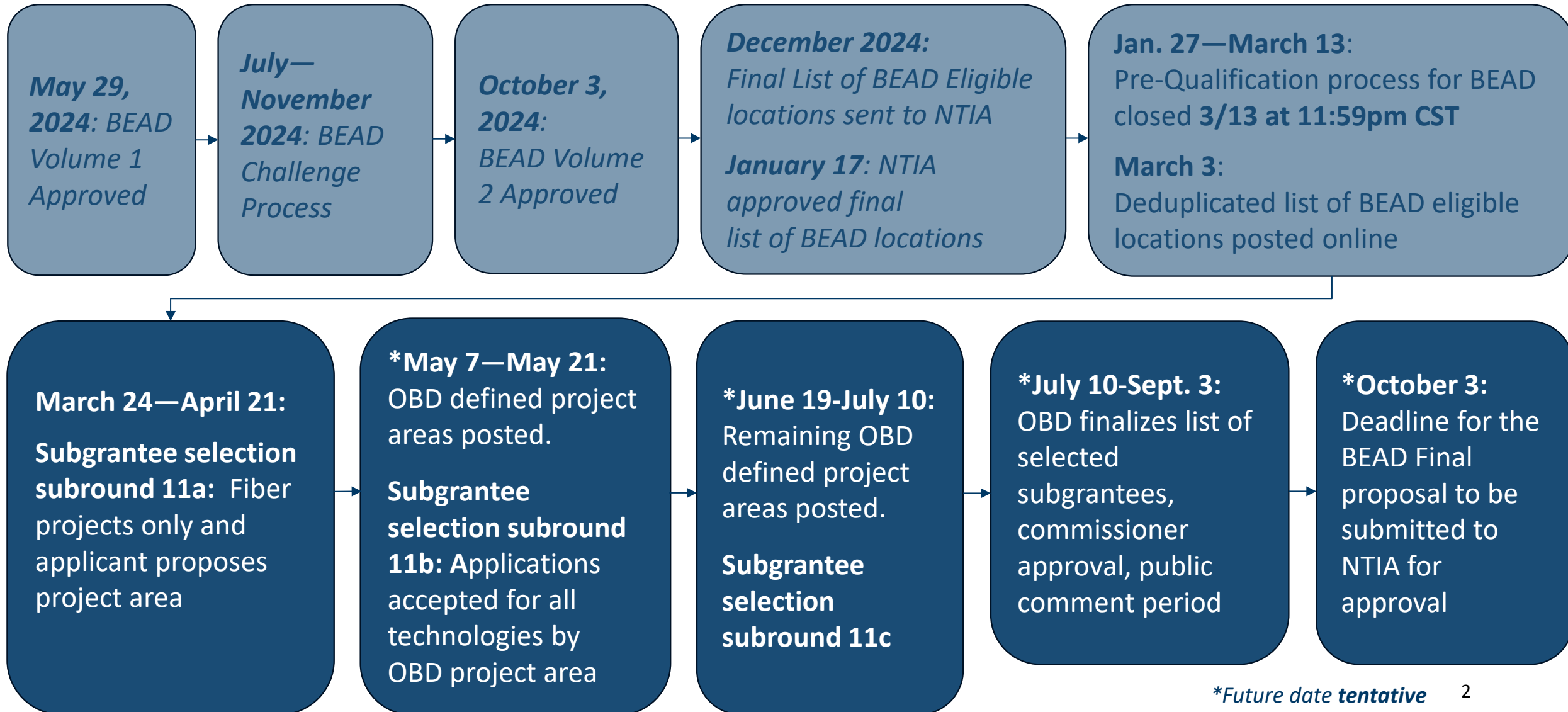




Office of Broadband Development | BEAD Weekly Office Hours

April 8, 2025

BEAD Timeline in Minnesota



- The [BEAD Application Guide](#) was updated to provide clarifications on questions 2 related to the location selection download; 5, 6, and 51 related to Network Design; and question 21 letter of credit and performance bonds.
- From NTIA, the [ArcGIS Pro Permitting and Environmental Information Tool \(APPEIT\) Overview and User Instructions](#) were posted. This tool is intended to help federal broadband grant recipients and subgrantees identify permits and environmental factors as they plan routes for their broadband deployments.
- The [MN BEAD Contractor Directory](#) is available and will be updated weekly. To be added to the directory, complete and submit the [Minnesota BEAD Contractor Directory Form](#).

FAQ reminder, Waivers

- **Reminder on waivers for if subaward amount requests exceed \$10M:** Applicants should request the amount of the subaward they require to complete the project as submitted. If the amount of the subaward exceeds \$10 million, **no waiver request needs to be included with the application for that provision as OBD can waive the amount on its own** if necessary to comply with federal standards that apply to the BEAD funding.

FAQ reminder, Letter of Credit + Performance Bonds

If selected for an award, subgrantees must provide a letter of credit or performance bond reflecting the awarded BEAD support. For more information, see [NTIA's BEAD Letter of Credit Waiver policy](#).

Letter of Credit Options:

Letter of credit: Must equal at least 25% of subaward and has option to reduce in stages at milestones. Must be issued by a bank that meets the eligibility requirements in 47 CFR 54.804(c)(2).

Credit union option: Must be insured by Nation Credit Union Administration with safety rating of B- or better issued by Weiss required

Alternative Option: Provide a letter of credit equal to at least 10% of the subaward with reimbursements for periods of no more than six months. Must maintain LOC until completion of the build at 100% of locations and grant project certified as closed.

Performance Bond Options:

Performance bond: Issued by a surety company on the Department of Treasury's list. Must equal at least 100% of subaward and option to reduce progressively in stages at milestones.

Required letter: Issued by a company holding a certificate of authority as an acceptable surety. Must include dollar amount and bankruptcy opinion letter from legal counsel not required.

Alternatives: Performance bond in the value of 10% able to receive funding on a reimbursable basis only twice per year and must maintain performance until completion of build to 100% of locations and grant project is certified as closed.

Update on FAQs, continued

- [Subgrantee Selection FAQs, updated 4/4](#)
- [BEAD FAQ form](#). Please continue to submit all questions for the FAQ via online web form. **Subgrantee Selection questions pertaining to 11a must be submitted by April 15.**
 - Questions submitted from 3/26 to 4/1: All drafted responses approved by NTIA were posted 4/4. One response is pending review with NTIA as an Initial Proposal Correction on the definition of "qualifying household" for low-income requirement.
 - Questions submitted from 4/2 to 4/8: 1 under review, 8 drafted responses from OBD being sent to review by NTIA

BEAD Office Hours and Application Information Session

The last office hours for the first round, 11a, of subgrantee selection will be next week

- **Tuesday 11am, [April 15, register here](#)**

Application Information Session + Office Hours for the second round, 11b:

- Application Information Session 11b, [Tuesday May 6, register here](#) - *this session will be recorded and posted to the OBD BEAD webpage.*
- BEAD office hours, [Tuesday May 13 11am, register here](#)
- BEAD office hours, [Tuesday May 20, 11am, register here](#)

Registration for the third round of subgrantee selection, round 11c, will be available soon. The office hours sessions will pause during the periods of time that applications are under active review.

Questions?

Stay up to date by signing up for our **biweekly email updates** at: mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/contact/