



Broadband Infrastructure Grant 2024 Round 10 (FY25) Grant Program Overview

Welcome!

March 21, 2024

For questions today, please use CHAT function on webinar screen or email deed.broadband@state.mn.us



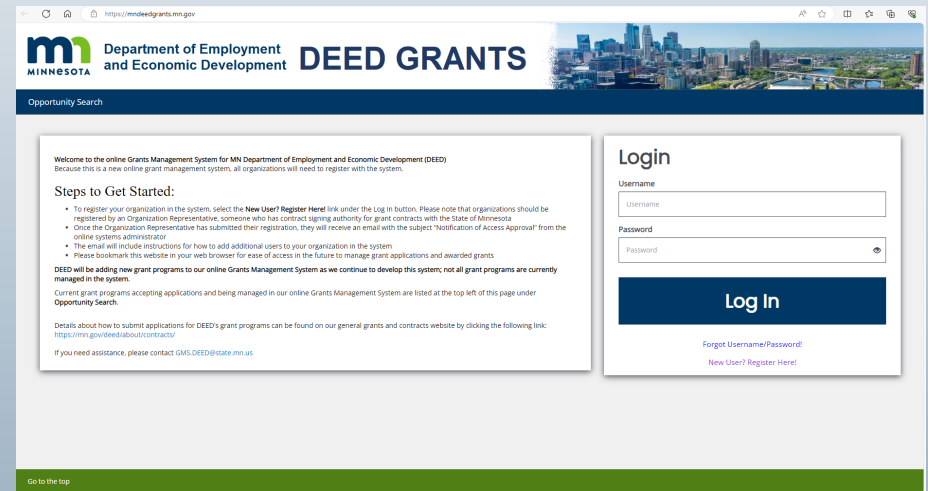
EMPLOYMENT AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

OFFICE OF BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT

- Grant Round 10 – Welcome
- Bree Maki, Executive Director

Grant Management System

- Overview by Anna Rodell of the application process utilizing DEED's Grant Management System



The screenshot shows the DEED Grants Management System login page. The header includes the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development logo and the text "DEED GRANTS". Below the header is a navigation bar with "Opportunity Search". The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains a welcome message and "Steps to Get Started" with a bulleted list of instructions. The right column contains a "Login" form with fields for "Username" and "Password", a "Log In" button, and links for "Forgot Username/Password" and "New User? Register Here!".

Department of Employment and Economic Development **DEED GRANTS**

Opportunity Search

Welcome to the online Grants Management System for MN Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)
Because this is a new online grant management system, all organizations will need to register with the system.

Steps to Get Started:

- To register your organization in the system, select the **New User? Register Here!** link under the Log In button. Please note that organizations should be registered by an Organization Representative, someone who has contract signing authority for grant contracts with the State of Minnesota
- Once the Organization Representative has submitted their registration, they will receive an email with the subject "Notification of Access Approval" from the online systems administrator
- The email will include instructions for how to add additional users to your organization in the system
- Please bookmark this website in your web browser for ease of access in the future to manage grant applications and awarded grants

DEED will be adding new grant programs to our online Grants Management System as we continue to develop this system; not all grant programs are currently managed in the system.

Current grant programs accepting applications and being managed in our online Grants Management System are listed at the top left of this page under Opportunity Search.

Details about how to submit applications for DEED's grant programs can be found on our general grants and contracts website by clicking the following link:
<https://mn.gov/deed/about/contracts/>

If you need assistance, please contact GMS.DEED@state.mn.us

Login

Username

Password

Log In

[Forgot Username/Password!](#)
[New User? Register Here!](#)

[go to the top](#)

Intro to Office of Broadband Development

Office (OBD) was created in 2013 legislation

Charge:

- Encourage, foster, develop, and improve broadband within the state.

Purpose:

- To drive job creation, promote innovation, and expand markets for Minnesota businesses.
- To serve the ongoing needs of Minnesota's education systems, health care systems, public safety systems, industries and businesses, governmental operations, and citizens.

Meet the OBD Infrastructure Team

- Staff Introductions:
 - Diane Wells, Deputy Director
 - Broadband Grants Administrators:
 - Jennifer Frost, Supervisor
 - Karrie Jansen
 - Mike Wimmer
 - Carol Bossuyt
 - Michelle Rebholz
 - Ace Wesselmann, GIS Analyst

Office of Broadband Development

Roles and Responsibilities - Highlights

- Work with stakeholders to facilitate, promote, and improve broadband infrastructure development
- Measure and map broadband availability across the state
- Provide technical assistance to providers and communities
- Administer the Border-to-Border broadband grant program
- Inform and support state broadband policy discussions
- Clearinghouse for state and federal program resources
- Measure, analyze, and support community anchor institution needs
- Support digital inclusion (literacy and affordability)
- Support inclusion of broadband needs into local planning processes
- Dig Once/conduit/ROW management/permitting
- Provide support to the Broadband Task Force

Broadband Development Grant - Infrastructure Purpose

- **Grant purpose:** To provide financial assistance for the acquisition and installation of middle-mile and last-mile broadband infrastructure to areas of the state that do not have wireline access at federal and state minimum standard speeds.
- **Allowable costs:** Examples of allowable costs include: project planning; obtaining construction permits; purchase and/or construction of facilities, including construction of both “middle mile” and “last mile” infrastructure; and installation and testing of the equipment used to provide broadband service.

Broadband Infrastructure Development Grant Round 10 – Overview

- \$50 Million available
 - \$30M Border-to-Border: can fund 50% of eligible total project costs (More points awarded for higher match)
 - \$20M Low-Density: can fund 75% of eligible total project costs
- Cap of \$10 Million per grant award
- Distributed in single competitive grant round
- Technology must deliver at least 100/20 Mbps and be scalable to at least 100 Mbps symmetrical
- Grant awards will be geographically dispersed
- All invoiced work must be complete by December 31, 2026

Broadband Infrastructure Development Grant – Overview - Eligibility

- Who is eligible to apply?
 - An incorporated business or partnership
 - A political subdivision
 - An Indian tribe
 - A Minnesota nonprofit organized under 317A
 - A Minnesota cooperative organized under 308A or 308B
 - A Minnesota limited liability corporation organized under 322B for the purpose of expanding broadband access

Broadband Infrastructure Development Grant –Application Process and Timeline

- **March 12, 2024** – Grant Application Information Released and DEED’s Grant Management System Registration Open
- **March 21, 2024** –Broadband Grant Round 10 Webinar
- **March 29, 2024** – last day to notify existing providers of applicant’s intent to file an application [required by Minn. Stat. 116J.395, subd. 5(9)]
- **April 23, 2024**– first day an applicant may submit a completed application in DEED’s Grant Management System based on when they completed their pre-application notification
- **May 10, 2024**– window closes so completed applications must be submitted in DEED’s Grant Management System by **1:30 pm Central Time**
- **May 15, 2024**– challenge process begins
- **June 14, 2024**– challenge process ends at 4:00 pm Central Time
- **Summer 2024** – awards are anticipated to be announced
- **December 31, 2026** – projects need to be competed (contract end date)

Preliminary Criteria for Application Acceptance:

- ✓ Application demonstrates that required contact was made with all other wireline broadband providers in the proposed project area(s) to determine provider interest by the March 29, 2024, deadline.
- ✓ Application proposes to serve unserved and/or underserved specified locations. Unserved areas are delineated from underserved areas in any dual-coverage project.
- ✓ Application proposes to offer broadband services at or above state speed goals of 100/20 Mbps
- ✓ Application demonstrates project scalability to 100 Mbps symmetrical, certified by equipment manufacturer or registered professional engineer.
- ✓ Application proposes a minimum of a 50% funding match for B2B or 25% for Low-Density.
- ✓ Application must be submitted on time. Applications due prior to 1:30pm on Friday, May 10, 2024.

Application content overview:

1. Applicant Information

Technical Expertise

Organizational Capacity

Audited Financials

[Applicant Affidavit Template*](#) Make sure you are using current version

2. Executive Summary

3. Project Area Information

Maps – PDF and digital shp, kmz, kml

Project area

Un and underserved evidence (posted for challenge)

[Location Data Sheet Template NEW*](#) Make sure you are using current version

Tribal areas in project? Reminder: Legally Binding Agreement

4. Broadband Improvements

5. Broadband Infrastructure Type

Application content (continued)

6. Project Readiness

Engineering Design

Permitting/Environmental

Project Schedule

[Proforma/ROI New Template](#)* Make sure you use new template

7. Pricing and Affordability

8. Economic Development and Community Impact

9. Broadband Assistance

Adoption and Technical Training

10. Budget

[NEW Budget Workbook Template](#)* NEW required template upload

11. Applicant Signature

2024 Round 10 (FY25) Challenge Process

- 3 business days after close of application window (*May 10, 2024*), proposed projects and speed offerings posted on OBD website (*May 15, 2024*) for review
- Challenges due in 30 days by provider (*June 14, 2024*)
- Challenges must be filed using the [location data template](#)
- Provider must already provide wireline broadband or commit to completing construction at speeds equal to or greater than 100/20 Mbps within 18 months after grant awards made (*February 2026*).
- DEED is prohibited from awarding a grant to a project where a credible challenge has been received

Scoring Criteria—Points Awarded for the Following

Border-to-Border applications are eligible for a maximum 120 reviewer scoring points; Low-Density Program applications are eligible for a maximum 140 reviewer scoring points and will be ranked on the following categories:

- Anticipated broadband improvements – up to 20 points
- Grant funding request amount – up to 10 points*
- Critical need/Community participation – up to 15 points
- Project readiness – up to 25 points
- Project sustainability – up to 25 points
- Economic development and community impact – up to 15 points
- Broadband adoption assistance – up to 10 points

**only applicable to traditional Border-to-Border grant applications*

Scoring Criteria (continued)

Additional scoring for Low-Density Program:

- Passings per mile – up to 10 points
- Explanation of need for higher funding – up to 15 points
- New application area – up to 5 points

What Stage Should Your Application Preparation be at Now?

- Finalize locations/areas to include in application
- Identify and email your communications to existing broadband providers.
- Confirm project partners (provider partner, community partner)
- Complete project design, timeline, budget
 - if applicable, include cost and time for environmental reviews, railroad crossings, and prevailing wage implications
- Obtain financial commitments and verifications for match
- Continue to gather and document community support

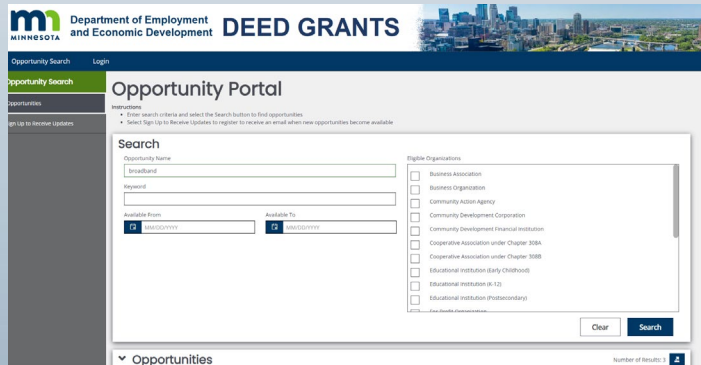
2024 Border to Border Broadband Development Grant – Resources

Grant Information and Resources

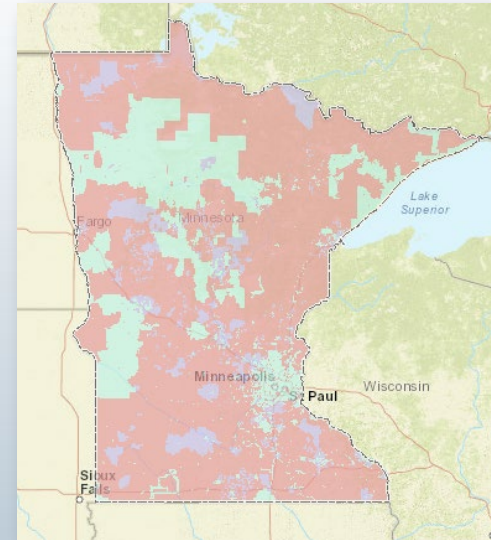
<http://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/grant-program>

Grants Management System

<https://mndeedgrants.mn.gov/>



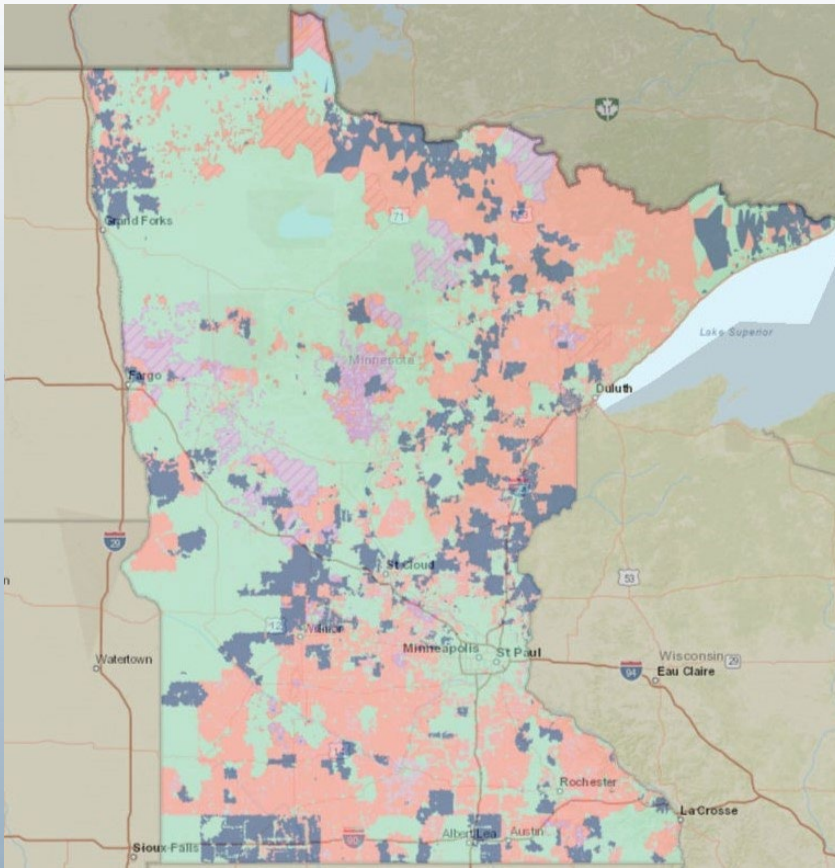
The screenshot shows the 'Opportunity Portal' search interface. At the top, it says 'Department of Employment and Economic Development DEED GRANTS'. Below that, there are fields for 'Opportunity name' (containing 'broadband'), 'Keyword', 'Available To' (with a dropdown menu), and 'Available From' (with a date selector). To the right, there is a list of 'Eligible Organizations' with checkboxes next to each: Business Association, Business Organization, Community Action Agency, Community Development Corporation, Community Development Financial Institution, Cooperative Association under Chapter 308A, Cooperative Association under Chapter 308B, Educational Institution (early childhood), Educational Institution (K-12), and Educational Institution (postsecondary). At the bottom, there are 'Clear' and 'Search' buttons. Below the search area, it says 'Opportunities' and 'Number of Results: 12'.



Subscribe to Our Newsletter

<https://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/contact/>

Maps showing unserved and underserved areas are available:



Map of Round 10 Border-to-Border/Low-Density Eligibility

State Statutory Broadband Goals:

All homes and businesses will have access to broadband service of at least:

-25 Mbps download by 3 Mbps upload by 2022

-100 Mbps download by 20 Mbps upload by 2026

- **162,000** households without access to 25/3 (2022 goal)
- **229,000** households without access to 100/20 (2026 goal)

Numbers from October 2023

Interactive Eligibility Map - Maps showing unserved and underserved areas are available at

<http://map.connectmn.org>

In closing.....

- Thank you for your interest in this program
- We are here to answer your questions and listen to your input
- Any more questions at this point?
- Questions received will be included and posted in the FAQs for this grant round

Contact Information

Broadband program information questions:

deed.broadband@state.mn.us

or 651-259-7610

Grants Management Systems questions:

GMS.DEED@state.mn.us