



Indiana Broadband Office
BEAD Subgrantee Selection:
Round One Guidance Document

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Version History

- Version 1.0 – Posted on December 13, 2024
- Version 2.0 – Posted on December 17, 2024
 - Point of clarification in the Project Financial Details section

- Naming convention change on Workforce Details section
- Version 3.0 – Posted on January 9, 2025
 - Point of clarification in the Business and Financial Planning section
- Version 4.0 – Posted July 10, 2025
 - Updated guidance regarding the NTIA's June 2025 Policy Revision Notice and the Benefit of the Bargain Round requirements

Introduction

Overview

The **Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)** Program is a federal initiative overseen by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to enhance high-speed internet access in unserved and underserved areas across the nation. Of the \$42 billion federal dollars allocated to the program, Indiana has been awarded \$868 million to deploy these broadband expansion efforts. The Indiana Broadband Office (IBO) is responsible for facilitating all BEAD Program grant requirements and determining sub-grant award selection on behalf of the state.

This document is meant to guide pre-qualified Internet Service Providers (ISPs) through the BEAD application process. It outlines essential procedures and requirements based on the NTIA's June 6, 2025, Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program: BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice, [Indiana's approved Volume 2](#), the [BEAD NOFO](#), and additional relevant NTIA guidance.

This guide may be updated as subgrantee selection progresses, as new guidance from NTIA is released, or as the IBO receives questions from applicants. Any changes will be clearly documented in the version history and communicated to applicants. Further, the IBO will post all subgrantee documentation and resources on the [Indiana Broadband Office website](#).

As outlined in the Initial Proposal Volume 2, submitting an Indiana BEAD application requires being pre-qualified during the pre-qualification process. Indiana hosted a pre-qualification round in 2024 as part of the subgrantee selection deployment; a new pre-qualification round opened on June 20, 2025, for additional entities interested in participating in the new Benefit of the Bargain (BOTB) application round pursuant to the NTIA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice. Only pre-qualified ISPs are eligible to submit a BEAD application at this time. Pre-qualified ISPs are invited to participate in all subgrantee selection rounds but are not required to participate in any, even if they have been pre-qualified.

The Indiana Broadband Office remains dedicated to running an efficient, fair, open, and competitive subgrantee selection process.

NTIA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice

On June 6, 2025, the NTIA released the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice, which made several revisions to the BEAD program requirements. Notably, it adopts a technology-neutral approach for the BEAD subgrantee selection process and redefines Priority Broadband Project (PBP) to permit all broadband technology types to seek to be treated as such. 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 (IIJA). This Subgrantee Selection Guidance has been revised to reflect the updated BEAD Program requirements and provide guidance regarding the BOTB subgrantee selection round and subsequent BEAD application rounds.

Subgrantee Selection Process

Timing

The Subgrantee Selection Process is a structured evaluation and selection procedure through which the IBO awards BEAD funding to eligible ISPs. Subgrantee selection is a several-step process outlined in the sections below. Step one begins with the pre-qualification round, in which the IBO pre-qualifies ISPs who are eligible to participate in the subgrantee selection application rounds. A new window of pre-qualification is available to providers who did not participate or were not pre-qualified during the initial window.

An initial Round 1 of the application process occurred in early 2025; the results of this Round 1 were rescinded pursuant to the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice. The IBO has scheduled a new initial subgrantee selection round, referred to as the Benefit of the Bargain Round, to open on July 10, 2025. During the BOTB Round, ISPs will bid on pre-determined project areas set by the IBO. Projects selected during the BOTB Round will become **preliminarily** awarded; the IBO will refine project areas with the remaining **broadband serviceable locations (BSLs)** during Round 2 (if necessary and time-permitting). The timing of Round 2 will be announced once the IBO has completed its analysis and preliminary awarding of BOTB Round projects, and anticipates a rapid turnaround time between Rounds. This guidance will be updated to reflect specific dates announced through the Indiana Broadband website.

Subgrantee Selection Timeline	
Pre-Qualification Round 2	June 20-July 21, 2025
Project Area Map (Early July 2025)	The IBO posts the updated list of BEAD-eligible locations and pre-determined project areas.
BOTB Round of Subgrantee Selection (July 10-28, 2025)	In BOTB Round of subgrantee selection, providers will bid on pre-determined project areas.
Round 2 of Subgrantee Selection (TBD)	If necessary and time-permitting, the IBO will refine project areas based on the remaining eligible locations. The timing of Round 2 will be announced after BOTB Round has been completed.
IBO Meeting with NTIA	The IBO will meet with the NTIA to review the preliminary awards after all rounds of selection are complete. After this meeting, awards will become provisional .
Final Proposal Public Comment Period (August 27-September 2, 2025)	The IBO will post the Final Proposal for a 1-week public comment period.
Final Proposal Submission (September 4, 2025)	The IBO must submit its Final Proposal to NTIA no later than September 4, 2025.
Final Proposal and Project Approval (December 4, 2025)	The NTIA has stated that all Final Proposals will be reviewed within 90 days of submission. After the NTIA approves Indiana's Final Proposal, awards become final.

The approved map of Indiana's BEAD-eligible addresses can be found on [ConnectingIndiana.com](https://www.connectingindiana.com).

Portal Access

All subgrantee selection processes, including project selection and application tasks, will take place in Indiana's Ready.net portal, available at apply.connectingindiana.com. Once the BOTB Round window opens, all pre-qualified organizations will automatically be able to submit a BEAD application. Organizations that previously registered **do not** need to re-register for portal access; however, the IBO asks that organization members verify their company's information in the portal to ensure the IBO is accurately reporting to the NTIA.

Content

The BEAD Subgrantee Selection Process is the only opportunity for internet service providers to apply for BEAD funding. The application process captures the necessary documentation that fulfills the requirements of NTIA's BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice

and Indiana's Initial Proposal Volume 2. **Please note that where Volume 2 conflicts with the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice, the Policy Notice will take precedence.** Application sections and requirements included in the previous BEAD Round 1 may have been removed or modified, so all applicants are encouraged to read through each section in its entirety.

Scoring

The scoring process evaluates BEAD project applications based on criteria as required by the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice. The IBO has designed prioritization and scoring processes for all BEAD projects – both priority and other non-priority broadband projects.

A **“priority broadband project”** refers to a project that:

- (a) Provides broadband service at speeds of no less than 100 megabits per second for downloads and 20 megabits per second for uploads,
- (b) has a latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds, and
- (c) 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.

A **“non-priority broadband project”** refers to a project that would offer service at or above 100/20 Mbps and latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds but could not necessarily meet the statutory scalability requirements in 47 U.S.C. §1702(a)(2)(I)(ii).

All applications will be scored against identical, neutral criteria that do not favor one type of provider or technology over another. The IBO may not categorically exclude any given technology and may only reject treatment of an application as a PBP if the project could not meet the statutory definition for a specific project area. Applicants can find a scoring matrix as an appendix to this document.

At the close of each round, proposed project areas will be scored using the appropriate matrix and preliminarily awarded. Providers will be notified of their award status to ensure a transparent subgrantee selection process. After each round, the IBO will update the eligible address list and project map where necessary.

Once all rounds have been completed and applications have been scored, the IBO will meet with the NTIA to discuss the preliminary subgrantee awards. Following this meeting, the IBO will publicly announce the provisional list of awardees. Awardees will only become final when the NTIA has approved Indiana's Final Proposal.

Subgrantee Selection Application Sections

The following sections outline the process for completing a BEAD application, accounting for changes outlined in the NTIA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice. To maximize time and efficacy, applicants should carefully review. Be advised when beginning your application:

- Applicants who applied and were preliminarily awarded a project during Round 1 have two options for participating in the BOTB Round:
 - a. Utilize previous preliminarily awarded applications and provide updated answers to new or updated questions as necessary, or;
 - b. Submit a net new application.
 - i. If your organization is applying for a project area not previously awarded, a new application is required.
- All other applicants must submit a new application(s).

Please note, regardless of previous participation, applicants must apply to each project area for which they are submitting a proposal; **project areas cannot be combined into a single application.**

Select Location Section

The Indiana Broadband Office has created pre-determined project areas for internet service providers to bid on during the Benefit of the Bargain Round. Project areas for future rounds will also be pre-determined and will be based on the remaining locations from the BOTB Round.

To apply for a project area, complete the following steps:

1. Identify the pre-determined project area on the map interface and select by clicking directly on it, or search for a project area by ID/name by utilizing the search feature at the bottom of the right-hand window.
2. Verify the project area name and the number of locations included in the project.
3. Click "Review Locations."
 - a. To remove any locations your organization deems excessive in cost, upload a CSV file of those location IDs or select from the list of locations provided. **Please note: Applications that remove more than 5% of the pre-determined BSLs from a project area will be flagged for additional evaluation to ensure an apples-to-apples comparison of competing bids can occur.**
 - i. Ex: If a project area receives two or more competing bids, and one or more applicants does *not* remove more than 5% of the locations from a project area, and your organization's bid does, your project

will no longer be considered the “same general project area” and will be removed from consideration.

1. If only one applicant bids on a pre-determined project area, with more than 5% of the BSLs removed, the application is subject to further review, but will not automatically be removed from consideration.
- b. An applicant may also include up to 20% served locations in a selected project area. Served locations must make up less than 20% of your total number of locations. To do so, click “(Optional) Select Additional Locations.”
4. Review your selected locations and click “Save Selections.”
 - a. Before advancing to the next section, download a list of the locations included in your project area selection.

Project Technical Details

This section requires applicants to provide comprehensive information about the proposed project’s technical specifications. Unless otherwise noted, each section applies to all provider and technology project types.

Application Questions:

Speed, Latency, and Other Technical Capabilities

1. Applicants should indicate if they would like their application to be considered a “Priority Broadband Project.”
 - 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.
 - i. *For scalability requirements, see question 3 instructions.*
2. Technology type(s), speed, latency, and other technical capabilities – Applicants will be asked the following:
 - a. Select the specific technology type(s) included in the bid.
 - i. Disclose the maximum upload and download speeds for each technology type in the proposed project area.
 - ii. Disclose the latency of the planned broadband service.
 - b. For projects using **ULFW** services, applicants will be asked to explain their mitigation strategies to address potential interference.
 - c. For projects using **low Earth orbit (LEO) satellite** services, applicants will be asked to explain how it shall reserve sufficient capacity to deliver broadband service that meets the BEAD performance and technical

requirements to each BSL in the project area as outlined in Appendix B of the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice, including:

- i. that not later than 4 years from the date of the subgrant award, 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;
 - ii. How it will support a period of performance for LEO Capacity Subgrants that concludes ten years from the date upon which the subgrantee certifies to the IBO that broadband is available to every location covered by the project and continue to offer access to broadband service to each BSL served by the project throughout the period of performance;
 - iii. How it will meet the requirement to provide all necessary consumer premises equipment at no cost as part of the standard installation for each new subscriber (i.e. for each new resident or group of residents) at the BEAD-funded location throughout the period of performance.
3. Applicants will be asked to explain their plan to meet scalability requirements, illustrating that they 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.
 - i. Applicants must demonstrate that their proposed network is scalable to meet increasing demand over time. This includes submitting network designs, specifications, and demand forecasts showing projected subscriber growth and busy hour usage by year. Applicants must also complete a technology-specific Technical Evidence Template (e.g., for fiber, fixed wireless, LEO, or HFC) and provide documentation such as logical network diagrams, headend and backbone configuration, tower or uplink details, performance calculations, and reliability measures. The network must maintain BEAD performance standards as demand grows, without requiring major infrastructure replacement.
 1. **For further instructions on scalability, the Indiana Broadband Office has posted examples of scalability evidence templates. [Please find them here.](#)**
4. Applicants will be asked to explain their plan to add incremental capacity as new customers are added to the project area.
 - a. This explanation should be uploaded in a narrative format.
5. Applicants will be asked to select the most accurate option from the list to describe their organization's proposed broadband deployment project. Applicants can select one or more options, if needed.

Speed to Deployment

6. Applicants will be asked to provide their project deployment timeline. The timeline cannot be longer than 48 months from the date of the Subaward Agreement being signed.
 - a. Deployment includes a standard installation as the initiation by a provider of fixed broadband internet access service within 10 business days of a request, with no charges or delays attributable to the extension of the network of the provider.
7. Applicants must certify they understand that potential penalties exist if the project extends beyond the planned timeline without a formal extension request and approval from the IBO.

Information related to project technical details is referred to throughout the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice. For additional information specific to technology neutrality, please refer to pages 8-11; latency and speed refer to pages 7-9, 13, and 17-18; ULFW refer to pages 14-15 and 17; LEO refer to pages 10, 15, 19-22; and scalability refer to pages 8-9, 15, and 17.

Project Financial Details

In this section, applicants will be asked to provide financial information related to their organization's proposed project plan.

Application Questions:

BEAD and Matching Funds

1. Applicants are asked for the total dollar amount they are requesting in BEAD subsidy for the project area.
2. Applicants are asked for the total amount of matching funds they will provide for the project area. Matching funds must make up at least 25% of total project costs.
3. Budget and Budget Narrative:
 - a. Applicants will be asked to provide a detailed budget explaining the planning and financial needs that might arise during the implementation of a project area. The detailed budget should include line items such as:
 - i. Administrative and Legal Expenses
 - ii. Structure, Permitting, Planning
 - iii. Maintenance
 - iv. Engineering
 - v. Project Inspection
 - vi. Site Work
 - vii. Employees
 - viii. Equipment
 - ix. Miscellaneous Expenses
 - b. Applicants will also be asked to provide a budget narrative with a detailed description of the line items, including a cost justification for each line item included in the budget.

Additional Financial Details

4. Applicants will be asked to propose a Low-Cost Service Option that offers 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 meets these service requirements may satisfy the LCSO requirement by proposing to offer their existing low-cost plan to eligible subscribers.
5. Applicants are asked to affirm that they shall not require subscribers to make modifications to their own or surrounding property or charge fees for the same in connection with the installation of broadband services funded by the BEAD Program.
6. Applicants will be asked to provide the estimated number of employment opportunities (full-time equivalent) created by the project.

For additional information on scoring and content in this section, please reference pages 11-13 in the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice.

Risk Management Plans

This section asks applicants for the documentation required during the pre-qualification process. To complete pre-qualification, applicants were required to certify that they will provide their organization's cybersecurity risk management plan and supply chain risk management plans during subgrantee selection. **You do not need to resubmit if your organization submitted these documents during the pre-qualification round.**

Application Questions:

1. Risk Plan Documentation:
 - a. If **not** uploaded during the pre-qualification window, applicants should utilize this section to upload the following documents:
 - i. Cybersecurity Risk Management Plan
 - ii. Supply Chain Risk Management Plan

For additional guidance on these documents, please reference pages 82-83 (2.16.4) in Indiana's Volume 2 and pages 70-71 in the BEAD NOFO. Additionally, applicants can review NTIA guidance on cybersecurity and supply chain risk management to ensure their plan is in compliance with NTIA requirements.

Business and Financial Planning

In this section, applicants will be asked to demonstrate their organization's ability to meet the obligations associated with being awarded a BEAD project, including having available funds for all project costs that exceed the amount of the grant, and demonstrating compliance with all program requirements, including service milestones.

Application Questions:

1. Business plans and related analyses to substantiate the sustainability of the proposed project.
 - a. The uploaded documentation can 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.
2. Letter committing to a letter of credit or letter guaranteeing a performance bond
 - a. To complete this portion of the application, applicants may provide a letter of credit or performance bond during the application round. However, the minimum *letter of credit* requirement is to submit a letter from a bank that meets all eligibility requirements committing to issue an irrevocable standby letter of credit, in the required form, to the prospective subgrantee. For *performance bonds*, the minimum requirement is to submit a letter from a company holding a certificate of authority committing to issue a performance bond to the prospective subgrantee.

- i. The letter of credit must be at least 25% of the subsidy amount.
 - ii. The performance bond must be at least 100% of the subsidy amount.
- b. If a commitment letter is received during the application round, the subgrantee must provide the actual letter of credit or performance bond before any subgrant agreement can be finalized.

For additional guidance on business and financial requirements, please reference pages 40-42 of Indiana's Volume 2 and pages 72-73 of the BEAD NOFO.

Technical Capability/Engineering Documents

In this section, applicants will be asked to provide details regarding the workforce to be used for the proposed project area. Applicants will also be asked to submit engineering documents showcasing their organization's technical capabilities.

These documents must confirm that your organization's proposed network is capable of delivering broadband service that meets the BEAD program's performance requirements for all locations within the project area.

Application Questions:

1. Network Design/Diagram:
 - a. Applicants will be asked to submit their network design/diagram, milestones for project implementation, and a capital investment schedule certified by an engineer.

NOTE: This should include a detailed network design or diagram, a capital investment schedule certified by a professional engineer, and project implementation milestones. Additionally, the professional engineer must state that the proposed network can deliver broadband service that meets all performance needs to all locations in the project area.

For additional guidance on this section, please reference pages 43-44 in Indiana's Volume 2 and page 74 of the BEAD NOFO.

Adherence to Environmental and Historic Preservation

In this section, applicants will be asked to fully demonstrate their compliance of the Build America Buy America and Environmental and Historic Preservation requirements. Additionally, if selected as an awardee, the applicant organization will be asked to acknowledge they will be subjected to a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis to ensure all requirements are minimally met. Finally, the applicant must address environmental concerns in the NRI risk mitigation plan, as they relate to the BEAD NOFO requirements. Applicants will be asked to outline their organization's plans to comply with each requirement.

Application Questions:

1. Build America, Buy America Compliance Plan:

- a. Applicants will be asked to provide a narrative detailing their organization's plan to adhere to Build America, Buy America guidelines. If the applicant believes their organization should be exempt from this requirement, they will be asked to detail the exemption in their narrative.
2. Environmental and Historic Preservation Compliance Plan:
 - a. Applicants will be asked to provide a narrative about their organization's plan to adhere to the Environmental and Historic Preservation requirements.
3. National Environmental Policy Act Certification:
 - a. Applicants must certify that, if awarded, their organization will provide sufficient information to conduct a NEPA analysis.
4. National Risk Index:
 - a. Applicants will be asked to disclose if any of the proposed project area(s) are in an NRI risk rating block of moderate risk or above.
 - i. If the applicant answers yes, they will be asked to describe the climate resilience and mitigation measures for the project area and how the organization will develop emergency response plans if these hazards arise.

For additional guidance on BABA/EHP/NEPA narrative and certification requirements, please reference pages 31-32 and 68-69 in Indiana's Volume 2.

Additionally, applicants can review the [NTIA BABA guidance document](#), which includes information on the waiver. For further guidance on the NRI risk mitigation, please reference page 73 of Indiana's Volume 2.

Excessive Cost Project Proposals and Locations, and High-Cost Areas

Excessive Cost Projects

The Indiana Broadband Office shall reject a Priority Broadband Project if the cost of the project is excessive. States must apply an objective, consistent metric to define “excessive”; the IBO declines to adopt a specific excessively high cost per location threshold but will leverage the information and methodology previously developed for the Extremely High Cost per Location Threshold analysis when reviewing project proposal budgets. If any projects exceed this threshold, the IBO will perform a cost-reasonable assessment to understand the factors contributing to high costs and evaluate the project's viability.

If the IBO determines that selecting a Priority Broadband Project would incur excessive costs, i.e., costs that are not reasonable based on the cost characteristics of the area to be served, it shall select a lower-cost non-Priority Broadband Project. If all applications in a project area are rejected due to excessive costs, the IBO will solicit bids from other potential applicants in subsequent application rounds.

High-Cost Areas

A high-cost area (HCA) is an NTIA-defined area where at least 80% of the locations in A Census Block Group are unserved and where the costs associated with deploying broadband service are significantly higher than the average costs in similarly defined unserved areas. The NTIA identified HCAs in each state as part of the BEAD allocation process completed in 2023.

The NTIA defined two HCAs in Indiana, the following Census Block Groups:

- 180731012001
- 181279800021

Internet service providers who apply for projects in these two Census Block Groups will be eligible for a reduced or waived 25% project match requirement.

Removing Excessive Cost Locations

Under the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice, states must allow applicants to propose to exclude select broadband serviceable locations (BSLs) that the applicant determines are excessively high-cost locations from the project area (or would otherwise make the project economically unviable for the technology being used). States must solicit bids from other potential applicants for any such eliminated BSL, or applicants may propose a multi-provider solution.

The IBO must also ensure that competing applications covering the same general project areas are scored consistently and with appropriate comparability. Applications that propose to remove more than 5% of BSLs within a single project area may not be considered the same general project area, and will be evaluated as follows:

- If no other Priority Broadband Project applications are received for the project area, or all applications remove more than 5% of BSLs, the project will be scored and awarded with the removed BSLs excluded from the project area. The removed BSLs will be incorporated into subsequent application rounds.
- If there are competing Priority Broadband Project applications received for the project area and at least one application does not exceed the 5% removed BSL threshold, applications that remove more than 5% of BSLs within the project area will not be considered.

For additional information related to excessive cost project proposals and high-cost areas, please reference pages 9, 11, and 12 of the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice.

Appendix A: Broadband Project Scoring Matrix

Overview

The Indiana Broadband Office (IBO) has designed robust and fair prioritization and scoring processes for all BEAD projects. These processes are outlined for both priority broadband projects and other non-priority broadband deployment projects. A **“priority broadband project”** refers to a project that:

- (a) provides broadband service at speeds of no less than 100 megabits per second for downloads and 20 megabits per second for uploads,
- (b) has a latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds, and
- (c) 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.

A **“non-priority broadband project”** refers to a project that would offer service at or above 100/20 Mbps and latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds but could not necessarily meet the statutory scalability requirements in 47 U.S.C. §1702(a)(2)(I)(ii). This section is designed to provide guidance to applicants as they complete a BEAD application.

Priority Broadband Project Scoring

In compliance with the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice, scoring criteria shall focus on minimizing the cost of deployment under the BEAD Program. The IBO must select the

combination of project proposals with the lowest overall cost to the Program. This may involve selecting a proposal that is not the lowest-cost option for a given set of BSLs but is part of the combination of selected projects with the lowest overall cost to the program.

Each priority broadband project will first be scored using the Primary Scoring Criteria. If multiple competing priority broadband project proposals exist for the same project area, and a project cost is within 15% of the lowest-cost proposal received for that same general project area on a per BSL basis, the IBO will use the Secondary Scoring Rubric outlined below to select among these competing proposals. These are the only scoring criteria that will be applied to applications.

Primary Criteria

1. Minimal BEAD Program Outlay

- **Definition:** This criterion measures the total BEAD funding that will be required to complete the project. All projects will be completed with some combination of BEAD funds and an applicant's proposed match, which must cover no less than 25 percent of the project cost.
- **Scoring:**
 - **BEAD Outlay Per BSL:** The IBO will calculate the BEAD Program outlay per broadband serviceable location for each project area. This calculation will only include unserved and underserved BSLs. The most cost-efficient application for each project area will be awarded the project area unless the secondary scoring criteria must be applied. The calculation will be as follows:
 - Calculate the BEAD outlay per eligible location in the project area. Calculation = Total BEAD \$/eligible BSLs in the project. (Eligible is only unserved and underserved locations).
 - Total BEAD \$ will be assessed by taking the proposed budget and applying the proposed match rate (i.e., the total project cost minus the applicant's proposed match).

Secondary Criteria (100 total points)

If an application to serve the same general project area proposes a project cost within 15% of the lowest-cost proposal received for that same general project area on a per BSL basis, the IBO must evaluate such competing applications based on the secondary scoring criteria outlined below.

1. Speed to Deployment – (10 Points)

- a. Definition: The prospective subgrantee’s binding commitment to provision service by a date certain that is earlier than four years after the date on which the subgrantee will receive the subgrant from the Eligible Entity ... Greater consideration can be awarded to prospective subgrantees promising an earlier service provision date.
- b. Scoring: Up to 10 points are awarded based on how much earlier than the statutory four-year deadline the applicant commits to complete service provisioning; greater early-completion commitments receive more points.

2. Speed of Network and other Technical Capabilities - (40 Points)

- a. Definition: The IBO will weigh the speed, latency, and other technical capabilities of the technologies proposed by prospective subgrantees.
- b. Scoring: Up to 40 points are awarded based on the proposed network’s performance metrics—download/upload speed, latency, reliability, scalability, and technical architecture.

3. Preliminary Subgrantees - (50 Points)

- a. Definition: For locations where the IBO has already identified preliminary selected subgrantees, additional weight to those applications in the Benefit of the Bargain Round.
- b. Scoring: An automatic 50 points are awarded to applicants who have applied for the same general project area, where they were previously, preliminarily selected for a BEAD funding award.

Category	Maximum Points Available
Speed to Deployment	10
Speed of Network and other Technical Capabilities	40
Preliminary Subgrantees	50
TOTAL	100

