



**WHAT:** Advance Consult Group Meeting

**WHEN:** Monday, Nov. 4, 2025, 2:00 p.m. MT

**HOW:** Advance Consult Group Monthly Meeting

Monday, Nov. 4, 2025, 2:00 p.m. MT

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/ebe-jmbn-nuu>

Or dial: (US) +1 417-355-8297 PIN: 362 119 511#

## Governance Reminders

- This group is advisory to the CBO on policies and programs.
- Meetings are open to the public and are recorded.
- It is important to note that the meetings and your contributions will be documented and made available to the public.
- All meetings and documents are subject to the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA).

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## Agenda

1. BEAD applications update
  - a. BEAD Final Proposal (including awards at end, alphabetical).
2. Capital Projects Fund mini grant update
3. Advance Consult Group will wind down. This is the final meeting.
4. Open Discussion

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## Notes

### BEAD Applications Update

- Brandy Reitter reported that the state had submitted its final BEAD proposal on September 3rd, 2024, to the NTIA, slightly ahead of the September 4th due date. The state has been curing the document, which involved minor technical corrections and removing the plan for other deployment or non-deployment activities as requested by the NTIA, with guidance on this expected later

(00:01:06). Brandy Reitter also noted minor edits to numbers, including adding subsidy for one ISP and correcting a technical error, emphasizing that these changes were not alarming or surprising requests (00:02:15).

- Brandy Reitter indicated that the final proposal is still in limbo, with the state continuing to receive and resolve inquiries and challenges from the NTIA. They anticipate receiving confirmation that their most recent responses are sufficient this week or next (00:03:11). Once the NTIA signs off, the proposal moves to NIST for a 30-day compliance review. Brandy Reitter expects that the state will be approved to move forward with the BEAD program after satisfying any technical corrections from NIST, although the goal to get money out the door by the end of the year is considered ambitious (00:04:15).
- The immediate next steps for the BEAD program involve contracting and setting up agreements with subgrantees, which Brandy Reitter aims to complete in the first quarter, ideally before the construction season. They stressed the need to move quickly to honor bids and provide assurances to ISPs due to the economic climate and uncertainty (00:05:18). Brandy Reitter also speculated that dollars might start flowing by the end of summer 2026 if everything goes according to plan, noting the significant delays compared to the original timeline (00:06:08).
- Brandy Reitter addressed ongoing concerns and speculation about the BEAD program, particularly around leveraging the program to achieve other complicated policy objectives, which she noted has plagued the program from the beginning (00:07:23). She confirmed that Colorado is not experiencing anything outside the norm compared to other states, and the CBO designed their plan to be straightforward and not request any waivers, aiming for an easy approval from the NTIA (00:08:22). Ralph Brown inquired about potential significant changes to the covered locations, to which Brandy Reitter responded that major changes are not anticipated, although some cleanup might occur in a future map update (00:09:21).

#### Capital Projects Fund mini grant update

- Brian Martin provided an update on the CPF mini grant program, launched in early October, which combines CPF and remaining SLFRF funds, making about \$900,000 available. The application submission deadline is November 7th, with

provisional award announcements and the start of the challenge process scheduled for November 19th. Brian Martin explained that the grant is intended for smaller projects to fill gaps left by other funding and ensure the best use of federal funds, and that the CBO publishes a weekly FAQ on the program's webpage (00:11:18) (00:13:27).

#### Middle Mile Initiative Solicitation and Strategy

- Brandy Reitter shared an update on the Middle Mile initiative, which is in an active solicitation phase with 14 to 16 pre-qualified vendors. The initial two activities will be a statewide assessment and strategy to determine the state's direction and priorities, collect data, and avoid redundant activities (00:14:25). Brandy Reitter emphasized that this is a long-term, 20-year endeavor that requires buy-in and coordination with stakeholders, including state agencies like CDOT (00:15:26).
- The second initiative of the Middle Mile project will focus on existing community-owned networks, such as those in Regions 9 and 10, to look at sustainability models, ownership arrangements, and how the state can best support them without taking over or making unsustainable financial commitments (00:17:05). Brandy Reitter noted that a full inventory of middle mile assets is currently unfunded, but the strategy work, planned to kick off next year in the first quarter and be completed by the end of 2026, will inform future steps (00:19:27). This comprehensive plan is intended to provide a foundation and vision for the next governor to support the initiative (00:20:27).

#### Conclusion of the Steering Committee and Appreciation

- Brandy Reitter concluded the meeting by expressing appreciation for the steering committee, explaining that it was created to be a sounding board for federally funded programs like CPF and BEAD. She highlighted the group's role in providing end-user input, which helped the state avoid implementation issues and navigate constraints (00:24:06). Brandy Reitter confirmed that although the formal winding down of this group is occurring, members will continue to have opportunities to provide input on future programs, specifically

mentioning the creation of a separate stakeholdering group for the Middle Mile strategy (00:21:27).