

Georgia Technology Authority (GTA)
Georgia Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Grant Program
Notice of Funding Opportunity
June 16, 2025

DISCLAIMER

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (“NOFO”) is intended to be a guide to the application process for prospective applicants applying for consideration of funding through the Georgia Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment Grant Program (“BEAD Grant Program”). This guidance is not exhaustive, binding, or final. The requirements set forth in this document explicitly override all other guidance documents specifically related to the Georgia BEAD Grant Program.

I. OVERVIEW

The Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget (“OPB”) and the Georgia Technology Authority (“GTA”) hereby notify interested applicants of the opportunity of funds allocated for the Georgia Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment Grant Program (“BEAD Grant Program”). The availability and use of these funds is subject to all applicable State and Federal laws including guidance from the U.S. Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (“NTIA”) regarding the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Fund (“BEAD”) authorized by the [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, Division F, Title I, Section 60102, Public Law 117-58, 135 Stat. 429](#) (November 15, 2021) (Infrastructure Act or Act). The State is facilitating the distribution of its allotted BEAD funding through the BEAD Grant Program which has been designed in accordance with [NTIA’s BEAD Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) released on May 13, 2022, and [NTIA’s BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice](#) released on June 6, 2025. Supplementary guidance may be published at any time by NTIA and/or the State.

As it did in 2022 with its successful Capital Project Fund (CPF) grant program, Georgia anticipates offering applicants the opportunity to apply for project areas at the county level (each county and its eligible locations will hereinafter be referred to as “County Grant Area”).

This approach is designed to enable efficient application review with minimal application overlap or need for deconfliction. Additionally, this approach is designed to enable participation by applicants of all sizes, given that many of Georgia’s counties are small relative to most states and their size should not pose a barrier to participation by smaller entities.

GTA intends that its grant program will result in new broadband coverage and service to 100 percent of eligible unserved and as many underserved locations as funding allows.

Per NTIA’s Restructuring Policy Notice: *“The term “Priority Broadband Project” means a project that provides broadband service at speeds of no less than 100 megabits per second for downloads and 20 megabits per second for uploads, has a latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds, and can easily scale speeds over time to meet the evolving connectivity needs of households and businesses and support the deployment of 5G, successor wireless technologies, and other advanced services.*

Any applicant may seek to have the Eligible Entity treat its application as a Priority Broadband Project regardless of the technology used. **The applicant's project, however, must still meet the required speed and latency standards set forth in the statute and the NOFO and demonstrate that it meets the additional statutory criteria, including that the project can easily scale speeds over time to support evolving connectivity needs and the deployment of 5G and successor wireless technologies.** Applicants must provide supporting documentation sufficient for the Eligible Entity to assess the network application and determine that the proposed network architecture for each specific project area meets this standard.

Eligible Entities may not categorically exclude any given technology and may only reject treatment of an application as a Priority Broadband Project if the project could not meet the statutory definition for a specific project area. As discussed in Section 3.4 below, NTIA reserves the right to reverse an Eligible Entity's determination that a project does or does not meet the standard for a Priority Broadband Project if such determination is unreasonable. **As required by IJA, Eligible Entities shall give priority to proposals that meet the definition of a Priority Broadband Project.** If an Eligible Entity determines that no proposal meets the definition of a Priority Broadband Project, then it may select a non-priority broadband project that meets the speed and latency requirements of the statute and NOFO.”¹

Applicants believing they satisfy the definition above shall indicate in their BEAD Letter of Intent (LOI) that they are seeking to have their application treated as a Priority Broadband Project. GTA reserves the right to ask supplemental questions of applicants when determining their status and eligibility as a Priority Broadband Project. As required in NTIA's Restructuring Policy Notice, GTA will not categorically exclude any given technology and may only reject treatment of an application as a Priority Broadband Project if the project could not meet the statutory definition for a specific project area.

GTA will also determine the point at which project costs for Priority Broadband Service are considered excessive and identify other Priority Broadband Project applications or Non-Priority Broadband Project applications to reach these excessive cost locations.

II. APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

Potential applicants may reach out to the Georgia Broadband Team at broadband@gtga.ga.gov with any questions.

III. FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR AWARD

The State of Georgia was allocated \$1.3 billion in grant funds from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program. These dollars will be used to support broadband grants to serve remaining eligible unserved and underserved locations in Georgia. The State reserves the right to fund, in whole or in part, any, all, or none of the applications submitted in response to this NOFO.

IV. ELIGIBLE PROJECT AREAS

Applicants will have the opportunity to apply for project areas at the county level. Each county and its eligible locations will hereinafter be referred to as “County Grant Area.” Potential applicants can download eligible locations from the State's website at <https://broadband.georgia.gov/bead-grant-applications>.

¹ NTIA Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program: BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice, 3.1. p.13.

V. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants include private companies, cooperatives, nonprofit organizations, public-private partnerships, local governments, public utilities, private utilities, public utility districts, or other internet service providers (ISPs). Partnerships and consortium applications will be allowed (e.g., two providers partnering to serve an eligible County Grant Area).

I. LETTER OF INTENT TO PARTICIPATE

Applicants will be required to submit a letter of intent to GTA at broadband@gta.ga.gov within 7 business days of public notice in order to participate in the application process. Failure to do so will result in not being eligible to apply for the BEAD Grant Program. A template for this letter will be posted to the GTA website. Letters received after 5:00 PM EST on June 25, 2025, will be deemed late and not considered.

II. SCORING CRITERIA

Criteria for scoring is outlined in [NTIA's Restructuring Policy Notice](#). Additional information will be released in a Frequently Asked Questions document released prior to the opening of the subgrantee selection window.

III. MATCHING FUNDS

All Georgia BEAD subrecipients will must comply with the requirements for matching funds that are mandated by the language of the statute and NTIA's rules (Section III.B). These requirements are for a minimum 25 percent of total project costs.

IV. LOW-COST SERVICE OPTION

All Georgia BEAD subrecipients will be required to offer at least one LCSO to eligible subscribers within their proposed project area. For the purposes of the LCSO, "eligible subscribers" are defined in accordance with the eligibility criteria established under the FCC's Lifeline Program. Subrecipients are responsible for verifying eligibility and may require applicants to provide documentation consistent with Lifeline verification standards.

Subrecipients are responsible for setting and proposing their own LCSO rate. Each LCSO must provide service with minimum speeds of 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload, and latency no greater than 100 milliseconds. If a subrecipient already offers a low-cost plan that meets these technical standards, that plan may be used to satisfy the requirement.

V. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

As established in Section 60102(h)(4)(C) of the Infrastructure Act, subrecipients that receive BEAD Program funds for network deployment must deploy the planned broadband network and begin providing services to each customer that desires broadband service within the project area not later than four years after the date on which the subrecipient is awarded the subgrant from the Eligible Entity.

VI. ELIGIBLE PROJECT COSTS

Allowable costs are determined in accordance with the cost principles identified in [2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart E](#). In addition, costs must be reasonable, necessary, allocable, and allowable for the proposed project or other eligible activity and conform to generally accepted accounting principles. Funds

committed to an award may only be used to cover allowable costs incurred during the period of performance, except for reasonable and allowable pre-award expenses, and for allowable closeout costs incurred during the grant closeout process.

VII. FEDERAL INTEREST PERIOD

The Uniform Guidance requires real property and equipment acquired or improved with a subgrant to be held in trust for the beneficiaries of the BEAD Program. The Federal interest in all real property or equipment acquired or improved as part of a subgrant for which the major purpose is a broadband infrastructure project will continue for 10 years after the year in which the subgrant for a project has been closed out in accordance with 2 CFR 200.344. For example, for all subgrants closed out in 2027, regardless of the month, the Federal Interest Period will last until December 31, 2037.

Eligible Entities shall require a period of performance for LEO Capacity Subgrants that concludes ten years from the date upon which the subgrantee certifies to the Eligible Entity that broadband is available to every location covered by the project. Recipients of LEO Capacity Subgrants must continue to offer access to broadband service to each BSL served by the project throughout the period of performance.

Recipients of LEO Capacity Subgrants must continue to offer access to broadband service and the necessary hardware to each BSL served by the project throughout the period of performance.

VIII. TENTATIVE GRANT PROGRAM TIMELINE

- June 16, 2025: NOFO Released
- June 18, 2025: Kickoff Webinar 10:00-11:00 AM EST
- June 25, 2025: All BEAD Letters of Intent Due by 5:00 PM EST
- Within 3 business days of Initial Proposal Correction Approval from NTIA: Application Window Opens
- To Be Announced upon IP Correction Approval: Applications Due by 5:00 PM EST
- September 4, 2025: Final Proposal Due to NTIA for Approval

IX. APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

All applications will be reviewed for eligibility and completeness and then evaluated based on the priorities and criteria identified herein.

X. APPLICATION AWARD AND NOTIFICATION

All applications will be reviewed and evaluated according to the scoring criteria and priorities outlined in [NTIA's Restructuring Policy Notice](#). Applicants will be notified in writing of preliminary and/or final awards based on their ability to meet all criteria of the program.

XI. GRANT AGREEMENT AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS

An applicant selected for funding through the BEAD Grant Program that wishes to accept this award must execute final BEAD Grant Program Terms and Conditions within 14 business days of the approval of Georgia's Final Proposal, and meet all criteria of the BEAD program prior to execution of the agreement. The State will not accept proposed changes or amendments to the Terms and Conditions. Failure or refusal to comply with this requirement will result in award offers being rescinded.

XII. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, including 2 C.F.R. Part 200 apply to the BEAD awarded projects, except for any provisions that NTIA may determine are inapplicable to an award. Each award is further subject to such exceptions as may be otherwise provided by NTIA. Applicants should review and understand all applicable requirements to ensure compliance throughout the award period. All awardees will be monitored for compliance with the requirements of the program to include applicable policy requirements, and federal and state laws and regulations.

Projects funded by BEAD Funds must comply with all applicable Federal laws and regulations, and with all requirements for State, local, and Tribal laws and ordinances to the extent that such requirements do not conflict with Federal laws.

BEAD applicants should demonstrate a record of, and plans to continue compliance with, Federal labor and employment laws per the NTIA's Restructuring Policy Notice. A subgrantee will satisfy this requirement through self-certification of compliance with Federal labor and employment laws.

Among other requirements contained in [2 C.F.R. 200, Appendix II](#), all contracts made by a Subrecipient in excess of \$100,000 that involve employment of mechanics or laborers must include a provision for compliance with certain provisions of the [Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, 40 U.S.C. 3702 and 3704](#), as supplemented by Department of Labor regulations ([29 C.F.R. Part 5](#)).

Projects funded by BEAD Funds must comply with all applicable Federal and State environmental laws.

XIII. REPORTING

Subrecipients awarded funding through the BEAD Grant Program will be subject to all reporting requirements as set forth by the State and NTIA.

XIV. OVERSIGHT

Subrecipients awarded funding through the BEAD Grant Program will be subject to audit or review by U.S. Department of Commerce, NTIA, OPB, GTA, or any representative of named agencies.