

# How to Obtain Federal Funds for Elevation Data Projects

## USGS Broad Agency Announcement (BAA)

### The 3DEP Program

The 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) is a national elevation data program operated through the U.S. Geological Survey. The “Broad Agency Announcement” (BAA) is an annual event updating the process to obtain grant money for LiDAR projects, including the 3DEP program.

BAA grants provide federal funds to entities approved through an application process.

The primary Federal contributors for the program are the USGS, NRCS, NOAA, and FEMA. The objective of the program is to encourage local governments to acquire elevation data for their own uses, which will then be included in the Nationwide Enhanced Elevation Dataset.

### Eligibility for BAA Grants

Almost every type of Government agency can apply for this grant:

- Federal agencies
- State agencies
- Tribal entities
- Counties
- Council of Governments
- Municipalities

The federal funds can subsidize an appreciable part of the work. Since 2015, the Federal government has awarded over 259 million dollars, with the average grant match being 30% for approved applications.

### Planning a LiDAR Project

To plan your own LiDAR project, you can start by identifying local, state and federal partners. SeaSketch ([www.seasketch.org](http://www.seasketch.org)) is a useful online tool that allows you to upload a shapefile of your project area and find potential partners based on your location. After connecting with your partners, review the USGS Broad Agency Announcement to determine what additional funding may be available for you. Determine the LiDAR specifications that fit your needs and the funding commitments that fit your budget. Then, you can begin the BAA application process.

### Contact Us so We Can Help

We can help you determine what you can do with data, where you may need it, and where to look for partners in a LiDAR project. Contact us so we can help you explore the BAA application process.

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### USGS-Prequalified Vendors

When the USGS' Geospatial Products and Services Contract (GPSC) program was started, the USGS sought to establish a list of the nation's premiere LiDAR companies. After a rigorous examination of the applicants, the USGS developed a list of 10 LiDAR firms. The Merrick-Surdex Joint Venture is one of the approved GPSCIII contractors. To date the Joint Venture has acquired and processed approximately 100,000 square miles of GPSC QL2 LiDAR data.



Contact US



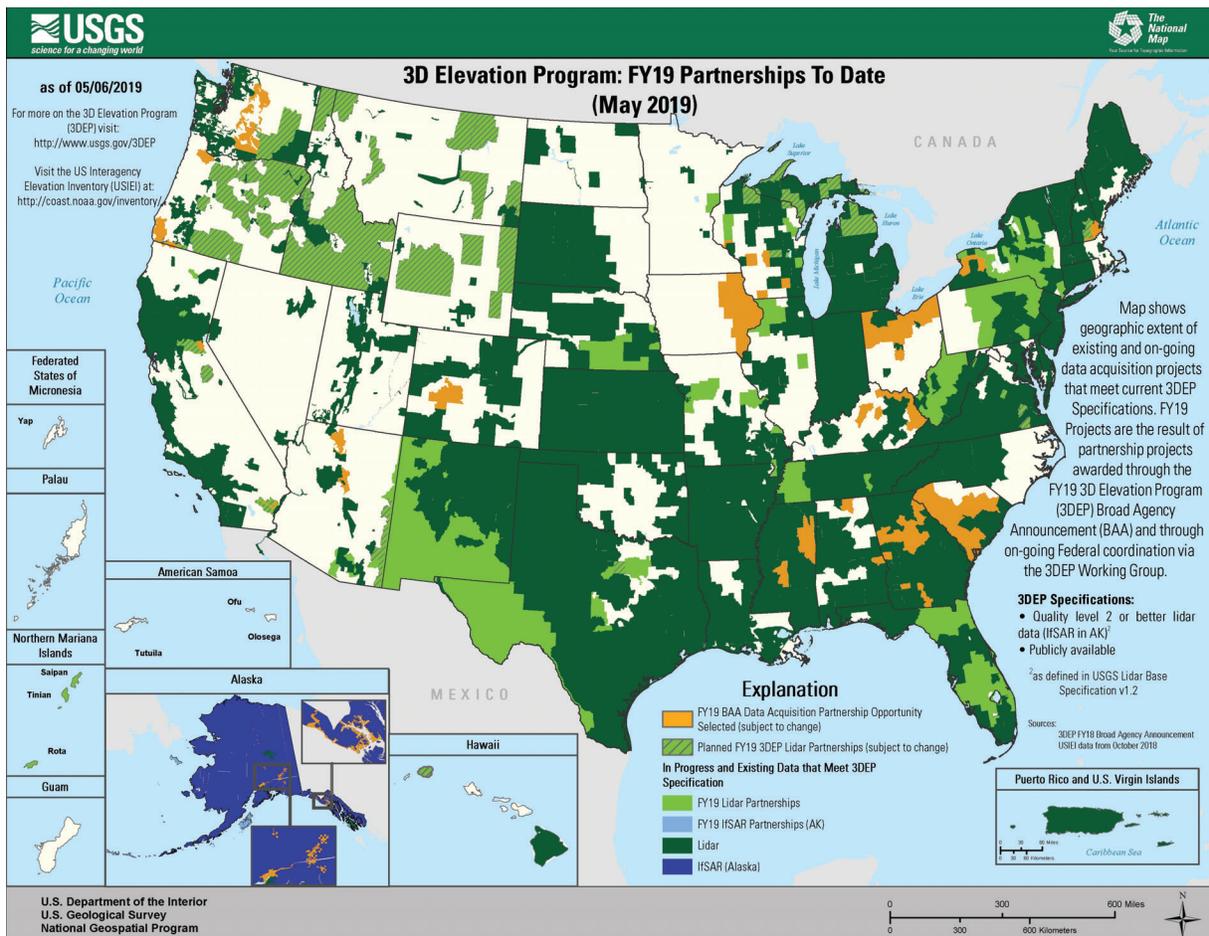
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## Uses of LiDAR

LiDAR can be used for many applications, some of which you might not realize. We would be glad to help you explore other applications so you get the most value for your dollar. The following are the top 10 business uses of LiDAR, although the potential uses extend much further beyond this list:

- Flood risk management
- Natural resource conservation
- Agriculture and precision farming
- Water supply and quality
- Wildfire management, planning and response
- Geologic resource assessment/hazard mitigation
- Forest resources management
- River/stream resource management
- Land navigation and safety
- Infrastructure and construction management

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