

VATI AND BEAD COMPARISON CHEAT SHEET

| | VIRGINIA TELECOMMUNICATION INITIATIVE (VATI) | BROADBAND EQUITY, ACCESS, AND DEPLOYMENT PROGRAM (BEAD) – BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT PROJECTS |
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| WHAT IS THE PROGRAM? | A state funded initiative to deploy last mile broadband networks to unserved locations | A federal program under the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA) that will fund broadband deployment projects to unserved and underserved locations, among other eligible uses |
| WHAT GOVERNS THE PROGRAM? | VATI is established under the Virginia State Budget with provisions established for the Virginia Office of Broadband to include when creating program guidelines and criteria | BEAD is governed through a complex guidance and regulatory waterfall of IIJA statute, the BEAD Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), state-level BEAD proposals to satisfy the NOFO, additional elective state requirements, and ongoing and iterative guidance released by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), which is the federal agency administering BEAD |
| WHO CAN APPLY? | Units of Local Government in partnership with a broadband provider | Broadband Providers, as defined in the BEAD NOFO |
| HOW ARE APPLICATION AREAS SET? | Application areas are proposed by the applicant | Application areas are predetermined by the Office of Broadband as Zip Code Tabulation Areas, as required by the BEAD NOFO |
| HOW ARE ELIGIBLE LOCATIONS DETERMINED? | Locations are eligible for VATI as long as they are not part of a previously funded federal or state program, and not credibly challenged through the Challenge Process | Baseline data for BEAD is derived from the FCC’s Broadband Data Collection map. Locations have been deemed eligible for BEAD after a thorough mapping and challenge process to determine unserved, underserved, unfunded locations. |
| HOW ARE APPLICATIONS SCORED? | <p>VATI scoring criteria contain a large number of categories and cost efficiency of applications (state requested funds per passing) is more heavily weighted criteria than BEAD</p> <p>Under VATI, applicants with different application areas compete against one another for a defined amount of funding</p> | <p>Applications are scored through a streamlined scoring criteria that considers a multitude of factors, with less relative emphasis on cost efficiency than VATI. Up to 75% of the points are determined by NTIA</p> <p>Under BEAD, applicants submit competing proposals to serve the same application area</p> |
| WHAT ELSE IS CONSIDERED DURING THE | Various considerations are given to project design and feasibility, as well as efforts to streamline project delivery and | Many of the same considerations under VATI will be also applied |

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| APPLICATION PROCESS? | address gaps in affordability and adoption through deployment | Other considerations as outlined in the BEAD NOFO and Virginia’s Initial Proposal Volume 2 will be included. |
| WHAT HAPPENS AFTER AWARDS ARE MADE? | Once awarded, the Grantee is required to submit a number of documents prior to executing a VATI Agreement and hold a Contract Negotiation Meeting with DHCD to discuss terms of the award | Awards are recommended by Governor Youngkin to NTIA via the BEAD Final Proposal. Once this Final Proposal is approved by NTIA, awardees will proceed with pre-contract activities similar to those under VATI |
| WHAT ARE THE ONGOING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS? | Grantees are required to report monthly to DHCD on project progress, among other state and federally required reports | Grantees are required to report monthly to DHCD on project progress, among other state and federally required reports Reporting processes are being finalized for BEAD pending additional NTIA guidance |
| HOW QUICKLY WILL THESE PROJECTS BE BUILT? | Project timelines vary from 18 to 36 months from the contract start date which begins after post-award, pre-contract items are finalized Timeline extensions are considered on a case-by-case basis | Per federal guidance, projects must be completed within 4 years from the contract start date. Applicants are encouraged and incentivized to commit to and demonstrate completion sooner than this maximum allowed timeline |
| ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND CONDITIONS | These requirements and conditions are outlined in each grantee agreement document Additional requirements exist for projects with federal funding, as determined by federal guidelines VATI funds are remittance based and funds are only distributed to grantees if the requested reimbursement is appropriate with project progress and all required reporting is up to date | The federally imposed requirements under BEAD program, which are outlined in the NOFO and supplementary guidance by NTIA, will delay project start dates compared to state funded awards The Office of Broadband is preparing resources and available for technical assistance to navigate these requirements BEAD funds are remittance based and funds are only distributed to grantees if the requested reimbursement is appropriate with project progress and required reporting is up to date |
| WHO DO WE REACH OUT TO FOR QUESTIONS? | The Virginia Office of Broadband Team at vati@dhcd.virginia.gov . | The Virginia Office of Broadband Team at broadband@dhcd.virginia.gov . The Virginia Team works closely with NTIA staff to implement BEAD, and these federal partners may be included in discussions. |