



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

Letter of Intent (LOI)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

November 2024

(Updated November 21, 2024)

**1. Is the submission of a LOI required in order to submit an application for BEAD funding?**

Yes, in accordance with the Broadband Expansion and Accessibility of Mississippi (BEAM) administrative rules – *Rule 2.2.3 BEAD Program Grant Procedures*, a LOI must be filed in order to submit an application for BEAD funds unless waived by BEAM for good cause shown.

**2. When will the LOI process begin?**

The BEAM office will open the web-based portal for the acceptance of LOIs beginning on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and will close the acceptance of LOIs on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**3. What information needs to be provided with my entity's LOI?**

The LOI Guide posted on October 8, 2024, provides a comprehensive listing of the information that will be requested from prospective applicants. The LOI Guide can be found [here](#).

**4. Does the submission of a LOI bind the entity to submit an application in the areas selected through the LOI?**

No, the submission of a LOI is a prerequisite to applying for BEAD funds, but the applicant is not limited to the areas selected through the LOI, nor is the applicant required to make an application in each of the areas selected through the LOI.

BEAM strongly encourages prospective applicants to exclusively submit LOIs for project areas to which it intends to submit applications.

**5. Will the entity be asked to provide any additional information following the submission of a LOI?**

During the review of your submission, additional information may be necessary to verify the eligibility of the entity for BEAD funding. In the event that this information is needed by BEAM, a member of the program administration team will reach out to the point of contact listed in the LOI submission.

**6. Are commitment letters (whether for the Letter of Credit or Performance Bond) required upon submission of the LOI?**

No, commitment letters for the Letter of Credit or Performance Bond are not required at the LOI phase of the application process but will be required with the submission of a BEAD application. Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to include the applicable letter with the submission of the LOI.

**7. Is the MAGIC vendor ID required upon submission of the LOI?**

No, a MAGIC vendor ID is not required at this stage. However, obtaining a MAGIC vendor ID will be required prior to the execution of a subaward for the selected subgrantees.

**8. Is an applicant’s actual Cyber Security Plan required upon submission of the LOI?**

Yes, a prospective applicant must submit a cyber security plan during the LOI submission process. The plan must meet all requirements as set forth in the BEAD Notice of Funding Opportunity ([NOFO](#)) in section IV.C.2.c.vi. Additional resources for the cyber security plan are linked here:

[Cybersecurity and Supply Chain Risk Management and Providing Internet for All](#)

[NIST Cybersecurity Framework](#)

**9. Is an applicant’s actual Supply Chain Risk Management plan required upon submission of the LOI?**

Yes, a prospective applicant must submit a supply chain risk management plan during the LOI submission process. The plan must meet all requirements as set forth in the BEAD Notice of Funding Opportunity ([NOFO](#)) in section IV.C.2.c.vi. Additional resources for the Supply Chain Risk Management plan are linked here:

[Cybersecurity and Supply Chain Risk Management and Providing Internet for All](#)

[Key Practices in Cyber Supply Chain Risk Management: Observations from Industry](#)

**10. What information will be required from consortiums during the LOI phase?**

Applicants intending to apply for a single project area or multiple project areas as a consortium must submit an executed agreement between all members of the consortium that identifies each member and addresses, at a minimum, each of the following:

- Actual or estimated financial participation levels within the consortium
- Actual or estimated operating participation levels within the consortium
- Actual or estimated subdivision of the project area(s), if available
- Authorization to an individual to submit a LOI and application for BEAD funds

Additionally, applicants must submit financial, operational and technical information for each member of the consortium. For example, if a consortium is organized with three members, each of the three members’ financial, operational and technical information should be submitted clearly identifying the member to whom it relates.

**11. Are the eligible locations for BEAD funding finalized when the LOI process opens?**

No, the eligible locations for BEAD funding are not finalized at the time the LOI process opens. The location listings included in the LOI are based on preliminary, pre-challenge data. The challenge process results have been submitted to NTIA and are expected to be under review for

the duration of the LOI process. The final, NTIA-approved map of eligible locations will be updated and published in advance of the opening of the application period.

**12. When completing Appendix B, should we provide speed and pricing information for each project based on the level we are offering or the minimum level required by the grant program?**

According to the BEAD NOFO, the speed and latency must be reported "as measured and/or reported under the applicable rules." When filling out Appendix B, please provide the minimum speed and latency requirements for the grant program, along with your entity's pricing for that same specified speed tier.

**13. Are commitment letters (whether for the Letter of Credit or Performance Bond) required upon submission of the LOI?**

No, commitment letters for the Letter of Credit or Performance Bond are not required at the LOI phase of the application process but will be required with the submission of a BEAD application. Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to include the applicable letter with the submission of the LOI.

**14. What information will be required from consortiums during the LOI phase?**

Applicants intending to apply for a single project area or multiple project areas as a consortium must submit an executed agreement between all members of the consortium that identifies each member and addresses, at a minimum, each of the following:

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- Additionally, applicants must submit financial, operational and technical information for each member of the consortium. For example, if a consortium is organized with three members, each of the three members' financial, operational and technical information should be submitted clearly identifying the member to whom it relates

**15. Is a 25% match required?**

Currently BEAM anticipates some flexibility in the requirement of a 25% match. More details about that will be available in the future. Any deviations from that requirement will require approval from NTIA. regardless of any deviations it is advantageous to offer the highest match possible to strengthen your application. Please refer to the BEAD Rubric on BEAM's website for further scoring information.

**16. Is the LOI deadline still December 6th?**

Initially, the deadline was set for December 6th, but due to the delayed visit of NTIA representative Evan Feinman, we are extending the LOI portal deadline to December 13th.

**17. When will the updated list of unserved, served, and Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) be available?**

The latest list will be available during the first week of December.