

# IDAHO OFFICE OF BROADBAND

## BEAD Update

Open Office Hours

July 17, 2025



# Agenda

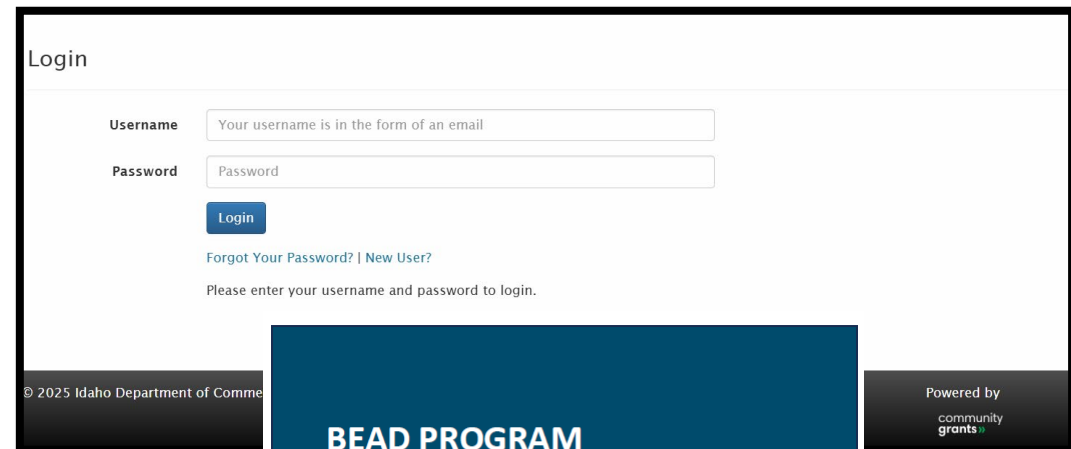
- Grant Portal Demo
- Map Updates & Demo
- Scoring
- Deconfliction
- Project Design
- BSL Exclusions
- Allowable Match Sources
- Letter of Credit
- Key Post-Application Deadlines:
  - Letter of Credit
  - Tribal Consent
  - Audited Financials
- FAQ and Resources



# Grant Portal Demo

- Prequal & Funding Applications
- Application Guides, Templates & Resources on **Link Up Idaho**  
(<https://linkup.idaho.gov/beadsubgrantee/>)

**BEAD Application Deadline:**  
**Tuesday 7/29 @ 12:00 PM MT**



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**BEAD PROGRAM  
PREQUALIFICATION  
APPLICATION  
GUIDELINES**

*Updated 07.11.25*

IDAHO  
OFFICE OF BROADBAND



07.15.25

**BEAD PROGRAM  
FUNDING  
APPLICATION  
GUIDELINES**

IDAHO DEPARTMENT  
OF COMMERCE  
OFFICE OF BROADBAND



# Map Updates: Complying with the Policy Notice

1. States can **only alter approved location lists** in accordance with the Policy Notice.
2. States must **investigate and account for locations that do not require BEAD funding** and remove them with non-service codes as outlined in the Final Proposal guidance.
3. States must **modify BEAD-eligible locations lists** to include locations that are no longer served due to a default of a Federal Enforceable Commitment where the Federal entity have notified NTIA by 6/6/2025.
4. States are required to **give UFLW providers an opportunity to remove the locations they serve** from BEAD eligibility before implementing the new subgrantee selection process.

Eligible BSLs pre-  
2025 Policy Notice:  
~99,000

Eligible BSLs post-  
2025 Policy Notice:  
~92,250



# APA Map 4.0 Demo


- APA Map 3.0 vs. 4.0




Click to go to Map 4.0


# BSL Exclusions

- Applicants are strongly encouraged to design their proposed project to serve all eligible BSLs
- To support projects in high-cost areas, an applicant **may identify up to 5% of the BSLs within each APA** included in a proposed project that it **prefers not to serve.**
- These designated BSLs may include, but are not exclusive to, eligible BSLs in NTIA-designated high-cost census block groups.
- Applicants may also identify BSLs that they believe are no longer “eligible” BSLs under the BEAD Program rules and request not to serve.



## WHAT ARE THE NON-SERVICE CODES? —

- No Broadband Connection** 

Location should not have a broadband connection (example: barn, hay bale, or rock)
- No Demand for Mass-Market Broadband Service** 

Location does not need mass-market broadband service due to the nature of internet use (example: the entity located at the BSL requires enterprise service)
- Removal from FCC's Fabric**

Location has been removed from the latest version of the FCC Fabric
- Enforceable Commitment**



Location will be served through an enforceable commitment (EC) that was not deduplicated during the EE's challenge process
- Served by Non-Subsidized Service**

Location is already served by non-subsidized service (i.e., a network built by an ISP with private funds). The current FCC National Broadband Map must depict currently available qualifying broadband service at the location.
- Other Reasons**

Any other reasons that are not listed
- Insufficient Funds**

The EE is financially incapable of serving an underserved location

**Key:**

-  Reason codes with sub-codes
-  EEs must file an FCC Location Challenge prior to FP submission

**NTIA**

# BSL Application Questions

Question #	Question	Notes
13	Brief Proposed Project Description (to be posted on the Link Up Idaho website). Include the APA identifier(s), <b>number of eligible BSLs to be served</b> , planned technology type, proposed speeds, match amount, and BEAD grant funds requested.	
17-21	Number of <b>Passings</b> (Eligible Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) in the proposed project area to be served with BEAD funding)	“Passings” are BSLs that the applicant commits to serve with BEAD funding. Questions 18-21 require the applicant to provide a further breakdown of the total passings
23	Project Area and <b>BSL Template</b> . Please complete and upload the Project Area and BSL Template.	Applicants are required to complete the second, third, and fourth tabs. <u>Eligible Locations Reference</u> tab of the template: Applicants will use the pre-populated list in the Eligible Locations Reference tab to copy and paste the BSLs for each APA into the BSL Worksheet tab. This list is created from the IOB and NTIA-approved list of APAs and eligible BSLs.
24-26	<b>Prefer Not to Serve BSLs</b> : Total number of BSLs in the proposed project area that applicant has identified as high-cost and would prefer not to serve. If none, please put “0.”	Applicants are strongly encouraged to serve all BSLs in the project area. However, the Project Area and BSL Template allows applicants to identify up to five percent of the BSLs in each APA in the project area as “prefer not to serve.”
40-41	Total <b>Project Cost</b> per Eligible BSL Passing - AND - <b>BEAD Requested Funding Cost</b> per Eligible BSL Passing	Provide the calculated cost per passing (unserved, underserved, and CAI BSLs) for the proposed project, and calculate a cost-per-passing using only the amount of requested funding from the Idaho BEAD Program.

# Scoring Matrix | Primary Criteria

## Idaho's Matrix

	Criterion	Description	Maximum Points
<p>Applications will be evaluated based on the minimal BEAD outlay for APAs in the applicant's proposal.</p> <p>The minimal BEAD outlay is based on the lowest subsidy requested for each APA divided by the number of BSLs proposed to be served in that APA.</p>	<b>Minimal BEAD Program Outlay</b>	Lowest average cost per location in proposed application project area after match	55

## 2025 Policy Notice

**3.6 The Primary Criteria to choose a BEAD subgrantee is “... the option with the lowest cost based on minimal program outlay” (RPN, 3.4, p.12). However, Secondary Criteria are provided. Can you explain this?**

Scoring subgrantee applications may consist of a two-part process.

First, the Eligible Entity must determine which Priority Broadband Projects (PBP) proposal costs the least according to the minimal BEAD program outlay definition (see RPN, 3.4, p. 12). (Note: If PBP proposals are too expensive, an Eligible Entity can move to less expensive non-PBPs.) If there are no proposals within 15% of the lowest cost proposal, and costs aren't excessive, that proposal wins.

Second, if there are other proposals for the same project area that are within 15% of the lowest cost proposal, the Eligible Entity then goes on to consider Secondary Criteria in order to determine a winner (RPN, 3.4, p. 12).



# Scoring Matrix | Secondary Criteria

## Speed to Deployment

The prospective subgrantee's binding commitment to provide service by a date certain that is earlier than four years after the date on which the subgrantee will receive the subgrant from the State. Failure to comply with this commitment will result in contractual penalties. Greater consideration can be awarded to prospective subgrantees promising an earlier service provision date.

**Important note:** Secondary Scoring Criteria, which can only consist of criteria related to "Speed to Deployment" and "Speed of Network and other Technical Capabilities," is only triggered when there are multiple applications proposing to serve the same project area(s) and those applications propose per-BSL costs within 15% of each other.

## Idaho's Matrix

Open Office Hours Update

Description	Maximum Points
Deployment schedule commitment < 24 months	5
Deployment schedule commitment 25-35 months	4
Deployment schedule commitment 36-41 months	3
Deployment schedule commitment 42-47 months	2
Deployment schedule commitment = 48 months	0
<b>Download Speed:</b>	
> 5G	10
2G -5G	8
1G - 2G	5
700-999 Mbps	4
401-699 Mbps	3
250-400 Mbps	2
101-249 Mbps	1
<b>Upload Speed:</b>	
>5G	10
2G-5G	8
1G - 2G	5
650-999 Mbps	4
250-649 Mbps	3
100-249 Mbps	2
21-99 Mbps	1
<b>Latency</b>	
Less than 10 ms	10
10-20 ms	7
21-35 ms	5
36-50 ms	3
51-65 ms	1
<b>Scalability</b>	
≥ 5G	10
2G-4G	8
2G/2G	5
Scalability Stated to 1G/1G	3
Scalability Stated to 500/500 Mbps	1

# Subgrantee Selection: Complying with the Policy Notice

**States Must Consider “Priority Broadband Projects” (PBP) first.**

**The term “Priority Broadband Project” is restored to the IIJA definition with no preference for any specific technology:**

1. Provide broadband service at speeds of no less than 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload.
2. Has latency less than or equal to 100 ms.
3. Can easily scale speeds over time to meet the evolving connectivity needs of households and businesses.
4. Supports the deployment of 5G, successor wireless technologies, and other advanced services.

# Project Design

IOB will be looking for applicants to submit their best project design in each application. Applicants are required to provide detailed information to support their funding requests using several different categories:

- **Proposed Project Area** with the goal to maximize the number of BSLs included in the project
- **Project Budget** with a detailed break-down of cost categories
- **Project Deployment Timeline** broken down by key project milestones including planning, design, procurement, permitting, and more.
- **Network Route Diagram** to show technical and operational performance, scalability, and reliability; use of industry best practices; a comprehensive design; knowledge of the existing facilities; and the best use of funding for a successful deployment
- **Technical Questions** on scalability, reliability, equipment-types, and capacity
- **Technology -Specific Questions** to support network performance claims and funding requests

*NOTE: The IOB reserves the right to require additional information regarding the proposed network's ability to meet BEAD performance standards and may issue future guidance*

# Deconfliction

## Goal: 100% Coverage

### Multi-Step Process

- **APAs with one application**
  - Cost analysis
- **APAs with multiple applications**
  - Analyzing characteristics of applications
  - Adjacent APA analysis
- **Severability and partial awards**
  - APAs with two or more application responses
  - Additional information may be requested from applicants
  - Identify and assess if and how proposed projects could be adjusted
- **Negotiations**
  - Direct discussions regarding APAs and BSLs within

### NTIA FAQ v12

The third factor - the combination of the proposals with the lowest overall cost to the Program - is not a set “formula.” For example, suppose a project area has 20 BSLs, and the Eligible Entity receives two Priority Broadband Project proposals to serve them:

- Proposal A is \$100 to serve 15 locations (It took out five locations due to excessive cost.)
- Proposal B is \$200 to serve all 20 locations

At first glance, one might conclude Proposal A is the most cost-effective. But the Eligible Entities should also consider how much it will cost to serve the five ‘excessive cost’ BSLs Proposal A omitted.

If funding another provider to serve those five remaining locations will cost \$500, the total cost to BEAD to serve the project area (Proposal A (\$100) + \$500 = \$600) far exceeds the cost of Proposal B (\$200), and thus Proposal B should be selected, if all other things are equal.

# Allowable Match Sources – Federal

## Alignment with the Authorizing Statute is the Applicant's Responsibility

### U.S. Dept of Agriculture ReConnect Program (Loans)

*Source: BEAD NOFO named as explicitly permitted*

### U.S. Dept of the Treasury Coronavirus State & Local Recovery Funds (SLFRF - ARPA)

*Source: BEAD NOFO; determined federal statute explicitly permitted as BEAD match as allowed by SLFRF authorizing statute*

### U.S. Dept of the Treasury Capital Project Funds (CPF)

*Source: BEAD NOFO; determined federal statute explicitly permitted as BEAD match as allowed by CPF authorizing statute*

### Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act Funds

*Source: BEAD NOFO; determined federal statute explicitly permitted as BEAD match as allowed by CARES authorizing statute*

### Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) Funds

*Source: BEAD NOFO; determined federal statute explicitly permitted as BEAD match as allowed by FFCRA authorizing statute*

### Economic Development Administration (EDA) Grants

### Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021

*Source: BEAD NOFO; determined federal statute explicitly permitted as BEAD match as allowed by Consolidated Appropriation Act authorizing statute*

### Federal Regional Commissions or Authorities

(ARC, Denali Commission, Northern Border Regional Commission, etc.)

*Source: BEAD NOFO, these are named as explicitly permitted*

### Other Eligible Federal Loans

BEAD NOFO references USDA ReConnect "as an example," implying broader eligibility for federal loan programs



# Allowable Match Sources – Non-Federal

## **Subgrantee**

*Source: BEAD NOFO named as explicitly permitted*

## **Unit of Local Government**

## **Utility Company**

## **Cooperative**

## **Nonprofit or Philanthropic Organization**

## **For-Profit Company**

## **Regional Planning or Government Organization**

## **Municipal Bond Revenue**

*(Review NTIA FAQs Section 4  
[https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/technical-assistance/BEAD\\_FAQs](https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/technical-assistance/BEAD_FAQs))*

## **In-Kind Contributions**

*(Review NTIA FAQs Section 4  
[https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/technical-assistance/BEAD\\_FAQs](https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/technical-assistance/BEAD_FAQs))*

# Letter of Commitment

## Submission Requirements:

- On the institution's letterhead
- Addressed to the applicant
- Specify the expected financial commitment of the letter of credit or performance bond
- If it can't be submitted with the application, upload a document indicating one will be submitted **WITHIN 21 days** after the application window closes
  - Email letter to [IdahoBEAD@mbakerintl.com](mailto:IdahoBEAD@mbakerintl.com)

## Letter of Credit for awarded grant must be:

- 25% of the subgrant award amount\*

## Performance Bond for awarded grant **MUST** be:

- 100% of the subgrant award amount\*

## Additional Information:

- A sample letter is posted on the Link Up Idaho website
- Letter of Credit guidance:
  - BEAD NOFO
  - BEAD Letter of Credit Waiver Notice\* (10.2023)
- *Note: The BEAD Program is governed by NTIA, which is under the U.S. Department of Commerce. IOB will follow NTIA and Dept of Commerce rules and guidance for letter of credit obligations.*
- *\*NTIA Waiver Notice describes alternative LOC and Performance Bond structures*

# Key Post-Application Deadlines

## Letter of Commitment Q#43

If the Letter of Commitment for the letter of credit or performance bond is not available from the financial institution at the time of application submission, it is due no later than 21 calendar days after the BEAD application window closes.

**DUE 8/19/25**

## Tribal Consent Q#48

If the Resolution or formal documentation is not available at the time of application submission:

1. Upload a document stating the documentation will be submitted by IOB's deadline (21 calendar days after the BEAD application window closes).
2. Submit the Resolution or formal document by the deadline.

*(Details about Tribal consent are in IOB IPV2 Section 2.4.8)*

**DUE 8/19/25**

## Audited Financial Statements

If you did not submit audited financial statements during Prequalification Application, they are due no later than 66 calendar days after the BEAD application window opens.

**DUE 9/19/25**

***All documentation noted above is required to be considered for an award.***

# Next Steps

## IOB

- Post updated FAQs daily around 4:00 p.m. MT, Monday- Friday.
- Questions submitted [idahobead@mbakerintl.com](mailto:idahobead@mbakerintl.com) will be incorporated into the daily FAQ document, as appropriate.

## Prospective Subgrantees

- NTIA BEAD FAQs (updated often) [NTIA BEAD FAQs](#)
- Email questions to [idahobead@mbakerintl.com](mailto:idahobead@mbakerintl.com) (all questions will be added to the daily FAQ posting)
- Stay informed, engaged, and educated by monitoring [Link Up Idaho](#). The BEAD NOFO, and the NTIA BEAD Policy Notice (06.06.25) are accessible through Link Up Idaho.

# Questions?

