

# Office of Broadband Development Update

Meghan E. Sandfoss, Executive Director



# Broadband Funding in the Commonwealth

## Broadband Deployment Fund Round 1

**Fiscal Recovery Funds**  
\$89.6 M Awarded  
\$204.4M Investment  
47 projects  
34,000+ new locations

## Rural Infrastructure Improvement Fund

**Pole Replacement Grant**  
\$11.9M Available  
50% / \$5,000 per pole  
Unserved areas  
**Accepting  
Applications**

## Better Internet Grants Broadband Deployment Fund

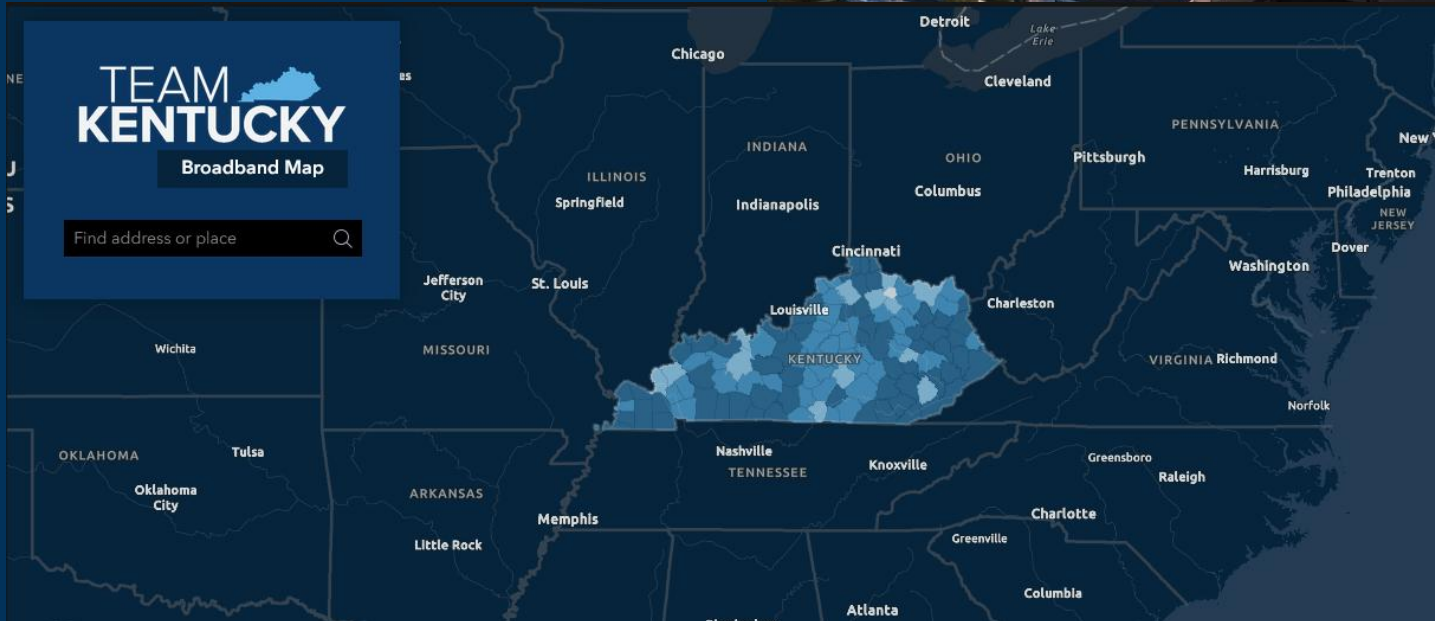
**Capital Projects Fund**  
\$196M Awarded  
\$386M Investment  
56 projects  
42,000+ new locations  
"No service" priority

## BEAD

**BEAD**  
Allocation announced  
June 2023

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# Maps and Data Hub



Kentucky Office of Broadband Mapping Hub. Learn more about high speed internet coverage, projects, and funding across the Commonwealth.

<https://broadbanddatahub.ky.gov>

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# BEAD Timeline

- Planning funds were awarded in November 2022
- Allocation announced on June 26, 2023
- 5 Year Action Plan completed in August 2023
- Initial Proposal was approved by NTIA in June 2024
  - Initial Proposal consisted of two parts: Challenge Process and Grant Plan
- Final Proposal due 1 year after Initial Proposal

# BEAD Process

- Conducted Challenge process in 2024
  - The data from the Challenge Process determined down to the location level where BEAD funds will be prioritized
- Accepted prequalification information from prospective subgrantees in August/September 2024
  - Had over 40 respondents and 100% of counties had at least one entity showing interest.
- Ran first round of BEAD applications from January 15 – March 13, 2025
- Received 278 applications covering 97.5% of locations

# BEAD Restructuring

- On April 22, 2025, NTIA granted a blanket 90-day waiver of the Final Proposal deadline
- On June 6, 2025, NTIA published its Restructuring Policy Notice
- Eliminated and scaled back requirements
  - Labor, Employment, and Workforce Development
  - Climate Resiliency
  - Open Access and Net Neutrality
  - Local Coordination and stakeholder engagement
  - Non-traditional broadband providers
  - Middle class affordability
  - Low-cost service option

# BEAD Restructuring

- “Technology Neutrality”
  - Removed explicit fiber preference
  - Restored IIJA definition of “Priority Broadband Project” to any technology that can meet performance standards
- Technologies Eligible for Participation
  - Allows Unlicensed Fixed Wireless and Low-Earth Orbit satellite to request Priority Broadband Project status

# BEAD Restructuring

- Subgrantee Selection
  - Required all states to re-open pre-qualification and application processes for all BEAD eligible locations
- Scoring Rubric
  - Revised scoring rubric to focus on cost minimization
  - States are required to prioritize Priority Broadband Project (PBP) proposals unless a proposal would incur excessive costs
  - Excessive cost proposals must be rejected to select a lower cost non-PBP proposal



# BEAD Restructuring

- Optimizing BEAD Locations
  - Required to give unlicensed fixed wireless (ULFW) providers an opportunity to remove the locations they serve from BEAD eligibility if they meet specific performance standards
  - States must investigate and account for locations identified as eligible that do not require BEAD funding
  - Required revision of Community Anchor Institution (CAI) list to conform with IIJA definition

# BEAD Restructuring

- Non-Deployment Funding & Permitting
  - Requires use of NTIA's Environmental Screening and Permitting Tracking Tool
  - Non-Deployment funding is under review
- Final Proposal
  - Rescinded previous approvals of Final Proposals
  - Provided states with 90 days to comply with Policy Notice terms and submit Final Proposal

# Where We Are

- We opened our “Benefit of the Bargain” application round on July 7 from July 28
- We received 163 applications covering 100% of locations
- Today is Day 69 of the 90 days allowed in the RPN
- The Office will release draft Final Proposal for public comment on or before August 28<sup>th</sup>

# Use of BEAD funds

- BEAD funds are prioritized for last-mile broadband deployment projects
- Prior to the RPN, any remaining funds were able to be spent on non-deployment costs, such as digital equity activities and non-deployment related workforce development activities
- NTIA has not released any guidance on non-deployment funds

# Contact

Meghan E. Sandfoss  
Executive Director  
Office of Broadband Development  
100 Airport Road, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
Email: [meghan.sandfoss@ky.gov](mailto:meghan.sandfoss@ky.gov)  
Office: 502.892.3002  
Mobile: 502.330.8713  
Web: [broadband.ky.gov](http://broadband.ky.gov)

The logo is a white circle with a blue outline. Inside the circle, the words "TEAM KENTUCKY" are written in blue, with a small blue outline of the state of Kentucky above the word "KENTUCKY".

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