

West Virginia Department of Economic Development (WVDED) updates Workforce Program Procedures and FAQs

3/21/2025

Changes to Wrap-Around Services Eligibility

The West Virginia Department of Economic Development, Office of Broadband (WVDED) is committed to building a skilled workforce that supports broadband expansion across the state. Through the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD), administered by the National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA), WVDED is launching a Broadband Industry Workforce Development Grant Program. This Program will empower West Virginia institutions to build or expand training opportunities for West Virginians to enter the broadband industry.

In response to an increased focus on aligning state Final Proposals with broader federal priorities, WVDED sees benefit in expending BEAD funds on more direct broadband workforce training costs. Therefore, WVDED must clarify that Broadband Workforce Development Grant funds cannot be used to directly support wrap-around services for program participants. While this was previously included as an allowable expense, WVDED is adapting its Program Procedures to ensure compliance with Federal funding requirements and strengthen direct programmatic impact.

WVDED will maintain wrap-around service coordination and partnership as a scoring criterion in the application process. Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate how they will connect participants to these essential services through external partnerships and local resources.

Revised Workforce Development Program Procedures dated March 2025 now reflect this change in program guidance on allowable expenses.

For any questions regarding this update, please contact Luke Peters at WVDED, luke.n.peters@wv.gov.