **~175,000** households, small businesses, and community anchor institutions (CAIs) that cannot receive internet service at speeds of at least 100/20 Mbps today

What do applications require and how can applicants apply?

Successful applications will generally meet or exceed certain key criteria (non-exhaustive):



Applicant match of at least 25% and **grant request** at or below State reference cost



Affordable 1Gbps/1Gbps or 100/20Mbps service (depending on project type)



History of fair labor practices and plans for compliance with federal labor laws

- **December 23, 3034**
Project Area Units published
- **January 23, 2025**
Wave 1 application opens
- **February 26, 2025**
Wave 1 application closes
- **Spring 2025**
Wave 2 application opens

Submit all **Wave 1 applications** from **Jan. 23 – Feb. 26**, with Wave 2 set to open in Spring 2025. Wave 1 applications must be end-to-end fiber and include at least 10% hard-to-serve PAUs. To apply, visit the [Sub-Grantee Selection Process webpage](#), which includes other helpful resources

Where can I find more information?

[Sign up](#) to become an Illinois Office of Broadband Partner to receive BEAD updates

Watch past [BEAD Webinars](#) for explanations of key BEAD Program requirements

Have more questions? Email us at Broadband@Illinois.Gov

Learn more at: DCEO.Illinois.Gov/ConnectIllinois/BEAD or scan the QR code above

1. <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/funding-programs/broadband-equity-access-and-deployment-bead-program>