Category	Question	ORS Response
Main Project Application and Gu	When submitting projects, can ISPs bundle ZCTAs? If so, can ISPs submit multiple projects that include the same ZCTA? For example, if ZCTA A is submitted as a standalone project, can it also be included in a separate project that bundles ZCTA A and ZCTA B?	ZCTA's cannot be bundled because each ZCTA is scored independently. An application can have multiple ZCTA's included, but each will be scored as a stand alone project. If more than one application is submitted, ZCTA's cannot overlap. More detail will be provided in the Main Application guidelines.
Pre-Qualification/Gating Applic	Once a pre-registration application has been submitted will a company have any flexibility to change from an LOC to a bond if they are awarded a project?	Applicants may choose to shift their financing between the Letter of Credit (LOC) or a Bond between the Pre-Qualification phases and Main Application phases respectively. However, the applicant cannot shift financing once the Main Application phase has closed. To the extent there are any changes to the information provided in the Pre-Qualification Grant Application, data, and associated attachments prior to any award, Applicant must disclose the changes and provide updated versions of the relevant changes within 5 business days to the ORS.
General Bead Question	The prequal appears to require applicants to choose whether it will provide a bond or LOC. Is there flexibility to change from a bond or LOC at the actual project proposal phase? what if the applicant intends to utilize a LOC for one project but a bond for another one? is that an option?	Applicants may choose to shift their financing between the Letter of Credit (LOC) or a Bond between the Pre-Qualification phases and Main Application phases respectively. To the extent there are any changes to the information provided in the Pre-Qualification Grant Application, data, and associated attachments prior to any award, Applicant must disclose the changes and provide updated versions of the relevant changes within 5 business days to the ORS In the event the applicant intends to utilize a LOC for one project but a bond for another, email the SCBBO at BEAD@ors.sc.gov for additional instruction.
General Bead Question	As BSLs are removed from the existing GIS data. Will each participant need to remove those from their records or will updated GIS files be sent as this happens.	Applications will need to be modified to reflect the latest version of eligible BSL's published by the SCBBO. The SCBBO will update Shapefiles available for download on the Citrix FileShare platform as enforceable commitments are made using non-BEAD funds. As updates are made, notification of updates will occur through the Broadband grant notification email distribution list.
General Bead Question	For confirmations/certifications that don't allow for context via narrative, will a supplemental document be permissible to provide additional context around the answer.	Due to the tight timelines required by NTIA, there is no ability to ensure sufficiant review of all supplemental documentation. Accordingly, documentation provided other than the requested documentation is not permitted.
General Bead Question	Sounds like each ZCTA will need to be on it's own application. How many applications will a participant be allowed to submit or is it unlimited?	An application can have mutiple ZCTA's included, but each will be scored as a stand alone project. If more than one application is submitted, ZCTA's cannot overlap. More detail will be provided in the Main Application guidelines.

General Bead Question	NTIA indicated that a BSL is not serviceable it defers to the state BB office to remove that BSL and my understanding from Evan's comments at Myrtle Beach was that the BB office does have the flexibility to remove already served BSLs	Per the NTIA, the only permissible manner in which BSLs may be removed from eligibility is through an enforceable commitment. Context shared by NTIA pertaining to this topic related to non-service codes, or reason codes for BSLs that will not be served by a BEAD project. According to the NTIA, BSL's characterized with a reason code 5 (served by non-subsidized service), may be used with additional evidentiary proof during the final proposal submission by the SCBBO to the NTIA to certify all homes, businesses, and community anchor institutions will have (or already has), access to Broadband service. Per NTIA direction, establishing the list of BSLs that will include non-service codes must occur after the SCBBO has closed the main application phase of the SC BEAD Grant Program.
General Bead Question	If a local government makes an ISP aware of unserved or underserved locations in the NTIA-approved post-challenge data and the ISP connects those locations with their own private capital (at the request of the local government), what kind of enforceable commitment would be needed to ensure the locations are removed from eligibility during the application period?	The NTIA has provided additional context regarding enforceable commitments as part of the FAQ, available here: https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2024-10/Broadband_Equity_Access_Deployment_Program_Frequently_Asked_Questions_Version_8.0.pdf
Pre-Qualification/Gating Applic	What time are the Pre-Qualification Applications due on December 13, 2024?	December 13, 2024 at 11:59PM EST
Pre-Qualification/Gating Applic	For the pre-qualification, are you locked into your choice of a letter of credit versus a bond ? Can you select letter of credit for the pre-qualification and change to a bond for the main application?	Applicants may choose to shift their financing between the Letter of Credit (LOC) or a Bond between the Pre-Qualification phases and Main Application phases respectively. However, the applicant cannot shift financing once the Main Application phase has closed. To the extent there are any changes to the information provided in the Pre-Qualification Grant Application, data, and associated attachments prior to any award, Applicant must disclose the changes and provide updated versions of the relevant changes within 5 business days to the ORS.
General Bead Question	Will ORS be providing a shape file with the zip codes for the state? We don't currently have that as a layer on our map and would like to look at this while considering what we apply for under ARPA 3.0 and won't to be sure we use the same file that ORS uses.	ORS will provide a fully-attributed shapefile of the Census-designated Zip Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTA) which contain BEAD-eligible unserved/underserved Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) for South Carolina upon the approval of Volume 2.
General Bead Question	Will local governments receive funding to hire staff to assist their community with the BEAD Challenge? Many rural communities have limited staff, sometimes only a part-time Municipal Clerk.	No funds are available to financially support local government as part of the BEAD challenge process.

Challenge Portal Registration	Good afternoon - can you please tell me when the underserved/unserved/community anchor institution csv files will be available for download? Thank you.	Pre-Challenge Data has been uploaded to the BEAD webpage under the "Data Download" ribbon
General Bead Question	Table 2: Allowed Challenges Types and Examples of Evidence seem to only allow evidence that either comes directly from the provider (webpage, correspondence, etc) or from a speed test conducted by a subscriber. Are there any other types of evidence that I may be missing? For example, should a fixed wireless provider claim covered locations in an area but field measurements show there are no usable signals, would this be allowed and if so, under what category please?	The example provided represents an Availability Challenge, the SCBBO will evaluate evidentiary proof on a case by case basis. A lack of proof (i.e. hearsay) may result in your challenge being rejected.
General Bead Question	Reliable Broadband Service includes code 71 (relies on licensed or a hybrid of licensed and unlicensed) in ORS documents. However, it is not explicit that Code 71 covers cellular fixed wireless. So does cellular fixed wireless fall under 71 and therefore, is underserved? If not, how is cellular FW different per ORS to Code 71? Is Code 72 licensed-by-rule, aka CBRS GAA not defined as reliable? 72 is not included in the table of reliable broadband but want to make certain. If 71 and 72 are allowed by NTIA but modified by ORS as not reliable, then I would like to be certain that no wireless service is deemed reliable. Thanks.	The SCBBO approved Volume I states: The SCBBO will treat locations which the National Broadband Map shows to have available qualifying broadband service (i.e., a location that is "served") due solely to the availability of Cellular Fixed Wireless Access (CFWA) as "underserved." As a result, the SCBBO initiated the pre-challenge modification to designate all Cellular-based fixed wireless service as underserved.
BEAD Challenge Portal	How do we challenge a location as an ISP based on "availability" for a location that is currently marked as Unserved or Underserved on the portal that we are challenging to mark as served?	Challenges related to availability are only for a location that is marked as served. To challenge a location from unserved or underserved to served, a registered user must submit a planned service challenge with all required documentation and evidence that the location has or will have service by June 30th, 2024.
General BEAD Question	In the CSV files that were provided for Locations only one file, The CAI file contains a complete Attribute table that includes LAT/LONG information. Is there a reason the Unserved, Underserved, And Served only contain Location ID's and not Lat/Long information?	Files published follow the NTIA template.

BEAD Challenge Portal	We are seeking confirmation that "existing service" challenges that demonstrate current service availability (to be submitted through Planned Service) can be supported by the same evidentiary examples provided for "availability" challenges and rebuttals, e.g., a "screenshot of provider webpage" that shows service availability.	Registered users are encouraged to follow the guidelines set forth in the user guide for determining what evidence is acceptable as part of a planned service challenge (starting at page 15). Following these explicit examples provides greater likelihood of a successful challenge. However, the SCBBO will evaluate ALL submitted evidentiary proof on a case by case basis regardless (whether it was included as an example in the user guide or not). A lack of proof (i.e. hearsay) may result in your challenge being rejected. See the attached link to the BEAD Challenge user guide https://ors.sc.gov/sites/scors/files/Documents/Broadband/BEAD/challenge-portal-user-guide-v3.pdf
BEAD Challenge Portal	On the Planned Service/Enforceable Commitment challenge form, does the "Challenge Evidence" document upload option have a maximum file size?	The Planned Service / Enforceable Commitment challenge forms are limited at 50MB. Challengers are required to upload the template to Citrix which could serve as a location to upload larger files / additional evidence.
General BEAD Question	How can I become a stakeholder	Those interested in becoming a stakeholder are encouraged to sign up for Broadband Grant Notifications, available here: https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/1dfc50d7a5a64e709b4b55d5b38183b9 The SCBBO also suggests attending Broadband Advisory Council Meetings. More information is available here: https://ors.sc.gov/broadband/office/advisory-council This will provide a foundation from which a level of engagement can be determined based upon the entity's interests as it would pertain to broadband deployment in South Carolina.
BEAD Challenge Portal	If an ISP needs to challenge a location that is marked unserved or underserved in the portal that is now served, how do we submit the challenge? On the map when we log in, it just has the CAI challenge availability and the link to challenge based on "Planned Service or Enforceable Commitment challenges".	Challenges related to availability are only for a location that is marked as served. To challenge a location from unserved or underserved to served a registered user must submit a planned service challenge with substantial evidence as well as uploading the required template to the entity's designated Citrix ShareFile folder to show that the location has or will have service by June 30th, 2024.

BEAD Challenge Portal	The evidence type for Planned Service has listed: "Construction contracts or similar evidence of ongoing deployment, along with evidence that all necessary permits have been applied for or obtained. Contracts or a similar binding agreement between the Eligible Entity and the provider stating that planned service will meet the BEAD definition and requirements of reliable and qualifying broadband, even if not required by its funding source (i.e., a separate federal grant program), including the expected date when deployment will be completed, which must be on or before June 30, 2024." What is the required evidence example for a location that has existing service available that is not currently reflected in the availability data? There would not be a construction contract available for locations with already existing service. Will a screenshot from a provider webpage proving availability of service meet the evidence file requirement?	Evidence documenting that a location currently has reliable broadband service can include the examples listed in the different service level challenges as outlined in the user guide. In addition, the evidence submitted must be tied to the location and up to date. Challengers should provide as much evidence as possible per location.
General BEAD Question	Which challenge type "Planned Service or Enforceable Commitment" should a service provider use to challenge the unserved BSL's if the locations have access to fiber due to a funded project that was just completed or will have access once a funded project is completed, if the BSL"s were not included in the funded project for such reasons as the BSL's were on the opposite side of the road from a funded census block or the service provider built through non-funded blocks to get to funded blocks? When providing bulk locations on either the "Planned Service or Enforceable Commitment templates", will providing GIS mapping data of our fiber lines like we provide for funded projects be sufficient to prove the BSL's can be served or will you need geotagged pictures of the fiber plant such as hand holes, fiber post, splice cases or fiber cable on the poles?	Assuming the BSLs are not part of the funded agreement and the BSLs will have access by June 30th, 2024, this would be a planned service challenge. GIS mapping data, including geo tagged photos, by itself will not be sufficient evidentiary proof for a challenge. Examples of evidence needed is outlined in the user guide under the planned service and service level challenges.
BEAD Challenge Portal	Hi there. Will you all be holding office hours for the BEAD challenge process? I attended the webinar but am struggling to submit challenges in the portal. I only have availability challenges as of now- where the map says the locations and un/underserved but we have evidence that [redacted for privacy] serves those locations. Could I set time up to meet? Thanks! [redacted for privacy]	Registered users having difficulty with filing a challenge where the types of details necessary to explain the circumstances go beyond what may be appropriate for an FAQ may email BEAD@ors.sc.gov. Challenges related to availability are only for a location that is marked as served. To challenge a location from unserved or underserved to served, a registered user must submit a planned service challenge with all required documentation and evidence that the location has or will have service by June 30th, 2024.

BEAD Challenge Portal	We have many BEAD eligible locations that fall within the project area of our CPF grant award. At the time CPF was awarded, these locations were not considered eligible for funding. Now they are. Can we challenge these as an enforceable commitment since they will be completed as part of our CPF grant project? We could amend our CPF application to add these BSLs to our required locations with no change to the funding amount.	The BEAD Challenge Process has been completed. However, the SCBBO will continue to seek out opportunities to fund deployment projects throughout the State using any remaining funds available under alternate funding sources (e.g. ARPA SLFRF, ARPA CPF, State Funds, etc.) and ensure service to eligible locations. Therefore, the SCBBO reserves the right to remove broadband serviceable locations from eligibility under another enforceable commitment.
BEAD Challenge Portal	We have MSAs with our contractors that don't speak to specific projects. Would approved permits and Purchase Orders that give project area details be sufficient evidence for the Planned Service Challenge/ Not an Enforceable Commitment?	This is likely sufficient evidentiary proof. However, SCBBO reserves the right to reach back out to the challenger for more information, as necessary.
General BEAD Question	Hello, Where can I find the NTIA-approved copy of SC's BEAD Volume II? Thank you.	The state's approved BEAD Initial Proposal Volume II is located on the ORS website, under the Planning Documents accordion: https://ors.sc.gov/broadband/office/investments/state/bead
Pre-Qualification/Gating Applic	Hi there, I'm writing to inquire about South Carolina's progress with the BEAD program. Is there a list of prequalified companies/entities authorized to bid as BEAD subgrantees for your state? Please let me know if I can clarify or answer any questions. Thank you!	The SCBBO initiated the BEAD Pre-Qualification phase on 11/12/2024; therefore, no companies have been Pre-Qualified at this time. As the process unfolds, updates regarding the BEAD program will be made available here: https://ors.sc.gov/broadband/office/investments/state/bead
Main Project Application and Gu	Hello, I'm just curious when the state is planning to open its BEAD application window now that the challenge process is done. Thanks so much, Jake	The SCBBO initiated the BEAD Pre-Qualification phase on 11/12/2024; therefore, no companies have been Pre-Qualified at this time. As the process unfolds, updates regarding the BEAD program will be made available here: https://ors.sc.gov/broadband/office/investments/state/bead
General BEAD Question	Hello, What are the dates for the next phase of the BEAD Application? Thank you Kim	The SCBBO initiated the BEAD Pre-Qualification phase on 11/12/2024; therefore, no companies have been Pre-Qualified at this time. As the process unfolds, updates regarding the BEAD program will be made available here: https://ors.sc.gov/broadband/office/investments/state/bead

Pre-Qualification/Gating Applic	The SCBBO sent out an email indicating the pre-qualification window would open 11-12-24 but no information is available - has this date changed?	The SCBBO initiated the BEAD Pre-Qualification phase on 11/12/2024; therefore, no companies have been Pre-Qualified at this time. As the process unfolds, updates regarding the BEAD program will be made available here: https://ors.sc.gov/broadband/office/investments/state/bead
General Bead Question	Has any guidance been provided by NTIA post election?	As of 11/15/2024, no additional guidance has come from NTIA.
General Bead Question	When are companies who filled out the Citrix access form expected to receive access?	SCBBO will provide Citrix Access within 1 (one) business day.
General Bead Question	If we are required to submit based on the zipcode is the fabric data already broken up by zipcode?	The BSL data is attributed with a field name called ZCTA. When the Main Application Phase opens, prospective applicants will submit based on 2020 Census ZCTAs attributed by the using this field. Prospective applicants **WILL NOT SUBMIT** based on the Zip Code field attributed by FCC/Cost Quest because they could be different. Applicants may also choose to use the ZCTA GIS layer to ensure a full representation of eligible BSL's that are known for each project area.
General Bead Question	Are all schools showing as BEAD eligible	No. Per NTIA requirements, only schools which do not have access to 1Gbps symmetric are eligible.
General Bead Question	Will BEAD updates be available on the SC website or just in Citrix?	Program documents will be updated on the ORS BEAD page; however, location data (GIS DATA) will only be updated on Citrix.
General Bead Question	At the beginning of the year I downloaded and organized all of the BEAD documentation. Have any of the documents been changed? Should I re-download?	The state's BEAD Initial Proposal Volume II was last updated on August 20, 2024 and that version was approved by NTIA on September 20, 2024. To avoid confusion, it is highly recommended Applicants revisit the BEAD page and re-download all files available.
General Bead Question	Is there a timeframe when the eligible address dataset will not be changed afterwards?	At NTIA's direction, the SCBBO may continue to make enforceable commitments under existing programs up until the start of the Main Application Phase. Therefore, the South Carolina **BEAD Eligibility Data is subject to change until such time the main application phase commences**.

General Bead Question	How should companies handle the prequalification of their affiliates? Does each affiliate need to prequalify individually, or can a single prequalification apply to all affiliates? (an operating company held by a parent company).	The final award will be made with the applicant. The applicant may be a parent company, a subsidiary, or one or more of its affiliates. Current guidance does not explicitly state that entities should apply at the parent, subsidiary, or affiliate level. However, BEAD NOFO Section IV.D.2.b requires that the applicant must submit an organizational chart detailing all parent, subsidiaries, and affiliates. Each entity must report its ownership structure and comply with Title 47. Prospective applicants must remember that BEAD NOFO Section IV.D.2.e requires the provision of a Letter of Credit when considering to apply at the parent, subsidiary, or affiliate level. If an affiliate anticipates that it will enter into a grant agreement, be awarded the funding, be expected to manage and complete the work, and will serve as the culpable party supporting the overall project, then the affiliate should be the applicant. Likewise, if the parent company anticipates that it will be awarded the funding, be expected to manage and complete the work, and will hold the liability, then the parent company should apply. Also, the applicant must have an active UEI number and no exclusionary records on sam.gov and a vendor number with the State of South Carolina.
General Bead Question	Has the Challenge data been approved by NTIA?	Yes. The BEAD Map Challenge data has been approved by the NTIA.
General Bead Question	On the .csv file that was published, if you see an error on that should we totally ignore or let you guys know?	Please notify the SCBBO at BEAD@ors.sc.gov with any observed discrepancies in the data.
General Bead Question	How do we notify you if we find eligible points in bead that are already part of a pre-existing commitment to another grant buildout?	Please email the SCBBO at BEAD@ors.sc.gov if there are any locations that are already under a state or federal enforceable commitment which are currently displayed as eligible for BEAD funding.
General Bead Question	With the main application being the final timepoint for data changes. What will the timeline be for submitting these? Some of us are applying for multiple states and it takes time to re-engineer/add these new locations or remove them. Or will the state not need super detailed information and removing a PON split or something similar not really affect the application?	Once the Main Application Phase opens, the NTIA prohibits the SCBBO from making additional enforceable commitments to the BEAD eligible locations. The SCBBO anticipates the main application phase period will last approximately 45 days leaving time for Applicants to make any necessary adjustments to their proposed projects.
General Bead Question	What if a provider comes through hanging fiber while we are in the middle of the application and we find out after we've already checked out the areas on foot?	Once the Main Application phase opens, the NTIA requires that all BEAD-eligible points are frozen. Therefore, based on NTIA guidance, the locations remain eligible for BEAD funding.
General Bead Question	As it refers to affiliates, does the isp have to apply?	The term "affiliate," per the BEAD NOFO, refers to a person that (directly or indirectly) owns or controls, is owned or controlled by, or is under common ownership or control with, another person. The applicant should be the intended legal entity that will be named as the subgrantee. Per BEAD NOFO Section IV.D.2.e, applicants do not have to be Internet Service Providers. New entrants are welcome to apply with the expectation that they will provide evidence sufficient to demonstrate that the newly formed entity has obtained operational capabilities. All applicants will be required to provide a Letter of Credit, have an active UEI number and no exclusionary records on sam.gov and be a registered vendor with the State of South Carolina.

Pre-Qualification/Gating Applic	Can a group of companies owned by the same parent, submit an application for BEAD as a partnership - with each individual company being able to be awarded individually under that partnership and have the assets reside on their books, via a sub-award under the full BEAD application awarded amount? or If the Parent company is the applicant, can the subawards flow down to the individual companies?	Per NTIA requirements, the South Carolina Pre-Qualification application allows applicants to identify if they are applying as a joint venture. However, the subawards will be made with the applicants listed in the application. The legal entity(s) named as the applicant will be required to provide a Letter of Credit. If selected, the applicant will be awarded the funding, be expected to manage and complete the work, and will hold the liability. or If the Parent company is the applicant, can the subawards flow down to the individual companies? No. The applicant should be the entity that seeks to be awarded the funding, manage and complete the work, and will hold the liability for completing the project.
General BEAD Question	If a BEAD application is submitted under a partnership, with the partners having a common owner/parent company, and the Parent company is audited under the normal course of business does that satisfy the BEAD award single audit requirement? Or, would each partner owned by the Parent need to have individual Audits for BEAD?	Per CFR.200.501, a non-Federal entity that expends $1,000,000 or more in Federal awards during the non-Federal entity's fiscal year must have a single audit conducted in accordance with § 200.514. Entities that apply as a partnership or joint venture must comply with all Federal, State, and local laws. If an entity that is a part of the partnership or joint venture has met the criteria for a single audit individually, they should consult with their legal and financial advisors regarding which entities are required to have a single audit.
Pre-Qualification/Gating Applic	Section 2.2 (Financial Capability): When will the LOC template be available?	SCBBO will provide a draft for Applicants' review. The final LOC template will be published before launch of the Main Application Phase
Pre-Qualification/Gating Applic	Section 6.1 (Operational Capability): Section 9.1 request evidence of compliance with labor laws is for past 3 years. Is the request for compliance with Commission rules and regulations in Section 6.1 for the same timeline?	No, it's not the same. Based on confirmation and feedback from NTIA, unless otherwise specified in guidelines, guidance, the State's initial proposal, or the NTIA notice of funding opportunity, the look-back period is 5 years (January 1, 2019).
Pre-Qualification/Gating Applic	Section 8.3 (Other Public Funding): Section 9.1 request evidence of compliance with labor laws for past 3 years. Is the request for disposition of criminal, civil, administrative proceeding in Section 8.3 for the same timeframe?	Based on confirmation and feedback from NTIA, unless otherwise specified in guidelines, guidance, the State's initial proposal, or the NTIA notice of funding opportunity, the look-back period is 5 years (January 1, 2019).
Pre-Qualification/Gating Applic	Does the Prequalification Applicant need to be registered with the SC Secretary of State when its Prequalification Application is submitted? If a grant is awarded to the Prequalification Applicant, then the Applicant understands that it will of course need to be registered with the SC Secretary of State.	An Applicant does not have to be registered with the SC Secretary of State at the time of Pre-Qual, but does have to be registered to qualify for meeting BEAD-related minimum gating criteria at the time of submission of a Grant Application to the SCBBO, during the Main Application phase.