

# IDAHO OFFICE OF BROADBAND

## BEAD Update

Idaho Broadband Advisory Board Meeting

6.30.2025



# Meeting Agenda

- **10:00 Call to Order**
  - Roll Call
  - Approval of 5/14/2025 Meeting Minutes
- **10:05 BEAD Program Update**
- **10:35 BEAD Scoring Matrix**
- **10:50 Next IBAB Meeting/Any New Business**





# Idaho BEAD Program Update

# Summary - Policy Updates

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                     | Any approval of non-deployment funding in Initial Proposals is rescinded (NTIA is continuing to review this)   |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Rescinded Guidance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the Most Robust, Affordable, Scalable Technology" and the "Alternative Broadband Technology Policy Notice" are rescinded (both are from 2024) |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

# NTIA's 6/6/25 Restructuring Policy Notice

**Section 1: Background & Purpose**

**Section 2: Elimination of Regulatory Burdens**

**Section 3: Technology Neutrality**

**Section 3.1: Priority Broadband Projects**

**Section 3.2: Technologies Eligible for Participation**

**Section 3.3: The Benefit of the Bargain Round  
(Subgrantee Selection)**

**Section 3.4: Scoring Rubric**

**Section 4: Optimizing BEAD Locations**

**Section 5: Non-Deployment Funding**

**Section 6: Permitting**

**Section 7: Alignment with Prior Guidance**

**Section 8: Modification of Initial and Final Proposal**

# Key NTIA Policy Changes

- Focus is on cost efficiency and performance-based project selection
- Eliminates preference for specific technology types

## Technology Neutrality and Cost Focus

- Fiber preference eliminated; focus on the lowest overall cost.
- All unserved/underserved locations must be covered.
- Projects must meet performance, cost, and timeline criteria.

## Priority vs. Nonpriority Projects

- Priority Projects must meet performance and scalability standards preferred unless costs are excessive
- Nonpriority Projects: Meet speed/latency, but not scalability



# Technical Capabilities

## Complying with the Policy Notice

States Must Consider “Priority Broadband Projects” first.

The term “Priority Broadband Project” now has no preference for any specific technology type and is based on technical capabilities only:

1. Provide broadband service at speeds of no less than 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload.
2. Has latency less than or equal to 100 ms.
3. Can easily scale speeds over time to meet the evolving connectivity needs of households and businesses.
4. Supports the deployment of 5G, successor wireless technologies, and other advanced services.

All technology types that meet BEAD **technical standards** can apply on the same terms to serve any BEAD-eligible BSL

Scoring rubric criteria must focus on **minimizing BEAD costs** (NOFO Sec IV.B.&.2.i-iii eliminated)

**States directed** on how to select among competing proposals and establish the required subgrantee rubric criteria (IV.B.7.2.i-iii)

# BSL Exclusions

## (Sec 3.2, pg. 11)\*

*“Eligible Entities must also allow applicants to **propose** to exclude select broadband serviceable locations (BSLs) **that the applicant determines are excessively high-cost locations** from the project area (or would otherwise make the project economically unviable for the technology being used)”*

NTIA declines to adopt a national cost threshold over which a project would be deemed excessive. However, NTIA hereby reserves the right to reject any proposed deployment project

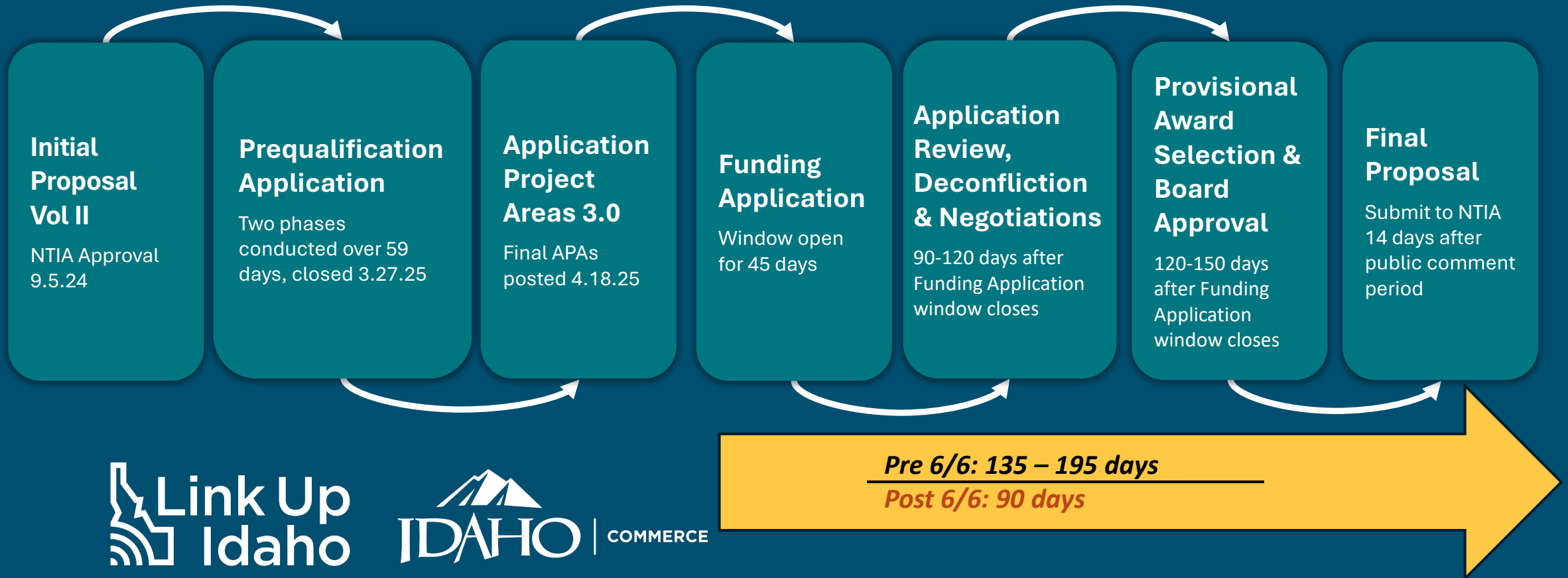
States are *“strongly encouraged to exercise judicious cost oversight to avoid delay or denial in Final Proposal processing.”*

\*NTIA 6/6/25 BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice



# Idaho BEAD Subgrantee Selection Timeline

## Pre-6/6/2025 Policy Update



# Timeline Elements

- BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice released: Friday, 6/6/25
- ULFW 7-day evidence notification window: 6/17-6/24
  - Included in IOB's June Monthly Update/Newsletter
- Open Office Hours: Wed. 6/25
- IBAB Meeting: 6/30

- ULFW 7-day evidence submission window: 6/24-7/1
- Submission of Letter adopting 6/6/25 Policy Notice & updated BSL eligibility list
  - Submitting on Tuesday, 7/1 (DUE 7/7)
- Funding Application Window: 14-calendar days
  - Prequalification application window will run concurrently
- August 2025: IBAB Meeting
- Final Proposal Public Comment Period: 7 calendar days
- Final Proposal DUE 9/4/25



# Idaho BEAD Scoring Matrix

# Priority Broadband Scoring Criteria

Primary Criteria  
Secondary Criteria

## Original (Fiber End-to-End)

| Criterion                                     | Max Points | Description   |
|---|------------|---|
| Minimal BEAD Outlay                           | 50         | 2 Components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>35 pts. for lowest cost per BSL in APA</li> <li>15 pts. for matching funds over 25%</li> </ul> |
| Affordability                                 | 15         | 5 Tiers; monthly service cost from \$109.99 or greater - <\$70.00   |
| Fair Labor Practices                          | 10         | 6 Components  |
| Speed to Deployment                           | 5          | 4 Tiers, 47 months - <24 months   |
| Open Access Network                           | 7.5        | 3 Components  |
| Local and Tribal Coordination                 | 6.5        |   |
| Equitable Workforce Development & Job Quality | 6          | 3 Components  |



# Policy-mandated Scoring Changes

## Removed or Revised Scoring Elements:

- Affordability scoring removed
- Fair Labor Practices reduced to certification
- Open Access Network no longer scored
- Local and Tribal Coordination reduced to certifications and consent documentation
- Equitable Workforce Development and Job Quality removed

## What can be scored?

- Primary Criterion: Minimal BEAD Program Outlay (lowest cost per BSL)
- Secondary Criteria: Speed to Deployment & Technical Capabilities
- Same scoring matrix applies to all projects

# Next Steps

- Complete the ULFW provider BSL challenge on 7/1 (timeframe mandated by NTIA).
- Review ULFW claims/evidence, make determinations, and update the map/list of eligible BSLs accordingly.
- Submit (to NTIA) new CSV file and formal letter requesting Initial Proposal update to incorporate 6/6/2025 Policy Notice terms (mandated).
- Following NTIA's approval of Idaho's adoption of the Restructuring Policy Notice, BEAD application window will open for 14 calendar days in July.

# Wrap Up

- **Next IBAB Meeting**
- **New Business**







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## QUESTIONS? CONTACT US

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