

State of New Jersey
Governor Philip D. Murphy
Lt. Governor Tahesha L. Way

Board of Public Utilities



www.nj.gov/bpu/



Christine Guhl-Sadovy
President

Dr. Zenon Christodoulou
Michael Bange
Commissioners

NOTICE

IN THE MATTER OF BROADBAND EQUITY ACCESS AND DEPLOYMENT (“BEAD”) GRANT FINAL PROPOSAL

Docket No. [TO25020077](#)

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“NJBPU” or “Board”) invites stakeholders and members of the public to provide written comments on the draft of New Jersey’s Final Proposal in connection with the BEAD Grant Program.

BACKGROUND

On November 16, 2021, the United States Congress enacted the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (“Infrastructure Act”), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which includes the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (“BEAD”) Program. To provide access to high-speed broadband to all Americans, the Infrastructure Act created the BEAD Program. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (“NTIA”), which is a part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, administers the BEAD program and has delegated primary administration and implementation to states and other eligible entities.

The BEAD Program provides \$42.45 billion nationwide with the principal focus of deployment of broadband service through a state-administered competitive funding program. States and other eligible entities are allocated BEAD funds based on a nationwide location-by-location map of broadband service (“the National Broadband Map”) compiled by the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) as required by the Broadband Data Improvement Act.

As clarified in NTIA’s BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice (June 6, 2025), each Eligible Entity is also required to conduct a “Benefit of the Bargain Round.” This round was intended to ensure that American taxpayers receive the greatest value for their investment by creating a level playing field for all applicants, regardless of technology used or prior participation. The Benefit of the Bargain Round emphasized competition, cost efficiency, and technology neutrality, requiring that all qualifying technologies be considered so long as they meet the statutory performance requirements. Final subawards are intended to emphasize cost-effectiveness, scalability, and timely deployment to ensure communities receive the greatest benefit from the BEAD Program.

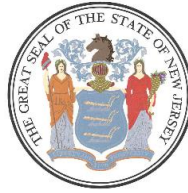
Request for Comments

In accordance with NTIA instructions, the New Jersey Office of Broadband Connectivity (“OBC”) has drafted its Final Proposal under the BEAD Program. All interested parties and members of the public are invited to submit comments in connection with the draft New Jersey Final Proposal pursuant to the BEAD Grant Program available here: <https://www.nj.gov/connect/grants/bead>.

The deadline for comments on this matter is **5:00 PM on September 02, 2025.**

Please submit comments directly to the specific docket listed above using the “Post Comments” button on the Board’s Public Document Search tool. Comments are considered “public documents” for purposes of the State’s Open Public Records Act. Only public documents should be submitted using the “Post Comments” button on the Board’s Public Document Search tool. Any confidential information should be submitted in accordance with the procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 14:1-12.3. In addition to hard copy submissions, confidential information may also

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be filed electronically via the Board's e-filing system or by email to the Secretary of the Board. Please include "Confidential Information" in the subject line of any email. Instructions for confidential e-filing are found on the Board's webpage. <https://www.nj.gov/bpu/agenda/efiling/>

Emailed and/or written comments may also be submitted to:

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PO Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350
Phone: 609-292-1599
Email: board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov

Board Staff looks forward to receiving and reviewing your responses.

Sherri L. Lewis

Sherri L. Lewis
Secretary of the Board
Dated: August 26, 2025