Closing the Digital Divide in Illinois

BEAD Deep-Dive Webinar: Project Area Selection Tool & Templates Overview Part 2

January 22, 2025

BEAD Deep Dive Webinar Series:

Context and Goals

Context:

To align with NTIA requirements, BEAD Funded Connect Illinois Round 4 **differs from Connect Illinois Rounds 1-3**

The Illinois Office of Broadband aims to **help all interested applicants become familiar** with these requirements ahead of the subgrantee process

Goals:

Walk through key elements and requirements of the Connect Illinois Round 4 subgrantee process:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
- Application process and tools
- Application templates
- Other tips and tricks

Clarify specific components of the BEAD and Connect Illinois Round 4 program requirements ahead of the subgrantee process

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Topics for Discussion Today

1

Recap of BEAD and progress to date

2

Overview of Connect Illinois Round 4 Application Templates, Forms, & Example Documents

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3

1

Recap of BEAD and progress to date

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BEAD is a $42B federal grant program that aims to bring high-speed internet to all Americans

$42.45 billion
Funds provided for BEAD

The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program is a federal grant program that aims to get all Americans online by funding partnerships between states or territories, communities, and stakeholders to build infrastructure where high-speed internet is currently unavailable

Program highlights

Eligible entities

- All 50 States, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico
- Other Territories: U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Example eligible uses of funds

- Planning for the deployment of high-speed Internet, including conducting research, collecting data, outreach, and training
- Deploying or upgrading Internet in un/underserved areas
- Improving service to community anchor institutions
- Installing Internet and Wi-Fi in multi-unit residential buildings
- Workforce development, including Registered Apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships, community college and/or vocational training for broadband-related occupations to support deployment, maintenance, and upgrades

What are the goals of BEAD?

The BEAD Program awarded Illinois $1.04 billion to connect all unserved and underserved locations to broadband over the next 5 years

Ensure universal coverage across all un/underserved locations in the state, maximizing deployment of end-to-end fiber, and only using non-fiber where fiber costs are extremely high[1]

Prioritize projects providing broadband access to unserved and underserved locations and community anchor institutions, Wi-Fi equipment for Multi-Dwelling Units (MDUs) then other digital equity and inclusion priorities[2]

Run subgrantee selection process within one year of approval of the Initial Proposal, and complete implementation within four years of receipt of funds[3]

Focus on improving broadband affordability through a low-cost broadband service option, and a middle-class affordability plan[4]

1. Page 14 of BEAD NOFO, on the definition of Priority Broadband Project
2. Page 33 of BEAD NOFO, on the allocation of grant funds
3. Page 65 of BEAD NOFO, on deployment deadlines and benchmarks
4. Page 42-46 of BEAD NOFO, on inclusion of affordability in the BEAD scoring criteria
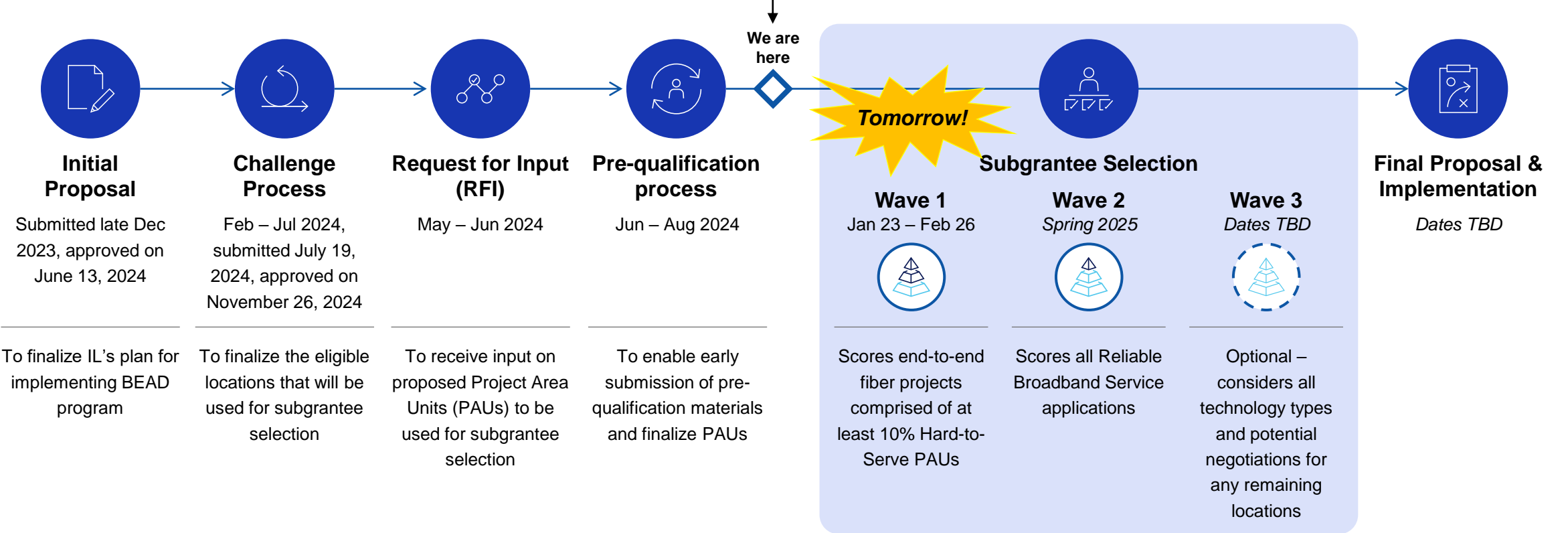
Source: BEAD NOFO

Overview of the BEAD-Funded Connect Illinois Round 4 timeline

PRELIMINARY TIMELINE - SUBJECT TO CHANGE   **INFORMATION PROVIDED ON AN INFORMATIONAL BASIS AND DOES NOT SUPERCEDE ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS**

Key Updates	
	• Project Area Selection Tool now available
	• Pre-Qualification Participation Notice Letters sent to all participants
	• Final BEAD eligibility data approved by NTIA and Project Area Units (PAUs) posted
	• NOFO and Application Guidebook posted

We are here

Tomorrow!

Initial Proposal

Submitted late Dec 2023, approved on June 13, 2024

To finalize IL's plan for implementing BEAD program

Challenge Process

Feb – Jul 2024, submitted July 19, 2024, approved on November 26, 2024

To finalize the eligible locations that will be used for subgrantee selection

Request for Input (RFI)

May – Jun 2024

To receive input on proposed Project Area Units (PAUs) to be used for subgrantee selection

Pre-qualification process

Jun – Aug 2024

To enable early submission of pre-qualification materials and finalize PAUs

Subgrantee Selection

Wave 1
Jan 23 – Feb 26

Scores end-to-end fiber projects comprised of at least 10% Hard-to-Serve PAUs

Wave 2
Spring 2025

Scores all Reliable Broadband Service applications

Wave 3
Dates TBD

Optional – considers all technology types and potential negotiations for any remaining locations

Final Proposal & Implementation

Dates TBD

Pre-qualification participants can apply their pre-approved qualifications to their Entity Submission Form response

ILLUSTRATIVE   INFORMATION PROVIDED ON AN INFORMATIONAL BASIS AND DOES NOT SUPERCEDE ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS

Illustrative Pre-Qualification Final Determination email

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Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity OFFICE OF BROADBAND

Dear Sample Corporation (EIN: 12-3456789),

The Illinois Office of Broadband appreciates your participation in the Pre-Qualification process for the BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4. This letter is a summary of all approved qualifications from the Pre-Qualification process, and we encourage you to participate in the formal subgrantee selection process when it opens.

(1) Summary of Approved Qualifications

The following qualifications have been approved across your pre-qualification submissions:

A. **Financial Capabilities:** A1, A2
B. **Managerial Capabilities:** B1
C. **Technical Capabilities:** C2
D. **Legal and Regulatory Compliance:** D1, D2
E. **Operational Capabilities:** E2
F. **Ownership:** F1
G. **Other Public Funding:** G1

During the subgrantee selection process, you do not need to re-submit materials for approved qualifications, unless any materials originally submitted to support an approved qualification have become outdated. However, the State reserves the right to re-assess the qualifications, capabilities, and resources of all prospective subgrantees based on the application-specific technical, geographical, and financial details of the actual proposed projects prior to making final awards.

(2) Next Steps for Application Process

To link your pre-approved qualifications to your application during the subgrantee selection process, please enter the following in the Entity Submission Form (Part 1 of the application):

- **EIN:** 12-3456789
- **Pre-Qualification Participant ID:** PPQ-9999T
- **Pre-Qualification Approved Qualifications**: *Please populate based on list provided above*

How to apply pre-approved qualifications during Connect Illinois Round 4

Navigate to **Pre-Qualifications Process** section in the **Entity Submission Form**

Respond **Yes** to **E.AD.8.A**

Enter your **Pre-Qualification Participant ID** (PPQ-####X) from your Final Determination email in **E.AD.8.B**

From the **pre-approved qualifications listed in your Final Determination email**, select those that you would like to reflect in your application in **E.AD.8.C**, which allows you to skip corresponding questions in the Entity Submission Form

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Administrative: Pre-Qualifications Process

E.AD.8.A. Pre-Qualification Process Participation — * Did you participate in the BEAD Funded Connect Illinois Round 4 Pre-Qualification process?
- ● Yes
- ○ No

Clear Selection

E.AD.8.B. Pre-Qualification Participant ID — * Please enter the PPQ ID from the Participation Notice Letter provided by the Illinois Office of Broadband. This Participation Notice Letter contains a Pre-Qualification Participant ID (starting with PPQ), which will connect your approved qualifications to this submission.
Please double-check this is correctly entered before proceeding. Failure to enter the valid ID may result in your application not being considered during this Wave.

PPQ-9999T

+ Add result

E.AD.8.C. Pre-Qualification Approved Qualifications — * Using the Pre-Qualification Participation Notice Letter, select all qualifications below that have been denoted "APPROVED" on the Pre-Qualification Participation Notice Letter. This will hide all qualifications for which you have been approved. If materials need to be updated, even if a qualification is approved, do not select the qualification in the list.
Note: You are responsible for cross-checking and confirming the selected qualifications are accurate and correct. Failure to submit all qualifications required in this form, either by carrying over your pre-approved qualifications or by submitting new materials for review, may result in your application not being considered during this Wave.

- ☑ A1
- ☑ A2
- ☐ A3

Note: All RDOF awardees are required to submitted updated materials for G4

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175,293 locations are eligible to be connected through BEAD
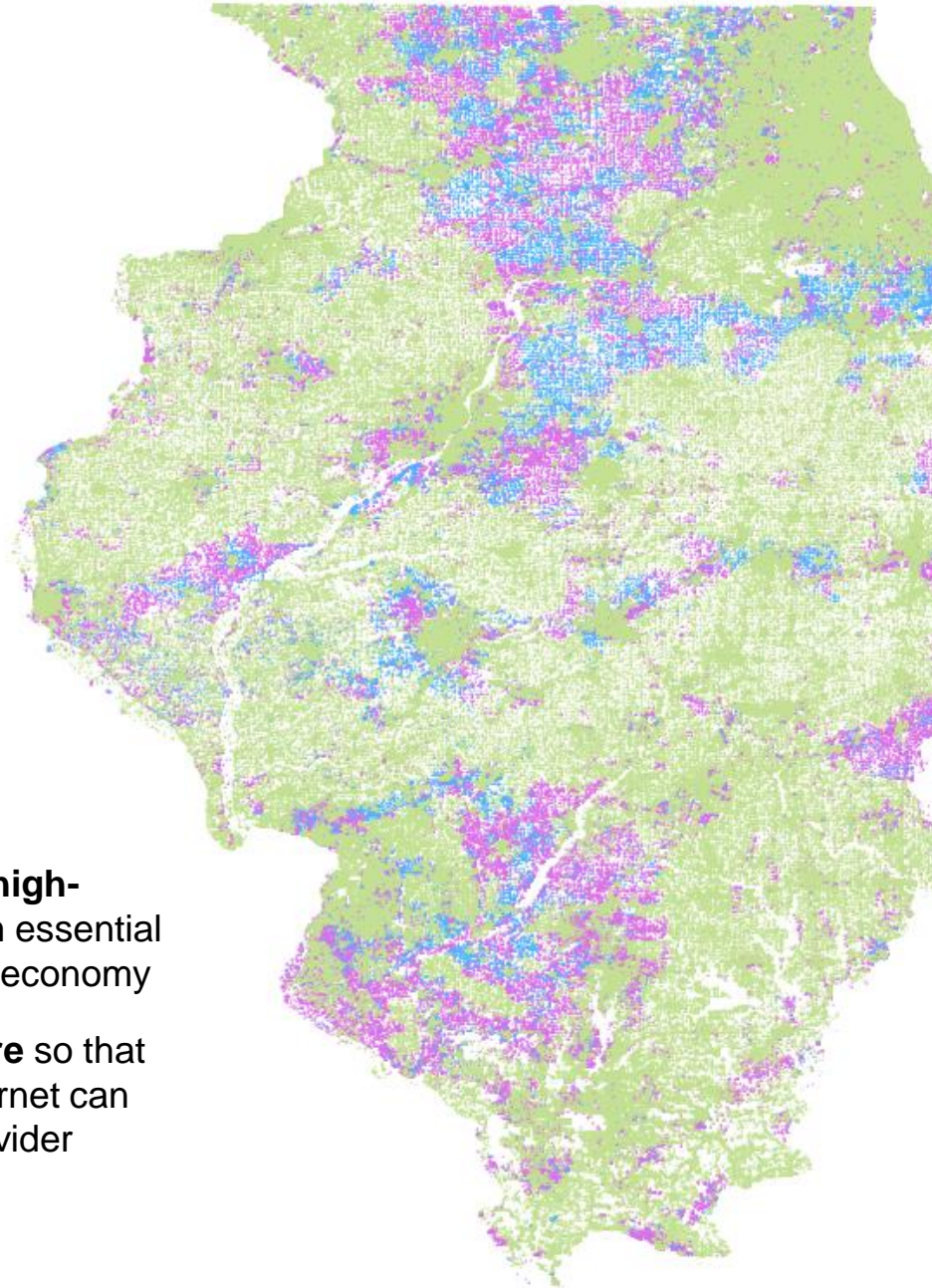
Today, many Illinoisans cannot access high-speed internet service, barring them from essential online services and the 21st century digital economy

BEAD funds will help build infrastructure so that every Illinoisan who wants high-speed internet can subscribe to internet service through a provider

Broadband service availability in Illinois, per BEAD-eligibility data

~4.2M
Total Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs)

~107K (~3%)
Unserved BSLs
(locations with <25/3Mbps speed)

~65K (~1%)
Underserved BSLs
(locations with ≥25/3Mbps and <100/20Mbps speed)

~172K BEAD-eligible BSLs

~4.0M (~96%)
Served BSLs
(locations with ≥100/20Mbps speed)

Plus **3,356** eligible community anchor institutions (CAIs)

2

Connect Illinois Round 4 Application Templates & Project Area Selection Tool Demo

Some qualifications will be evaluated using a standard template that applicants must complete

□ Qualification includes template   ■ Qualifications included in pre-qualification phase
■ Qualifications not included in pre-qualification phase

Entity application qualifications

A Financial capabilities

B Managerial capabilities

C Technical capabilities

D Compliance with law

E Operational capabilities

F Ownership capabilities

G Other public funding

H Risk management

I Regulatory information

Qualifications approved during the pre-qualification process generally do not need to be resubmitted, but the State reserves the right to re-assess the qualifications, capabilities, and resources of all prospective subgrantees

Project application qualifications

A Project overview and locations impacted

B Technical project-based

C Financial project-based

D Labor project-based

E Environmental, historical, climate-related project-based

F Other project-based

Z Regulatory information

Regardless of pre-qualification status, **all applicants must submit project-based qualification materials**

In-depth guidance can be found in the Application Guidebook

Source: BEAD NOFO; Connect Illinois Initial Proposal Volume II; Connect Illinois Round 4 Entity and Project Submission Forms

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Today, we'll walk through a few of these templates

☐ Focus for today   ✓ Submission always required   ✓ Submission conditionally required   ⊗ Submission not required for application

Overview of documents pertaining to BEAD-Funded Connect Illinois Round 4

	Document and applicable question index	Document required for application?		Document type
Entity Submission Form	(F) E.F1.A. Ownership Information Template	✓		Template
	(G) E.G3/G4. Existing Broadband Projects Template	✓	*(For applicants with other public projects)*	Template
	(I) E.I1. Mandatory Disclosure Form	✓		Form
	E.I2. Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form	✓		Form
	E.I3. W-9 Form	✓		Form
Project Submission Form	(A) P.A2. Project Area Selection Sheet Template	✓		Template
	(B) P.B1. Project Timeline Template	✓		Template
	P.B2.B Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) Design Template	✓	*(For proposed FWA projects)*	Template
	P.B3. Example Logical Network Diagram	✓	*(Network Diagram is required)*	Example document
	P.B4. Project Cost & Capital Investment Schedule	✓		Template
	P.B5. Professional Engineer Certification Template	✓		Template
	(C) P.C1. Pro Forma Template	✓	*(Pro Forma is required, but template is optional)*	Template
	P.C2. Model Letter of Credit	⊗	*(Required if awarded)*	Example document
	(Z) P.Z1. Uniform Grant Application Form	✓		Form

Definitions:

Templates require applicants to input specific project-related information in a State-defined format

Forms require applicants to submit standard information and/or disclosures required by the State

Example documents demonstrate information that applicants must provide

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Example Document: Model Letter of Credit

Form: Project Submission Form

Section: C – Financial Project-Based Qualifications

Document required for application?:
No *(only required for awardees after selection)*

Overview:

- **Exemplifies an irrevocable standby letter of credit** that meets NTIA guidelines and State requirements, which must be provided by applicants prior to entering a Connect Illinois Round 4 grant agreement should they be selected for a Connect Illinois Round 4 award

Note: Those leveraging the NTIA's Letter of Credit Waiver may choose to submit a qualifying Performance Bond instead of a Letter of Credit

Live demo to follow

Source: Connect Illinois Round 4 Project Submission Form and Model Letter of Credit as of 12/04; Connect Illinois Initial Proposal Volume II; NTIA BEAD NOFO

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Professional Engineer Certification Template

Professional Engineer Certification Template

BEAD Funded Connect Illinois Round 4

Certification

I, the undersigned professional engineer, certify that I have reviewed the following materials submitted as part of the application:

- Project Timeline Template
- Technical Narrative Document
- Project Network Design Shapefiles
- Network Design – Conduit Access Narrative (if applicable)
- Network Design – Fixed Wireless Technology Template (if applicable)
- Logical Network Diagram
- Project Cost Template[1]

Based on the review above, I certify that:

- The materials submitted as part of this application's Project Plan are complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge; and
- The proposed network can deliver standard broadband installation of qualifying broadband service as defined by the BEAD program's performance requirements to all locations served by the project within the required deployment timeline of no longer than four years.

Form: Project Submission Form

Section: B – Technical Project-Based Qualifications

Document required for application?: Yes

Overview:

- Allows **Professional Engineers to attest to the project's technical viability** in line with BEAD / State requirements, based on their review of a given project's relevant application materials

Live demo to follow

Source: Connect Illinois Round 4 Project Submission Form and Professional Engineer Certification Template as of 12/04; Connect Illinois Initial Proposal Volume II; NTIA BEAD NOFO

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Project Area Selection Sheet

Connect Illinois Round 4 - Submission Summary

Please review for accuracy and update any input tabs as needed prior to submission.
Note, this page is automatically generated based on information populated in the input tabs.

Submission Summary

Project Type	
% Hard-to-serve Selected	
% of not Unserved/Underserved Locations Threshold Met	Threshold Not Met
Total PAUs Selected	0
Total Hard-to-serve PAUs	0
Total PAUs' Reference Cost	$0
Total BSLs Selected	0
# of Un/Underserved BSLs	0
# Locations not Un/Underserved/Eligible CAIs Selected	0
% Locations not Un/Underserved/Eligible CAIs Selected	
# of Priority BSLs	0
% of Priority BSLs	
Total CAIs Selected	0

Form: Project Submission Form

Section: A – Project Overview and Locations Impacted

Document required for application?: Yes

Overview:

- Documents **applicant's proposed project area**

- Automatically summarizes **key project characteristics** including:

  - **High-level statistics** (e.g., Priority Broadband Project status, BSL / CAI count, PAU reference cost)

  - **Gating criteria requirements** (e.g., % hard-to-serve projects for Wave 1, % not un-/underserved)

Live demo to follow

Source: Connect Illinois Round 4 Project Submission Form and Project Area Selection Template as of 12/04; Connect Illinois Initial Proposal Volume II; NTIA BEAD NOFO

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Project Area Selection Tool

https://bead.connectednation.org/illinois/

Map Layers

Click on the check box to toggle on or off layers to view different elements of the map.
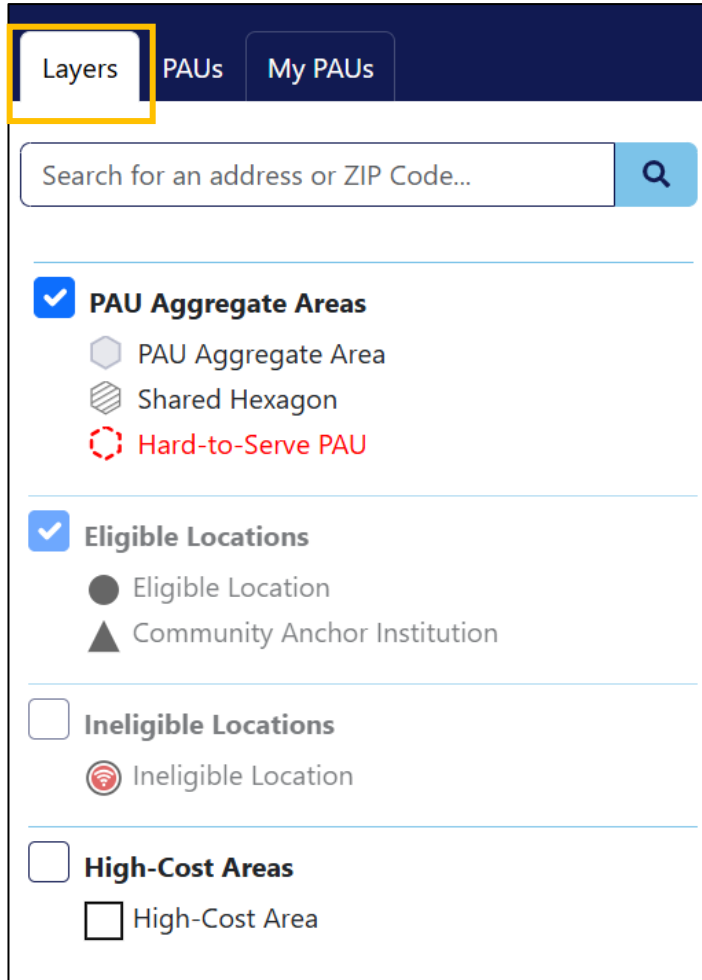
PAU Aggregate Areas = The hexagonal area surrounding locations that belong to the same PAU

Eligible Location = Points on the map which belong to PAUs and are eligible to be connected through the BEAD Program

Ineligible Locations = Locations that are not eligible for the BEAD Program (i.e., classified as served)

High-Cost Areas = Census Block Groups that NTIA considers above average cost to serve. Project areas consisting of only Project Area Units in High-Cost Areas are exempt from the minimum 25 percent matching funds requirement.

Location Search

Search for a location (address, zip code, county, town) in the search bar to zoom to that area

View Locations and Project Area Units

Each point is a location. Locations in the same Project Area Unit (PAU) share a color. PAUs with a red outline are Hard-to-Serve.
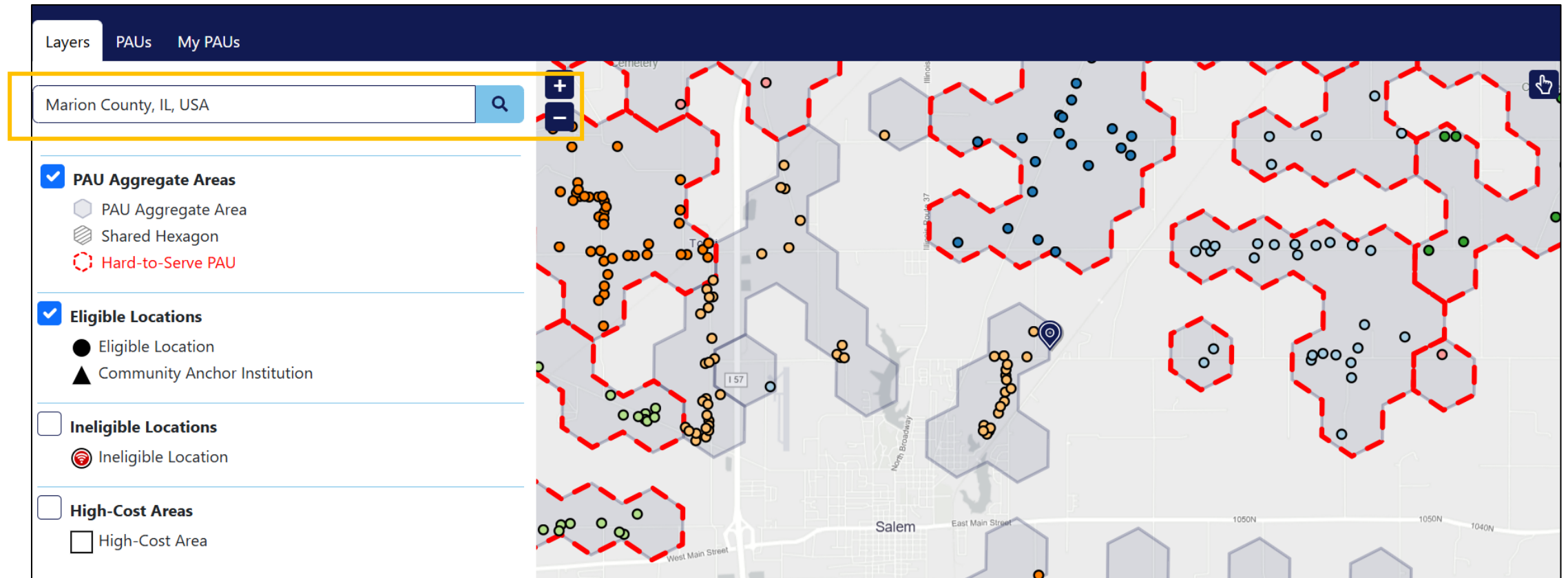
PAUs

On the PAUs tab, view a list of PAUs on the lefthand panel as you explore the map

PAU Details & Adding a PAU

Click on a location or a hexagon where a location falls to view information about a PAU.

Click "Add to My PAUs" to add it to your project.
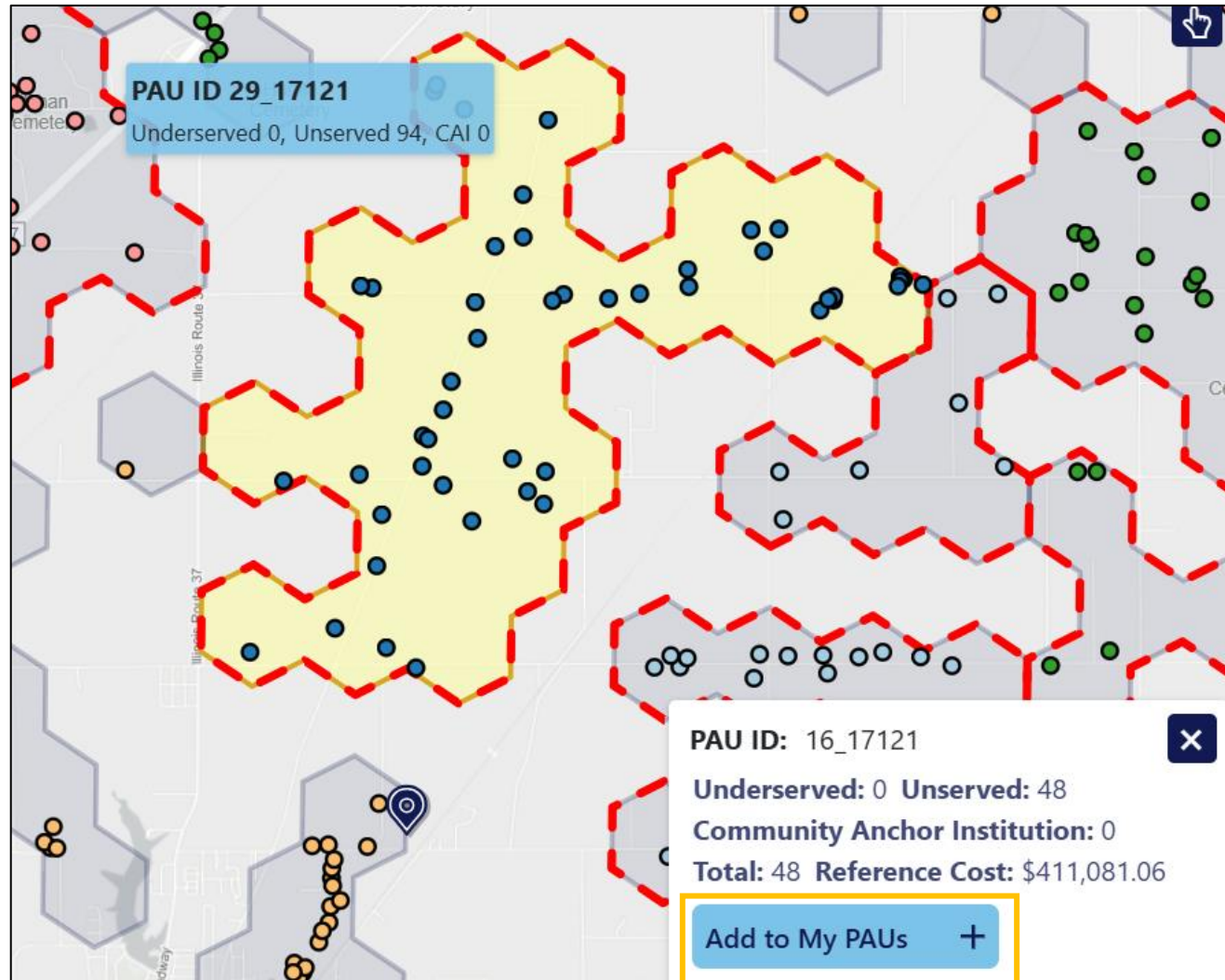
Shared Hexagons

If locations from different PAUs fall within the same hexagon, there is an option to toggle between the PAUs to ensure you're selecting the intended PAU
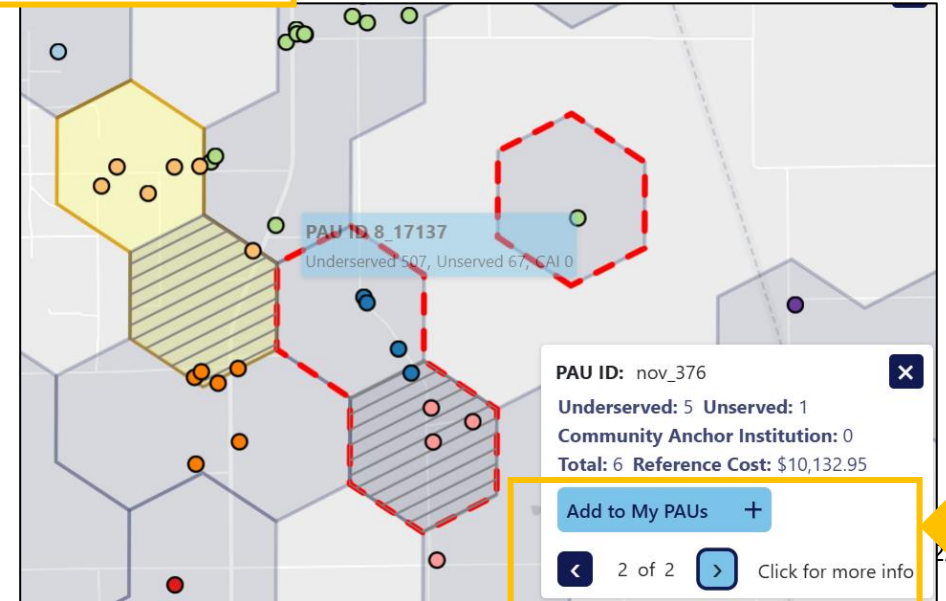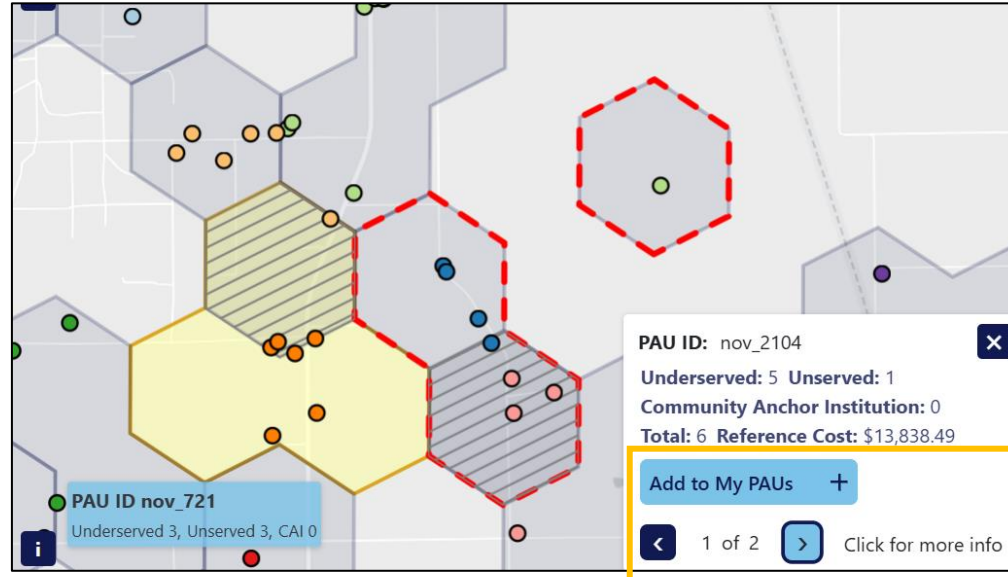
Bulk PAU Selection

Use the lasso tool to select more than one PAU or to lasso a group of PAUs

Click a PAU again to remove it

Click "Add to My PAUs" to add them to a project area
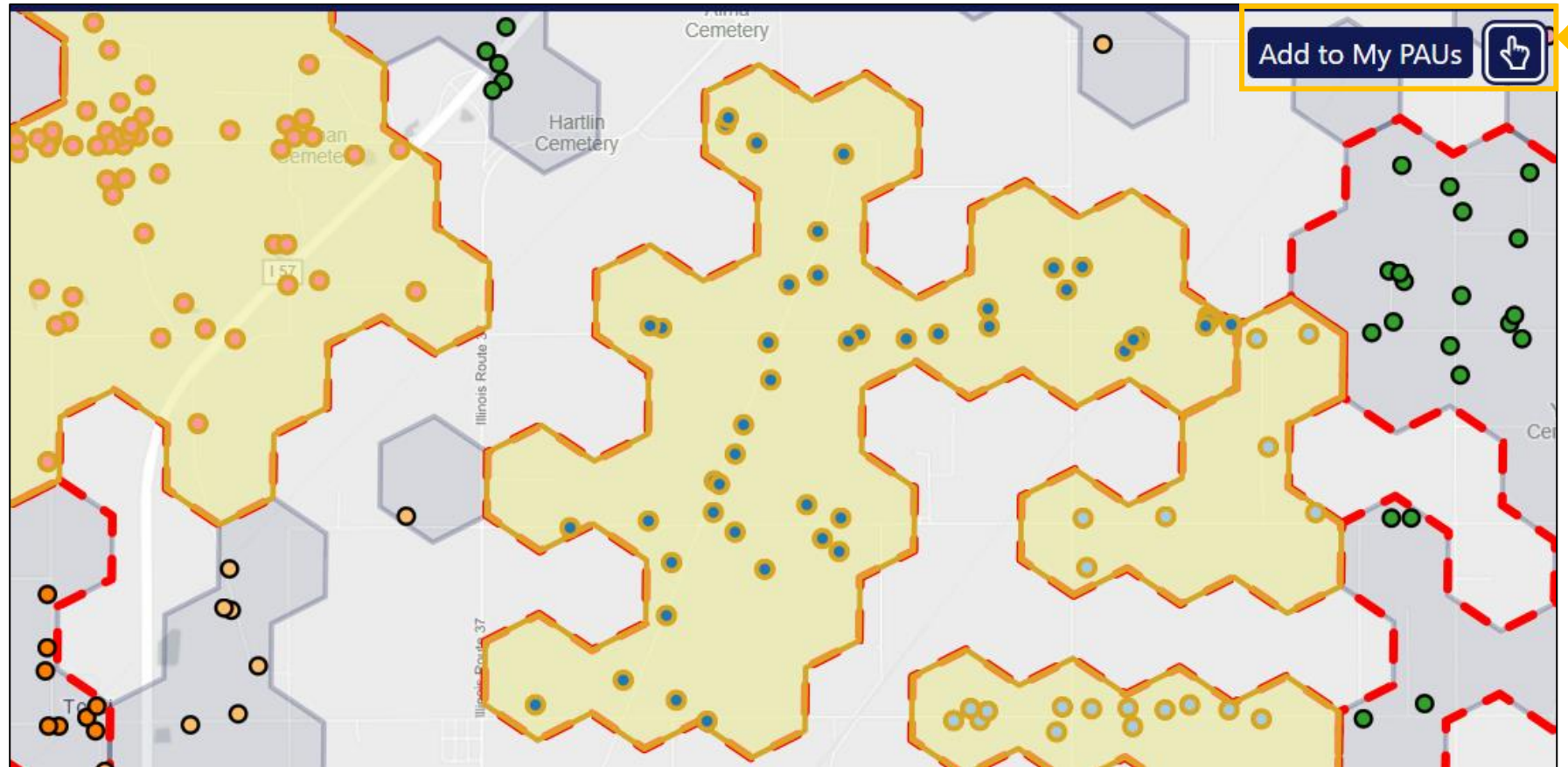
Bulk PAU Selection

If locations from different PAUs fall within the same hexagon, there is an option to toggle between the PAUs to ensure you're selecting the intended PAU

Look for the note: "Selection includes [#] shared hexagons"

Then, use the CNTRL key to select more than one (or all) PAUs based on the PAU ID
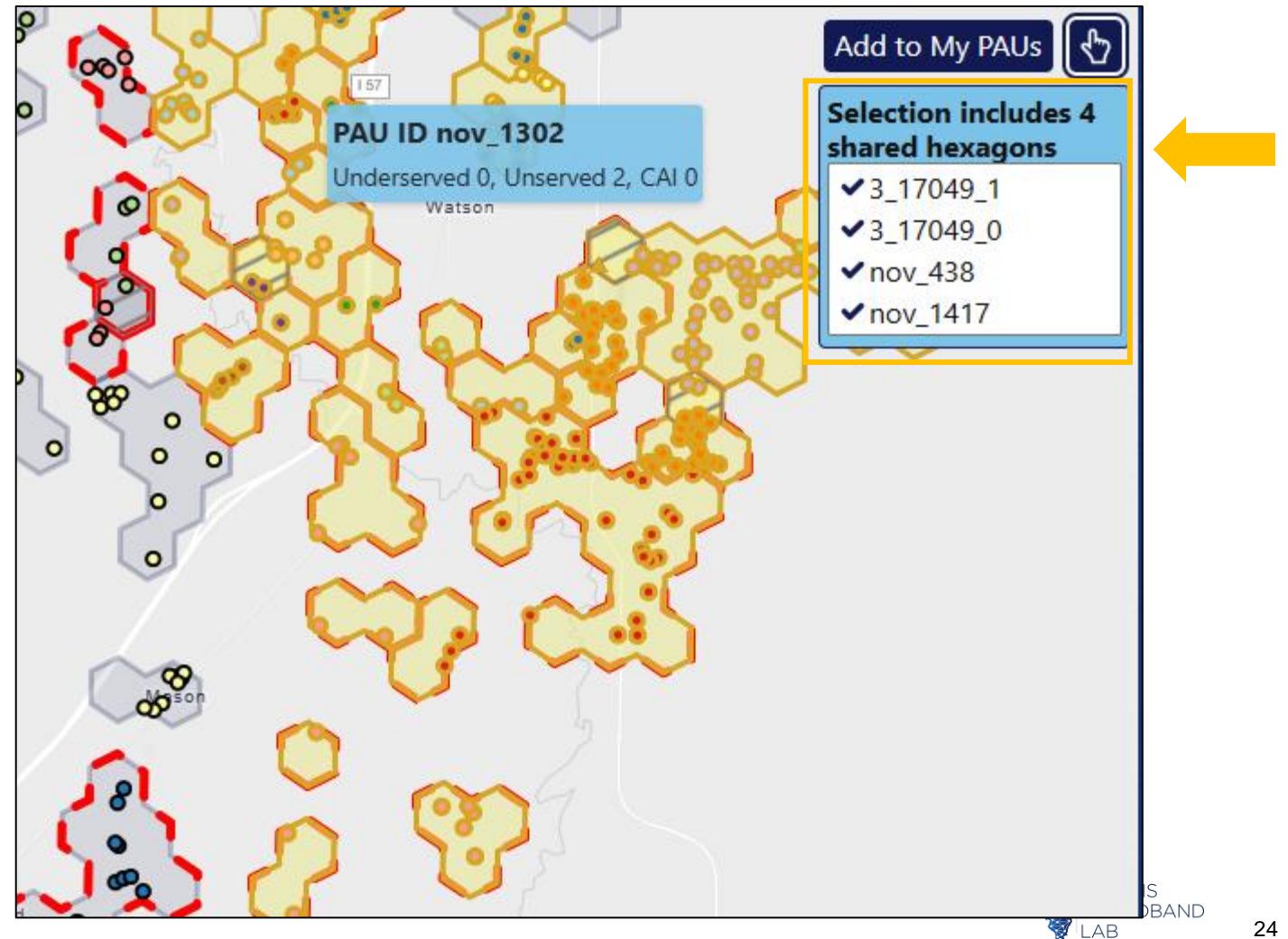
My PAUs

View Summary Statistics about selected PAUs, including:

Count and % of regular vs. Hard-to-Serve PAUs

Breakdown of location classifications

Total Reference Cost

My PAUs

Click on the orange star to indicate that a PAU is a "Must Have" PAU

This means that if this PAU is claimed by a higher scoring application, the applicant's project will not be auto-descoped during deconfliction.

Tools

Download and save PAUs as a CSV

Upload a saved CSV to continue where you left off

View PAUs at the location level in a table format

Delete all PAUs from "My PAUs"

Important Note: The tool will not autosave your work if you exit. Use the download feature to save and return to your work.

Demo: Project Area Selection Tool
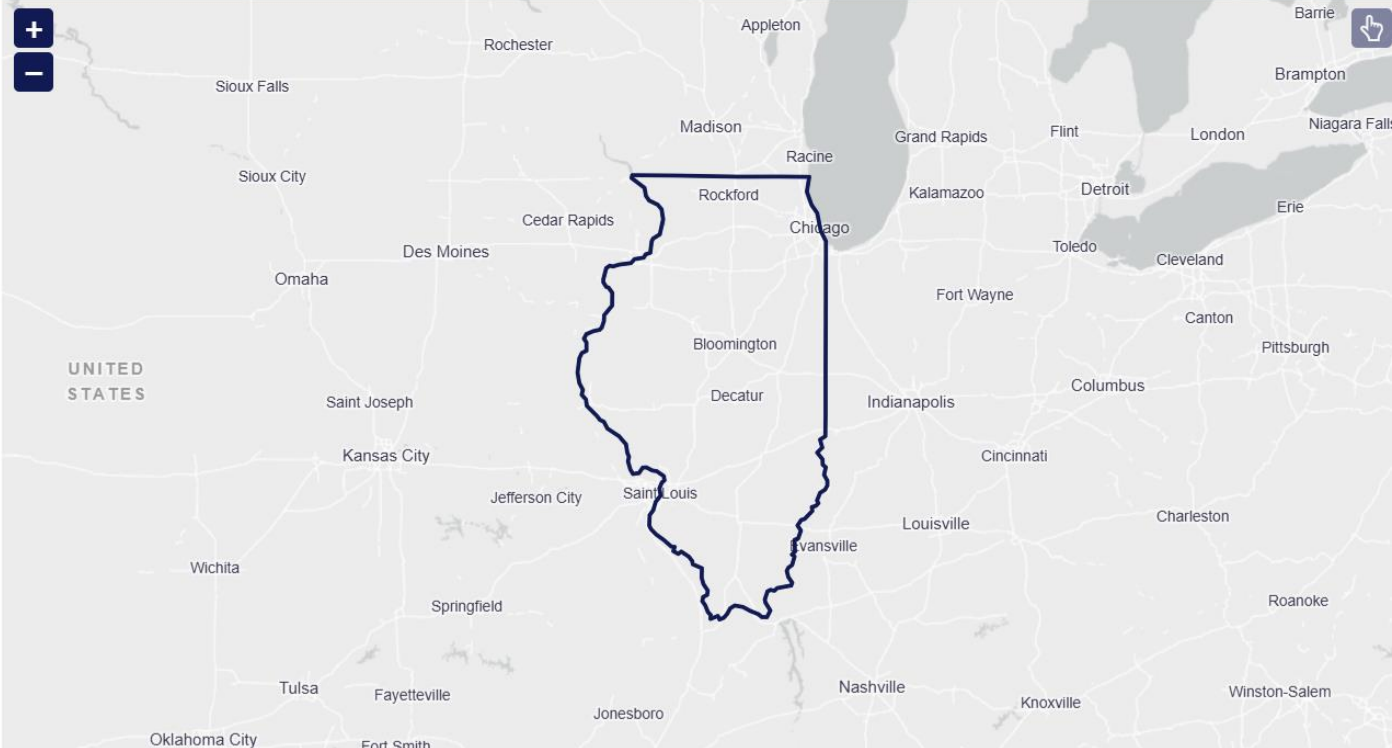
https://bead.connectednation.org/illinois/

Additional Resources & Helpful Links

Office Hours Tuesday/Thursday, 1-2 pm: [Link]

Connect Illinois Round 4 NOFO Preview: [Link]

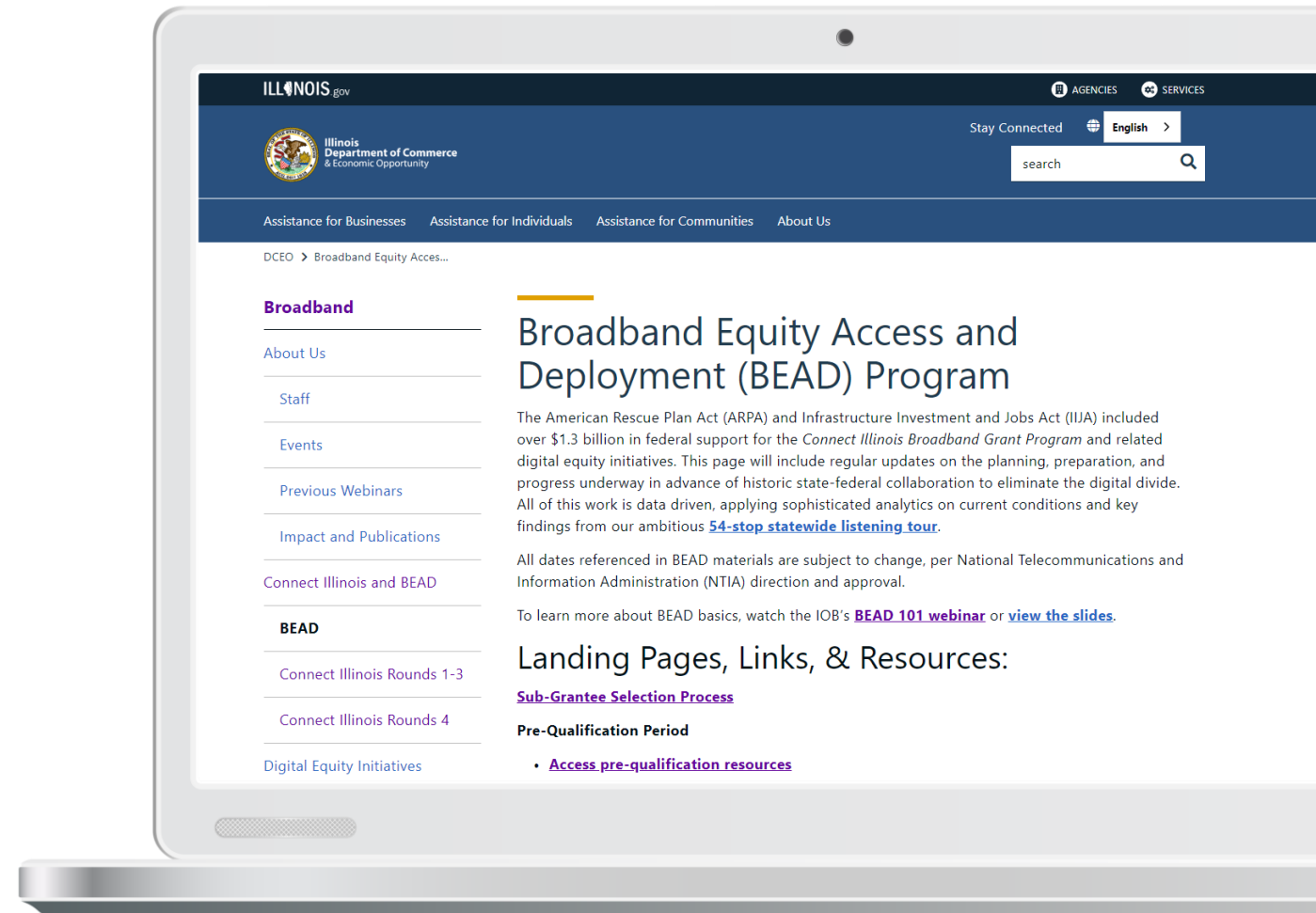Connect Illinois Round 4 App Guidebook: [Link]

BEAD Landing Page: [Link]

BEAD Subgrantee Selection Process Page:
[Link]

- Includes materials from BEAD Deep Dive Webinar Series and FAQs

Connect Illinois Initial Proposal, Volume II: [Link]

For further questions, **please email broadband@illinois.gov**

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Illinois Office of Broadband (IOB)**
https://bit.ly/IOBPartner

Sign up for Illinois Broadband Connections Newsletter
https://bit.ly/IOBnewsletter

Form Deep Dive:
E.I1. Mandatory Disclosure Form

Mandatory Disclosure

Award applicants and recipients of awards from the State of Illinois (collectively referred to herein as "Grantee") must disclose, in a timely manner and in writing to the State awarding agency, all violations of State or federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the award. *See* 30 ILCS 708/40; 44 Ill. Admin. Code § 7000.40(b)(4); 2 CFR § 200.113. Failure to make the required disclosures may result in remedial action.

Are there any violations of State or federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the awarding of a grant to your organization?   ☐ No   ☐ Yes

If there any violations of State or federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the awarding of a grant to your organization, please describe them all here:

Grantee has a continuing duty to disclose to the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (the "Department") all violations of criminal law involving fraud, bribery or gratuity violations potentially affecting this grant award.

By signing this document, below, as the duly authorized representative of the Grantee, I hereby certify that:

- All of the statements in this Mandatory Disclosure form are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject

Form: Entity Submission Form

Section: I – Regulatory Information

Document required for application?: Yes

Overview:

- Requires **disclosure of all violations of relevant Federal / State laws**, in line with 30 ILCS 708/40; 44 Ill. Admin. Code § 7000.40(b)(4); 2 CFR § 200.113

Source: Connect Illinois Round 4 Entity Submission Form and Mandatory Disclosure Form as of 12/04; Connect Illinois Initial Proposal Volume II; NTIA BEAD NOFO

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Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Award applicants and recipients of awards from the State of Illinois (collectively referred to herein as "Grantee") must disclose in writing to the awarding State agency any actual or potential conflict of interest that could affect the State award for which the Grantee has applied or has received. See 30 ILCS 708/35; 44 Ill. Admin Code § 7000.40(b)(3); 2 CFR § 200.112. A conflict of interest exists if an organization's officers, directors, agents, employees and/or their spouses or immediate family members use their position(s) for a purpose that is, or gives the appearance of, being motivated by a desire for a personal gain, financial or nonfinancial, whether direct or indirect, for themselves or others, particularly those with whom they have a family business or other close associations. In addition, the following conflict of interest standards apply to governmental and non-governmental entities.

Definitions:

Governmental Entity. If the Grantee is a governmental entity, no officer or employee of the Grantee, member of its governing body or any other public official of the locality in which the award objectives will be carried out shall participate in any decision relating to a State award which affects his/her personal interest or the interest of any corporation, partnership or association in which he/she is directly or indirectly interested, or which affects the personal interest of a spouse or immediate family member, or has any financial interest, direct or indirect, in the work to be performed under the State award.

Non-governmental Entity. If the Grantee is a non-governmental entity, no officer or employee of the Grantee shall participate in any decision relating to a State award which affects his/her personal interest or the interest of any corporation, partnership or association in which he/she is directly or indirectly interested, or which affects the personal interest of a spouse or immediate family member, or has any financial interest, direct or indirect, in the work to be performed under the State award.

The Grantee shall also establish safeguards, evidenced by policies, rules and/or bylaws, to prohibit employees or officers of Grantee from engaging in actions, which create or which appear to create a conflict of interest as described herein.

The Grantee has a continuing duty to immediately notify the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (the "Department") in writing of any actual or potential conflict of interest, as well as

Form: Entity Submission Form

Section: I – Regulatory Information

Document required for application?: Yes

Overview:

- Requires **disclosure of any actual or potential conflicts of interest** that could affect the State award, in line with 30 ILCS 708/35; 44 Ill. Admin Code § 7000.40(b)(3); 2 CFR § 200.112

Source: Connect Illinois Round 4 Entity Submission Form and Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form as of 12/04; Connect Illinois Initial Proposal Volume II; NTIA BEAD NOFO

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Form Deep Dive:
E.I3. W-9 Form

Form: Entity Submission Form

Section: I – Regulatory Information

Document required for application?: Yes

Overview:

- **Standard IRS W-9** Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification

Source: Connect Illinois Round 4 Entity Submission Form and W-9 Form as of 12/04; Connect Illinois Initial Proposal Volume II; NTIA BEAD NOFO

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Form: Project Submission Form

Section: Z – Regulatory Information

Document required for application?: Yes

Overview:

- Requires applicants to submit **applicant information, project information, and certifications through a standardized form required by the State of Illinois** for all applicants of grant opportunities by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Source: Connect Illinois Round 4 Project Submission Form and Uniform Grant Application Form as of 11/25; Connect Illinois Initial Proposal Volume II; NTIA BEAD NOFO

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