

BEAD FUNDING FUNDAMENTALS

Your First 5 Steps to
Maximize Your Broadband
Expansion Projects



Executive Summary

With the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program providing unprecedented funding to bridge the digital divide, Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have a **unique opportunity to expand broadband networks into underserved and rural areas**. However, maximizing the ROI from BEAD-funded projects requires careful planning, smart technology choices, and effective execution.

This white paper outlines **five critical steps ISPs should take after receiving BEAD funding**. We also explore how RocNet Supply's expertise in network solutions—including access to both new and secondary market hardware—can streamline deployment, reduce costs, and ensure timely project completion.

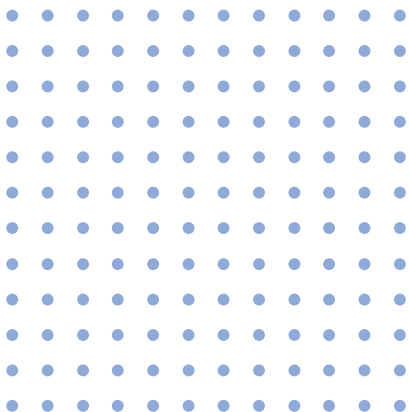
STEP ONE: Build a detailed Project Plan with BEAD milestones in mind

A well-defined project plan is essential to align BEAD-funded initiatives with program timelines, deliverables, and compliance requirements. ISPs must begin with a comprehensive roadmap that includes specific milestones tied to BEAD's key objectives: expanding broadband coverage, improving network quality, and ensuring affordability.

Key Components of a BEAD Project Plan:

- **Define Scope and Goals:** Identify optimal areas for expansion, target subscriber growth, and service-level objectives.
- **Establish Milestones:** Break the project into phases, such as site surveys, equipment procurement, installation, and testing.
- **Create a Budget Framework:** Allocate BEAD funds strategically to cover new equipment, operational costs, and project contingencies.
- **Compliance Tracking:** Ensure the plan incorporates reporting and auditing requirements to stay compliant with BEAD guidelines.

RocNet Supply's experience working with smaller ISPs gives them the insight to help align hardware procurement and project schedules with BEAD program milestones—reducing risks of delays or non-compliance.



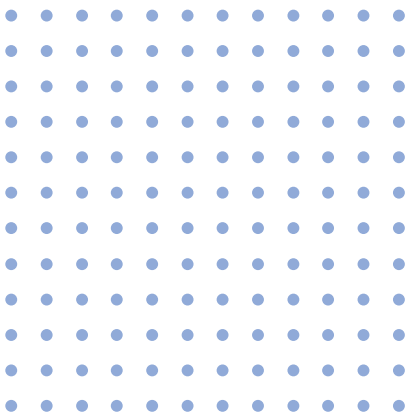
STEP TWO: Choose the Right Technology: Balance New Equipment with Secondary Market Hardware

Building a cost-effective network while meeting BEAD goals requires a strategic mix of new and green market equipment. While new hardware might be necessary for core infrastructure or innovative technologies, secondary market hardware offers substantial cost savings and faster availability—particularly in a challenging supply chain environment.

How to Balance Technology Investments:

- **New Hardware for Key Upgrades:** Use BEAD funds to purchase new core components like 5G-ready routers, switches, or fiber optics.
- **Secondary Market Hardware for Fast Expansion:** Pre-owned equipment can supplement new purchases, helping providers to expand their networks quickly and cost-effectively.
- **Extend the Lifespan of Existing Infrastructure:** Green market hardware allows ISPs to upgrade or repurpose existing systems, minimizing waste and reducing CAPEX.

RocNet Supply specializes in pre-owned hardware with warranties and pre-deployment testing, ensuring ISPs receive reliable solutions without compromising on performance or compliance.

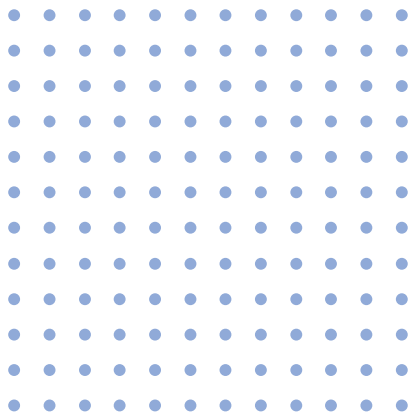


STEP THREE: Align with Vendors That Understand BEAD Requirements

Deploying a BEAD-funded project means ISPs need partners familiar with federal funding requirements who are capable of delivering hardware and services on tight timelines. Vendors play a critical role in helping ISPs navigate procurement challenges while ensuring the network components meet performance standards.

How RocNet Supply Supports BEAD Projects:

- **Tailored Procurement Plans:** RocNet offers a customized mix of new and green market equipment to fit your specific network needs and budget.
- **Fast Delivery and Consignment Programs:** To meet BEAD deadlines, RocNet provides rapid shipping options and consignment programs that reduce upfront costs.
- **Pre-Deployment Testing:** With advanced testing capabilities, RocNet ensures all equipment is fully functional before deployment—avoiding delays and reducing risks.



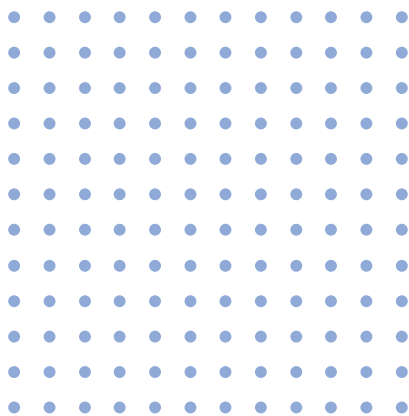
STEP FOUR: Streamline Network Deployment with Professional Engineering Support

Deployment is one of the most complex aspects of broadband expansion, requiring expertise in network design, installation, and testing. Without proper planning, deployment challenges can lead to delays, budget overruns, and missed BEAD milestones.

How RocNet's Engineering Expertise Optimizes Deployment:

- **Tailored Network Design:** RocNet engineers design networks based on both current requirements and future scalability, ensuring long-term value.
- **On-Site and Remote Support:** RocNet provides on-site configuration support and remote troubleshooting to minimize downtime during deployment.
- **Integration with Legacy Systems:** RocNet helps ISPs integrate new technologies with existing infrastructure, preventing compatibility issues.

By leveraging RocNet's engineering expertise, ISPs can deploy faster, meet BEAD deadlines, and avoid costly rework or service disruptions.



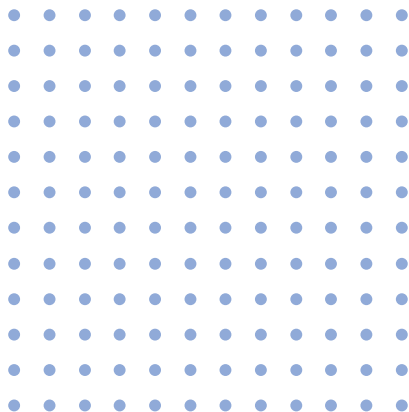
STEP FIVE: Manage Inventory and Assets for Maximum Efficiency

Effective inventory and asset management ensures that ISPs have the necessary equipment available for each phase of deployment. This is especially important for BEAD-funded projects, where meeting timelines and staying within budget are critical to success.

Key Steps in Asset and Inventory Management:

- **Warehousing and Storage:** Secure storage solutions ensure hardware is available when needed, preventing delays.
- **Consignment Programs:** Reduce CAPEX by leveraging consignment services that provide access to equipment without upfront costs.
- **Asset Recovery and E-Waste Management:** Repurpose or sell old equipment to offset costs and meet sustainability goals.

RocNet Supply offers comprehensive warehousing and consignment programs, helping ISPs manage inventory efficiently and reduce operational overhead.



Conclusion

Receiving BEAD funding is a significant opportunity for ISPs to expand networks, improve service quality, and bridge the digital divide. However, maximizing ROI requires careful planning, smart technology choices, and expert execution. RocNet Supply's proven expertise in sourcing, deploying, and managing network solutions positions ISPs to meet BEAD milestones efficiently and build cost-effective, high-performance networks.

Get Started Today with RocNet Supply

Need help planning and deploying your BEAD-funded broadband project? Contact RocNet Supply today to learn how our engineering services, certified hardware, and logistics solutions can maximize your funding and accelerate your project's success.

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