BEAD

PARTNER GUIDE

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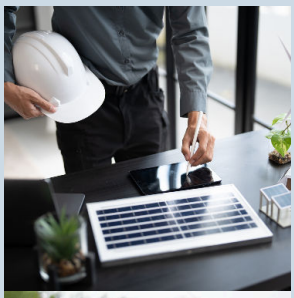
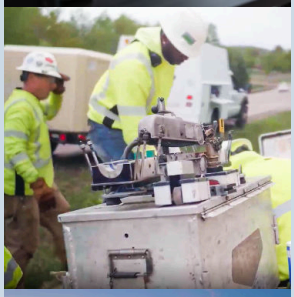
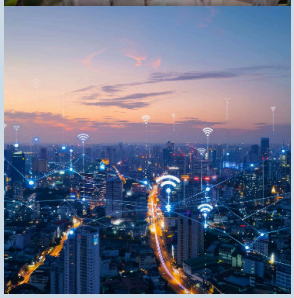
V2.0







CCI SYSTEMS
YOUR BEAD PARTNER

BEAD awardees must navigate strict NTIA requirements across every phase, from planning and engineering to deployment, operations, and post-installation compliance. Missing a milestone or mismanaging documentation can put funding at risk.

CCI Systems provides full lifecycle support for BEAD awardees. Our approach reduces risk, accelerates timelines, and ensures your network is built right the first time.

With decades of experience and nationwide engineering capacity, CCI Systems delivers phased approach solutions:

1. **Planning & Engineering**
2. **Project Delivery**
3. **Deployment & Activation**
4. **Post-Deployment Services**
5. **Compliance & Documentation**

60+
YEARS EXPERTISE

1,200+
SKILLED WORKFORCE

400+
CURRENT CLIENTS SERVED

20+
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

THE FULL SUITE OF CCI SYSTEMS SERVICES:

Consulting & Due Diligence
- Grant Application Support
- Pre-Grant and Post-Grant Award Consultations
- Grant Compliance & Reporting
- Network Assessments
- Feasibility Studies
- CapEx Planning & Scheduling
- Cybersecurity Assessments
- Due Diligence for Mergers & Acquisitions
- Easement and Right-of-Way
- Site Acquisition & Real Estate

Engineering
- Wireless Tower A&E
- Detailed Network Design
- Joint Use Management & Make-Ready
- Permitting
- Environmental Studies
- GIS & Mapping
- Digital Field Services
- Natural Disaster Recovery

Technical Field
- Fiber Splicing & Testing
- Fiber Characterization & Advanced Testing
- Fiber OPGW
- Fiber Audits
- Fiber Upgrades
- HFC Upgrades/HFC Sweep
- Field Routing/OSP Walk Out
- System Sweep & Activation

Construction Management
- Wireline
- Wireless

Network Sustainability
- Contact Center
- NOC Services
- Cybersecurity
- Network Maintenance
- Asset Management
- Expanded Sustainability Solutions

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PLANNING & ENGINEERING

PRE-CONSTRUCTION

PHASE 1

Before any ground-disturbing activity, BEAD projects must complete environmental and historic preservation reviews (NEPA/NHPA) with the state broadband office acting as a joint lead agency alongside NTIA, and construction may not begin prior to NEPA completion. Subgrantees must provide a milestone schedule covering required consultations, NEPA/NHPA/ESA reviews, and any needed EAs/EISs. ***States may specify final terms.**

Designs and technical plans should target NTIA's performance framework (post-June 2025), which includes the following: technology-neutral, meeting ≥100/20 Mbps, ≤100 ms latency, and demonstrating future scalability; states can no longer favor fiber categorically.

GRANT STRATEGY & CONSULTING

Advise on BEAD application and post-award planning, aligning project design and documentation with NTIA's technology-neutral selection and performance criteria.

COMPLIANCE & DOCUMENTATION

Prepare required NEPA/NHPA materials and project descriptions; build schedules and checklists to hit Section 13B milestone expectations and avoid pre-implementation issues.

FEASIBILITY STUDIES & NETWORK ASSESSMENTS

Validate service tiers, latency, and scalability against NTIA performance expectations across fiber, HFC, fixed wireless, and other viable technologies.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PLANNING

Model capex to match BEAD timing and reimbursement workflows captured in NTIA's semi-annual reporting and program monitoring.

SITE ACQUISITION

Comprehensive site acquisition and real estate solutions tailored to accelerate project timelines and ensure regulatory compliance.

DETAILED NETWORK DESIGN

PE-STAMPED WHERE REQUIRED

Produce high-level/low-level designs with PE certification as needed. Document how the design will meet speed/latency and scalability metrics in a technology-neutral framework.

JOINT USE & MAKE-READY ENGINEERING

Perform pole audits, prepare attachment packages, and develop make-ready designs to accelerate timelines and minimize construction risks, aligned with NEPA sequencing.

GIS MAPPING & ROUTE OPTIMIZATION

Build a GIS foundation that supports location-level reporting later (served locations, milestones) and informs NEPA mapping.

PERMITTING & ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS

Coordinate permits and NEPA/NHPA submissions (including CATEX, EA, EIS determinations) with SHPO/THPO consultations and ESA Section 7, ensuring construction does not begin until NEPA is complete.

DIGITAL FIELD DATA COLLECTION

Conduct walkouts, pole inventories, and address validations with digital capture to accelerate permitting and refine designs.

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PROJECT DELIVERY
PROGRAM MANAGEMENT & PROCUREMENT

PHASE 2

Delivery must follow federal procurement standards tailored under 2 CFR 200 (Uniform Guidance) and NTIA policy; programs need tight schedule control, grant documentation, and BABA compliance with manufacturer certifications and reporting for any waived electronics/components.

Semi-annual reporting via the NTIA Grants Portal (NGP) is due July 30 and January 30, assessing progress against requirements and milestones. ***States may specify final terms.**

PROGRAM & CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT (PMO)

Act as your BEAD PMO including master schedules, contractor oversight, QA, issues logs, and milestone tracking that map cleanly to NGP reporting. Resulting in on-time delivery that passes program reviews.

SUPPLY CHAIN COORDINATION

(BABA-AWARE)

Support vendor vetting, order timing, and BABA manufacturer certification letters; maintain trackers for any NTIA BABA waiver reporting (2024–2029 window).

FINANCIAL TRACKING & GRANT ADMINISTRATION

Build reimbursement workflows, invoice controls, and documentation that keep each dollar audit-ready and aligned to NTIA's report structure.

STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATION

VALUE-ADD

Prepare status updates for state broadband offices and community stakeholders following NTIA's best-practice guidance for deployment progress and public notice.

RISK MANAGEMENT & CONTINGENCY PLANNING

Identify permitting, labor, or supplier risks early. Apply schedule compression and parallel pathing to preserve BEAD timelines.

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DEPLOYMENT & ACTIVATION

CONSTRUCTION & TURN-UP

PHASE 3

Subgrantees must complete deployment no later than four years from the date they receive the subgrant, and the work must meet NTIA's technology-neutral speed/latency standards with verifiable performance.

NTIA's draft performance measurement guidance indicates twice-per-year testing during the period of performance and through the federal interest period, using approved methods (MBA, off-the-shelf, or provider self-testing). ***States may specify final terms.**

FIBER CONSTRUCTION & SPLICING

Provide splicing crews, OTDR traces, power level checks, and fiber characterization to ensure plant performance at target speeds/latency.

OSP & WIRELESS CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

Manage trenching, aerial builds, conduit installation, and tower work, with real-time field adjustments that preserve specs and schedule.

WIRELESS DEPLOYMENT

Install radios and backhaul, align antennas, and optimize links to meet BEAD performance standards under the technology-neutral policy.

HFC UPGRADES & SYSTEM SWEEP

Execute sweep/activation where BEAD projects leverage cable plant, verifying end-to-end service quality consistent with NTIA reliability expectations.

FIELD ROUTING & CHANGE-ORDER MANAGEMENT

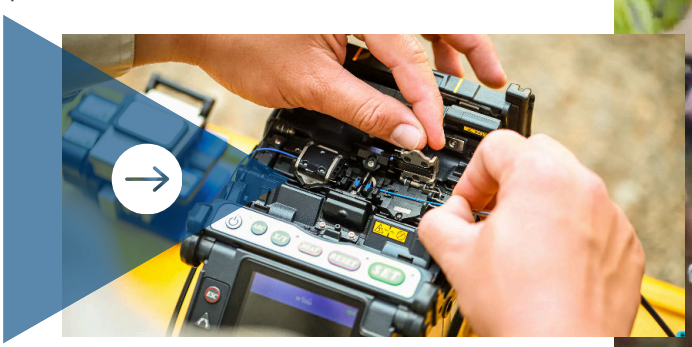
Integrate construction discoveries back into design and permits fast, minimizing delay/cost.

TESTING & ACTIVATION

Validate segments before turn-up including fiber traces, wireless performance checks, customer turn-up, and document results for eventual NTIA reporting.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Apply rigorous QA gates to ensure deployments meet spec, safety, and reliability targets required for performance verification.



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BUSINESS OPERATIONS

POST-DEPLOYMENT SERVICES

PHASE 4

Operations must sustain reliability (rapid outage response, scheduled maintenance during off-peak hours) and meet service obligations, including a Low-Cost Service Option (LCSO).

This has been modified so states cannot set specific rates, though a qualifying LCSO is still required. ***States may specify final terms.**

24/7 NETWORK OPERATIONS CENTER (NOC)

Continuous monitoring, alarms, and incident response aligned to NTIA best practices for reliability/resilience and outage handling. Issues are resolved quickly, often before customers notice.

CUSTOMER CONTACT CENTER

Scalable Tier-1 support for sign-ups, troubleshooting, billing, ticket tracking, and record keeping.

CYBERSECURITY MONITORING & AUDITS

Continuous threat detection, firewall management, and periodic audits mapped to NTIA's cybersecurity and supply chain risk guidance.

NETWORK MAINTENANCE & FIELD SUPPORT

Routine/preventive maintenance, emergency repairs, firmware updates, and backup power checks to preserve performance.

ASSET MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONAL TRACKING

Establish asset inventories and CMDB practices that support future audits, upgrades, and reporting.

SUSTAINABILITY & EXPANSION CONSULTING

Cost optimization (e.g., energy efficiency), and guidance on additional funding opportunities or M&A technical diligence.

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COMPLIANCE & DOCUMENTATION

POST-INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

PHASE 5

Post-installation compliance includes semi-annual program reporting via NTIA's portal (due Jan 30 & Jul 30), milestone & location-level documentation, performance verification, cybersecurity/supply chain attestations, BABA compliance records, and environmental close-out. Missing these can delay reimbursement or trigger claw-backs. ***States may specify final terms.**

GRANT COMPLIANCE & REPORTING

Prepare and submit semi-annual and quarterly reports per NTIA templates, including progress against milestones and required certifications.

LOCATION & MILESTONE DOCUMENTATION

Produce as-built GIS of served locations and milestone tracking, meeting NTIA's location-level reporting expectations.

NETWORK PERFORMANCE VERIFICATION

Conduct speed/latency tests using approved methodologies, compile results, and file reports consistent with NTIA guidance (draft performance measures; final terms may be state-specific).

CYBERSECURITY & SUPPLY CHAIN COMPLIANCE

Document cybersecurity policies and supply chain risk management per NTIA's subgrantee obligations guidance.

BABA COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION & REPORTING

Collect manufacturer certification letters, maintain trackers, and report any waived foreign products per NTIA's BABA guidance (effective 2/22/24 – 2/21/29).

ENVIRONMENTAL CLOSE-OUT DOCUMENTATION

Finalize NEPA/NHPA submissions and close-out reports following joint lead agency processes.

AUDIT READINESS & RECORD MANAGEMENT

Maintain organized, accessible documentation across expenditures, milestones, and technical validations to support audits and desk reviews.

TRAINING & HANDOFF

Train staff on compliance workflows, testing procedures, and reporting tools to sustain long-term adherence.

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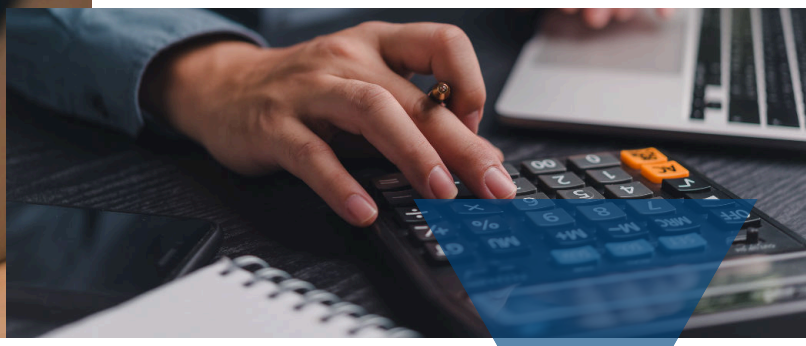
RESOURCE COMMITMENT INFORMATION



At CCI Systems, we make it simple to plan and launch your project with clarity and confidence.

SECURE YOUR PROJECT WITH CONFIDENCE

Budgetary Cost Estimate

Once we review your project details, we'll prepare an initial budget estimate to give you a clear picture of anticipated costs. Before your project begins, we'll confirm and finalize this estimate, ensuring full transparency and no surprises.

10% Downpayment

To secure your project resources, we ask for a 10% downpayment based on the estimated project value. The best part? This isn't an additional fee, it's credited toward your initial invoices, lowering your upfront costs and making early billing easier.

Resource Plan & Customized Deliverables

After your downpayment is confirmed, we'll provide a comprehensive resource plan outlining team assignments, timelines, and deliverables, giving you complete clarity on what's coming next.

Why This Matters for You

- **Priority Access:** Secure your resources early and avoid delays during peak demand.
- **Financial Advantage:** Your downpayment is credited back as discounts, helping you manage cash flow.
- **Clear Planning:** Get a transparent resource plan and finalized budget before kickoff.
- **Confidence in Execution:** Start your project knowing everything is aligned for success.

PLAN AHEAD. SECURE RESOURCES. BUILD WITH CONFIDENCE.

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