



Mississippi Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program

Broadband Deployment Projects Application Guide (Version 1.4)

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Introduction

The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program was established under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, allocating over \$42 billion nationally to build broadband infrastructure and provide support initiatives aimed at closing the digital divide across the states. This effort is administered at the federal level by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) located within the Department of Commerce. At the state level, the effort is administered by the office of Broadband Expansion and Accessibility of Mississippi (BEAM), a division of the Department of Finance and Administration.

In June 2023, Mississippi was allocated \$1.2 billion from the total BEAD program. BEAD rules require the State to develop a competitive process for internet service providers (ISPs) to reach all remaining residential locations classified as unserved and underserved as defined by the program. NTIA required BEAM to develop and publish an Initial Proposal detailing the locations eligible for funding and the procedures and requirements of the competitive grant process for the award of funding. The Initial Proposal was approved by NTIA in the fall of 2024 and is available on the BEAM website for review.

This “**Broadband Deployment Projects Application Guide**” aims to provide eligible applicants with a clear and detailed guide to the Mississippi BEAD Broadband Deployment Projects Application process. Given the scale of this initiative and the possibility of additional or revised guidance from the NTIA, there may be situations that necessitate deviations from the procedures outlined in this guide. This may require amending this Application Guide to introduce new or modified requirements or procedures. Any such amendments will be published on the BEAM website and notice provided to all applicants. De minimis or insignificant deviations from this guide will be clearly documented and included in the relevant applicant’s file or provided to eligible applicants through additional outreach materials such as webinars and office hours that will be offered throughout the application process.

The following steps as outlined in the Initial Proposal, Volume II have been completed and prior to the opening of the application window.

Step 1: Define project areas to include all unserved and underserved locations statewide:

BEAM made initial assignments of project areas dividing the unserved, and underserved locations geographically to ensure that prospective subgrantees have a strong interest in each defined project area within the state, with the ultimate goal of minimizing the outlay of public dollars. Each defined project area is expected to include all defined community anchor institutions (CAIs) within the area. The BEAM office subdivided the state geographically such that an application area encompasses a target number of BSLs, with additional consideration given to geographic obstacles and barriers, overall coverage, square miles covered, and desirable fiber route span.

Step 2: Accept letters of intent from ISPs:

BEAM established a streamlined process for ISPs to express their intent to participate in the broadband expansion initiative through a Letter of Intent (LOI) process. Submission of a LOI was a pre-requisite for participation in the BEAD application process. ISPs were provided with a LOI Guide and an online portal to submit essential financial information and express interest in specific project areas.

Step 3: Review letters of intent to understand if project areas as defined will maximize participation:

After receiving letters of intent from ISPs, along with a period of comment open to all internet service providers, BEAM further assessed project areas and determined that further adjustments or clarifications were unnecessary.

Step 4: Re-define project areas, as necessary:

If the LOI review had revealed gaps or areas that did not maximize ISP participation, BEAM retained the option of redefining project areas. This would involve revisiting the initial criteria, consulting with stakeholders, and making data-driven adjustments to ensure that the project areas are optimized for participation and successful broadband deployment.

BEAM will now launch an open and competitive application process for BEAD funding of broadband infrastructure projects for the remaining unserved and underserved locations in Mississippi. The application portal will establish clear guidelines for eligible applicants to submit detailed proposals outlining how they plan to address broadband deployment within the finalized project areas. This process allows for the selection of the most promising proposals, ensuring efficient and effective broadband expansion to all Mississippians.

Application Timelines

The BEAD program will sequentially follow the below timelines. Durations and start dates are subject to change based upon further guidance received from NTIA.

Task	Duration
NTIA Approval of Eligible Locations	TBD
Application Window – Round 1	45 days
Application Review – Round 1	35 days
State Comment/Objection Period on Preliminary Determinations – Round 1	30 days
State Comment/Objection Review – Round 1	30 days
Application Window – Round 2	15 days
Application Review – Round 2	15 days
State Comment/Objection Period on Preliminary Determinations – Round 2	30 days
State Comment/Objection Review – Round 2	30 days
Direct Negotiations	60 days
Final Proposal Submission	TBD

Program Eligibility

To receive BEAD funding, subgrantees must:

1. Complete a Letter of Intent
2. Meet mandated financial requirements;
3. Meet mandated organizational requirements, including ownership;
4. Propose a project that will provide at least 100/20 service to all locations within service area within the required timeline; AND
5. Certify ability to comply with all applicable requirements mandated by NTIA, 2 CFR 200 Uniform Guidance, and the state of Mississippi.

Project Eligibility

To receive BEAD funding, projects must:

1. Be accompanied by a Letter of Credit and/or a Performance Bond;
2. Demonstrate project sustainability; AND
3. Demonstrate technical viability to provide at least 100/20 service to all locations within the project area within the required timeline.

Application Scoring Considerations

The scoring rubric for Mississippi Bead applications is found in the Mississippi Initial Proposal Volume 2. To address any unique scenarios that may not be contemplated, the below examples and principles provide insight into how applications will be scored and evaluated in allocating funding.

1. **Hybrid Applications** – Applications that propose utilization of both fiber and other last mile technologies will be scored using the Other Last Mile Broadband Deployment Scoring Rubric. For these applications, a weighted average (calculated by dividing the number of locations anticipated to be served by each technology type by the total number of locations in the application) will be used to derive blended values for Download Speeds, Upload Speeds, and Latency After Buildout. These blended values will then be scored using the scoring rubric.

Example:

- a. Project A intends to serve a project area containing 100 locations. Fiber will be deployed to 70 locations, and 30 locations will be served using other last mile technologies. The following key assumptions apply:
 - i. Fiber deployment will result in availability of 1000 Mbps Upload, 1000 Mbps Download and 10 ms latency
 - ii. Other last mile technologies will result in availability of 100 Mbps Upload, 20 Mbps Download and 45 ms latency

The weighted average calculation would be performed as follows:

Download speed: $((70/100)*1000) + ((30/100)*100) = 730$ Mbps blended speed

Upload speed: $((70/100)*1000) + ((30/100)*20) = 706$ Mbps blended speed

Latency: $((70/100)*10) + ((30/100)*45) = 20.5$ Ms blended latency

Based on the scoring rubric included in BEAM's BEAD Initial Proposal Volume 2, Project A would receive a score of **10 points** (highlighted in the table below for reference).

Speed Tier <i>Speeds proposed by applicant</i>	Latency (ms)				
	100 - 87 ms	86 - 73 ms	72 - 59 ms	58 - 45 ms	44 - 30 ms
100 Mbps/20 Mbps	1	2	3	4	5
100 Mbps/100 Mbps	2	3	4	5	6
250 Mbps/100 Mbps	3	4	5	6	7
250 Mbps/250 Mbps	4	5	6	7	8
500 Mbps/250 Mbps	5	6	7	8	9
500 Mbps/500 Mbps	6	7	8	9	10
1000 Mbps/500 Mbps	7	8	9	10	10
1000 Mbps/1000 Mbps	8	9	10	10	10

Application Scoring Considerations (continued)

2. **Less than 100% of Project Area** - Applications seeking to serve less than 100% of locations within project areas must provide reasonable justification and can expect a reduction in the maximum points available. The maximum points for these applications will be proportional to the percentage of locations within the project area that the project intends to serve. If a project in this category also proposes deployment of multiple technologies, as described above in Section 1 (Hybrid applications), the weighted average method of calculating blended Download speeds, Upload speeds, and Latency will be applied.

Examples:

- a. Project B contains a project area with 500 eligible locations, but only intends to serve 400 of those locations. This represents 80% of the eligible locations (calculated by dividing 400 by 500), so the maximum points the application could receive is 80%. In other words, the project score for Project B will be multiplied by 80% to arrive at the final project score.
 - b. A provider's project area contains 500 eligible locations but intends to serve only 400. This initially represents 80% of the eligible locations (calculated by dividing 400 by 500), meaning the maximum possible score is 80%. However, if the provider provides sufficient evidence that 20 of the remaining 100 locations qualify as non-serviceable (as defined in FP 1.2 and the application location template), the denominator is adjusted to 420. As a result, the provider's service commitment of 400 locations would then represent 84% of the adjusted total, and the project score will be multiplied by 84% to determine the final score.
3. **Net BEAD Outlay to Achieve Universal Service** - BEAM will use the guiding principle of the lowest net BEAD outlay to achieve Universal service across the state of Mississippi. This principle will be used in conjunction with the scoring rubrics to make funding allocation decisions. There may be instances in which a lower scoring proposal within an individual project area is determined to yield the lowest net BEAD Outlay based on its combination with other project areas, critical Middle-Mile infrastructure dependencies, or other objective and justifiable analyses.
 4. **Overlapping Applications for a Project Area Unit (PAU)** - Each application will be scored at the Project Area Unit level, as opposed to a single application-level score. Each PAU is also presumed to be severable from the rest of the application. If BEAM receives multiple applications that include the same PAU, that project area will be awarded to the ISP with the highest score for that specific PAU. The remaining PAUs in each application are then evaluated independently. For example, if ISP A and ISP B both apply for PAU 1 and ISP A scores higher, ISP A will be awarded PAU 1. If ISP B has the highest score for other PAUs in its application, ISP B will be given the option to retain those PAUs.

Application Resources

BEAM will post this guide, templates, FAQ documents, and relevant application portal links to the BEAM website. Any changes to documents will be noted in subsequent versions.

As a reminder, any documents submitted as part of the Letter of Intent and application may be subject to Freedom of Information Act requests. BEAM will work with applicants and awardees to protect proprietary information as indicated in Mississippi Code 1972 Section 77-19-15 (5); however, applicants should be sure to mark such information as “confidential” or “proprietary” upon submission.

During the application review period, applicants may receive requests from BEAM for any missing or incorrect required application documentation. Requested additional documentation should be provided to BEAM within the requested timeframe.

The Broadband Deployment Projects Application process is the second step in the multi-phase application process to ensure all applications meet the NTIA eligibility criteria. During the application filing window, prospective subgrantees must provide details about proposed projects as well as submit required certifications and authorization as required by the [BEAD NOFO](#) and Uniform Guidance (UG) [2 CFR 200](#).

The [BEAD NOFO](#) outlines requirements to meet the minimum eligibility criteria for the program. These include:

1. **Financial Capability:** Certifications and documentation, Letter of credit compliance statement, Audited financial statements, business plans
2. **Organizational Capability:** Key management resumes, Organizational charts, Certification of operational readiness, Evidence of prior service in relevant areas, Compliance with regulatory filings, Uniform Guidance requirements for federal awards
3. **Technical Capability:** Certifications and documentation, plans for skilled and credentialed workforce, deployment/service obligations
4. **Certifications and Compliance:** Adherence to federal, state, and local laws, Compliance with occupational safety regulations
5. **Federal Labor and Employment Laws:** Adherence to federal labor and employment laws, Labor, and employment practices
6. **Risk Management:** Cybersecurity and [Supply](#) Chain Risk Management plans
7. **Ownership:** Ownership information required by [47 C.F.R. § 1.2112\(a\)\(1\)-\(7\)](#)
8. **National Laws:** Adherence to National Environmental Protection Act, National Historic Preservation Act and Build America, Buy America

Broadband Deployment Projects Application Required Documentation and Certifications/Attestations

This Broadband Deployment Projects Application Guide may be updated to align with any changes in the BEAD federal program requirements. BEAM may seek clarifications as necessary and may also require additional details, updates, or documentation to ensure project eligibility. This guide serves as a condensed overview of the required application materials.

The application itself is organized into nineteen sections: Project Areas, Infrastructure and Technology, Supporting Infrastructure, Bill of Materials, Project Budget, Affordability, Fair Labor Practices, Speed to Deployment, Community Support, Scalability, Network Resiliency, Project Surety, Financial Capability, Match Waiver Request, Operational Capability, Technical Capability, Certifications, Non-Discrimination and Civil Rights, Application Certification. All forms must be completed in full before submission. **Additionally, for identification purposes, all uploaded documents should follow this naming convention: Entity Name_File Name.**

SECTION 1: Select Locations

Summary and Guidance

Applicants must select the project areas they wish to be included within their application. Applications will be **limited to 10 project areas** per application. If selecting multiple project areas within a single application, the project areas selected must collectively form a contiguous area.

Project Areas Questions/Document Uploads

Prepare to provide the following information related to your application:

- **Project Areas:** Select the project area(s) to be served with this application. (*Multi-select*)
- **BEAD Eligible Locations:** The application portal will automatically indicate the number of BEAD Eligible locations to be served within the selected project area(s).
- **Total Locations:** The application portal will automatically indicate the number of BSLs included in the project area(s)
- **Unserved Locations:** The application portal will automatically indicate the number of unserved locations to be served within the selected project area(s).
- **Underserved Locations:** The application portal will automatically indicate the number of underserved locations to be served within the selected project area(s).
- **Eligible Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs):** The application portal will automatically indicate the number of CAIs within the selected project area(s).
- **CAIs to be Served:** Please indicate the number of eligible CAIs proposed to be served with 1000 Mbps / 1000 Mbps within each of the selected project areas. (*Number*)
- **CAI Names:** Please provide a list of the CAI entity names proposed to be served with 1000 Mbps / 1000 Mbps within each selected project area. (*Long Text*)
- **BSL Alternative Technology Percentage:** How many BSLs, or what percentage of the project in this application do you plan to serve using an alternative technology? (*Number*)

SECTION 2: Authorized Organization Representative

Summary

Prepare to appoint your Authorized Organizational Representative. The authorized organizational representation (AOR) should be legally authorized to make financial decisions and sign contracts on the applicant's behalf. Applicants will be prompted to update the Organization Profile and upload documentation (a board resolution or other documentation legally appointing the AOR to submit an application).

Authorized Organization Questions/Document Uploads

1 – 5 – The authorized organizational representation (AOR) should be legally authorized to make financial decisions and sign contracts on the applicant's behalf. Applicants will be prompted to update the Organization Profile and upload documentation (a board resolution or other documentation legally

appointing the AOR to submit an application).

1. AOR Full Name (*Text*)
2. AOR Email (*Text*)
3. AOR Phone (*Number*)
4. Please provide proof of documentation/registration with the Mississippi Secretary of State's Office. (*Upload*)
5. Please upload a board resolution or similar authorization, authorizing your organization's Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) to submit an application on behalf of the company. (*Upload*)

SECTION 3: Grant Eligibility

Summary

Applicants will need to provide updated information regarding your applying entity.

[Grant Eligibility Questions/Document Uploads](#)

6 – 12 – Provide the following information related to your application:

6. Is the applying entity currently delinquent on any federal debt? (*Yes/No*)
7. Please confirm that the applying entity is aware that equipment from prohibited manufacturers under 2 CFR § 200.216 is ineligible for grant funding. (*Yes/No*)
8. Does the applying entity have broadband operations experience? (*Yes/No*)
9. Has there been any turnover in key personnel who will be responsible for the program or oversight of the program in the past 3 years? (*Yes/No*)
10. Has the applicant entered markets lacking access to broadband? (*Yes/No*)
11. Describe the applicant's customer installation and customer service operations. (*Long Text*)
12. Has the applicant ever been disqualified from receiving federal, state, or local broadband grants for failure to meet deployment milestones or otherwise failure to satisfy funding obligations? (*Yes/No*)

SECTION 4: Company Experience

Summary

Applicants will need to provide updated information regarding company experience.

[Company Experience Questions/Document Uploads](#)

13 – 19 – Provide the following information related to your application:

13. Describe the applicant's current service area. (*Long Text*)
14. Upload the applicant's existing network diagram. (*Upload*)

15. Describe the applicant's existing network. (*Long Text*)
16. Does the applicant use internal or external teams to build and operate the applicant's networks? (*Select*)
17. Describe the size of the existing construction and operations team. (*Long Text*)
18. Describe the expected size of team managing grant requirements and project if grant is awarded. (*Long Text*)
19. Provide the previous three (3) years of audited historical financial statements. (*Upload*)

SECTION 5: Project Area Cost Breakdown

Project Area Cost Questions

Applicants must provide total cost and match dollars for each Project Area Unit included in the application.

SECTION 6: Infrastructure and Technology

Summary

Applicants will need to provide detailed descriptions of the infrastructure and technology to be deployed in the provision of service to the locations within the selected project areas.

Infrastructure and Technology Questions/Document Uploads

- 21 – 33** – Provide the following information related to the project area infrastructure and technology:
21. Please download, complete, and re-upload the following template to itemize planned BSLs by technology type. (*Upload*)
 - *See Appendix A for specific instructions.*
 22. Please upload any budgetary engineering designs, diagrams, and maps that demonstrate the viability of the proposed project including: a network design, diagram, Gantt chart/buildout timeline, milestones for project implementation, and a capital investment schedule, all certified by a professional engineer. (*Upload*)
 23. Please upload business plans and related analyses that substantiate the sustainability of the proposed project in the form of pro forma statements or analyses, inclusive of cash flow and balance sheet projections and should include at least 3 years of operating cost and cash flow projections post targeted completion of project. (*Upload*)
 - *Your response should include at a minimum a quantitative analysis of three years of operating costs, cash flow and balance sheet projections. To the extent that your entity is unable to provide forward looking statements, a narrative description of the sustainability of the project will need to be supplied.*
 24. What are the total estimated miles of conduit to be deployed? (*Number*)
 25. What are the total estimated miles of buried fiber plant to be deployed? (*Number*)

26. Please select the network technology to be deployed. *(Select)*

- xPON
- GPON
- EPON
- NG-PON2
- Multiple of the above
- None of the above

If your application does not include any end-to-end fiber, select “None of the above”.

- If your response is “Multiple of the above” or “None of the above” please be prepared to describe by project area the mix of designs to be deployed. *(Long Text)*

27. What are the total estimated miles of buried coaxial cable plant to be deployed? *(Number)*

28. What are the total estimated miles of aerial fiber (if fiber proposed) to be deployed? *(Number)*

29. What are the total estimated miles of aerial coaxial cable plant to be deployed? *(Number)*

30. What are the number of towers to be deployed? *(Number)*

31. Have the permits pertaining to the proposed project already been obtained? *(Yes/No)*

32. Are easements or ROWs necessary for the proposed project? *(Yes/No)*

33. Does the Project include Middle-Mile infrastructure? *(Yes/No)*

SECTION 7: Network Resiliency

Summary

Applicants will need to provide detailed descriptions of the network resiliency tied to locations within the selected project areas.

[Network Resiliency Questions/Document Uploads](#)

34 – 40 – Provide the following information related to your application:

34. Please provide the maximum upload speed upon completion of the proposed project. Please specify if different for certain project areas within this application. *(Long Text)*

35. Please provide the maximum download speed upon completion of the proposed project. Please specify if different for certain project areas within this application. *(Long Text)*

36. Please provide the latency speed upon completion of the proposed project. Please specify if different for certain project areas within this application. *(Long Text)*

37. Indicate the number of uptime hours in a 365-day period excluding downtime caused by natural disasters and acts of God. *(Number)*

38. In the case of climate risks, provide details on the planned speeds of restoring service in case of the planned network outage. *(Long Text)*

39. Provide an initial assessment of potential external risks impacting the proposed project's network. (*Long Text*)

40. Provide plans to deploy resilient infrastructure that is less vulnerable to physical damage. Describe how the proposed network design will withstand, respond to, and recover rapidly from disruptions caused by adverse events. (*Upload*)

Designing resilient infrastructure includes:

- Consideration of aerial and buried infrastructure.
- Elimination of single points of failure throughout the network.
- Design of self-healing network topologies.
- Design of network architecture that provides optical redundancy.
- Design of backup power sources.

SECTION 8: Bill of Materials

Summary and Guidance

Applicants will need to provide a detailed bill of materials and categorical project budget.

PLEASE NOTE: While completing your project budget, keep in mind that the BEAM Office has adopted a fixed amount subaward model. This means awardees will be reimbursed based on milestones defined by the awardee. For reference, a preliminary draft of the BEAD milestones options has been attached as Appendix C. When developing your project budget, consider these milestones carefully to ensure that potential future milestones are appropriately categorized.

Materials Questions/Document Uploads

41. Provide the following information related to your proposed project:

41. Please include a Bill of Materials for the project using the provided template (see Appendix B). (*Upload*)

SECTION 9: Project Budget

Summary and Guidance

Applicants will need to provide a detailed project budget.

Project Budget Questions/Document Uploads

42 – 59 – Please fill the provided project budget categories (*Number*):

- 42.** Administrative and Legal Expenses
- 43.** Land, structures, rights-of-way, appraisals, etc.
- 44.** Relocation expenses and payments
- 45.** Architectural and engineering fees
- 46.** Other architectural and engineering fees
- 47.** Project inspection fees

- 48.** Site work
- 49.** Demolition and removal
- 50.** Construction
- 51.** Equipment
- 52.** Miscellaneous
- 53.** Expense Total (System calculated)
- 54.** BEAD Funding
- 55.** Match Funding
 - 56.** *Please describe all funding sources used as Match Funding (Long Text)*
- 57.** Other Federal Funding
 - 58.** *Please describe all funding sources used as Other Federal Funding (Long Text)*
- 59.** Funding Total (System Calculated)

SECTION 10: Affordability

Summary

Applicants will need to detail the pricing offered to customers upon completion of the proposed project including middle-class and low-cost options, as applicable.

Affordability Questions/Document Uploads

60 - 63 - Provide the following information related to your proposed project:

- 60.** Describe your organization's offerings (if any) specifically targeted toward offering affordable service to middle-class households. If applicable, your response should describe how qualifying customers will be informed of the option (if available) by making the plan information publicly available and easily accessible. *(Long Text/Upload)*
- 61.** Please upload your organization's speed tiers and associated pricing that will be available to the project area upon completion of the project. Please be sure to include speed tier pricing for 1Gbps/1Gbps service option. *(Upload)*
- 62.** Please provide a list of applicant's service offerings and price points that meet unique needs of economically disadvantaged households and their affordability levels. Your response should identify how you intend to comply with the requirements outlined in Initial Proposal Volume II 2.12.1. *(Upload)*
- 63.** Confirm that, in the event your organization later offers a low-cost plan with higher downstream and/or upstream speeds, you will allow eligible subscribers who are already subscribed to a low-cost broadband service option to upgrade to the new low-cost offering at no cost. *(Yes/No)*
 - *If yes, provide details of the plans to upgrade the low-cost broadband service option.*

SECTION 11: Fair Labor Practices

Summary

Applicants will need to demonstrate past compliance with federal and State labor and employment laws as well as plans to comply during the BEAD program.

Fair Labor Practices Questions/Document Uploads

64-68 - Provide the following information related to your proposed project:

- 64.** Submit documented and signed evidence of compliance with federal and State labor and employment laws for the past three years by an Officer/Director-level employee of the entity (e.g., President, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer, or equivalent position). *(Upload)*
- 65.** Disclose any non-compliance with federal and State labor and employment laws including contractors and subcontractors over the past five years. This record should also describe the corrective steps taken to avoid similar incidents and ensure future compliance. *(Long Text/Upload)*
- 66.** Certify that the Potential Applicant has disclosed any instances in which it or its contractors or subcontractors have been found to have violated laws such as the Occupational Safety and Health Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, or any other applicable labor and employment laws for the preceding five years. *(Select)*
- 67.** Provide details on the wage structures projected to be directly involved in the physical construction of the broadband network. *(Long Text/Upload)*
- 68.** Provide a detailed account of the labor and employment practices that you employ relating to wages and overtime payments. The details will include data on starting hourly wages, pay rates for other job positions, overtime pay rates, and structures for deciding/promoting additional wage increases. *(Long Text/Upload)*

SECTION 12: Speed to Deployment

Summary

Applicants will need to provide information about the time to complete a project following the execution of a subaward.

Speed to Deployment Questions/Document Uploads

69-70 - Provide the following information related to your proposed project:

- 69.** Describe the make-ready activities that your organization has already completed or has planned for the proposed project (e.g., surveyed site, signed agreements, prepared engineering designs, access to right of way, etc.). Include all prior activities, a complete description of the next steps for make-ready activity, and how project costs were estimated. *(Long Text/Upload)*
- 70.** Describe the project timeline, key milestones, and the number of months needed between the execution of the grant agreement and the delivery of service to the last eligible BSL for each project area included in your application. Please upload any associated documentation (project schedule, Gantt chart, etc.) Ensure your response and documentation include construction

completion dates for each project area. *(Long Text/Upload)*

SECTION 13: Community Support

Summary

Applicants will need to provide evidence of any community support for the proposed project.

Community Support Questions/Document Uploads

71- 74 - Provide the following information related to your proposed project:

- 71.** Please upload letters evidencing community support from individuals within each project area. *(Upload)*
- 72.** Please upload any resolution(s) of support from elected boards within each project area expressing support for the project. *(Upload)*
- 73.** Please provide any evidence of community meetings hosted by your organization within each project area prior to the submission of this application. *(Upload)*
- 74.** Please describe the plan to include local hires and provide opportunities for local hires such as apprenticeship programs, job fairs, and training programs. *(Long Text/Upload)*

SECTION 14: Scalability

Summary

Applicants will need to describe the scalability and network resiliency measures incorporated into the design of the network.

Scalability Questions/Document Uploads

75- 76 – Provide the following information related to your *proposed project*:

- 75.** Describe how the proposed network design ensures scalability to meet the connectivity needs of each project area throughout the life of the network. *(Long Text)*
- 76.** Provide details of any other network resiliency measures that your organization plans to adopt. *(Long Text/Upload)*

SECTION 15: Project Surety

Summary and Guidance

BEAD originally mandated that States require deployment subgrantee to obtain a Letter of Credit from an eligible bank valued at least 25% of an award's amount. However, the NTIA subsequently issued a Notice of Programmatic Waiver allowing states to ease this requirement. The Notice provided four different options for extending additional flexibility to subgrantees which can be found [here](#). BEAM will accept the following three options in accordance with the waiver guidance:

Option # 1 (2.1): Subgrantee may obtain the Letter of Credit from an eligible credit union or bank valued at least 25% of the subaward amount.

Option # 2 **(2.2)**: Subgrantee may obtain a qualified performance bond for 100% of the federal award instead of obtaining a Letter of Credit.

Option # 3 **(2.3)**: Subgrantee may step down the amount of the Letter of Credit (25% of federal award) or performance bond (100% of federal award) based on progress toward completion of project milestones.

Project Surety Questions/Document Uploads

77– Provide the following information related to your *proposed project*:

77. Please select which option listed above your organization will adopt with the proposed project.
(Select)

77a. For the “Letter of Credit 25%” or the “Letter of Credit Step Down” (Upload):

- Please provide a commitment letter from a bank meeting the requirements consistent with those set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.804(c)(2) or any United States credit union that is insured by the National Credit Union Administration and has a credit union safety rating issues by Weiss of B- or better. This should be valued at no less than 25% of the subaward amount.

77a. For the “Performance Bond 100%” or the “Performance Bond Step Down” (Upload):

- Please submit a letter from a company holding a certificate of authority as an acceptable surety on federal bonds as identified in the Department of Treasury Circular 570 committing to issue a performance bond to the prospective subgrantee. This should be valued at no less than 100% of the subaward amount.

SECTION 16: Financial Capability

Summary

Applicants will need to certify their financial capability to undertake a project under the BEAD program.

Financial Capability Questions/Document Uploads

78-79 – Provide the following information related to your *proposed project*:

78. Certify that you will comply with uniform administrative requirements, cost principles, and audit requirements to complete and operate the project. (Yes/No)

79. If applicable, provide a copy of latest corporate credit rating carried out by certified credit rating agencies including but not limited to S&P Global, Moody's, and Fitch Ratings. (Upload)

SECTION 17: Match Waiver Request

Summary

Applicants will have the option to request a match waiver.

PLEASE NOTE: A request for a match waiver may or may not be granted by BEAM or NTIA.

Match Waiver Request Questions/Document Uploads

80-81 Please specify if you intend to apply for a match waiver for your project as well as the details that entail your match waiver request **under Section III. B(5) of the BEAD NOFO.**

80. Does your project area include high-cost areas as defined by NTIA Ratings? (Yes/No)

81. Is your organization planning to apply for a match waiver? (Yes/No) If “Yes”:

- *Provide a description of the special circumstances underlying the reason it is not feasible to provide the minimum match requirement of 25% of the project cost. Document any efforts made to obtain matching fund commitments for the project from capital funding sources and explain how a waiver would serve the public interest and advance the goals of the BEAD Program. Note that match waivers are not guaranteed, and BEAM may request additional information to assist in making its determination.*
- *Describe the public interest or community benefit that would result from granting the waiver. Provide an explanation of how the waiver aligns with broader policy goals and societal needs.*

SECTION 18: Operational Capability

Summary

Applicants will need to disclose past violations, if any, and attest to prior compliance with laws.

Operational Capability Questions/Document Uploads

82-83 Please provide details and attestation of how you intend to deploy network facilities that meet the minimum qualifications for operational capability. **(IP Volume 2, 2.4.15)**

- 82.** Provide details and submit evidence of any penalties paid by you or your affiliates, any subsidiaries, or the holding company relative to deployment projects. Additionally, include relevant details of prior criminal proceedings or civil litigation in State of Mississippi and the number of times they have been a defendant. *(Upload)*
- 83.** Provide an attestation form from an officer/director of the organization confirming past compliance with applicable federal, state, and local laws, or disclose any past violations. *(Upload)*

SECTION 19: Technical Capability

Summary

Applicants will need to certify that they have the technical capability to undertake the project.

Technical Capability Questions/Document Uploads

84-90 Please provide details and action/steps of how you intend to deploy network facilities that meet the minimum qualifications for technical capability **(IP Volume 2, 2.4.13)**

- 84.** Confirm that your organization has the technical qualifications to complete and operate BEAD projects and is capable of carrying out any BEAD funded activities competently, including the use of a skilled and credentialed workforce. *(Yes/No)*
- 85.** Confirm that any employed or contracted workforce will possess the necessary skills, qualifications, and credentials to work on any proposed BEAD grant projects. *(Yes/No)*
- 86.** Confirm that your organization and the workforce to be deployed on project will remain current on all required credentials and licenses for the period of performance. *(Yes/No)*

- 87. Provide details if your organization is planning on using a contracted workforce. *(Long Text)*
- 88. Provide a detailed narrative of the contractor selection process outlining which skills, certifications, qualifications, or training programs will be required for each role. *(Long Text)*
- 89. Provide the actions/steps that will be taken for awarded project(s) by you, contractors and subcontractors are carried out by an appropriately skilled and credentialed workforce. Include details regarding safety training programs, certifications, licensure requirements, and whether in-house training with established requirements is provided for each job title for any anticipated non-union labor. *(Upload)*
- 90. Please provide plans/strategies for complying with applicable environmental regulations, such as hiring an environmental contractor, preparing an environmental document, etc. *(Long Text)*

SECTION 20: Certifications

Summary

Applicants will need to certify that they will comply with the required provisions of the BEAD program.

Certifications Questions/Document Uploads

91-97 Do you attest and certify all other required BEAD Eligible Entity obligations listed below.

- 91. Certify your organization will comply with The Infrastructure Act which explicitly prohibits subgrantees from using BEAD funding to purchase or support fiber-optic cable and optical transmission equipment manufactured in the People's Republic of China unless a waiver is granted by the Assistant Secretary. *(Select)*
- 92. Certify your understanding that all funds made available through the BEAD Program for broadband infrastructure must comply with the prohibition on certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment (2 CFR 200.216). This regulation prohibits federal funds from being used to purchase or install telecommunications and video surveillance equipment, services or systems produced from prohibited companies and/or their subsidiaries. In addition, for public safety installations, there is an extended list of vendors and requirements listed in the National Defense Authorization Act (Public Law 115-232, Section 889) which is the source legislation for this condition. *(Select)*
- 93. Certify your organization will not procure, obtain, extend or renew a contract to procure or obtain or enter into a contract to procure or obtain equipment, services, or systems that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system. As described in Public Law 115-232, section 889, covered telecommunications equipment is telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities). *(Select)*
- 94. Certify that your organization, as applicable, will complete an Environmental Review document, likely a Categorical Exclusion (CATEX), in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.) and the National Historic

Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. § 300101 et seq.), as well as any other relevant environmental or historic preservation requirements. Grant funding is contingent upon adherence to this provision. *(Select)*

- 95.** Certify that a licensed professional engineer will be involved in certifying the final design, diagrams, project costs estimate, and other technical aspects of the project and will provide the necessary verification post award. *(Select)*
- 96.** Confirm that your organization will submit timely monthly progress reports, commit to the details of your grant application, and uphold the grant agreement if awarded and signed. *(Select)*
- 97.** I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that the information provided herein is true, complete, and accurate. I am aware that the provision of false, fictitious, or fraudulent information, or the omission of any material fact, may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative consequences including, but not limited to violations of U.S. Code Title 18, Sections 2, 1001, 1343 and Title 31, Sections 3729-3730 and 3801-3812. *(Select)*

SECTION 21: Nondiscrimination and Civil Rights

Summary

Applicants will need to certify that they will comply with the required nondiscrimination and Civil Rights provisions of the BEAD program.

Certifications Questions/Document Uploads

98-102 - Do you attest and certify compliance that you will follow the following requirements under **Section IV. 10(C)(1)(G) of the BEAD NOFO** and **(IP Volume 2, 2.16.3)** regarding Civil Rights and Nondiscrimination Law Compliance?

- 98.** Confirm compliance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. *(Select)*
- 99.** Confirm compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. *(Select)*
- 100.** Confirm compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. *(Select)*
- 101.** Confirm compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. *(Select)*
- 102.** Confirm compliance with the Age Discrimination Act of 1975. *(Select)*

Appendix A: Planned BSLs by Technology Type

The template below is required. The template will pre-populate with eligible locations, CAIs, and the Project Area ID. Applicants must indicate whether or not each BSL is included in the deployment plans of the application. Locations not intended to be included in the application will need proper justification, which may include knowledge of an existing enforceable commitment, knowledge of existing commercial service, or knowledge that the location does not exist.

Applicants should then provide the estimated cost to provide **end-to-end fiber** to each location. For locations that the applicant does not intend to provision end-to-end fiber, the cost per location should clearly indicate that the cost per location substantially exceeds an implied Extremely High Cost Per Location.

Applicants should then provide the planned upload speed, planned download speed and planned latency that corresponds with the technology intended to be deployed to each location.

PLEASE NOTE: The BEAM office understands that these are estimates and may differ slightly from actuals, please provide the best information available to your organization at the time of application.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- **Fabric Id:** Provided by platform via selected Project Areas. *No edits allowed.*
- **CAI Place Name:** Displays the name of the CAI if applicable. *No edits allowed.*
- **Proposed Project Area Id:** Provided by platform via selected Project Areas. *No edits allowed.*
- **Note:** Optional notes for the application Location.
- **Part Of Application:** Does the applicant plan to service this location? If yes, mark True; if no, mark False.
- **Exclusion Justification:** If the applicant does not plan to service this location as part of their application, please select the exclusion reason for review by the SBO. Valid options:
 - **Defined 1:** Location should not have a broadband connection.
 - D: Location has been demolished and is not expected to be rebuilt
 - B: Residential location is not habitable
 - U: Location is a support structure (e.g., garage, parking structure, barn, silo, shed)
 - M: Location is mobile and not permanently installed

- R: Location is a natural formation or land (e.g., rock, hay bales)
- Z: Location is not serviceable for another reason
- **Defined 2:** Location does not need mass-market broadband service.
 - C: CAI location
 - E: Enterprise location
 - P: Government property
- **Defined 3:** Location has been removed from the latest version of the Fabric by the FCC.
- **Defined 4:** Location is already served by an enforceable commitment.
 - State enforceable commitment
 - Federal enforceable commitment (BIP, CAFII, CPF, EACAM, RDOF, RECONNECT, SLFRF, TBCP1, TBCP2)
- **Defined 5:** Location is already served by non-subsidized service (privately funded network).
- **Defined 6:** Other.
- **Defined 7:** The Eligible Entity is financially incapable of serving an underserved location.
- **Undefined:** Ultra High Cost Location
- **Cost Per Location:** Indicate the estimated cost to deploy end-to-end fiber to this location.
- **Planned Tech Code:** Designated Planned Tech code for each location.
- **Planned Upload Speed:** Designated Planned Upload Speed for each location.
- **Planned Download Speed:** Designated Planned Download Speed for each location.
- **Planned Latency:** Designated Planned Latency for each location.

Location ID	CAI Name	Project Area ID	Part of Application	Exclusion Justification	Cost Per Location	Planned Tech Code	Planned Upload Speed	Planned Download Speed	Planned Latency
Provided by platform via selected Project Areas. No edits allowed.	Displays the name of the CAI if applicable. No edits allowed.	Provided by platform via selected Project Areas. No edits allowed.	Does the applicant plan to service this location? If yes, mark true, if no, mark false.	If the applicant does not plan to service this location as part of their application, please select the exclusion reason for review by BEAM.	Indicate the estimated cost to deploy end-to-end fiber to this location.	Designated Planned Tech code for each location	Designated Planned Upload Speed for each location	Designated Planned Download Speed for each location	Designated Planned Latency for each location

Appendix B: Bill of Materials Template

The below spreadsheet represents a sample bill of materials. This template must be completed for each application. If there is a material you wish to include that is not listed, please include it in the “Other Bill of Materials” section. The total of your Bill of Materials should tie directly to the dollar amount listed in the Equipment line item of your project budget.

Materials Type	Quantity of Units	Unit Price	Total Cost
Handholes			\$ -
Shelves			\$ -
Splice Enclosures			\$ -
Distribution Cabinets			\$ -
Optics			\$ -
Test Stations			\$ -
Fiber			\$ -
Tails			\$ -
Interducts			\$ -
Cards			\$ -
Conduit			\$ -
Surge Protectors			\$ -
Network Security Hardware			\$ -
*Other related equipment determined by the applicant to be necessary for the project			\$ -
Total Material Cost:			\$ -

*If "Other," please provide a detailed description of the other materials below. Please also fill out the "Other" detailed bill of materials schedule below.

Other Bill of Materials	Quantity of Units	Unit Price	Total Cost
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
Total Other Bill of Materials Cost:			\$ -

Appendix C: Milestone Schedule

The schedule below represents a DRAFT / SAMPLE of the Milestone Schedule that will be included in the subaward agreement. It is recommended that applicants consult this schedule and establish a clear alignment between the Milestone Schedule and the application budget.

Milestone	Section	Completed%	Start Date	End Date	Cost	Awarded Amount	Match Funding	Match %
NEPA Initiation	Design and Planning	100			\$-	\$-	\$-	
High Level Design Permitting Assessment	Design and Planning	100			\$100,000.00	\$70,000.00	\$30,000.00	30%
Designing and Planning Field Survey(s)	Design and Planning	100			\$125,000.00	\$87,500.00	\$37,500.00	30%
Low Level Design	Design and Planning	100			\$45,000.00	\$31,500.00	\$13,500.00	30%
Low Level Design Review	Design and Planning	100			\$25,000.00	\$17,500.00	\$7,500.00	30%
Low Level Design Environmental Assessment	Design and Planning	100			\$45,000.00	\$31,500.00	\$13,500.00	30%
Final Low-Level Design	Design and Planning	100			\$20,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$6,000.00	30%
Engineering Vendor Bid(s) and Selection	Vendors Selection	100			\$10,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$3,000.00	30%
Environmental Vendor Bid(s) and Selection	Vendors Selection	100			\$10,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$3,000.00	30%
Permitting and/or Site Acquisition Vendor Bid(s) and Selection	Vendors Selection	100			\$10,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$3,000.00	30%
Construction Vendor Bid(s) and Selection	Vendors Selection	100			\$20,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$6,000.00	30%
Other Vendor Bid(s) and Selection	Vendors Selection	100			\$10,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$3,000.00	30%
Equipment Procurement	Materials and Equipment Purchase	25			\$290,000.00	\$203,000.00	\$87,000.00	30%
Equipment Procurement	Materials and Equipment Purchase	50			\$290,000.00	\$203,000.00	\$87,000.00	30%

Milestone	Section	Completed%	Start Date	End Date	Cost	Awarded Amount	Match Funding	Match %
Equipment Procurement	Materials and Equipment Purchase	100			\$580,000.00	\$406,000.00	\$174,000.00	30%
Equipment Procurement	Subtotal				\$1,160,000.00	\$812,000.00	\$348,000.00	
Material Procurement	Materials and Equipment Purchase	100			\$950,000.00	\$665,000.00	\$285,000.00	30%
Material or Equipment Staging	Materials and Equipment Purchase	100			\$60,000.00	\$42,000.00	\$18,000.00	30%
Make Ready (Aerial Only)	Construction	100			\$750,000.00	\$525,000.00	\$225,000.00	30%
Site Work	Construction	100			\$-	\$-	\$-	
Demolition and Removal	Construction	100			\$-	\$-	\$-	
Underground or Aerial Construction	Construction	100			\$900,000.00	\$630,000.00	\$270,000.00	30%
Network Installations	Construction	100			\$24,000.00	\$16,800.00	\$7,200.00	30%
Fiber Splicing	Construction	100			\$90,000.00	\$63,000.00	\$27,000.00	30%
BSL Installations	Construction	100			\$275,000.00	\$192,500.00	\$82,500.00	30%
Network Testing	Construction	100			\$30,000.00	\$21,000.00	\$9,000.00	30%
Network Activation	Construction	100			\$30,000.00	\$21,000.00	\$9,000.00	30%
Troubleshooting	Close Out	100			\$-	\$-	\$-	
Network As-builts	Close Out	100			\$75,000.00	\$52,500.00	\$22,500.00	30%
Project Inspections	Close Out	100			\$250,000.00	\$175,000.00	\$75,000.00	30%
ISP Acceptance	Close Out	100			\$15,000.00	\$10,500.00	\$4,500.00	30%
Total Project					\$5,029,000.00	\$3,520,300.00	\$1,508,700.00	30%

Appendix D: Ultra High-Cost Justification Template

The spreadsheet template below is intended to capture the Location IDs proposed for exclusion from a single BEAD application on the basis of being classified as Ultra High-Cost Locations. This template is required to be submitted with any application that includes such exclusions, in addition to the Application Location Template. All Location IDs labeled as an “Undefined” exclusion in the Application Location Template must be included and match the Location IDs submitted within the Ultra High-Cost Justification Template. The information provided will be used by the review team to evaluate the justification for exclusion, alongside reference pricing data from CostQuest and Ready.net.

[illegible]

Version History & Updates

Date	Notes
3.21.2025	Updated Question 11 from: “Please upload any budgetary engineering designs, diagrams, and maps that demonstrate the viability of the proposed project.” Added Question
3.21.2025	Added Section 5: Permitting and Right of Way
3.21.2025	Added Question 81
3.21.2025	Re-numbered question numbers accordingly upon addition of new questions.
3.28.2025	Added an additional Application Scoring Example underneath “Less than 100% of Project Area”.
4.24.2025	Added Instructions to Appendix A.
5.30.2025	Added Overlapping Applications for a Project Area Unit Scoring Consideration
5.30.2025	Adjusted Application Guide order of questions/sections to reflect the same order and question numbers in the application portal.

The table above maintains a record of version history, including details of any updates made and their corresponding publication dates. Significant changes to the procedures or requirements outlined in this document will prompt the release of a new version number, along with a clearly marked publication date.