



Office of Broadband Development | BEAD Office Hours + Updates

July 8, 2025

# Expected Timeline

- Prequalification Reopened: 6/24/2025
- [Eligible locations](#) posted 6/30/2025 & [BEAD map](#) with locations available 7/1/2025
- **\*Application Portal Open: 7/14/2025** (targeting the week of July 7th and all pre-qualified applicants will be emailed if we are able to open early)
- **\*Application Portal Close: 1:30 PM Central Time 7/24/2025**
- Deconfliction and Revision begins 7/25/2025
- Final Proposal posted for public comment **8/28/2025**.

## **Awaiting NTIA Approval to Open Subgrantee Selection Process**

According to Page 16 of NTIA's June 6th notice, an Eligible Entity may execute its modified subgrantee selection process once NTIA approves the Initial Proposal correction.

- OBD submitted this IP correction letter on July 2nd.
- As of 10:00 AM, July 8th, 6 calendar days after submission, NTIA has not approved this letter.
- Per NTIA FAQs, without NTIA's approval, the subgrantee selection process cannot be opened.
- OBD intends to provide applicants with 10 calendar days in the application portal to enter their application information before submissions are due; however, depending on the timing of approval by NTIA, this timeline may need to be adjusted.

# Restructured BEAD – How to Apply

## Elimination of Regulatory Requirements

- Through the Policy Notice issued by NTIA on June 6, certain regulatory requirements were eliminated. Note, this is a list of the amended regulatory requirements that either directly or indirectly relate to the Minnesota application process.
- Open Access/Net Neutrality
- Middle Class Affordability Plan
- Labor, Employment, and Workforce Development Requirements Section 7
- Local Coordination and Stakeholder Engagement Section 8
- Low-Cost Service Option Applicants must still comply with the statutory provisions to offer at least one low-cost service option, but OBD will not be explicitly or implicitly set the low-cost service option rate(s).

# Restructured BEAD – How to Apply

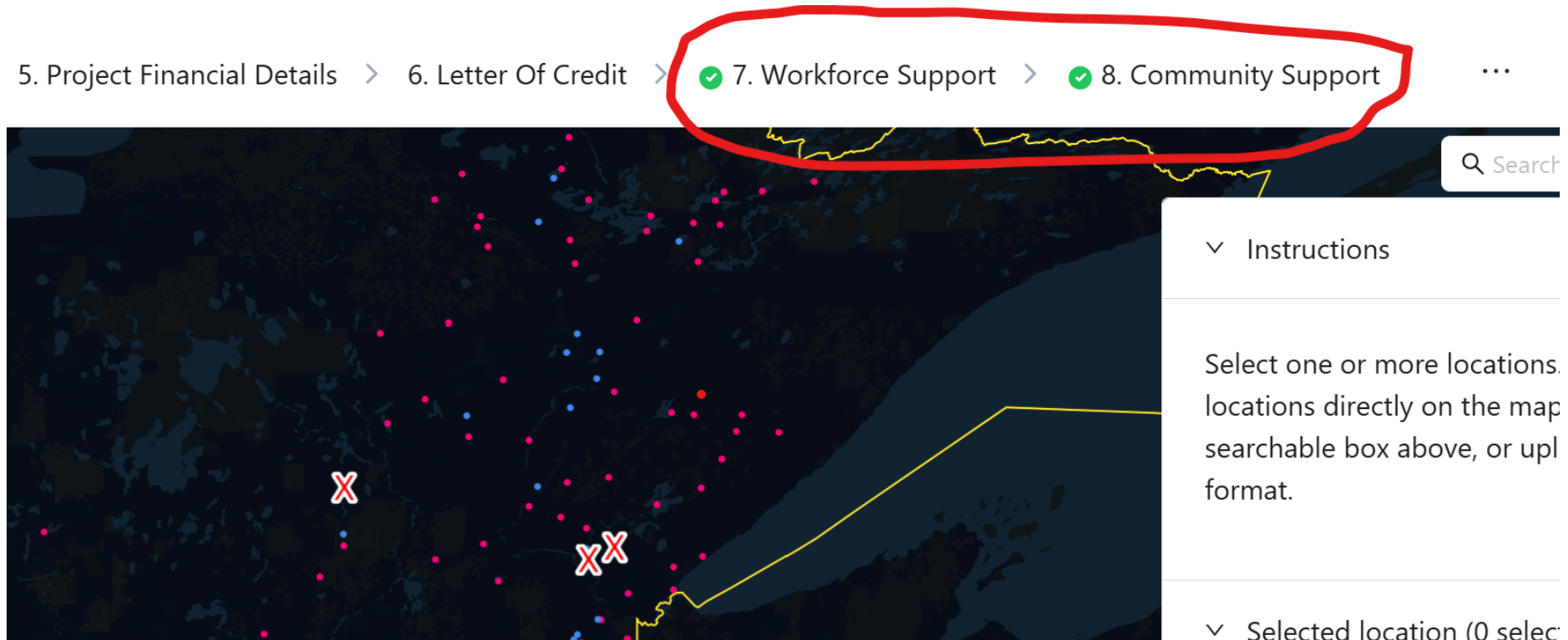
## Elimination of Regulatory Requirements

- Applications previously submitted will be carried forward in the grantor portal. The elimination of regulatory requirements are not reflected in these applications.
- New applicants do not need to respond to requirements eliminated by NTIA's June 6th Policy Notice, even though the questions are still in the grantor portal as optional.
- The specific questions, attachments, and certifications that applicants do not need to reply to are identified in the Restructured BEAD Pre-qualification Guide and the forthcoming Restructured BEAD Application Guide
- All Applications (New and Carried forward applications) must complete Section 12 and be submitted in the Restructured BEAD round to be considered for scoring.

# Restructured BEAD – How to Apply

## Elimination of Regulatory Requirements

- Some sections now optional will appear to be completed when starting a new application.



# Restructured BEAD – How to Apply

## Elimination of Regulatory Requirements

- Section 12 The "Benefit of the Bargain" questions or "Restructured BEAD" questions must be completed by all applicants..

BEAD • ROUND 2 • APP1040 In Progress

Application: Restructured BEAD Test

1. Select Locations > 2. Project Technical Details > 3. Network Designs > 4. Project Details > 5. Project Financial Details > 6. Letter Of Credit > 7. Workforce Support > 8. Community Support

1. Benefit Of The Bargain Additional Questions

Benefit Of The Bargain Additional Questions

\* 50. This project will include required documentation to be reviewed for consideration as a priority project consistent with NTIA Restructuring Policy Guidance.

☐ Yes

☐ No

\* 51. Technology Speed: Indicate the minimum certified speed that can be provided to all eligible locations within the project (Mbps Download/Mbps Upload)

\* 52. Indicate the maximum latency provided to all eligible locations within the project in ms

\* 53.

Applicant understands and will comply with the IJA requirement that BEAD subgrantees "offer not less than 1 low-cost broadband service option (LCSO) for eligible subscriber", and that BEAD subgrantees must comply with the statutory provision to offer at least one LCSO with a rate proposed by the subgrantees themselves, subject to specifications below:

a. LCSO Service Requirements Consistent with IJA. States shall require potential

# Technology Neutrality

All broadband technologies that meet the performance requirements of IJA and the NOFO must be eligible to participate in BEAD

- A Priority Broadband Project is now defined as: *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.*
- To be considered for a priority project the applicant must select "yes" to the question in Section 12 and submit documentation demonstrating that the project meets all the requirements.



# Restructured BEAD Scoring Criteria

Benefit of the Bargain Round Scoring Criteria NTIA's June 6th Policy Notice outlines both Primary and Secondary Criteria to evaluate proposals. Below is the primary criteria.

**Primary Criteria:** In deciding among competing applications covering the same general project areas, OBD will choose the option with the lowest cost based on minimal BEAD Program outlay. This will be analyzed on a requested subsidy per location basis as described in NTIA's June 6th Policy Notice.

# Restructured BEAD Scoring Criteria

NTIA's June 6th Policy Notice outlines both Primary and Secondary Criteria to evaluate proposals. Below is the secondary criteria.

**Secondary Criteria:** If an application to serve the same general project area proposes a project cost within 15% of the lowest-cost application received for that same general project area on a per location basis, OBD will evaluate such competing applications based on the following three criteria. Each of these criteria is assigned a number of points on a 100-point scale.

## Speed of Network Scoring

Points	Download/Upload (Mbps)
0	100/20
2	200/50
5	500/100
15	1,000/500
60	1,000/1,000
80	2,000/2,000

## Network Latency Scoring

Points	Latency
0	<100 ms latency
2	<50 ms latency
5	<25 ms latency
10	<10 ms latency

## Preliminarily selected applicants

Points	Preliminary Subgrantees
10	Previously selected subgrantees

# Other Clarifications and Technical Assistance

- The Restructured BEAD Application Guide is forthcoming. All pre-qualified applicants will be notified by email when the guide is available and are encouraged to review it prior to applying.
- Applicants that previously applied and will have minor changes to their projects, are encouraged to reach out to [deed.broadband@state.mn.us](mailto:deed.broadband@state.mn.us) to identify those areas they need to adjust in their application so OBD can plan to open the section(s) for revision.
- If there are major changes to a previous application, the applicant must submit a new application.
- Due to time constraints, OBD may not have the opportunity to cure missing, incomplete, or non-compliant applicant information. If an applicant is unsure of a requirement, they should reach out to [deed.broadband@state.mn.us](mailto:deed.broadband@state.mn.us) for clarification ASAP and prior to the application deadline.

- Resources and updated materials:
  - [Call for Applications](#) and [Addendum 4 \(7/8/2025\)](#)
  - [BEAD Portal User Guide](#) and [BEAD Pre-Qualification Guide](#)
- NTIA Resources: [Benefit of the Bargain Timeline and Checklist](#) and [Updated NTIA FAQs](#)
- Register for next BEAD Office Hours, [Tuesday July 15, 11:00 a.m.](#) When additional future office hours are scheduled, they will be added to the [OBD BEAD webpage](#).

# Submitted FAQs

- FAQs were updated 7/1 and are available online, [Restructured BEAD FAQs](#)
- FAQs that have come in this week include:
  - What waivers will be available to request in the Restructured BEAD Round?
  - Are the Eligible locations posted on 6/30 are the "final" list, or does NTIA still need to approve?
  - What other application forms will be carried forward from 11a in the Grantor Portal (i.e. Proforma worksheet, PE, etc.)?
  - Is it the state's preference that applicants submit a single application encompassing all locations they have interest in serving, or would you recommend breaking them into smaller, more targeted groupings and submitting individual applications?"

# How to stay engaged

- Stay up to date by signing up for our **biweekly email updates** at:  
[mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/contact/](https://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/contact/)
- Check the OBE BEAD webpage for updates and office hours/webinars:  
[mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/bead/](https://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/bead/)
- Submit BEAD questions through the BEAD FAQ Submission Form:  
<https://forms.office.com/g/jE9EC1Zzpv>
- Email [deed.broadband@state.mn.us](mailto:deed.broadband@state.mn.us) or call 651-259-7610 with questions and concerns as they come up

# Feedback + Questions