BEAD APPLICATION USER GUIDE

Version 1.3 – April 8, 2025

Contents

Overview

The BEAD Grantor Portal is being used for several components of the Minnesota Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program. This includes the pre-registration process, BEAD application submission, and communication of BEAD award results. This application user guide is intended to provide step-by-step instructions on the application process, which is how pre-qualified ISPs will apply for BEAD funding. The application must be completed by an officer of the company or legal representative with binding authority to make business decisions.

For help with pre-registration, refer to the BEAD Pre-Registration Applicant User Guide. Additional information, including future and past Office Hours webinars and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) materials, can be found on the Minnesota BEAD program webpage. Questions regarding the BEAD application should be submitted using the BEAD FAQ Submission Form For technical questions or issues logging into the grantor portal, reach out to mnhelpdesk@ready.net.

Application Process

The application process consists of three phases: Round 11a for priority Fiber projects only, Round 11b for all technologies, and Round 11c which includes all technologies and a direct negotiation stage to achieve 100% coverage of all broadband serviceable locations (BSLs). This phase of the application is where the applicant will select locations they wish to serve and submit remaining information to demonstrate the applicant has the managerial, operational, financial, and technical qualifications required to deliver their proposed project. During the application process, prospective applicants are encouraged to access and reference the Minnesota BEAD webpage to access applicant resources and attend BEAD Office Hours to ask questions.

Starting a BEAD Application

Prospective applicants must have completed the pre-registration process and received an official notice of qualification from the Minnesota Office of Broadband Development before they can submit an application. Users are allowed to submit multiple applications.

To start the BEAD application process, first, log in to the BEAD Grantor Portal (upon logging in, you will see if you have been qualified through the pre-application process). If you have been qualified through the pre-registration process, click the **APPLY FOR BEAD** and then **BEAD Applications** header on the left side of the screen. *If you have not already been qualified, you are not eligible to participate in the BEAD application process.*
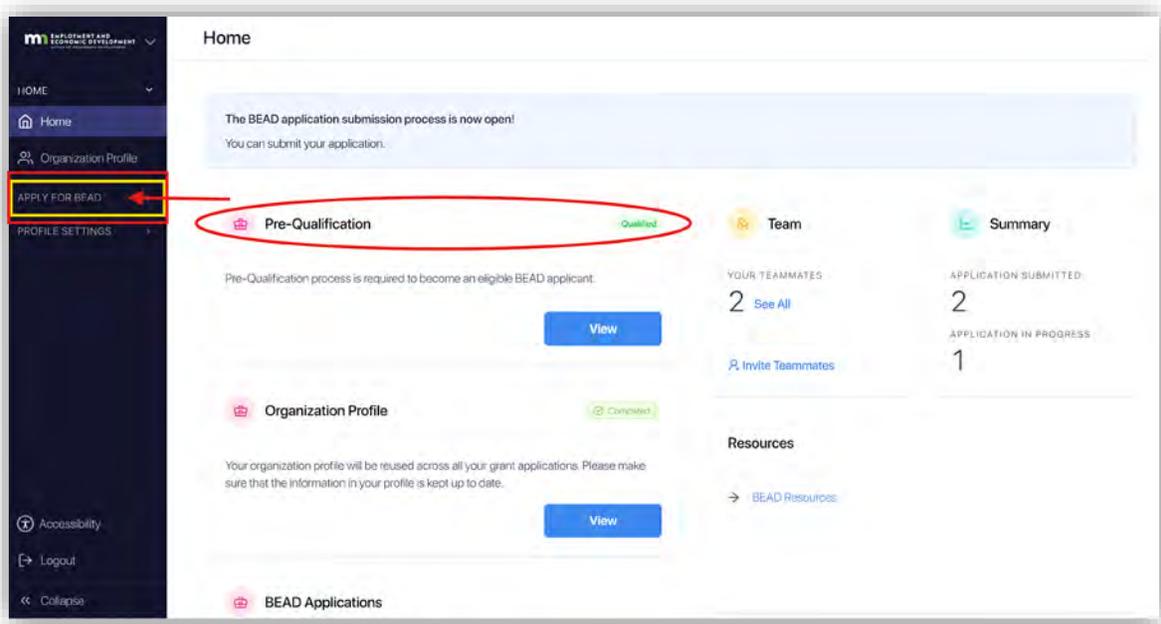
Once on the BEAD Applications screen, click **Start New Application** to begin.
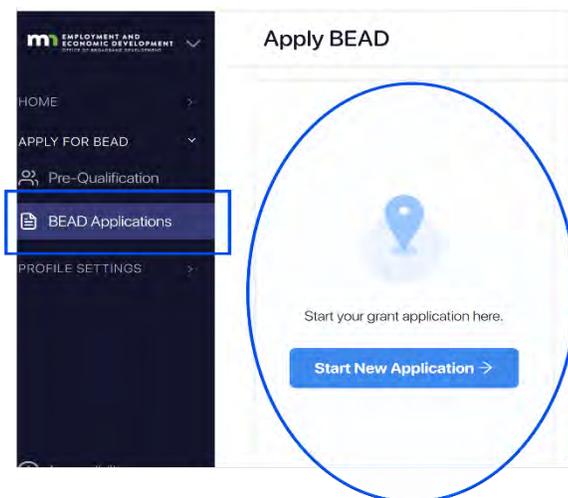
Section 1: Select Locations

In Section 1, applicants in priority fiber Round 11a will be able to select the locations that they would like to apply for. Applicants should use the BEAD eligibility list and map to determine which locations they wish to apply for and then select locations in the portal. Selected locations will define the proposed project area of the application.

There are several ways applicants can select locations:

- *Upload a list in a .csv/.xlsx format. The file must contain only one column (fabric id) with only text values.*
- *Click to select locations directly on the map.*
- *Search for a location using the location search box.*
- *Verify locations from your upload within the tool. Select the locations to add or remove from your proposed project area.*
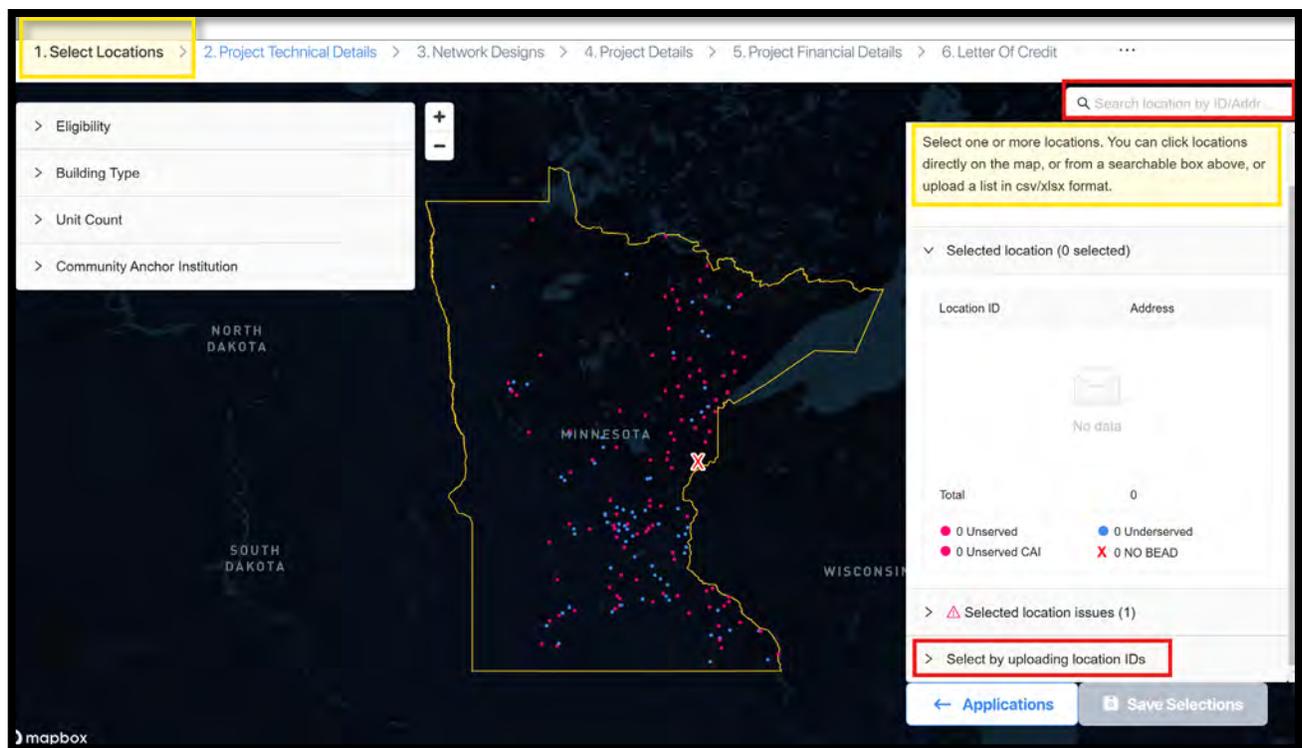
Unserved and underserved BSLs are preloaded into the selection map as location points to assist the applicant in confirming their selection of locations is accurate. The system will summarize the count and designations of locations they have selected or uploaded. Note: "No BEAD" locations are locations represented with an "X". These locations were designated as eligible for BEAD post-Challenge, but evidence exists that these locations will not require BEAD funding to be served or are already served.

Video Tutorial for Selecting Locations
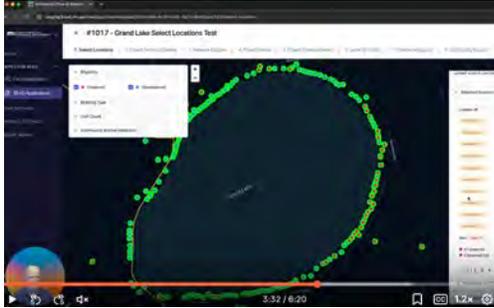
A short video tutorial of the options to selection locations in the portal can be viewed here:

https://www.loom.com/share/4f3b2efdd31041298267c1816e39747f?sid=730c12f6-cb0b-450e-ad1d-b8fc37146269

After completing project area selections, click **Review Locations** at the bottom of the screen to review each of the locations included in the selected project area. You may review each location in the portal map by clicking the location ID to zoom, or by exporting selected locations as a .csv or .xlsx file. The exported file will come as a table download with area ID, service address, latitude, and longitude. After reviewing and confirming the selected locations (a prompt to **Save Locations** will open), click **Next** at the bottom right of the screen to proceed to Section 2.
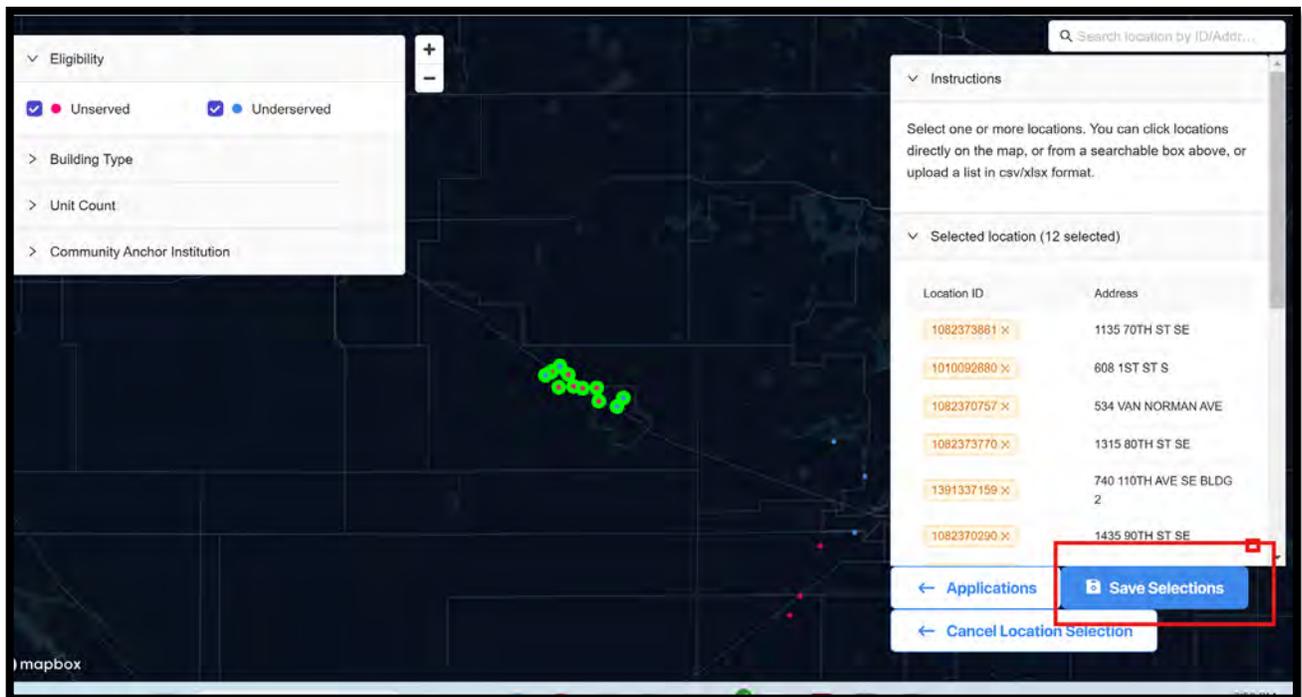
Section 2: Project Technical Details

In Section 2, enter the project's technical details by answering questions and using a download template provided in the portal to indicate technical specifics for each location selected for the project.
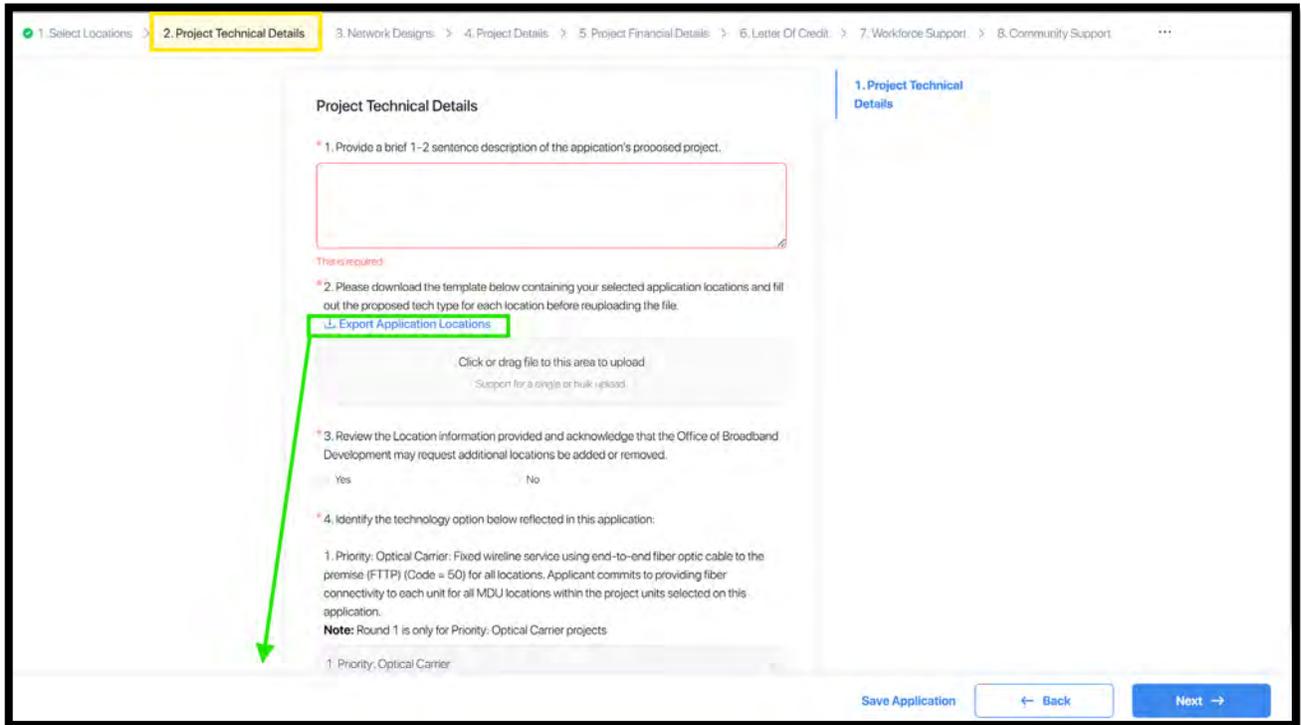
Export Application Locations – fields to complete
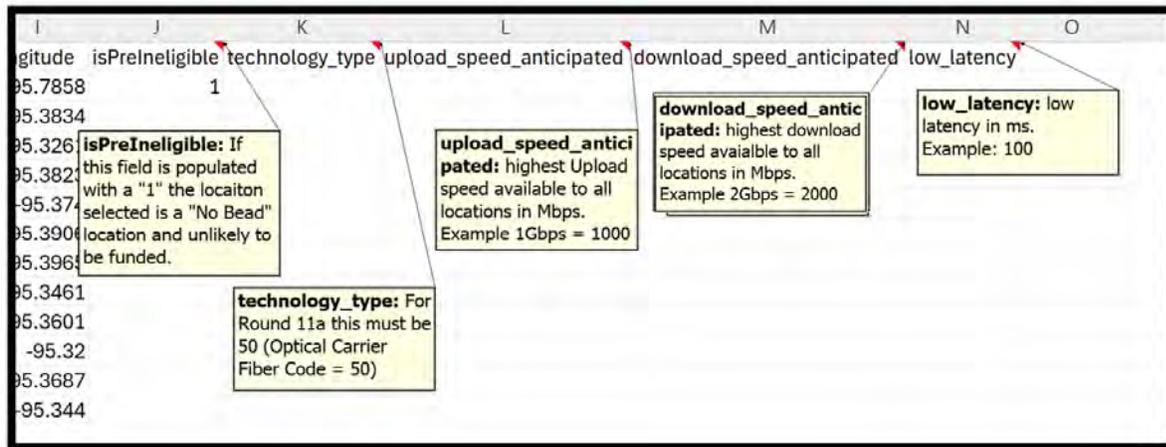
1) **Provide a brief 1-2 sentence description of the application's proposed project.** (Text box) Suggested inclusions: location area, technology, speed, number of locations and any funding partners.

2) **Use the template download containing your selected application locations and complete the proposed technical information for each location before saving and uploading the file** (This is a file

download link, you download on the platform, complete it and re-upload to the platform.).

a) **Technology Type for Round 11a must be type 50**. Priority: Optical Carrier: Fixed wireline service using end-to-end fiber optic cable to the premise (FTTP) **(Code = 50)** for all locations

b) **Upload Speed Anticipated and Download Speed Anticipated** Provide the best upload and download speeds available to ALL project locations (please list speeds in Mbps).

c) **Low Latency: Provide anticipated latency for All locations.**

An overview of downloading and uploading this template is included in the Location Selection Tutorial video: https://www.loom.com/share/4f3b2efdd31041298267c1816e39747f?sid=730c12f6-cb0b-450e-ad1d-b8fc37146269 .

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3) **Review the Location information provided and acknowledge that the Office of Broadband Development may request additional locations be added or removed**. (Yes or No)

4) **Identify the technology option below reflected in this application:**

a) 1. Priority: Optical Carrier: Fixed wireline service using end-to-end fiber optic cable to the premise (FTTP) (Code = 50) for all locations. Applicant commits to providing fiber connectivity to each unit for all MDU locations within the project units selected on this application.
Note: Round 1 is only for Priority: Optical Carrier project

Section 3: Network Design

In Section 3, enter the project's network design details by completing and uploading the network design fillable form and design map, and answering the following questions.
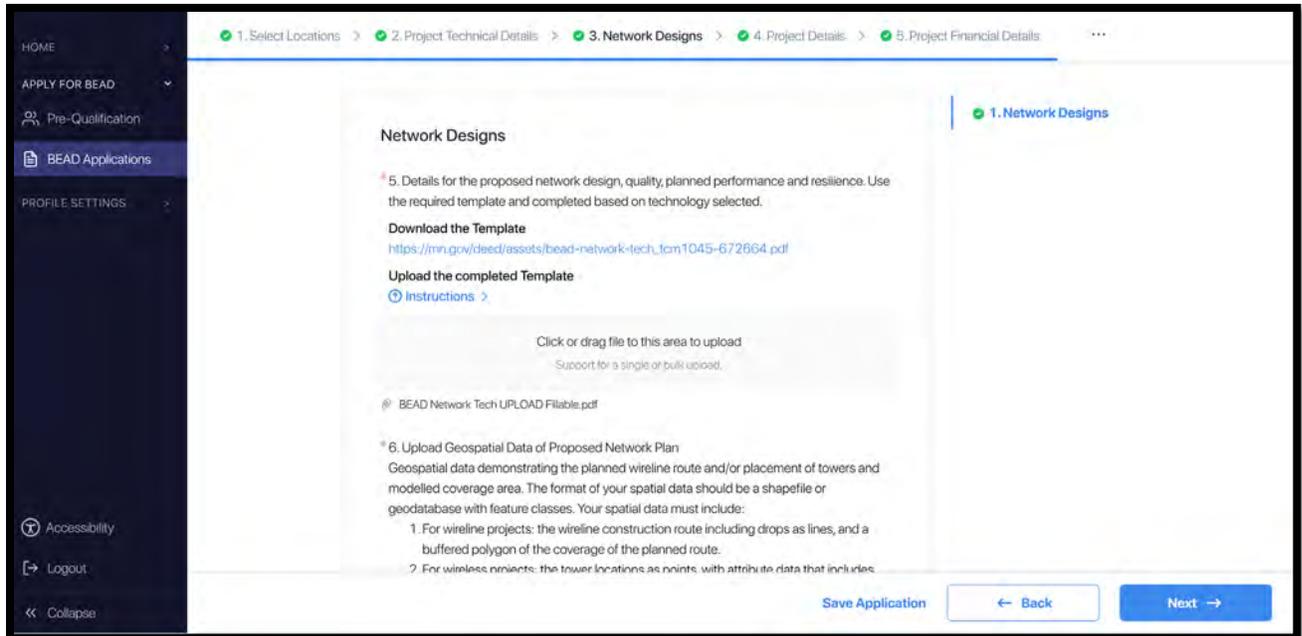
5) **Details for the proposed network design, quality, planned performance and resilience. Use the required template and complete based on technology selected.** (Downloadable fillable form. https://mn.gov/deed/assets/bead-network-tech_tcm1045-672664.pdf. Complete, save in original form and upload. This round is only for optical fiber projects.)

In addition to the network form upload. The Professional Engineer (PE) stamp or certification will be required for provisional awardees. "Provisional awardee" is an applicant who has been selected to receive funding but whose award is not yet final and is subject to review and approval by the NTIA (National Telecommunications and Information Administration). **Provisionally awarded applicants must provide the following items certified by a Professional Engineer (PE)** stating that the proposed network can deliver broadband service that meets the requisite performance requirements to all locations served by the project:

- **A network design and diagram;**
- **Detailed project costs;**
- **Build-out timeline and milestones for project implementation; and**
- **A capital investment schedule evidencing complete build-out and the initiation of service within four years of the date on which the entity receives the subgrant.**

Applicants that have a PE certified design plan or PE certified letter may upload it now here.

6) **Upload Geospatial Data of Proposed Network Plan**

Geospatial data demonstrating the planned wireline route and coverage area. The format of your spatial data should be a shapefile, kmz or geodatabase with feature classes.

Your spatial data must include:

➢ *For wireline projects: the wireline construction route including drops as lines, and a buffered polygon of the coverage of the planned route. If known at this time, include critical asset locations and description.*

7) **Please specify what part of the network will be constructed in the proposed project.** *(Note: All projects for this round are for Last-mile Broadband deployment only.)* **Last Mile**

8) **Provide the anticipated number of miles of aerial fiber to provide service to the locations within the project.** (numerical entry)

9) **Provide the anticipated number of miles of buried fiber to provide service to the locations within the project.** (numerical entry)

Section 4: Project Details

In section 4 you will answer questions related to three categories: Speed to Deployment, Tribal Consent, and Affordability.

Speed to Deployment

10) **Using the estimated contract execution date of 5/1/2026, provide the estimated** start date**. (date selector)**

11) **Using the estimated contract execution date of 5/1/2026, provide the estimated end date: This date must be after the project start date and before March 2, 2032. (**date selector)
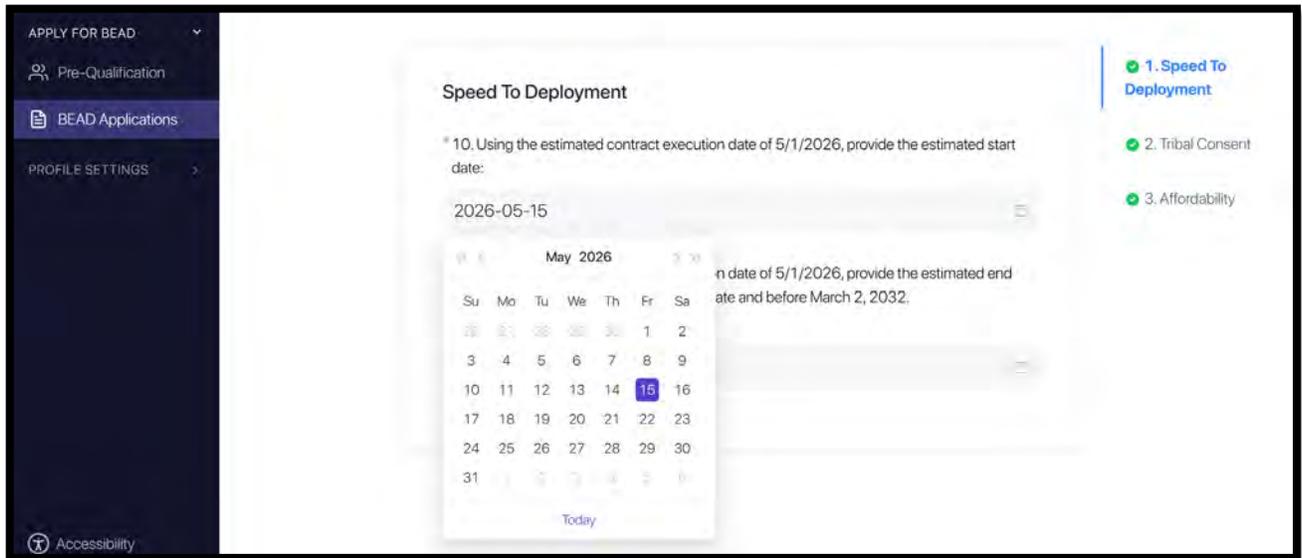
Tribal Consent

12) **Indicate whether the project will intersect, traverse or include any locations on Tribal lands.** (Yes/No)
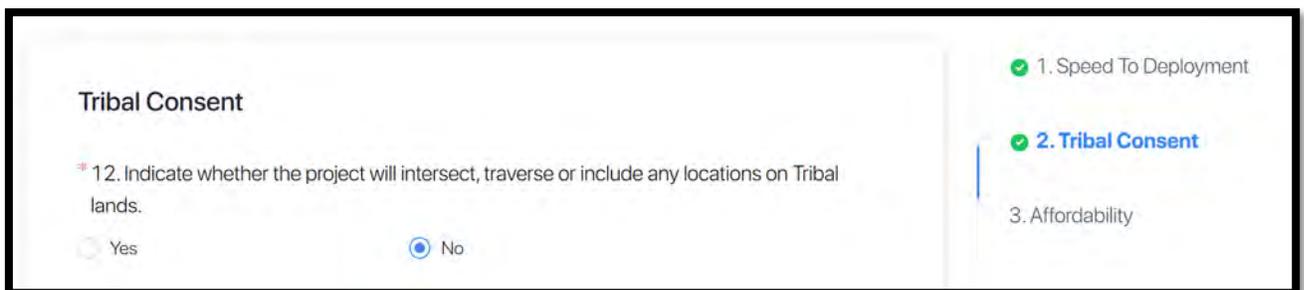
If yes, applicant will be prompted to upload evidence of a legally binding agreement or substantial progress towards a legally binding agreement which includes a Tribal Government Resolution between the Tribal government of the Tribal Lands encompassing the project locations, or its authorized agent and a service provider proposing qualifying broadband service to that location. The applicant will also be asked to select the Tribe whose territory the project activities will be conducted on, from a drop-down list.

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* 12a. If yes, upload Tribal agreement or an explanation of substantial progress towards an agreement if official Tribal agreement is not yet available.

? Instructions ⌄

Any BEAD application project that intersects, traverses, or includes locations on Tribal lands must include, as identified in footnote 62 of the BEAD NOFO, "a legally binding agreement, which includes a Tribal Government Resolution, between the Tribal Government of the Tribal Lands encompassing that location, or its authorized agent, and a service provider offering qualifying broadband service to that location.

? Close Instructions ⌃

Click or drag file to this area to upload

Support for a single or bulk upload.

* 12b. Provide the name of the tribe(s) in whose territory the project will conduct activities. (The tribes listed must correspond with the Resolution(s) of Consent submitted in Requirement 15)

? Instructions ›

This is required.

Affordability

13) **For priority fiber projects, supply the monthly rate for gigabit speed service**. (numerical entry $ whole numbers)

14) **Applicant agrees to offer the BEAD required low-cost plan as described in Minnesota's approved Volume 2 requirement 16, Section 2.12.1, pages 64-66?** (Yes/No)

If No, applicant will be required to upload a waiver request. https://mn.gov/deed/assets/bead-waiver-request-guide_tcm1045-672669.pdf

Affordability

* 13. For priority fiber projects, supply the monthly rate for gigabit speed service. For non-priority, non-fiber projects supply the monthly rate for 100/20 megabit service.

$ 0

* 14. Applicant agrees to offer the BEAD required low-cost plan as described in Minnesota's approved Volume 2 requirement 16, Section 2.12.1, pages 64-66?

◯ Yes
◉ No

* 14a. Please download, complete, then upload Waiver for BEAD required low-cost plan as described in Minnesota's approved Volume 2 requirement 16, Section 2.12.1, pages 64-66.

Download the Template

https://mn.gov/deed/assets/bead-waiver-request-guide_tcm1045-672669.pdf

Upload the completed Template

Click or drag file to this area to upload

Support for a single or bulk upload.

Section 5: Project Financial Details

In Section 5, questions for **Minimal BEAD Program Outlay**, asks you to enter the amount of BEAD grant

funding you are requesting for the project area
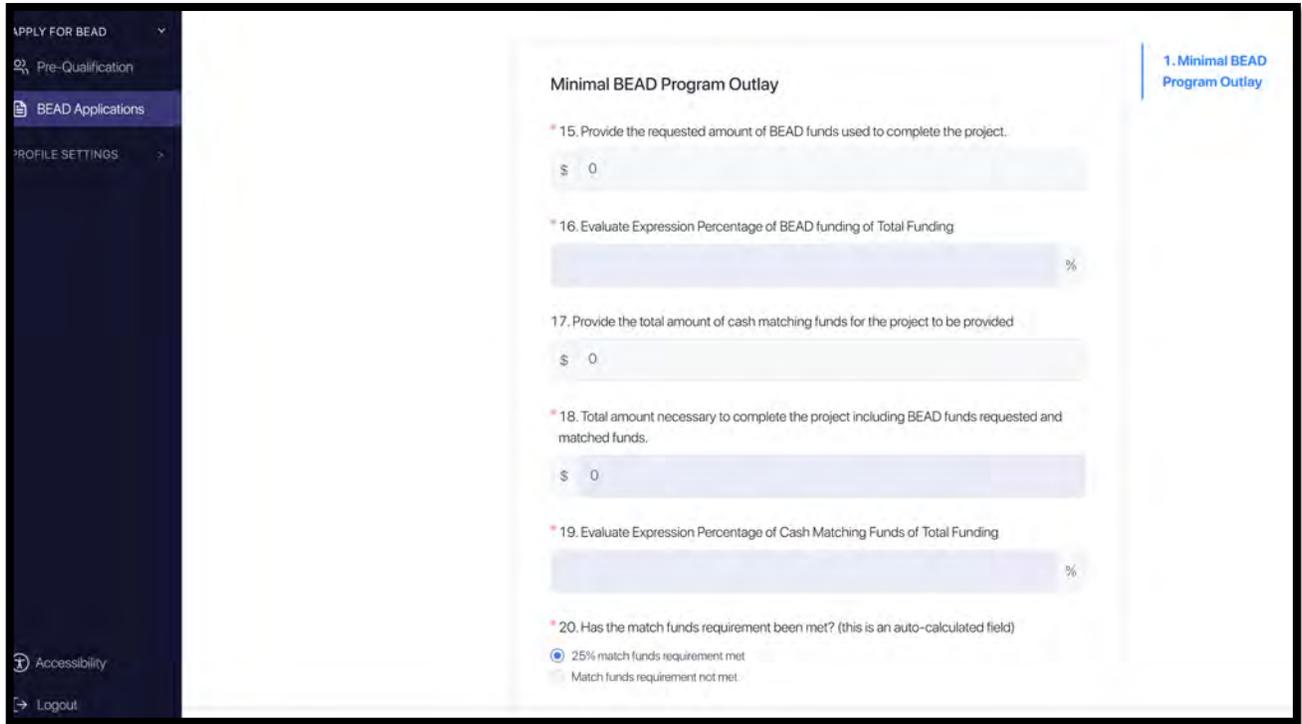
Minimal BEAD Program Outlay, asks you to complete two fields and auto calculates the rest. Click inside

the response box and enter your requested BEAD amount and Match amount. *Responses must be*

entered in whole numbers.

15) Provide the requested amount of BEAD funds used to complete the project. (numerical entry)

16) Evaluate Expression Percentage of BEAD funding of Total Funding (auto-calculated)

17) Provide the total amount of cash matching funds for the project to be provided (numerical entry)

> *If a partner or third party match is included in your match amount you must upload evidence of the*
>
> *match commitment in Section 11 Other Uploads at question 51*

> For any partner matches, you must upload evidence of the match commitment (Resolution,
> Meeting minutes, Commitment letter, etc.) in Section 11 Other Uploads, question 51

18) *Total amount necessary to complete the project including BEAD funds requested and matched funds.*

> *(auto-calculated)*

19) Evaluate Expression Percentage of Cash Matching Funds of Total Funding (auto-calculated)

20) Has the match funds requirement been met? (this is an auto-calculated field) *If the minimum 25%*

> *match requirement is not met, applicant will be prompted to download waiver form template and*

upload the complete waiver form. https://mn.gov/deed/assets/bead-waiver-request-guide_tcm1045-672669.pdf

Section 6: Letter of Credit or Performance Bond

Section 6 asks you to certify your commitment to upload a Letter of Credit from an eligible bank or credit union prior to the execution of the subaward if selected. Applicants must provide a letter of commitment from an authorized institution that it intends to provide a letter of credit or performance bond and the "up to" value the financial institution/surety company is willing to provide.

21) **Indicate whether the application is able to provide a letter of commitment from an authorized institution that it intends to provide a letter of credit or certification of authority committing to issue a performance bond that meets NTIA requirements** (Yes/No) *If yes, Applicant will be prompted to upload appropriate item, if no, application will be prompted to download waiver form template and upload completed waiver form.* https://mn.gov/deed/assets/bead-waiver-request-guide_tcm1045-672669.pdf

If selected for an award, subgrantees must provide a letter of credit or performance bond reflecting awarded BEAD support.

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.
-

For more information: https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/funding-programs/policies-waivers/BEAD-Letter-of-Credit-Waiver

Section 7: Workforce Support

In Section 7, applicants will answer questions on workforce plans and complete and upload past and future workforce safety and safe labor practices forms.

22) **Provide the estimated number of employment opportunities (full-time equivalent) created by the project.** (numerical entry)

23) **What is the applicant's minimum committed percentage of the workforce working on BEAD projects in Minnesota that will be directly employed by the applicant (i.e. a fulltime employee with the applicant)?** (numerical entry)

24) What is the maximum percentage of the workforce working on BEAD projects in Minnesota that will be contracted or subcontracted? (numerical entry)

NOTICE on workforce download link

> Prior to 3/28/2025 download links for question 25 and 26 linked to the same form and included required fields for each question in one form. This required uploading the same document twice. Once to question 25 and once to question 26. Changes have been made so each link downloads a separate form which should be completed and uploaded to the appropriate question.

25) For all applications upload a detailed response using the required template that addresses the workforce safety training practices & initiatives committed to by the applicant. *The fillable form for both Question 25 and 26 are in one document.* https://mn.gov/deed/assets/future-workforce-safety_tcm1045-674079.pdf

26) For all applications upload a detailed response using the required template that addresses their workforce plan including past and future labor practices and worker safety. *The fillable form for both Question 25 and 26 are in one document.* https://mn.gov/deed/assets/past-workforce-safety_tcm1045-674080.pdf

Section 8: Community Support

In Section 8 applicants can upload letters or documentation of support for each project bid area.

Documented support from within *the project area* will earn more points than general support.
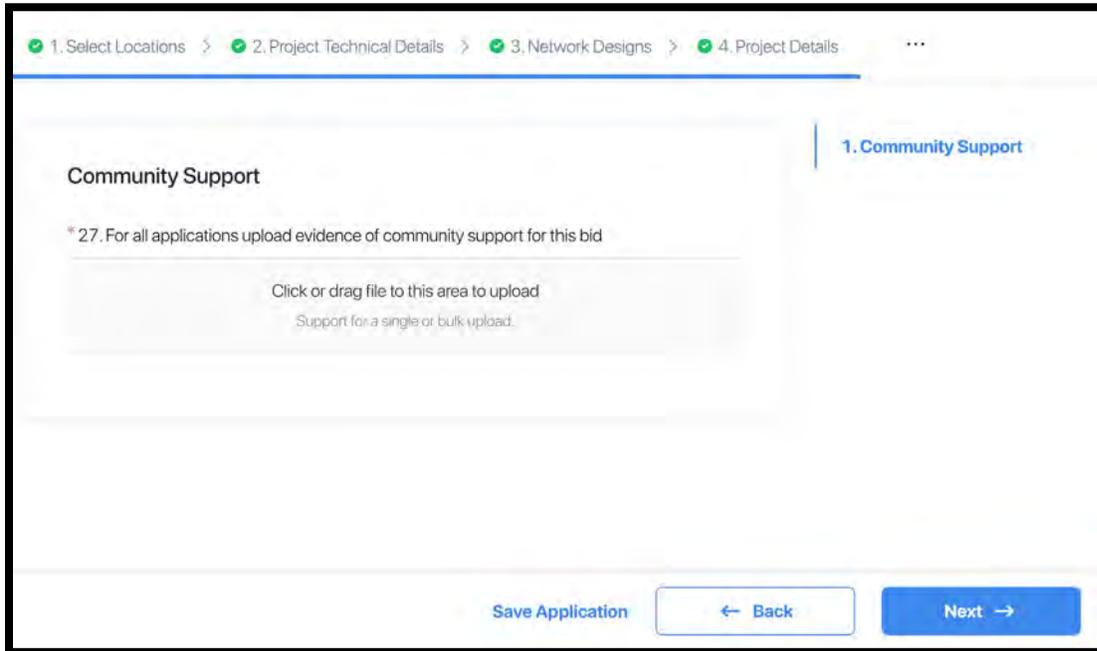
27) **Upload evidence of community support for this project.** (Optional) T*o upload files, click the upload field to navigate to the location of the saved file or drag it into the upload field.*

Applicants are encouraged to provide documentation of support from entities such as:

- Local Township: Member of Township Board
- Local School District: Member of the School Board
- County Government: County Commissioner
- Local community members or businesses
- Evidence of local coordination with the community including public meetings, outreach at community events, etc.
- Petitions demonstrating demand for service or pledges to sign up for service
- Evidence of community partner financial match

Letters of support *must* be uploaded through the application portal. *Letters that are emailed to OBD, etc., will not be accepted.*

Section 9: Organization Details

In Section 9 applicants are asked to review and update their organization details and complete some new NTIA required fields:

28) Provide your UEI name from SAM.gov

29) Provide your SAM.gov UEI

30) Upload the UEI from SAM.gov (Upload the registration page of your UEI from SAM.gov).

31) Select your FCC Provider ID

32) Learn how to get an FRN Look up your FRN

33) Provide the MN SWIFT Vendor Id associated with this organization.

34) Indicate whether the subgrantee is a traditional broadband provider (Yes) **or is not a traditional broadband provider** (No)

35) Select a category that best describes the service provider type (dropdown selection)

36) Indicate whether the subgrantee is a woman-owned business (Yes/No)

37) Indicate whether the subgrantee is a minority-owned business (Yes/No)

38) Indicate whether a subgrantee qualifies as a small business (Yes/No)

Section 10: Organization Capacity

In Section 10 applicants are asked to respond to required risk assessment questions per Minn. Stat. §16B.981, https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/2023/cite/16B.981
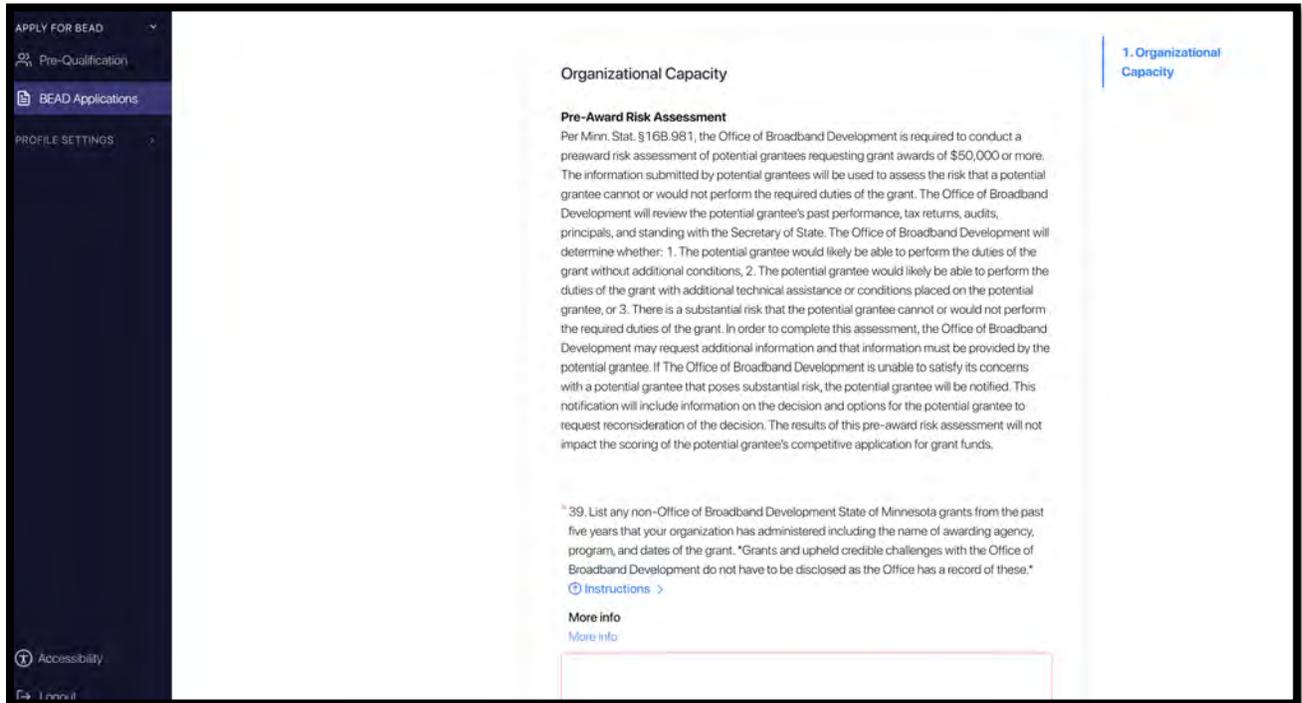
Pre-award Risk Assessment

The Office of Broadband Development is required to conduct a pre-award risk assessment of potential grantees requesting grant awards of $50,000 or more. The information submitted by potential grantees will be used to assess the risk that a potential grantee cannot or would not perform the required duties of the grant. The Office of Broadband Development will review the potential grantee's past performance, tax returns, audits, principals, and standing with the Secretary of State. The Office of Broadband Development will determine whether: 1. The potential grantee would likely be able to perform the duties of the grant without additional conditions, 2. The potential grantee would likely be able to perform the duties of the grant with additional technical assistance or conditions placed on the potential grantee, or 3. There is a substantial risk that the potential grantee cannot or would not perform the required duties of the grant. In order to complete this assessment, the Office of Broadband Development may request additional information, and that information must be provided by the potential grantee. If The Office of Broadband Development is unable to satisfy its concerns with a potential grantee that poses substantial risk, the potential grantee will be notified. This notification will include information on the decision and options for the potential grantee to request reconsideration of the decision. The results of this pre-award risk assessment will not impact the scoring of the potential grantee's competitive application for grant funds.

39) List any non-Office of Broadband Development State of Minnesota grants from the past five years that your organization has administered including the name of awarding agency, program, and

dates of the grant. *Grants and upheld credible challenges with the Office of Broadband Development do not have to be disclosed as the Office has a record of these.* (Text box)

40) **Describe your organization's history of performing work similar to the work proposed in your application for this grant opportunity. This should include a brief history of your organization and experience with similar grants from government.** (Text box)

41) **How does the scale of your grant application compare to the organization's budget for similar work the organization currently manages? In other words, how much will the organization need to grow in order to perform the duties of this grant, if awarded?** (Text box)

42) **Based on the application you are submitting, will your organization need to make significant operational changes such as hiring additional staff, making changes to policies/procedures, making changes in management structure, etc.?** (Yes/No)
   a) **If yes, describe the changes that will occur to your organization's operations and how those changes will be made.** (text box)

43) **Is your organization currently debarred or suspended from doing business with the State of Minnesota or the Federal Government?** (Yes/No) If you answer yes, this will result in disqualification.

44) **Submit evidence of good standing with the Minnesota Secretary of State.** (This file is an upload). Evidence of good standing with the Minnesota Secretary of State: Submit a screenshot of your organization's current standing from the Minnesota Secretary of State website. The screenshot should show the Business Record Details of your organization and must include all information above the Filing History. The Renewal Due Date must be after the start of the proposed grant term. A copy of your current Certificate of Good Standing will be accepted but is not required.
   https://www.sos.state.mn.us/business-liens/business-help/how-to-order-copies-of-filings-certificates

45) **Has the organization filed timely state and federal tax returns?** (radio button choice) *If your organization has not been in existence long enough to have a tax return with the IRS, you will be required to submit the Internal Controls Certification, along with the current financial statements.* NOTE: All applicants may be required to submit the appropriate documents pursuant to 16B.981

Subd.3(https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/16b.981)

46) **Is your organization under bankruptcy proceedings?** (yes/no) *If yes, you will need to provide an explanation and submit a disclosure of assets and corresponding liens. You will also need to submit a disclosure of bankruptcy proceedings.*

47) **Are there liens on any of your organizations' assets?** (yes/no) *If yes, you will need to provide an explanation and submit a disclosure of assets and corresponding liens.*

48) **Please select the option that applies to your organization:** (radio button choice) Certification of No Convictions of Felony Financial Crimes by a Principal: Minn. Stat. §16B.981 Subd. 2 paragraph 6, (https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/16b.981) requires that no current principals of potential grantee have been convicted of a felony financial crime within the last 10 years. A principal is defined as a public official, board member, or staff (paid or volunteer) with authority to access funds or determine how funds are used**.**

- I attest that no current principal of my organization has been convicted of a felony financial crime within the last 10 years.
- I cannot attest that no current principal of my organization has been convicted of a felony financial crime.

a) **Submit a list of Board members and organizational chart or include a list of the principals for which you are certifying** (This is an upload file) Based on your attestation that no current principals of the organization have been convicted of a felony financial crime within the last 10 years, *Upload the list of Board members and organization chart or include a list of the principals for which you are certifying.*

Section 11 Other Uploads

In Section 11 applicants are asked to upload waivers and other supporting and required documents.
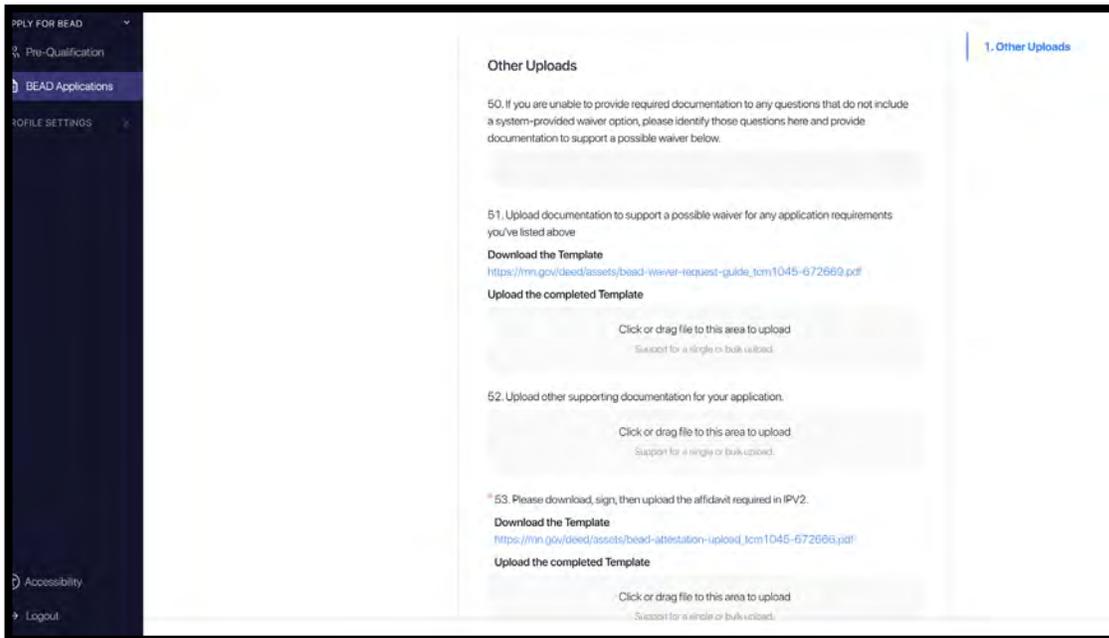
49) **For questions that do NOT include a system-provided waiver option:** If you are unable to provide required documentation to any questions that do not include a system-provided waiver option, please identify those questions here and provide documentation to support a possible waiver below. (Text box)

50) **Upload Module:** Upload documentation to support a possible waiver for any application requirements you've listed above. (This is an upload) *Must use waiver request template* https://mn.gov/deed/assets/bead-waiver-request-guide_tcm1045-672669.pdf

51) **Upload other supporting documentation for your application:** This is for required or supporting application documents including Application Workbook, PE Certified Design Plan, Match commitments.

- **Budget Schedule Proforma Pricing workbook** is required for application evaluation
  https://mn.gov/deed/assets/budget-schedule-proforma-pricing_tcm1045-674078.xlsx
- **Financial Match Commitments from a third party**

  For all third-party or partner matches in Section 5 question 17, you must upload evidence of the match commitment (Resolution, Meeting minutes, Commitment letter, etc.) here.

52) Please download, sign, then upload the affidavit required in IPV2. (This is a file download link. You can download it in the platform, complete it and then upload where indicated) Download the Template https://mn.gov/deed/assets/bead-template-applicant-affidavit_tcm1045-674208.docx

TIP: Your application will periodically save as you progress between the sections. A **Save Application** button will appear near the bottom of the screen after Section 1 is complete. It is recommended that you save your progress often, as applicants will be automatically logged out after 15 minutes of inactivity.

Review and Submit

Once you have completed all sections of the application, please go back and review each section to ensure that all information is accurate and that the correct attachments are included where applicable. For your records, you may also download a PDF copy of the application in this section.
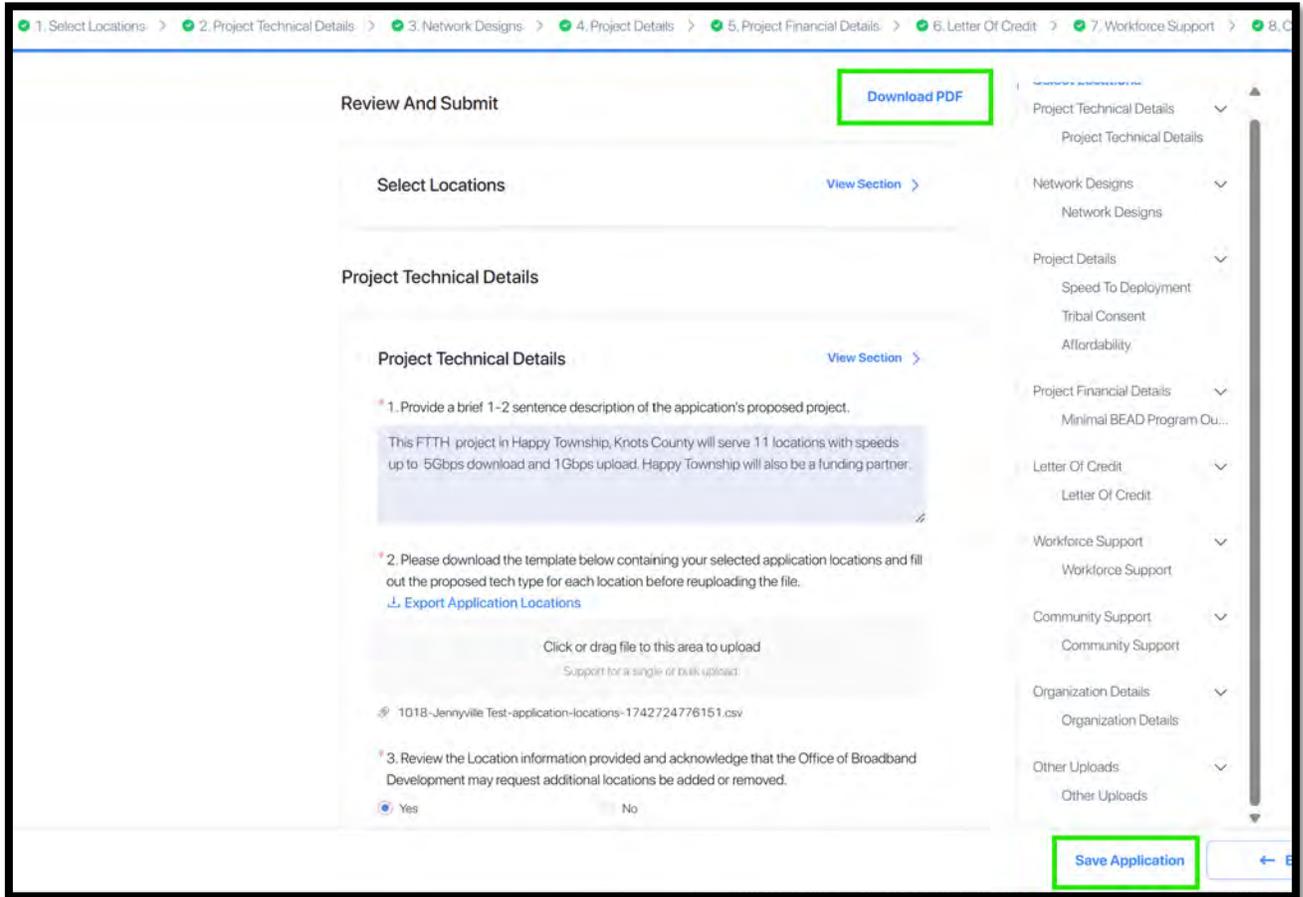
Final Attestation

To finish and submit your BEAD application, you will be asked to complete several attestations. Carefully read and complete each attestation by checking the boxes to the left, then submit the application.

You MUST hit the SUBMIT button or your application will not be considered received!

You MUST hit the SUBMIT button or your application will not be considered received!

BEAD Applicant Resources

BEAD Applicant Resources for uploads for all questions except Section 2 Technical Details, question 2 can be found at this link: https://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/bead/

BEAD Resources for Pre-Qualification and Application

- **BEAD Application Guide** – this guide
- **BEAD Pre-Qualification Guidance**
- **BEAD Grantor Portal Pre-Qualification User Guide**
- **BEAD Call for Applications**
- **BEAD Grant Contract Agreement DRAFT**
- **BEAD Network Tech Form Fillable Upload** - Section 3, Question 5
- **BEAD Geospatial Data Upload Guide** – Section 3, Question 5
- **BEAD Affidavit Template Upload** – Section 11, Question 52
- **BEAD Community Support Guide** – Section 8, Question 27
- **BEAD Past & Future Workforce Safety Forms** (both forms in one) Section 7, Question 25 & 26 or submit separately:
  - **BEAD Past Workforce Safety Form** – Section 7, Question 26
  - **BEAD Future Workforce Safety Form** – Section 7, Question 25
- **BEAD Budget Schedule Proforma Pricing Workbook** (xlsx)– Section 11, Question 51
- **BEAD Minnesota Letter of Credit TEMPLATE** – Section 6, Question 21
- **BEAD Waiver Request Form Guide**

BEAD Application Guide Revisions

Version 1   3/24/2025 Original

Version 1.1   3/31/2025 updated BEAD affidavit template link, corrected referenced and actual question numbers for Section 11 that had skipped #49. Added BEAD Application Guide Revision to the Table of Contents.

Version 1.2   4/3/2025 Additional Clarity to Question 5, Question 6, and Question 51 regarding Network Design and Uploads

Version 1.3   4/8/2025 Addition clarity added to Question 21 Letter of Credit/Performance Bond

Scoring Rubric

	BEAD Scoring Rubric for Priority Broadband Projects		
Total Category Weight	**Criteria**	**Determination**	**Explanation**
75% for Primary Criteria	**Minimal BEAD Program Outlay, 45 Points:** Matching contributions allow applicants and any community partners to demonstrate full commitment to their proposed projects. Additionally matching funds are a force multiplier for federal public funds, minimizing the BEAD subsidy required to serve customers and making it more likely that the State will be able to serve the maximum unserved and underserved locations with the available BEAD allocation. To maximize the impact and public benefits of BEAD funding, OBD will prioritize applicants that minimize the BEAD program outlay through the total eligible project cost and matching funds.	Points will be awarded in two allocations. Of 45 total points available, 35 points will be awarded based on the amount of BEAD funding requested and 10 points awarded based on the match percentage requested. Points will be awarded in a manner that ensures points awarded increase as the BEAD outlay decreases. Priority projects, or end-to-end fiber projects, will be prioritized during subgrantee selection. 35 points will be awarded for the least amount of BEAD funding per BSL requested, with points incrementally decreasing by one full point for every two percentage points of BEAD funding per BSL requested above the least cost proposal, and reaching 0 points for any proposal that is at least 70% more costly than the least cost proposal, provided that no proposal other than the least-cost proposal may receive more than 34 points as the amount of funding per BSL requests increase, with 0 points for the applicant requesting the highest amount of BEAD funding per BSL. 10 points will be awarded to the highest match offered, incrementally awarding points for lower matches, with 0 points for applicants requesting the full 75% grant award. · 10 points for 100-75% match offered by applicant · 5 points for 74-50% match offered by applicant · 2 points for 49-26% match offered by applicant · 0 points for 25% match offered by applicant	Points will be awarded based on 1) amount of BEAD funding requested and 2) percent of match provided to serve eligible locations. For 1), the applicant requesting the least amount of BEAD outlay per BSL will receive the full 35 points and the other applicant(s) will receive a one point deduction for every two percentage points their BEAD outlay per BSL exceeds the least cost per BSL proposal. For 2) points will be assigned based on the percent match provided as outlined in the "Determination" column.
	Affordability, 15 points: OBD will award points under the affordability selection criterion for an applicant's pricing for gigabit service.	The applicant with the gigabit offering with the lowest monthly rate will receive 15 points, the second lowest rate will receive 10 points, the third lowest rate will receive 5 points. Any additional applicants will receive 0 points.	Points will be based on the price for gigabit service as provided in the "Determination" column.

	Fair Labor Practices and Worker Safety, 0 to 15 points: OBD recognizes the important role that fair labor practices play in minimizing disruptive and costly delays to project completion and ensuring that projects are carried out in accordance with the law. Consistent with the Infrastructure Act and BEAD NOFO, OBD will prioritize applicants who demonstrate a commitment to fair labor practices through their record of compliance and plans for ensuring compliance with federal labor and employment laws.	All applicants, including new entrants, will start with 15 points which will be reduced by 10 points based on lack of plans for compliance and by 5 points for a record of past noncompliance.	All applicants will start with 15 points. Points deducted will be based on a review of the information included in the application on prior compliance with Fair Labor Standard and plans for future compliance. A ten-point deduction for lack of plans for compliance and five point deduction based on record of past noncompliance.
25% for Secondary Criteria	**Speed to Deployment, 4 points:** Eligible Entities must give secondary criterion prioritization weight to the prospective subgrantee's binding commitment to provide service by an earlier date certain. As written on pages 43 and 45 of the NOFO, "All subgrantees that receive BEAD Program funds for network deployment must deploy the planned broadband network and begin providing services to each customer that desires broadband services within the project area not later than four years after the date on which the subgrantee receives the subgrant from the Eligible Entity. Eligible Entities must give secondary criterion prioritization weight to the prospective subgrantee's binding commitment to provide service by an earlier date certain, subject to contractual penalties to the Eligible Entity, with greater benefits awarded to applicants promising an earlier service provision date." As required for projects constructed under Minnesota's historic Border-to-Border grant program, OBD will prioritize applicants that commit to deploy service as soon as practicable with priority given to those applicants that indicate the project will complete at the conclusion of two full construction seasons.	Projects that commit to completion in two full construction seasons or less will be awarded 4 points.	Points will be awarded to projects where the schedule indicates project completion within two full Minnesota construction seasons (a full construction season runs from April through October) or less. Projects that commit to completion in two full construction seasons or less will be awarded 4 points.
	Speed of Network, up to 4 points: Projects that deliver higher speeds will be prioritized over projects that propose to deploy lesser speeds.	Projects offering speeds up to 10G symmetrical will earn the full 4 points; projects offering speeds of 10Gbps download and 2Gbps upload will score 3 points; projects offering speeds of 2.5Gbps download and 1Gbps	Points will be awarded based on the highest speeds proposed to be delivered over the infrastructure deployed with the grant funding. Projects offering

		upload will score 2 points; projects offering speeds of at least 1Gbps symmetrical will score 1 point.	speeds up to 10G symmetrical will earn the full 4 points; projects offering speeds of 10Gbps download and 2Gbps upload will score 3 points; projects offering speeds of 2.5Gbps download and 1Gbps upload will score 2 points; projects offering speeds of at least 1Gbps symmetrical will score 1 point.
	Evidence of community support, up to 10 points: Minnesota has consistently prioritized community support as evidence provided in a grant application that documents such support will greatly assist in the success of the project through a higher take rate and demonstrates the communities' satisfaction with the rates, speeds and quality of service offered by the provider. The demonstration of community support through a financial contribution to the cost of the project also offsets the amount of funding necessary from BEAD, making the federal funding go further.	5 points will be awarded if there is a financial commitment from the community; 5 points will be awarded if there is a demonstration of strong community support (multiple letters of support, petitions, pre-registrations for service, etc.).	Points will be awarded for financial contribution(s) from the community and/or demonstration of support for the project as documented in the application.
	Demonstration of Workforce Safety and Training, up to 7 points: Applicant demonstrates a commitment to workforce safety and training.	Up to 7 points will be awarded based on workforce safety and training practices and initiatives committed to by the applicant in the application.	Points will be awarded for workforce safety and training practices and initiatives as documented in the application.
Total:	100		

	BEAD Scoring Rubric for Non-Priority Broadband Projects		
Total Category Weight	**Criteria and Weight**	**Determination**	**Explanation**
75% for Primary Criteria	**Minimal BEAD Program Outlay, 45 points:** Matching contributions allow applicants and any community partners to demonstrate full commitment to their proposed projects. Additionally matching funds are a force multiplier for federal public funds, minimizing the BEAD subsidy required to serve customers and making it more likely that the State will be able to serve the maximum unserved and underserved locations with the available BEAD allocation. To maximize the impact and public benefits of BEAD funding, OBD will prioritize applicants that minimize the BEAD program outlay through the total eligible project cost and matching funds.	Points will be awarded in two allocations. Of 45 total points available, 35 points will be awarded based on the amount of BEAD funding requested and 10 points awarded based on the match percentage requested. Points will be awarded in a manner that ensures points awarded increase as the BEAD outlay decreases. Priority projects, or end-to-end fiber projects, will be prioritized during subgrantee selection. 35 points will be awarded for the least amount of BEAD funding per BSL requested, with points incrementally decreasing by one full point for every two percentage points of BEAD funding per BSL requested above the least cost proposal, and reaching 0 points for any proposal that is at least 70% more costly than the least cost proposal, provided that no proposal other than the least-cost proposal may receive more than 34 points as the amount of funding per BSL requests increase, with 0 points for the applicant requesting the highest amount of BEAD funding per BSL. 10 points will be awarded to the highest match offered, incrementally awarding points for lower matches, with 0 points for applicants requesting the full 75% grant award. · 10 points for 100-75% match offered by applicant · 5 points for 74-50% match offered by applicant · 2 points for 49-26% match offered by applicant · 0 points for 25% match offered by applicant	Points will be awarded based on 1) amount of BEAD funding requested and 2) percent of match provided to serve eligible locations. For 1), the applicant requesting the least amount of BEAD outlay per BSL will receive the full 35 points and the other applicant(s) will receive a one point deduction for every two percentage points their BEAD outlay per BSL exceeds the least cost per BSL proposal. For 2) points will be assigned based on the percent match provided as outlined in the "Determination" column.
	Affordability, 15 points: OBD will award points under the affordability selection based on the applicant's 100Mbps download and 20Mbps offering	The applicant with the 100Mbps/20Mbps offering with the lowest monthly rate will receive 15 points, the second lowest rate will receive 10 points, the third lowest rate will receive 5 points. Any additional applicants will receive 0 points.	Points will be based on the price for 100Mbps download/20Mbps upload service as provided in the "Determination" column.
	Fair Labor Practices and Worker Safety, 0 to 15 points: OBD recognizes the important role that fair labor practices play in minimizing disruptive and costly delays to project completion and ensuring that projects are carried out in accordance with the law. Consistent with the Infrastructure Act and BEAD	All applicants, including new entrants, will start with 15 points which will be reduced by 10 points based on lack of plans for compliance and by 5 points based on record of past noncompliance.	Points deducted will be based on a review of the information included in the application on prior compliance with Fair Labor Standard and plans for future compliance. A ten-point deduction for lack of

	NOFO, OBD will prioritize applicants who demonstrate a commitment to fair labor practices through their record of compliance and plans for ensuring compliance with federal labor and employment laws.		plans for compliance and five point deduction based on record of past noncompliance.
25% for Secondary Criteria	**Speed to Deployment, 4 points:** Eligible Entities must give secondary criterion prioritization weight to the prospective subgrantee's binding commitment to provide service by an earlier date certain. As written on pages 43 and 45 of the NOFO, "All subgrantees that receive BEAD Program funds for network deployment must deploy the planned broadband network and begin providing services to each customer that desires broadband services within the project area not later than four years after the date on which the subgrantee receives the subgrant from the Eligible Entity. Eligible Entities must give secondary criterion prioritization weight to the prospective subgrantee's binding commitment to provide service by an earlier date certain, subject to contractual penalties to the Eligible Entity, with greater benefits awarded to applicants promising an earlier service provision date." OBD will prioritize applicants that commit to deploy service as soon as practicable with priority given to those applicants that indicate the project will complete in one year.	Projects that commit to completion in one year or less will be awarded 4 points.	Points will be awarded to projects where the schedule indicates project completion within one year or less. Projects that commit to completion in one year or less will be awarded 4 points.
	Speed of Network, up to 4 points: Applications that propose to use technologies that have longer usable lives, exhibit scalability at a lower cost, and demonstrate resilience.	Proposed networks with longer usable lives, scalability, and resilience will score higher.	1 to 4 points will be awarded to networks that have longer usable lives, scalability at a lower cost, and demonstrate resilience. 2 points based on network components with expected long usable lives. 1 point based on the capacity of the network to scale. 1 point based on the evidence of a diverse and redundant network design technology.
	Evidence of community support, up to 10 points: Minnesota has consistently prioritized community support as evidence provided in a grant application that documents such support	5 points will be awarded if there is a financial commitment from the community; 5 points will be awarded if there is a demonstration of	Points will be awarded for financial contribution(s) from the community and/or demonstration of support for the project as documented in the application.

	will greatly assist in the success of the project through a higher take rate and demonstrates the communities' satisfaction with the rates, speeds and quality of service offered by the provider. The demonstration of community support through a financial contribution to the cost of the project also offsets the amount of funding necessary from BEAD, making the federal funding go further.	strong community support (multiple letters of support, petitions, pre-registrations for service, etc.).	
	Demonstration of Workforce Safety and Training, up to 7 points: Applicant demonstrates a commitment to workforce safety and training.	Up to 7 points will be awarded based on workforce safety and training practices and initiatives committed to by the applicant in the application.	Points will be awarded for workforce safety and training practices and initiatives as documented in the application.
Total	100		