

**SOUTHSIDE NETWORK AUTHORITY (SNA)
REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY RING
BEAD UPDATE
AUGUST 9, 2024**





Broadband Equity, Access and Development BEAD TIMELINE





BEAD TIMELINE

The following timeline includes the most up-to-date information available to the Office of Broadband. Additional details to this timeline will be added, as approvals are received from NTIA and application processes begin.

July 25, 2024 – NTIA Approves Initial Proposal Volume 2

TBD – NTIA Certifies Challenge Process Results

TBD – Virginia Office of Broadband Begins the BEAD Application Process

TBD – Letter of Intent Submission Window Opens

60 Days Later – Letter of Intent Submission Window Closes; Application Window Opens

90 Days After Letter of Intent Submission Window Closes – Application Window Closes

TBA – Office of Broadband Recommends Proposed Awards to Governor Youngkin

TBA – Governor Youngkin Recommends Proposed Awards to NTIA

TBA – Announcement of Proposed Awards to NTIA, Pending Approval of Virginia's BEAD Final Proposal

TBD – Office of Broadband staff Opens Applications for No-Bid Areas and Locations

30 Days Later – No-Bid Areas and Locations Application Window Closes

TBA – Office of Broadband Recommends Proposed Awards to Governor Youngkin

TBA – Governor Youngkin Recommends Proposed Awards to NTIA

TBA – Announcement of Proposed Awards to NTIA, Pending Approval of Virginia's BEAD Final Proposal

Next Steps: Letter of Support from SNA Member Cities



- Emailed to all SNA members
- Endorsement from: City Official/City Manager's Office
- Deadline - **August 31, 2024**

SNA Request for Support



Good Morning,

I hope this message finds you well!

We are thrilled to share an exciting opportunity with you. The Southside Network Authority (SNA), in partnership with Global Technical Systems (GTS) and its commercial affiliate SPARQ Networks, is embarking on a transformative journey to secure federal funding under the [Broadband Equity Access & Development \(BEAD\) Program](#). We are reaching out to request your enthusiastic support for our joint application.

This funding opportunity is a game-changer for our community, offering a significant chance to extend connectivity to areas lacking high-speed broadband internet. By showcasing large collaborative projects such as the Regional Connectivity Ring, we aim to demonstrate the substantial regional commitment of our member cities to ensuring the success and prosperity of our communities.

BEAD, a federally funded Congressional program, is dedicated to bridging the persistent digital divide in the United States. Administered federally by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and locally by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), BEAD's mission is to provide access to reliable broadband internet to everyone. This empowers individuals and their communities, enabling them to seize substantial economic, educational, and quality of life opportunities. DHCD will be allocating a significant portion of Virginia's \$1.48 billion in grant funding to eligible applicants, ensuring "last mile" services to the unserved, underserved, and community anchor institutions.

Our proposed project is designed to extend broadband infrastructure, provide enhanced connectivity, and ensure digital equity. We are confident that this aligns perfectly with the City's goals and priorities, particularly in areas such as universal access, high-speed connectivity, and digital inclusion. The success of this project will not only address current challenges but also pave the way for sustainable development and an improved quality of life for our residents.

City Draft Letter of Support

Draft Letter of Support

[City Official's Name]
[City Official's Title]
[City Hall/City Office]
[City, State, ZIP Code]
[Date]

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my full support for the application submitted by the Southside Network Authority to the Department of Housing and Community Development for funding Broadband Equity Access & Deployment (BEAD). This project is of significant importance to our community as it aims to bridge the digital divide by providing access to reliable broadband internet to everyone, empowering individuals, and their communities, allowing them to take advantage of substantial economic educational, and quality of life opportunities.

The City of [Your City] recognizes the need for extending broadband infrastructure, providing enhanced connectivity, and ensuring digital equity, and is committed to collaborating with the Southside Network Authority, Global Technical Systems & Sparq Networks to ensure the successful implementation of this project. The proposed initiative aligns with our strategic goals, particularly in the areas of universal access, highspeed connectivity, and digital inclusion. Project success will deliver long-term benefits to our residents.

We firmly believe that the support of the BEAD program will enable us to achieve these objectives, and we wholeheartedly endorse this application.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[City Official's Name]