BEAD FAQs

June 20, 2025

Please send all BEAD related questions to:
msbead@beam.ms.gov

General BEAD Questions:

- **Question:** Once the applicant is awarded, will there be no funds advanced to the awardee until the awardee completes a milestone? Up until the milestone(s) are achieved, will the applicant fund the materials/engineering and construction for that milestone?
  - **Answer:** Correct. No funds will be advanced to the awardee until they complete a specified milestone as outlined in the grant agreement.

- **Question:** During the period of "verification" or "certification" of the completed milestone, will the applicant continue to fund engineering, materials, and construction as the next milestone is worked to completion? **Answer:** Yes. An awardee can continue incurring costs for the next milestone while a completed milestone is undergoing verification and reimbursement for review.

- **Question:** Once the milestone is "certified," will a funding request be submitted to or by Horne to verify or approve the funding advance? After Horne submits the funding request, how long will the applicant wait to receive the award reimbursement?
  - **Answer:** Yes, HORNE will review reimbursement requests associated with each milestone. Once approved, the request will be submitted to BEAM and then to DFA for payment. While the exact processing time will depend on the volume of BEAD applications and awarded projects, we anticipate payments to be issued within approximately 30 days after approval has been provided to BEAM/DFA by HORNE. The BEAM office is working closely with DFA to issue payments as quickly as possible.

- **Question**: How should an applicant handle "indicated" (hazard sign) locations in a BEAD application?
  - **Answer**: "Indicated" locations—identified with a hazard sign in the location file—will appear in the eligible location listing because a Capital Projects Fund (CPF) award or other provision of service was made after the BEAD challenge process was completed.
  - If your project area includes indicated locations, follow these steps:
    - **Reference the Official Listing**: A published list of indicated locations is available on BEAM's website here : https://broadbandms.com/register/bead.

      Use the indicated.csv file to identify which location IDs in your project area are considered indicated.
    - **Retain Them in Your Location Template**: You must retain all indicated locations in your location template. Do not delete them from the location file. Please mark each indicated location as the following:

- Mark them with "FALSE" in the "Part of Application" Column
- Mark them with "Defined 4 State" in the "Exclusion Justification" Column.

- **NOTES:**

  - If a location is confirmed as indicated upon review by the BEAM Office, your application WILL NOT be penalized in the scoring process.
  - Please do not include indicated locations in your engineering diagrams or budget.

- **Question**: What Fabric Version of the FCC data is BEAM using for BEAD applications?
  - **Answer**: Fabric Version 4

- **Question**: Is an applicant required to serve all locations in the project area?
  - **Answer**: No. Please refer to the Application Scoring Scenario number 2 in the BEAD Application Guide.

Consortium Questions:

Please keep in mind that NTIA has not provided specific guidance regarding ISP consortiums beyond their eligibility to apply. If further guidance is issued, BEAM will immediately provide that information to all BEAD eligible applicants.

Additionally, please note that if a consortium is to be awarded through the BEAD program, BEAM will require the consortium provide the internal documents and agreements dividing responsibility (both operational and financial) between the consortium members so that BEAM is aware of the responsibilities of each party.

- **Question:** Will the members of a participating consortium share the liability of the entire project (completion of service in any/all bid project areas)?
  - **Answer:** Yes. The consortium, whether structured as a joint venture or an LLC, will be responsible for the full scope of the project throughout the Federal Interest Period (10 years after closeout). See the BEAD Policy Notice - Federal Interest Period on Page 9.

- **Question:** Will the consortium be able to submit multiple applications that address parts of a particular project area?
  - **Answer:** No. Project areas cannot be subdivided into multiple applications. The smallest unit of application is the predefined project area designated by BEAM. However, if a consortium wishes to internally allocate project responsibilities among its members, that is at its discretion.

- **Question:** If multiple applications are submitted that address the responsibility of each member, will each member be allowed to submit a separate performance bond appropriate for the requested funds for that application? Or, rather, will the consortium be required to obtain a single performance bond to cover the entirety of the project? If so, how can the cost of the performance bond be divided among the member ISPs?
    - **Answer:** Multiple applications from a single consortium for a given project area are not permitted. The consortium, as the responsible entity, is expected to apply as a single applicant. BEAM is awaiting further guidance on performance bonding, but at this time, it is BEAM's preference that the consortium obtain a single performance bond covering the full project. The internal division of bond-related costs among consortium members would be at the consortium's discretion. Further guidance will be provided as it becomes available.

- **Question:** If only one application can be submitted for a consortium, how will the member ISPs be able to show their respective build responsibilities for each SA? Are the individual member ISPs able to subdivide the build responsibilities in the event a grant is awarded?
    - **Answer:** The consortium is responsible for internally determining and documenting which members will execute specific portions of the project. From the state's perspective, the consortium as a whole is accountable for project completion.

- **Question:** When can the consortium be dissolved, and what does that process look like as far as BEAM is concerned?
    - **Answer:** The consortium must follow federal closeout procedures administered by BEAM. It is expected to remain intact through the Federal Interest Period, which extends 10 years beyond grant closeout. This is important as during the Federal Interest Period, restrictions apply to how the property or equipment reimbursed under BEAD is used, transferred, or disposed of by a subrecipient. See the [BEAD Policy Notice](#) - Federal Interest Period on Page 9.

- **Question:** Is there an ability to specify separate project award match contributions per member ISP, or will the consortium list a single award match in the application process?
    - **Answer:** The consortium must submit a single award match in the application. However, how the match contributions are allocated among consortium members is an internal decision.

FAQs Following June 6th updated NTIA guidance

- **Question:** If an LOI has already been completed, are applicants required to complete another LOI?

- **Answer:** If you previously submitted a letter of intent and were deemed eligible, you do not have to submit a new LOI.

- **Question:** Have the consortium's requirements changed?
  - **Answer:** The consortium requirements have not changed. If the entities a part of the consortium have independently or jointly submitted a Letter of Intent, nothing more is required of them.

- **Question:** If applicants are not within 15%, will there be an opportunity to match the lowest bidder during the negotiation phase?
  - **Answer:** The negotiation phase will focus on the adoption of unapplied for locations to reach as close to 100% coverage for the state as possible. The negotiation round is not intended to negotiate price for already submitted applications. Scoring will be based on the NTIA Benefit of the Bargain scoring rubric.

- **Question:** Is BEAM revising eligible locations and requiring updates based on reason codes?
  - **Answer:** Yes, BEAM will optimize locations for the BEAD program using reason codes as laid out in Section 4 of the updated guidance.

- **Question:** Does ULFW meet the definition of priority broadband?
  - **Answer:** Any technology that meets the definition of priority broadband project: " 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", is eligible.

- **Question:** With the updated guidance allowing the removal of high-cost locations, does this mean there is no longer a limit on how many high-cost locations applicants can exclude?
  - **Answer:** There is not a limit on how many high-cost locations an applicant can exclude. To exclude locations from an application, an applicant must submit a completed ultra-high-cost location template with your application. You can find this template posted on beam.ms.gov.

- **Question:** Can you submit a wireless and fiber bid?
  - **Answer:** Yes, an applicant can submit a mixed technology application for any technology that meets the definition of a priority broadband project.