



BEAD Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: When does the pre-qualification portal open?

A: The pre-qualification portal opened on Friday, June 20, 2025 at 9 a.m. EST and closes on July 21 at 11:59 p.m. EST. The link to register can be found at connectingindiana.com/register/bead

Q: Will the IBO provide a sample Letter of Credit?

A: Yes. The IBO has a sample Letter of Credit available in Appendix A of the Indiana BEAD Pre-Qualification Application Guide.

Q: If a prospective subgrantee does not complete the pre-qualification round, does that disqualify them from applying for BEAD funding?

A: Yes, all prospective subgrantees must complete the pre-qualification documentation to participate in the BEAD subgrantee selection rounds. Participating in the pre-qualification round is nonbinding, but it is a required step in the BEAD application process. Please complete prequalification even if you are unsure about your participation or intend to only participate in the later rounds of subgrantee selection.

Q: Can an applicant associate other users (e.g., consultants) with their organization?

A: Yes. Once the IBO accepts your registration, you may add other team members to your organization from the main dashboard in the Ready.net portal. You will click "Invite Teammate" to do so. If you need assistance, contact the IBO directly.

Q: Can any of the information submitted in the portal be treated as confidential?

A: Per federal law, the IBO may not disclose confidential or sensitive personal or business information created or obtained in connection with the BEAD Program. ISPs should designate which confidential financial information they wish to exclude from disclosure in the case of a public records request. The IBO will review to determine if the information provided is exempt from relevant disclosure laws. Should a public records request be received, the IBO will internally redact confidential information.

Q: Will the BEAD Benefit of the Bargain project areas revert back to the original project areas defined by the IBO?

A: The IBO will be pre-defining all project areas for all rounds of the restructured subgrantee selection process.

Q: What date will the IBO release the BSL eligible list for BEAD Benefit of the Bargain round?

A: As of 6.20.25, the IBO has not established this date. Please watch the IBO website for updated information.



Q: Will the IBO allow a 7 or 14-day application period for the BEAD Benefit of the Bargain round?

A: The “Benefit of the Bargain” round will be open for 11 days. The timing of subsequent rounds will be highly dependent on the outcome of this round.

Q: Will the IBO keep the same portal, only removing from the portal those areas of the application that were removed from the RPN?

A: The IBO will continue using Ready.net for the subgrantee selection application process. Any application that was **preliminarily** awarded at the end of Round 1, per the Policy Notice, must be rescinded, and project areas reopened for all applicants to bid on. However, previously awarded applicants may carry over their application if they so choose and will be made available for changes or adjustments as necessary. Any non-preliminarily awarded applicants must submit a new application.

Q: How will LEO be handled under the revised rules?

A: 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, may be used in applications for Priority Broadband Projects so long as the technologies employed in the project proposal meet the technical performance requirements in the NOFO, as redefined by the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice, and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Please refer to Appendix B: Low Earth Orbit Capacity Subgrants in the Policy Notice.

Q: While IBO / Indiana cannot suggest / set a price, applicants can for low-cost. Correct?

A: Yes, per the new Policy Notice, IIJA requires BEAD subgrantees to “offer not less than 1 low-cost broadband service option for eligible subscribers. BEAD subgrantees must still comply with the statutory provision to offer at least one LCSO, proposed by the subgrantees themselves.”

Q: What happens to ISPs that did not file BDC?

A: FCC Provider ID and FRN number are required to be a pre-qualified entity.

Q: Are you still interested in having ISPs provide updates for the Local Remediation?

A: The IBO will follow the updated Policy Notice.



Q: On the scalability requirement for Priority Broadband Projects, you reference “multi-gigabit capacity.” Is that language drawn directly from the Policy Update, or is it the IBO’s interpretation of what constitutes scalability?

A: The IBO will apply the definition of Priority Broadband Project as written in the Policy Notice. The applicant’s project must still meet the required speed and latency standards outlined in the statute and the NOFO, and demonstrate that it meets the additional statutory criteria, including that the project can easily scale speeds over time to support evolving connectivity needs and the deployment of 5G and successor wireless technologies. Applicants must provide supporting documentation sufficient for the Eligible Entity to assess the network application and determine that the proposed network architecture for each specific project area meets this standard.

Q: Does this new policy include incentives for rural expansion or is the alternative tech taking care of that issue?

A: All BEAD applications will be reviewed and scored per the Policy Notice guidelines and applied across all technology types for each pre-determined project area created by the Indiana Broadband Office.

Q: Will the prior information on applications in the portal be available to carry over for Benefit of the Bargain round?

A: Any application that was preliminarily awarded at the end of Round 1 can be carried forward and will be opened for applicants to make changes. For any applicant not preliminarily awarded, a new application must be submitted; however, previously used materials that are still applicable may be submitted again.

Q: Can we edit a previous application to revise the funding request, or must it be a submission of what was submitted previously without change?

A: The IBO will open previous preliminarily awarded applications for revision. For any applicant not preliminarily awarded, a new application must be submitted; however, previously used materials that are still applicable may be submitted again.

Q: So does designation as a Priority Broadband Technology only get taken into consideration if the bid is within 15% of the low-bid (even if that bid is not a priority broadband technology)?

A: No, the term “Priority Broadband Project” means a project that: (1) provides broadband service at speeds of no less than 100 Mbps for downloads and 20 Mbps for uploads; (2) has a latency less than or equal to 100 mbps; (3) can easily scale speeds over time to meet the evolving connectivity needs of households and businesses; and (4) supports the deployment of 5G, successor wireless technologies, and other advanced services. The IBO will consider a “Non-Priority Broadband Project” if there are no Priority Broadband Projects submitted for a project area or if all Priority Broadband Projects for the project area are rejected for excessive cost.



Q: Can you be more specific about which RBS are considered priority? Which are "scalable?"

A: The term "Priority Broadband Project" means a project that provides broadband service at speeds of no less than 100 megabits per second for downloads and 20 megabits per second for uploads, has a latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds, 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.

Q: If a provider removes more than 5% of the locations and it is not considered the same area, then how does that work for the required project areas in round 1 already being defined?

A: ISP applicants can remove locations they deem excessive in cost from project areas. These removals will be taken into consideration for determination of whether applications are considered the same "general project area" for scoring. More information on this process will be released in the Subgrantee Selection Guidance.

Q: Can you explain how the satellite requirement of reserving bandwidth is going to work and how "How Much Bandwidth" is required per user per satellite will be calculated?

A: When evaluating BEAD LEO project applications, the IBO will refer to the Policy Notice sections outlining the requirements associated with awarding a LEO Capacity subgrant.

Q: 50, 40, 10 points out of how many?

- a. **Confirming secondary scoring: 50 points – provisional awardees**
- b. **40 points – speed of network**
- c. **10 points – speed to deployment**

A: Secondary Scoring can only be considered if an application to serve the "same general project area" proposes a project cost within 15% of the lowest-cost proposal received on a per BSL basis.

Q: Can you please outline the financial audit requirements?

A: All prospective subgrantees must provide financial statements from the prior fiscal year. It is preferred that prospective subgrantees submit financial statements that have been audited by an independent certified public accountant. The letter of credit must be at least 25% of the requested subsidy amount.

Q: Why wouldn't the round 1 project area be reset also with ULFW being considered?

A: The IBO did not have pre-defined project areas in Round 1, as ISP applicants were able to create their own iteration of “project areas.” In the Benefit of the Bargain Round, the IBO will be, in part, using the preliminarily awarded project areas from Round 1 outcomes. However, to comply with the Policy Notice, all locations, regardless of previously awarded status, will be available for bidding.

Q: Will the updated address eligible locations/project areas account for the challenge rounds (including the interim challenges) be taken into account for the eligible locations?

A: The IBO will be working from its initially approved list of eligible locations, as approved by NTIA after the Challenge Process. Any locations remediated from consideration as a result of the “Post-Challenge Process” will remain remediated, and therefore will not be awarded in any future rounds of subgrantee selection.

Q: Will a WISP and/or LEO that served a location with 100/20 not be ineligible in the new release of locations for the Benefit of the Bargain Round? If so, will they have to provide some additional information to prove they actually serve those speeds, reliably?

A: LEO providers who meet the statutory requirements outlined in IIJA and the Restructured BEAD Policy Notice may apply for BEAD funding during the subgrantee selection process.

Q: Is lowest BEAD cost per BSL for all locations passed (whether eligible or within the 20% served that's included) or just eligible locations? It sounds like all locations that will be served.

A: When comparing competing proposals, the IBO will assess the total BEAD funding that will be required to complete the project (i.e., the total project cost minus the applicant’s proposed match) and the cost to the Program per location (i.e., the total BEAD funding that will be required to complete the project divided by the number of BSLs the project will serve).

Q: So the low-cost option "must" be awarded. This is in regard to being a priority project, correct? If the lower cost project is not deemed "priority," then the cost is irrelevant compared to a priority project?

A: If a project area receives both priority and non-priority applications, the non-priority may only be considered if the priority project does not meet the standards outlined in the Policy Notice, or, is deemed excessive in cost by the IBO. Regardless of priority or non-priority status, the IBO will evaluate the application based on the primary and secondary scoring, when applicable, as outlined in section 3.4 of the Policy Notice.



Q: How is 5G going to be handled?

A: Any applicant may seek to have the IBO treat its application as a Priority Broadband Project regardless of the technology used. The applicant's project, however, must still meet the required speed and latency standards set forth in the statute and the NOFO and demonstrate that it meets the additional statutory criteria, including that the project can easily scale speeds over time to support evolving connectivity needs and the deployment of 5G and successor wireless technologies.

Applicants must provide supporting documentation sufficient for the IBO to assess the network application and determine that the proposed network architecture for each specific project area meets this standard. The IBO may not categorically exclude any given technology and may only reject treatment of an application as a Priority Broadband Project if the project could not meet the statutory definition for a specific project area.

Q: I'm also being told that wireless providers (more less satellite and fixed) may have the ability to go after locations that are USF/CAF funded, IF those locations are not being served with 100/20 service?

A: The IBO will be utilizing its list of NTIA-approved locations as the foundation of eligibility. If, at the time of the Challenge Process results, the USF/CAF award was given and the service did not meet BEAD minimum requirements, those locations will be eligible for all applicants to bid on.

Q: What data will be used to determine eligible locations now that timelines have been pushed back?

A: States are not required to redo their Challenge Process, per the new NTIA Policy Notice. The IBO will continue to utilize the NTIA-approved underlying data and eligible locations for future rounds of subgrantee selection.

Q: Is there a "refresh" on the eligibility area map? What is the date of the screenshot of the broadband map being used?

A: To ensure Indiana's list of BEAD eligible locations is accurate, and to prevent overbuilding of privately funded networks and Federal, state, or locally funded locations by BEAD, the IBO will comply with the requirements outlined in Section 4 of the Policy Notice. Please watch the [Indiana Broadband: Home](#) for updates on the final iteration of project areas for subgrantee selection.

Q: Are there any incentives (points gained) for the ISP's to use State registered employers and contractors for the construction of the projects funded by the BEAD program?

A: The NTIA Policy Notice removes any non-statutory workforce requirements, limiting requirements to those outlined in IIJA -- the requirement for subgrantees to comply with



federal labor and employment laws. Applicants are only required to certify that they comply with all federal labor and employment laws.

Q: With the program modifications, will the provider/applicant be required to serve all eligible locations within a census block to form the project area?

A: ISP applicants can remove locations they deem excessive in cost from project areas. The IBO has no input on this cost threshold; applicants will determine the cost of the locations themselves. Please note, the IBO will flag applications that remove more than 5% of locations from a project area for additional evaluation. More information on this process will be available in the Subgrantee Selection Guidance posted prior to the application round opening.

Q: For a preliminary awardee, can we revert to the original submission (as net new), rather than the final (which was adjusted)? "Final" provisional could be left unchanged, as I understand. Correct?

A: All previously preliminarily awarded applications will be opened for applications that would like to make changes to their application materials.

Q: Additionally, if LEO-served locations aren't excluded, what prevents a LEO provider from applying for funding in areas they already serve and receiving support for existing service?

A: The NTIA requires that Eligible Entities awarding BEAD subgrants to LEO providers employ "LEO Capacity Subgrants." Pursuant to a LEO Capacity Subgrant, an Eligible Entity shall reserve sufficient capacity from the LEO provider to deliver broadband service that meets the BEAD performance and technical requirements to each BSL in the project area and shall include the conditions set forth in Appendix B of the Policy Notice. A recipient of a LEO Capacity Subgrant shall be deemed to have begun to provide service when it certifies to the IBO that the recipient can initiate broadband service within ten (10) business days of a request to any covered BSL in the project area, with no charges or delays attributable to extension of the service. States shall also require a period of performance for LEO Capacity Subgrants that concludes ten years from the date upon which the subgrantee certifies to the state that broadband is available to every location covered by the project. Recipients of LEO Capacity Subgrants must continue to offer access to broadband service to each BSL served by the project throughout the period of performance.