

District of Columbia  
Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO)

**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)**

**District of Columbia BEAD Deployment Application**

**RFA Publication Date:** Friday, March 14, 2025

**Application Submission Deadline:** Sunday, March 30, 2025, at 11:59 p.m.

**Application Submission Platform:** <https://wdcbbroadband.submittable.com/submit>

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## SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

### 1.1 Introduction

The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (“BEAD”) program was created through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (popularly known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law or “BIL”), Pub. L. 117-58, 135 Stat. 429, and is administered by the United States Department of Commerce’s (DOC) National Telecommunications and Information Administration (“NTIA”). This program makes available to DC \$100,694,786.93 for projects and activities related to broadband planning, infrastructure deployment, mapping, equity, and adoption, which will enable the DC’s Office of the Chief Technology Officer (“OCTO”) and its DC State Broadband and Digital Equity Office (“SBDEO”) to execute its vision for transformative, equitable and sustainable investments to close the digital divide.

Access to, and adoption of, reliable broadband is essential to full participation in the community and economy. A reliable broadband connection enables work, learning, healthcare, and more equitable access to government services. In the District of Columbia, the need for broadband infrastructure investment is reflected in the unserved and underserved areas of the district confirmed through DC’s BEAD Challenge process. OCTO/SBDEO proposes to address this need by coordinating resources from the BEAD grant to effect transformative, equitable, sustainable, and achievable improvements in DC’s unserved and underserved locations while also executing Digital Equity related non-deployment activities.

### 1.2 Purpose of Grant

DC’s BEAD funding will be used to support infrastructure/deployment efforts according to BEAD program requirements.

Through the implementation of DC’s BEAD program, OCTO/SBDEO will conduct an open, fair, and transparent sub-grantee selection process to obtain bids to provide high-speed internet connectivity to all unserved and underserved locations throughout DC.

#### **Program Goals:**

Mayor Muriel Bowser’s administration outlined four long-term goals to guide DC’s SBDEO in its participation in the broadband and digital equity funding programs. Each of these goals is supported by highly ambitious, measurable objectives that were calculated to advance the cause of digital equity DC-wide. The goals and objectives below are also reflected in DC’s State Digital Equity Plan.

**Goal One:** Make high-quality, affordable, high-speed internet accessible to all residents of DC in their homes and local Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) and drive equitable adoption of broadband.

Objective One: Achieve universal (100%) availability of 100/20 Mbps in DC households.

Objective Two: Increase internet access among CAIs.

Objective Three: Reach at least 95% equitable adoption of high-speed internet.

Objective Four: Reach at least 95% adoption among target populations (e.g., Covered Populations).

Objective Five: Reach at least 95% adoption in high-priority Wards (e.g., Wards 7 and 8).

**Goal Two:** Provide sustainable, low-cost or no-cost devices, IT support, and enabling applications to residents.

Objective One: Effectively communicate the value of a connected device to all DC residents and ensure that all residents have access to one internet-ready device.

Objective Two: Increase device access among Covered Populations.

Objective Three: Stand up a responsive, omni-channel customer service center that serves as a “one-stop shop” for all residents. Establish a mature ecosystem in DC for affordable tech repair and refurbishing services.

Objective Four: Ensure that residents feel confident in using connected devices and getting the troubleshooting support they need.

**Goal Three:** Create navigable pathways for DC residents to gain digital literacy and digital skills.

Objective One: Improve digital literacy in DC so that every resident can safely and proficiently navigate current information technologies.

Objective Two: Enable residents to use technology to improve their learning and their ability to access the tools and jobs of the digital economy (especially related to work, education, and health-monitoring).

Objective Three: Enable residents to use digital tools to improve their quality of life, and track residents’ feedback.

**Goal Four:** Use increased access to broadband, devices, and digital skills to set up strategic partnerships and initiatives with DC agencies to achieve goals related to economic development, the workforce, and health outcomes.

Objective One: Prepare all students for economic and academic success in the 21st Century, including providing access to a device and broadband at home.

Objective Two: Increase the use of telehealth services to expand access to care and healthcare options for DC residents.

Objective Three: Improve online accessibility of essential services to increase sign-ups for key social services (e.g., SNAP, TANF/Cash Assistance, and Medical Benefits).

### **1.3 Competition for a Grant**

This RFA is competitive. Each Applicant must demonstrate its ability to carry out the activities for the grant for which it applies (called a “project”). A review panel will evaluate the applications for each advertised grant according to the stated list of criteria in each project’s description. The most responsive application(s) will be recommended for a grant.

Specifically, an award will be made based on eligibility (Section 1.5), the extent to which the proposed project fits within the scope and available funding of the grant, strength of the application, and the organization’s capacity to achieve the grant’s goals.

Each Applicant may submit more than one application with different projects. If an Applicant responds with more than one project, it must do so in a separate proposal and submit all corresponding required documents.

### **1.4 Projects and Funds Available**

OCTO seeks applications for:

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Amount</b>
BEAD Deployment Funding	\$8,900,000.00
Grantee Match	25% of the project cost

The budget opportunity defined by the Project Area Methodology is explained in Section 4.3 and is detailed by Project Area, providing an understanding of the application of the calculation of reference costs in the RFA.

### **1.5 Eligibility Information**

Eligible Applicants

The following are eligible to apply:

- Internet Service Providers (ISPs)

- Nonprofit organizations, including those with IRS 501I(3) or 501(c)(4) determinations
- Faith-based organizations
- Government agencies
- Universities/educational institutions
- Private Enterprises

Continuing conditions of eligibility include: that the information in the application is complete and truthful; and that the Applicant, at all times, is able to meet material conditions stated in its application. Ineligible applicants or applications will not be considered for review.

A material condition can be an eligibility condition, or it can be some other condition that a reasonable OCTO evaluator would conclude is necessary to the Applicant for carrying out the proposed project.

For instance, consider a hypothetical case where an Applicant’s nonprofit status was a condition of eligibility, and the Applicant lost its nonprofit tax status. That would be a material change in condition and would require immediate communication. Another example of such a material change in condition would include an Applicant whose ability to fulfill the terms of the grant is based on the availability of skilled staff. If such skilled staff are no longer available, the Applicant must immediately inform OCTO and follow up in writing.

### **1.6 Permissible Use of Grant Funds**

A Grantee may use grant funds only for allowable grant expenditures. Grant funds related to work performed will be provided on a reimbursement basis, except that, in limited circumstances, an advance of funds may be provided for grant administration expenses for a good cause approved by OCTO at its sole discretion.

In addition to any specific funding restrictions described in this RFA, all grantees must expend grant funds in accordance with the cost principles delineated by the [City-Wide Grants Manual and Sourcebook](#), and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) [Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements \(2 CFR 200\)](#).

### **1.7 Grant Monitoring**

In its sole discretion, OCTO may use several methods to monitor the grant, including, bi-weekly virtual desk reviews, monthly meetings, on-site visits, monthly programmatic reports, financial reports, and other collections of performance data. Each grant is subject to audit. The purpose of these monitoring efforts is to evaluate the grantee’s adherence to both DC and federal requirements. The goal is to determine the adequacy of the grantee’s operational, financial, and management systems and practices in accounting for program funds. Failure to meet compliance standards may lead to payment suspension, reduction, or termination of the grant.

OCTO retains the authority to carry out on-site visits at any time during the grant period and may request supporting documentation for all data metrics and performance results. Reimbursement requests may be delayed until the verification of all submitted data.

Applicants affirmatively consent to grant monitoring, such as site visits, data collections, financial reporting, and retention of records used in support of grant monitoring and audits for the audit period (3 years from the date of final OCTO payment of the Grant, or the end of the DC fiscal year in which the Grant ends, whichever is later).

## **1.8 Federal Interest in Broadband Infrastructure**

Title to real property or equipment acquired or improved pursuant to a BEAD fixed amount subaward (Project Property) vests in the subrecipient upon acquisition, subject to the following exception and clarifications that apply for the duration of the Federal Interest Period (as defined below):

1. Subrecipients must follow their existing commercial practices for managing equipment in the normal course of business, and must use inventory controls indicating the applicable Federal interest and loss prevention procedures. This requirement is in lieu of the requirements contained in 2 CFR 200.313(d), pursuant to an exception from OMB. Subrecipients that do not have existing commercial practices for managing equipment in the normal course of business must comply with 2 CFR 200.313(d).
2. Subrecipients must comply with the use and equipment disposition requirements of 2 CFR § 200.313(c)(4) and 313(e) as follows:
  - a. Subrecipients acquiring replacement equipment under 2 C.F.R. § 200.313(c)(4) may treat the equipment to be replaced as “trade-in” even if the subrecipient elects to retain full ownership and use over equipment. As with trade-ins that involve a third party, the subrecipient will have to record the fair market value of the equipment being replaced in its Tangible Personal Property Status Reports to the DOC to ensure adequate tracking of the Federal percentage of participation in the cost of the grant funded activities. The subrecipient will also be responsible for tracking the value of the replacement equipment, including both the Federal and non-Federal share.
  - b. Subrecipients may sell, lease, or transfer Project Property only after (a) securing the agreement of the successor or transferee to comply with these requirements and the acknowledgement of the successor or transferee of the Federal Interest in the subject Project Property, and (b) obtaining consent to the sale or transfer from NTIA. NTIA will provide additional information concerning the review and approval process for transactions involving Project Property in subsequent guidance.
  - c. Subrecipients must notify the Grantee and NTIA upon the filing of a petition under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, whether voluntary or involuntary, with respect to the subrecipient or any affiliate that would impact the subrecipient’s ability to perform in accordance with its subgrant.

3. Subrecipients must record liens or other appropriate notices of record, acceptable in form and substance to the Grants Officer, to indicate that Project Property has been acquired or improved with a Federal award and that use and disposition conditions apply to the property. Please refer to the BEAD General Terms and Conditions and Specific Award Conditions for specific requirements. NTIA will issue further guidance regarding this requirement and post standard forms of liens, covenants, and intercreditor agreements to implement this arrangement.
4. Subrecipients may encumber Project Property only after provision of notice to NTIA and to the Grants Officer, and subject to a requirement that the DOC receives either a first priority security interest (preferred) or a shared first priority security interest in the Project Property such that, if the Project Property were foreclosed upon and liquidated, the DOC would be entitled to receive, on a pari-passu basis with other first position creditors, the portion of the current fair market value of the property that is equal to the DOC's percentage of contribution to the project costs. For example, if the DOC had contributed 50% of the project costs, the DOC would receive, on a pari-passu basis, 50% of the current fair market value of the Project Property when liquidated. NTIA will address the notice requirement for encumbrances in future guidance.

In addition, pursuant to exceptions approved by OMB, the property standards set forth in 2 CFR 200.314 -315 for supplies and intangible property, respectively, shall not apply to fixed amount subawards.

Subrecipients must comply with 2 CFR 200.316. Pursuant to this section and in recognition that the BEAD Program is being executed for the benefit of the public being served by the broadband infrastructure projects, for the duration of the Federal Interest Period (as defined below), the subrecipient must hold Project Property in trust for the beneficiaries of the BEAD broadband infrastructure project. Moreover, subrecipients must comply with the insurance requirements of 2 CFR 200.310. A subrecipient also must comply with 2 CFR 200.312 to the extent any Federally owned real property or equipment is used by the subrecipient.

### **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.

## **SECTION 2: OVERVIEW OF APPLICATION PROCESS**

### **2.1 BEAD Two-Phase Subgrantee Selection Process**

SBDEO will conduct the BEAD subgrantee Selection Process as follows:



## PHASE 1: BEAD Pre-Qualification Period

- Prospective Applicants will submit organizational-level information that demonstrates their ability to meet the requirements of the BEAD program.
- Following the Pre-Qualification, there will be a 10 day period for material review and notification to qualified prospective Applicants.

## PHASE 2: BEAD Project Application Period

- Prospective Applicants approved in Phase 1 will be invited to submit project applications for BEAD funding.
- Applicants will provide project-level information, including a bid for specific [Project Service Areas](#) (for Deployment bids).

## 2.2 Additional RFA Information

This RFA is issued on the [OCTO - Broadband website](#). The contact person for this RFA is Kevin Hughes, Administrator of DC SBDEO. Please send any inquiries to [OCTO.grants@dc.gov](mailto:OCTO.grants@dc.gov).

## 2.3 DC BEAD Deployment Application: Submission Information

Deadline: **March 30, 2025**

All applications must be received at our [grant portal](#) by **11:59 p.m. on Sunday, March 30, 2025**.

Once the application is submitted, an email will be automatically generated stating that the application was received. In OCTO's [grant portal](#) the application will be dated and recorded as "received" pending review by OCTO for completeness. OCTO considers an application to be "filed" only if all the required materials are submitted. A late or incomplete application will be considered received, not filed.

Applicants are urged to file timely and not wait until minutes before the deadline.

## 2.4 Updates and Questions and Answers (Q&A)

Additional information may become available before the application is due. It is the Applicant's responsibility to stay up to date on the status and requirements of the grant for which it is applying. OCTO welcomes questions seeking clarification of matters in this RFA and will post responses as FAQs on <https://www.techtogetherdc.com>.

OCTO will offer one webinar session to review the proposed RFA and answer any questions. The date and time for the webinar will be provided closer to the release of the RFA.

Questions about the RFA should be sent to [OCTO.grants@dc.gov](mailto:OCTO.grants@dc.gov) with "RE: RFA-BEAD Deployment" in the subject line. OCTO will publish updates and Questions and Answers (Q&A)

regarding the RFA at [OCTO- Broadband website](#). The cutoff date for receipt of any questions is one week prior to the application deadline.

## **SECTION 3. REVIEW PANEL AND APPLICATION SCORING**

### **3.1 Review Panel**

This is a competitive grant. The review panel for the RFA will be composed of individuals with knowledge in areas directly related to the RFA. The review panel will review, score and rank each Applicant's application.

The panel will recommend the most responsive application for an award of the grant.

### **3.2 Scoring Criteria**

The reviewers score each application according to a list of criteria and the points available for each criterion. (*See* Section 4.5) A scoring table/grid appears at the end of the Project Description. The points shown in the scoring table/grid for each criterion are the maximum that can be awarded for that criterion.

A reviewer awards points based on a predetermined scoring rubric and will assign points to each application based on the extent to which it fulfils each criterion. For each criterion, after assigning the points, the reviewer will categorize the application on a scale using the following descriptions:

- (a) Unacceptable - fails to meet minimum requirements, so will be awarded no points (no points awarded).
- (b) Poor - marginally meets minimum requirements but contains major deficiencies (10% of available points).
- (c) Minimal - marginally meets minimum requirements, but the deficiencies are minor and may be correctable (50% of available points).
- (d) Acceptable - meets the requirements (70% of available points).
- (e) Good - meets the requirements and exceeds some requirements (80% of available points).
- (f) Excellent - exceeds all or most requirements, so maximum points will be awarded (100% of available points).

This RFA requires a minimum 25% match of total project costs of funds or other resources dedicated to the project. If the application fails to address this, no points will be awarded for the criterion.

Sometimes an RFA will offer additional points. The Applicant should read the grant description carefully to determine if preference points are available. A separate line of the scoring table/grid will show this.

### 3.3 Partial Funding

OCTO reserves the right to issue an award that partially funds discrete activities, portions, or phases of the grant application.

## SECTION 4. SUBGRANTEE PROJECTS APPLICATION

### 4.1 Subgrantee Application Content

**Project summary:** Provide a brief one paragraph summary that explains the Applicant's proposed project.

**RFA narrative:** Enter the project application narrative in the sections provided. Address the following:

- **Project description:** Organize the Application's narrative to present the proposed project in a logical order and explain "i. Goals and Objectives" through "iv. Project Activities, Outputs, and Outcomes." Applications will be scored using the criteria in the scoring box of Section 4.5. Double check your application to make sure you have fully responded to all of the scoring criteria.
  - i. **Goals and objectives:** State how: (a) this broadband project will provide connectivity to all unserved and underserved locations and directly enable work, education, and health monitoring, and (b) achieve the goals in Section 1.2.
  - ii. **Target audience:** Identify the target audience. Who will this project engage? Who will this project benefit, and how?
  - iii. **Target location:** Applicants will bid to provide internet connectivity to a total of 84 unserved locations and 4 underserved locations ([See Project Area Design Map](#)).
  - iv. **Open access:** State whether the Applicant will commit to ensuring provisions of open access wholesale last-mile broadband over the life of subsidized networks on fair, equal, neutral terms to all potential retail providers. If yes, outline the Applicant's plans for ensuring open access.
  - v. **Project activities, outputs, and outcomes:** Connect the funded activities to quantifiable outputs that produce desired outcomes. OCTO prefers projects that present quantifiable measures. This will show how the project will advance the goal(s) and meet the objective(s). This enables reviewers to evaluate what the proposed project will achieve if funded. Activities describe how the objectives will be accomplished. A description of activities may include quantity, frequency, duration, and location. An output is a short-term quantifiable result that one or more activities achieve. OCTO will measure the outputs to determine if the Grantee successfully implements the activities.

- vi. **Affordability plan:** For Priority Broadband Projects, state the lowest monthly price that the Applicant will commit to charging the customer for 1 Gbps symmetrical service in the proposed project area unit. For Other Last Mile Broadband Projects, state the lowest monthly price that the Applicant will commit to charging the customer in the proposed service area for 100/20 Mbps service.
  
- vii. **Workforce Plan (Fair Labor Practices):** Describe (1) all demonstrated records of, and/or plans to, comply with Federal labor employment laws in the construction and execution of the infrastructure build-out. Describe (2) all plans for and specific, forward-looking commitments to ensure compliance with federal labor employment laws. Provide any evidence of the Applicant’s demonstrated capability to enforce compliance.
  
- viii. **Speed to Deployment:** Per NTIA requirements, secondary scoring criteria accounts for speed to deployment. For Priority Broadband Projects, the speed to deployment criterion weighs prospective subgrantees’ binding commitments to provide service by a date before four years after receiving subgrant, with higher points given for an earlier date. For other last-mile broadband projects, this criterion weighs prospective subgrantees’ binding commitments to provide network service and receiving points is contingent upon demonstrated technical capabilities to fulfil the stated commitments.
  
- ix. **Speed of Network (Other last-mile broadband projects only):** For other last-mile broadband projects only, state the Applicant’s commitment to the minimum speed of network service provision, at a minimum speed of 100/20 Mbps. Provide any evidence of the Applicant’s demonstrated technical capabilities to fulfil the stated commitments.
  
- **Local Support:** Demonstrate support from key community institutions and stakeholders, including elected officials. Applicants can demonstrate community support by providing (1) letters of support from local philanthropies, community leaders (including those that serve Covered Populations), potential customers, and elected officials, (2) commitments of funding or commitments to purchase services and (3) board or council resolutions.
  
- **Project budget:** Applications must include a numeric budget and a separate budget narrative under the heading “Proposed Project Budget” in the [grant portal](#). The budget narrative must explain and justify every line item in the numeric budget. The explanation should be thorough enough to allow a reviewer to understand why expenditure levels were chosen and how the line-item amounts were derived. For example: “Personnel will be paid \$xx per hour times xx hours.” The budget will be the basis for OCTO’s later evaluation of the project and payment requests. OCTO will require documentation for grant payments, and the entire grant will be subject to audit.
  - **OCTO’s standard policy on reimbursements vs. advances:** In the overwhelming majority of cases, OCTO’s policy is to reimburse supported, approved, and allowable expenses. If the Applicant seeks an advance payment, it must request advance payment in its application and explain why an advance payment is requested.

- **Grantee matches and other contributions:** Resources provided by the Applicant should appear in the column titled “Required Applicant Match,” meaning the Applicant intends to provide the indicated resources (*i.e.*, the “match,” and that the resources do not come from OCTO). Applicants are required to contribute at least a 25% match of total project costs to the project. Entries in this column could include both dollars and the value of the in-kind contributions. For example, in-kind contributions can include staff time, volunteer services, already-paid licensing fees, materials, supplies, and the use of equipment or real estate.

Per the BEAD NOFO, the requirements for matching funds are that they MUST:

- Be verifiable from recipient records;
- Not be allocated as contributions for other grant-funded programs;
- Not already come from federal funds unless there is specific authorization; necessary for accomplishing program objectives;
- If the grant is based on any federal funds, be allowable and reasonable according to applicable OMB cost principles; and,
- Be spent during the project period.
- Conform to other provisions of 2 CFR 200.306, as applicable

Volunteer hours provided to a Grantee or Sub-Grantee must be valued at rates consistent with those the Applicant’s organization ordinarily pays for similar work, including salary and fringes. If the Grantee or a Sub-Grantee does not have employees performing similar work, the rates must be valued the same as rates ordinarily paid by employers in the same labor market for similar work.

**Allowable and non-allowed costs:** The Applicant must show that all costs in the budget are allowable. Typical allowable costs may include, but are not limited to:

- Rental of office space, some vehicles, and some equipment;
- Employee salaries and benefits;
- Contractor labor, including professional services;
- Accounting and bookkeeping services;
- Communications, including telephone and data services;
- Materials and supplies;
- Some field equipment, typically below \$5,000 in value; and,
- Insurance.

Non-Allowable costs may include, but are not limited to:

- Most major equipment, like vehicles;
- Lobbying, including salaries and overheads and out-of-pocket expenses;

- Entertainment;
- Interest payments on loans;
- Most food; and,
- Land purchases.

**Applicant’s indirect costs calculation:** An Applicant may include its indirect costs in its budget calculation. This may be done through the use of a cost rate. In budget backup materials, the Applicant should identify the basis for the calculation, addressing one of the following bases that DC law permits it to choose:

1. Its current, unexpired, federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) rate, a negotiated rate with the federal government; OR
2. One of the following methods:
  - 10% of the grant’s direct costs;
  - A new negotiated rate with OCTO;
  - The same indirect rate that it has used with any DC agency in the past 2 years; or,
  - An independent Certified Public Account’s (CPA) calculated rate using federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidelines.

If the Applicant proposes to use the services of a nonprofit Sub-Grantee or contractor, it must propose to apply the same indirect cost rate to that entity’s services.

Where a conflict exists between applicable rule or law, federal rules always control for federal funding. For federal funding that passes through the DC to the Grantee, the indirect cost rate must be consistent with federal regulation 2 CFR 200.331 or its successor and U.S. Department of Commerce.

- **Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) Requirements:** The SBDEO will require a detailed narrative description of parts of the project plan that are relevant to EHP regulations. The description must include:
  - The part of the project that is subject to EHP review (including planned activities, locations, durations, and equipment)
  - Where the project is proposed to take place, at street-level
  - A physical description of the surrounding area and the site, and a description of potential construction or ground-disturbing activities
  - A description detailing how the project will be implemented
  - Any additional material that the SBDEO deems important. Such supporting material may include:

1. Ground-level and aerial photos of the proposed project area and project plan drawings;
2. A floodplain map from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Map Service Center with the project overlain to show whether and where the project falls into a flood zone;
3. A wetlands map from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory with the project overlain to show whether the project will impact wetlands or waterways, including buffer zones;
4. Initial Consultation with the USFWS to determine whether threatened or endangered species or critical habitat are in the vicinity of the project.

Subgrantees will also be required to budget EHP compliance-related tasks into the project's timeline and milestones. As part of the application packet, subgrantees must submit a description of anticipated or preliminary government authorizations, permits, and other approvals required in connection with the project, as well as an estimated timetable for acquiring such approvals.

As part of this requirement, subgrantees must include any permits relevant to EHP compliance to confirm that they are considering any permitting necessary for compliance, and that they are budgeting sufficient time to obtain any identified, applicable permits.

## **4.2 Summary: Project Name, Periods and Available Funds**

### **Project Name**

Deployment of Last-Mile Infrastructure to Serve DC's Unserved and Underserved Locations

### **Introduction**

This RFA pertains to DC's deployment efforts and welcomes applications for internet service providers (ISPs) to serve unserved and underserved in DC. Per BEAD priorities, the SBDEO aims to serve all remaining eligible locations in DC with fiber and will prioritize Applicants who propose to serve eligible locations via fiber over other eligible technologies.

### **Project Period and Proposed Milestones**

As part of the technical capability requirement, the SBDEO will require subgrantees to provide service milestones for project implementation, including a network design, diagram, project costs, build-out timeline, as well as a capital investment schedule showing complete build-out and initiation of service within four years of the date on which the entity receives the subgrant. Additionally, a certification of all of the above by a professional engineer, stating that the proposed network can deliver broadband service that meets the requisite performance requirements to all locations required to be served by the Project.

## **Available Funding**

This amount can be adjusted depending upon the performance of the Grantee and/or the availability of funds.

### **4.3 Project Description (Infrastructure/Deployment)**

The Applicant may be one entity or multiple entities with one lead Applicant. The application should demonstrate how the Applicant will build the conduits and fiber described in Section 4.3 and achieve the project goals and outputs identified in Section 4.5. connecting all unserved and underserved locations.

The SBDEO will provide grant funding to support projects which deploy last-mile infrastructure and serve DC's remaining unserved and underserved locations and CAIs. Applicants may apply to serve one or more project areas as defined in DC's project areas map. Subgrant awardees must serve every eligible location and CAI within the project area(s) for which they received an award. By awarding deployment subgrants, the SBDEO aims to achieve the first of DC's four BEAD goals, which is to make high-quality, affordable, high-speed internet accessible to all residents of DC in their homes and local CAIs and drive equitable adoption of broadband. Applicants must provide detailed descriptions of its plans to serve the desired project areas in a cost-effective and timely manner in alignment with DC's BEAD goals and must provide evidence demonstrating its ability to fulfil these plans, as outlined in each section of this application.

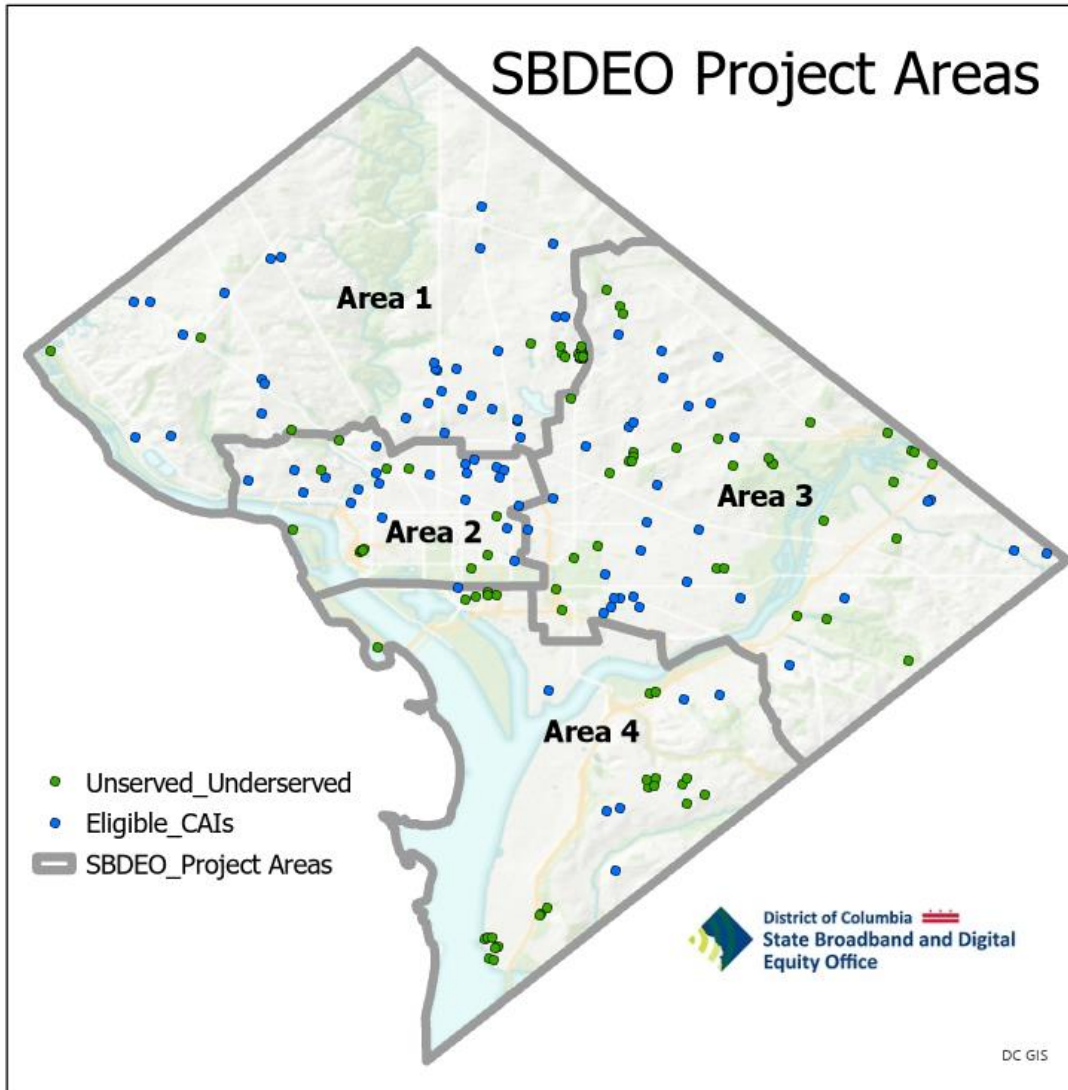
#### **Methodology for Creating Project Areas:**

Census tracts were used as the foundational geographic units, augmented with ward boundaries. A census tract is indivisible unless it spans across the boundary between two wards, in which case the tract will be divided into two parts by the ward boundary. In Census 2000 (released in 2022), DC has 8 wards and 206 tracts, of which 18 tracts are cut into two parts by ward boundaries and one tract (which contains The National Mall) is cut into three parts by ward boundaries and Independence Avenue SW (from the 3rd Street SW to the Arlington Memorial Bridge). This resulted in a set of 226 tracts or tract parts.

Based on the above 226 units (tracts or tract parts), four non-overlapping project areas are created, which consider the balance of the total number of locations (unserved, underserved, and eligible CAIs) and the total Fiber-to-the-House (FTTH) cost (from NTIA CostQuest Data) of the locations within each project area. The project areas also respect Ward boundaries as much as possible. As the map below shows, most of the project area boundaries follow the ward boundaries except two small parts. Each project area is geographically contiguous and compact as much as possible.

This formation of project areas will enable a like-for-like comparison of applications as locations and costs are balanced as much as possible, while maintaining ward boundaries and respecting natural boundaries such as rivers and the National Mall.





### Selection of CAIs:

The 147 eligible CAIs from the challenge process were further processed to remove:

- CAIs served by DC-NET
- Major universities and colleges (each of which is not a single building)
- Mobile units (not a building or serviceable location)
- Permanently closed CAIs

The remaining 80 CAIs were added to the project areas map and will be considered for BEAD funding, along with the unserved and underserved locations.

### Reference Costs:

The reference cost for each unserved, underserved, and eligible CAI is from the NTIA CostQuest data (ntia\_cost\_rel\_4.csv):

1. For the 88 unserved and underserved locations, we directly find their corresponding FTTH (Fiber to the House) costs from the NTIA CostQuest data.
2. For 67 out of the 80 CAIs, we can match to a corresponding fabrics BSL location and then find its FTTH cost in the NTIA CostQuest data.

For each of the remaining 13 CAIs that either has BSL\_flag = False or does not match to a fabrics location, we estimate its FTTH cost by using the maximum FTTH cost (per unit) of its neighboring BSL locations, multiplying its unit count, and then rounding up to the thousands.

Prospective subgrantees (Infrastructure) will be required to submit with the application the accompanying material listed below:

- Network designs;
- Diagrams;
- Project costs;
- Build-out timelines and milestones;
- A capital investment schedule evidencing complete build-out and the initiation of service within four years; and,

A certification of all of the above by a professional engineer, stating that the proposed network can deliver broadband service that meets the requisite performance requirements to all locations required to be served by the Project.

To receive BEAD funding, subgrantees must fulfill the minimum eligibility requirements:

1. Meet mandated financial requirements described in Section IV.D.2 of the BEAD NOFO;
2. Meet mandated organizational requirements, including providing ownership information consistent with the requirements set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 1.2112(a)(1)-(7);
3. Propose a project that will provide at least 100/20 Mbps service to all locations within the required timeline; and
4. Certify ability to comply with all applicable requirements mandated by NTIA, 2 CRF 200 Uniform Guidance, and the District of Columbia

#### **4.4 Subgrantee Award Announcement**

OCTO anticipates notifying each Applicant in writing of their pre-selection for the subgrant shortly after the application deadline. However, the final award approval will be contingent upon NTIA's review and authorization.

#### **4.5 Project Outcomes, Outputs, and Scoring**

## Project Outcomes

The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program's goal is to provide reliable broadband internet to everyone, especially in underserved and unserved areas. The program's outcomes include:

- Providing high-speed internet connectivity to all unserved and underserved locations.
- Building new infrastructure and capacity and providing gigabit symmetrical speeds to all CAIs.
- Facilitating closing the digital divide within DC by providing greater access, connectivity, and adoption.
- Creating greater economic, educational and quality of life opportunities for DC residents.
- Will allow for Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (ILECs) to upgrade their technology

## Project Outputs

Project Outputs include: Provide high speed internet connectivity to all unserved and unserved locations within DC, and close the digital divide.

- Provide 1 Gigabit Symmetrical Speeds to all CAIs.
- Facilitate full connectivity throughout DC thereby closing the Digital Divide.

## Application Scoring

Each Application will be scored according to the criteria below. Each application will receive points under each category and can receive up to the maximum number of points in the option which they fall under.

Broadband Priority Projects Data Validation		
Scoring Criteria	Options	Max # of Points
<b>Primary Scoring Criteria</b>		
Minimum Bead Outlay		
	<b>Option 1:</b> Request less than 50% of the reference cost	30
	<b>Option 2:</b> Request greater than or equal to 50% but less than 100% of the reference cost	20

	<b>Option 3:</b> Request greater than or equal to 100% but less than 150% of the reference cost	10
	<b>Option 4:</b> Request greater than or equal to 150% but less than 200% of the reference cost	0
<b>Affordability</b>		
	<b>Option 1:</b> Commitment to price of \$30/month or less (inclusive of taxes and fees)	25
	<b>Option 2:</b> Commitment to price of greater than \$30/month but less than or equal to \$50 (inclusive of taxes and fees)	15
	<b>Option 3:</b> Commitment to price of greater than \$50/month but less than or equal to \$55 (inclusive of taxes and fees)	10
	<b>Option 4:</b> Commitment to price of greater than \$55/month but less than or equal to \$60 (inclusive of taxes and fees)	5
	<b>Option 5:</b> Commitment to price of greater than \$60/month (inclusive of taxes and fees)	0
<b>Workforce Plan</b>		
<b>Demonstrated compliance</b>	<b>Option 1:</b> New entrant	10
	<b>Option 2:</b> 7+ years record with no instance of non-compliance	10
	<b>Option 3:</b> 6 years record with no instance of non-compliance	9
	<b>Option 4:</b> 5 years record with no instance of non-compliance	7
	<b>Option 5:</b> 4 years record with no instance of non-compliance	5
	<b>Option 6:</b> 3 years record with no instance of non-compliance	3
	<b>Option 7:</b> At least 1 recorded instance of non-compliance	0
<b>Plan for compliance</b>	<b>Option 1:</b> Baseline compliance plan + 3 or more elements	10
	<b>Option 2:</b> Baseline compliance plan + 2 elements	9
	<b>Option 3:</b> Baseline compliance plan + 1 element	7
	<b>Option 4:</b> Baseline compliance plan	5
	<b>Option 5:</b> Does not meet requirements for basic compliance plan	0
<b>Secondary Scoring Criteria</b>		

Speed to deployment		
	<b>Option 1:</b> Commitment less than or equal to 1 year	10
	<b>Option 2:</b> Commitment greater than 1 year but less than or equal to 2 years	7
	<b>Option 3:</b> Commitment greater than 2 years but less than or equal to 4 years	5
	<b>Option 4:</b> Commitment greater than 4 years	0
<b>Additional Prioritization Factors Scoring Criteria</b>		
Open Access		
	<b>Option 1:</b> Certified commitment to open access	5
	<b>Option 2:</b> No commitment to open access	0
Local Support		
	<b>Option 1:</b> 4 or more local support letters	5
	<b>Option 2:</b> Fewer than 4 local support letters	0
Past Performance		
	<b>Option 1:</b> 4 or more examples of past performance	5
	<b>Option 2:</b> 1 to 3 examples of past performance	3
	<b>Option 3:</b> No past performance reported	0

<b>Other Last Mile Projects Data Validation</b>
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Scoring Criteria	Options	Points
<b>Primary Scoring Criteria</b>		
Minimum Bead Outlay		
	<b>Option 1:</b> Request less than 50% of the reference cost	30
	<b>Option 2:</b> Request greater than or equal to 50% but less than 100% of the reference cost	20
	<b>Option 3:</b> Request greater than or equal to 100% but less than 150% of the reference cost	10
	<b>Option 4:</b> Request greater than or equal to 150% but less than 200% of the reference cost	0
Affordability		

	<b>Option 1:</b> Commitment to price of \$30/month or less (inclusive of taxes and fees)	25
	<b>Option 2:</b> Commitment to price of greater than \$30/month but less than or equal to \$50 (inclusive of taxes and fees)	15
	<b>Option 3:</b> Commitment to price of greater than \$50/month but less than or equal to \$55 (inclusive of taxes and fees)	10
	<b>Option 4:</b> Commitment to price of greater than \$55/month but less than or equal to \$60 (inclusive of taxes and fees)	5
	<b>Option 5:</b> Commitment to price of greater than \$60/month (inclusive of taxes and fees)	0
<b>Workforce Plan</b>		
Demonstrated compliance	<b>Option 1:</b> New entrant	10
	<b>Option 2:</b> 7+ years record with no instance of non-compliance	10
	<b>Option 3:</b> 6 years record with no instance of non-compliance	9
	<b>Option 4:</b> 5 years record with no instance of non-compliance	7
	<b>Option 5:</b> 4 years record with no instance of non-compliance	5
	<b>Option 6:</b> 3 years record with no instance of non-compliance	3
	<b>Option 7:</b> At least 1 recorded instance of non-compliance	0
Plan for compliance	<b>Option 1:</b> Baseline compliance plan + 3 or more elements	10
	<b>Option 2:</b> Baseline compliance plan + 2 elements	9
	<b>Option 3:</b> Baseline compliance plan + 1 element	7
	<b>Option 4:</b> Baseline compliance plan	5
	<b>Option 5:</b> Does not meet requirements for basic compliance plan	0
<b>Secondary Scoring Criteria</b>		
<b>Speed to deployment</b>		
	<b>Option 1:</b> Commitment less than or equal to 1 year	10
	<b>Option 2:</b> Commitment greater than 1 year but less than or equal to 2 years	7

	<b>Option 3:</b> Commitment greater than 2 years but less than or equal to 4 years	5
	<b>Option 4:</b> Commitment greater than 4 years	0
Speed of network		
	<b>Option 1:</b> Minimum 1000/1000 Mbps speed	6
	<b>Option 2:</b> Minimum 400/100 Mbps speed	3
	<b>Option 3:</b> Minimum 200/50 Mbps speed	1
	<b>Option 4:</b> Minimum 100/20 Mbps speed	0
<b>Additional Prioritization Factors Scoring Criteria</b>		
Open Access		
	<b>Option 1:</b> Certified commitment to open access	3
	<b>Option 2:</b> No commitment to open access	0
Local Support		
	<b>Option 1:</b> 4 or more local support letters	3
	<b>Option 2:</b> Fewer than 4 local support letters	0
Past Performance		
	<b>Option 1:</b> 4 or more examples of past performance	3
	<b>Option 3:</b> No past performance reported	0