



Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Office of Native Affairs and Policy

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**From:** Native <Native@fcc.gov>

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 2, 2024 1:27 PM

**Subject:** FCC Provides Guidance to High-Cost Support Recipients on State and Tribal Government Engagement to Determine Eligibility of Locations for the BEAD Program

Greetings from the Federal Communications Commission.

The FCC has released a [Public Notice](#) providing guidance to carriers that receive Universal Service Fund (USF) High Cost support on engagement and coordination with state broadband offices and Tribal governments to determine eligibility of locations for broadband network funding under the [Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment](#) (BEAD) program and to generally avoid duplicative federal broadband funding for the same locations.

The BEAD program, a \$42.45 billion program being administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, will invest in network infrastructure and broadband deployment across the country. The program will prioritize connecting unserved locations that currently have no Internet access or broadband with speeds slower than 25 megabits per second downstream and 3 megabits per second upstream (25/3 Mbps), and underserved locations that currently have broadband with speeds slower than 100 megabits per second downstream and 20 megabits per second upstream (100/20 Mbps).

The [Public Notice](#) provides guidance to carriers participating in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF), Connect America Fund Phase II Auction (CAF II Auction) and Bringing Puerto Rico Together (Uniendo a Puerto Rico) Fund and the Connect USVI Funds (PR/USVI Fund) programs, as well as the new Enhanced Alternative Connect America Cost Model (Enhanced ACAM) program.

This guidance addresses:

- Engaging with Tribal governments that have jurisdiction over Tribal lands that receive broadband service supported by the High Cost program, and providing supporting documentation to state broadband offices if a carrier has obtained Tribal government consent to serve Tribal locations.
- Participating in the BEAD challenge process, which will determine which locations are ineligible for BEAD funding because they are already served by “reliable broadband service” at required speeds or subject to an enforceable commitment for the deployment of qualifying broadband.

- Providing requested information to state broadband offices, which will apply for and allocate BEAD funding on behalf of subgrantees in their states. This includes information about the service areas and specific locations that carriers serve (or plan to serve) using High Cost support, as well as details about the technologies used to provide service at those locations and the speeds available.

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