BROADBAND OFFICE

SC BEAD Main Application Phase



South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff | July 11, 2025

Agenda

1. Background of the SC BEAD Program
2. BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice
3. SCBBO Approved IPV2 Changes
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5. How to Apply / What's Due When
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7. Provisionally Selected for Subaward
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SC BEAD - Background

The NTIA has 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), will administer this competitive grant process.

The BEAD Program requires that all Eligible Entities, including 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 (State Broadband Office), has to submit a BEAD Final Proposal to the NTIA for approval.

SC BEAD – Restructuring Policy Notice issued by NTIA

BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice was issued by NTIA on June 6th, 2025. This policy notice terminated sections of the BEAD NOFO and required State Broadband offices to eliminate or revise certain requirements from BEAD such as, Applicant Scoring, Subgrantee Agreement, and Subgrantee reporting requirements.

NTIA-mandated items Removed from the NOFO include:

- Labor, Employment, and Workforce Development Requirements
- Climate Change Requirements
- Open Access/Net Neutrality
- Local Coordination and Stakeholder Engagement
- Non-Traditional Broadband Providers
- Middle Class Affordability Plan
- Original Low-Cost Service Option

SC BEAD – Restructuring Policy Notice issued by NTIA

Based on the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice, the following Items were Modified:

Technology Neutrality:

Priority Broadband Projects now defined as a projects designed to:

- Provide broadband service that meets speed, latency, reliability, consistency in quality of service, and related criteria as the Assistant Secretary shall determine, and
- Ensure that the network built by the project can easily scale speeds over time to:
  a) meet the evolving connectivity needs of households and businesses; and
  b) support the deployment of 5G, successor wireless technologies, and other advanced services

Technologies Eligible for Participation in Priority Broadband Projects

- Fiber-optical
- Cable Modem/Hybrid Fiber Coaxial
- Low Earth Orbit Satellite
- Terrestrial fixed wireless technology utilizing entirely licensed spectrum, entirely unlicensed spectrum, or a hybrid of licensed and unlicensed spectrum

SC BEAD – Restructuring Policy Notice issued by NTIA

Based on the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice, the following Items were Modified:

Scoring Rubric: NTIA defined Primary and Secondary scoring criteria

Optimizing BEAD Locations: NTIA required State Broadband Offices update their list BEAD eligible locations based on the following criteria.

a) Eligible Entities must investigate and account for locations that do not require BEAD funding using the reason code process as detailed in the Final Proposal Guidance.
   - ***Results of the SC BEAD BEC Phase***

b) Eligible Entities must modify BEAD-eligible location lists to include locations no longer served due to a default or change in service area on a Federal enforceable commitment where the Federal entity has notified NTIA and the Eligible Entity of the default.
   - ***No Federal defaults in South Carolina***

c) Notify ULFW providers if they want to submit evidence proving the location is served and no BEAD funding is needed for the location (Seven Days).
   - ***No ULFW in South Carolina responded***

d) Modify the list of Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) if the statutory definition was not used.
   - ***SCBBO used the statutory definition (no change from IPV2)***

SC BEAD – Restructuring Policy Notice issued by NTIA

Based on the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice, the following Items were Modified or Removed:

Pre-Qualification: NTIA required Eligible Entities (State Broadband Offices), to reopen Pre-Qualification.

Low-Cost Service Option (LCSO): NTIA eliminated the requirement for Broadband Offices to set a price or range of prices an applicant must offer.

Low-Cost Service Option: NTIA has modified to, Applicants must propose one (1) 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 and for a duration of the 10-year Federal interest period starting after project closeout.

- **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.

Middle Class Affordability Plan: NTIA removed the requirement of a Middle-Class Affordability Plan

SC BEAD – SCBBO Initial Proposal Volume II Changes

The following changes to the SCBBOs Initial Proposal Volume II were submitted and approved by the NTIA:

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 Policy 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.

SC BEAD – Timeline

SC BEAD Program Time-Line

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.*

SC BEAD – How to Apply

As part of the Main Application Phase, the SCBBO released South Carolina-specific BEAD documents including:

Eligible Location Data

- All NTIA-approved Federal Communication Commission (FCC) Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) that are eligible for BEAD funding.

Main Application Guidelines

- Designed to assist the applicants with program rules in support of completing the Main Application.

Main Application

- Microsoft Excel template.

Data Dictionary

- A reference document to ensure necessary files are accurate, properly attributed, and complete.

Affidavit

- Microsoft Word template.

Checklist

- A reference document to ensure all required attachments are submitted at the proper time and to the correct, secure, ShareFile location.

SC BEAD – Main Application

The SCBBO intends to collect information in two phases:

Pre-Qualification: The Pre-Qualification round has been reopened by the SCBBO. Applicants that previously applied for Pre-Qualification do not need to a fill out the pre-qualification tab in the application.

- Applicants who participated in the previous Pre-Qualification phase and **did not** supply all the required information or their **information has changed** will need to supply it now.
- ISPs that did not participate during the Pre-Qualification phase may still submit during the main application phase (see Pre-Qualification in grant guidelines)

Main Application: Must be filled out in its entirety as part of the main application phase. In the event of Subsidiaries and/or Joint Ventures, each entity must complete and submit a separate application and corresponding attachments.

- Application contains, Certifications, Confirmations, and Text Boxes.
- Orange Fields – indicates the field is required and must have an answer submitted
- Yellow Fields – indicates that the question may not apply to all applicants and may be skipped if not applicable

SC BEAD – Eligible Location Data

The SC BEAD Eligible Location Data must be used by all Applicants to bid on any BEAD eligible locations and must be fully attributed so that the SCBBO can score the location.

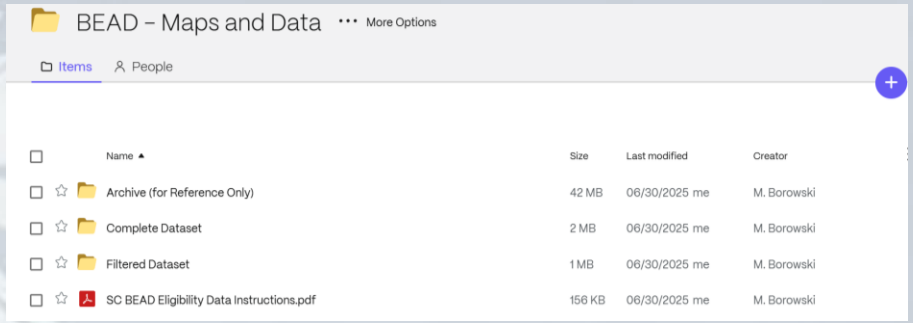
The SC BEAD Eligible BSL data is downloadable from the "BEAD – Map and Data" folder on ShareFile.

The following SC BEAD eligible BSL dataset must be used to apply: Proposed_Served_Structures_06192025

Applicants must upload a **subset** on the locations they wish to apply for, fully attributed based on the SCBBO BEAD Data Dictionary.

- Only one CSV file per applicant may be uploaded to ShareFile
- No duplicate locations are allowed in the file
- All fields in the file **MUST** be filled out

SC BEAD – Eligible Location Data Download



Eligible Locations .csv and point GIS Shapefile data can be found in zipped folders of the Citrix "BEAD – Maps and Data" Folder under the filename "Proposed Served Structures_06192025.zip"

- **Filtered Dataset Folder:** Contains a filtered down version of the complete dataset removing any locations that no longer require BEAD funds.
  - The "Status" field within this data will need to be further filtered to remove "Pending" values that are already signed into Enforceable Commitments or nearing final execution of agreement.
- **Complete Dataset Folder:** Contains every location following the NTIA-Approved Post-Challenge Location List.
  - The "Status" field will need to be filtered down to exclude "BEC", "V6 Removal", "Enforceable Commitment", and "Pending" to identify locations eligible for BEAD Funding

Applicants must upload the .csv file to the appropriate Main Application subfolder using the naming convention: [Applicant Name]_Proposed_Served_Structures_06192025.csv

Not using the templates provided, making modifications to formulas, failing to fully complete all required fields, or changing the types of column content will result in SCBBO rejecting the application location file submission.

*SC BEAD Eligible Location Data Template

Location_i	Elig_Type	Status	Lat	Lon	Applicant	Tech_Code	Max_down	Max_up	Latency	BEAD_Funds	Total_Cost	End_Date
1010891994	Underserved		33.113094	-80.272781								
1010920047	Unserved		33.050041	-80.109764								
1010923035	Underserved		32.888107	-79.935539								
1010923596	Underserved		32.888142	-79.922752								
1010926127	Unserved		32.968979	-79.841209								
1024025559	Underserved		34.510838	-79.379707								
1024025815	Underserved	Pending	34.475376	-79.335289								
1024025876	Underserved	Pending	34.408806	-79.392448								
1024025980	Underserved		34.490318	-79.398834								
1024026188	Underserved		34.509373	-79.382156								
1024026215	Unserved	Pending	34.328293	-79.183952								
1024026220	Unserved	Pending	34.317848	-79.354416								
1024026246	Underserved		34.508545	-79.382339								
1024026318	Unserved	Pending	34.469601	-79.324692								
1024026434	Unserved	Pending	34.379929	-79.408493								
1024026963	Unserved		34.350418	-79.545303								
1024027315	Unserved	Pending	34.317497	-79.170441								
1024027346	Unserved		34.349369	-79.554092								
1024027389	Underserved	Pending	34.287933	-79.17569								
1024027521	Unserved		34.473042	-79.377892								
1024027593	Unserved	Pending	34.36721	-79.167809								
1024027836	Underserved		34.491962	-79.338516								
1024027924	Unserved/Underserved CAI		34.409321	-79.372032								
1024028206	Unserved	Pending	34.290218	-79.200676								
1024029504	Unserved		34.335079	-79.229576								
1024029689	Underserved		34.508205	-79.382439								
1024029982	Unserved	Pending	34.407341	-79.392548								
1024030426	Unserved		34.328918	-79.423943								

<u>Required</u> fields that need to be completed by the Applicant.

***SCBBO will ignore any additional fields added to the Template**

SC BEAD – Eligible Location Data and Data Dictionary

Field Name	Data Type	Description	Values/Comments
Location_i	Integer	FCC Location ID	*Pre-Populated by SCBBO
Elig_Type	Text	BEAD eligibility Classification derived from the NTIA Post-Challenge Data	*Pre-Populated by SCBBO Values Include: Unserved, UnderServed, Unserved/UnderServed CAI
Status	Text	Pending Enforceable Commitments	*Pre-Populated by SCBBO Values Include: Enforceable Commitment (NTIA Reason Code 4),V6 Removal (NTIA Reason Code 3), Pending (Pending NTIA Reason Code 4), BEC (NTIA Reason Codes 1, 2, 5)
Lat	Double	Latitude	*Pre-Populated by SCBBO
Lon	Double	Longitude	*Pre-Populated by SCBBO
Applicant	Text	Applicant's Name	Name of Applicant submitting the application
Tech_Code	Numeric	FCC Tech code	FCC Tech code for the proposed technology to be deployed at the given location 40 = Coaxial Cable / HFC 50 = Optical Carrier / Fiber to the Premises 61 = Non-geostationary Satellite 70= Unlicensed Fixed Wireless 71 = Licenses Terrestrial Fixed Wireless
Max_down	Double	Maximum download speed	The maximum download speed in Mbps upon completion of the project.
Max_up	Double	Maximum upload speed	The maximum upload speed in Mbps upon completion of the project.
Latency	Integer	Latency	Latency in ms upon completion of the project.
BEAD_Funds	Numeric	Amount of BEAD funds requested to deploy broadband at the given location	Amount of BEAD funds requested from the SCBBO to deploy broadband at the given location. Note: The amount requested CANNOT exceed 75% of the total project cost (Total_Cost).
Total_Cost	Numeric	Total Cost to deploy broadband at the given location. Inclusive of all permitting, engineering, construction, etc.	Total Cost to deploy broadband at the given location inclusive of any 3rd Party funding in addition to the BEAD funds requested.
End_Date	Integer	Number months from NTP to Initiation of Operations	The number of months needed to initiate operations. Applicants are reminded to take into account any federal, state, and local permits which might be required that can impact a project schedule.

Items highlighted in red will be used for scoring – Include no Special Characters (.e.g. $,commas,Mbps,ms,etc.)

How to Apply / What's due When

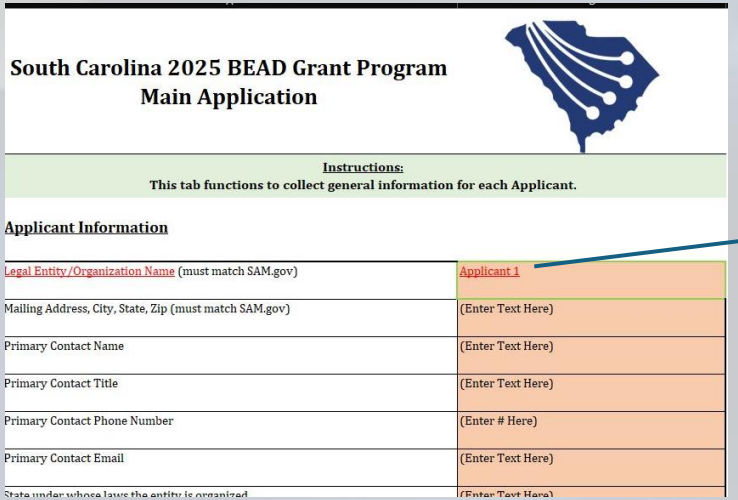
Refer to the Main Application Checklist for more details

Requirements for a complete application submission		
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	

How to Apply / What's due When – How to Submit

Naming Convention for files (e.g. Application, Proposed Served Structures, Cybersecurity Plan, ect…)

- All Materials submitted must have the **Entity Name that was used in the Application** as the first part of the file:

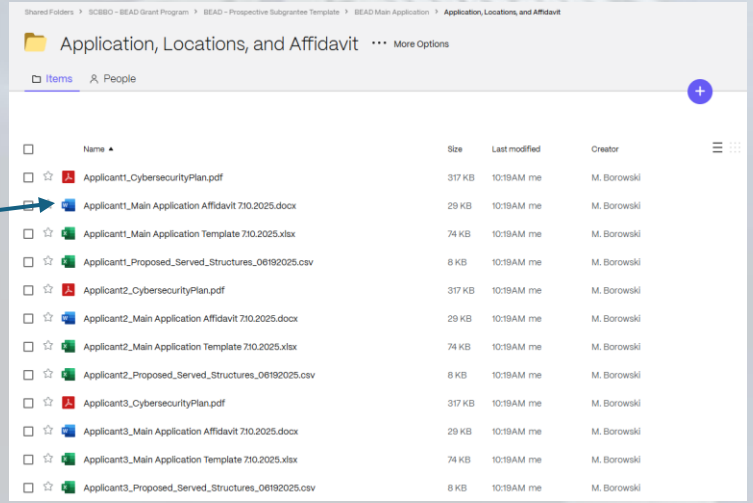


South Carolina 2025 BEAD Grant Program
Main Application

Instructions:
This tab functions to collect general information for each Applicant.

Applicant Information

Legal Entity/Organization Name (must match SAM.gov)	Applicant 1
Mailing Address, City, State, Zip (must match SAM.gov)	(Enter Text Here)
Primary Contact Name	(Enter Text Here)
Primary Contact Title	(Enter Text Here)
Primary Contact Phone Number	(Enter # Here)
Primary Contact Email	(Enter Text Here)
State under whose laws the entity is organized	(Enter Text Here)



Application, Locations, and Affidavit ··· More Options

Items People

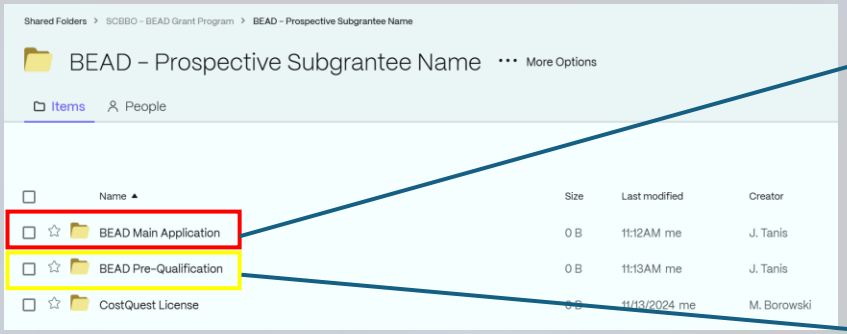
Name	Size	Last modified	Creator
Applicant1_CybersecurityPlan.pdf	317 KB	10:19AM me	M. Borowski
Applicant1_Main Application Affidavit 7.10.2025.docx	29 KB	10:19AM me	M. Borowski
Applicant1_Main Application Template 7.10.2025.xlsx	74 KB	10:19AM me	M. Borowski
Applicant1_Proposed_Served_Structures_06192025.csv	8 KB	10:19AM me	M. Borowski
Applicant2_CybersecurityPlan.pdf	317 KB	10:19AM me	M. Borowski
Applicant2_Main Application Affidavit 7.10.2025.docx	29 KB	10:19AM me	M. Borowski
Applicant2_Main Application Template 7.10.2025.xlsx	74 KB	10:19AM me	M. Borowski
Applicant2_Proposed_Served_Structures_06192025.csv	8 KB	10:19AM me	M. Borowski
Applicant3_CybersecurityPlan.pdf	317 KB	10:19AM me	M. Borowski
Applicant3_Main Application Affidavit 7.10.2025.docx	29 KB	10:19AM me	M. Borowski
Applicant3_Main Application Template 7.10.2025.xlsx	74 KB	10:19AM me	M. Borowski
Applicant3_Proposed_Served_Structures_06192025.csv	8 KB	10:19AM me	M. Borowski

All files must be uploaded to the following location:

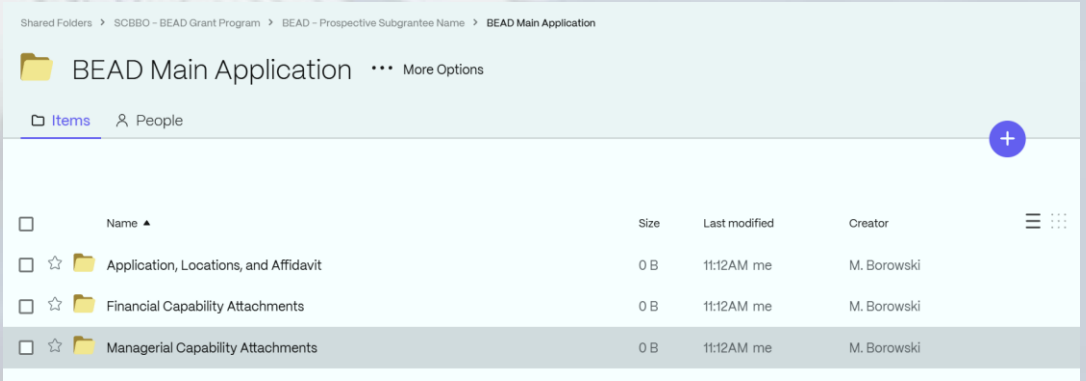
How to Apply / What's due When – Where to Submit

All files must be uploaded to the following location(s):

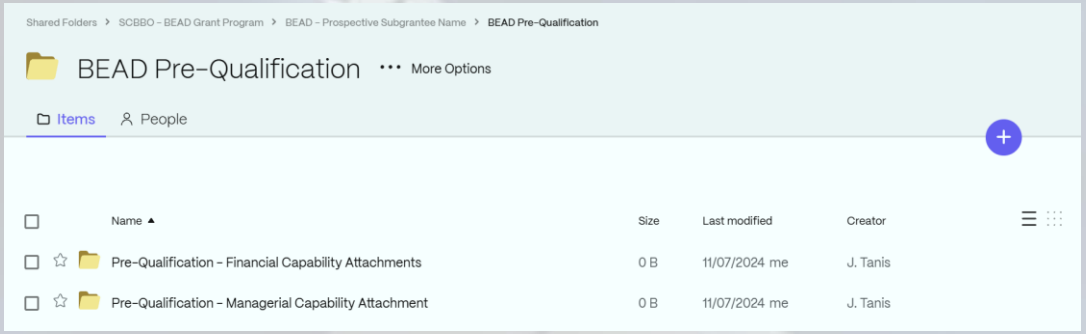
- Please refer to the SC BEAD Checklist for corresponding folders to upload documents to



ShareFile Locations for Main Application Materials



ShareFile Locations for Pre-Qualifications Materials



Scoring Rubric

One Applicant for a BSL: ***:BEAD_Funds***

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.

- Excessive cost is determined by the SCBBO and by the NTIA. No given dollar amount is set.

More than one Applicant for a BSL: If more than one application is 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:

- Excessive cost still applies

Secondary Criteria – 100 points:

Speed of the Network – 90 Points total:

Maximum Download Speed – 60 Points ***:Max_Down***

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 ***:Max_Up***

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 ***:Latency***

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 ***:End_Date***

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.

Applicants Provisionally Chosen for a Subaward – Next Steps

Applicants will be notified via email, (using the addresses submitted in their grant application), if their proposed project (i.e. one or more BSL for which the applicant applied) is selected for a provisional subaward.

- Applicant will be provided a subset of locations which are provisionally selected for 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.
- 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.

- The project areas 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 the SC BEAD guidelines.

How to Apply / What's due When (if Provisionally Selected)

Refer to the Main Application Checklist for more details

Requirements for a complete application submission if provisionally selected for a subaward		
Category	Detail	Deadline
Applicant Level	Financial Capability Attachments (Requirements vary based on Applicant choosing either LOC or Performance Bond)	Due upon request **AFTER** 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	
Supplemental Gating Attachments	One-page resumes for key Management Personnel	
	Other Public Funding Disclosures Attachment	
Project Area Level	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)	

Next Steps

- Fill out the SC BEAD Program Access Form and submit NTIA CostQuest License (if not done already)
- Download from ShareFile and Evaluate the SC BEAD Eligible Data
- Identify and fully attribute bid locations
- Download grant documents from https://ors.sc.gov/broadband/office/investments/state/bead
- Fill out Grant Application
- Complete Risk Management Plans
- Compile all other required attachments due at close of Application submission phase
- Register for office hour sessions
- Review SC BEAD FAQs
- Submit new questions to South Carolina BEAD FAQ Form
- All responses to FAQs will be posted on the ORS BEAD page
- Sign up for Grant Notifications!