

# Developing Tomorrow's Broadband Workforce

Resources for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program



The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has begun implementation of the BEAD program, which will distribute a historic \$42.5 billion federal investment in broadband expansion to U.S. states and territories (States).



To access BEAD funding, States will develop and submit to NTIA their own broadband deployment plans based on the specific needs of the State. **As part of these plans, NTIA requires States to include strategies to ensure the availability of a highly skilled broadband workforce.**

## Investing in Broadband Workforce Development Through BEAD: Requirements and Tools

The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the BEAD program permits States to use funding for “**Registered Apprenticeships** and pre-apprenticeships, and community college and/or vocational training for broadband-related occupations” to support broadband deployment, maintenance, and upgrades (NOFO pg. 39).

To access funding, States need to include plans to develop and promote sector-based partnerships in their workforce development strategies. These **sector-based partnerships** will bring together relevant stakeholders from government, industry, education, and training providers to develop, implement, and promote workforce training programs.

**The Wireless Infrastructure Association (WIA) is a trusted resource for expanding Registered Apprenticeship, leading sector-based partnerships, and developing training solutions for broadband.**

**Partnering with WIA will help ensure States have the workforce development strategies needed to meet the requirements of the BEAD program and build a highly skilled broadband workforce.**



### Registered Apprenticeship

WIA is uniquely positioned to help States expand this proven model for workforce development as the National Sponsor of the Department of Labor (DOL) registered **Telecommunications Industry Registered Apprenticeship Program (TIRAP)**.



### Sector-Based Partnerships

As an experienced industry intermediary, WIA convenes employers, education and training providers, and state workforce systems, serving as a liaison to identify skills gaps, create industry-focused curricula on broadband technologies, and implement workforce development programs.



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### WIA specializes in working with government, education, and industry stakeholders to develop workforce solutions for the telecommunications and broadband industry.

- ✔ WIA serves as DOL's designated Industry Intermediary for Registered Apprenticeship in the telecommunications industry and was awarded a four-year contract to work with telecommunications companies to expand apprenticeship through the Telecommunications Industry Registered Apprenticeship Program (TIRAP). TIRAP focuses on improving training and expanding Registered Apprenticeships for high-growth, high-demand occupations critical to broadband deployment
- ✔ WIA leads Ohio's statewide Broadband and 5G Sector Partnership in creating industry-driven curricula and implementing workforce development programs for broadband and 5G as the Industry Intermediary for the Partnership host, The Ohio State University. WIA also developed and delivered a first-of-its-kind 5G Readiness program at Ashland State University and Youngstown State University in Ohio, which provides industry-approved curriculum on the design and deployment of 5G broadband infrastructure
- ✔ WIA's Telecommunications Education Center (TEC) is the leading developer of training and curriculum for the telecommunications industry, offering 40+ courses tailored to the training, education, and professional development needs of the industry

### Areas of expertise and opportunities for partnership include:



| Sector partnership for broadband workforce development



| Defining and validating career pathways, including K-12, career and technical education, and higher education into apprenticeship and employment



| Providing technical assistance and administration for Registered Apprenticeship



| Building career awareness for broadband careers, education, and training



| Increasing diversity in the workforce by reaching and incentivizing employer recruitment of underrepresented populations in the broadband workforce, including Veterans, women, and people of color



| Consulting on strategic workforce development



| Training for government staff on broadband deployment, the broadband ecosystem, site acquisition and procurement, and other fundamentals



| Industry-validated content and credentials, created by the Telecommunications Education Center

