



South Carolina Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (SC BEAD) Program Main Application Guidelines

Last updated: June 30, 2025

Purpose: This document offers guidelines for completing the corresponding Main Application for the SC BEAD Program.¹

SC BEAD Main Applications are due July 24, 2025, at 11:59pm EST.

For questions, please consult the [FAQs](#) and submit questions at <https://arcg.is/1vrXK00>

¹ Applicants that did not submit during the Pre-Qualification round may do so under the Main Application Phase.

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Introduction and Overview

Background

The 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) set forth a \$65 billion investment into broadband, for which \$42.45 billion is being administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) under the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program.

NTIA allocated \$551.5M of BEAD funding to provide financial support to install and deliver broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas throughout South Carolina. Five (\$5) million of BEAD funds were provided to South Carolina in 2022 to support BEAD planning activities and develop the SC Five-Year Action Plan; therefore, \$546.5 million dollars remain eligible for investment. The SC Broadband Office (SCBBO), an office within the SC Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS), is administering this competitive grant process.

The BEAD Program requires that all Eligible Entities (State Broadband Offices), including the SCBBO, prioritize 1) unserved areas without any broadband service at all or with broadband service offering speeds below 25 megabits per second (Mbps) downstream/3 Mbps upstream, 2) underserved locations without broadband service offering speeds of 100 Mbps downstream/20 Mbps upstream, and 3) Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) without gigabit symmetrical service. Further, each Eligible Entity, has to submit a BEAD Final Proposal to NTIA for approval.

The [NTIA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice](#) (Policy Notice, June 6, 2025) eliminated certain requirements contained in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) published on May 12, 2022. This Policy Notice terminated sections of the NOFO and required Eligible Entities (State Broadband Offices) to eliminate certain requirements from BEAD Application scoring, subgrantee agreements, and subgrantee reporting requirements. State Broadband offices are prohibited from imposing any of the obligations removed by the Policy Notice on subgrantees as part of the BEAD Program.

The Policy Notice required the SCBBO to submit an [Initial Proposal Modification Letter](#) that included additional modifications to the State's Initial Proposal Volume II necessary to comply with the Policy Notice. The following modifications were approved by NTIA on June 27, 2025:

Project Area Definition – The SCBBO is changing the project area definition from Zip Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA) to a single BEAD-eligible Broadband Serviceable Location (BSL). Each BSL will be evaluated by itself. Internet Service Providers (ISPs) will be able to bid for as many BSLs as they desire in a single application.

Subgrantee Selection | Gating – The SCBBO will first score all projects and then winners (as defined by the Notice) will be gated following all applicable elements remaining as part of the Initial Proposal

Subgrantee Selection | Application Publication – Due to time restrictions, the SCBBO will no longer publish all applications for comment during Subgrantee Selection.

Coverage for Locations with No Proposals – If necessary, at the conclusion of Subgrantee Selection, the SCBBO will negotiate in good faith directly with ISPs to obtain a high-speed broadband solution.

Subgrantee Liability – The SCBBO is eliminating the provision that would have reduced the match rate requested from the Subgrantee by 1% for each month the project goes over the project completion date listed in the application.

Enforceable Commitments – If non-BEAD funds become available, the SCBBO reserves the right to continue to make enforceable commitments up to the submission date of the BEAD Final Proposal.

For purposes of BEAD Deployment awarded projects, an awardee will be considered a subgrantee, also known as a subrecipient. A subgrantee is an entity that receives grant funds from the SCBBO (grantee) to carry out eligible activities under the federal award. As established in Section 60102(h)(4)(C) of the IIJA, all subgrantees must deploy the planned broadband network and begin providing services no later than four years after execution of the grant agreement.

As part of the SC BEAD Main Application Phase (aka “Benefit of the Bargain Round”), the SCBBO is releasing South Carolina-specific BEAD documents including:

- **Eligible Location Data**
 - o All NTIA-approved Federal Communication Commission (FCC) Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) that are eligible for BEAD funding.
- **Main Application Guidelines** (this document)
 - o Designed to assist the applicants with program rules in support of completing the Main Application.
- **Main Application**
 - o Microsoft Excel template.
- **Data Dictionary**
 - o A reference document to ensure necessary files are accurate, properly attributed, and complete.
- **Affidavit**
 - o Microsoft Word template.
- **Checklist**
 - o A reference document to ensure all required attachments are submitted at the proper time and to the correct, secure, ShareFile locations.

General Eligibility Criteria

Based on the NOFO, the Policy Notice, applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, as well as the SCBBO’s approved BEAD Initial Proposal, minimum eligibility requirements include, but are not limited to:

- **Eligible Applicants:** Applicants must be, or will be, a provider of broadband service capable of delivering reliable broadband technologies to eligible BSLs representing

residential homes, businesses, and CAIs. Each applicant must have an NTIA CostQuest license.

- **Eligible Locations:** Must be chosen from the list of BEAD-eligible locations that were provided by the SCBBO.
- **Eligible Technologies:** The Policy Notice defines eligible technologies as Fiber-optic technology, cable modem/hybrid fiber-coaxial technology, LEO satellite services, and terrestrial fixed wireless technology utilizing entirely licensed spectrum, entirely unlicensed spectrum, or a hybrid of licensed and unlicensed spectrum. These technologies must also meet the technical performance requirements in the NOFO, as redefined by the Policy Notice, and the statute.
- **Priority Broadband Projects:** The Policy Notice defines a Priority Broadband Project as a project that provides broadband service at speeds of no less than 100 megabits per second (Mbps) for downloads and 20 Mbps for uploads, has a latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds (ms), and can easily scale speeds over time to meet the evolving connectivity needs of households and businesses and support the deployment of 5G, successor wireless technologies, and other advanced services.
- **Eligible Community Anchor Institution (CAI):** The term "eligible community anchor institution" means a CAI that lacks access to gigabit-level symmetric broadband service.
- **Project Area:** A project area could be a single BSL or a collection of BSLs provisionally approved for a subaward by the SCBBO. Scoring will be conducted on each BSL utilizing the rubric outlined within the Policy Notice and further detailed in Appendix B.
- **Documentation:** Applicants must provide all required documentation to support all gating and selection criteria.
- **Cost Sharing:** Applicants must not go beyond a 75% match request rate.
- **Compliance:** Applicants must maintain compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, executive orders, guidance, rules, and reporting.
- **Low-Cost Broadband Plan Service Option:** The Policy Notice requires that Applicants establish a low-cost Broadband plan option for eligible subscribers in the funded area that qualify for the FCC Lifeline Program.

BEAD Eligibility Data

The SCBBO will provide a point layer in GIS and CSV formats of all BEAD eligible BSL's matching the data schema outlined in the Data Dictionary. GIS data and CSV file will only be made available for download to those Applicants that have successfully executed an NTIA CostQuest license agreement. Downloads will occur through the SCBBO SC BEAD ShareFile Platform.

Applicants must provide confirmation of an executed NTIA CostQuest license agreement before access will be granted by the SCBBO to the download directory. Note, if an applicant has already provided its NTIA CostQuest license to the SCBBO, no further action is required aside from filling out the [SC BEAD Program Access Form](#).

Process

The SCBBO intends to collect information in two phases:

- **Pre-Qualification**, which closed in early 2025, captured relevant gating criteria from prospective subgrantees, and served as a prerequisite to a Main Application.
- **Main Application**, which will include a grant application and associated attachments submitted by prospective subgrantees. Guidelines for the Main Application are included in the sections that follow.
 - **Prospective applicants that did not submit during Pre-Qualification may still do so during Main Application phase by filling out the Pre-Qual tab and submitting the requested attachments.**

Confidentiality

Transparency

[BEAD NOFO Section IX.A.](#) - The IIJA contains robust reporting requirements for Eligible Entities and subgrantees, and requires NTIA, the FCC, and other agencies to coordinate to make information regarding federal broadband funding, and other aspects of the BEAD Program readily available to and understandable by the public. Recipients of U.S. Department of Commerce and NTIA grants also should be cognizant of the access to records requirements set forth at 2 C.F.R. § 200.337.

Protected and Proprietary Information

As a state agency, ORS and the SCBBO are subject to the requirements of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, S.C. Code Ann. §§ 30-4-10 *et seq.* (FOIA). Under FOIA, a person has a right to inspect, copy, or receive an electronic transmission of any public record of a public body, except as otherwise provided by S.C. Code Ann. § 30-4-40, or other state and federal laws. Section 30-4-40 contains various exemptions from disclosure. In addition, 2025 S.C. Acts 69, Part 1B, Proviso 73.9 exempts certain information from disclosure under FOIA.

Furthermore, Applicants should review [BEAD NOFO Section IX.B.](#) regarding Protected and Proprietary Information.

In the event that information submitted to the SCBBO contains information or data the Applicant deems to be confidential commercial information or that otherwise should not be publicly disclosed, such information should be clearly identified, bracketed, and marked as Privileged, Confidential, or Proprietary Information. The SCBBO will protect confidential and proprietary information from public disclosure consistent with applicable law and except as otherwise required by law. Any third-party consultants retained by the SCBBO to assist with administering the BEAD Program will be required to execute an appropriate nondisclosure agreement or other contractual arrangement protecting Privileged, Confidential, or Proprietary Information from public disclosure.

All information provided to the SCBBO, regardless of whether it is marked Privileged, Confidential, or Proprietary, is subject to being shared with NTIA and the U.S. Department of Commerce. Please see [BEAD NOFO Section IX.B.](#) for more information. In addition, the SCBBO is subject to periodic audits and similar-type examinations by various federal and state

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agencies and may be required to allow access to information as part of such audits or similar-type examinations, regardless of whether it is marked Privileged, Confidential, or Proprietary. See, for example, 2 C.F.R. § 200.337 and S.C. Code Ann. § 11-7-35. In the event of such audits or similar-type examinations, the SCBBO will make the agents, entities, or agencies performing the audit or examination aware of the confidential nature of the information.

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SC BEAD Main Application

The following are the guidelines that pertain to completing the SC BEAD Main Application. The completed application and all requested and/or relevant attachments must be uploaded to the ORS ShareFile site under the SC BEAD Main Application and to the appropriate sub folders for each item. Responses to all questions are required. Applicants should take notice of supplemental attachments which are required at the point of submission during the main application phase versus the attachments that are required if provisionally selected for a sub-award (see grant application checklist for details). Portions of expenses related to Pre-Qualification may be reimbursable if awarded a project.

Note: SCBBO may deny an application if an Applicant's submission is determined incomplete or inaccurate. Entities that have not submitted applications and associated applicable attachments through the formal application process may not be considered for any funding or potential direct negotiations. In addition, Pre-Qualification has been reopened by the SCBBO.

Purpose of the Main Application

In accordance with the NOFO, g Policy Notice, the SCBBO Initial Proposal Correction Letter, and the SCBBO approved Initial Proposal Volume II, the Main Application is structured to collect all relevant information for the SCBBO to determine whether the application preliminarily fulfills requirements set forth by the SC BEAD program and associated grant guidelines.

Applicants should be forthcoming and transparent when providing requested information to allow the SCBBO to properly assess and score the application. Further, to the extent an Applicant identifies substantive changes to the information provided after submission, Applicant should promptly notify the SCBBO within five (5) business days from the date on which the Applicant became aware of the change. At the close of the main application period, and as completion checks, gating, and scoring commences, the SCBBO reserves the right to send any Applicant a Request for Information (RFI), to seek any additional necessary clarification regarding an Applicant's grant application, data, and/or associated documentation submitted as part of the SC BEAD program. Applicants will be notified of the deadline to respond to the RFI. Should the applicant fail to comply with the RFI by the end of stated deadline, acceptance of the submission may be impacted.

Structure of the Main Application

The SC BEAD Main Application is completed within an Excel template and requires the Applicant to upload a subset of attachments to the Main Application ShareFile subfolders indicated in each section below. ***Note:*** Applications provisionally selected for a subaward will be required to submit additional information to fulfill all remaining gating criteria not previously provided during the pre-qualification or main application phase. The Applicant should utilize the Main Application Attachment Checklist to confirm all attachments required for the Main Application phase have been completed.

The Excel application consists of three (3) types of tabs:

- Background and Instructions
- Pre-Qual – Must be filled out if the Applicant did not submit during the Pre-Qualification phase
- Applicant Information – Must be filled out in its entirety as part of the main application phase

The following outlines submission types for the various BEAD requirements:

- *Certifications* – Certifications are formal acknowledgements that an applicant meets the requirement.
- *Confirmations* – Confirmations are meant to verify and document the applicant understands key elements of the Main Application and SC BEAD Funding requirements and/or verify that an action has already been complete.
- *Attachments* – Attachments must be uploaded to the SCBBO ShareFile platform within the file structure outlined by SCBBO. Applicants should note whether an attachment is required at the time of submission or only if the SCBBO has issued a provisional subaward pending approval of all remaining gating criteria, see attachments list table on the next page for details. When a template is not provided, attachment file names must include the name of the corresponding subsection for which it represents and be uploaded to the appropriate section directory in ShareFile. For example, documentation pertaining to audited financial statements should be named “<ISP Name>FinancialCapabilityAttachmentSection2_3.pdf” and uploaded to the Applicant’s “Financial Capability Attachments” folder in ShareFile. Please see information in this Guidance regarding confidential or proprietary information and include appropriate designations in file names containing such information.
- *Narrative Response* – Narrative responses are open-ended response fields for applicants to provide written answers to the required information.

Note: Prior to submitting your Main Application, Confirmation sections should be marked “Yes”, “Agree”, or “NA”.

The following colors are ascribed to different question fields within the Main Application:

- Orange – indicates the field is required and must have an answer submitted
- Yellow – indicates that the question may not apply to all applicants and may be skipped if not applicable

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Attachments List

Category	Detail	Deadline
Main Application Submission Phase	Completed Main Grant Application	Due by the Main Application Submission Deadline
	Completed, Signed, and Notarized Main Grant Application Affidavit	
	BSL File of Proposed SC BEAD Locations to Serve	
	Supply Chain Risk Management Plan	
	Cybersecurity Risk Management Plan	
	Certificate of Liability Insurance	
Pre-Qualification Phase	Financial Capability Attachments (Only for Applicants that did not previously submit during the Pre-Qualification phase that operate Electric transmission or distribution services)	Due by the Main Application Submission Deadline, only if Applicant did not participate in Pre-Qual Phase
	Organizational Chart	
Supplemental Gating Attachments	Financial Capability Attachments (Requirements vary based on Applicant choosing either LOC or Performance Bond)	Due upon request <u>AFTER</u> the close of the Main Application Submission Deadline, only if Applicant is provisionally awarded a project for a BSL(s)
	Business plans with sufficient detail to evidence Project sustainability	
	Audited Financial Statements (Only for Applicants that did not previously provide audited financials)	
	Single Audits (If Applicable, within the past 5 years)	
	Evidence of having the necessary funds to cover all project costs that exceed the amount of the grant	
	One-page resumes for key Management Personnel	
	Other Public Funding Disclosures Attachment	
	Completed, Signed Professional Engineer Certification Template (Project Area Specific)	
	Network Designs in PDF format (Project Area Specific)	
	Network Designs in GIS format (Project Area Specific - Refer to Data Dictionary for details)	
	Network Diagram (Project Area Specific)	
	Capital Investment Schedule (Project Area Specific)	
	Project Timeline and Milestone Schedule (Project Area Specific)	

Schedule of Events

Event	Date/Deadline
Eligibility Points Posted to Website	6/20/2025
NTIA Approval of IP Modification Letter	6/27/2025
Draft Documents Published	6/30/2025
Application Submission Phase Opens	7/7/2025
Application Submission Phase Closes	7/24/2025
Select Provisional Subawards	August 2025

**All dates reflect no later than and are subject to change. Additionally, the NTIA has set forth a due date for the SCBBO BEAD Final Proposal of September 4, 2025.*

The Main Application is due by July 24, 2025. Dates are subject to change pending future updates and guidance from the NTIA. Prospective subgrantees will be notified of changes through the grant notification distribution list.

Pre-Qualification Tab

The Pre-Qualification phase is only required for applicants that did not participate in the SCBBO's previous Pre-Qualification phase. This Pre-Qualification Phase will capture relevant information and gating criteria from prospective subgrantees. This information enables the SCBBO to identify potential issues and/or concerns. Applicants should be forthcoming and transparent when providing requested information to allow the State to properly assess for Pre-Qualifications.

Organizational Information

- Participation as a Joint Venture – If the Applicant intends to participate in the BEAD program as a joint venture, select “Yes” to this question. The SCBBO will initiate a Request for Information (“RFI”) to further verify the information for all joint venture partners. When completing the remaining sections of the application, the Applicant should provide responses for all joint venture partners.
- Nature of Applicant's Organizational Structure – The Applicant must identify its organizational structure using the list provided in the Pre-Qual tab of the Main Application.

Financial Capability

- For Applicants that operate electric transmission or distribution services, provide qualified operating or financial reports that the Applicant has filed with the relevant financial institution for the relevant time period along with a certification that the submission is a true and accurate copy of the reports that were provided to the relevant financial institution.
 - Acceptable submissions for this purpose will be the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Form 7, Financial and Operating Report Electric Distribution; the RUS Form 12, Financial and Operating Report Electric Power Supply; the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) Form 7, Financial and Statistical Report; the CFC Form 12, Operating Report; or the CoBank Form 7; or the functional replacement of one of these reports. See Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Order, 35 FCC Rcd at 719, n. 202.

Managerial Capability

- An organizational chart (s) detailing all parent companies, subsidiaries, and affiliates. Managerial Capability attachments must be uploaded to ShareFile.

Managerial Readiness Narratives

The purpose of this section is for the Applicant to provide a narrative in the Pre-Qualification application on the subgrantee's readiness to manage a broadband services network. This will

include relevant organizational management policies and procedures. These narratives must communicate the policies and procedures currently in place.

- Provide information on recent (within the last year), and upcoming organizational changes including mergers and acquisitions, system changes, and anticipated policy changes.
- Describe the Applicant's overall policies and procedures to ensure that any awarded project is completed in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.
- Describe the Applicant's experience and qualifications of key management personnel's experience in undertaking projects of similar size and scope.

Technical Capabilities

- BEAD NOFO Section IV.C.1.e- The Applicant confirms it has the technical and operational capability to carry out activities in a competent manner, and all contracted resources possess the necessary skills and qualifications to work on and operate any of the proposed projects.

Broadband Service Experience Information

The Applicant is required to answer the following data fields that are applicable for the entity:

- Date of Applicant's Initial and Most Recent FCC Submission: For Applicants that have provided a voice and/or broadband service, the Applicant must demonstrate it timely filed FCC Form 477 and/or the FCC Broadband Data Collection (BDC).
- Entity Name that has provided voice, broadband, and/or electric transmission or distribution service for at least two (2) consecutive years prior to the date of this application: The Applicant must report the entity legal name that it is relying on to fulfill the required minimum experience. This may be the name of the Applicant or the name of the Applicant's parent company.
 - o Type of Experience: This refers to the type of required experience of the entity listed in the prior question. If multiple apply, choose Broadband-Fiber or Broadband-Other as applicable.
 - o Number of Years Experience: Enter the number of years the Applicant has been providing voice, broadband and/or electric transmission or distribution services.
- BEAD NOFO Section IV.D.2.e: New entrants to the broadband market must demonstrate and describe how they have obtained, through internal or external resources, sufficient operational capabilities. Descriptions could include experiences of significant personnel, project descriptions and narratives from contractors, subcontractors, or other partners with operational experience, and any other comparable evidence underlining operational proficiency.

Ownership

The purpose of this section is to educate prospective applicants of the materials and disclosure required for submission outlined by the BEAD NOFO Section IV.D.2.f. Providing this information will enable the SCBBO to best understand the ownership structure of the legal entity applying for funding. The information requested is outlined by the requirements described in 47 C.F.R. § 1.2112(a)(1)-(7). As a starting point, an Applicant may refer to its latest filed FCC Form 602.

Applicant Ownership Information

The Applicant is required to complete the Applicant Ownership table in the Pre-Qualification Application. Provide the name, address, citizenship, and ownership percentage of the parties that hold more than 10% ownership, interest, stock and/or otherwise have the capacity to exercise ownership interest equivalent to those having 10% interest or more in the Applicant. Relevant definitions for consideration include:

- **Direct Owner** – An individual or entity that holds an immediate interest in the Applicant.
 - **Illustrative Example:** Company A's stock is owned by Mary Smith (40%) and Company B (60%). Both Mary Smith and Company B are Direct owners and should be listed.
- **Indirect Owner** – An individual or entity that holds a 10% or greater interest in the Applicant as determined by successive multiplication of the ownership percentages for each link in the vertical ownership chain. If the ownership percentage for an interest in any link in the chain exceeds 50% or represents actual control, it shall be treated as if it were a 100 % interest.
 - **Illustrative Example:** Company B is owned by John Doe (50%) and Mega Corp (50%). Both John Doe and Mega Corp are Direct Owners and should be listed. If Mega Corp is owned by Richard Mega (91%) and Peter Smith (9%). Richard Mega under the successive multiplication of the ownership percentages ($50\% * 91\% = 45.5\%$) owns greater than 10% and should also be listed as an Indirect Owner. Peter Smith owns less than 10% ($50\% * 9\% = 4.5\%$) and does not need to be included.

Ownership Interests Held by Applicant

The Applicant is required to complete the Ownership Interests Held by Applicant Table in the Pre-Qual tab. Provide details on any FCC-regulated entity or Applicant for an FCC license in which the Applicant, or any of the Owners identified in the Table owns 10 % or more of stock - whether voting or nonvoting, common or preferred.

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- Applicant ownership information: The NTIA requires Applicants disclose all parties that have a 10% ownership interest or have the capacity to exercise an equivalent amount of control.

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Applicant Information Tab

This tab functions to collect general applicant information.

Section 0: Applicant Information

The purpose of this section is to obtain name, identification numbers, and appropriate classifications for the Applicant.

0.1 Data Fields

- Legal Entity / Organization Name – The name of the legal entity that submitted the application and if awarded, will execute and be the subgrantee under the grant agreement. The Name must match the name in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov).
- Mailing Address City, State, Zip - The address provided by the Applicant must match the address in SAM.gov.
- Primary Contact Information (Name, Title, Phone Number, Email) – The designated Primary Contact.
- State under whose laws the entity is organized
- FCC Registration Number (FRN) – The FCC Registration Number corresponding to any BDC filing that would occur if Applicant obtained an award from the SCBBO.
- Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) – The number assigned by the federal government to identify entities issued via SAM.gov.
- Federal Tax ID – The Federal Tax Identification Number or Employer Identification Number associated with the Legal Entity that will be the Applicant. In the event of an award, Applicants will need to provide a W-9 that matches the Federal Tax ID. Federal Tax ID number should match the Federal Tax ID number associated with the South Carolina State Vendor Number.
- South Carolina State Vendor Number – A South Carolina State Vendor Number may be obtained from the South Carolina Division of Procurement Services (Procurement Services (sc.gov)). Note: a South Carolina Vendor Number may take up to 30 days to obtain. For additional information refer to the South Carolina State Vendor Registration Manual.
- Type of Service Provider – Select a category that best describes the service provider type
- Entity Type – The Applicant must identify its organizational structure using the list provided.
- Grant Team Contact Name – Name of the individual that SCBBO will contact in the event of requests for additional information and/or curing is required.
- Grant Team Contact Email – Email address of the individual that SCBBO will contact in the event of requests for additional information and/or curing is required.
- Company Website – the URL for the Applicant.

Section 1: General Requirements

Reminder: All Applicants are reminded to the extent there are substantive changes to the information or policies provided between the Pre-Qualification and Grant award, the Applicant must disclose the changes and provide updated versions of the relevant policies within five (5) business days. The Applicant must also update the SCBBO with any new relevant information

involving other BEAD grant applications or other financial commitments that have been made to other counties and/or states to identify any potential capacity issues from a risk-management perspective.

General Requirements Confirmation

- The Applicant confirms that all information in this application is up to date to ensure a fair and accurate scoring and subsequent gating process. Applicants who participated in Pre-Qualification where previously submitted information has changed, the Applicant has updated it as part of this submission. The Applicant should then mark “Yes” to the confirmation statement on the Main Application. If “No” Applicants must describe the change and upload the revised information to ShareFile.

General Requirements Attachments

- The Applicant must upload a Certificate of General Liability Insurance into the ShareFile folder **[BEAD Main Application and then the Application, Locations, and Affidavit subfolder]**. The Applicant should then mark “Yes” to the confirmation statement on the Main Application.
- The Applicant must upload a signed copy of the required **[Main Application Affidavit Template]** certifying the Main Application is complete and accurate to the ShareFile folder **[BEAD Main Application and then the Application, Locations, and Affidavit subfolder]** with the submission of this Main Application. The Applicant should then mark “Yes” to the confirmation statement on the Main Application.

Section 2: Financial Capability

The purpose of this section is to inform prospective applicants of the materials required for submission outlined by the [BEAD NOFO Section IV.D.2.a](#) and collect information on prospective applicant’s financial capacity. The items listed below will enable the SCBBO to evaluate the Applicant’s financial capability to meet their obligations.

Financial Capability Attachment Confirmations

If the Applicant is provisionally selected for a subaward, all applicable financial capability attachments must be uploaded to the ORS ShareFile site under the **[BEAD Main Application and Financial Capability Attachments subfolder]**.

- [SC BEAD IPV2 Section 2.4.11.](#) – The Applicant must confirm if provisionally selected for a subaward, whether to provide a Letter of Credit in the amount of 10% of the total project cost, accompanied by an Opinion Letter from third party legal counsel, or a Performance Bond in the amount of the full award. Both options, the Letter of Credit or Performance Bond, are **only due once the Applicant is selected as a subgrantee**. The Applicant must select which option they will pursue if selected. A commitment letter from an entity committing to issue the Letter of Credit or Performance Bond must be provided if the Applicant is selected for a provisional subaward
Letter of Credit (Option 1):

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- [BEAD NOFO Section IV.D.2.a.ii](#) – The Applicant, if provisionally selected for subaward, must upload a commitment letter from a bank or United States credit union. Consistent with NTIA’s Notice of Programmatic Waiver that was issued on Nov. 1, 2023 (<https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/funding-programs/policies-waivers/BEAD-Letter-of-Credit-Waiver>), prospective subgrantees shall be required to submit a LOC that:
 - (a) is insured by the National Credit Union Administration; and
 - (b) has a credit union safety rating issued by Weiss of B– or better that meets eligibility requirements consistent with those set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.804(c)(2) committing to issue an irrevocable standby LOC.

The bank letter must commit to issue an irrevocable standby Letter of Credit if the Applicant is selected as a subgrantee. The commitment letter which must be provided by the lender shall at a minimum include the dollar amount of the letter of credit and the issuing bank’s agreement to follow the terms and conditions of the model letter of credit if provisionally awarded a project. This commitment letter must be uploaded into the ShareFile folder **[BEAD Main Application and Financial Capability Attachments subfolder]** if provisionally chosen for a subaward. The Applicant should then mark “Yes” to the confirmation statement on the Main Application See SCBBO [Letter of Credit Template](#) for required form **(due if chosen as a provisional awardee)**.

- *Reminder:*
 - [BEAD NOFO Section IV.D.2.a.ii](#) –The Applicant confirms that if provisionally selected for a subaward and the Letter of Credit option was chosen, the applicant will upload to ShareFile an opinion letter from third party legal counsel. The opinion letter must clearly state the following: *subject only to customary assumptions, limitations, and qualifications, that in a proceeding under Title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C. § 101 et seq. (the “Bankruptcy Code”), the bankruptcy court would not treat the Letter of Credit or proceeds of the Letter of Credit as property of the winning subgrantee’s bankruptcy estate under Section 541 of the Bankruptcy Code.* The letter must assert that in bankruptcy proceedings the Letter of Credit or its proceeds will not be treated as the subgrantee’s bankruptcy estate property, subject only to customary assumptions, limitations, and qualifications. Refer to [Legal Opinion Letter Template](#)

Performance Bond (Option 2):

- [BEAD NOFO Section IV.D.2.a](#) – The Applicant if provisionally selected for a subaward must upload a commitment letter from a certified surety on federal bonds. The letter must commit to issue the Applicant a performance bond if the Applicant is selected as a subgrantee. This commitment letter must be uploaded into the ShareFile folder **[BEAD Main Application and then the Financial Capability Attachments subfolder]** with the submission of this Main Application. The Applicant should then mark “Yes” to the confirmation statement on the Main Application
- *Reminder:*
 - *If a performance bond is chosen, upon Selection and prior to award, the Applicant will be required to submit a letter from a certified surety on federal bonds committing to issue the Applicant a performance bond for 100% of the award.*

Financial Capability Attachment Confirmations

- [BEAD NOFO Section IV.D.2.a](#) – The Applicant confirms, if provisionally chosen for a subaward they will upload business plans and related analyses which substantiate the sustainability of the proposed project into the ShareFile folder **[BEAD Main Application and then the Financial Capability Attachments subfolder]**. The Applicant should then mark “Yes” to the confirmation statement on the Main Application.
 - While SCBBO is not requiring the use of a specific template, plans should be provided in the form of pro forma statements or analyses, inclusive of cash flow and balance sheet projections and should include at least three years of operating cost and cash-flow projections post targeted completion of the project.
 - Applicants should utilize the materials similar to that provided in templates, resources, and materials that they would typically use to present to a Board of Directors or bank to receive approval and/or funding and or a new broadband project. The more information the Applicant can provide, the better SCBBO will understand its projections as the SCBBO evaluates the reasonableness of the Applicant’s assumptions.
 - Therefore, Applicants should carefully consider their historical performance prior to entering your forecast performance and include comprehensive and realistic business plans, projections indicating the project’s sustainability, and contingencies and risk management strategies
 - *Example: If an Applicant’s pro forma analysis predicts steady growth in user subscriptions over three years after completion, makes assumptions on subscriber take rates and Average Revenue Per User (ARPU) that reflect local conditions such as existing non-fiber competitors, and has contingencies for market downturns, it indicates a well-thought-out plan.*

[BEAD NOFO Section IV.D.2.a](#) – The Applicant confirms, if provisionally chosen for a subaward, they will upload financial statements audited by an independent certified public accountant for the prior fiscal or calendar year into the ShareFile Folder **[BEAD Main Application and Financial Capability Attachments subfolder]**. Applicant should then mark “Yes” to the confirmation statement on the Main Application.

- *Note: If the Applicant has already provided audited financials during the Pre-Qualification phase, no further action will be required.*

Section 3: Managerial Capability

The purpose of this section is to explain the information and documentation required for submission outlined by the [BEAD NOFO Section IV.D.2.b](#) and collect information on the prospective Applicant’s managerial capacity. The items listed below will enable the SCBBO to evaluate the Applicant’s capability to effectively manage the project and determine readiness of the prospective subgrantee.

Managerial Capability Attachment Confirmations

- [BEAD NOFO Section IV.D.2.b](#) – The Applicant confirms if provisionally chosen for a subaward, one-page resumes for key management personnel and certifying engineers, including name, title, relevant licenses including the license number, and three examples

of relevant experiences will be uploaded into the ShareFile folder **[BEAD Main Application and Financial Capability Attachments subfolder]**. Applicants should then mark “Yes” to the confirmation statement on the Main Application.

Section 4: Technical Capability

The purpose of the technical capability responses is to collect the materials required for submission outlined by the [BEAD NOFO Section IV.D.2.c](#). If provisionally chosen for a subaward, the SCBBO will evaluate the Applicant’s technical qualifications to affirm their ability to carry out the funded activities in a competent manner. The required technical capability submissions are:

- Network designs in PDF and GIS format (see SCBBO Data Dictionary for requirements);
- **BSL File of Proposed SC BEAD Locations to Serve** (due during the main application submission period, see SCBBO Data Dictionary for requirements) and uploaded to the **[BEAD Main Application and Application, Locations, and Affidavit subfolder]**;
- Network diagram;
- Project costs;
- Build-out timeline and milestones for project implementation;
- Capital investment schedule evidencing complete build-out and the initiation of service within four years of the date on which the entity receives the subgrant; and
- An attestation must also be provided stating the proposed network can deliver broadband service that meets the requisite performance requirements to all locations served by the Project

Technical Capability Confirmation

- The Applicant confirms the following dataset was used for their application submission – [Proposed_Served_Structures_06192025](#). Applicants should then mark “Yes” to the confirmation statement on the Main Application.
- The Applicant confirms they have submitted the CSV/GIS Data fully attributed based on the SCBBO Data Dictionary. Applicants should then mark “Yes” to the confirmation statement on the Main Application.
- The Applicant reviewed the SC BEAD Program Application Guidelines related to eligible and ineligible costs (Appendix D). Those costs that have been stated as ineligible have been excluded from the Project Budget and Capital Investment Schedule. The Applicant should then mark “Yes” to the confirmation statement on the Main Application.
- If provisionally selected for a subaward the Applicant confirms that all attachments submitted as part of Technical Capacity gating will directly align with the FCC BEAD eligible BSLs submitted and provisionally selected by the SCBBO.
- NTIA requires that the Applicant’s proposed technology can easily scale speeds over time to meet the evolving connectivity needs of households and businesses and support the deployment of 5G, successor wireless technologies, and other advanced services. Document how the proposed technology meets these requirements.

Technical Capability Attachment Confirmations

All required attachments listed below must be completed as part of gating the technical capabilities of the Applicant, if provisionally chosen for a subaward.

- [BEAD NOFO Section IV.D.2.c.](#) – The Applicant confirms, if chosen for a subaward they must upload comprehensive Network Designs (in PDF format) that align with the project scope and objective into the [\[BEAD Main Application and Technical Capability Attachments subfolder\]](#) on ShareFile. The Applicant should then mark “Yes” to the confirmation statement on the Main Application.
 - See [Data Dictionary](#)
- [BEAD NOFO Section IV.D.2.c.](#) – The Applicant confirms, if chosen for a subaward, they must upload comprehensive Network Designs (in GIS format) that align with the project scope and objective into the ShareFile folder [\[BEAD Main Application and Technical Capability Attachments subfolder 1 Capability\]](#). The Applicant should then mark “Yes” to the confirmation statement on the Main Application.
 - See [Data Dictionary](#)
- [BEAD NOFO Section IV.D.2.c.](#) – The Applicant confirms, if chosen for a subaward, they must upload a comprehensive Network Diagram that aligns with the project scope and objective into the ShareFile folder [\[BEAD Main Application and Technical Capability Attachments subfolder\]](#). The Applicant should then mark “Yes” to the confirmation statement on the Main Application.
- [BEAD NOFO Section IV.D.2.c.](#) – The Applicant confirms, if chosen for a subaward, they must upload a certification from a Professional Engineer [\[Professional Engineer Certification Template\]](#) that the proposed network can deliver broadband service that meets the requisite performance requirements to all locations served by the Project into the ShareFile folder [\[BEAD Main Application and Technical Capability Attachments subfolder \]](#). The Applicant should then mark “Yes” to the confirmation statement on the Main Application.
- [BEAD NOFO Section IV.D.2.c.](#) – The Applicant confirms that if any BSL(s) are provisionally selected for a subaward, a build-out timeline with milestones for project implementation will be uploaded to ShareFile.
- [BEAD NOFO Section IV.D.2.c.](#) – The Applicant confirms, if chosen for a subaward, they must upload a [Capital Investment Schedule](#) (evidencing complete build-out and the initiation of service within four years of the date on which the entity receives the subgrant) into the ShareFile folder [\[BEAD Main Application and Technical Capability Attachments subfolder\]](#). The Applicant should then mark “Yes” to the confirmation statement on the Main Application.
 - Note: NTIA has removed the certification requirement for the Capital Investment Schedule².

² The requirement that a prospective subgrantee submit, as part of its demonstration of technical capability, a “capital investment schedule evidencing complete build-out and the initiation of service within four years of the date on which the entity receives the subgrant” that is “certified by a professional engineer” is waived. A professional engineer is still required to certify the remaining elements of the PE Certification Requirement. [BEAD Program – Conditional Limited Programmatic Waiver and Clarification of Professional Engineer Certification | BroadbandUSA](#)

Section 5: Compliance with Laws

Applicants must certify compliance with applicable laws to the SCBBO.

Compliance with Laws Reminder

As stated in the NTIA BEAD restructuring policy notice, applicant certifies they will comply with all applicable laws and regulations. **The Applicant should then mark “Yes” to the confirmation statement on the Main Application.**

Section 6: Operational Capability

Applicants that have been approved through the Pre-Qualification have already provided the information necessary for this section. Prospective applicants that did not participate in the Pre-Qualification phase may provide the requested information through the “Pre-Qual” tab in the grant application along with uploading applicable attachments to ShareFile.

Operational Capability Confirmation

BEAD NOFO *Section IV.D.2.e*- The Applicant confirms that there are no substantive changes to the Operational Capability information submitted during the Pre-Qualification.

Section 7: Ownership

Ownership Confirmation

BEAD NOFO *Section IV.D.2.e* The Applicant confirms that there are no substantive changes to the Ownership information submitted during the Pre-Qualification.

Section 8: Other Public Funding

The purpose of this section is to explain the materials required for submission outlined by the **BEAD NOFO *Section IV.D.2.g***. The information listed below will enable the SCBBO to understand the Applicant’s prospective and awarded funding capacity for broadband projects. If provisionally chosen for a subaward, Other Public Funding attachments must be uploaded to the ORS ShareFile site under the “Other Public Funding Attachment” folder.

Other Public Funding Attachment Confirmations

- **BEAD NOFO *Section IV.D.2.g*** – The Applicant must upload the **Other Public Funding Template** disclosing any other financial commitments that have been made with any Federal, State, or Local Funds into its ShareFile folder **[BEAD Main Application and Other Public Funding Attachment subfolder]** if provisionally chosen for a subaward. The Applicant should then mark “Yes” to the confirmation statement on the Main Application.
- **BEAD NOFO *Section IV.D.2.g*** – The Applicant must upload the **Other Public Funding Template** disclosing any other BEAD grant applications or other financial applications that have been made to other local governments and/or States into ShareFile folder **[BEAD Main Application and Other Public Funding Attachment subfolder]** if provisionally chosen for a subaward. The Applicant should then mark “Yes” to the confirmation statement on the Main Application.

Section 10: Environmental and National Historical Preservation

The purpose of this section is to educate prospective applicants on required permitting upon award outlined by the [BEAD NOFO Section VII.D.4](#).

Environmental and National Historical Preservation Confirmation

- Applicant confirms awareness of the need to comply with and be responsible for obtaining permits pertaining to all Environmental and National Historical Preservation (Section 106) applicable laws for any awarded project. The Applicant should mark “Yes” to the confirmation statement on the Main Application.

The NTIA has published several [permitting resources](#) for applicant’s use. The SCBBO recommends review of these documents and associated tools published through NTIA’s website to account for the level and duration of effort necessary to comply with all permitting requirements, including but not limited to:

- [What is Permitting?](#)
- [Guidance on NTIA National Environmental Policy Act Compliance](#)

The NTIA has also developed an online GIS Mapping tool to evaluate and screen projects against potential permits necessary for compliance, which is available at: <https://nbam.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/portfolio/index.html?appid=c7906b72e14045bf9fa6fe9addd469a0>. The same data available in NTIA’s Permitting and Environmental Information Application is also available for download as an ESRI ArcPro Map Package, located at: <https://nbam.ntia.gov/content/37fa42c6313e4bdb9d8a9c05d2624891/about>.

Section 11: Build America, Buy America Act (BABA)

If applicant has fulfilled the requirements for this section in the Pre-Qualification, then no additional information or submissions are required as part of the Main Application; however, the Applicant must remain adherent to BABA compliance protocols when estimating costs for this Main Application. Prospective applicants that did not participate in the Pre-Qualification phase must provide the requested information through the “Pre-Qual” tab in the grant application.

Build America, Buy America Reminder

- [BEAD NOFO Section VII.D.6](#) – If selected, subgrantees will be required to comply with BABA requirements defined in the NOFO. Selected subgrantees will be required to provide evidentiary proof of BABA compliance for all materials and equipment not currently covered by the NTIA’s Limited General Applicability Nonavailability Waiver. Evidentiary proof of compliance may include, but is not limited to, a letter from their manufacturer certifying their product(s) comply with BABA requirements.

Section 12: Cybersecurity and Supply Chain Risk Management Compliance

The purpose of this section is to educate applicants of the materials required for submission outlined by the [BEAD NOFO Section IV.C.2.c.vi](#). Applicants should highlight sections of their plan that answer the required elements of the Cybersecurity and Supply Chain Risk Management plans.

Cybersecurity and Supply Chain Risk Management Confirmations

- [BEAD NOFO Section IV.C.2.c.vi](#) – The Applicant confirms that a review of the required elements of both the Cybersecurity and Supply Chain Risk Management plans have been completed and the Applicant has highlighted its fulfillment of the requirements in its submissions of the plans.

Cybersecurity, and Supply Chain Risk Management Attachments

- [BEAD NOFO Section IV.C.2.c.vi](#) – The Applicant must upload a Cybersecurity Risk Management Plan that is operational or ready to be operationalized should the Applicant be awarded a BEAD-funded project into the ShareFile folder **[BEAD Main Application and Application, Locations, and Affidavit subfolder]** with the submission of this Main Application. The Applicant should then mark “Yes” to the confirmation statement on the Main Application. **Note:** *For network facilities owned or operated by a third party, the Applicant must obtain cybersecurity information from that network provider.*
 - When drafting or enhancing its cybersecurity risk management plan for the Main Application, the Applicant should consider referring to the following resources:
 - [NIST Cybersecurity Framework](#)
 - [NIST SP 1299 NIST Cybersecurity Framework 2.0: Resource & Overview Guide](#)
 - [NIST Cybersecurity Framework \(CSF\) 2.0 Reference Tool](#)
 - NIST Framework and Executive Order Compliance: The plan should comply with Version 2.0 or the latest version of the [NIST Cybersecurity Framework](#) and include the security and privacy controls required by [Executive Order 14028](#). The plan should address each of the primary components of the NIST Framework outlined below:
 - Govern: The organization’s cybersecurity risk management strategy, expectations, and policy are established, communicated, and monitored.
 - Identify: The organization’s current cybersecurity risks are understood.
 - Protect: Safeguards to manage the organization’s cybersecurity risks are used.
 - Detect: Possible cybersecurity attacks and compromises are found and analyzed.
 - Respond: Actions regarding a detected cybersecurity incident are taken.
 - Recover: Assets and operations affected by a cybersecurity incident are restored.
 - Security and Privacy Controls: The plan must specify the security and privacy controls to be implemented to safeguard critical infrastructure and sensitive data. It should include the specific safeguards, technologies, and policies that will be used to manage potential cybersecurity risks and threats.
 - Evaluation and Updates: A process for regularly evaluating and assessing the cybersecurity risk management plan must be established. The plan should define intervals for evaluation and criteria for triggering updates or modifications, ensuring it remains current with emerging cybersecurity risks.
- [BEAD NOFO Section IV.C.2.c.vi](#) – The Applicant must upload a Supply Chain Risk Management Plan that is compliant with the BEAD NOFO into the ShareFile folder

[[BEAD Main Application and Application, Locations, and Affidavit subfolder](#)] with the submission of this Main Application. The Applicant should then mark “Yes” to the confirmation statement on the Main Application. **Note:** *For network facilities owned or operated by a third party, the Applicant must obtain supply chain risk management processes and procedures from that network provider.*

- [Supply Chain Risk Management](#) is defined as “The process of identifying, assessing, and mitigating the risks associated with the global and distributed nature of information and communications technology product and service supply chains.”³ When drafting or enhancing its Supply Chain Risk Management Plan, Applicants should:
 - Review NTIA and NIST guidance on Supply Chain Risk Management Plan requirements and best practices including, but not limited to:
 - [NTIA April 2023 Webinar Cybersecurity and Supply Chain Risk Management and Providing Internet for All.](#)
 - [NIST SP 800-161r1 Cybersecurity Supply Chain Risk Management Practices for Systems and Organizations](#)
 - [NISTIR 8276 Key Practices in Cyber Supply Chain Risk Management](#)
 - [NIST SP 1305 ipd Quick-Start Guide for Cybersecurity Supply Chain Risk Management](#)
- Verify the Supply Chain Risk Management Plan includes the following components outlined in [SSP 800-161r1, Appendix D](#):
 - Authorities and Compliance
 - Strategic Objectives
 - Implementation Plan and Progress Tracking
 - Internal policies, including those in place, to be developed and/or revised
 - Roles and Responsibilities
 - Definitions
 - Revision and Maintenance

Section 13: Low-Cost Service Option

The purpose of this section is to reeducate Applicants of the information required for submission outlined by the [BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice](#). The notice eliminates numerous non-statutory requirements previously outlined in the SCBBO Initial Proposal. The information shared in this section will enable the SCBBO to evaluate if the Applicant meets gating criteria set forth by NTIA.

³ [NIST SP 800-37 Rev. 2](#) under supply chain risk management from [OMB Circular A-130 \(2016\)](#).

Low-Cost Service Option (LCSO)

Consistent with IIJA, SCBBO requires potential BEAD subgrantees to propose an LCSO as part of their application that meets certain speed and performance criteria. As required by IIJA and the NOFO, the LCSO must offer speeds of at least 100/20 Mbps and latency performance of no more than 100 milliseconds. Applicants that already offer a low-cost plan that meet these service requirements may satisfy the LCSO requirement by proposing to offer their existing low-cost plan to eligible subscribers.

Applicants must identify their low cost down/up speed, latency, and price. NTIA requires the LCSO will be offered for the duration of the 10-year federal interest period. The federal interest period for BEAD-funded broadband infrastructure projects is ten years after the year in which the relevant subgrant has been closed out in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.344.

Additionally, IIJA directs NTIA to define “eligible subscriber” for the BEAD low-cost broadband service option. The NOFO adopted the eligibility requirements of the FCC’s Affordable Connectivity Plan which is no longer operational. Accordingly, NTIA hereby redefines “eligible subscriber” to match the eligibility criteria for the FCC’s Lifeline Program.

According to NTIA, this eligibility change aligns the BEAD LCSO requirement with an existing communications affordability program as well as other Federal benefit qualifications for low-income Americans. The definition of an Eligible Subscriber for the LCSO stated in the NOFO has been stricken by NTIA and is replaced with the following:

Eligible Subscriber—The term “Eligible Subscriber” means any household seeking to subscribe to broadband internet access service that is eligible for the FCC’s Lifeline Program. BEAD subgrantees are responsible for verifying LCSO eligibility and may ask potential subscribers to provide the same documentation necessary to confirm eligibility as is required under the Lifeline program.

Designated Contacts

The following contacts are the primary sources for information and management over the duration of the SC BEAD program.

Jim Stritzinger

Director

South Carolina Broadband Office

Office of Regulatory Staff

BEAD@ORS.SC.GOV

Michael Herzberger

Deputy Director

South Carolina Broadband Office

Office of Regulatory Staff

BEAD@ORS.SC.GOV

Questions

Question regarding the South Carolina BEAD Main Application must be submitted using the SC BEAD Comment form available at: [South Carolina BEAD FAQ Form \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com) prior to the close of the Main Application Period.

An FAQ has been published on the ORS website at:

<https://ors.sc.gov/broadband/office/investments/state/bead>. Individual responses will not be provided by the SCBBO.

Appendix A – Additional Guidance

SITE / DOCUMENT NAME	LINK
BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice	https://www.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/bead-restructuring-policy-notice.pdf
BEAD Final Proposal Guidance for Eligible Entities (June 2025)	Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program: Final Proposal Guidance for Eligible Entities
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) NEPA for BEAD Version 2.0	NEPA for BEAD FAQs V2.0
NTIA BEAD Notice of Funding Opportunity	https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/BEAD%20NOFO.pdf
NTIA BEAD Frequently Asked Questions	https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/technical-assistance/BEAD_FAQs
Best Management Practices (BMP) and Mitigation Measures	Best Management Practices (BMP) and Mitigation Measures
NTIA Prevailing Wage Overview	https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/2023-08/Prevailing_Wage_Overview_and_Resources.pdf
Department of Labor Davis-Bacon and Related Acts Resources	https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/government-contracts/construction
SC BEAD Site	https://ors.sc.gov/broadband/office/investments/state/bead
SC BEAD Initial Proposal Volume II	https://ors.sc.gov/sites/scors/files/Documents/Broadband/BEAD/Intake%20Summary-Volume%202-08-20-2024%2011-30-EXECUTIVE%20OFFICE%20OF%20THE%20STATE%20OF%20SOUTH%20C-GRN-000156.pdf
What is Permitting?	https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2022-12/What_is_Permitting_BEAD_2022.pdf?_ga=2.84511007.782612046.1740410220-1880591797.1719237482&_gl=1*11jrhfw*_ga*MTg4MDU5MTc5Ny4xNzE5MjM3NDgy*_ga_XL1D9JMCL1*MTc0MDQxMDIxOS4zNi4xLjE3NDA0MTAzNDEuMC4wLjA
Guidance on NTIA National Environmental Policy Act Compliance	https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2024-04/Guidance_on_NTIA_NEPA_Compliance_April_2024.pdf
NTIA Permitting and Environmental Information Application	https://nbam.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/portfolio/index.html?appid=c7906b72e14045bf9fa6fe9add469a0
Downloadable NTIA ESRI Map Package	https://nbam.ntia.gov/content/37fa42c6313e4bdb9d8a9c05d2624891/about
NTIA Permitting Resources	https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/assistance/permitting?_gl=1*7kcf9l*_ga*MTg4MDU5MTc5Ny4xNzE5MjM3NDgy*_ga_H50FXLW992*MTc0MDQxMDIxMy4xNy4wLjE3NDA0MTAyMTguMC4wLjA.*_g

a_55V70TEFYT*MTc0MDQxMDIxMy4xNy4wLjE3NDA0MTAyMTguMC4wLjA.#General

Appendix B – Applicant Scoring

Based on the BEAD restructuring policy notice, the SCBBO will score competing applications using the following criteria below.

Primary Criteria: In deciding among competing applications covering the same BSL(s), the SCBBO will choose the BSL(s) with the lowest cost based on minimal BEAD Program outlay. This selection will be based on the SC BEAD funding requested that will be required to complete the BSL (i.e., the total cost minus the applicant's proposed match).

As part of the CSV/GIS submission, applicants will be required to fully attribute all blank data fields inside the BSL file, including but not limited to the dollar amount requested from the SC BEAD program to complete the given BSL along with the total project cost (see GIS Data Dictionary for additional details), used to ensure Applicants fall within the 75% maximum match rate under the BEAD program. **Applicants cannot submit multiple bids on the same BSL.**

If there is only one applicant for the given BSL(s) they will be the default winner provided the cost of the location is not excessive and the proposed technology being deployed meets the definition of reliable Broadband as further defined in the BEAD restructuring policy notice. If there are multiple applicants for the same BSL(s) and the cost requested from the SC BEAD program is greater than 15% of the applicant requesting the least of amount of SC BEAD funding, the lowest bidding applicant will be the default winner provided the proposed technology being deployed meets the definition of reliable Broadband as further defined in the BEAD restructuring policy notice.

Secondary Criteria – 100 points: If more than one applications are submitted to serve the same BSL(s) and the cost is within 15% of the lowest-cost proposal received for the same set of BSL(s), the SCBBO will evaluate such competing applications based on the following two secondary criteria:

Speed of the Network – 90 Points total

As part of the CSV/GIS submission applicants will be required to attribute at the BSL level the Maximum Download Speed in Mbps, Maximum Upload Speed in Mbps, and Latency in ms for each location that would be serviceable upon completion of the project. The following is a breakdown of the three components for the Speed of the Network scoring:

Maximum Download Speed – 60 Points

The applicant with the highest download speed in Mbps will receive 60 points for the BSL. No additional points will be awarded except in the event of tie, with two

or more applicants claiming the same download speed, both applicants will receive 60 points.

Maximum Upload Speed – 15 Points

The applicant with the highest upload speed in Mbps will receive 15 points for the BSL. No additional points will be awarded except in the event of tie, with two or more applicants claiming the same upload speed, both applicants will receive 15 points.

Minimum Latency Speed – 15 Points

The applicant with the lowest latency in ms will receive 15 points for the BSL. No additional points will be awarded except in the event of tie, with two or more applicants claiming the same latency speed, both applicants will receive 15 points.

Speed to Deployment – 10 Points

As part of the CSV/GIS submission applicants will be required to attribute at the BSL level the number of months needed to fully complete the work. Applicants are reminded to take into account any federal, state, and local permits which might be required that can impact a project schedule. The applicant with the fewest months listed to fully complete the given BSL (i.e., from Issuance of a Notice-to-Proceed to the Initiation of Operations), will receive 10 points. No additional points will be awarded except in the event of a tie, with two or more applicants claiming the same number of months, both applicants will receive 10 points.

Upon completion of secondary criteria review for a set of two or more projects bidding for the same BSL, if there remains a tie, the SCBBO shall award the BSL to the Applicant with the smallest amount of BEAD funds requested. Note, if non-BEAD funds become available, the SCBBO reserves the right to continue to make enforceable commitments up to the submission date of the SC BEAD final proposal regardless of any Applicant bid (or lack thereof), on any BSL.

Appendix C – Applicant Selection

C1. Funding Award Selection

Applicants will be notified in writing, which may include email, if their proposed project (i.e. one or more BSL for which the applicant applied) is selected for a provisional subaward. Applicants will have three (3) business days to notify the SCBBO regarding whether they choose to move forward with the BSL(s) for which they were selected to receive a provisional subaward. If the Applicant chooses to decline moving forward, the SCBBO will provisionally award the BSL(s) to the runner up. If there were no other bids, the SCBBO will negotiate in good faith directly with other ISPs to obtain a high-speed broadband solution.

If the Applicant chooses to move forward, the SCBBO will work with the Applicant to aggregate collections of BSL's into one or more project areas, final approval of designated project areas will be made by the SCBBO and this will form the basis for additional documentation (e.g. engineering attachments, capital investment schedule, etc.), that will be required to review and approve all remaining gating criteria as indicated in these guidelines. All gating criteria must be met prior to submittal of the SCBBO final proposal to NTIA. In the event an Applicant chosen for a provisional subaward does not meet all gating criteria, the SCBBO will award BSL's to the runner up. If there were no other bids, the SCBBO will negotiate in good faith directly with other ISPs to obtain a high-speed broadband solution.

The SCBBO will also initiate a curing phase of the applicant's grant application, data, and associated documentation which may include but not be limited to expanding or reducing project scope to include adding or removing BSL's, when applicable. The designation of "Provisional Approval" of a grant application will remain in effect until such time as the SCBBO has obtained final approval from the NTIA regarding South Carolina's BEAD Final Proposal. Any work performed by the provisional subgrantee prior to the execution of a contractual funding agreement and issuance of a Notice-to-Proceed (NTP) with the SCBBO and the Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS), is done at the sole risk and liability of the applicant.

C2. Funding Agreement Process

Applicants must enter into a contractual funding agreement with the SCBBO. The SCBBO reserves the right to negotiate the final terms and conditions of the Funding Agreement with Applicants whose proposals are selected and to reject any Applications with whom the SCBBO cannot agree to terms and conditions, including but not limited to the addition and/or omission of proposed funded locations provided by an Applicant.

Such Funding Agreement is not valid until approved by the SCBBO. The NTP may also include conditions whereby only certain aspects of the project may occur prior to receiving the full contract award. An example includes receiving a conditional NTP to complete engineering design and permitting only and until such time as engineering design plans and all permits are submitted to the SCBBO and approved by the NTIA, the subgrantee will not be permitted to initiate the construction phase of the project. With the exception of disclosed allowable pre-award costs and associated expenses, any project costs incurred prior to receipt of a Notice to Proceed are ineligible expenses under this grant program. In the event the provisional subgrantee does not enter into a grant agreement, (regardless of the reason), with the SCBBO, ORS will have no obligation to pay for any costs associated with the applicant's participation in the SC BEAD program.

Appendix D – Eligible and Ineligible Expenses

D1. Eligible Grant Purposes

Program funds shall be used to reimburse Grantee for authorized and allowable expenses related to the Project as contemplated by and in accordance with the grant agreement. Grantee shall be responsible for using Grant funds to reimburse authorized and allowable expenses related to the Project and to enhancing broadband infrastructure and access for unserved areas, underserved areas, and Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) only. In order to be authorized, allowable, and

eligible for reimbursement, expenses related to the Project must be 1) authorized and eligible for reimbursement pursuant to SC BEAD Guidelines, SC BEAD Grant Agreement, IJA BEAD and related federal and state law and guidelines, and 2) for new, non-depreciated items directly related to the qualifying project. Such expenses may include the construction of outside-plant deployment necessary to deliver broadband service in the Project area (including last mile infrastructure), electronic equipment necessary to deliver broadband service in the Project area (including equipment shelters, wireless radio, and antenna), and other costs that are directly necessary to provide broadband service to the end user in the Project area (“Eligible Expenses”). Note, SCBBO and ORS limits certain types of eligible expenses, regardless whether those expenses are deemed permissible under BEAD.

Grantee must not initiate any grant funded implementation activities except for the limited permissible activities identified below and must not submit any expenses for reimbursement for implementation activities prior to the completion of required Environmental and Historic Preservation reviews and consultations, including but not limited to NEPA reviews, Section 106 of the National historic Preservation Act of 1966 and consultations with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, National Marine Fisheries Service, and/or U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Limited Permissible activities include the following:

- Pre-construction planning, including collecting information necessary to complete environmental reviews;
- Applications for environmental permits;
- Studies including, but not limited to, Environmental Assessments (EA), wetland delineations, biological assessments, archaeological surveys, and other environmental reviews and analyses;
- Pre-award application costs;
- Activities supporting consultations required under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Endangered Species Act, and the Clean Water Act; and/or
- Costs related to obtaining a letter of credit or performance bond.

D2. Eligible Expenses

Eligible Expenses may include, but are not limited to:

- Disclosed pre-award costs up to \$100,000 (per Applicant) of eligible expenses may be reimbursable proportional to Grantee’s requested match rate. Pre-award costs must be incurred after the pre-qualification phase launch (November 12, 2024), and prior to the grant agreement issuance, subject to ORS and NTIA review and approval. Pre-award costs are limited to reasonable application preparation fees, engineering costs, environmental assessment costs, other permitting costs, and costs related to obtaining a letter of credit or performance bond
- 3rd Party Construction and Engineering costs or direct salaries related to Construction and Engineering
 - Associated employer paid payroll overhead. For example: employer paid insurance, employer paid payroll taxes and employer paid retirement benefits
- Materials (e.g., fiber, conduit, photonics, electronics, etc.) purchased in compliance with Build America Buy America (BABA)

- Make-Ready pole attachment expenses, to include leasing agreements for pole attachments within the period of performance
- Equipment leasing required and utilized for construction of Broadband infrastructure;
- Permitting fees (including railroad crossing costs, pole attachment, ROW easement costs, etc.)
- Validation of Service expenses (e.g., network speed testing)
- Overhead costs related to company-owned fleet vehicles used in construction of the project
- Reasonable expenses related to obtaining necessary right-of-ways or easements.

D3. Ineligible Expenses

Ineligible Expenses include, but are not limited to:

- General broadband planning not associated with the Project
- Expenses related to providing broadband services
- Ongoing overhead, operating costs, or staff costs
- Overhead costs other than those described in the Eligible Expenses section
- Legal expenses, not associated with legal opinion letter for letter of credit/Bond or obtaining right-of-ways or easements
- Political activities or lobbying, charitable donations; scholarships; membership fees and dues in clubs and organizations; sponsorships or conferences
- Community events not logically related or necessary for the intended use of the subgrant
- Expenses to support or oppose collective bargaining
- Food, lodging expenses, housing allowances, other forms of mortgage or rent assistance, gifts to employees, entertainment, personal expenses of any individuals affiliated with the subrecipient or its subcontractors
- Expenses related to preparing the Grant application(s), unless approved by ORS and NTIA as Pre-award costs
- Penalties or fines for statutory or regulatory violations; penalties or fees for any late payments on debt, loans, or other payments
- Operating expenses not directly related to the construction of the Project, including, but not limited to, leases of any kind not listed under Eligible Expenses
- Expenses related to the provision of customer devices (handsets, laptops, tablets, etc.).
- Salaries or overhead not directly related to the construction of the Project
- Profit, fee, or other incremental charge above actual cost incurred, including mark-ups of any kind on any eligible expense
- Expenses related to the purchase of land or the acquisition of facilities or companies
- Expenses associated with tangible property not logically related or necessary to the broadband infrastructure project or authorized non-deployment use; corporate aircraft, watercraft, and other motor vehicles designed for off-road use except insofar as necessary or reasonable to access portions of the project area not readily accessible by motor vehicles travelling on roads; tangible property used for entertainment purposes; consumer electronics used for personal use; kitchen appliances; artwork and other objects which possess aesthetic value
- Franchise expenses

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- Purchase of equipment that is depreciable and has a useful life after project completion, unless it is part of the facilities used to deliver the broadband service (e.g., fiber, conduit, electronics, etc.)
- Wreck-out of existing infrastructure
- Equipment or services under the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act

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