

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The West Virginia Department of Economic Development, Office of Broadband (WVDED) will administer the Workforce Development Grant Program through available BEAD funds administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). WVDED will award grants to build or expand equitable and accessible training opportunities to support the broadband industry and ensure that West Virginia has the talent it needs to meet the State's ambitious broadband deployment goals.

Eligible Entities

WVDED encourages **partnerships with employers**.

Entities eligible to apply include:

- Broadband industry associations
- Career and Technical Education institutions
- County Boards of Education
- Employers
- Higher education institutions
- K-12 schools and school districts
- Public-private partnerships
- Workforce development organizations

Evaluation Criteria

Projects will be evaluated according to the **scoring criteria** included in West Virginia's Initial Proposal Volume 2.

- **Credential of Value (30 points)** Points for providing a **credential of value to the broadband industry**, such as a degree, certification, or other credential to improve career opportunities
- **Joint Development (30 points)** Points for **partnerships with training providers, employers, and community-based organizations**
- **Efficiency & Efficacy (20 points)** Points for materials demonstrating **cost effective and efficient programs**
- **Cost to Participants (20 points)** Points for **paid work experience** or **no cost to participants**
- **Wrap-Around Services (10 points)** Points for **wrap-around services for participants** to support their completion of the program

Program Priorities

With an anticipated \$50 million available for workforce grants, WVDED will prioritize programs that meet industry needs and support participants.*

Program priorities include:

- Development of high value, **degrees and credentials**, including micro-credentials and certificates
- **Registered (pre-)apprenticeship programs** that provide **work-based learning** and employment pathways
- **Wrap-around services** for participants such as childcare, transportation, or stipends

**Funding amount available and further details will be provided in advance of the application period.*