



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION NBO-2026

Release Date: **June 5, 2026**

Responses Requested by: **June 15, 2026**

Submit Responses to: **nbo.grants@nebraska.gov**

Request for Information Scope

The Nebraska Broadband Office (NBO) is issuing this Request for Information (RFI) NBO-2026 to inform NBO's second round of procurement to fulfill the BEAD program. Qualified entities are welcome to provide feedback, consistent with National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) guidance, that would improve efficiency, reduce project costs and/or streamline procurement. See "RFI Questions" for additional guidance.

NBO is seeking input from NBEAD Approved Applicants to inform this effort to ensure all Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) and Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) in Nebraska are served with high quality broadband access.

The scope of this RFI is necessarily limited, due to program schedule and other program related constraints. Therefore, NBO is not seeking input on the NTIA requirements and related program function regarding:

- Match requirements and limitations
- Terms & Conditions documents, the use of traditional subgrants
- NEPA/permitting requirements or processes
- Reporting requirements or timeframes

RFI Response Procedures

Respondents are asked to submit their entire RFI response via email to nbo.grants@nebraska.gov, in a PDF document, by 11:59 pm CT on June 15, 2026. Please include "RFI response" in the subject line of your email.

GENERAL INFORMATION

No contracts or subgrants will be issued as a result of this RFI, and NBO is not liable for any costs incurred by Respondents in replying to this RFI. This RFI does not obligate NBO to reply to the RFI responses or to include any RFI provisions or responses provided by Respondents in any future Request for Applications (RFA). NBO is preparing a RFA to solicit proposals to serve approximately 1,700 outstanding BSLs and 170 CAIs with Nebraska Broadband Equity, Access, & Deployment (NBEAD) funding. The information gathered via this RFI is intended to be used to inform the 2026 Round NBEAD RFA, planned for release in late June 2026.

PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

NBO does not anticipate that any information included in responses to this RFI will contain confidential or proprietary information. If you feel that some part of your response to this RFI does include confidential or proprietary information, please include "Confidential" in the filename of your response and send it to NBO via encrypted email.

NBO must function within the limits of the Nebraska Public Records Act ([Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-712](#) et seq.), so reserves the right to disclose any document or information in the response pursuant to an applicable request for access to public records without providing the entity an opportunity to review, edit, or redact such documents. Absent a State determination that information is proprietary or trade secret, the State will consider all information a public record subject to release regardless of any assertion that the information is proprietary or trade secret. If the State receives a request from the public for the claimed proprietary or trade secret

information, State will notify the applicant of the request. The Respondent shall respond to the State within two (2) days with an estimated time frame by which it can fully respond to and defend its position that the requested information is proprietary or trade secret. It will be the applicant's responsibility to defend its asserted interest in non-disclosure. The State retains the right, but not the duty, to make its own determination as to whether information should be protected from disclosure.

Purpose and Background

The federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) established six broadband programs with the goal of closing the digital gap and providing broadband access to the entire country. The largest of the IIJA programs is the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program. Nebraska received \$405 million in BEAD funding to support broadband infrastructure deployment and adoption in unserved areas, underserved areas, and community anchor institutions.

In 2025, NBO completed RFA processes for both BSLs and CAIs, resulting in the award of funding to support deployment to about 12,000 BSLs and about 25 CAIs. In 2026, NBO will run an additional RFA process to award funds to support deployment to about 1,700 BSLs and 170 CAIs. NBO is seeking input from NBEAD Approved Applicants to inform this effort to ensure all BSLs and CAIs in Nebraska are served with high quality broadband access.

RFI Questions

NBO is seeking feedback from NBEAD Approved Applicants that would be interested in submitting one or more applications under the 2026 Round of NBEAD. NBO also welcomes ideas and recommendations from all interested or potentially interested broadband stakeholders. Respondents are not required to answer every question, but NBO encourages interested parties to respond to as many questions posed in this RFI as are relevant to them.

Providing responses to any or all the questions is not required, nor is it a condition of qualification for participation in the 2026 Round RFA process. The questions below are specifically directed to NBEAD Approved Applicants. Please answer questions in your capacity as an interested party and based on your knowledge.

1. Please provide the Respondent's name, organizational affiliation(s), phone number, and email address.
2. If you are not the person NBO should contact with any follow-up questions about your responses, please provide the name, organizational affiliation(s), phone number, and email address for the person who can assist with such questions.
3. How has the frequency, transparency, schedule, and clarity of communication from NBO impacted or influenced your organization and its decision-making?
4. The new Defined Project Area (DPA) map, which will be used for the 2026 Round RFA process and resulting subgrants, is available at <https://broadband.nebraska.gov>. Please review and provide input regarding but not limited to:
 - a. Distribution of project areas
 - b. Address density, typography/terrain, technologies leveraged

- c. Feasibility of delivery
- 5. Looking at the BoB Round and CAI Round RFAs, available at <https://broadband.nebraska.gov>, what barriers to entry do you have from participating in the 2026 RFA process?
 - a. Which elements of prior procurements most directly contributed to successful outcomes?
 - i. Can those outcomes be quantified?
 - b. Relating to anticipated deployment and cost/schedule, are there considerations NBO should consider?
 - c. Explain how flexibility in approach would improve performance, i.e., Mbps, latency and scalability of deployment?
- 6. Is your organization planning to participate in the 2026 Round RFA process?
 - a. What factors will influence participation?

Thank you for your feedback and interest in NBEAD!