

As part of their proposals for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program, NTIA requires states to include strategies to ensure an available and highly skilled broadband workforce. Within these strategies, states are also required to include plans to develop and promote **sector-based partnerships** for broadband workforce development, which will bring together relevant stakeholders from government, industry, and education to develop, implement, and promote workforce training programs.



As a national leader in broadband workforce development, WIA is uniquely positioned to partner with states to develop and promote strong sector-based partnerships that will meet the requirements of the BEAD program and help build a highly skilled broadband workforce.

## Sector-Based Partnerships for Broadband Workforce Development: How It Works

With funding from the BEAD program, a sector-based partnership for broadband workforce development (**Broadband Sector Partnership**) can bring together the right stakeholders from industry, government, and education to plan and implement a long-term workforce development and training strategy to meet the demand for a highly skilled broadband workforce—**at no cost to the state**.

Once established, each state's **Broadband Sector Partnership** will guide forthcoming federal funding for broadband workforce development by convening relevant stakeholders to:

1. Identify key skills gaps and workforce shortages in the state
2. Develop or select curricula to meet workforce training needs
3. Oversee the implementation of training programs across the state and awareness campaigns for these programs and broadband careers



## Partnering with WIA to Build a Strong Broadband Sector Partnership

To secure workforce development funding and maximize its impact, states will need to choose the right partner to help plan and lead a strong **Broadband Sector Partnership**—and **WIA has the expertise to get the job done**.

WIA can provide support in:



Planning a Broadband Sector Partnership to fulfill BEAD application requirements



Leading the Partnership in identifying and creating effective workforce and training solutions



Implementing workforce development solutions statewide



## Partnering with WIA to Lead a Broadband Sector Partnership

An effective Broadband Sector Partnership will require support from an “Industry Intermediary.”

An **Industry Intermediary** is an entity experienced in convening industry stakeholders alongside stakeholders from government and higher education to develop curricula and implement training solutions to address the broadband workforce needs of the state.

As a leader in developing industry-driven curricula and an experienced Industry Intermediary, WIA is uniquely positioned to support states in planning and leading an effective Broadband Sector Partnership.

## Industry Intermediary Led Sector-Based Partnerships: A Proven Model for Success



**The Ohio Example:** WIA was selected as the **Industry Intermediary** to lead Ohio’s “Broadband and 5G Sector Partnership” alongside The Ohio State University, which functions as the Partnership host.

As the Industry Intermediary for a sector-based partnership in Ohio, WIA works with Ohio State to create industry-driven curricula on broadband and 5G technologies and serves as a liaison between industry stakeholders and government and education stakeholders to provide insights while planning and executing education and training programs statewide.



As the industry intermediary, WIA will provide insight into the telecommunications skills gap and industry needs. The Sector Partnership will work to design and distribute curriculum and training programs across the state and promote career awareness to supply the industry with a skilled workforce.”

– *[Ohio Governor’s Office of Workforce Transformation](#)*

## WIA is ready to lead state-level Broadband Sector Partnerships that will:



**Develop curricula and training for broadband occupation** - WIA’s [Telecommunications Education Center](#) (TEC) is the premier developer of training and curricula for the broadband workforce, offering over 40 courses tailored to the training, education, and professional development needs of the industry. As an Industry Intermediary for Ohio, WIA helps identify and create training solutions to address the needs of Ohio’s broadband industry, in addition to educating state employees.



**Deliver new training solutions** - Through TEC, WIA developed and delivered a first-of-its kind “[5G Readiness Program](#)” at Youngstown State University and Ashland University in Ohio. This program equips students with the latest competencies required to design and deploy broadband infrastructure and is the first step to a paid apprenticeship and employment in the new 5G workforce.

WIA is ready to partner with states as an Industry Intermediary to help plan and lead a strong Broadband Sector Partnership to build a highly skilled broadband workforce with funding from the BEAD program.

