



May 19, 2026

The Honorable Arielle Roth
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information
Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20230

Re: Accountability and Transparency in Measuring BEAD Performance

Dear Administrator Roth:

I am writing on behalf of the approximately 850 small community-based broadband providers serving deeply rural areas in 44 states that make up the membership of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association. As an initial matter, I would like to thank you for your leadership and congratulate you and the rest of the NTIA team for moving the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program to its implementation stage.

Under your administration, you have prioritized accountability and transparency in the BEAD program, stating that “being good stewards of taxpayer money means holding awardees accountable and making sure that those who take taxpayer dollars will deliver on their promises.”¹ We agree completely. Accountability and transparency are critical parts of any public funding program. Adherence to these principles ensures that taxpayer dollars are used as intended and gives the American people confidence that programs funded with their money deliver results for the intended beneficiary – the American consumer.

In the BEAD program, accountability will be advanced in significant part via a performance testing framework applicable to all subgrantees. Specifically, BEAD-funded last-mile broadband deployment projects are required to deliver to end users service meeting prescribed speed, latency, and availability standards,² and subgrantees are required to demonstrate compliance with this requirement through performance testing on a random sampling of Broadband Serviceable Locations within their project area.³ In addition, Eligible Entities are required to report to NTIA the results of these tests through their Semi-Annual Reports.⁴

¹ Remarks of Assistant Secretary Arielle Roth at the Hudson Institute, <https://www.ntia.gov/speech/testimony/2025/remarks-assistant-secretary-arielle-roth-hudson-institute> (Oct. 28, 2025).

² Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program: Performance Measures for BEAD Last-Mile Networks (rel. Sep. 19, 2025), p. 3.

³ Frequently Asked Questions and Answers, Version 20, Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program (rel. Apr. 2, 2026), p. 59.

⁴ *Id.*

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NTCA urges you to further advance accountability and transparency, however, by publicly releasing (or directing Eligible Entities to publish, as applicable) the results of each subgrantee's performance testing. To help policymakers and the public at large ascertain the ultimate success or shortcomings of individual awardees' efforts, each subgrantee's download and upload speeds, latency, and network availability testing results should be posted on the NTIA website – not anonymously, but rather on a subgrantee-by-subgrantee basis.

Public release of this performance testing data will enable American taxpayers, policymakers, and other stakeholders to assess which consumers and regions of the country are in fact receiving the benefit of the bargain from the BEAD program in terms of robust and reliable service delivery. It will also serve as an efficient incentive for providers to follow through on their commitment to serve their communities because the American people will be able to identify where individual providers have rightly focused not just on building networks or dedicating capacity, but on delivering the actual services that ultimately matter most to the American consumer.

The public release of performance testing data represents “good government,” and we hope that NTIA would see this as an opportunity to reinforce further the agency's careful stewardship of BEAD funding under your leadership. Thank you for your consideration of this correspondence, and we welcome the opportunity to discuss this recommendation further with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Romano". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael Romano
Chief Executive Officer