



LEADING PRACTICES FOR BROADBAND PERMITTING

Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program

Overview

The BEAD program will likely increase permit applications, adding to the workload of permitting agencies. To assist in streamlining processes the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA) interviewed state permitting agencies and Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to understand the support needed for broadband deployment.

Permitting agencies are crucial to meeting BEAD's federal deadlines. Below is a summary of leading practices and recommendations from these interviews to assist both permitting agencies and subgrantees in the permitting process.

For Permit Agencies



- **Encourage early planning:** Support applicants in using agency tools and consulting on environmental, cultural, and land considerations to prevent delays and meet permit requirements.
- **Streamline processes:** Standardize and clearly communicate permit steps, coordinate across agencies, and use public planning tools to speed reviews and ensure timely BEAD delivery.

For Subgrantees



- **Build strong agency connections:** Establish clear communication channels and dedicated contacts with federal and state agencies to navigate requirements and track applications.
- **Stay informed and consistent:** Regularly review local regulations, use standard outreach templates for pole owners, and meet routinely with agencies to stay up to date on permitting standards and timelines. Use Arizona's [Permit Finder](#) for permit details.

Pre-submission



- **Agencies:** Promote early screenings, land checks, and use of planning tools through pre-application meetings and clear checklists to help subgrantees submit complete applications.
- **Subgrantees:** Use Arizona's [Permit Finder](#) for permit details, and check for local, up-to-date directories (e.g., [Kingman, AZ GIS portal](#)) to review local permitting rules and quickly identify location-specific requirements.

Leading Practices for Subgrantee Permit Applications

Engage Early

Start coordination with agencies, landowners, and stakeholders as soon as possible. Schedule pre-application meetings and clarify requirements up front.

01.

Communicate Clearly

Maintain regular communication with agencies and stakeholders. Respond promptly to inquiries and keep everyone updated on requirements and changes.

03.

Track Progress

Monitor application status, follow up regularly, and sequence submissions to meet deadlines.

05.

Map Ownership

Identify all land and infrastructure owners, and confirm which agencies or authorities control each segment of your project.

02.

Complete Documentation

Use checklists and templates to ensure all technical, environmental, and cultural details are included in your application.

04.

Explore Arizona's [Permit Finder](#) for centralized permit information.