South Carolina Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)

Subgrantee Selection Introduction and Pre-Qualification Kick-off

Agenda

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2   South Carolina Application Process

3   BEAD Requirements

4   Prequalification Process

5   Useful Resources

6   Timeline

BEAD authorizes large investments in broadband infrastructure to unserved and underserved areas

The 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) authorizes roughly $65B for broadband investment to connect all Americans to affordable, reliable, and high-speed internet[1].

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) will administer roughly $42.5B through the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program.

The NTIA allocated roughly $551.5M to South Carolina to support installation and delivery of broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas.

BEAD Milestones:

1. The South Carolina Broadband Office (SCBBO) prepared several planning documents which were approved by the NTIA, the most recent in **September 2024**.

2. The SCBBO will launch a **Subgrantee Selection** process, which will include a Pre-Qualification phase and a Main Application phase.

3. The SCBBO will draft a **Final Proposal** and submit to the NTIA by **September 2025**.

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4. Selected subgrantees will be notified of their grant award and will begin deployment after the **Final Proposal** is approved by the NTIA.

The South Carolina BEAD Program subgrantee selection is structured into two distinct but related phases

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Pre-Qualification – The purpose of the Pre-Qualification is to capture relevant information and gating criteria from prospective subgrantees. This information enables the SCBBO to prequalify applicants and introduce them to the requirements for South Carolina's BEAD Main Application.

Supporting Documents: Guidance Document, Pre-Qualification Application Excel, Pre-Qualification Guidelines, Pre-Qualification Attachment Checklist

The Main Application – The purpose of the Main Application is to gather information about the specific project and project delivery team. Applicants will apply for specific Zip Code Tabulation Area(s) (ZCTA) and will submit a range of attachments that enable the SCBBO to assess readiness, proposed cost, and timeliness.

Supporting Documents: Guidance Document, Main Application Excel, Main Application Guidelines

Pre-Qualification is a simplified gating process.

Most application materials will be submitted during the **Main Application**.

*Please consult the **BEAD FAQs** for any questions.*
*If your question is not answered, please submit your question to the **BEAD FAQ Form***

There are thirteen BEAD Requirements included in the South Carolina Pre-Qualification and Main Application Phases

BEAD Requirements	
1 | General Requirements *(BEAD NOFO Section IV.D.1)*	All Eligible Entities shall ensure that prospective subgrantees: • Are capable of carrying out activities funded by the subgrant in a competent manner in compliance with all applicable federal, Eligible Entity, and local laws; • Have the financial and managerial capacity to meet the commitments of the subgrantee under the subgrant, the requirements of the Program, and such other requirements as have been prescribed by the Assistant Secretary or the Eligible Entity; and • Have the technical and operational capability to provide the services promised in the subgrant in the manner contemplated by the subgrant award.
2 | Financial Capabilities *(BEAD NOFO Section IV.D.2.a)*	Prospective subgrantees must demonstrate they will maintain the financial capabilities to carry out the project(s) as prescribed in the BEAD NOFO. This must include a Letter of Credit, audited financial statements, and sustainability / pro forma analyses.
3 | Managerial Capability *(BEAD NOFO Section IV.D.2.b)*	Prospective subgrantees must demonstrate they hold the managerial capability and experience to effectively carry out the project(s) as prescribed in the BEAD NOFO. This must include resumes of all key management staff, an organizational chart, and narrative explanation on managerial readiness.
4 | Technical Capability *(BEAD NOFO Section IV.D.2.c)*	Prospective subgrantees must demonstrate the technical qualifications and the subgrantee's ability to carry out the project(s) as prescribed in the BEAD NOFO. This includes various documentation including network designs and diagrams, detailed project costs, built-out timelines, a capital investment schedule, and other items.
5 | Compliance with Laws *(BEAD NOFO Section IV.D.2.d)*	Prospective subgrantees must demonstrate that they can carry out funded activities in a competent manner in compliance with all applicable Federal, State, Territorial, and local laws. This includes adherence to safety and health requirements for workers.
6 | Operational Capability *(BEAD NOFO Section IV.D.2.e)*	Prospective subgrantees must demonstrate operational capability in providing a voice, broadband, and/or electric transmission or distribution service.
7 | Ownership *(BEAD NOFO Section IV.D.2.f)*	Prospective subgrantees must provide a comprehensive disclosure of their ownership information, adhering to the specifics laid out in 47 C.F.R. §1.2112(a)(1)-(7). This regulation mandates the full disclosure of direct and indirect ownership interests, including details of any parties with a 10% or more stake, the nature of the interest, and the inter-relationships with any FCC-regulated entities.

There are thirteen BEAD Requirements included in the South Carolina Pre-Qualification and Main Application Phases

BEAD Requirements	
8 | Other Public Funding *(BEAD NOFO Section IV.D.2.g)*	Prospective subgrantees, along with their affiliates, must fully disclose all submitted and planned applications of broadband deployment projects funded by public sources.
9 | Fair Labor Practice and Highly Skilled Workforce *(BEAD NOFO Section IV.C.1.e)*	Prospective subgrantees must demonstrate past compliance with federal labor and employment laws. Prospective subgrantees will demonstrate plans for future compliance and will deliver a workforce plan that will detail their project credentialed delivery team.
10 | Environmental and National Historic Preservation *(BEAD NOFO Section VII.D.4)*	Prospective subgrantees must comply with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. part 4321 et seq.) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. part 300101 et seq.), provide documentation to support a NEPA analysis, take feasible measure to reduce adverse environmental impacts, and obtain appropriate permitting.
11 | Build America, Buy America *(BEAD NOFO Section VII.D.6)*	Prospective subgrantees must comply with the Build America, Buy America Act, which requires all materials to be produced in the United States unless a waiver is granted. Applicants will provide evidentiary proof of compliance.
12 | Cyber Security and Supply Chain Risk *(BEAD NOFO Section IV.C.2.c.vi)*	Prospective subgrantees must demonstrate flexibility in addressing evolving threats through the provision of a Cybersecurity Risk plan and a Supply Chain Risk Management plan.
13 | Affordability *(BEAD NOFO Section IV.C.2.c.i)*	Prospective subgrantees must offer at least one low-cost broadband service option (LCBSO) that is consistent with the requirements set forth in the South Carolina Initial Proposal (Volume II 02.12.01).

Applicants will submit the following materials

Key: Pre-Qualification items

General Requirements
- General information
- Certifications
- Pre-Qual affidavit
- Main Application affidavit
- Liability insurance
- Zip Code Tabulation Areas

Financial Capability
- Certifications
- Audited financials
- Operating/financial reports
- Model letter of credit
- Financial sustainability statements

Managerial Capability
- Certifications
- Organizational charts
- Management policies, plans, and procedures
- Key personnel resumes

Technical Capability
- Certifications
- Experience managing similar projects
- Affordability plans
- Technical plans
- Network designs in PDF & GIS
- Network Diagrams
- Project Timeline
- Project Budget
- Low-cost broadband plan

Compliance with Laws
- Certifications
- Compliance records

Operational Capability
- Certifications
- Experience

Ownership
- Ownership structure

Other Public Funding
- Certifications
- Disclosures
- Reporting of public funding commitments
- Reporting of potentials public funding/ applications

Fair Labor & Workforce
- Wages and benefits
- Safety and health Commitments
- Provision of records
- Workforce plan

Environment
- Certifications
- NEPA documents

BABA
- Certifications
- Explanation of plan to remain BABA compliant
- Evidentiary proof of BABA compliance when purchasing materials and equipment

Risk Management
- Supply chain risk management plan
- Cybersecurity risk management plan

Affordability
- Certification
- Explanation of plan to meet LCBSO

Note: *The Main Application will be comprehensive and require submission details not required in the Pre-Qualification*

The Pre-Qualification Phase of the SC BEAD program

The Pre-Qualification starts with the creation of Citrix profile
- Access will be granted when the Applicant has filled out the data access request form located here: https://arcg.is/101ueC2

Complete the Pre-Qualification – Excel Application

Please note:
1. The Pre-Qualification is ordered according to the BEAD requirements on the previous slide
2. Most responses in the Pre-Qualification are certifications or acknowledgements
3. Applicants will submit narratives and attachments relating to their legal entity ownership structure, financial audits, and public funding commitments during this phase

Note: Responses to the Pre-Qualification should set up fuller responses in the Main Application. If there are changes to the information in any way, applicants must notify the SCBBO within 5 business days of the change.

Submit your Pre-Qualification materials in Citrix
- Review the Pre-Qualification Attachment Checklist prior to submitting your completed Pre-Qualification

Templates and supportive resources are posted to the South Carolina BEAD Program Resources website

Key Pre-Qualification Supporting Documents:

Guidance Document
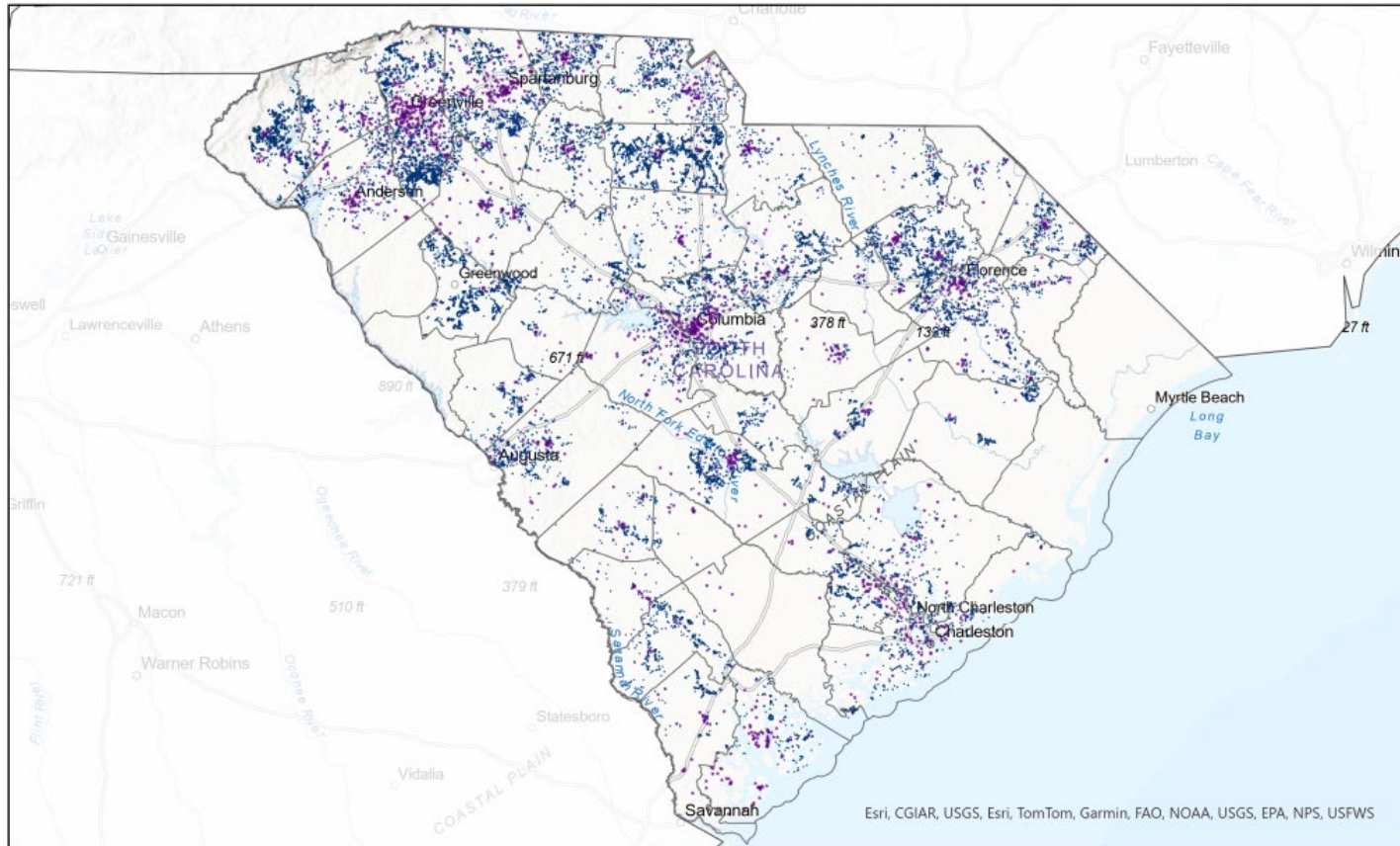
Pre-Qualification Application Excel

Pre-Qualification Guidelines

Pre-Qualification Attachment Checklist

The South Carolina BEAD Program Resources:

Note: As new application documents become available, they will be posted to the South Carolina BEAD Program webpage.

Eligible locations are posted to the South Carolina BEAD Program website

Eligible ZCTAs:

The SCBBO has defined project areas at the 2020 Census Zip Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTA) level to support expansion of broadband across the state.

Note: A full list of eligible zip code tabulation areas (ZCTAs) is also available under the Challenge Process tab on the SC BEAD Website.

Timeline

Pre-Qualification & Main Application Timelines	
November 12, 2024	**Pre-Qualification Launch**
November 13, 2024	*Office Hours*
November 22, 2024	*Office Hours*
December 13, 2024	*Pre-Qualification Close* *Applicants will be notified if they are invited to apply for the Main Application*
Q1 2025	**Main Application Launch**
TBA	*Office Hours*
TBA	*Main Application Close*
TBA	*Scoring & Negotiations*
TBA	*Announcement of Proposed Award to NTIA, Pending Approval of South Carolina's BEAD Final Proposal*

Overview of South Carolina BEAD Pre-Qualification Phase