

2025 (DRAFT 050525)

# BEAD PROGRAM FUNDING APPLICATION GUIDELINES

IDAHO DEPARTMENT  
OF COMMERCE

OFFICE OF BROADBAND



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*The Idaho Department of Commerce Idaho Office of Broadband reserves the right to modify these guidelines, at its sole discretion, in furtherance of program priorities or the best interests of the State of Idaho. Any modifications to these guidelines will be posted on the Link Up Idaho website.*

## I. Funding Application Guide Overview

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program aims to expand and improve broadband access in underserved and unserved areas across the United States. It is the responsibility of the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board (IBAB) and the Idaho Office of Broadband (IOB) to implement the planning, infrastructure deployment, and broadband programs across the State.

This document provides applicants with a clear and comprehensive guide to the Idaho BEAD Program Funding Application process by covering procedures, requirements, and steps for successful submissions. Due to ongoing guidance from the NTIA and updates to the BEAD program, information and requirements discussed in this document may change. Updates will be announced through official channels and recorded in a change log to this document. Unless otherwise instructed and permitted, applicants must follow the instructions in this Guide and any subsequent updates and revisions to the Idaho BEAD program rules.

The intended audience for this guide is representatives from eligible organizations completing the funding application. An officer or legal representative with binding authority must complete the application and sign a final attestation as to its contents.

The IOB reserves the right to request more information from prospective applicants as necessary to ensure all participants have the capacity to participate in the program and meet all BEAD Program requirements and goals. Further, the IOB reserves the right to request updated or additional information at any time, including after the subgrantee selection process, to re-assess the qualifications of subgrantees and the sustainability of the funded projects to successfully complete the conditions for the specific awards they have received.

Questions related to policy or procedural items should be directed to:

- [broadband@commerce.idaho.gov](mailto:broadband@commerce.idaho.gov)

Questions related to technical assistance with the Commerce Application Portal (which includes the pre-registration module) should be directed to:

- [grants@commerce.idaho.gov](mailto:grants@commerce.idaho.gov)

## II. Idaho BEAD Program Description

## A. Overview

The [BEAD Program](#) is a federal program that provides \$42 billion nationwide to expand high-speed broadband access. BEAD was funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and is administered by the NTIA.

The BEAD Program's principal focus is to award funding for the deployment of broadband infrastructure to provide access to all unserved locations (those without any broadband service at all or with broadband service offering speeds below 25 megabits per second (Mbps) download/3 Mbps upload) and underserved locations (those without broadband service offering speeds of 100 Mbps download/20 Mbps upload) in Idaho.

Idaho was awarded \$583 million in BEAD funds to extend affordable, high-speed internet infrastructure to unserved and underserved Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) in the state. IOB has determined that this BEAD award will not provide sufficient funds for additional grants to increase broadband deployment capabilities to Community Anchor Institutions (CAI) lacking access to service that provides 1 gigabit per second (Gbps) speeds for both upload and download capabilities (1 Gbps symmetrical).

The IOB and the IBAB have established a fair, open, equitable and competitive subgrantee selection process for last-mile broadband deployment projects through a multi-phase approach. The Idaho BEAD Subgrantee Selection process is based on the NTIA-approved Idaho BEAD [Initial Proposal Volume II](#) (approved 9/5/24) (IPV2). It will comprise two main phases in a single round: a pre-qualification phase and a funding application phase. The IOB reserves the right to add additional funding rounds, if deemed necessary.

The IBAB will select subgrantees for award via this competitive grant application process in furtherance of the main objectives outlined in the [Five-Year Action Plan](#), IPV2, and the IBAB's [Broadband Strategic Plan](#). The IBAB will prioritize selecting entities committed to improving and deploying broadband infrastructure to unserved and underserved locations in Idaho and who meet the pre-qualification requirements.

## B. BEAD Subgrantee Selection Process

The IOB subgrantee selection process will ensure that Idaho's limited BEAD funds are used as efficiently as possible to achieve Idaho's broadband objectives, including connecting all unserved and underserved locations in Idaho with robust, affordable, reliable, and scalable technologies and ensuring universal availability of high-speed broadband service.

The IOB will conduct a comprehensive review of all submitted materials to determine project feasibility, compliance with program requirements, and alignment with strategic priorities. Each step in the IOB review and approval process will ensure that adequate protections are in place to maintain the integrity of the competition, including protections against collusion, bias, and conflicts of interest. The scoring process will be transparent, objective, and consistent with the IOB's IPV2 and BEAD Program rules.

The Pre-Qualification Application process was used to qualify entities to compete for BEAD subgrants. Applicants that successfully completed the Pre-Qualification Application process may submit funding applications for proposed projects. Pre-Qualified entities for the IOB BEAD Program are listed here [*link to be inserted*].

During the Funding Application process, each applicant must provide sufficient evidence to demonstrate that it can implement the proposed project competently, including by demonstrating that the applicant has the financial, technical, and operational capability to operate the resulting broadband network and that the proposed project is technically and financially feasible.

The State's team will rely on state and federal BEAD Program Rules, including the BEAD NOFO, NTIA Guidance documents, and Idaho IPV2 to evaluate and recommend provisional awardees. The third-party review team will review, score, and rank applications also using the IPV2 [Scoring Matrix](#). After the IBAB approves the provisional awards, the IOB will submit a Final Proposal to the NTIA for review and approval. Grant awards are not final until the NTIA approves Idaho's Final Proposal and each subgrantee has finalized a grant agreement with the IOB and IBAB.

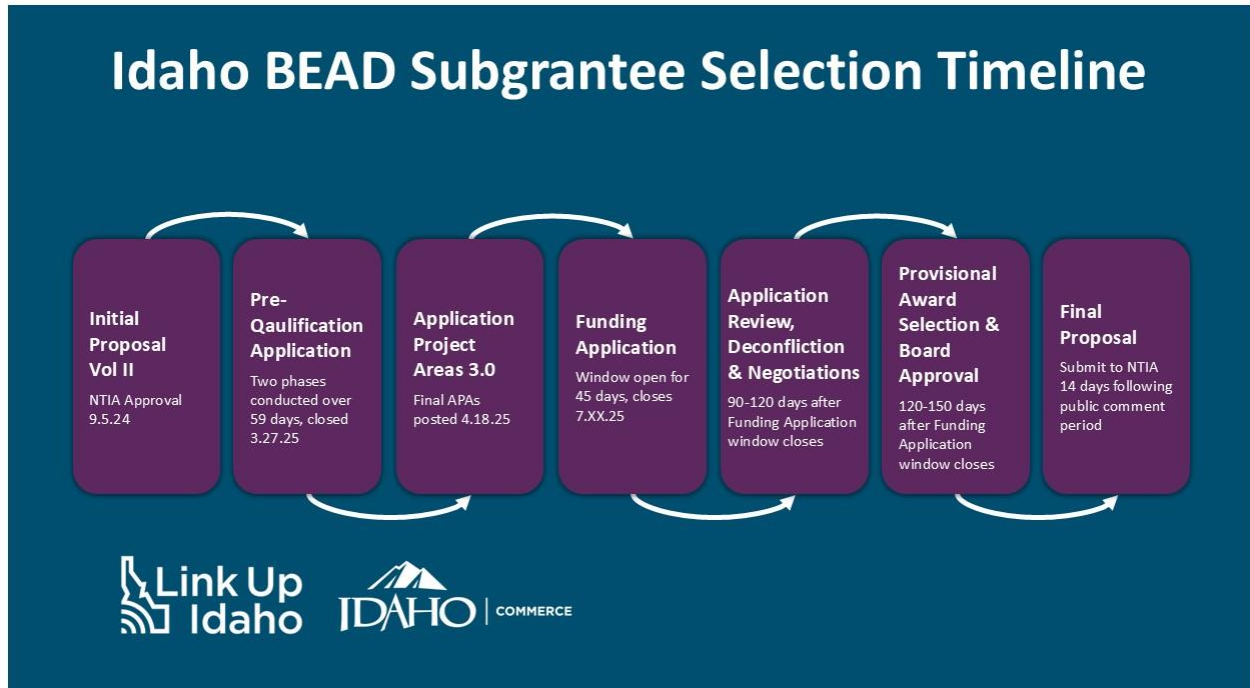
Information in this Guide and the Funding Application may change due to ongoing guidance and updates to the BEAD program from the NTIA and/or other federal agencies. The IOB will communicate any such changes in a clear and timely manner.

The IOB has initiated a multi-step process for selecting subgrantees and making BEAD subgrant awards:

1. **Pre-Qualification Application Phase:** Mandatory for the potential applicant's participation in the BEAD Program. Application window opened January 16, 2025, and closed February 14, 2025, 11:59 pm MST.
2. **Publish Application Project Areas (APAs):** Post a map and hold a limited second

phase of Pre-Qualification. IOB published the APA 2.0 map on March 13, 2025 and held the second Pre-Qualification round on March 13, 2025-March 27, 2025. The APA 3.0 map, published on the IOB [Link Up Idaho](#) website, is the most current and final list of eligible APAs.

3. **BEAD Funding Application phase** for pre-qualified applicants to submit proposed projects and supporting documentation. The application window will open on [*date to be inserted*] 2025, at 11:59 pm MST.
4. **Funding Application Summaries:** Descriptions of funding applications received by IOB and related APAs will be posted to the [Link Up Idaho](#) website 21 calendar days after the application window closes, on [*date to be inserted*].
5. **Review and Scoring Phase:** Funding applications will be reviewed, scored, and ranked by a third-party reviewer. The reviewer and the IOB will conduct application deconfliction and discussions with applicants as needed for 90-120 calendar days after the application window closes.
6. **Provisional Subgrant Awards:** The IBAB will select and announce provisional grant awards upon finalizing the review and scoring phase.
7. **Final Proposal:** Submitted to the NTIA for review and approval after website posting and 14 calendar day public comment period.
8. **Grant Agreement:** After the NTIA approves the Final Proposal, the IOB will finalize the grant agreements with BEAD subgrantees.



### III. Idaho BEAD Funding Application Process

#### A. Technical Support

The IOB intends to provide technical assistance and administrative support to applicants throughout the process. The IOB will use its existing communication channels to share Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), information, and program milestones and deadlines. Additionally, the IOB will host a series of How-to-Apply webinars and hold office hours as scheduled and published on the [Link Up Idaho](#) [link to be inserted]. The planned dates and times are:

- Funding Application Webinar and Open Office Hours 1 – **XX**
- Funding Application Webinar and Open Office Hours 2 – **XX**
- Funding Application Webinar and Open Office Hours 3 – **XX**
- Funding Application Webinar and Open Office Hours 4 – **XX**

The IOB reserves the right to change or supplement technical assistance events and activities. Potential applicants should monitor [Link Up Idaho](#) for updates.

The Funding Application window is open for a period of 45 days. After the Funding Application

window closes, application descriptions and related Application Project Areas will be posted on the Link Up Idaho [*link to be inserted*]. Pursuant to Idaho Public Records Law (Title 74, Idaho Code), the IOB will redact any personally identifiable information and/or confidential, proprietary information submitted by the applicant before publication. The applicant must appropriately label each page that contains confidential information to ensure this information will not be subject to public disclosure.

## **B. Eligible Applicants**

Eligible applicants include eligible broadband providers (as defined by § 40-517, Idaho Code), incorporated businesses or partnerships, nonprofit organizations, limited liability companies, corporations, cooperative entities that provide broadband services, Idaho local or Tribal governments, or non-traditional providers (e.g., telecommunications provider, electric cooperative) that have been pre-qualified by the IOB to participate in the program.

Only applicants who have participated in and been approved through the IOB Pre-Qualification Application process may submit a Funding Application. A list of pre-qualified entities is posted on the IOB BEAD Program website, [*link to be inserted*].

### **Application Project Areas (APA)**

Application Project Areas (APAs) are comprised of clusters of census blocks using the unserved and underserved locations in the BEAD eligibility list of NTIA-approved BSLs from the State's BEAD Challenge Process. Census blocks with unserved and underserved locations have been combined to create APAs. Tribal APAs are completely within Tribal land boundaries. Some Tribal lands may contain more than one APA.

The Idaho Application Project Areas 3.0 are posted on the Link Up Idaho [here](#).

The Funding Application will seek detailed information from eligible applicants regarding specific APAs and the applicant's proposed project. Applicants may combine APAs, including APAs that are not contiguous, into a single project application. Applicants may also submit multiple applications for a single proposed project area if proposing different technology deployment plans and types.

Applicants are required to design a proposed project with the capability to provide BEAD-qualifying service to all eligible locations within each APA in the proposed project. However, an applicant may identify BSLs within a proposed project that it prefers not to serve because the applicant has identified these BSLs as significant cost-drivers impacting the overall project

budget, causing network design complications, or leading to significant delays in project completion. These identified BSLs may include, but are not exclusive to, eligible BSLs in NTIA-designated high-cost census block groups.

Applicants may also identify BSLs that they believe are no longer “eligible” BSLs under the NTIA rules. This request may include identifying BSLs that have been removed from the FCC Broadband Map, identifying new enforceable commitments to serve an area, or identifying structures that are mis-identified as a BSL (such as abandoned structures or large equipment). Applicants must identify these BSLs with specific reason codes from a drop-down menu in the Project Area BSL Template.

Applicants may identify no more than five percent of BSLs that they would prefer not to serve from each APA in the project area, using the IOB provided template; applicants must identify each BSL and provide justification for the request not to serve using a drop-down menu. Upon the IOB’s review and discussion with the applicant, the IOB may allow the applicant to not serve some or all of the identified BSLs and will require the applicant to revise its project description, budget, financial forecasts, and other related elements of its application to reflect the smaller number of served eligible BSLs.

### **C. Application Elements and Attachments**

As outlined in the Idaho IPV2 and the Funding Application Guidelines, applicants will be required to provide information related to the following BEAD Program elements:

- Technical Capability
- Budget and Financial Sustainability
- Workforce Readiness
- Additional requirements as directed by the NTIA
- Natural Hazard Risk Mitigation
- Build America Buy America (BABA)
- Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP)
- Low-Cost Service Option
- Middle-Class Service Plan
- Minority Enterprise and Women Business Enterprise Participation

All Funding Applications must include the following documents and attachments:

- Project Area Broadband Serviceable Location Template
- Subscriber Services Rate Sheet Template
- Project Budget Template
  - Proposed Project Workplan
  - Project Pro Forma Template
  - Deployment Timeline Template
  - Project Area and Network Design
  - Logical Network Design
- Subcontractor Engagement Template
- Resumes of Key Management Personnel dedicated to this proposed project
- Letter of Commitment regarding the Letter of Credit or Performance Bond
- Tribal Coordination and Consent documentation (if applicable)
- Local Coordination and Community Outreach documentation
- Audited Financials (if not previously provided)
- Notarized Final Attestation Document

**An officer or legal representative of an eligible entity with binding authority must complete this application.**

If application reviewers determine a submission is incomplete, non-compliant, or unclear, the IOB will send curing requests via email and allow modifications to the application in the portal. The IOB will provide the applicant up to 10 calendar days from notification to cure its submission. Failure of the applicant to make good faith efforts to cure its application at the request of the IOB within the provided curing period may result in the rejection of application(s).

The IOB reserves the right to request more information from the applicant as necessary at any time during the review process. An applicant's failure to provide timely and complete responses to these requests may result in the rejection of the related application or disqualification of any approved applicant.

Further, the IOB reserves the right to request updated or additional information at any time, including after the subawards are provisionally awarded or finalized, to reassess the qualifications of subgrantees and the compliance of the awarded project within the IOB BEAD Program rules.

#### **D. Idaho Public Records Law**

Business records and information provided to the IOB are subject to public disclosure under the Idaho Public Records Law (Title 74, Idaho Code)<sup>1</sup> unless specifically exempt from public disclosure. The IOB shall consider any records or information exempt from public disclosure as confidential.

The applicant shall declare and identify each individual document it considers confidential and exempt from public disclosure. The applicant shall mark each page of all such documents as “confidential – proprietary information.” The IOB will not accept a legend or statement on one page that all, or substantially all, of a document is exempt from disclosure. The applicant shall also provide the legal basis for each exempt document and briefly explain how the identified legal basis applies to the corresponding document(s).

The applicant shall indemnify and defend the IOB and the State of Idaho against all liability, claims, damages, losses, expenses, actions, attorney fees, and suits whatsoever for honoring any designation by the applicant of Confidential Information or for the applicant’s failure to designate individual documents as exempt. An applicant’s failure to designate as exempt any document that is released by the IOB shall constitute a complete waiver of any and all claims for damages caused by any such release. If the IOB receives a request for records claimed exempt by the applicant, the applicant shall provide the legal defense for such claim and pay all expenses incurred by the IOB in connection with such request.

**Confidential information** shall not include information which:

- Is or becomes generally available to the public other than as a result of a disclosure by the IOB or any of its directors, officers, employees, agents, counsel, consultants, or other representatives, or any other person to whom the IOB discloses such information (whether orally or in writing);
- Was within the IOB’s possession or actual knowledge prior to the information being

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<sup>1</sup> <https://legislature.idaho.gov/statutesrules/idstat/title28/t28ch9/sect28-9-337/>

furnished to the IOB in connection with this Agreement, provided that the source of such information was not bound by a confidentiality agreement with, or similar obligation to, the applicant with respect to such information;

- Becomes available to the IOB on a non-confidential basis from a source other than the applicant, provided that such source is not bound by a confidentiality agreement with, or similar obligation to, the applicant with respect to such information;
- Is independently developed by the IOB under circumstances not involving the applicant's application and this Agreement without use or reference to any of the applicant's confidential information;
- Is publicly disclosed pursuant to a lawful requirement or request from a governmental agency acting within its jurisdiction; or
- Is otherwise open to public inspection and copying, unless exempt, under the Idaho Public Records Law (Title 74, Idaho Code).

The applicant will be required to affirmatively warrant and represent it has sufficient authority to provide the IOB with confidential information.

## **E. Funding Application Review and Approval Process**

The IOB Funding Application review process will consist of the following elements:

- Compliance and Completeness Review
- State Administrative and Technical Review
- Committee Scoring Review
- IBAB Review and Selection

**Compliance and Completeness Review:** The reviewing team will determine whether the applicant has submitted all the necessary information as required by the scoring criteria and the IOB BEAD Program rules, including the IOB's IPV2 and Application Guide.

During this time, the IOB will post summaries of applications and proposed APA project areas within 21 days of the Funding Application window closing. Under the Idaho Public Records Law (Title 74, Idaho Code), properly identified confidential information in the funding application submissions will not be publicly posted on the Link Up Idaho website. Applicants must appropriately label each page that contains confidential information to ensure this information

will not be subject to public disclosure.

**State Administrative and Technical Review:** The reviewing team will review the submitted proposed project network design, timelines, proposed project costs and pro forma, BSL and APA descriptions, and other proposed project description documents to determine the cost reasonableness, financial and technical feasibility of the proposed project, and compliance with BEAD Program rules, including the IOB's IPV2. The reviewing team will also identify any applicant requests to remove high-cost and difficult-to-serve BSLs from the proposed project area in preparation for the scoring and negotiations review.

**Committee Scoring Review:** The committee will assign a maximum score of 100 points using the IOB IPV2 approved [Scoring Matrix](#) to rank the proposed projects competing for the same APAs. The Scoring Review will identify and score Priority Projects and Non-Priority Projects, including proposed projects relying on alternative technologies, as those terms are defined in the IOB IPV2.

When there are multiple eligible projects competing for the same APAs, including partial overlapping projects, the IOB will assign Priority Projects deploying end-to-end fiber technology as the highest rank, Non-Priority Projects deploying Reliable Broadband Service other than end-to-end fiber technology second rank, and other Non-Priority Projects that will not deploy Reliable Broadband Service as the third rank. Where there are multiple overlapping proposed projects with the same rank, the IOB will look at the total score for each proposed project as well as the cost reasonableness of each project and assign preference to projects that do not exceed the Extremely High Cost Per Location Threshold (EHCPLT) or, if all projects in an APA exceed the EHCPLT, it will provide applicants five (5) business days to adjust their project costs, and then the IOB will assign preference for the lowest cost project that meets program requirements.

Applications with projects that are well above the EHCPLT and that are not awarded based on the ranking and scoring criteria above may be deferred to a possible second round of application review to ensure adequate funding is available to serve all unserved and underserved locations. The IOB will announce the second round of application review in the event that it is necessary.

No sooner than after the Funding Application window closes, the IOB will establish an EHCPLT. The IOB may announce an EHCPLT at any time during the ranking and scoring process, up to the time of awarding provisional grants. The IOB will rely on the criteria set out in its IPV2, Sections 2.4.9 and 2.4.10, and the BEAD Program (e.g. BEAD Notice of Funding Opportunity

pg. 13) requirements to set the EHCPLT and to determine which projects (Priority Projects, Non-Priority Projects, and Alternative Technologies Projects, in that ranking order) can serve locations that are above the threshold or can serve the remaining locations with no applications, at the most reasonable costs. This analysis will maximize the likelihood that the IOB will achieve Idaho's BEAD Program goals and objectives.

During this phase, the IOB will assess whether unserved locations exist in any APA or whether entire APAs failed to receive any qualifying applications. IOB will also review applicant requests to remove high-cost and hard-to-serve BSLs from the proposed project and may use its discretion to approve applicant requests to remove identified BSLs. To maximize the number of eligible BSLs that will be funded during this round, the IOB may also use its discretion to suspend funding for underserved locations, adjust matching requirements, consider alternative technologies for funding in these areas, or engage with applicants that proposed to serve proximate APAs to request they adjust their existing applications to include unserved locations.

**IBAB Review and Selection:** Upon completion of the application review and scoring process, the IOB will prepare a package of recommended projects for discussion with NTIA and provisional approval and funding by the IBAB. The process will allow IBAB to ensure that provisional awards and funding distribution align with the State's broadband vision and goals set out in the Idaho Broadband Strategic Plan, Five-Year Action Plan, and IPV2. The IBAB results will be announced and incorporated into the IOB's Final Proposal for submission to the NTIA. The NTIA will conduct a final review and approval of the IOB's Final Proposal and the provisional subgrant awards. With that approval, the IOB will finalize grant agreements for the approved projects.

## IV. Funding Application Sections and Questions

### Before You Begin

The state BEAD application consists of 125 questions and multiple templates, all of which require information that aligns with the NTIA NOFO requirements. This information is essential for ensuring a fair, transparent, and comprehensive BEAD grant application process.

Applicants should be aware that the application includes numerous references to both state and federal documents. To prepare effectively, it is strongly recommended that you complete the following steps **before** starting your application:

#### 1. Access the BEAD Application Template Library:

Download all available templates [*link to be inserted*] to your computer and rename each file using this required file naming convention: Each file upload **must** follow this file naming convention which has three elements, with an underscore between the first and second elements:

1. Applicant/ISP Name followed by an underscore. Use the applicant name you enter in Question #2.
2. Unique Project Name followed by an underscore. Use the project name you enter in Question #13.
3. Name of document.

**IOB has developed templates for many of the required uploads, which are available in the Application Template Library. If a template has been provided for a specific upload, applicants are required to use it.**

#### 2. Gather Reference Materials:

Ensure you have easy access to the following documents:

[BEAD NOFO](#)

[Idaho BEAD Initial Proposal Volume II](#) and [BEAD Volume II Updates](#)

[Idaho BEAD Broadband Projects Scoring Criteria](#)

[NTIA BEAD Match Primer](#)

The sections below offer further details for applicants as they complete the Funding Application in the portal. Numbers in parentheses reference the Text Box numbers within the Requirements

in the Idaho BEAD IPV2.

## **A. Applicant Information and Required Certifications**

The applicants' responses to these questions must match the responses provided in the Applicant's Pre-Qualification application [*Salesforce analysis in progress*]. In this Section, Question 10, applicants have an opportunity to change or update information provided as part of the Pre-Qualification process. Question 11 requires applicants to identify the changed or updated information and explain any impact that applicant believes this change will have on the applicant's eligibility or the proposed project. Please note that any substantial changes to applicant's information may result in an additional review of applicant's eligibility and possible disqualification from the program if Applicant is deemed ineligible as a result of any changed or updated information.

### Question 1: SAM.gov Unique Entity ID

Applicant must demonstrate that it has an active registration under its own legal corporate entity. If the organization does not have a UEI, please register with [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) to obtain one.

### Question 2: Applicant Name (Legal business name and DBAs, if applicable)

Applicant must provide the name of the legal business entity that is applying for the BEAD award and any DBA names. Applicant should provide the same legal entity name as it did in its Pre-Qualification application.

### Question 3: Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN)

Applicant must provide its federal employer identification number. This should be the same identification number provided as part of the Pre-Qualification process.

### Question 4: Contact name and title of person to contact regarding the application

Provide the name and title of the person to contact regarding the application. This will be the primary point of contact, and the identified person must be knowledgeable about each element of the application and the BEAD Program rules and processes.

Question 5: Contact email address

Provide a valid email address for the person named above.

Question 6: BEAD Program rule certification: Does the applicant certify its commitment to adhere to all applicable BEAD Program rules and requirements described in the BEAD Program Rules, Idaho Office of Broadband Initial Proposal Volume II, Pre-Qualification Application, and this Funding Application?

The above certification is required to participate in this program. Applicants that do not certify “yes” will be asked to explain, cure their application, and may not be allowed to participate in the BEAD Program.

Question 7: Program completion timeline certification: Does the applicant certify its commitment to completing all planned work for the proposed project(s), as described in the application, within four years of finalizing the grant agreement?

The above certification is required to participate in this program. Applicants that do not certify “yes” will be asked to explain why they did not respond yes, cure their application, and may not be allowed to participate in the BEAD Program.

Question 8: Failure to perform: Does the applicant acknowledge that failing to fulfill these plans or violating any certifications or commitments in this application may result in penalties and/or disqualification?

Applicants are expected to be able to complete the proposed project and comply with all BEAD Program rules. Applicants are also expected to fulfill their commitments and uphold their certifications. See, IPV 2 Section 2.16.2(b) for more information.

Question 9: Conflict of Interest disclosure: Provide information related to any conflicts of interest that the applicant may have, perceived or otherwise, that could influence the application review process.

Applicants are required to disclose all current or future conflicts of interest. Withholding information may result in penalties or disqualification from the BEAD Program. See IOB IPV2 Section 2.4.1 and 5.7.1 for more discussion regarding the IOB’s intent to hold a fair, open, and competitive process.

Question 10: Pre-Qualification submission: Certify that all information in the applicant's Pre-Qualification Application, as approved by the IOB, is correct and current. If there are changes, answer "no," and describe them in the next question.

Applicants are expected to provide the IOB with accurate and up-to-date information when filling out the Funding Application. Providing false information may result in penalties or disqualification from the BEAD Program. If applicants have additional information, updated information, or a correction to make to their Pre-Qualification submission, please answer "no" to this question and provide a description and explanation to the next question below.

Question 11: Pre-Qual changes: Describe updates and changes to the information and certifications in applicant's Pre-Qualification submissions. Cite specific sections and questions impacted by these updates and discuss any effect on applicant's eligibility.

## **B. Proposed Project Description**

These questions will provide the IOB with basic information about the applicant's proposed project, including proposed technologies, speeds, service offerings, and existing infrastructure in the area. Applicants are required to provide a detailed breakdown of the number of locations to be served by the projects, or passings, and information about the eligible BSLs in the project area. Applicants will be asked to provide more detailed information about the proposed project in subsequent application sections.

Question 12: Project Unique Identifier

No action is required by the applicant. The application portal will automatically assign a unique numerical identifier to each application. The applicant and IOB will use this numerical identifier throughout the review process.

Question 13: Proposed Project Name (*to be posted on the Link Up Idaho website*)

Applicants must provide a unique project name that can be used to identify this project to the public. Applicants must follow a specific naming convention to support the IOB review process. Please use applicant's name, the county where the project will be located, the city, town or

development where the project will be located. If applicant has more than one proposed project in a city or town, please number the projects.

<ISPNAME\_COUNTYNAME\_CITY\_###>.

Example: “ABC ISP\_ADAMS\_COUNCIL\_01.”

Note that this name will be posted on the Link Up Idaho website as part of the list of submitted applications, and if the proposed project is provisionally awarded.

Question 14: Brief Proposed Project Description (to be posted on the Link Up Idaho website).

Applicants are required to provide a brief project description of no more than 250 words. It must include, at a minimum, the APA number(s), number of unserved and underserved eligible BSLs to be served, planned technology, proposed speeds to be offered, and BEAD grant funds requested. The description will be posted on the Link Up Idaho website. The IOB reserves the right to update or revise the description prior to posting on website.

**Example:** ABC ISP proposes to deploy a “fiber to the home” network in Adams County serving 300 eligible BSLs in the community of Council (APAs ID # 456, 457, 458) with speeds of at least 100/20 Mbps and up to 1Gbps symmetrical. ABC ISP will deploy GPON equipment that will be scalable to support additional capacity over the next ten years. The network will have significant backup power, hardened equipment, and thirty percent of the network will be in underground conduit to support network resiliency. ABC ISP requests \$1.5 million in BEAD grant funds to complete this project and will provide 30% of the total project cost in matching funds. This project will serve 125 unserved and 175 underserved BSLs and 10 CAIs in the community. This project is estimated to employ 250 people.

**Note that your submitted project description will not be proofread or edited for grammar and spelling.**

Question 15: Total Project Cost (This is a scored element up to 35 points)

Please provide total project cost, including all expenses for construction, planning, labor, and administrative. Applicants will be asked to provide a detailed breakdown of this cost figure in the Project Budget Template in Section C.

Note that the IOB Scoring Matrix awards points to the project with the lowest average cost per location when compared to other projects serving one or more of the same APAs. For more information regarding how the review team will score and rank this element, see the description in the introduction above and see IOB IPV2 Sections 2.4.2, 2.4.3, and 2.4.6.

Question 16: BEAD Funds Requested

Please provide the amount of funding applicant is requesting from the Idaho BEAD Program for this proposed project. This figure and the matching funds request in the next question should add up to the project's total cost.

Question 17: Applicant Matching Funds (This is a scored element up to 15 points)

Please provide the amount of matching funds applicant will contribute to this proposed project. This figure should be the **total** of any cash investments, in-kind contributions, third-party funding, or any eligible public funding sources that make up the applicant's total match. Applicants will be asked to provide a detailed breakdown of this match figure in the Project Budget Template in Section C.

If applicant does not plan to contribute matching funds, please put \$0 in this field. The BEAD Program rules require all applicants to commit to matching funds totaling 25% of the total project costs. Matching fund requirements may be reduced or waived if the project includes NTIA-designated high cost eligible BSLs or applicant has received a match waiver for other reasons as approved by the IBAB and NTIA. Applicants will be asked to describe any requested match waivers in the Project Budget Template. The NTIA has provided a Match Primer Guidance,

available here: [https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2024-05/BEAD\\_Match\\_Primer.pdf](https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2024-05/BEAD_Match_Primer.pdf).

This is a scored element, and applications with a higher percentage of matching funds for the total project cost will receive more points, up to 15 points.

**Scoring Match Amounts**

- Applicants will be awarded points in the “Minimal BEAD Program Outlay” category based, in part, on the amount of matching funds committed to the project. The following charts will guide the analysis and scoring.
- If the applicant’s project contains any eligible BSLs in NTIA-designated high-cost census block groups, the IOB will accept the application with a proposal of less than a 25% match. However, the projects with 20% or fewer high-cost BSLs eligible for a match waiver will be scored differently than those projects with more than 20% high-cost BSLs eligible for a match waiver.

Matching Contribution Score – Projects with 20% or less of the BSLs eligible for match waivers	
Matching Contribution Percentage	Points
75.01% and above	15
50.001-75.00%	10
25.01-50.00%	5
25.00%	0
0-24.99%	0 (only allowable for applications with NTIA High Cost Areas or other NTIA approved waivers)

Matching Contribution Score – Projects with more than 20% of the BSLs eligible for match waiver	
Matching Contribution Percentage	Points
50% and above	15
40.00-49.99%	12
30.00-39.99%	9
20.00-29.99%	6
10-19.99%	3
0-9.99%	0

Question 18: Number of Passings

The applicant must identify the total number of BEAD eligible BSLs the applicant commits to serve (“passings”) as part of the proposed project.

The application portal also requests that the applicant provide a further breakdown of the total passings:

- Question 19: Number of unserved BSLs in the proposed project area
- Question 20: Number of underserved BSLs in the proposed project area
- Question 21: Number of BSLs identified as Community Anchor Institutions (CAI) in the proposed project area (identified in the Project Area BSL template)
- Question 22: Percent of BSLs in the project area located in Census Block Groups (CBGs) identified as High Cost by the NTIA (identified in the Project Area BSL template)

Question 23: Served APAs

Please list the APA identification numbers of the APAs that applicant is including in its proposed project.

- Applicants may include one or more APAs in their proposed project area, including non-contiguous APAs.

Please reference the Project Area and BSL Template or the IOB Link Up Idaho website APA map to determine the APA identification numbers and list all identification numbers for the APAs that applicant plans to serve in this project.

#### Question 24: Project Area and BSL Template

Please complete and upload the *Project Area and BSL Template [Salesforce analysis in progress]*. There are four worksheets (tabs) within the *Project Area and BSL Template*: a READ ME tab, an Eligible Locations Reference tab, a BSL Worksheet tab, and an APA Worksheet tab. Applicants are required to complete the second, third, and fourth tabs. The template can be downloaded from here [*link to be inserted*] and must be uploaded to the application portal. See Appendix to these Guidelines for the required file naming conventions for all documents uploaded to the IOB application portal.

The first tab of the *Project Area and BSL Template* is a READ ME tab with specific instructions on how to use the spreadsheet. Applicants must review these instructions and may not add new columns, alter column names, or alter the formatting of the template.

The second tab is the Eligible Locations Reference tab. Applicants will use the pre-populated list in the Eligible Locations Reference tab to cut and paste the BSLs for each APA into the BSL Worksheet tab. This list is created from the IOB and NTIA-approved list of APAs and eligible BSLs. Applicants should only filter, cut, and paste the APA and BSL data needed for their projects and make no other changes to the data in this tab.

The third tab is the BSL Worksheet tab. Applicants are required to

complete the BSL Worksheet tab by COPYING and PASTING records from the Eligible Locations Reference tab. Ultimately, the BSL Worksheet tab must:

- List each APA ID number that the project will serve.
- List each BSL with the FCC Location ID within the corresponding APA ID for the applicant's proposed project area.
- Mark a "Y" for each BSL that is identified as either a CAI or NTIA-designated high-cost, using the pre-populated information in the Eligible Locations Reference tab.
- Applicants are not permitted to exclude any BSLs from an APA; however, applicants are permitted to identify eligible BSLs, by FCC Location ID, that the applicant would prefer not to serve and provide a justification for why (e.g. difficult terrain). These preferences will be considered during grant award negotiations but are not guaranteed.
  - The IOB's goal for the program is to serve all eligible BSLs in a project area. However, to encourage applications for APAs with significant numbers of high cost BSLs, the IOB will allow applicants to identify cost drivers, isolated, hard-to-serve, or high cost BSLs. Applicants can identify these "Prefer Not to Serve" locations up to five percent of eligible BSLs per APA in the project area. The IOB will review the request and discuss with applicants at the negotiation phase.
  - Provide a brief justification for each "Prefer Not to Serve" BSL using the drop-down menu in the Justification column. These justifications will provide the IOB with an understanding of the barriers and challenges to serve these identified locations.
  - One of the options that applicants may choose as a justification for the "Prefer Not to Serve" BSLs is "BSL Error – Not a Serviceable Location." This is intended to allow

applicants to identify locations that are incorrectly categorized as eligible BSLs but applicant has identified as unserviceable locations. BSLs identified with this justification will NOT count towards the 5% per APA threshold, but they will be subject to review and applicants may be requested to provide evidence to demonstrate that these BSLs are not serviceable.

The template also requires applicants to provide additional information about the proposed project's commitments for each BSL, including:

- The technology proposed to be deployed, using the drop-down menu in the spreadsheet.
- The minimum certified speed proposed to be deployed, in Mbps.
- Any additional information applicant believes is necessary for IOB's scoring and review.

The fourth tab is the APA Worksheet tab. This worksheet requires applicants to provide additional information about each APA in the project, including:

- The number of BSLs in the APA that the applicant will serve.
- Amount of requested BEAD funds broken down by APA.
- Amount of applicant match funding broken down by APA.
- Total cost of the proposed project (request + match) broken down by APA.

The information in each of the tabs in this template is critical and applicants are urged to be as accurate and complete as possible when filling out this template. This information will support the application review process. During this process, the State may award partial projects or propose revisions to projects to ensure that Idaho's limited BEAD funds are used as efficiently as possible. Therefore, applicants may be requested to reduce or expand their project areas and project budgets (ID IPV2, Sections 2.4.2, 2.4.3, 2.4.6, 2.4.7, 2.4.10.). The review team and

IOB will work with with the applicants to minimize the impact on the proposed project.

Question 25: Proposed Technology: Select one technology option that best describes the proposed project

The applicant must select planned network infrastructure technology that will be deployed if the project is funded. If the proposed project includes a mix of technology, please choose the “Non-Priority: Mixed Technology.”

The applicant portal will have a drop-down menu of options to choose from.

Applicants may select only one option:

- **Priority Project: Fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP):** FTTP is a fixed wireline service using end-to-end fiber optic cable to the premise for all locations. The applicant commits to providing fiber connectivity to each unit for all MDU locations within the proposed project units selected on this application
- **Non-Priority: Mixed Technology:** Choose this option when the applicant plans to deploy a mix of the above technologies
- **Non-Priority: Coaxial Cable / HFC:** Coaxial Cable or Hybrid fiber/coaxial cable is a fixed wireline service using DOCSISx technology
- **Non-Priority: Licensed Fixed Wireless:** Licensed fixed wireless is a terrestrial fixed wireless technology using only licensed spectrum
- **Alternative: Unlicensed Fixed Wireless**
- **Alternative: Low Earth Orbit Satellite**
- **\*Note that applicant’s answer to this question must match the “technology choice” identifications made for each BSL on the Project Area and BSL Template that applicant has uploaded for this application.**

For projects that will deploy a mix of technologies, applicant choose “Non-Priority: Mixed Technology” for this question and then specify the technology type to be deployed to each BSL in the Project Area and BSL template.

Question 26: Proposed Download Speed: Specify the minimum download speed that will be provided to all BSLs within the proposed project area upon project completion.

Field Type: Numeric Field

Question 27: Proposed Upload Speed: Specify the minimum upload speed that will be provided to all BSLs within the proposed project area upon project completion.

Field Type: Numeric Field

Question 28: Proposed Maximum Latency: Specify the maximum latency that will be provided to all BSLs within the proposed project area upon project completion.

Field Type: Numeric Field

Question 29: Proposed monthly subscription rates (This is a scored element up to 15 points)

Applicant must fill out the Subscriber Services Rate Sheet Template. The template is located here [*link to be inserted*]. Applicants will use this template to provide the IOB with information about each residential broadband plan it will offer over the funded network. The fields in the template include the name of the plan, the speed tiers, monthly subscription rates, one-time charges, promotional rates, and any material terms and conditions

- Applicant must also identify the service offering that constitutes applicant's required "low-cost service option" as discussed in Section 2.12 in Idaho IPV 2 and discussed further below in Section F

The IOB requires the information in this template to score the "affordability" element of the Scoring Matrix. Applicants deploying a Priority Broadband Project must include the pricing and information for at least one offering at 1 Gbps symmetrical. Applicants deploying a Non-priority or Alternative Technology project must include pricing and information for at least one offering at 100/20 Mbps.

Except for the low-cost service option requirement, applicants may price their services at any price point to be eligible for funding; however, applications will receive points for affordability based on the following scoring matrix.

**IBAB Approved Scoring Matrix- Affordability Criteria**

<b>Priority Broadband</b>	<b>Points</b>
Monthly service cost 1 Gbps/1 Gbps < \$70.00	15
Monthly service cost 1Gbps/1Gbps \$70.99-79.99	12.5
Monthly service cost 1 Gbps/1 Gbps \$80.00-\$89.99	10
Monthly service cost 1 Gbps/1 Gbps \$90.00-\$99.99	5
Monthly service cost 1 Gbps/1 Gbps \$100.00-\$109.99	2.5
Monthly service cost 1 Gbps/1 Gbps > \$109.99	0
<b>Non-Priority Broadband</b>	<b>Points</b>
Monthly service cost 100/20 Mbps < \$50.00	15
Monthly service cost 100/20 Mbps \$50.00-\$59.99	10
Monthly service cost 100/20 Mbps \$60.00-\$69.99	5
Monthly service cost 100/20 Mbps \$70.00-\$74.99	2.5
Monthly service cost 100/20 Mbps > \$74.99	0

Question 30: Open Access: Will any segment of the proposed project be considered an open-access network? (This is a scored element up to 7.5 points)

IBAB has defined the term “open access” to mean “*an arrangement in which the grantee offers nondiscriminatory access to and use of its middle-mile network on a wholesale basis to other providers seeking to provide broadband service to end-user locations, at reasonable and competitive wholesale rates for the useful life of the network assets.*”<sup>2</sup>

Using this definition, applicant must provide information about any plans to institute open access network policies for any part of its funded network.

Applicants will be required to provide additional details on any plans for an open access network in subsequent questions.

This information will be scored pursuant to the approved Scoring Matrix and BEAD Program rules.

Question 31: Middle Mile: Will any element of the proposed project include middle mile infrastructure?

BEAD Program rules and the State will allow requests for funding for middle mile infrastructure only to the extent that middle mile infrastructure is necessary to support a BEAD-funded last mile project. The State will not accept applications for stand-alone middle mile infrastructure projects. Applicants will be required to provide additional details on any plans for middle-mile infrastructure in subsequent questions.

Questions 32-36: Existing Facilities: Please describe the types of technology (fiber, coaxial, wireless) and infrastructure (towers, poles, conduit) currently deployed by the applicant in the APAs included in the proposed project and in neighboring APAs, indicate if there is sufficient access to middle mile and backhaul capacity for the proposed project. And if there is existing open access network capacity in the project area.

Applicants are asked to answer five questions that specify:

- Question 32: The types of technology currently deployed
- Question 33: The types of infrastructure currently deployed

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<sup>2</sup> See, IBAB Capital Projects Fund Broadband Infrastructure Grant Application, pg. 3, [https://commerce.idaho.gov/content/uploads/2023/05/CPF-Grant-Guidelines\\_FINAL-1.pdf](https://commerce.idaho.gov/content/uploads/2023/05/CPF-Grant-Guidelines_FINAL-1.pdf).

- Question 34: The highest download speeds currently offered
- Question 35: If there is sufficient access to middle mile and backhaul capacity for the proposed project
- Question 36: If there is existing open access capacity in the project area

To determine whether the applicant's proposed project will meet the State's strategic goals and will be an effective and efficient use of grant funding, the IOB will need information about the applicant's existing network infrastructure capabilities in the contiguous and proximate communities. This information will also allow IOB to determine if the proposed project is an extension of the applicant's existing infrastructure. The questions require simple yes/no answers, choices from a drop-down menu, or text box entries. This should only include infrastructure currently in service.

Question 37: Current Investments: Please describe any current regional investments or funding commitments in the local area by the applicant or third parties that could be leveraged for this proposed project.

If known, provide information regarding existing regional investments planned by the applicant or other entities that could be leveraged for this proposed project. Please provide as much information as is known to allow the IOB to further investigate how these regional investments may support the BEAD Program objectives.

### **C. Project Budget**

BEAD Program rules require applicants to demonstrate that the costs of their proposed project are reasonable and eligible for reimbursement under the program rules. In this Section, applicants are asked to provide further details on the costs and budget of the proposed project, including a breakdown of the project budget by standardized categories to ensure that the IOB can confirm the eligibility of each proposed cost. As part of the necessary showing of cost reasonableness for this section, applicants are encouraged to review the NTIA list of designated high-cost areas and other cost benchmark data to better understand where the total project costs and BEAD requested funds may fall within the range of applications.

Question 38: Total Project Cost per Passing

Provide the calculated cost per passing for the proposed project. The IOB will use this cost per passing figure to compare projects competing within the same APA and identify projects that exceed the EHCPLT.

Question 39: BEAD Requested Funding Cost per Passing (This is a scored element up to 35 points)

Applicants must also calculate a cost-per-passing using only the amount of requested funding from the Idaho BEAD Program. The review team will use this information to compare projects competing within the same APAs for cost reasonableness, identify projects that exceed the EHCPLT, and to score the “minimum BEAD outlay.”

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Question 40: Project Budget Template: Applicants are required to complete and upload the Project Budget Template to provide the following information:

The template is located here [*link to be inserted*] Applicants will use this template to provide the IOB with a detailed budget narrative and breakdown of total project costs, including administrative costs.

**Matching Funds:** Applicants may review Section 2.4.11 of the IPV2 and BEAD NOFO Section III.B to understand the BEAD Program matching funds requirement and to determine if they qualify for any waiver or reduction in match amount. The NTIA has provided a Match Primer Guidance, available here: [https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2024-05/BEAD\\_Match\\_Primer.pdf](https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2024-05/BEAD_Match_Primer.pdf).

Except for waivers in NTIA-designated high-cost areas, waiver requests will be subject to the IBAB and NTIA's approval. The request must demonstrate 1) special circumstances underlying the request; 2) an explanation of how the waiver will serve the public interest and the State's program goals and objectives.

**Template Fields:**

- **Budget narrative** to describe how the expenditures are related to project objectives and how the costs proposed in the budget are reasonable, permissible, allocable, and necessary for the supported activity.
- **Total project costs** are broken down by standardized categories that come from the federal grant reporting form SF-424-C.
- **Match Amount** of no less than 25% of total project costs:
  - Specify any in-kind match for each specific budget category
  - Specify **other third-party**, non-profit, or local government contributions to the match amount. If the State of Idaho is providing any matching funding, indicate that amount here.
  - Specify if the applicant will rely on other, eligible, **federal funding programs**, for all or part of its match. Generally, applicants may not rely on federal funding for match funding. If applicants rely on funding from other federal programs to support its match amount, the

applicant and State must comply not only with all BEAD program rules, but also the rules of the funding program supporting the match amount. Applicants may apply funding from the following federal sources for their match amount:

- The Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020;
  - The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Secure (CARES) Act of 2020;
  - The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 or;
  - The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Capital Project Fund or State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds)<sup>3</sup>
- **Administrative Costs are subject to a cap.** This number should be an estimated portion of the “Administrative and Legal” expenses specified above. Under IOB IPV2 pg. 61 and Section 60102(d)(2)(B) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, subgrantees may use no more than two percent of the BEAD award amount for certain administrative expenses related to the day-to-day *administration* of their award. Some examples of administrative expenses that may fall under this 2% cap: accounting services, budgeting, some reporting and monitoring, travel costs, data collection, and audit expenses.
- **Match waiver justification.** Please explain any requested match waivers or whether the applicant is providing less than the required match because eligible BSLs are in NTIA-designated high-cost areas. For all match waiver requests beyond those in high-cost areas, the IBAB will determine if it will request the waiver from the NTIA, and the NTIA must approve the requested waiver. Applicants should be prepared to submit the full required match should the request for a waiver be denied. More information about the match and match scoring is discussed above.

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<sup>3</sup> Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (PL117-58), Section 60102(h)(3)(B).

Question 41: Letter of Commitment: Upload a Letter of Commitment from a qualified financial institution or a surety using the IOB sample letter. Submissions must meet eligibility requirements set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.804(c) and NITA LOC Waiver Program [link to be inserted]

Applicants must upload a Letter of Commitment from a bank or other eligible financial institution that demonstrates the financial institution's understanding and commitment that it will provide a letter of credit or performance bond if the project is selected for funding.

The letter must be on the institution's letterhead, addressed to the applicant, and must specify the expected financial commitment for the letter of credit or bond. The letter of credit must be 25% of the subaward amount, or the performance bond must be 100% of the subaward amount.

The BEAD Program rules provide options to adjust the amount and terms. Applicants are encouraged to review the sample Letter of Commitment posted on Link Up Idaho here [link to be inserted] and to review the IOB IPV2 Section 2.4.11, pages 58-60, BEAD NOFO Section IV.D.2.a.ii, and the NTIA Letter of Credit Waiver Notice <https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/funding-programs/policies-waivers/BEAD-Letter-of-Credit-Waiver> for more details on the requirement.

Applicants may only submit the Letter of Commitment. Only projects chosen for funding will be required to submit a letter of credit or performance bond in the required amounts related to the BEAD Funds awarded.

Question 42: Does the applicant have any additional documents to demonstrate financial capability tailored to the proposed project?

Applicants have the opportunity to upload additional documents the IOB has not explicitly asked for in this application, but that may provide a more complete picture of applicant's financial capabilities.

Question 43: Does the applicant certify that it has the financial resources to support all proposed project costs necessary to complete the project, even if those costs exceed the amount of the grant award and pledged matching funds?

- This is a "yes" or "no" certification.

Question 44: Does the applicant certify that it is familiar with and will comply with all applicable provisions of the US Treasury Uniform Guidance, 2 CFR Part 200, and related NTIA Policy Notices (12/26/2023, 10/2024) for this proposed project?

Provide a yes or no certification that the applicant is familiar with federal grant funding rules contained in the US Treasury Uniform Guidance, 2 CFR Part 200, and the related NTIA Policy Notices (12/26/2023, 10/2024) that revised and updated some of the Uniform Guidance rules for the BEAD Program,

[https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/2023-12/BEAD\\_Policy\\_Notice\\_of\\_Uniform\\_Guidance\\_Part\\_200\\_Exceptions\\_Related\\_Issues.pdf](https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/2023-12/BEAD_Policy_Notice_of_Uniform_Guidance_Part_200_Exceptions_Related_Issues.pdf).

Further guidance on the applicability of federal grant funding rules can be found in an NTIA Policy Notice Primer (October 2024),

[https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2024-10/Uniform\\_Guidance\\_Policy\\_Notice\\_Primer.pdf](https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2024-10/Uniform_Guidance_Policy_Notice_Primer.pdf).

#### **D. Community Outreach and Local Engagement**

The BEAD Program rules require the IOB to collect information regarding coordination and outreach in the community that your proposed project will serve.

**Local and Tribal Coordination is a scored element up to 6.5 points for Priority Broadband Projects and 5 points for Non-Priority.**

Question 45: Is the proposed project within or traversing Tribal Lands?

Proposed projects that are within or traversing Tribal Lands are subject to additional requirements to ensure that tribal governments consent to deploying infrastructure on Tribal Lands and that the appropriate communication and coordination have been completed. See, BEAD NOFO page 48; ID IPV2 2.4.8.

Question 46: If “yes.” please upload the formal Tribal consent resolution or similar documents. If unavailable, please upload relevant documents demonstrating comprehensive local coordination and Tribal engagement about this project.

For consideration of proposed projects within, connecting to, or traversing Tribal Land, documentation demonstrating tribal consent or local coordination is required at the time of application. For additional information, refer to IOB IPV2 Section 2.4.8 regarding tribal consent.

If the applicant has not yet received the formal resolution or other qualifying tribal documentation of consent, applicants may upload documentation demonstrating meaningful and ongoing efforts to coordinate with relevant Tribal organizations while waiting to receive more formal consent documentation from the relevant tribal entities

Applicants must submit the required Tribal consent documents within 66 calendar days of the opening of the Funding Application window (45 days during the application window + 21 additional days). Applicants that do not include the required documentation will not be considered for an award.

Question 47: Does the applicant certify its understanding and compliance with BEAD Program rules for projects on or traversing Tribal Land and that it will provide required Tribal consent documents before the provisional award announcement?

- This is a “yes” or “no” certification, with an “N/A” option.

Question 48: Local community outreach efforts: Describe applicant's efforts to involve community, local governments, schools, and nonprofits in project planning. Upload documents demonstrating outreach efforts, including public meetings, public comments, and support from local governments.

The BEAD Program rules require ongoing outreach and communication with diverse stakeholders, local governments, and all communities that may be impacted by, and benefit from, applicant's proposed project. Please describe public meetings or other efforts to engage the community and local governments, schools, and nonprofits, specifically in the planning of this project. All outreach initiatives cited must include the date of the outreach, number of participants, and outreach type/method (email, community meeting, etc.).

Applicants may also upload documents demonstrating community outreach efforts and results of public meetings, public comments, and other outreach, including endorsements by local governments. Proof of engagement can include copies of communications (emails, in-person meetings, phone calls with members and their contact information), flyers, and attendance sheets of public meetings.

Documentation must show that the applicant made reasonable efforts to engage with the community.

## **E. Technical Documents**

Applicants are required to provide detailed technical and design specifications about the proposed project. The application questions are a mix of narrative responses, numeric and text box responses, and uploads of supporting documents. The IOB will review each application and the supporting documents to assess the applicant's technical capability to complete the project successfully and assess the technical feasibility and cost reasonableness of the proposed project. The IOB will also review the technical documentation to ensure that the project can meet the applicant's committed construction milestones, proposed speeds, and estimated capacity and scalability, as well as ensuring that the project will meet the minimum BEAD standards (per [NTIA Proposed BEAD Performance Measure Guidance](#)).

The IOB IPV2 requests that applicants provide a Project Workplan that provides a detailed description of the timeline, financial sustainability, and technical design of the proposed project.

For the Workplan, applicants are required to provide:

- A fully completed Pro Forma Template with financial projections and business model forecasting for a ten (10) year operating horizon post project completion
- A fully completed Deployment Timeline Template demonstrating project completion within applicant's committed timeframe, but no longer than 4 years
- Short answers to specific questions regarding applicant's network design, construction and engineering planning, as discussed below
- Project Area and Network Design document supporting the technical performance and network capability
- Logical Network Design document demonstrating the architecture and interconnection of the network
- Network Resiliency Analysis to discuss redundancy and network hardening to minimize the impact of outages on subscribers
- Permitting and Right of Way Analysis to discuss the scope, scale, and timelines for the project to receive all necessary permits and right of way access
- Open Access Policies narrative
- Additional Project Details broken down by technology-specific deployments
- Professional Engineer certification

The IOB has provided a template or sample language for many of these documents as part of its technical support for applicants. These templates and samples are posted on Link Up Idaho [*link to be inserted*]. **Applicants are required to use the templates provided.**

The IOB will accept applications proposing to deploy alternative technologies, as defined by NTIA to be unlicensed fixed wireless and low earth orbit satellite. Applicants proposing to use alternative technologies are encouraged to review the NTIA Policy Notice, here [Final Guidance for BEAD Funding of Alternative Broadband Technology | National Telecommunications and Information Administration](#). Pursuant to the IOB IPV2, pages 54-55, projects proposing to use alternative technologies will be reviewed and scored after the IOB has examined all other applications for projects proposing to use Priority and Non-Priority technologies and has considered cost reasonableness and technical feasibility for those projects' reliable broadband

service throughout a project area.

Question 49: Project Pro Forma Template

Complete and upload the Project Pro Forma Template, which can be found here: [*link to be inserted*]. Applicants must demonstrate the financial sustainability of the proposed project throughout construction and ten (10) years of operations after project completion.

Template Elements:

- Forecasts of project-specific financial data to demonstrate sustainability, including projected operating expenses, cash flow, balance sheet, and income statements
- Forecasts and assumptions of take-rates, churn, revenue-per-user, and other relevant metrics over ten (10) years
- Capital expenditures broken down by year, over a ten-year period

Question 50: Are there any additional documents to demonstrate project sustainability tailored to the proposed project?

Field Type: Y/N and upload

Please select “No” if you have no further documentation. Select “Yes” if you have further documentation, and then upload documents in PDF, Excel, or JPEG format.

Question 51: Project Deployment Timeline Template: Upload the Project Deployment Timeline template that reflects project completion in no longer than the four-year grant performance. The template can be found here [\[link to be inserted\]](#).

The template requires applicants to break down their project by key project milestones, including planning, design, procurement, permitting, environmental review, construction, installation, network turnup, testing, and service initiation. The timeline must show project completion by the date committed by the applicant and no more than four years from the subgrant award date.

For LEO applicants, the timeline must show the completion of the reservation of capacity no later than four years from the subgrant award date and may also show an additional ten years for the grant period of performance that will include end user service initiation in the funded area and deployment of related materials and equipment.

As separate milestones, applicants proposing a LEO technology must include their satellite launch schedule to achieve the committed four year performance period for reserving sufficient capacity to meet grant commitments.

Applicants deploying fixed wireless must include a new tower construction schedule in addition to the construction schedule noted above.

The timeline must also include a capital investment schedule that matches the applicant’s project commitments and pro forma projections.

The template includes a short narrative discussing any recent or anticipated changes to its corporate ownership or structure that could impact the corporate timeline.

This is a scored element up to 5 points

Deployment schedule	Points
= 48 months	0
42-47 months	2
36-41 months	3
24-35 months	4
< 24 months	5

For the following questions, applicant must provide complete and detailed answers that will allow the IOB to understand the project's scope, applicant's goals with the project, and how it will achieve overall IOB BEAD Program goals as discussed in the IPV2. These questions apply to all technology types. Please answer these questions as specifically as possible, as they relate to the technology types (fiber, coaxial, HFC, fixed wireless, LEO satellite) that applicant plans to deploy.

Question 52: Please discuss applicant's plans for incorporating excess capacity, network scalability, and future expansion into the project. Discuss plans for future upgrades of equipment and network capabilities. LEO satellite applicants should discuss plans for any decommissioning of satellites or plans to upgrade satellite equipment or software during the period of performance of the grant, and how that may impact capacity reservation.

Field Type: Text Box

Question 53: How will the proposed network use industry best practices for network design, construction, and engineering to support applicant's project commitments for all BSLs in the project area?

Field Type: Text Box

Question 54: How will the applicant ensure that the existing or planned backhaul and middle mile will sufficiently support the performance requirements for the proposed project?

Field Type: Text Box

Question 55: Please list all planned equipment types and major network protocols, including DOCSIS versions, optical fiber technology types (XGS-PON, G-PON, etc.), satellite and ground equipment technology, and customer premises equipment if part of the grant.

Field Type: Text Box

Question 56: Please describe applicant's planned construction methods, including utility coordination.

Field Type: Text Box

Question 57: Please describe applicant's planned Interconnection methods and plans to place conduit access points at reasonable intervals.

Field Type: Text Box

Question 58: Please discuss any anticipated barriers to construction and deployment (weather, economic, permitting, interconnection, satellite launch issues, geography, topography, etc.).

Field Type: Text Box

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Question 59: Network Design: Upload a project area and network design in a shapefile or geospatial format (KMZ, etc.) that supports the applicant's committed technical performance and network capabilities. Not all elements will apply to each technology type. Please include all of the following elements, being as specific as you can relative to the technology type of your project, within the network design document (Field Type: Upload):

The proposed project area, including APA boundaries, is shown as a polygon, and the BSLs to be served (depicted as points)

Network infrastructure routes:

- Fiber and/or coaxial routes, making distinctions between new and existing; or
- Placement of new and existing towers, making distinctions between new and existing, and modeled coverage area; or
- Placement of new and existing satellite ground equipment or stations, making a distinction between new and existing, and the area to be served by each station.

Existing backhaul and middle mile routes that will be relied upon for the project, designating each technology (fiber, microwave, etc.).

If applicable, planned backhaul and middle mile routes that will be constructed as part of the project, designating the technology for each

If applicable, planned open access routes that will be constructed as part of the project, designating the technology for each:

- Planned right of way and easement access
- Location of the interconnection points and the planned conduit access points (must be placed at regular intervals)
- Location of key elements such as outside plant placement of terminals and hubs, points of presence, huts, central offices

Question 60: Logical Network Drawing: Provide a logical network design drawing or diagram in JPEG, PNG, or PDF format that includes (Field Type: Upload):

- The logical connectivity of the network
- Architecture of the network for placement and redundancy of the core network electronics and hardware
- Types of network platforms to be utilized for each layer of the network

Question 61: Network Resiliency: Provide an analysis that includes descriptions of redundant paths, undergrounding and conduit, backup power, network and equipment hardening, network monitoring, and other plans to ensure robust and reliable connectivity.

**Applicants** are encouraged to review ID IPV2 Section 2.11 on the IOB goals of using BEAD Program funding to ensure resilient and reliable networks, even in the face of weather and natural disasters.

LEO satellite applicants must discuss how its network design and technology will mitigate outages, high latency, and slow service. Please discuss the types of circumstances that applicant anticipates may cause its customers to experience poor network performance.

Question 62: Permitting and Make Ready: Discuss planned permits and easements. Discuss the number and type of poles and conduit owned or leased by the applicant requiring make-ready work. Analyze potential barriers or delays from these activities.

Provide an analysis that includes the estimated number and type of anticipated permits, the number of poles owned by the applicant with make-ready work, the number of poles with leased access that will require make-ready work, and the requirement to obtain easements or other property access. Applicant should also discuss potential barriers or timeline delays that may be encountered, including permitting and make-ready work on poles or conduit access.

Question 63: Open Access Policies: Describe the applicant’s open access network policies and any wholesale services planned to be offered over funded infrastructure. Include ISP partners, wholesale customers and the status and types of agreements with these partners (This is a scored element up to 7.5 points)

Using the definition of “open access” adopted by the State, “*an arrangement in which the grantee offers nondiscriminatory access to and use of its middle-mile network on a wholesale basis to other providers seeking to provide broadband service to end-user locations, at reasonable and competitive wholesale rates for the useful life of the network assets,*” please include a discussion of any current open access networks operated by the applicant and identification of the segments of the proposed project that will be operated as an open access network. When describing the planned wholesale services, please include the wholesale rates and any significant terms and conditions of the access. Please note that this answer cannot be identified as confidential, please answer as completely as possible without using confidential or proprietary information.

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Questions 64-87: Priority Fiber to the Premises Projects, Non-Priority and Alternative Technology Fixed Wireless Projects, Coaxial Cable and HFC Projects, and Alternative Technology Projects

For Questions 64-87, applicants are required to provide additional details regarding the proposed network design. Applicants are encouraged to design the project to support scalability, including excess capacity in the deployed cable and wireless facilities and will be asked to describe the amount of excess capacity the project will have at project completion.

- For those questions that do not apply to the technology types included in applicant’s projects, applicant must put a “0” in the numeric fields or “N/A” in any text box fields.
- The use of advanced technology to support higher speeds for **Non-Priority Broadband Projects** is a scored element of up to 5 points.

Deployed Technology	Points
Hybrid fiber-coaxial (HFC) DOCSIS 4.0	5
Hybrid fiber-coaxial (HFC) DOCSIS 3.1	4
Wireless using licensed spectrum	3
Alternative technologies approved by IBAB	1-2

- Questions 64-69: For **Priority Projects**, including end-to-end fiber-optic cable to the premise (FTTP), applicants are required to provide numeric text-based responses to questions regarding the design of the network. The questions request information regarding the fiber miles, fiber strand count, percentage of fiber strands in each conduit sheath dedicated as excess capacity for planned future growth, and amounts of buried, conduit, and aerial cable deployment.
- Questions 70-75: For **Non-Priority Projects**, including licensed fixed wireless or hybrid licensed/unlicensed spectrum (non-FTTP), as well as alternative technology unlicensed fixed wireless projects, the questions require text and numeric responses regarding tower deployment, tower dedication, tower upgrades, leasing, licensed

spectrum allocations and deployment, served BSLs per tower and customer premises equipment.

- Questions 76-79: For **Non-Priority Projects**, including wireline service using coaxial cable or hybrid fiber-coaxial HFC) (e.g., DOCSISx), the questions include the breakdown of fiber and coaxial cable used in the HFC projects, estimate of buried, conduit, and aerial cable deployment, the version of DOCSIS that will be deployed with the project and any plans for upgrades during the grant performance and grant interest period and customer premises equipment.
- Questions 80-87: For **Alternative Technology Projects** using low earth orbit satellite, the application asks for information regarding the funded satellites, current satellites, network capacity, timelines for launch, new and existing ground stations, customer premises equipment, and subsidies to serve low income customers. This funded capacity must be made available during the first four years of the BEAD grant period of performance and must enable the provider to serve all BSLs in the project area for an additional 10 years, at BEAD technical requirements (100/20 Mbps, equal or less than 100 mms latency), and initiate service within 10 days to any BSL in the area upon request. Please also see the NTIA's Alternative Technology Guidance for additional information,  
[https://www.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/publications/ntia\\_bead\\_alternative\\_broadband\\_technology\\_policy\\_notice.pdf](https://www.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/publications/ntia_bead_alternative_broadband_technology_policy_notice.pdf).

Question 88: Professional Engineer (P.E.) Certification: Submit a P.E. certification and other supporting documentation confirming the funded network can deliver service meeting the BEAD Program's performance requirements at all locations within the committed timeframes.

Sample certification language can be found here [*link to be inserted*].

The certifying engineer must have a valid and current license from any state and must sign and date the certification. The professional engineer must certify that they have reviewed all relevant materials and have concluded that the applicant can deliver qualifying broadband service throughout the project area within the committed time frame and in compliance with BEAD Program rules, performance requirements, and the applicant's service commitments. The NTIA has waived the requirement that this certification must apply to the Applicant's capital investment schedule but continues to apply the certification requirement to all other elements of the application as required by the BEAD NOFO Section IV.D.2.c.

Applicants must also include the P.E.'s license, curriculum vitae or resume, and any reports, letters, or analysis performed by the P.E. to support the certification. These documents can be uploaded as part of the same file as the certification or as separate attachments that are clearly labeled to be associated with this certification.

## **F. Low-Cost Service Option**

This section requires applicants to provide information about their low-cost service option and the requirements outlined in the IOB IPV2 Section 2.12. The IPV2 defines a low-cost broadband service option as a broadband service plan that satisfies all standards necessary for eligible households to access affordable high-speed internet. The BEAD program requires that all applicants offer a low-cost service option to show their commitment to affordability for Idahoans. In addition, applicants will be required to participate in any federal subsidy program that is identified as a successor program to the federal Affordable Connectivity Program.

- To be considered a low-cost broadband service option, subgrantees must provide a service plan that meets the following:

- Target low-cost service plan rates that are \$30 per month, but absent a federal or state low-cost subsidy program, the IOB will accept low-cost plans at \$70 per month or less, inclusive of all taxes, fees, and charges for residents with low income federal or state assistance and for those living on tribal land.
- The plan must allow the end user to apply any applicable benefit subsidy program(s) to the service price.
- The plan cannot be subject to data caps, surcharges, or usage-based throttling and is subject only to the same acceptable use policies to which subscribers to all other broadband internet access service plans offered to home subscribers by the participating subgrantee must adhere.
- The low-cost broadband option must remain available for the useful life of the BEAD-funded network assets, which BEAD rules require to be ten (10) years, with adjustments to the pricing for inflation.

Questions 89-91: Low-cost service option certification: Does the applicant certify that it understands and will comply with the State's low-cost service option requirements as described in its IPV2, Section 2.12?

Applicants are required to certify by answering yes or responding no and explaining why they cannot offer a low-cost service option, which may be priced at no more than \$70 per month, absent a federal or state broadband subsidy program.

The State's IPV2, Section 2.12, provides further guidance and highlights that applicants may submit a request for a modification to the low-cost service option with evidence demonstrating that the current rules result in an offering that is financially unsustainable for the applicant and supporting the applicant's newly proposed rate or terms.

When answering this question, applicants must take into account the obligation to offer a low-cost service option, with price increases linked to changes to the Consumer Price Index, for the effective life of the network assets (currently 10 years under BEAD Program rules).

Question 92: Does the applicant certify that it will participate in any federal subsidy program that is identified by the IOB or the BEAD Program rules as a successor program to the federal Affordable Connectivity Program?

The BEAD Program rules require applicants to participate in any federal subsidy program administered by State or the BEAD Program rules as a successor to the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). The ACP was discontinued in June of 2024. As of the writing of this guidance, no official replacement program has been announced.

93. If the applicant answers no to this certification, it must explain why it cannot commit to participating in a successor program. The IOB will prioritize applications that commit to low-cost service options but will consider all responses.

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Questions 94- 101 require applicant to describe its planned Low-Cost Service Option in short answer and numeric fields in the portal:

- Question 94: Describe the service characteristics of the applicant’s planned Low-Cost Service Option (download and upload speeds, latency, any limits on usage or availability, and any material network management practices).
- Question 95: Provide the recurring charges to the subscriber, inclusive of all taxes, fees, and charges.
- Question 96: Provide any non-recurring charges, service initiation charges, or fees to the subscriber; please put \$0 if none.
- Question 97: Describe the participant eligibility requirements to enroll in your low-cost service option.
- Question 98: Confirm that an eligible subscriber may use any established subsidy or discount toward the plan’s rate.
  - Question 99: If the response to this question is “no,” an explanation is required. If the answer is “yes,” enter N/A.
- Question 100: Will a subscriber have the ability to upgrade to any new low-cost service plans offering more advantageous technical specifications?
  - Question 101: If the response to this question is “no,” an explanation is required. If the answer is “yes,” enter N/A.

## **G. Middle-Class Service Plan**

The Idaho BEAD Program is designed to provide affordable broadband service for all consumers throughout the State. The BEAD Program requires applicants to offer a middle-class affordability plan that provides high-quality broadband services at reasonable prices throughout the applicant’s BEAD-funded network’s service area.

The middle-class plan aligns with strategic BEAD Program objectives to ensure every resident has access to a reliable, high-speed broadband connection.

The NTIA does not define “middle-class” or “affordability” in the NOFO guidelines. Therefore, the IOB will encourage applicants to offer price points that support all subscribers’ ability to pay

for reliable, high-speed service through a range of solutions, price points, and service plans. Additionally, the State will monitor affordability metrics and benchmarks; require subsidized services for low-income consumers; prioritize projects that incorporate affordability considerations; and promote competition.

To achieve this effort, Idaho's middle-class plan adopts the following strategies in all BEAD-funded network service areas, focusing on three key areas: availability, assistance, and ongoing monitoring.

### **Availability**

- The applicant's commitment to providing the most affordable low-cost plan with a minimum speed of 100/20 to all middle-class households using a BEAD-funded network.
- The applicant's commitment to provide the most affordable total price to the customer for 1 Gbps/1 Gbps (Gigabit symmetrical) service in the project area.

### **Assistance**

- Increasing competition by eliminating barriers to entry, opening access to multi-dwelling units, or promoting alternative technologies; and
- The promotion of consumer pricing benchmarks that provide consumers with an objective criterion to use in determining whether the rate offerings of broadband service providers are reasonable and to encourage providers to adopt affordable pricing.

### **Ongoing Monitoring**

- The IOB will continue monitoring and public reporting to ensure that high-speed internet connections are affordable for middle-class households in the State.
- Applicants will be required to offer the 1 Gbps symmetrical or 100/20 Mbps plans, with price increases limited to changes in the Consumer Price Index, provided to IOB for the affordability criteria in the Scoring Matrix for the effective life of the network assets (currently 10 years under BEAD Program rules).

Question 102: Does the applicant certify that it understands and will comply with the State's middle-class service plan requirements described in its IPV2, Section 2.13?

Applicants are required to certify their commitment to comply with the IPV2 middle-class service plan requirements. Applicants that do not certify will not be considered for award.

When answering this question, applicants must take into account the obligation to offer a low-cost service option for the effective life of the network assets (currently 10 years under BEAD Program rules).

Question 103: Does the applicant certify its understanding and compliance that subgrantees cannot charge special construction charges for network extensions to residences in the project area for 10 years after broadband service is generally available in the area?

IOB is aware that certain locations in Idaho cost more to connect with broadband service due to extended drop lengths from roadways or easements that contain telecommunication infrastructure. To minimize the impact of these costs on customers, applicants should be aware that costs for drops and network equipment are eligible for BEAD funding. As a result, to support the affordability of service, some additional costs to extend networks in BEAD-funded areas referred to as special construction costs in IOB's IPV2 Section 2.13, page 108, cannot be passed on to the subscriber for the life of the project and must be absorbed by the applicant. However, regular connection fees associated with any connection made on the network are allowed.

Question 104: Please discuss how the applicant intends to provide high-quality broadband service to middle-class households at reasonable prices.

The review team will score applications under the “affordability” criteria of its Scoring Matrix, using the rates provided by applicants for a 1 Gbps symmetrical service or a 100/20 Mbps service. (see **Section C Project Description** of this Application). It is important to note that the service options that applicant submits to the IOB for scoring purposes, including the rates for those services with adjustments for inflation, must remain available for the effective life of the network assets (currently 10 years under BEAD Program rules). See, IOB IPV2 Section 2.13, p. 108.

Applicants are asked to provide details on how prices for middle-class service plans will be affordable. The IOB will utilize FCC's annual Urban Rate Survey rate as the benchmark rates for middle-class rates due to the subjective nature of defining the middle-class and further determining what might be affordable for that population. The FCC uses the survey data to determine reasonable comparability benchmarks for fixed voice and broadband rates for universal service purposes. The applicant's proposed prices will be compared to the 2025 rates outlined by the FCC Urban Rate Survey.

Question 105: Provide pricing for products in Idaho's non-grant funded areas, like those planned for the proposed project. IOB will compare these rates with the proposed rates to ensure that the applicant offers competitive prices to residents in grant-funded areas.

The IOB will encourage ISPs participating in the Idaho BEAD Program to offer their best price to areas they build out and serve with grant funding, in alignment with equivalent products offered in non-grant-funded service areas in Idaho. This offering will meet the “gigabit best” offered pricing requirement in the BEAD Program rules.

The applicant is asked to demonstrate that they offer the equivalent prices and products to consumers across the state of Idaho that are being proposed in this application to prevent unreasonably higher prices in grant-funded areas and other forms of disparate pricing across geographies. This is referred to as geographic discrimination and is prohibited as it pertains to applicants applying to the BEAD Program. For additional information, refer to the IOB’s IPV2 Section 2.13, page 107.

#### **H. Natural Hazard Risk Mitigation**

The State is committed to ensuring that all broadband deployments are completed in a timely manner, with the goal of providing all Idahoans with a high-speed, reliable internet connection. Communities lacking broadband are also often the most vulnerable to extreme weather and climate events. This combination often results in a lack of crucial communications infrastructure to respond during these emergencies. Building climate-resilient broadband infrastructure for such communities provides emergency response preparedness and, thus, greater climate resilience for the community itself. However, the IOB is also aware that current and future weather- and climate-related risks to new broadband infrastructure projects may delay or halt progress if these risks actualize.

Therefore, applicants must provide information related to climate risks that have been identified in the proposed project area and mitigation strategies, as well as their natural hazard risk mitigation approach to broadband deployment and any relevant experience implementing natural hazard risk mitigation measures.

Question 106: Please describe the applicant's natural hazard risk mitigation approach to broadband deployment and any relevant experience implementing natural hazard risk mitigation measures.

Applicants are asked to provide specific details on their hazard risk mitigation approach as it pertains to broadband deployment and any relevant experience implementing natural hazard risk mitigation measures. Applicants can include examples of past scenarios when mitigation measures were implemented and/or a proven approach to hazard mitigation. As requested in Section E: Technical Documents, applicants can provide additional information about current or planned network hardening to minimize the impact of outages on subscribers. For information on Idaho's hazards of concern, hazard profiles, and risk assessments, refer to the [State of Idaho Hazard Mitigation Plan](#).

Question 107: Please describe the applicant's assessment of climate risks in the specific area(s) in which it plans to propose deploying broadband, as well as any specific mitigation strategies it would employ in such areas.

In response to this question, provide specific details on your assessment of climate risk in the proposed project area(s) and the strategies it would employ to address those risks. For additional information on Idaho's identified risk, refer to the IOB's IPV2 Section 2.11, pgs. 91-101. Page 100 outlines specific mitigation strategies by risk and should be incorporated into the response.

Due to Idaho's highly varied geography, most counties are more prone to one type of climate and weather-related risk than the others. In Section 2.11 of the IPV2, IOB has identified three major climate and weather-related risks: wildfires, flooding, and extreme cold temperatures. These risks can delay deployment and cause outages and significant damage post-deployment. IOB encourages applicants to carefully consider how these risks may affect broadband deployments and to plan accordingly.

## **I. BEAD Environmental and Historical Preservation and Build America, Buy America**

The IOB is committed to ensuring that all applicants understand the obligations and responsibilities to comply with local, state, and federal environmental and historic preservation

(EHP) requirements and the requirements under the Build America, Buy America Act (BABA) for their awarded projects. The IOB will evaluate the applicant's ability to execute the proposed project within the submitted timeline and budget, in part, by considering the requirements and timing for environmental reviews, obligations to protect historical and cultural assets, and other EHP obligations, as well as compliance processes for BABA. The IOB will also be responsible for monitoring subgrantees' compliance with BABA and EHP requirements over the duration of the awarded projects.

Pre-Qualified applicants were required to certify their understanding and intention to comply with all applicable state and federal EHP and BABA requirements and to certify that project designs will minimize potential and adverse environmental impacts.

With this Funding Application, applicants are required to provide basic information about the proposed project's construction and ground-disturbing activities and BABA compliance plans to support these certifications. This requested information will further the IOB's planning, monitoring, and compliance activities related to EHP and BABA requirements and provide information necessary for the IOB to complete its Final Proposal and receive NTIA approval for all provisionally awarded projects.

Once the NTIA approves grant awards, the obligations and responsibilities of the subgrantee for EHP and BABA compliance will be included in the grant agreement for the awarded project.

Applicants are encouraged to review the BEAD Program rules, Idaho IPV2 pgs. 49-51, as well as NTIA Guidance and Waivers on these topics.

- BEAD NOFO, pgs. 87-88, NTIA BABA Policy Waiver, [BABA Waiver Signed.pdf](#), and further NTIA Guidance on compliance with BABA requirements, BEAD BABA FAQ, CLEAN FINAL BEAD BABA FAQ\_2.21.24.pdf, and NTIA article, <https://www.ntia.gov/blog/2024/demonstrating-compliance-buy-america-requirement>.
- BEAD NOFO, pgs. 86-87, NTIA EHP compliance document, [Guidance on NTIA National Environmental Policy Act Compliance](#); NEPA compliance presentation, [NEPA: Environmental and Historic Preservation Compliance Webinar Deck](#)

Question 108: Please describe any ground-disturbing activities or other deployment activities that may have a significant impact on environmental, cultural, or historic state and federal resources.

Applicants are required to provide a brief description of the construction activities and any ground disturbance that they expect to undertake as part of the proposed project. Applicants must make a good-faith effort to investigate and estimate the types of impacts the project will have on environmentally sensitive parts of the project area. This information, along with IOB research and further consultation with the subgrantee, will inform the decisions of the State and NTIA regarding the necessary environmental reviews and federal and state obligations of the awarded project.

Question 109: Is the proposed project proximate to sensitive environmental, historical, or cultural areas? Applicant may rely on its experience in the local area and/or reference the Idaho and NTIA Permitting and Environmental Information Application.

When answering this question, applicants should consider an area no less than a 5-mile radius from the proposed project.

Applicants are encouraged to use its knowledge and experience from any prior projects in the area to identify these sensitive areas. Applicants may also reference the Idaho APA 3.0 map, [here](#), with layers that show the locations for federal permitting, historic places, and critical habitat. Further, NTIA has mapping, [here](#), that includes its Permitting and Environmental Information Application.

Applicants are encouraged to use an additional NTIA tool that supports EHP and NEPA compliance, known as the ArcGIS Pro Permitting and Environmental Information Tool (APPEIT). This tool will allow users to input a project area and determine what layers from NTIA's permitting and NEPA mapping resources overlap with the applicant's project. This will allow applicants and IOB to gauge the necessary compliance work under the BEAD Program EHP rules. This tool is located [here](#).

Question 110: If yes, please describe any sensitive areas proximate to the proposed project and any local, state, or federal environmental requirements that the applicant is aware of.

Applicants are required to provide as much information as possible regarding the areas within their proposed project and the surrounding areas that they know or believe to be protected by environmental or historic preservation regulations. The State and NTIA require this information from applicants so that each entity can more accurately plan resources and timing for the necessary EHP reviews for each awarded project, thus supporting the subgrantee's performance under the award.

Question 111: Please describe applicant's planned process to ensure compliance with EHP-related BEAD Program rules and requirements.

Applicants are required to provide as much information as possible regarding the planning and requirements regarding environmental and historic preservation requirements for the proposed project. Please identify personnel, databases, contractors, prior experience, and other resources that applicant plans to use to comply with EHP requirements. Please also provide any applicable environmental and historic preservation rules and regulations that applicant has identified during the planning stage and describe applicant's internal resources and planning processes to address these requirements and to mitigate impacts from the project.

Question 112: Please describe applicant's planned process to ensure compliance with the Build America/Buy America Act and Secure and Trusted Communications Act of 2019 requirements.

Applicants must provide a description of their BABA compliance requirements that demonstrate their understanding and commitment to comply with these requirements. Compliance with BABA rules falls to the subgrantee to track and procure BABA-compliant equipment and vendors. Applicants are encouraged to review the requirements in the BEAD NOFO, NTIA General Applicability Non-Availability Waiver, [BABA Waiver Signed.pdf](#), and IPV2 Section 2.4.5 on pages 50-51.

## J. Labor Practices and Workforce Readiness

BEAD Program rules require applicants to describe practices regarding Fair Labor Standards and Workforce Readiness. Some of the information provided to IOB regarding aspects of these elements will be scored.

- The Idaho IPV2 Scoring Matrix includes up to 10 points for an applicant's dedication to and demonstration of Fair Labor Practices.
- An applicant's plans to use a certified and skilled workforce, its Workforce Readiness, will be scored up to 6 points for Priority Projects and up to 2.5 points for Non-Priority Projects.

During Pre-Qualification, applicants provided information regarding Fair Labor Standards and Workforce Readiness. Applicants also certified their commitments that any BEAD-funded projects would comply with BEAD Program rules regarding these elements.

During this Funding Application review, the team will incorporate the applicant's Pre-Qualification information and certifications into the review as part of the scores for these two application elements. Previous questions in this application give applicants an opportunity to update or revise the information they provided during Pre-Qualification.

In this Application, applicants must provide additional information regarding Fair Labor Practices and Workforce Readiness. Applicants must discuss their overall plans for BEAD-funded work in Idaho and project-specific work covered in this application. The BEAD Program will benefit local Idaho communities in multiple ways, including employment opportunities created through these funded broadband infrastructure projects. Applicants are encouraged to review the BEAD NOFO at pgs. 56-60 and Idaho IPV2 at Sections 2.7 and 2.8 (pages 76-88) regarding the purpose and intent of the Fair Labor Standards and Workforce Readiness elements of the application and to answer these questions with as much information as an applicant may have at this point in the planning.

Applicants' responses to the following questions will be part of the review and analysis of the applicant's **Workforce Readiness Plan**. The responses to the first five questions can be answered by the applicant to apply to all of the applicant's proposed projects in the state or be specific to this proposed project. The Plan must describe the applicant's future labor practices and workforce development plans, and all known contractors and subcontractors for this proposed project.

Question 113: Skilled and Credentialed Workforce: Describe applicant's plan to ensure that the project workforce will be appropriately skilled and credentialed.

Applicants must include the following information in their responses:

- Applicant's current and planned practices regarding training, certification, and licensure.
- Details on the applicant's labor practices, including workforce status and the current and planned future practices regarding using a directly employed or subcontracted workforce.

This is a scored response up to 4 points for Priority Broadband Projects and up to 2 points for Other Last Mile Projects.

Question 114: Provide job titles and, for each job title, descriptions of training, certification, and/or licensure requirements. Describe the processes that will be used to ensure that all proper certifications and licenses are obtained and remain in place.

Field Type: Text Box

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Question 115: Prevailing Wage: Describe applicant's plans to pay prevailing wages and benefits to workers and follow Davis-Bacon and Service Contract Act or similar state rules, or its plans to file project employment and local impact reports to the IOB.

It is not required for applicants to follow specific prevailing wage laws; however, applicants that do so will receive additional points.

If applicants do not plan to follow federal prevailing wage or Davis Bacon laws, they must provide project employment and local impact reports. The reports must include:

- The number of contractors and sub-contractors working on the Project;
- The number of workers on the Project hired directly and hired through a third party;
- The wages and benefits of workers on the Project by classification; and
- Whether those wages are at rates less than those prevailing.

See BEAD NOFO at p. 91.

This is a scored item up to 2 points for Priority Broadband Project and .5 points for Other Last Mile Projects.

Question 116: Please include the wage scales and overtime practices for the classification of workers for this proposed project and indicate if these wage scales and overtime policies will apply to all of applicant's BEAD proposed projects in Idaho

Field Type: Text Box

Question 117: Workforce Development: Describe the applicant's workforce development efforts, including local hiring, recruitment, employee support, and outreach to MBE and WBE entities. Applicants should include in their discussion efforts to develop:

- Recruiting/training partnerships, registered apprenticeships, or other joint management training programs.
- Local and regional hiring practices and use of an Idaho workforce.
- Employee engagement and retention, including developing talent pipelines through workforce training, wraparound services, and employee support.
- Recruitment and retention for MBEs and WBEs to promote participation in the proposed project, including placing qualified small businesses, MBEs, and WBEs on solicitation lists as discussed in the IPV2 Section 2.9.

Question 118: How many employees does the applicant expect to employ (full-time equivalent positions including contractors and subcontractors) to support all BEAD projects in Idaho?

Field Type: Numeric Field

Question 119: How many employees does the applicant expect to employ (full-time equivalent positions including contractors and subcontractors) specifically to support this proposed project?

Field Type: Numeric Field

Question 120: How many key managerial staff are expected to be dedicated to this proposed project?

Field Type: Numeric Field

These positions can include key managerial staff that applicant identified as part of Pre-Qualification.

Question 121: Describe the positions, relevant qualifications specific to this proposed project, and total years of experience for the key staff dedicated to this proposed project. If not already provided, please upload resumes for these staff. Follow the required naming convention for the documents you create and upload (*Applicant/ISP Name Unique Project Name Document Name*)

These positions can include some or all of the same key managerial staff and their resumes that applicant previously provided as part of Pre-Qualification.

If you have already uploaded resumes for these key staff, please note in your response. Please do not upload the resumes a second time.

Question 122: What percentage of your workforce that is working on all BEAD projects in Idaho is expected to be directly employed by the applicant?

Field Type: Numeric Field

Question 123: What percentage of your workforce working on all BEAD projects in Idaho is expected to be contracted or subcontracted?

Responses to questions 111 and 112 should add up to 100%. If the total percentage of the answers to these two questions does not add up to 100 percent, please upload a brief narrative to explain how these figures are calculated.

Question 124: Subcontractor Reporting Template: Please complete and upload the template. Please provide complete answers to the template elements, including:

- List all contractors and subcontractors the applicant plans to use or anticipates hiring or is retaining for all BEAD projects in Idaho.
- Identify whether the subcontractor is an MBE or WBE.
- Identify whether the subcontractor is a local hire for the proposed project. For this question, the term “local hire” means a contractor with its primary place of business located in Idaho.”
- Identify whether the subcontractor is committed to hiring a local workforce (if known).

## K. Final Attestation

Question 125: Complete, notarize, and upload the Final Attestation document. Template can be found [\[link to be inserted\]](#).

### Appendix A: Applicant Portal Instructions

*[Final portal instructions to be inserted].*

### Appendix B: File Name Instructions

Each file upload **must** follow this file naming convention which has three elements, with an underscore between the first and second elements:

4. Applicant/ISP Name followed by an underscore. Use the applicant name you entered in Question #2.
5. Unique Project Name followed by an underscore. Use the project name you entered in Question #13.
6. Name of document.

**IOB has developed templates for many of the required uploads, which are indicated in the list below. If a template has been provided for a specific upload, applicants are required to use it.**

Question #	File Name
24. Project Area BSL Template	<i>[Applicant/ISP Name]_[Unique Project Name]_Project Area BSL Spreadsheet</i>
29. Subscriber Services Rate Sheet Template	<i>[Applicant/ISP Name]_[Unique Project Name]_Subscriber Services Rate Chart</i>
40. Project Budget Template	<i>[Applicant/ISP Name]_[Unique Project Name]_Project Budget Spreadsheet</i>
41. Letter of Commitment	<i>[Applicant/ISP Name]_[Unique Project Name]_Letter of Commitment</i>
42. Additional documents for financial	<i>[Applicant/ISP Name]_[Unique Project</i>

capability (if any)	<i>Name]</i> _Additional Financial Capability Document
46. Formal Tribal Consent Resolution or other documents (if applicable)	<i>[Applicant/ISP Name]</i> _ <i>[Unique Project Name]</i> _ Formal Tribal Consent Resolution
48. Community Outreach documentation	<i>[Applicant/ISP Name]</i> _ <i>[Unique Project Name]</i> _ Community Outreach Documentation
49. Project Pro Forma Template	<i>[Applicant/ISP Name]</i> _ <i>[Unique Project Name]</i> _ Project Pro Forma Spreadsheet
50. Additional documents for financial sustainability (if any)	<i>[Applicant/ISP Name]</i> _ <i>[Unique Project Name]</i> _ Additional Financial Sustainability Document
51. Deployment Timeline Template	<i>[Applicant/ISP Name]</i> _ <i>[Unique Project Name]</i> _ Deployment Timeline
59. Network Design	<i>[Applicant/ISP Name]</i> _ <i>[Unique Project Name]</i> _ Network Design
60. Logical Network Drawing	<i>[Applicant/ISP Name]</i> _ <i>[Unique Project Name]</i> _ Logical Network Drawing
88. Professional Engineer Certification	<i>[Applicant/ISP Name]</i> _ <i>[Unique Project Name]</i> _ Professional Engineer Certification
120. Key managerial staff resumes (if not already uploaded)	<i>[Applicant/ISP Name]</i> _ <i>[Unique Project Name]</i> _ Key Managerial Staff Resumes
121. Additional key staff resumes (if applicable)	<i>[Applicant/ISP Name]</i> _ <i>[Unique Project Name]</i> _ Additional Key Staff Resumes
124. Subcontractor Reporting Template	<i>[Applicant/ISP Name]</i> _ <i>[Unique Project Name]</i> _ Subcontractor Reporting
125. Final Attestation Document Template	<i>[Applicant/ISP Name]</i> _ <i>[Unique Project Name]</i> _ Final Attestation Document