



Link Up
Idaho

Now receiving comment on
BEAD Initial Proposal Vols. I & II
Sept. 29 - Oct. 31, 2023

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD GUIDE SHEET

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Link Up Idaho invites all Idahoans to comment on its BEAD Initial Proposal Volumes I and II.

The State of Idaho has drafted its Initial Proposal Volume I and Volume II required under the historic Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) funding. Beginning September 29, 2023, we are seeking public comment.

Upon receipt and consideration of the public's comments on the Initial Proposal, the State of Idaho will submit the document to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

Volume I lays the groundwork for the technical aspects for the State's broadband efforts and goal to bring high-speed internet to all. Volume II details plans for the distribution of deployment funds, workforce and economic development initiatives, tribal coordination, and more.

To access and review either volume of the Initial Proposal, as well as other documents and information about the State of Idaho's broadband expansion efforts under BEAD, we recommend visiting LinkUp.Idaho.gov.

WHO CAN MAKE PUBLIC COMMENT?

Any Idaho resident, group, organization, non-profit, lobbying group, or government agency with an interest in the BEAD Initial Proposal can submit a public comment. Comments may be submitted anonymously or by a third party such as a friend or a representative.

► The Idaho Office of Broadband would like to kindly request you consider leaving comment on the following sections:

IP VOL I.

- 1.3 Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) (Requirement 6)
- 1.4 Challenge Process (Requirement 7)

IP VOL II.

- 2.4. Deployment Subgrantee Selection (Requirement 8)
- 2.7. Labor Standards and Protection (Requirement 11)
- 2.8. Workforce Readiness (Requirement 12)
- 2.12. Low-Cost Broadband Service Option (Requirement 16)
- 2.13. Middle-Class Affordability Plans (Requirement 20)
- 2.16. Certification of Compliance with BEAD Requirements (Requirement 19)

PROCESS

Submit comments by following the steps below.

1. If assistance is needed while submitting comment, please feel free to contact the Idaho Office of Broadband:

208-334-2470

broadband@commerce.idaho.gov

700 W. State St., Boise, Idaho 83720

2. Visit **Linkup.Idaho.gov**.

3. Navigate to the 30-Day Public Comment Section (near the top of the home page) and click "Comment."

4. An email box will open, ready for participant to begin commenting to the State.

5. The subject line of your message should include which volume you are commenting on: Vol. I or Vol. II.

6. Send comments to broadbandcomments@commerce.idaho.gov.



Comment directly: broadbandcomments@commerce.idaho.gov

**HAVE YOUR
VOICE HEARD.
LEAVE COMMENT. ►**



TIPS FOR SUBMITTING PUBLIC COMMENT

- ☑ Remember to refer to the BEAD Initial Proposal Vol. I or Vol. II and page number or section to which you are commenting.
- ☑ Be as clear as possible in your comment, and use clear organization and formatting.
- ☑ Consider presenting your comment in the form of an argument, supported with data, if needed.
- ☑ Provide links to materials you are referencing in your comments.
- ☑ Establish your relevant expertise in the area you are commenting on, if any, but be sure not to include any identifying information.

To learn more about broadband expansion in Idaho, or to participate in the 30-Day Public Comment Period, visit linkup.idaho.gov/.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Idaho Office of Broadband and the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board will be hosting a Virtual Public Comment Period on October 11, 2023 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. MT. Up-to-date meeting information and registration will be available on LinkUp.Idaho.gov.

ABOUT LINK UP IDAHO

The Link Up Idaho initiative is led by the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board (IBAB) and the Idaho Department of Commerce, in coordination with the Idaho Office of Information Technology Services. This multifaceted initiative aims to gather information about internet connectivity challenges in Idaho communities to provide insight into internet availability across the state, provide outreach across Idaho to inform communities of the availability of broadband funds, and disperse funds to communities to improve broadband access. Link Up Idaho’s mission is to provide all Idahoans with access to affordable and reliable broadband infrastructure.

The Idaho Office of Broadband has launched the Link Up Idaho initiative to better understand who has access to high-speed, affordable internet in the state, what areas are struggling to connect, and to develop a strategic plan to ensure everyone can access reliable, fast, affordable internet. The State’s robust internet expansion plans are outlined and detailed in the Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment Initial Proposal Volumes I and II. The plans are now available for your review and feedback at LinkUp.Idaho.gov. Comments will be accepted September 29 through October 31, 2023.

