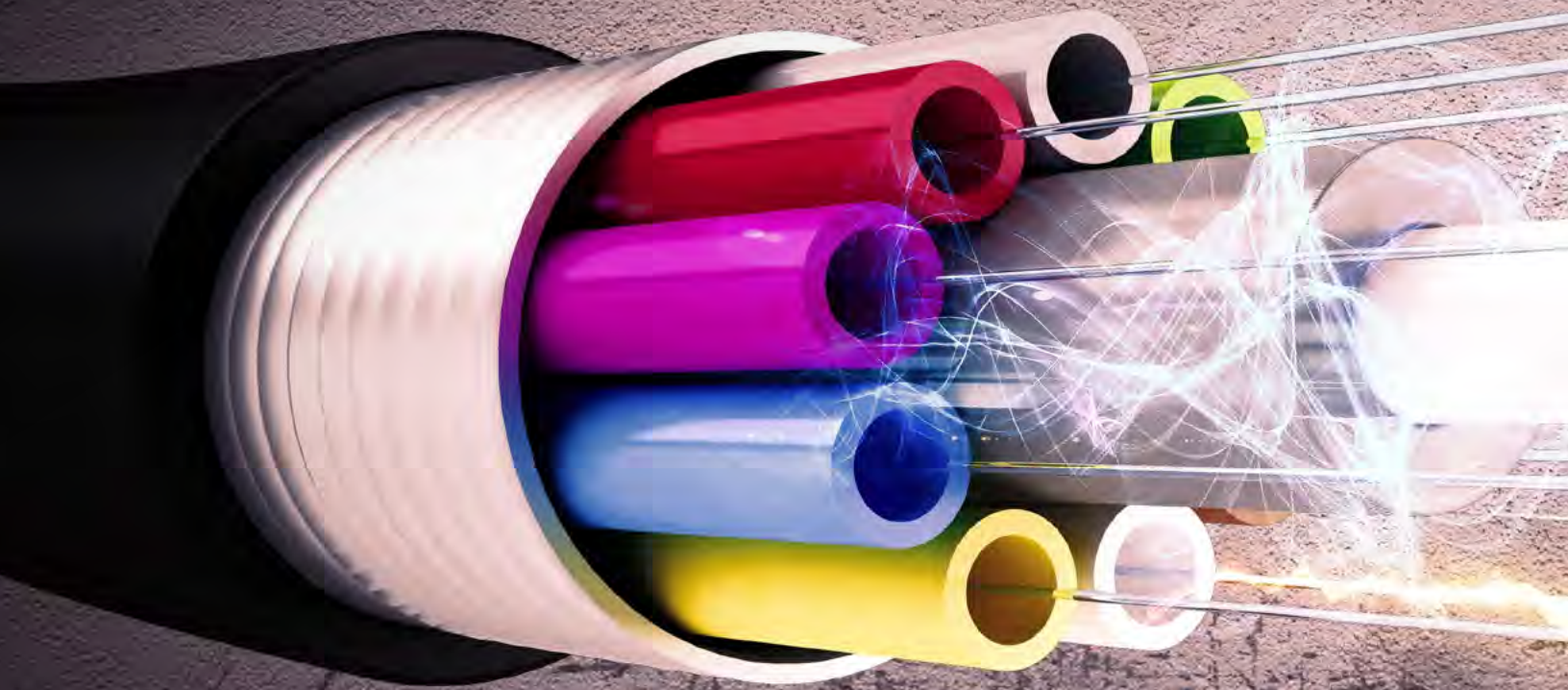


CYIENT

FOUR MUST-HAVES TO KEEP US BROADBAND GRANT FUNDS FLOWING

A guide to meeting RDOF, BEAD, and other complex broadband grant requirements.



U.S. broadband grant winners must comply with the rules that keep their funding alive. They must optimize networks, deploy on time, comply with the changing rules, and operate quality high-speed networks.

Funding Rules

The U.S. government continues to fund broadband rollouts nationwide in an effort to bring high-speed broadband access to communities and individuals everywhere.

While these grants are spurring growth across the communications industry, recipients must remember that grant funds come with clearly defined requirements.

Broadband grants come with decade-long delivery and performance commitments. Programs, including the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) and the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD), set specific standards.

In Cyient's direct experience, there are four key activities a partner is best positioned to provide, which must be performed continuously for the long term to sustain grant funding:

1. Optimize rollouts for profitability as funding varies

SDx Central reported that US broadband funds have been allocated at roughly \$336 per U.S. household, but the numbers vary by state.

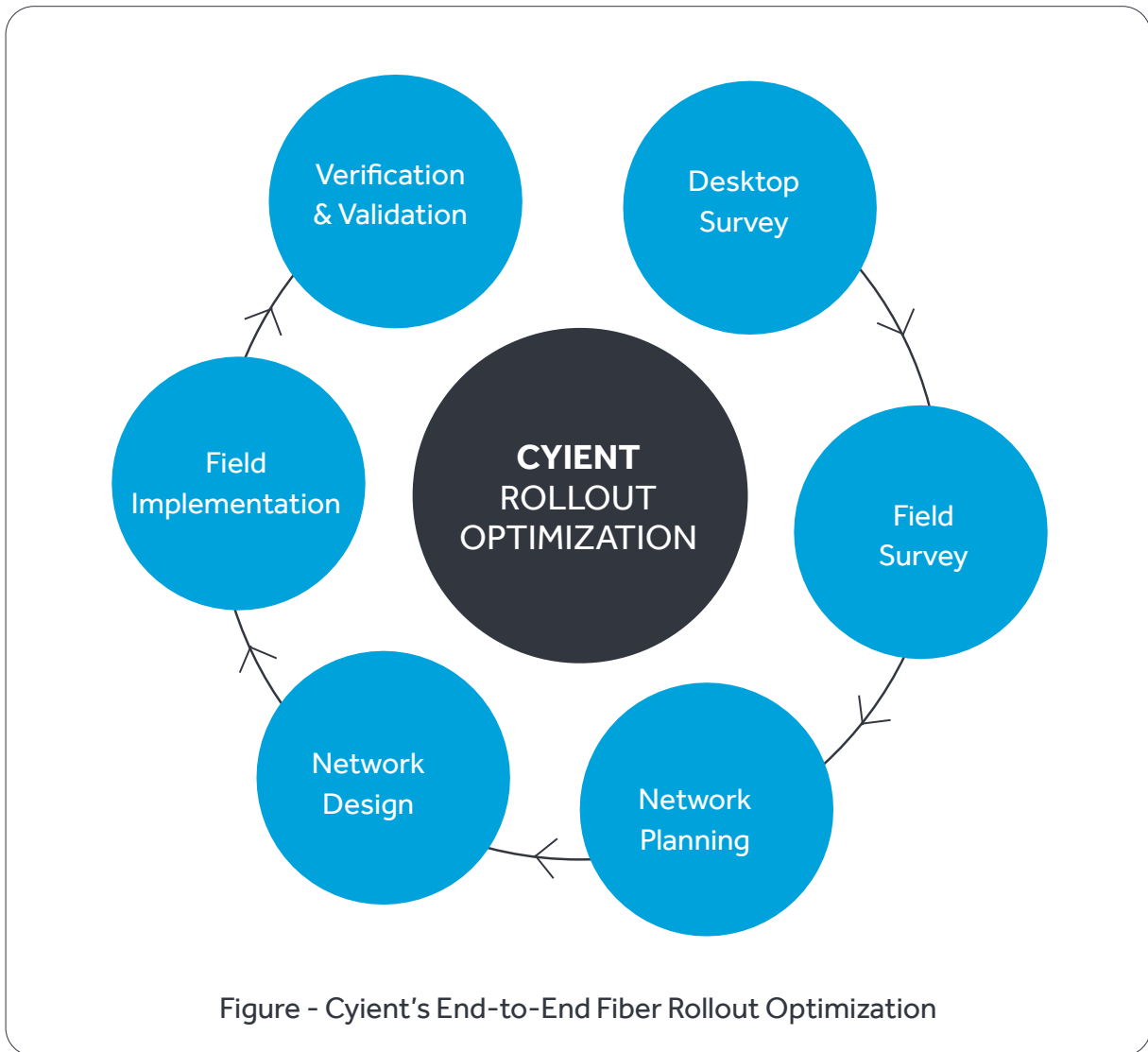
For example, Alaska was granted roughly \$4,000 per household, but West Virginia and Wyoming only \$1,500.00.

Rolling out high-speed networks profitably while meeting performance and timing requirements will depend on a CSP's ability to optimize its rollouts and keep its cost per household profitable.



How Cyient delivers network optimization

Cyient provides an end-to-end rollout optimization program including desktop survey, field survey, network planning, network design, field implementation and verification & validation. In fact, our LIDAR - based survey process is shown to improve fiber rollout efficiency by as much as 30%.



Our approach optimizes network designs to maximize available infrastructure and minimize new build. Our design validation process minimizes changes that typically arise from pre-build assessments. Cyient applies extensive automation across data processing, design, and quality control to minimize network planning and design costs.



2. Deploy on time to earn more grants

Broadband grants are nearly always tied to specific timelines.

RDOF, for example, has adopted the same interim milestones as the Connect America Fund's Phase II program. Recipients must complete a specific percentage of deployments by the end of each year, starting in year 3:

Years since grant funded	Min. % of network required to be deployed by year end
Year 3 ('24 or '25)	40%
Year 4	60%
Year 5	80%
Year 6	100%



Recipients who deliver less than 65% of their original network locations on time will witness reduced grant support on a pro-rated basis.

Cyient delivers on-time deployments

Cyient's FTTX network planning and design services have enabled fiber connectivity for over 20 million premises globally. We have more than 4,000 telecom engineers across the globe and more than 400 based in the US.

In 2023, Cyient introduced the Smart FTTX program to accelerate network planning and design cycles while maintaining high quality standards. Through Smart FTTX, Cyient has showcased extensive experience with rural network rollouts for operators in CAF II, RDOF, CARES Act, and other broadband grant programs.

3. Meet performance requirements for the next decade

The common goal of the different US government broadband programs is to deliver high-speed access to the many places in the US that lack it.

In increasing cases, the guaranteed data rates will exceed the 25/3 Mbps requirements the US government has set, and these basic rates are set to increase. Performance standards must be maintained even as they change over the next 8 to 10 years for RDOF participants to continue receiving grant funds.

Cyient delivers network testing, operations, and performance.

Cyient offers a global, ISO-certified Network Operations Center (NOC) that provides intelligent, vendor-agnostic data-driven operations and is proven to reduce operating expenditures (OPEX). Through our Smart-NOC framework, we prioritize customer-focused delivery, enhance resource utilization, and ensure the sustainability of solutions. Through R&D, we have also added AI and ML advancements, automating predictive fault detection and zero-touch resolution.



4. Stay compliant and remain eligible for more funds.

RDOF, BEAD and other funds are granted with a catch – if a recipient does not comply with requirements, it may become ineligible for future funding or lose current funding.

The compliance process itself is a bit cumbersome, but it also requires service providers to collect and report specific data as they build, operate, and maintain new network facilities.

Cyient helps you stay ahead of rules and regulatory processes

Much of broadband grant compliance is based on good data collection and management. Cyient excels in collecting and managing as-built network data along with as-built data quality validations – the facts needed to demonstrate compliance. Cyient further provides the expertise and integration skills needed to capture accurate data from OSS platforms and integrate a unified process and network view for years to come.

Your next steps?

Cyient is here to take on each of the complex stages that broadband rollouts entail and provide the systems, processes, and controls necessary to:

- Remain compliant with milestones, certifications, launch dates, and service performance.
- Drive profitability across rollouts through network design and launch optimization.
- Keep grant funds flowing with world-class data collection, governance, and reporting.
- Keep your high-speed broadband networks operating seamlessly and evolving.

About Cyient

Cyient (Estd: 1991, NSE: CYIENT) partners with over 300 customers, including 40% of the top 100 global innovators, to deliver intelligent engineering and technology solutions for creating a digital, autonomous, and sustainable future. As a company, Cyient is committed to designing a culturally inclusive, socially responsible, and environmentally sustainable Tomorrow Together with our stakeholders.

For more information, please visit www.cyient.com



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