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### **MMTC's Statement in Support of NTIA's Programmatic Waiver of the BEAD Program's Letter of Credit**

**WASHINGTON, DC (November 1, 2023):** The Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) appreciates the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) decision to issue a new "[programmatic waiver](#)" of the letter of credit ("LOC") requirement in the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment ("BEAD") program. MMTC joined [comments](#) filed by the Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband ("SHLB") Coalition in August 2023 in a [coalition letter](#) with over 300 signatories strong, asking NTIA to either eliminate the LOC requirement or consider alternatives. This programmatic waiver goes a long way towards tearing down barriers faced by minority and women owned businesses as they seek to participate in the monumental BEAD program.

MMTC President and CEO Robert Branson stated, "NTIA's decision to issue the programmatic waiver is an example of how governmental agencies should work. Stakeholders across the industry identified an issue with a significant government program and the agency was willing to make the appropriate changes. Minority and women owned businesses have historically faced issues with access to capital despite their competence and quality of work. Removing the LOC requirement barrier allows these and other small businesses to participate in the BEAD program, helping to bring broadband to all Americans, instead of being shut out simply because they could not afford to participate."

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#### **About MMTC:**

The Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) is a non-partisan, national nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and preserving equal opportunity and civil rights in the mass media, telecom and broadband industries, and closing the digital divide on behalf of its members and constituents, including owners of radio and television broadcast stations, programmers, prospective station owners, and others involved in the TMT industries. MMTC is generally recognized as the nation's leading advocate for minority advancement in communications. MMTC's vision is to achieve a fully connected, educated, healthy, and empowered society in which all communities thrive. Visit MMTC's website [here](#).