BEAD PROGRAM PRE-QUALIFICATION AND FUNDING APPLICATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

IDAHO OFFICE OF BROADBAND

Link Up Idaho

Q: What is BEAD?
A: The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program provides $42.45 billion to expand high-speed internet access by funding planning and infrastructure deployment. Idaho will receive a $583 million grant via the BEAD Program to improve broadband coverage across the state. BEAD Program requirements focus and prioritize this funding on unserved locations unable to obtain broadband service of at least 25 Megabits per second (Mbps) download and 3 Mbps upload (25/3 Mbps), underserved locations with broadband service between 25/3 Mbps and 100/20 Mbps and 1 Gbps symmetric for Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs). Unserved or underserved locations that have received recent grant funding are not eligible for BEAD funding.

Q: Who is an eligible applicant for Idaho BEAD funding?
A: Eligible applicants include eligible broadband providers as defined by [§40-517, Idaho Code](#), incorporated businesses or partnerships, non-profit organizations, limited liability companies, corporations, cooperative entities that provide broadband services, Idaho local or Tribal governments, or non-traditional providers (e.g., telecommunications provider, electric cooperative).

Q: How long will BEAD subgrantees have to complete construction?
A: Subgrantees will have 4 years from the date the agreement with the State is fully executed to complete construction.

Q: Do I have to submit a pre-qualification application for each potential project?
A: No, once your company is approved through the pre-qualification process you can submit multiple projects in the subgrantee funding application phase.

Q: When will BEAD subgrantee awards be determined?
A: Idaho will provisionally select subgrantee awards and submit the selections to NTIA as part of the State's Final Proposal. The IOB may choose to begin negotiating agreements prior to NTIA's approval of the Final Proposal. Once NTIA approves the Final Proposal, Idaho will make final awards.

Q: Is a BEAD Pre-qualification Application required to be able to apply for Idaho BEAD funding?
A: Yes, all prospective subgrantees must submit a pre-qualification application. Participating in this pre-qualification phase is non-binding, but it is a required step in the BEAD funding application process. Please complete the pre-qualification application if you are unsure about your participation. The pre-qualification application does not commit the applicant to anything.

Q: When does the BEAD Pre-qualification Application portal open?
A: The pre-qualification application portal opens on January 16, 2025, and closes on February 14, 2025, at 11:59 pm MST. The grant application can be assessed **[here](#)**.

Q: Can multiple users be set up under one Grant Portal account for the Idaho BEAD applications?
A: No, only one username is allowed per subgrant applicant entity. However, username and password can be shared by the Grant Portal assigned contact at their discretion. An officer or legal representative of the applicant organization with binding authority must complete the Idaho BEAD Pre-qualification Application.

Q: What happens if a required document does not upload correctly in the application?
A: If you are not able to upload a file into the application, please contact

grants@commerce.idaho.gov. Applicants that have completed their applications but have not submitted completed required documents will be given seven calendar days from notification to resubmit, after which they may be disqualified.

Q: Can any of the information submitted in the portal be treated as confidential?
A. Applicants must designate the information considered confidential that applicants wish to exclude from disclosure in the event of an Idaho public record request. The IOB will review designated information to determine if it is exempt from relevant Idaho disclosure laws. Per all Idaho public record requests, the IOB will internally redact any confidential information. As per federal law, the IOB is prohibited from disclosing confidential or sensitive personal or business information created or obtained in connection with the BEAD program.

Q: **How are BEAD Pre-qualification Applications graded?**
A: The IOB and a third party will evaluate pre-qualification submissions on a pass/fail basis. Pre-qualification applications will be reviewed by a third-party vendor for a period of up to 60 days after the pre-qualification application phase closes. Shortly thereafter, all applicants will be notified via email of their pass/fail status. Applicants who "pass" will be eligible to apply for Idaho BEAD funding.

Q: Does an applicant need to supply a Letter of Credit Certification in the BEAD Pre-Qualification Application?
A: No, but prior to the final Idaho BEAD funding agreement, prospective subgrantees will be required to submit a letter from an eligible bank or credit union committing to issue an irrevocable standby letter of credit or a certified surety on federal bonds committing to issue the prospective subgrantee a performance bond. Submissions must meet the eligibility requirements consistent with those set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.804(c) and NITA LOC Waiver Program Notice. Before an agreement is signed subgrantees will need to submit the letter of credit to the State.

Q: **If an Internet Service Provider (ISP) does not have audited financial statements, which financial documents need to submit? Should it include the Profit and Loss statement and the Balance Sheet?**
A: In cases where audited financial statements are unavailable, applicants should provide: 1) An unaudited financial statement for the previous fiscal year; and 2) a confirmation of an engagement letter from an independent accountant. Please note that profit and loss statements, balance sheets, or any financial documentation beyond the two specified above are not acceptable for this application.

Q: Can a subsidiary entity submit its parent company's audited financial statements to satisfy this requirement?
A: Yes, an applicant may rely upon its parent organization's audited financial statements to meet the requirement.

Q: How can I set up a time to meet with the IOB?
A: The Idaho Office of Broadband (IOB) will host weekly office hours throughout the pre-qualification phase. Sign up for open office hours at: **https://linkup.idaho.gov/beadsubgrantee/** or request an individual meeting via email at: **broadband@commerce.idaho.gov.**

Q: Provide a list of business and technical certifications and licenses relevant to BEAD funding participation that the applicant holds nationally and in Idaho.
A: When applying for BEAD funding, relevant business and technical certifications and licenses that could strengthen an application on a national scale include:
- Technical Expertise:

- Fiber Optic Certifications (e.g., Certified Fiber Optic Technician - CFOT)
- Network Certifications (e.g., Cisco Certified Network Associate - CCNA, Network+)
- Wireless Network Certifications (if applicable)
- Data Center Certifications (if relevant)
- GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Proficiency
- Project Management:
  - Project Management Professional (PMP)
- Business and Compliance:
  - General Contractor License
  - Telecommunications License
  - OSHA Safety Training Certification
  - Environmental Compliance Certifications

These certifications demonstrate a commitment to broadband deployment, network infrastructure, project management, and compliance with relevant regulations. Highlighting these areas in an application can be instrumental in showing readiness and capability to manage the project scope effectively.

Q: My company has two DBAs with their own EIN# that would like to apply for projects. Can they both register under one pre-qualification application?
A: No, if they have their own EINs, and will be applying for projects separately, they need to each have their own pre-qualification application submitted.

Q: Provide a narrative of the applicant's current and planned approach to project labor agreements (Pre-Qualification question 45).
A: Page 78 of the IOB's IP Volume II, section 2.7.2, outlines requirements that eligible entities must fulfill for all subgrantees. Question 45 requests a comprehensive narrative detailing the applicant's strategy for incorporating these workforce requirements into their project plan.

Q: Operational Capability Spreadsheet Column E: What types of technology do you deploy?
A: Only one technology per line; use additional lines if you offer multiple technologies
1. Fiber Optic
2. Coax
3. DSL
4. Licensed Fixed Wireless
5. Unlicensed Fixed Wireless
6. Other (if selected, elaborate in Column I)

Q: Operational Capability Spreadsheet Column H: What is the maximum speed
A: Upload and download that you offer for the technology you selected in Column E.

Q: Managerial Capability spreadsheet Column I: Key management personnel involved.
A: Provide names and titles

Q: Managerial Capability spreadsheet Column J: Technical technology type.
A: Fiber Optic 1000 Mbps symmetrical; ADSL 100/20, etc.

Q: Managerial Capability spreadsheet Column K (Narrative Experience): Include methods and strategies; technical teams and expertise.
A: Include methods and strategies; technical teams and expertise (brief description of the qualifications and experience of individuals you listed in column I); resources; reimbursement

models, timeframe, comparison to anticipated project(s), geographic characteristics, and resulting experience in designing and constructing broadband projects and working with operating networks to provide last mile services.

Q: Question 46: Does the applicant certify it will take all NTIA-required affirmative action steps to ensure minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible, as outlined in the BEAD NOFO pgs. 88-89?
A: The Idaho Department of Transportation maintains a directory of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE). This question requires a "Yes" or "No" response certifying that, if awarded, the applicant will utilize DBEs when possible.