

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD) Info Sheet

What is the BEAD Program?

- The Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021 included \$42.45 billion for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program to ensure that **all US households, small businesses, and community anchor institutions have access to high-speed internet¹**.
- **Community anchor institutions** include schools, libraries, institutions of higher education, health clinics, health centers, hospitals or other medical providers, public safety entities, public housing organizations, and community support organizations.
- Access = if you want to subscribe to internet service, you can call an internet service provider to get connected **within 10 business days**. High-speed internet for a home or small business means having **access to at least 100 / 20 Mbps service**. And for community anchor institutions, it means having **access to at least 1 / 1 Gbps service**. For all, high-speed service means having **latency of 100 milliseconds or less**.

Why does the BEAD Program matter to Illinois residents?

- \$1.04 billion in BEAD funding has been allocated to Illinois to provide high-speed internet access to the ~230,000 households, small businesses, and community anchor institutions (CAIs) that can't get access to at least 100 / 20 Mbps service or 1 / 1 Gbps service.
- Illinois residents without access to high-speed internet service cannot use essential online services such as telehealth, remote education, digital commerce, and more, which prevents them from participating in the 21st-century digital economy.

How can you get involved?

- Illinois community organizations, non-profits, and local governments can [register](#) to participate in the [Illinois BEAD Challenge Process](#), to help us get the [broadband map](#) right!
- Illinois residents concerned about the quality of their connection can conduct and submit speed tests three times, on three separate days at [beadchallenge.org](#).
- Visit [DCEO.illinois.gov/BEADchallenge](#) to get involved.

To learn more, visit the Illinois Office of Broadband's website at the QR code to the right.

Have more questions? Email us at broadband@illinois.gov.



¹ [NTIA Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program](#)