



# Ways for Stakeholders to get Involved: Tribal Governments/Tribes

An overview of stakeholder roles and ways they can get involved in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Programs. National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) envisions and welcomes extensive coordination between States, Territories, local governments, community organizations, industries, women- and minority-owned Business Enterprises (WMBE), and citizens throughout the broadband program lifecycle including planning, grantee selection and implementation. The stakeholders bring specific expertise which is critical to the success of these programs.

Program	Funding	Description	Who Can Apply to BIL Programs?
Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)	\$42.5B	Aims to deploy broadband service to unserved and underserved locations, gigabit connections to community anchor institutions, and funding to pursue access-, adoption-, and equity-related uses.	<b>States and territories</b> are the <i>only</i> Eligible Entities for BEAD. A broad range of stakeholder entities <b>could potentially apply as to be a subgrantee</b> applicant to the State and Territory BEAD programs
State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program (DEA)*	\$2.75B	Promotes digital equity through activities to build capacity related to the adoption of broadband across three different planning and implementation programs.	<b>States, territories, and tribal governments/tribes</b> are the <i>only</i> Eligible Entities for DEA. However, a broad range of stakeholders may be an “administering entity.”
Middle Mile Grant (MMG)	\$1.00B	Expand middle mile infrastructure, reducing the cost to serve unserved and underserved areas and increasing resilience of the internet backbone	MMG has the most grantees, which include: <b>State, territories, political subdivisions of states, tribal governments/tribes, private entities, and community-based organizations</b> and groups..

## Stakeholder Roles in the BIL Grants Program

Stakeholders can perform a role of an *advocate*, a *collaborator*, *data and information provider* as well as a *subgrantee*, and are encouraged to engage with the Eligible Entities starting with the **planning process and extending all the way to the implementation** of the programs. For each program, Eligible Entities are **required to involve stakeholders** and **obtain public comments** to create successful applications. Local coordination and stakeholder engagement is **evaluated in every step of the application process**, and it will determine distribution of funds and approval of plans.

### Local Coordination

Each Eligible Entity must develop a comprehensive **local coordination approach** that will begin in the development of the Five-Year Action Plan and continue at each stage of the application process all the way to awarding. Entities are required to **coordinate and document its coordination with all types of stakeholders**.

### DEA/BEAD Collaboration

There is a lot of overlap between BEAD and DEA, so planning teams should be sure to work with **stakeholders from both programs** to reduce duplicating stakeholder work. Many elements can be incorporated into both application processes and will also strengthen each application (for example, emphasizing DEA elements in a BEAD application).

### Forming Partnerships

Stakeholders are **encouraged to form partnerships** to submit applications. Especially because a wide variety of stakeholders are eligible to apply to MMG funding programs, collaborating on applications and forming partnerships with like-minded groups (State/local govts, ISPs/community groups) will strengthen applications.

\* “Ways to get involved” will be expanded to include other Digital Equity programs after NTIA releases the future NOFO’s



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Defined as all Tribal Governments, Tribes, and representative organizations that are separate from state or federal governments. Note that some of the **digital equity** plan requirements that apply to States may not be applicable or appropriate for territories or Tribal organizations. NTIA looks forward to working with these entities to agree on budgets and expectations that are reasonable and effective for individual territories and Tribal organizations.

## Different Ways to Get Involved per Program

### Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)

- ❑ Tribes may **create their own broadband plans** to submit to their state for consideration, assist the Eligible Entity with the **planning and creation of the proposal/Five Year Action Plan, comment on the proposal/plan** and provide edits, or provide **planning guidance** and expertise during the formal Tribal Consultation Process.
- ❑ Apply to be a **subgrantee**, if eligible, as defined in the BEAD NOFO. Organizations can apply through the **Administering Entity Grants Office** and learn more using the program specific resources below. *Sub-grantees may use BEAD funds to **deploy network infrastructure**.*
- ❑ Reach out to the **state broadband office** to get involved with the planning process and stay involved across the program lifecycle. Find your state broadband office using the **SBLN resource** linked below.
- ❑ Prepare for and participate in the **formal Tribal consultation**, which is required by Eligible Entities in the planning stages of the application.

### State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program (DEA)

- ❑ Also, tribes can **collaborate** with Eligible Entities in the planning process for DEA, **apply directly themselves**, or **partner** with other applicants to apply.
- ❑ Tribal entities that apply for DEA Planning Grants by **submitting a Letter of Intent (LOI)** will be deemed eligible to receive planning grant funds.
- ❑ Apply to be a **subgrantee** soon, if eligible, as defined in the NOFO. Tribes can apply through the **Eligible Entity Grants Office** and learn more using the program specific resources below. *Sub-grantees must use their funds to **assist in the development of the State Digital Equity Plan**.*
- ❑ Reach out to the **state broadband office** to get involved with the planning process and stay involved. Find your state broadband office using the **SBLN resource**.
- ❑ Tribes should prepare to apply for the **Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program**.

### Middle Mile Grant

- ❑ Most importantly, Tribal Governments/Tribes can **directly apply for the Middle Mile program**, contributing to the broadband infrastructure deployment in their own lands. Tribes can learn more on applying using the MM Program resource below.
- ❑ **Collaborate** with Administering Entities in the **planning** process.
- ❑ Applicants may use funds for: construction of telecommunications equipment, engineering, personnel costs, pre-application expenses, and other costs necessary to carrying out program activities.
- ❑ Explore **partnerships and collaboration opportunities with groups with shared visions/goals** on applications.
- ❑ Reach out to the **state broadband office** to learn more about MM and how it interacts with other programs. Find your state broadband office using the **SBLN resource**.

## Resources



Information about all the programs, including the application process

[Internetforall.gov](https://www.internetforall.gov)



Information about States and Territories Broadband Program and Points of Contact

[State Broadband Leaders Network \(SBLN\)](https://www.sbln.org)



Information about the BEAD program, including timeline

[BEAD Program](https://www.bead.gov)



Information about the DEA program, including timeline

[DEA Program](https://www.dea.gov)



Information about the MM program, including timeline

[MM Program](https://www.mm.gov)