



Funding Programs for Rural Broadband Providers

What you need to know about the
Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD)
program and meeting funding requirements through
the Build America, Buy America (BABA) Act.

Government funding programs designed to connect the unconnected have earmarked billions of dollars to offset the expense of rural broadband deployments. With over \$42 billion, the **BEAD** program is the largest to date and likely to be the last government funded broadband infrastructure program we'll see in our lifetime.

Complete Broadband Experts

Building a new broadband network requires careful planning and each segment can vary in technology, materials, regulations, geography, size and scale. Together, **Wesco** and **Nokia** have the experience and expertise to customize unique solutions to ensure your project is cost-effective, streamlined and successful.

What is BEAD?

The Broadband, Equity, Access & Deployment Program (BEAD) provides federal funding to make grants to Eligible Entities for broadband planning, deployment, mapping, equity, and adoption projects and activities.

What is BABA?

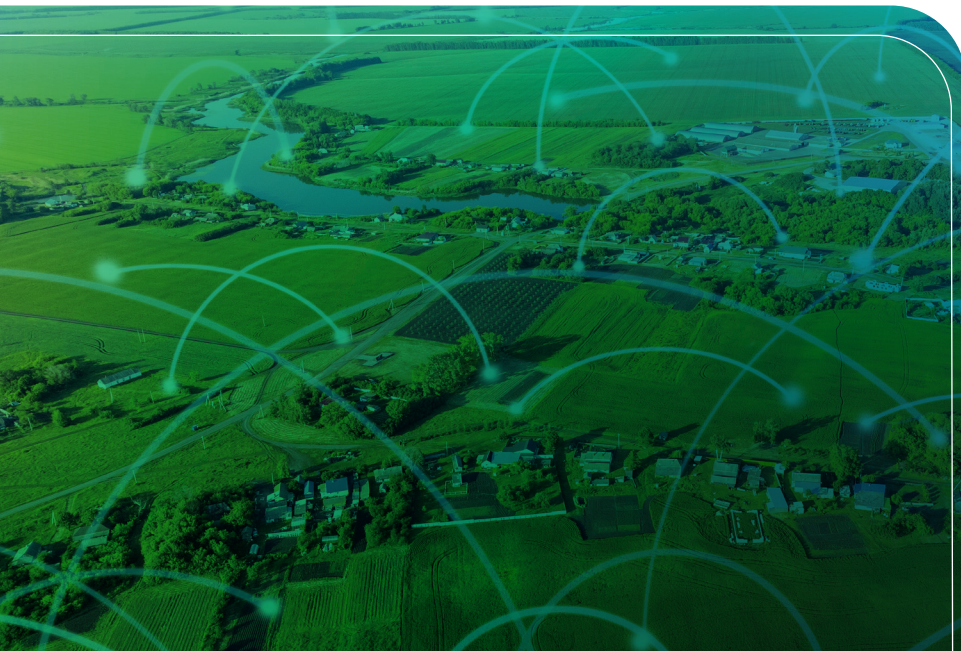
The US government Build America, Buy America Act (BABA) requires that federally funded infrastructure projects — such as the BEAD program — use American-made iron, steel, construction materials and manufactured products. The goal is for taxpayer dollars funding US infrastructure projects to be invested back into American jobs and manufacturing.



As a technology-enabled Supply Chain Solutions Company with roots in distribution and the telecommunications industry, **Wesco** helps you by supporting broadband and wireless construction projects with materials, technical support and project management services. With decades of experience and expertise in all facets of broadband, we help you navigate complexities and ensure efficient infrastructure builds to support the connectivity needs of today and tomorrow.

Navigating the Funding Landscape

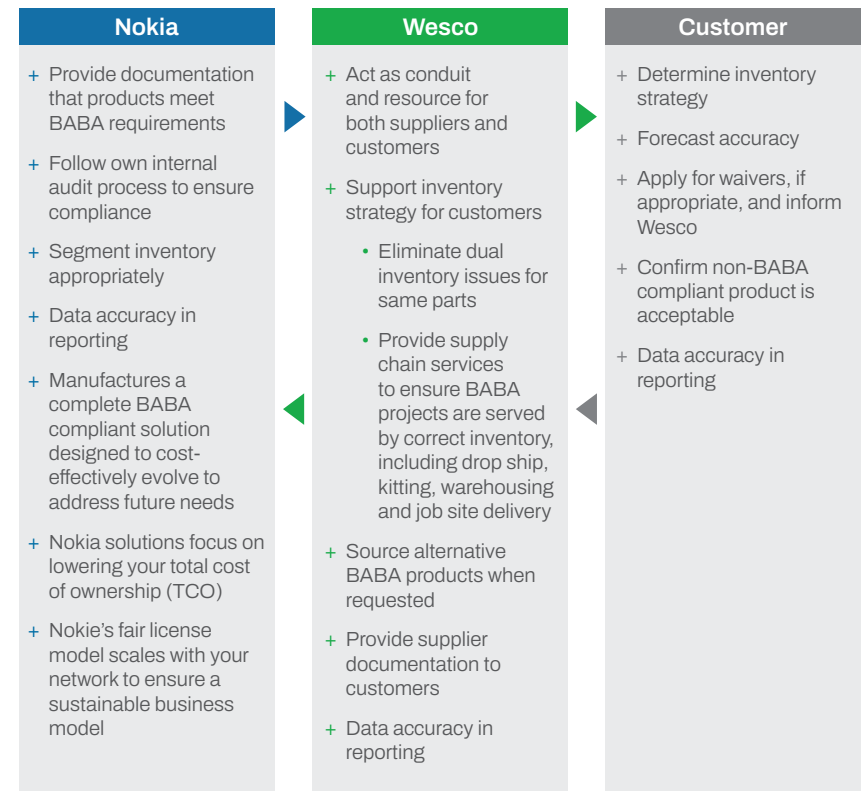
BEAD is complex, likely the most complicated broadband funding program we have ever seen – but **Wesco** and **Nokia** are here to help. Our BEAD experts have reviewed each state's Volume 1 and 2 proposals and synthesized the timelines, scoring criteria and weight of each criterion into an easy-to-digest summary of what it will take to win in each state.



Partnership for the Entire Supply Chain

Wesco and **Nokia** are your Partners to Support Fiber and Wireless Construction Projects:

- + **Wesco** and **Nokia** provide compelling Buy America strategy to assist entities applying for BEAD grants
- + **Nokia** has strategies to help applicants maximize their BEAD score to help obtain grants and key information on BEAD best practices
- + **Nokia** has key information on BEAD unserved and underserved locations eligible for BEAD grants
- + **Wesco** and **Nokia** can help carriers manage assets in an efficient manner



State Timelines

Each state has different timelines for the Challenge Process. Rounds of grant selections, Applications due dates, Scoring and Awarding of funds. NTIA plans to approve all states' BEAD Volume 1 and 2 proposals by Fall of 2024, so operators need to act quickly to ensure readiness for the accelerated timelines that may happen in your state.

Application Requirements

- ✓ Technology Preference
- ✓ Disbursement of Funds
- ✓ Application Specifics
- ✓ Professional Engineer Certification
- ✓ Pre-Qualification
- ✓ CPA Certification
- ✓ Number of Rounds
- ✓ Operator Status
- ✓ Project Area Definition

Scoring Criteria

Each state has their own scoring criteria and method of scoring; however, common categories include:

- + Minimal BEAD Outlay
- + Affordability
- + Fair Labor Practice
- + Speed of Deployment
- + Location Coordination and Support
- + Speed of Network & Other Technical Capabilities
- + Open Access
- + Buy America (BABA) Compliance

Your **Nokia** and **Wesco** representatives can assist in guiding you through the individual states' steps, as well as best practices for BEAD applications.

Key Resources

US Department of Commerce Office of Acquisition Management
<https://www.commerce.gov/oam/build-america-buy-america>

National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)
<https://www.ntia.gov/category/build-america-buy-america>

Wesco Distribution
<https://www.wesco.com/us/en/campaigns/2024/wesco-connects.html>

Nokia – Rural Broadband Access
<https://www.nokia.com/networks/rural-broadband/us-government-broadband-funding-opportunities/>

NOKIA

Nokia is proud to be the first telecom equipment vendor to manufacture OLTs, ONTs and optics products in the U.S. for use in the BEAD program. We owe it to our rural communities to build networks that secure their broadband future now. It starts with fiber infrastructure. Fiber is the most future-proof and greenest way of bringing highspeed broadband to the masses, and a fiber infrastructure can serve your community's needs today and over the next 50 years.

Did you know you can pre-order **Nokia** equipment from **Wesco** that could be counted as Matching Funds investment in your BEAD application? Find out more by contacting your **Wesco** or **Nokia** representative.

