07.15.25

BEAD PROGRAM FUNDING APPLICATION GUIDELINES

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

OFFICE OF BROADBAND

Link Up Idaho

IDAHO | COMMERCE

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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. Furthermore, the IOB reserves the right to request updated or additional information at any time, including after the subgrantee selection process, to reassess 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

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

- 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. The BEAD Program 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.

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. Last-mile deployment refers to the final stage in broadband deployment and is the "last stretch" that provides internet access to the end user. The Idaho BEAD Subgrantee Selection Process is based on the NTIA-approved Idaho BEAD [Initial Proposal Volume II](#) (IPV2) and updates to the NTIA BEAD Program rules [see, most recently, June 6, 2025 NTIA BEAD [Restructuring Policy Notice](#) (2025 Policy Notice)] and related changes to the Idaho Initial Proposal. The IOB held an initial Prequalification Application round in January and February 2025. It will simultaneously hold an additional Prequalification Application round and a single Funding Application round in July 2025.

The IBAB will approve subgrantees for an award via this competitive grant application process in furtherance of the main objectives outlined in the State's [Five-Year Action Plan](#), IPV2, and the IBAB's [Broadband Strategic Plan](#). The IBAB will prioritize entities committed to improving and deploying broadband infrastructure to unserved and underserved locations in Idaho and meeting the program 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 a project's technical and financial 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 protect the integrity of the competition in the broadband market in Idaho, 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, as updated by the 2025 Policy Notice.

The Prequalification Application process was used to qualify forty entities to compete for BEAD subgrants. Applicants who successfully completed the Prequalification Application process may move forward to submit funding applications for proposed projects. Prequalified entities for the IOB BEAD Program are listed here. The IOB will hold an additional Prequalification Application round during the Funding Application round. Applicants who have not previously prequalified can submit their prequalification information at the same time as their Funding Application.

During the Funding Application process, each applicant must provide sufficient evidence to demonstrate that it can competently implement the proposed project and meet the required performance standards, 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 third-party review team will rely on state and federal BEAD Program rules, including the BEAD NOFO, NTIA Guidance documents, the Idaho IPV2, and updates from the 2025 Policy Notice to evaluate and recommend provisional awardees. The third-party review team will review, score, and rank applications based on BEAD Program rules and using the IOB updated 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.

Information in this Guide and the Funding Application has been updated with the new NTIA rules set forth in the 2025 Policy Notice and may continue to 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. **Initial Prequalification Application Phases:** Mandatory for the potential applicant's participation in the BEAD Program. The initial application window consisted of two phases conducted over 59 days and closed on March 27, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. MST. Per the 2025 Policy Notice, a third phase will run concurrently with the Idaho BEAD Funding Application, open only to new applicants and to those who applied but were not approved during the initial Prequalification Phase.

2. **Publish Application Project Areas (APAs)**: The IOB published the APA 2.0 map on March 13, 2025, and held the second Prequalification round from March 13, 2025 – March 27, 2025. The IOB subsequently published an updated APA 3.0 map reflecting additional input from public comment. The current version, APA 4.0, is published on the IOB Link Up Idaho website and reflects an updated and final list of eligible APAs and BSLs, pursuant to instructions from the 2025 Policy Notice.

3. **BEAD Funding Application Phase:** Prequalified applicants and applicants who submit a Prequalification Application for review will submit proposed projects and supporting documentation. The application window will open for 14 calendar days and run from July 15, 2025 @ noon Mountain Time - July 29, 2025 @ noon Mountain Time.

4. **Funding Application Summaries**: Descriptions of funding applications received by the IOB and related APAs will be posted to Link Up Idaho. Summaries will be posted exactly as written by the applicant – summaries will NOT be edited for grammar or spelling.

5. **Review, Scoring, and Deconfliction 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.

6. **Provisional Subgrant Awards**: The IBAB will approve and announce provisional grant awards upon finalizing the review and scoring phase.

7. **Final Proposal**: The IOB will post a draft of its Final Proposal and hold a 7-calendar-day public comment period before it submits its final draft to the NTIA for review and approval on or before September 4, 2025.

8. **Grant Agreement**: After the NTIA approves the Final Proposal, the IOB will finalize the grant agreements with BEAD subgrantees to begin the BEAD grant period of

III. Idaho BEAD Funding Application Process

A. Technical Support

The IOB intends to provide applicants with technical assistance and administrative support during the application window. 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 at least two information sessions via open office hours as scheduled and published on the **Link Up Idaho**.

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

Under the Idaho Public Records Law (Title 74, Idaho Code), applicants should 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, non-profit organizations, limited liability companies, corporations, cooperative entities that provide broadband services, Idaho local or Tribal governments, or non-traditional providers (e.g., telecommunications providers, electric cooperatives).

Applicants who have been approved through the IOB Prequalification Application process may submit a Funding Application without needing to resubmit any prequalification information. Applicants that have not yet been prequalified will be allowed to apply and must submit the required Prequalification Application at the same time as the Funding Application. A list of prequalified entities is posted on the IOB BEAD Program website HERE.

Prequalification Application materials, updated with the new NTIA requirements as set forth in the 2025 Policy Notice, are posted on **Link Up Idaho**. The required templates will be posted here: Idaho BEAD Subgrantee Selection Process.

C. Application Project Areas (APA)

Application Project Areas (APAs) are groups of census blocks that include unserved and underserved locations. These areas were identified using the BEAD eligibility list, which is based on NTIA-approved BSLs from the State's BEAD Challenge Process. This data was further updated and reflects the current status of both state and federal enforceable broadband commitments as well as additional ineligible locations. Census blocks with unserved and underserved locations have been clustered 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 4.0 Map is posted on the Link Up Idaho, here: BEAD Application Project Areas 4.0.

The Funding Application will seek detailed information from eligible applicants regarding specific APAs and the applicant's proposed project. Applicants must include a "proposed project area" as part of its application. A "proposed project area" is the geographic area, consisting of one or more APAs, that an applicant is proposing to serve with BEAD Program funding.

Each proposed project area in a Funding Application may include no more than 60 APAs. If an applicant wishes to apply for a project area that includes more than 60 APAs, they must submit as many separate applications as necessary to ensure no single proposed project area exceeds the 60-APA limit. Applicants may combine APAs, including APAs that are not contiguous, into a single proposed project area. Applicants may also submit multiple applications for a single proposed project area if proposing different technology deployment plans, types, and strategies.

The IOB maintains its overall goals to serve all unserved and underserved BSLs in the State. Applicants are strongly encouraged to design their proposed project with the capability to provide BEAD-qualifying service to all eligible locations, those unserved, underserved, and CAIs, within each APA. However, to support projects in high-cost areas, an applicant may identify up to 5% of the BSLs within each APA included in a proposed project that it prefers not to serve. Any BSL that an applicant has designated as "prefer not to serve" must be identified as an excessively high-cost location or a location that would otherwise make the project economically unviable for the technology being used. These designated 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 BEAD Program rules and request not to serve. This request may include identifying BSLs that have been removed from the Idaho APA Map or the FCC Broadband Map fabric, identifying new

enforceable commitments or private investment to serve an area, or identifying structures that are misidentified as BSLs (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 that generally corresponds with the NTIA Reason codes the IOB will use to remove BSLs from its eligible BSL list. BSL exclusion requests made under NTIA Reason codes 1-5, as described in the 2025 Policy Notice (Section 4) do not apply towards the 5% cap.

Applicants must identify each BSL that they propose to exclude and provide justification for not serving these locations using the drop-down menu, narrative, and uploaded evidence. Applicants that propose to exclude high-cost BSLs must provide a budget for each scenario that describes the costs to build the project with the proposed BSLs removed from the APA and a separate budget to demonstrate the costs to serve those removed BSLs as part of the project. This information will allow the IOB to review the applicant's proposal to remove BSLs as part of the review team's analysis of the minimum BEAD outlay criteria for project scoring under the 2025 Policy Notice guidance and to determine the impact of the applicant's request on the overall goals to serve all unserved and underserved BSLs in the State.

D. 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

Managerial Capability

Build America Buy America (BABA)

Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP)

Low-Cost Service Option

Additional requirements as directed by the NTIA

All Funding Applications must include the following documents and attachments:

- Project Area Broadband Serviceable Location Template

- Project Budget Template

- Proposed Project Workplan

    o Project Pro Forma Template

    o Deployment Timeline Template

    o Project Area and Network Route

- o Logical Network Design
- 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)
- Audited Financials (if not previously provided, applicant will have 66 days from the opening of the application window to submit audited financials)
- Notarized Final Attestation Document

An officer or legal representative of an eligible entity with binding authority must complete this application. If the application reviewers determine a submission is incomplete, non-compliant, or unclear, the IOB reserves the right to request clarifying or updated information from an applicant. The opportunity for applicants to submit clarifying or updated information may be impacted by the compressed schedule required by the 2025 Policy Notice. The IOB encourages applicants to submit applications as quickly as possible to provide more time for the IOB and its review team to request updated information if necessary. Despite the compressed time frame, the IOB also encourages applicants to submit complete, comprehensive, and compliant applications that adhere to all BEAD Program rules.

Any requests for clarifying and updated information will be sent via email, and the IOB will direct modifications to the application in the portal. The IOB will specify the required response deadlines as part of its request to the applicant. Failure of the applicant to make good faith efforts to respond to the request of the IOB within the deadline may result in the rejection of the application(s). The IOB reserves the right to request more information from the applicant as necessary at any time during the review process. Failure to provide timely and complete responses to these requests may result in the rejection of the related application(s) or the disqualification of any applicant.

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.

E. 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)[1] unless specifically exempt from public

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[1] https://legislature.idaho.gov/statutesrules/idstat/Title74/T74CH1/

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 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 that it has sufficient authority to provide the IOB with confidential information.

F. 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

- Third-Party Scoring Review

- IBAB Review and Approval

Due to the compressed timeframe for the subgrantee selection process under the 2025 Policy Notice, some of these elements may occur simultaneously.

Compliance and Completeness Review: The review 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 provided by the applicants of their applications and proposed project areas, identifying the APAs in each proposed project. Under the Idaho Public Records Law (Chapter 1, 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 review team will review the submitted proposed project network design, timelines, proposed project costs and pro forma financial analysis, 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 and the 2025 Policy Notice and subsequent guidance. The reviewing team will also identify any applicant requests to

remove excessively high-cost BSLs from the proposed project area in preparation for the scoring and negotiations and to determine the impact of these requests on Idaho BEAD Program goals.

Third-Party Scoring Review: The review team will assign a maximum score of 100 points using the IOB updated Scoring Matrix to rank the proposed projects competing for the same APAs. The Review Team will identify and score Priority Projects and Non-Priority Projects, as those terms are defined in the 2025 Policy Notice and the Funding Application Guide. The IOB will review each proposed project to determine whether the project has excessive BEAD Program costs. Pursuant to the 2025 Policy Notice, the IOB reserves the right to reject a project that proposes excessive BEAD Program costs and to, instead, consider other pending Priority Projects for the same area. If there are no competing eligible Priority Projects, the IOB may consider a Non-Priority Project or, if feasible within the Program timeline, request new proposals for the area.

When there are multiple eligible projects competing for the same APAs, the IOB will:

- First, assign Priority Projects a score using the Primary Criteria of the "Minimal BEAD Program Outlay" as specified in the updated IOB Scoring Matrix.
- Second, identify all Priority Projects with project costs that are within 15% of the lowest cost Priority Project (based on the average per-BSL Program cost).
- Third, score these Projects, if any, using the Secondary Criteria elements.
- Lastly, provisionally award the Priority Project with the highest score.

If all competing Priority Projects in a project area are proposing excessive BEAD Program costs, or if there are no Priority Projects in an area, the IOB will consider any Non-Priority Projects using the same process and analysis as discussed above for the Priority Projects. The IOB will provisionally award the Non-Priority Project with the highest score in the area.

In areas where all proposed projects are determined to have excessive BEAD Program costs, or in areas that receive no applications, the IOB may allow prequalified applicants to submit new applications, or it may include these areas as part of a negotiations phase, if time allows. In light of the compressed timeline under the 2025 Policy Notice, applicants are encouraged to continually monitor the Link Up Idaho site for announcements regarding possible additional application opportunities.

During this phase, 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 that they adjust their existing applications to include unserved locations.

This process will maximize the likelihood that the IOB will achieve Idaho's BEAD Program goals and objectives.

IBAB Review and Approval: After completing the application review and scoring process, the IOB and the State's third-party reviewers will compile a package of recommended projects for discussion with NTIA and preliminary review by IBAB. These results will be incorporated into the Final Proposal, which will be posted for a 7-calendar-day comment period.

IV. Funding Application Sections and Questions

Before You Begin

The state BEAD application consists of 108 questions and multiple templates, all of which require information that aligns with the NTIA BEAD NOFO and other federal and state requirements. This information is essential for ensuring a fair, transparent, and comprehensive BEAD grant application process.

To prepare effectively, it is strongly recommended that you complete the following steps **before** starting your application:

1. Access the BEAD Application Template Library:
The IOB has developed templates for many of the questions that require applicants to upload additional information. These templates are available on the Link Up Idaho website. If a template has been provided for a specific upload, underlined applicants are required to use it.

Download all available templates from this site Idaho BEAD Subgrantee Selection Process to your computer and rename each file with an identifier unique to your organization and a brief summary of the subject matter of the template (e.g., BSL, Budget, Pro Forma, PE Cert, etc.).

2. Gather Reference Materials:
Ensure you have easy access to the following documents:

- BEAD NOFO
- BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice (June 6, 2025)
- Other NTIA BEAD guidance documents as referenced throughout these Guidelines, such as NTIA BEAD Match Primer, NTIA Letter of Waiver Notice, and the Build

America/Buy America Policy Waiver

- Idaho BEAD Initial Proposal Volume II and BEAD Volume II Updates
- Idaho BEAD Broadband Projects Scoring Criteria, found here: Scoring-Matrix_IBAB-Approved-6.30.25.pdf
- Related NTIA links and Guidance for requirements regarding the Environmental and Historic Preservation obligations

The sections below offer further details for applicants as they complete the Funding Application in the portal.

A. Applicant Information and Required Certifications

Questions 1-5 have been pre-populated with the applicant's profile information from their access account for the Idaho Department of Commerce's Grant Portal. Please note that the Grant Portal access account must be the same across all Idaho Department of Commerce grant programs. Therefore, the pre-populated information below will not be specific to the Idaho BEAD program, but it must be the same information that the applicant provided to complete its BEAD Prequalification Application.

If any of the pre-populated responses are incorrect or need to be updated for the applicant's participation in the BEAD Program, the applicant must revise those responses in this application directly. Applicant must also indicate in **Question 10** that changes were made and provide a description of those changes in **Question 11**.

In addition to the identifying information in Questions 1–5, the applicant is also required to review all other responses submitted in the Prequalification Application. If there are any additional changes or updates beyond those in Questions 1–5, the applicant must use Questions 10 and 11 to notify the IOB of those modifications. The applicant must explain any impact that its changes will have on its eligibility or the proposed project. Please note that any significant changes to the applicant's information may result in an additional review of the applicant's eligibility and possible disqualification from the program if the Applicant is deemed ineligible as a result of any changed or updated information.

Question 1: SAM.gov Unique Entity ID (UEI)

This response is populated using the applicant's Idaho Department of Commerce Grant Portal profile. Please review for accuracy. 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 to obtain one.

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

This response is populated using the applicant's Idaho grant portal profile. Please review for accuracy. 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 here as the name it provided for its Prequalification application.

Question 3: Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN)

This response is populated using the applicant's Idaho grant portal profile. Please review for accuracy. Applicant must provide its federal employer identification number. This should be the same identification number provided as part of the Prequalification application.

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

This response is populated using the applicant's Idaho grant portal profile. Please review for accuracy. 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

This response was populated using the applicant's Idaho grant portal profile. Please review for accuracy. 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 requirements described in the BEAD Program rules, IOB IPV2, Prequalification Application, and this Funding Application?

The above certification is required to participate in this program. Applicants who do not certify "yes" may be asked to provide an explanation and may not be allowed to participate in the BEAD Program.

Question 7: BEAD 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 or less of finalizing the grant agreement?

The above certification is required to participate in this program. Applicants who do not certify "yes" may be asked to provide an explanation 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 disqualification, penalties and/or the termination of grant funds?

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.

If there are no conflicts, perceived or otherwise, please enter "none."

Question 10: Prequalification submission: Does the applicant certify that all information in the applicant's Prequalification Application 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 or inaccurate 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 Prequalification submission, including the pre-populated identifier information in Questions 1-5, please answer "no" to this question and provide a description and explanation in the next question below.

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

If there are no changes from the Prequalification application, please enter "none."

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: Proposed project name (ISPNAME_COUNTY_CITY/TOWN_##) Please check to make sure this is the same project name entered in the box at the beginning of the Grant Portal.

Please check to make sure this is the same project name that the applicant provided in the Portal at the beginning of this application.

The name must follow a specific naming convention to support the IOB review process. Please use the 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 13: Brief Proposed Project Description (to be posted on the Link Up Idaho website). Include the APA identifier(s), number of eligible BSLs to be served, planned technology type, proposed speeds, match amount, and BEAD grant funds requested.

Applicants are required to provide a brief project description of no more than 3000 characters. It must include, at a minimum, the APA number(s) (reminder, a single application is limited to a maximum of 60 APAs), number of eligible BSLs to be served, planned technology type, proposed speeds, 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 the 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 30% of the network will be undergrounded 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 14: Total Project Cost

Provide total project cost, including all expenses for construction, planning, labor, and administrative activities. Applicants will be asked to provide a detailed breakdown of this

cost figure in the Project Budget Template in Section C.

Question 15: BEAD Funds Requested

Provide the amount of funding the 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.

Note that the IOB Scoring Matrix awards 55 points to the project with the lowest average BEAD Program cost per location, after match, when compared to other projects serving one or more of the same APAs. This is the Primary Criteria for scoring the "Minimal BEAD Program Outlay."

All projects that propose a BEAD Program cost within 15% of the lowest cost project in an area will also receive 55 points. Each project that receives points will then be scored against each other using the Idaho Scoring Matrix Secondary Criteria. The project with the highest score will be provisionally awarded funding.

For more information regarding how the review team will score and rank this element, see the description in the overview and introduction section above as well as the Idaho IPV2 as amended by the 2025 Policy Notice and subsequent BEAD guidance.

Question 16: Applicant Matching Funds

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 the 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 the 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.

Question 17: Number of Passings (Eligible Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) in the proposed project area to be served with BEAD funding)

The applicant must identify the total number of eligible BSLs the applicant commits to serve with BEAD funding ("passings") as part of the proposed project. Eligible BSLs are unserved, underserved and BSLs identified as eligible community anchor institutions as identified on the Idaho APA 4.0 Map.

Questions 18-21 require the applicant to provide a further breakdown of the total passings:

- **Question 18: Number of unserved BSLs in the proposed project area**
- **Question 19: Number of underserved BSLs in the proposed project area**
- **Question 20: Number of BSLs identified as Community Anchor Institutions (CAI) in the proposed project area (identified in the Project Area BSL Template)**
- **Question 21: Percent of BSLs in the project area located in Census Block Groups (CBGs) identified as High Cost by the NTIA (these CBGs are identified in the Idaho APA 4.0 map and listed on the NTIA BEAD website, HERE.)**

It is critical that the responses to **Questions 17-21** match the information provided by the applicant in its Project Area and BSL Template. The applicant must double-check this information to ensure the timely and accurate review of and decision regarding the applicant's funding request.

Question 22: Served APAs: List the APA numbers included in the proposed project area (max 60). Separate APA numbers by commas.

- Applicants may include one or more APAs in their proposed project area, including non-contiguous APAs.
- Each BEAD application is limited to a maximum of 60 APAs.

Please reference the Project Area and BSL Template or the IOB Link Up Idaho website APA 4.0 map to determine the APA identification numbers.

Applicant must double-check that it is listing the same APA numbers that it included in its

Project Area and BSL Template.

Question 23: Project Area and BSL Template. Please complete and upload the Project Area and BSL Template. Please reference the Guidelines for more information.

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 here and must be uploaded to the 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 copy 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, copy, 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:

- o List each APA ID number that the project will serve.
- o List each BSL with the FCC Location ID within the corresponding APA ID for the applicant's proposed project area.
- o 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.
- o Using the drop-down menu, indicate which BSLs the applicant will serve as part of the project and which BSLs it is requesting not to serve. Applicants are strongly encouraged to serve all unserved, underserved and CAIs in an APA; however, to encourage applicants to serve high cost areas, applicants are permitted to identify up to 5% of the eligible BSLs in each APA, by FCC

Location ID, that the applicant would prefer not to serve and provide a justification for the removal (e.g. difficult terrain, excessive cost). These preferences will be considered during scoring, deconfliction, and grant award negotiations.

- **In the fourth tab,** the template will automatically calculate the number of BSLs that the applicant has identified that it prefers not to serve to determine if the request has exceeded the "5% per APA" threshold.

  o In the next column, applicants are asked to 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 serving these identified locations. Applicants will be required to provide further explanation and evidence to support their requests not to serve these BSLs in the application portal (see question below).

  o An applicant may request not to serve BSLs it has identified as "BSL Error – Not a Serviceable Location" in the drop-down menu. This option allows applicant to identify locations that it believes are incorrectly categorized as potentially serviceable BSLs. BSLs identified with this justification will NOT count towards the 5% per APA threshold, but they will be subject to review and applicants must provide evidence to demonstrate that these BSLs are not serviceable. If a BSL is marked with "BSL Error – Not a Serviceable Location", please use the next column to enter the applicable NTIA Reason Code via the drop-down. Applicant may be required to include these BSLs in its proposed project if the request to not serve is rejected.

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

  o The technology proposed to be deployed, using the drop-down menu in the spreadsheet.

  o The maximum certified speed proposed to be deployed, in Mbps.

  o Any additional information the applicant believes is necessary for the 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 APA ID number from a drop-down menu.
- The number of eligible BSLs in the APA that the applicant will serve. This number should auto-calculate and match the total BSLs listed for each APA in the BSL Worksheet tab.
- 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.
- For each column, the amounts listed must total the same amount as the total funding amounts listed in the application portal.
- Applicants must provide the breakdown of their requested BEAD funding and match amount by APA with as much specificity as possible. This is especially the case if the applicant's project includes multiple APAs that are located in significantly different parts of the State.
- To determine this figure, the IOB encourages applicants to consider the costs for construction for each APA including differences and cost drivers related to the network routes, arial and underground cable placement, number of towers, topography, construction methodologies, weather, and other considerations. The IOB will use this information in its application review process to determine cost reasonableness, deconfliction analysis, and negotiation processes.

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 (See, for example, IOB IPV2, Sections 2.4.3, 2.4.6, 2.4.7, 2.4.10, as amended by subsequent NTIA BEAD guidance and the 2025 Policy Notice.). The review team and the IOB will work with the applicants to minimize the impact on the proposed project.

Question 24: Prefer Not to Serve BSLs: Total number of BSLs in the proposed project area that applicant has identified as high-cost and would prefer not to serve.

If none, please put "0."

Applicants are strongly encouraged to serve all BSLs in the project area. However, the Project Area and BSL Template allows applicants to identify up to 5% of the BSLs in each APA in the project area as "prefer not to serve." The response to this question must match the number of BSLs the applicant has identified in the Project Area and BSL Template as prefer not to serve, if any.

This number should also include the number of BSLs the applicant has identified as an error in classification or a "non-serviceable" BSL. When identifying these requests, Applicant should generally consider the Reason Codes 1-5 used by the NTIA to identify BSLs that may be removed from the state's BSL eligibility list, as those Codes are described in the 2025 Policy Notice (Section 4). These identified BSLs will not be included in the applicant's 5% cap of BSLs that it may identify as "prefer not to serve."

Question 25: Prefer Not to Serve BSLs: Provide explanation and analysis of the cost, construction, geography, or operational reasons for any eligible BSLs in the project area that applicant is requesting not to serve. Please be specific.

Provide additional information and explanation for those BSLs identified in the Project Area and BSL Template as "prefer not to serve" to support the applicant's request to not serve BSLs in the project area. This may include plans for subcontractors, construction plans, descriptions of topography and weather impacts, expectations for permits, environmental review and right of way challenges, including pole attachments, descriptions of experiences from nearby projects, and other high-cost impacts. Please be as specific as possible.

Question 26: Prefer Not to Serve BSLs: Upload any additional information or evidence (e.g., annotated maps, photos, drawings) to support applicant's request not to serve the identified BSLs in the project area.

If available, please upload maps, photos, or analysis that will allow the IOB to review the applicant's request. This may include subcontractor quotes, construction plans and quotes, photos, descriptions of topography and weather impacts, documentation of experiences from nearby projects, and documentation of other high-cost impacts.

Question 27: Proposed Technology: Select one technology option that best describes the proposed project

From the provided drop-down menu, the applicant must select the 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 "Mixed Technology." The applicant will specify the technology type to be deployed to each BSL in the Project Area and BSL template.

Applicants may select only one option:

- o Fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP): FTTP is a fixed wireline service using end-to-end fiber optic cable to the premises for all locations. The applicant commits to providing fiber connectivity to each unit for all multi-dwelling unit locations within the proposed project units selected on this application
- o Coaxial Cable / HFC: Coaxial Cable or Hybrid fiber/coaxial cable is a fixed wireline service using DOCSISx technology
- o Licensed Fixed Wireless: Licensed fixed wireless is a terrestrial fixed wireless technology using only licensed spectrum
- o Unlicensed Fixed Wireless: Unlicensed fixed wireless is a terrestrial fixed wireless technology using unlicensed spectrum and identified on the FCC National Broadband Map using technology code 70.
- o Low Earth Orbit Satellite
- o Mixed Technology: Choose this option when the applicant plans to deploy a mix of the above technologies

Note that the applicant's answer to this question must match the "technology choice" identifications made for each BSL on the Project Area and BSL Template that the applicant has uploaded for this application.

Question 28: Mixed Technology: For mixed technology projects, list the types of technologies that will be deployed and the percentage of the BSLs in the project area that will be served by each technology.

For proposed projects that will deploy more than one technology type, applicants are expected to choose "mixed technology" in the response to **Question 27**.

In response to this question, applicants are required to list each type of technology it will deploy and the percentage of the BSLs in the proposed project that the applicant expects to be served by that technology type.

This is a text box answer. Please answer using the following example as a guide:

- Fiber, 30%; Licensed Fixed Wireless, 50%; Unlicensed Fixed Wireless, 20%.

Applicant's answer to this question must match the mix of technologies and percentage of BSLs served by each technology that the applicant listed in its Project Area and BSL Template.

Question 29: Does this proposed project qualify as a Priority Project, as that term is defined by the NTIA 2025 Restructuring Policy Notice (2025 Policy Notice)?

The 2025 Policy Notice requires projects to be categorized as a Priority Project or a Non-Priority Project. A Priority Project is defined under the 2025 Policy Notice as:

- a project that provides broadband service at speeds of no less than 100 megabits per second for downloads and 20 megabits per second for uploads, has a latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds, and can easily scale speeds over time to meet the evolving connectivity needs of households and businesses and support the deployment of 5G, successor wireless technologies, and other advanced services.

A Non-Priority Project is defined as having the same speed and latency requirements, but the applicant does not have to demonstrate that its network can "easily scale" over time. Applicants who propose a Non-Priority project will still be required to provide information about the scalability of their proposed project so that the IOB can implement the technical and operational capability requirements under the BEAD Program rules.

Any technology deployment type can be a Priority Project if it meets the stated performance requirements, including scalability of the network. The burden is on the applicant to demonstrate that its proposed network qualifies as a Priority Project and should be given priority in scoring, negotiations and deconfliction over Non-Priority Projects, as described in the 2025 Policy Notice and related guidance.

There are several questions throughout this Application that require applicants to provide information and certification that its network can meet these network performance

standards for either Priority or Non-Priority Projects. The IOB and its review team will conduct a thorough analysis to determine if the applicant's project is properly categorized as a Priority Project. NTIA will also review this determination and make possible changes as it reviews Idaho's Final Proposal and provisional list of awarded projects.

Question 30: Proposed Download Speed: Provide the <u>maximum download speed</u> that will be provided to all eligible locations within the proposed project area upon project completion. Use "Mbps" units.

For both Priority and Non-Priority projects, the applicant's proposed maximum download speed that it will offer to all eligible BSLs in the proposed project area upon project completion is a Secondary Scoring Criteria. This criteria will apply in instances where there are multiple projects competing to serve part or all of a proposed project area. Only those Priority Projects that receive points under the Primary Criteria (Minimal BEAD Outlay) will move on to be scored in comparison with each other under the Secondary Scoring Criteria. Only where there are no Priority Projects eligible to serve a project area will the IOB review team then consider Non-Priority Projects that have submitted a proposed project for the relevant areas.

Question 31: Proposed Upload Speed: Specify the <u>maximum upload speed</u> that will be provided to all eligible locations within the proposed project area upon project completion. Use "Mbps" units.

For both Priority and Non-Priority projects, the applicant's proposed maximum download speed that it will offer to all eligible BSLs in the proposed project area upon project completion is a Secondary Scoring Criteria. This criteria will apply in instances where there are multiple projects competing to serve part or all of a proposed project area. Only those Priority Projects that receive points under the Primary Criteria (Minimal BEAD Outlay) will move on to be scored in comparison with each other under the Secondary Scoring Criteria. Only where there are no Priority Projects eligible to serve a project area will the IOB review team then consider Non-Priority Projects that have submitted a proposed project for the relevant areas.

Question 32: Proposed Minimum Latency: Specify the <u>minimum latency</u> that will be provided to all BSLs within the proposed project area upon project completion. Use "ms" units.

For both Priority and Non-Priority projects, the applicant's proposed minimum latency capability that it will offer to all eligible BSLs in the proposed project area upon project completion is a Secondary Scoring Criteria. This criteria will apply in instances where there are multiple projects competing to serve part or all of a proposed project area. Only those Priority Projects that receive points under the Primary Criteria (Minimal BEAD Outlay) will move on to be scored in comparison with each other under the Secondary Scoring Criteria. Only where there are no Priority Projects eligible to serve a project area will the IOB review team then consider Non-Priority Projects that have submitted a proposed project for the relevant areas.

Question 33: Middle-Mile: Will any element of the proposed project include middle-mile infrastructure?

BEAD Program rules 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. Applicants may not submit 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 34-38 require applicants to provide information about the existing communications network facilities, services offered, and possible network investment in the general vicinity of the proposed project and in the neighboring APAs.

When answering these questions, applicant should include their existing infrastructure and services offered in the area (generally within 10 miles of the proposed project). Also indicate if there is sufficient access to middle-mile and backhaul capacity for the proposed project offered by the applicant or a third party provider, including whether there is existing open access network capacity in the project area.

Applicants are asked to answer five questions that specify:

- **Question 34: Existing Facilities. Please select the types of technology (fiber, coaxial, fixed wireless) currently deployed by the applicant in the APAs included in the proposed project area and neighboring**

communities.

- o The types of technology currently deployed by the applicant, including fiber, coaxial, or wireless. If the applicant does not currently offer service or have network infrastructure facilities in the area, please select that option from the drop-down menu.

- o **Question 35: Existing Facilities. Please describe the types of infrastructure (towers, poles, conduit, vertical structures) currently deployed by the applicant in the APAs included in the proposed project area and neighboring communities.**

- o The types of infrastructure or facilities currently deployed, including towers, poles, or conduit. If the applicant does not currently offer service or have network infrastructure facilities in the area, please answer N/A.

- o **Question 36: Existing Facilities: Please indicate the highest download and upload speeds currently offered by the applicant in the APAs included in the proposed project area and neighboring communities.**

- o The highest download speeds currently offered by the applicant in the area. If the applicant does not currently offer service or have network infrastructure in the area, please answer N/A.

- o **Question 37: Existing Facilities: Is there currently sufficient access to middle-mile and backhaul capacity for this proposed project?**

- o Discuss if applicant is aware of any existing infrastructure to demonstrate if there is sufficient access to middle-mile and backhaul capacity for the proposed project.

- o **Question 38: Existing Facilities: Is there existing open access network capacity in the project area?**

- o Discuss if applicant is aware of any existing infrastructure to demonstrate 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, as well as the facilities of other providers that serve the general area if known. This information will also allow the 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.

Question 39: 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 40: Total Project Cost per Eligible BSL Passing

Provide the calculated cost per passing (unserved, underserved, and CAI BSLs) for the proposed project. The IOB will use this cost per passing figure to compare Priority Projects competing within the same APA and identify projects that propose excessive costs. In the absence of an eligible Priority Project, the IOB will consider Non-Priority Projects.

Question 41: BEAD Requested Funding Cost per Eligible BSL Passing

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 propose excessive costs, and to score the "Minimal BEAD Outlay."

This is a scored element for 55 points. Applicants must calculate a cost-per-passing for the IOB to score the "Minimal BEAD Outlay" element in the Scoring Matrix. The Priority Project with the lowest cost will receive 55 points. Any Priority Project that proposes costs within 15 percent of the lowest cost project will also receive 55 points.

Question 42: Project Budget Template: Please complete and upload the Project Budget Template.

- **Applicants are required to complete and upload the Project Budget Template to provide the following information:**

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

The budget numbers should reflect the costs to provide service to only those BSLs that the applicant is requesting to serve. If the applicant is proposing to serve all BSLs in its proposed project area, then its budget must reflect costs to provide service to all eligible BSLs. If applicant is requesting to remove BSLs from the proposed project area that it prefers not to serve, the budget must reflect the costs to provide service to the number of BSLs that the applicant has specified it will serve in applicant's Project Area and BSL Template and in response to **Question 17** above.

Matching Funds: Applicants may review Section 2.4.11 of the IPV2 and BEAD NOFO Section III.B for more information regarding the BEAD Program matching funds requirement and to determine if they qualify for any waiver or reduction in match amount. The NTIA has also provided a Match Primer Guidance document, available here: 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:

- o 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.
- o Total project costs are broken down by standardized categories that come from the federal grant reporting form SF-424-C.
- o 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, Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (PL117-58), Section 60102(h)(3)(B).

o 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 2% 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.

o 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.
> o Alternative Budget with costs for network deployment to serve all eligible BSLs (unserved, underserved, CAIs) in the project area. If an applicant's budget does not reflect costs to serve all BSLs in the project, but instead reflects a request to remove eligible BSLs in the project area, the applicant must also provide an alternate budget for the project including the amount of matching and BEAD funds requested to serve all eligible BSLs in the project area.

Question 43: 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 [NTIA LOC Waiver Program](#).

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. If a Letter of Commitment is not available at the time of application submission, please upload a document stating that one will be forthcoming no later than 21-days after the application period has closed. Applicants must email IdahoBEAD@mbakerintl.com with their Letter of Commitment.

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](#) 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 44: 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 45: 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 46: 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.

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/2025-05/Uniform_Guidance_Policy_Notice_Primer_BEAD.pdf.

D. Tribal Consent

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

Question 47: 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.

If applicant is unsure whether its project traverses Tribal Land, it should consult the Idaho APA 4.0 map for relevant tribal boundaries.

Question 48: If Q47 is "yes," please upload the formal Tribal Consent Resolution or similar documents. If these documents are unavailable, please upload relevant documents demonstrating the Tribal engagement that applicant has conducted to date.

For consideration of proposed projects within, connecting to, or traversing Tribal Land, documentation demonstrating tribal consent is required no later than 21-days after the application window has closed. If a Tribal Consent Resolution document is not available at the time of application submission, please upload a document stating that one will be forthcoming. Applicants must email IdahoBEAD@mbakerintl.com with their Tribal Consent Resolution document. 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.

If an applicant cannot submit the formal Tribal consent with the application materials, it must submit the required documents within 21 calendar days of the closing of the Funding Application window. Applicants that do not submit the required documentation will not be considered for an award.

Question 49: Does the applicant certify its understanding and compliance with BEAD Program rules for projects on or traversing Tribal Land and that it will provide the required Tribal consent documents within 21 days of the funding application closing?

This is a "yes" or "no" certification, with an "N/A" option.

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 applicant must provide complete and detailed answers that will allow the IOB to understand the project's scope, the applicant's goals with the project, and how the project will achieve overall IOB BEAD Program goals as discussed in the IPV2 and NTIA BEAD Program guidance and rules. ***These questions apply to all technology types unless otherwise specified. Please answer these questions as specifically as possible.***

The IOB will review each application and the supporting documents to determine if the project qualifies as a Priority Project. The IOB will also 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 review this 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 for the duration of the federal interest period. 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-year operating horizon post project completion

- A fully completed Deployment Timeline Template demonstrating project completion within applicant's committed timeframe, but no longer than four years

- Short answers to specific questions regarding applicant's network design, construction and engineering planning, and scalability as discussed below

- Project Area and Network Route Diagram document supporting the technical performance and network capability of the proposed project

- Logical Network Drawing 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

- 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 (Idaho BEAD Subgrantee Selection Process). **Applicants are required to use the templates provided**.

Question 50: Project Pro Forma Template: Upload the Project Pro Forma Template that demonstrates financial sustainability of the proposed project over a ten-year period.

Complete and upload the Project Pro Forma Template, which can be found here: Project Pro Forma Template. Applicants must demonstrate the financial sustainability of the proposed project throughout construction and ten years of operations after project completion.

Template Elements:

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

Question 51: Additional Financial Sustainability documents: Upload any additional documents to demonstrate financial sustainability tailored to the proposed project.

If you have further documentation to support the demonstration of financial sustainability for this specific proposed project, please upload documents in PDF, Excel, or JPEG format.

Question 52: Deployment Timeline Template: Upload the Project Deployment Timeline template that reflects project completion in no longer than the four-year grant performance period.

The template is located here: Project Deployment Timeline Template. 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 to deploy 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

Network Scalability: Applicant's response to **Questions 53-62** must demonstrate the proposed network's scalability over time. All applicants must provide sufficient information to enable the IOB review team to understand the technical and operational capabilities and scalability of these projects in response to each of these questions. The IOB will also rely, in part, on the responses from Questions 53-62 to confirm the proposed project's designation as a Priority or Non-Priority project. For further discussion of BEAD Program rules on network scalability, please refer to the 2025 Policy Notice.

Question 53: Discuss plans for incorporating network scalability and expansion into the proposed project's planning and design. Discuss anticipated costs, beyond any BEAD funded costs, for future upgrades of equipment and increased network capabilities.

Question 54: Discuss how the proposed network will easily scale speeds over time to meet evolving connectivity needs of households and businesses.

Question 55: Discuss how the proposed network will easily scale speeds over time to support the deployment of 5G.

Question 56: Discuss how the proposed network will easily scale speeds over time to support successor wireless technologies.

Question 57: Discuss how the proposed network will easily scale speeds over time to support other advanced services.

Question 58: Scalability Documentation: Please upload documentation and evidence to support the applicant's claims regarding the scalability of the proposed network.

Question 59: Select the maximum speeds of service that the applicant's proposed project network will expect to support within four years after the completion of the project (i.e. approximately eight years after the grant award).

This will be a drop-down menu for applicants to forecast the supported speeds of the funded network four years after network completion. This response will be part of the IOB's determination of whether the funded network will support future demands for Priority Projects. Applicants should respond to this question with speeds no slower than the committed speeds in their project application. The IOB expects to see faster speeds to demonstrate scalability.

Question 60: Will there be sufficient backhaul and middle-mile capacity to easily scale the speeds of the network to meet the BEAD scalability requirements?

Applicant must answer this question with its forecast for the availability of backhaul and middle-mile facilities to support future demand and related speeds within four years after the end of the grant period of performance.

Question 61: Will there be sufficient capacity in the proposed network to easily scale the speeds of the network to meet the BEAD scalability requirements?

Applicant must answer this question with its forecast for the planned expansion of network capacity to support future demand and related speeds within four years after the end of the grant period of performance.

Question 62. Will the proposed network be connected to middle-mile and backhaul facilities that are fully redundant?

Applicant must answer this question with its forecast for the planned resiliency and redundancy measures to support future demand and related speeds within four years after the end of the grant period of performance.

Question 63: 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 deployed in the funded network.

Applicants are encouraged to deploy the most advanced level of technology to support the fastest speeds and most resilient broadband services to the funded project area. When reviewing and scoring the projects, including the cost per location for the Primary Criteria and the speed, latency, and scalability elements of the Secondary Criteria, the IOB will take into account a proposed project's commitment to deploy the most advanced DOCSIS version, wireless spectrum, or other applicable technology versions as well as state-of-the-art equipment, while still achieving efficiency and cost reasonableness.

Question 64: Please describe applicant's planned construction methods, including utility coordination.

Responses to this question should include any plans to deploy the BEAD funded network with microtrenching, trenching, directional drilling, overhead lashing and other industry-standard construction techniques relevant for the applicant's planned technology deployment. Applicants should discuss planned utility coordination, any experience working with the local utilities, and anticipated impacts on construction. The IOB will review responses to this question to determine the reasonableness of the applicant's commitments regarding timelines, cost, and technical capability of the project.

Question 65: Please describe applicant's planned interconnection methods and plans to place conduit access points at regular and short intervals.

BEAD program rules require projects that will deploy fiber-optic cables or conduit underground or along a roadway to include interspersed conduit access points at regular and short intervals. The IOB will evaluate the applicant's proposed interconnection and conduit access points when considering the overall performance and efficiency of the proposed network design.

Question 66: Please discuss any anticipated barriers to construction and deployment (weather, economic, permitting, interconnection, satellite launch issues, geography, topography, etc.).

Specific and comprehensive answers to this question will allow the IOB to determine the cost reasonableness of a project or if the project is proposing excessive costs in situations with minimal barriers to construction.

These answers will also support an applicant's proposed project timeframes and claims of technical feasibility and operational reliability.

Question 67: Network Route Diagram: Upload a project area polygon and network route drawing in a shapefile or geospatial format (KMZ, etc.) that supports the committed technical performance and network capabilities.

Please include all of the following elements within the network design document. Please be as specific as possible for the technology type and location of your project. Not all elements will apply to each technology type.

- o The proposed project area, including APA boundaries, is shown as a polygon, and the BSLs to be served (depicted as points)
- o Network infrastructure routes:
- o Fiber and/or coaxial routes, making distinctions between new and existing; or
- o Placement of new and existing towers, making distinctions between new and existing, and modeled coverage area; or
- o 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.
- o Existing backhaul and middle-mile routes that will be relied upon for the project, designating each technology (fiber, microwave, etc.).
- o If applicable, planned backhaul and middle-mile routes that will be constructed as part of the project, designating the technology for each
- o If applicable, planned open access routes that will be constructed as part of the project, designating the technology for each:
- o Planned locations where the applicant must obtain right of way permission or easement access
- o Location of the interconnection points and the planned conduit access points (must be placed at regular intervals)
- o Location of key elements such as outside plant placement of terminals and hubs, points of presence, huts, and central offices
- o The IOB reserves the right to require additional information regarding the proposed network's ability to meet BEAD performance standards and may issue future guidance on additional types of evidence or documentation it will require to support applicant's claims

Question 68: Logical Network Drawing: Upload a logical network design drawing or diagram in JPEG, PNG, or PDF format.

Please include the following elements in the drawing:

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

Question 69: Network Resiliency: Discuss applicant's plans to ensure robust and reliable connectivity, including efforts to mitigate outages and other impacts from weather, natural disasters, cybersecurity breaches, and other operational challenges.

Applicants should be specific about any plans to use network design strategies such as redundant paths, undergrounding and conduit, backup power, network and equipment hardening, network monitoring, and other mitigation measures.

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 the applicant anticipates may cause its customers to experience poor network performance.

Question 70: Outage Management: Please describe applicant's service outage restoration management plan to minimize network outages and downtime and to support service restoration timelines and prioritization.

Applicants must describe their plan in detail and include elements regarding preventive maintenance schedules, mean-time for outage response, channels and triggers for customer communication and triggering events for emergency methods and procedures.

Question 71: 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 72: Professional Engineer (P.E.) Certification: Upload a P.E. certification and documentation verifying the funded network will meet BEAD Program performance standards at all eligible locations within the committed project timeframes Sample certification language can be found here: Professional Engineer Certification.

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.

Questions 73-97: Technology specific questions for Priority and Non-Priority projects

For **Questions 73-97**, applicants are required to provide additional details regarding their proposed network design. This can include network design elements regarding deployment methodologies (aerial vs. underground), availability of middle-mile and backhaul, scalability, interference and capacity mitigation, resiliency strategies, equipment and protocol choices among other design decisions.

- o **The Idaho Grant Portal requires all applicants to answer all of the questions. Therefore, applicants must put a "0" in the numeric fields or "N/A" in any text box fields for questions that do not apply to the technology types included in the applicant's proposed project.**
- o Applicants with projects that involve mixed technologies must answer all questions relevant for each technology type deployed in the project.
- o The use of advanced technology to support higher speeds will be taken into consideration when the IOB reviews projects under the Secondary Scoring criteria to consider committed speeds, latency, and scalability.

E1. Fiber-to-the-Premises Projects

Questions 73-78 are for projects deploying end-to-end fiber-optic cable to the premises (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.

For **Question 74** regarding the fiber strand count, answer using the following format: "XX fiber strand count @ XX miles" for each segment of the network identified by the applicant.

E2. Licensed and Unlicensed Fixed Wireless Projects

Questions 79-82 are for projects that include licensed fixed wireless or hybrid licensed/unlicensed spectrum (non-FTTP), as well as unlicensed fixed wireless projects. These questions and the related template 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.

Please use the Fixed Wireless Performance Template to provide the required information with more detail about the proposed project including how the applicant will meet the required performance criteria of either a Priority or Non-Priority project and how the applicant has addressed capacity and interference issues discussed in the 2025 Policy Notice, including whether applicant has deployed any of the mitigation strategies described in Appendix A of the 2025 Policy Notice where applicable.

Question 81: Describe the capacity of the funded network to provide qualifying broadband service to all BSLs in the proposed project area. Address plans to adopt mitigation strategies discussed in Appendix A of the 2025 Policy Notice.

- This narrative is an opportunity to provide a summary and further information of the material submitted with the template and should include the following discussion:

The network can provide at least 5 Mbps per BSL concurrently, scaled to meet or exceed 100/20 Mbps.

The base stations will have enough capacity to maintain performance during high demand.

Backhaul links are redundant and can support aggregate traffic from all connected BSLs.

Adherence with network equipment manufacturer best practices or guidance regarding items such as:

- Capacity/loading of base station radios with respect to the number of, and provisioned bandwidth of, subscribers

- Minimum signal strength necessary to meet speed and latency requirements

- Backhaul requirements for base station deployments

Question 82: ULFW providers only, discuss plans to mitigate and manage potential interference with other users of unlicensed or licensed-by-rule spectrum and the use of mitigation strategies in Appendix A of the 2025 Policy Notice. Other providers enter N/A.

Including plans to use the following strategies:

- Beam Forming and/or Beam Nulling
- Use directional antennas at both base stations and subscriber units to reduce interference
- Dynamic Management
- Employ software or hardware-based solutions to dynamically manage interference that may arise
- Advanced Non-Line-of-Sight (NLOS) Capabilities
- Network is designed to maintain performance even in obstructed environments
- Reserved Base Station Capacity
- Allocate extra capacity to handle peak interference periods
- Conservative Link Budgets
- Design links with margins to account for interference and congestion
- Adherence to Manufacturer Best Practices
- Follow vendor guidelines for optimal signal strength, antenna placement, and interference thresholds

E3. Coaxial Cable and HFC Projects

Questions 83-86 are for projects that include 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.

E4. LEO Satellite Projects

Questions 87-97 are for 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, subsidies to serve low-income customers, and efforts to address and mitigate interference and improve performance.

BEAD-funded reserved capacity must be completed during the first four years of the BEAD grant period of performance. LEO applicants must commit to use the reserved capacity to allow 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. Priority Projects deploying satellite technology must also successfully demonstrate the scalability of the network.

Subgrantees may request reimbursement from its BEAD subgrant during the additional 10-year period of performance for costs related to service initiation and customer premise equipment.

F. Low-Cost Service Option

The 2025 Policy Notice amended the BEAD Program rules to simplify the applicant's obligation to provide a Low-Cost Service Option to all locations served by the BEAD funded network. This change maintained the statutory requirement in the Infrastructure Investment and Job Act (47 USC Section 1702(h)(4)(B)) for all subgrantees to offer a low-cost broadband service option but eliminated the requirements regarding this obligation as discussed and defined in the BEAD NOFO and Idaho IPV2.

Below, applicants are required to certify that it understands and will comply with the updated obligations. Prior to certifying their understanding and compliance commitments, applicants are encouraged to review Section 2.7 of the 2025 Policy Notice, including requirements to offer a service that meets all BEAD Program performance requirements and to mirror the FCC Lifeline program for participant eligibility requirements (47 CFR Section 54.409). The IOB will monitor any subgrantee's compliance with this requirement throughout the period of performance and the federal interest period of the grant.

Question 98: Low-cost Service Option: Does the applicant certify that it understands and will comply with the BEAD Program low-cost service option requirements described in the 2025 Policy Notice and further described in the Funding Application Guide?

Applicants are required to certify by answering "yes" or, if they cannot certify, they must respond "no" to this question and explain why they cannot offer a low-cost service option in response to **Question 99**.

In general, the IOB will not consider applications that cannot certify its compliance with the obligation to offer a low-cost service option.

Question 99: If the answer to the previous question was "no," please provide an explanation here. If the answer was "yes," please enter N/A.

If the applicant answers no to this certification, it must explain why it cannot commit to participating in a successor program.

In general, the IOB will not consider applications that do not commit to offering a low-cost service option.

Questions 100-103: Applicant's Low-Cost Service Offering

Applicants are required to provide additional information about their planned low-cost service offering, including pricing and speeds. For mixed technology projects, applicants should explain whether the low-cost service option will only be offered over specific technology deployment types (i.e., fiber, fixed wireless, coaxial, LEO). Applicants are also required to describe forecasts and planning for the pricing of its low-cost service option, including a discussion of historical pricing trends for existing low-cost options.

G. 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 during the period of performance.

Prequalified 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, further NTIA guidance on the BABA Compliance and Self Certification webpage, https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/technical-assistance/BABA_Compliance_and_Self_Certification, and an NTIA article on the requirements, 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

Applicants are also encouraged to review the documentation and guidance related to the NTIA BEAD Environmental Screening and Permitting Tracking Tool (ESAPTT) as it is developed and released. While the IOB and its team will be responsible for the hands-on work with this Tool, the questions in this application and the information provided by subgrantees regarding awarded projects will be crucial to the work by all stakeholders to support EHP compliance

through the ESAPTT.

- NTIA BEAD Environmental Screening and Permitting Tracking Tool (ESAPTT) Overview (June 2025), https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/ESAPTT_Overview.pdf

Question 104: 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 the IOB research and further consultation with the subgrantee regarding awarded projects, will inform the decisions of the State and NTIA as it uses the ESAPTT to determine the necessary environmental reviews and federal and state rules and regulations that impact the awarded project.

Question 105: Is the proposed project proximate to sensitive environmental, historical, or cultural areas? Applicant may rely on experience in the local area and/or reference the Idaho and NTIA Permitting and Environmental Application Tools.
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 their knowledge and experience from any prior projects in the area to identify these sensitive areas. Applicants may also reference the Idaho APA 4.0 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 the IOB to gauge the necessary compliance work under the BEAD Program EHP rules. This tool is located here.

Question 106: 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. If the answer was "no," please enter N/A.
The 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 107: 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 108: 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 and Secure and Trusted Communications Act of 2019 compliance process and procedures 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.

H. Managerial and Operational Capability

During Prequalification, applicants provided information about their past record and future plans for compliance with relevant labor and employment laws.

The IOB is also required to review the managerial and operational capabilities of a project. During Prequalification, applicants provided information about the key managerial staff that will guide the organization to the successful completion of a BEAD-funded project. The questions below require applicants to describe the managerial and operational capability dedicated specifically to the proposed project.

Question 109: How many key managerial staff are expected to be dedicated to this proposed project?

Question 110: Key Staff: Upload resumes of key managerial staff dedicated to this proposed project if the applicant has not already done so as part of its Prequalification Application.

Question 111: Describe the job titles of key staff and the relevant qualifications and certifications and years of experience of all key staff for the proposed project. Describe the processes to be used to ensure that all proper certifications and licenses remain in place.

I. Deployment Timeline

Question 112: Use the drop-down menu to provide the number of months that applicant commits to complete the deployment of the proposed project.

Applicants must specify the number of months that it commits for project completion using the drop-down menu.

1. < 24 months

2. 25-35 months

3. 36-41 months

4. 42-47 months

5. = 48 months

This commitment must be no more than four years from the subgrant award date and must match the timeline presented in its Project Deployment Timeline template.

For LEO applicants, the number of months must only include the time to complete the reservation of capacity, which must be no later than four years from the subgrant award date and must match the timeline in the LEO applicant's Project Deployment Timeline template.

This is a Secondary Scoring criteria in the IOB Scoring Matrix. Applicants committing to complete project deployment in less than 24 months will receive the maximum points. IOB will enforce the applicant's deployment timeline commitment through its subgrantee grant agreement.

J. Final Attestation

> **Question 113: Complete, notarize, and upload the Final Attestation document.**
>
> The template can be found here: [BEAD Funding Application Attestation](#).

K. Template and Upload Requirements

Applicants must review their final application and submission document for completeness and accuracy before submitting to the IOB for review. Applicants must have the following templates and other supporting documentation uploaded to the Grant Portal prior to submitting their applications. Applications that are missing any applicable or required templates and documentation may not be considered by the IOB.

Question #	Upload and Template Requirements
23.	Project Area BSL Template
26.	Additional documentation for Prefer Not to Serve BSLs (if applicable)
42.	Project Budget Template
43.	Letter of Commitment
44.	Additional documents for financial capability (if any)
48.	Formal Tribal Consent Resolution or other documents (if applicable)
50.	Project Pro Forma Template
51.	Additional documents for financial sustainability (if any)
52.	Deployment Timeline Template
58.	Scalability Documentation
67.	Network Design
68.	Logical Network Drawing
72.	Professional Engineer Certification
79.	Fixed Wireless Performance (if applicable)
80.	Propagation Map (if applicable)
110.	Key managerial staff resumes (if not already uploaded)
112.	Final Attestation Document Template