

Alternative Technology Projects
Nebraska Broadband Equity, Access, & Deployment (NBEAD) Request for Applications (RFA) Addendum A
May 2, 2025

The Nebraska Broadband Equity, Access, & Deployment (NBEAD) program targets all unserved and underserved Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) with the most robust technology available. The Nebraska Broadband Office (NBO) understands that the circumstances of some BSLs make service unfeasible by Reliable Broadband Service. Therefore, NBO seeks applications from providers of Alternative Technologies (Alt Tech) to address these high-cost, hard-to-reach BSLs.

NBO is issuing this Addendum to the *Request for Applications for Nebraska Broadband Equity, Access, & Deployment Last-mile Broadband Deployment Grants* (NBEAD RFA) specific to Alt Tech Projects. This document contains information specific to the submission of Organizational Applications (OAs) by prospective Alt Tech broadband providers. Details about OA contents and program requirements are published in the NBEAD RFA, available at <https://broadband.nebraska.gov>.

You may disregard this addendum if you are an Alt Tech provider and completed an OA during the first OA round, open from February 7, 2025 to March 9, 2025, and are now on the Approved Applicants list (including applicants listed as provisionally approved).

NBO is opening a second round of OAs only for providers of Alt Tech. OAs must be submitted via the NBEAD portal, <https://apply.broadband.nebraska.gov/submit>, by 11:59 pm, Central Time, on May 16, 2025.

If an OA is submitted without one or more required pieces, NBO will notify by email the contact named in the OA, and there will be a very short window (48 hours) in which the missing document(s) may be submitted. *After this window closes, no further additions to OAs will be accepted.*

Questions about the OAs must be submitted in writing to NBO.grants@nebraska.gov. Responses to questions will be posted in writing in the FAQs document at <https://broadband.nebraska.gov> within four (4) business days of receipt. Please note that for questions submitted within four days of the OA due date, answers may not be available before the OA must be submitted. **To avoid any actual or perceived collusion, fraud, or abuse, NBO representatives will not respond to questions outside of this process**, nor will any inadvertent answers be binding on NBO. In no case shall verbal communications override written communications. Only written communications issued from NBO.grants@nebraska.gov or posted at NBO's website, <https://broadband.nebraska.gov>, will be binding on NBO. Attempts to circumvent this process may result in disqualification from NBEAD funding.

Please note that all questions received and answers provided during the original OA window are available at <https://broadband.nebraska.gov>. NBO recommends that you check this resource, as your question(s) may have already been asked and answered.

NBO will use the information in the OAs to assess risk for each potential subgrantee and determine whether to add them to the list of Approved Applicants. The list of Approved

Applicants is published at <https://broadband.nebraska.gov>. Once an organization is added to the list of Approved Applicants, they will be emailed an Authentication Code, which will be required for submission of Project Applications (PAs) for one or more of Nebraska's Defined Project Areas (DPAs).

Round 1 of the NBEAD PAs is currently in process and will close on May 16, 2025. **Potential Alt Tech applicants may work on both an OA and one or more PAs at the same time but may not submit a PA until they submit an OA, NBO screens and scores it, NBO adds the applicant to the Approved Applicants list, and NBO sends to the applicant an Authentication Code.**

To give your organization the best chance to submit a PA during Round 1, NBO recommends that you complete and submit your OA as soon as possible. NBO will screen and score OAs and issue Authentication Codes (as appropriate) as quickly as possible, but cannot guarantee OAs submitted close to the deadline date will be approved and the Authentication Code sent in time for submission of a Round 1 PA.

NBO will determine the necessity of a second or subsequent PA round based on the outcomes of Round 1. **Completion of an OA by an Alt Tech provider confirms their eligibility to apply for NBEAD funding in a second or subsequent PA round.** In alignment with NBO's *Initial Proposal Volume II (IPV2)*, NBO will only consider subgrants for projects that involve Alt Tech once it has been determined that Priority Projects or Reliable Broadband Service Projects are not feasible and/or appropriate for one or more BSLs.

NBO will soon publish a subgrant, terms and conditions, and other documents specific to Alt Tech projects, at <https://broadband.nebraska.gov>.

Definitions

Alternative Technology: broadband access technology that terminates at the end user's location or premises and does not qualify as Reliable Broadband Service but meets the BEAD Program's minimum technical requirements of speeds of not less than 100 Mbps for downloads and 20 Mbps for uploads and latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds. This definition may include, but is not limited to, unlicensed fixed wireless (ULFW) and low Earth orbit (LEO) satellite service.

Priority Project: a NBEAD project that will provision service via end-to-end fiber-optic facilities to each end-user premises.

Reliable Broadband Service: broadband service delivered via fiber-optic technology, cable modem/hybrid fiber-coaxial (HFC) technology, digital subscriber line (DSL) technology, or terrestrial fixed wireless technology using entirely licensed spectrum or a hybrid of licensed and unlicensed spectrum.