

Category	Question	ORS Response
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!	As of 11/12/2024, the SCBBO has initiated the SC BEAD Pre-Qualification phase. Updates regarding the BEAD program are available at: <a href="https://ors.sc.gov/broadband/office/investments/state/bead">https://ors.sc.gov/broadband/office/investments/state/bead</a>
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?	As of 11/12/2024, the SCBBO has initiated the SC BEAD Pre-Qualification phase. Updates regarding the BEAD program are available at: <a href="https://ors.sc.gov/broadband/office/investments/state/bead">https://ors.sc.gov/broadband/office/investments/state/bead</a>
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.	As of 11/12/2024, the SCBBO has initiated the SC BEAD Pre-Qualification phase. Updates regarding the BEAD program are available at: <a href="https://ors.sc.gov/broadband/office/investments/state/bead">https://ors.sc.gov/broadband/office/investments/state/bead</a>
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.
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.
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.
General BEAD Question	How can I become a stakeholder	<p>Those interested in becoming a stakeholder are encouraged to sign up for Broadband Grant Notifications, available here:  <a href="https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/1dfc50d7a5a64e709b4b55d5b38183b9">https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/1dfc50d7a5a64e709b4b55d5b38183b9</a></p> <p>The SCBBO also suggests attending Broadband Advisory Council Meetings. More information is available here: <a href="https://ors.sc.gov/broadband/office/advisory-council">https://ors.sc.gov/broadband/office/advisory-council</a></p> <p>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.</p>

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.
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: <a href="https://ors.sc.gov/broadband/office/investments/state/bead">https://ors.sc.gov/broadband/office/investments/state/bead</a>
General BEAD Question	Hello, What are the dates for the next phase of the BEAD Application? Thank you Kim	As of 11/12/2024, the SCBBO has initiated the SC BEAD Pre-Qualification phase. Updates regarding the BEAD program are available at: <a href="https://ors.sc.gov/broadband/office/investments/state/bead">https://ors.sc.gov/broadband/office/investments/state/bead</a>
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
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.

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 <a href="https://ors.sc.gov/sites/scors/files/Documents/Broadband/BEAD/challenge-portal-user-guide-v3.pdf">https://ors.sc.gov/sites/scors/files/Documents/Broadband/BEAD/challenge-portal-user-guide-v3.pdf</a>
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.
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.

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.