



What are the BEAD and DE Programs?

Two programs are working to ensure that everyone in Washington has access to affordable, high-speed internet and to improve digital literacy and inclusion across the state.

Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD)

\$1.2
Billion in
Funding

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has awarded \$1.2 billion in funding for Washington to expand high-speed internet access by funding planning, infrastructure deployment and adoption programs across the state. Priority areas for expanding access are unserved and underserved locations, including those on Federally Recognized Tribal Lands.

- WSBO is also leading a focused tribal engagement effort to ensure that the 29 federally recognized tribes within Washington have many opportunities for consultation and engagement.
- Funding from BEAD will be used for broadband infrastructure projects that connect unserved and underserved locations and community anchor institutions across the state.
- WSBO has worked with state, county and tribal governments and Broadband Action Teams to ensure that the initial statewide plan incorporates community-driven input.
- WSBO is taking public comment on a comprehensive 5-year action plan and state digital equity plan.
- Volume 1 of the BEAD Initial Proposal, which includes the WSBO challenge process, has been released for public comment. Volume 2 will be out for public comment soon.

The Digital Equity Act

The Digital Equity Act provides \$2.75 billion to all states for implementing programs that promote digital literacy and increase digital equity. This includes \$60 million for the State Digital Equity Planning Grant, \$1.44 billion for the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant and \$1.25 billion for the Digital Equity Competitive grant programs.

Find more WSBO resources
<https://bit.ly/WSBOhome>

**Notice of Funding
Opportunity**
SCAN AND LEARN MORE



FAQ

Q: How do I get funding for my tribal community?

A: Tribes will need to submit project proposals. Projects will receive funding if approved through the evaluation process.

Q: How much control will tribes have over these funds?

A: Subgrantees are responsible for carrying out the program's award and providing the service to locations identified in the project proposal. Subgrantees must submit reports and be accountable for the funds spent and the results achieved.

Q: What types of projects will be eligible for BEAD funding?

A: Projects that provide broadband service to unserved end users are the priority. These projects will include last-mile connections to end users and may consist of some middle-mile funding. However, BEAD funding primarily focuses on providing unserved residents with broadband service.

Q: What is the process for scoring?

A: Scoring criteria will follow the requirements in the NTIA NOFO. You can access the NOFO using the QR Code on the first page of this document.

Q: Who do I send my comments, questions, or concerns to, and what is the best way to reach that person?

A: If your tribe would like to submit comments, questions or concerns regarding the BEAD and Digital Equity programs, please reach out to Brittany Pouley at Brittany.Pouley@commerce.wa.gov

How Can You Be Involved?

- Monthly informational webinars - sign up online at <https://bit.ly/BEAD-DE-plans>
- Monthly tribal office hours for participants directly representing federally recognized tribes in Washington. We host these office hours on the last Thursday of each month from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Attend by using this link <https://t.ly/NkBwb>
- Provide public comment on the [Draft Digital Equity Plan](#) (Deadline Oct. 31, 2023) or the Initial Proposal: <https://bit.ly/Internet-for-all> (Deadline Nov. 10, 2023).
- Participate in the [state speed test](#).

If your tribe wishes to engage in formal government-to-government consultation with WSBO, please contact Brittany.Pouley@commerce.wa.gov.

To join the Internet for All in Washington email list and stay informed about BEAD and Digital Equity in Washington, visit our [Internet for All in Washington website](#) or send an email to internetforall@commerce.wa.gov