



Idaho Office of Broadband Update: June 2025

The Idaho Office of Broadband and Idaho Broadband Advisory Board are excited to share the following update with the State's partners and stakeholders.

Idaho BEAD Program

Open Office Hours

Wednesday, June 25, 2025 @ noon-1pm MT

Register via [Zoom](#)

BEAD Funding Application Phase

[BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice](#) (6/6/25) and Program Update

See attached State Program Update and [ULFW Notice](#)

See **DRAFT** ULFW Evidence Guidelines [here](#)

BEAD Application Project Areas (APAs)

See [BEAD APA Map 3.0](#)

Per NTIA's Notice of 6/6/25, there will be updates made to the map.

Any prior CSV files posted online are now out-of-date.

[APA Methodology](#)

BEAD Prequalification Application Phase

The State's third-party consultant, Michael Baker International, completed the prequalification process.

View a complete list of Idaho BEAD eligible applicants [here](#).

Per NTIA's Notice of 6/6/25, the Prequalification Application will reopen and run concurrently with the Funding Application. Additional details forthcoming.

Idaho Broadband Advisory Board

Next Meeting: Monday, June 30, 2025 @ 10am-11am MT. Additional details and agenda coming soon. IBAB meeting materials can be viewed [here](#).

Other News

- [Commerce Connections](#)
 - Bridging Resources Series

- [Port of Lewiston Partners with Pivot Tech](#)
- [Idaho's library system ends, restructures programs amid federal funding cuts](#) (KTVB)

Stay informed, engaged and educated by monitoring [Link Up Idaho](#).



Idaho Office of Broadband BEAD Update

NTIA BEAD Funding Restructuring

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program released its [BEAD Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) (NOFO), in May 2022, outlining clear rules and processes for the BEAD Program structure, sequencing, requirements, and the selection of subgrantees. The Idaho Broadband Advisory Board (IBAB) and the Idaho Office of Broadband (IOB) have been following the NOFO's highly detailed, federally mandated roadmap to successfully secure Idaho's \$583 million BEAD allocation to deliver broadband access to residents who lack fast, reliable and affordable internet service.

As reported in the [Idaho Office of Broadband Update: April 2025](#), the first of two phases in the subgrantee application process – the Prequalification Phase – had been completed. Forty applicants successfully demonstrated financial, managerial, operational, and technical capabilities in addition to compliance with the BEAD NOFO's required standards and laws. It was wisely decided at the May 2025 IBAB meeting to pause before proceeding to Funding Application Phase of the subgrantee selection process, pending the anticipated BEAD policy update from NTIA. NTIA released the [BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice](#) (2025 Policy Notice) on June 6, 2025.

The 2025 Policy Notice introduces significant changes to the program's structure, including updates to required sequencing and the subgrantee selection process. Specifically, the qualifications for subgrantees have been modified requiring a reopening of the Prequalification Application. This will run concurrently with the opening of the Funding Application. Additionally, there will be an opportunity for unlicensed fixed wireless (ULFW) service providers to remove locations currently available for BEAD funding.

The 2025 Policy Notice provides important, detailed information and IOB encourages its partners to read the full document. Briefly, key takeaways from the 2025 Policy Notice are:

Compressed time frame	All BEAD subgrantee selection to be completed and submitted to NTIA in the Final Proposal by 9/4/2025
Elimination of regulatory burdens:	Eliminates seven non-statutory requirements
Technology neutrality:	"Fiber Preference" from the NOFO eliminated
Optimizing BEAD locations:	Use available data, resources and evidence to update eligible locations
Non-deployment funding:	Any approval of non-deployment funding in Initial Proposals is rescinded (NTIA continuing to review this)
Permitting:	Requires use of the Environmental Screening and Permitting Tracking Tool (ESAPTT) within the NTIA grants portal
Rescinded guidance notices:	"Selecting the Most Robust, Affordable, Scalable Technology" and the "Alternative Broadband Technology Policy Notice" are rescinded (both are from 2024)
Scoring rubric revisions:	Primary criteria: lowest cost based on minimal BEAD Program outlay
Unlicensed Fixed Wireless (ULFW) permitted:	ULFW service providers are permitted to submit evidence establishing the existence of service that meets the specified technical criteria requirements

NOTICE TO IDAHO UNLICENSED FIXED WIRELESS (ULFW) PROVIDERS

Pursuant to NTIA's 6/6/25 BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice, all ULFW providers in Idaho are hereby notified that each ULFW provider has seven calendar days from the date of this notice (6/17/25) to indicate that they intend to submit evidence that BEAD funding is not required for locations they currently serve.

Notification of the *intention* to submit evidence must be submitted [here](#). (Deadline: June 24, 2025 @ 5pm MT)

A ULFW provider will then have seven calendar days to submit evidence and documentation supporting the claim that the existing ULFW services meet the same technical and service standards required for a BEAD subgrant (see Appendix A of the [BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice](#)). Evidence is due to the IOB by July 1, 2025. @ 5pm MT. If a ULFW service provider demonstrates that it meets the requirements specified by this Policy Notice, the served locations will be ineligible for BEAD Program funding. UFLW providers must follow the IOB's process for declaring their intention to submit evidence, and to submit evidence in accordance with Idaho guidelines.

If you have any questions about the BEAD Program, application, and/or subgrantee selection process, please contact broadband@commerce.idaho.gov.