



**Illinois**  
**Department of Commerce**  
& Economic Opportunity  
**OFFICE OF BROADBAND**  
JB Pritzker, Governor



**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM**

# Closing the Digital Divide in Illinois

BEAD Deep-Dive Webinar – Benefit of the Bargain Round

June 30, 2025

# Topics for Discussion Today



**Recap of the BEAD program**



**Updates based on BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice (Jun 6, 2025)**



**Benefit of the Bargain Round – Subgrantee Selection Process**



**Stakeholder Resources**

# 1

## Recap of the BEAD Program

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

*Note: NTIA has communicated changes to the program in the NTIA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice (dated June 6, 2025), which are reflected in the subgrantee selection process detailed in today's webinar*

## \$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 building infrastructure where high-speed internet is currently unavailable

**Illinois was allocated \$1.04 billion** to connect all qualifying households and community anchor institutions to quality broadband service.

Source: [BEAD Program Info Sheet](#)

## 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



# Before we discuss further, let's define a few concepts and terms

## Project Area Unit (PAU)

A collection of un/underserved Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) and Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) eligible for an application

PAUs do not overlap and collectively contain all un/underserved locations and eligible CAIs in the State

## Broadband Serviceable Location (BSL)

A business or residential location at which fixed broadband access is, or can be, installed, where:

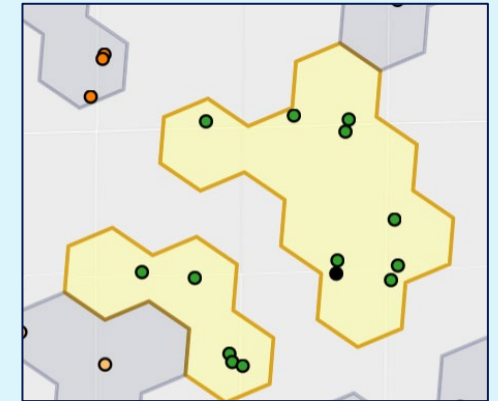
- **Unserved:** Has access to broadband service with speeds of <25/3Mbps
- **Underserved:** ≥25/3 and <100/20Mbps
- **Served:** ≥100/20Mbps

## Community Anchor Institution (CAI)

An entity that facilitates wider use of broadband service by vulnerable populations (e.g., schools, libraries, senior centers)<sup>1</sup>

Qualifying CAIs without access to 1Gbps symmetrical broadband service are eligible for BEAD funding

*Illustration of a PAU, where each point shown is an eligible location*



<sup>1</sup> – Per the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), the term “community anchor institution” means an entity such as a school, library, health clinic, health center, hospital or other medical provider, public safety entity, institution of higher education, public housing organization, or community support organization that facilitates greater use of broadband service by vulnerable populations, including low-income individuals, unemployed individuals, and aged individuals.

# 2

## **Updates based on BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice (Jun 6, 2025)**

# On June 6, NTIA released a policy notice restructuring the BEAD Program

The Policy Notice makes significant changes to Illinois' process and required revamping the subgrantee selection rules and rescinding Wave 1 awards.

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Telecommunications and Information Administration

#### Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program: BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice

#### ACTION: Notice

#### SUMMARY:

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provides funding for robust investment in American infrastructure projects. IIJA established the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, which provides \$42.45 billion of funding to achieve high-speed broadband access throughout the United States. *See* Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, Division F, Title I, Section 60101, Public Law 117-58, 135 Stat. 429 (November 15, 2021) (codified at 47 U.S.C. § 1701 *et seq.*).

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), as the agency responsible for administering the BEAD Program, provides herein guidance for Eligible Entities (States, Territories, and the District of Columbia) to ensure American taxpayers obtain the greatest value for their broadband investment or “Benefit of the Bargain” under the BEAD Program.

**This Policy Notice modifies and replaces certain requirements outlined in the BEAD Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).**<sup>1</sup> Each Eligible Entity must comply with this Policy Notice to gain approval of its Final Proposal from the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.<sup>2</sup>

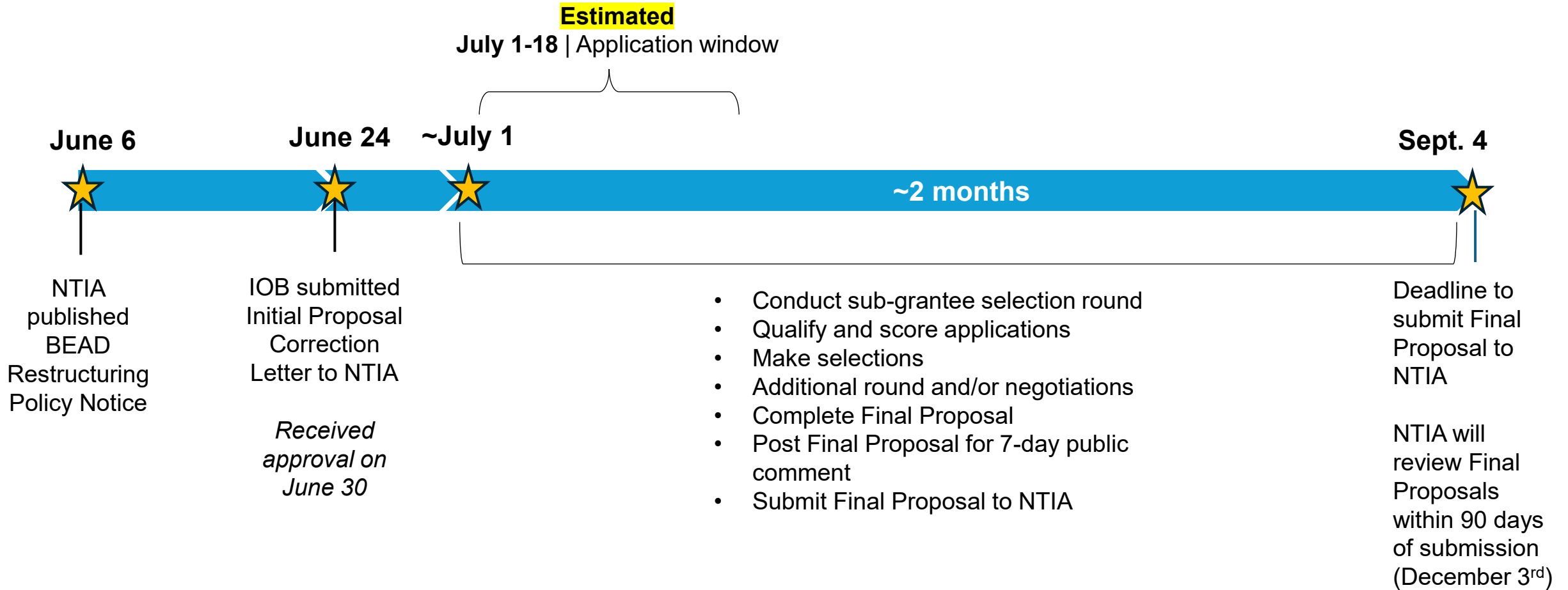
To comply with the Policy Notice, Illinois will be releasing an updated NOFO, Application Guidebook, map, and application materials.

The Policy Notice makes three key changes:

1. Eliminates certain regulatory requirements
2. Updates the interpretation of the Priority Broadband Project definition
3. Creates a new Benefit of Bargain round

# Timeline

NTIA allows states 90 days to revise programs, run a new subgrantee selection round, and submit the Final Proposal





## Key Change #1:

# Eliminates Certain Regulatory Requirements

The Policy Notice **eliminates or alters non-statutory requirements from 7 areas** of the BEAD NOFO:

Section	Implication on Illinois
Labor, Employment, and Workforce Development Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eliminates fair labor practices in scoring rubric</li><li>• Removes Project Labor Agreement (PLA) requirements</li><li>• <b><i>Requested NTIA Waiver for State Law: Prevailing Wage &amp; Illinois Works</i></b></li></ul>
Climate Change Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eliminates state need to account for weather- and climate-related risks to new infrastructure projects</li><li>• Applicants still need to establish risk management plans for infrastructure reliability and resiliency from natural disasters</li></ul>
Open Access / Net Neutrality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eliminates open access in scoring rubric</li><li>• Eliminates consumer protections (i.e., data cap restrictions)</li><li>• Reduces requirements around conduit access points</li></ul>
Local Coordination and Stakeholder Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eliminates local coordination in scoring rubric</li><li>• 7-day Final Proposal comment period will satisfy local coordination requirement</li></ul>
Low-Cost Service Option	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eliminates state-defined low-cost service option</li><li>• Providers can propose their own low-cost service option, including an existing affordability plan offered to customers</li></ul>
Non-Traditional Broadband Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• States not required to justify selection of traditional provider over non-traditional providers (does not change Illinois' process)</li></ul>
Middle Class Affordability Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eliminates requirement for Illinois to develop, implement, and provide updates on a middle-class affordability plan</li></ul>

Updated applications incorporate these changes. Information previously submitted by applicants that is no longer required will not be considered in application review.

## Key Change #2: Creates New Benefit of the Bargain round

# Illinois is required to run at least one additional application window, the Benefit of the Bargain (BotB) Round

## Key Elements of the BotB Round

### Technology

BotB accepts and scores applications using any technology that meets BEAD specifications, with a priority for projects qualifying as a Priority Broadband Project

### Removing Locations

Applicants can propose to exclude (with a rationale) locations that they determine are excessively high cost

### Achieving Universal Coverage

IL may conduct direct negotiation or facilitate additional application rounds to meet the goal of universal service

### Previous Applicants

Wave 1 awardees or rollovers may apply some, or all, of their past application to BotB Round; any applicant may reuse EFS qualifications

Wave 1 preliminary awards have been rescinded. BotB will replace Illinois' planned Wave 2.

## Key Change #3:

# Updates Interpretation of Priority Broadband Project Definition

Source: [NTIA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice](#)  
(June 6, 2025), Connect Illinois Round 4 Benefit of the  
Bargain round application form as of June 30, 2025

The BEAD NTIA Restructuring Policy Notice replaces the previous definition of Priority Broadband Project (PBP) to the following:

***Priority Broadband Project*** – The term “Priority Broadband Project” means 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.

**Part C: Priority Broadband Project Qualifications**

**P.C1.A. Priority Broadband Project** \* Does the applicant seek to have the IOB treat this application as a Priority Broadband Project based on NTIA's definition below? If yes, per the Policy Notice, supporting documentation is required sufficient for the IOB to assess the network application and determine that the proposed network architecture for each specific project area meets this standard.

Definition of a "Priority Broadband Project" — The term "Priority Broadband Project" means 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.

☒ Yes  
☐ No

Clear Selection

**P.C1.B. Priority Broadband Project: Certification** \* Do you certify that this project will provide 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?

☒ Yes  
☐ No

**P.C2. Priority Broadband Project: Documentation** \* Please upload completed documentation using the required templates available in the Application Guidebook on page  Providing this documentation will allow the IOB to assess the network application and determine whether the proposed network architecture for each specific project area meets the Priority Broadband Project standard.

Please note that that IOB will review applicant responses in this section in conjunction with the technical section of the application.

In the application, applicants seeking to have their proposals treated as Priority Broadband Projects can select **Yes** in P.C1.A, and submit a **certification** and **supporting documentation** for evaluation



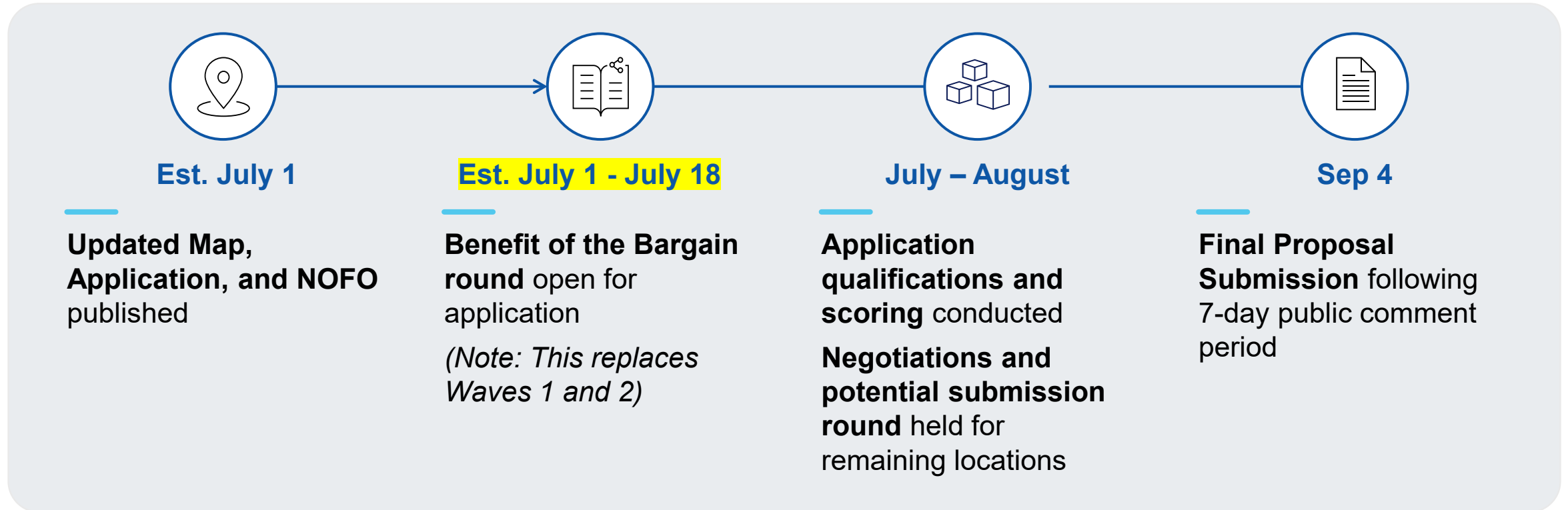
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# Key dates for BEAD-Funded Connect Illinois Round 4 BotB Round

PRELIMINARY TIMELINE - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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



## Technical Assistance:

- Application materials overview during today's webinar
- Recurring office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-2 pm CT

# Scoring criteria

Scoring rubric has been updated to comply with the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice.

Primary Criteria	Description	Points Available
<i>In deciding among competing applications covering the same general project areas, states must choose the option with the lowest cost based on minimal BEAD Program outlay.</i>		
Minimal BEAD Program Outlay	The state must select the combination of project proposals with the lowest overall cost to the Program. This may involve selecting a proposal that is not the lowest-cost option for a given set of BSLs but is part of the combination of selected projects with the lowest overall cost to the Program.	N/A
Secondary Criteria	Description	Points Available
<i>If any other proposals are within 15% of the lowest cost proposal on an average cost per pass basis, then the following Secondary Criteria will be applied to determine a winner.</i>		
Speed to Deployment	Greater consideration can be awarded to subgrantees promising an earlier service provision date.	5%
Speed of Network and Other Technical Capabilities	States may weigh speed, latency, and other technical capabilities.	45%
Preliminary/Provisional Subgrantees	States may give additional weight to locations where states have already identified preliminary selected subgrantees.	50%
Total:		100%



# What's changed on the map

The Policy Notice requires states to revisit and revise their BEAD-eligible locations. As Illinois did not have any new federal enforceable commitments or defaults, we made three key changes.

## Community Anchor Institutions

### NTIA Requirement:

- Revise list of eligible Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) to conform with statutory definition
- Expansive definition revoked
- Narrow interpretation of “community support organization”
- NTIA may reject any CAI designation



### Outcome:

- **945** parks, childcare centers, and certain community-based organizations removed from eligible CAIs
- **Revised CAI total: 2,411** (includes 16 No-BEAD CAIs)

## Unlicensed Fixed Wireless

### NTIA Requirement:

- Unlicensed fixed wireless (ULFW) providers can compete for BEAD subgrants with other applicants
- ULFW may submit evidence demonstrating qualifying service to locations designated as Technology Code 70 in FCC National Broadband Map



### Outcome:

- **~1,604 BSLs** shifting from un/underserved to served based on evidence from ULFW provider; will no longer be BEAD-eligible

## Serviceability Updates

### NTIA Requirement:

- Investigate and account for locations that do not require BEAD funding using the reason code process as detailed in the Final Proposal Guidance

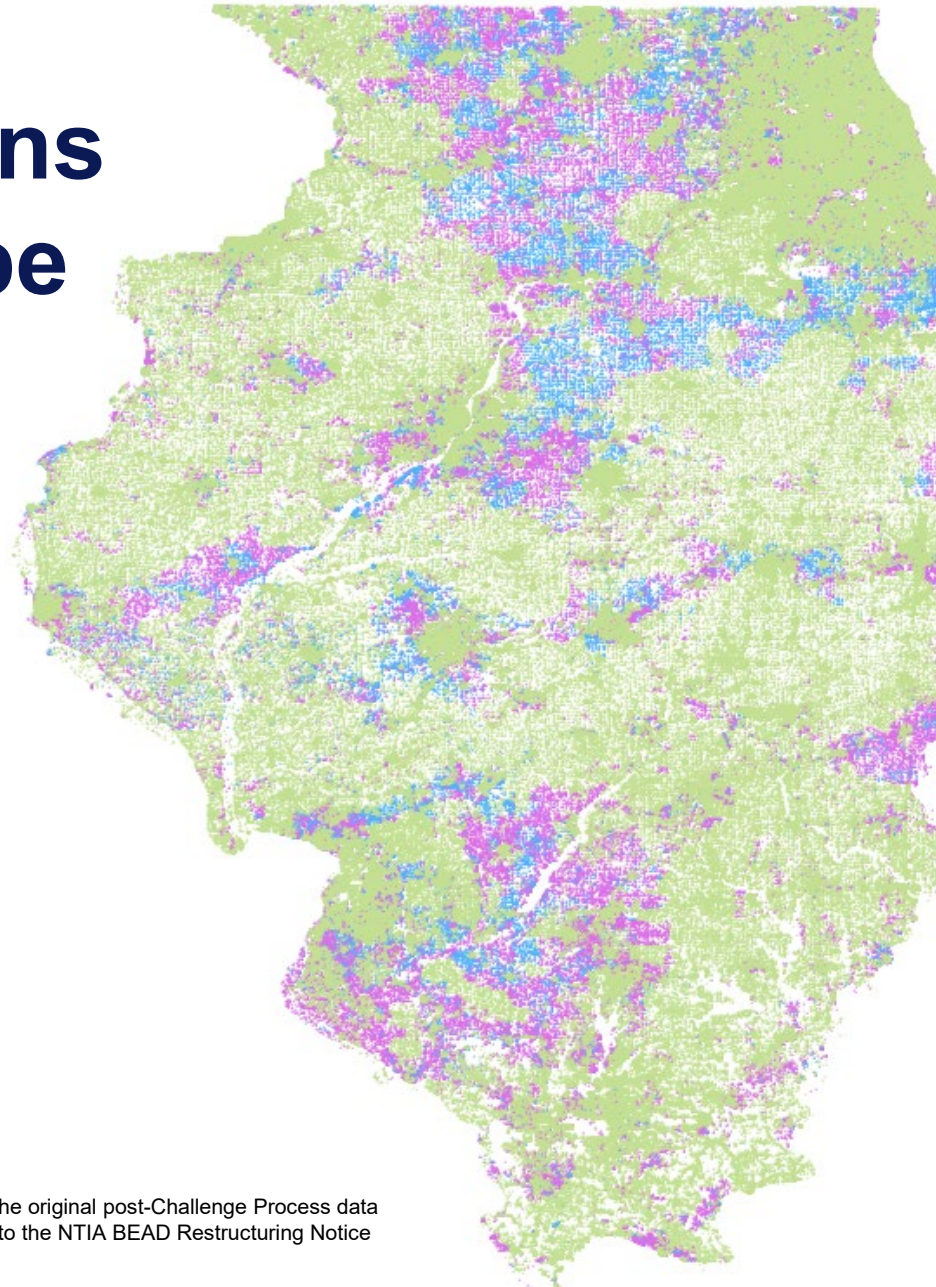


### Outcome:

- **~10K BSLs** already removed based on qualifying evidence
- Updates following a June 2025 comparison of ISP-reported service that met evidence requirements for FCC availability data as of Dec. 2024

# 162,604 locations are eligible to be connected through BEAD

**Note:** The BEAD-eligible location list has been updated as detailed on previous page



**Broadband service  
availability in Illinois, per  
BEAD-eligibility data<sup>1</sup>**

**~4.2M**

Total Broadband Serviceable  
Locations (BSLs)

**~98k (~2.3%)**

Unserved BSLs

(locations with <25/3Mbps speed)

**~62K (~1.47%)**

Underserved BSLs

(locations with ≥25/3Mbps and  
<100/20Mbps speed)

~160K  
BEAD-  
eligible  
BSLs

**~4.0M (~97%)**

Served BSLs

(locations with ≥100/20Mbps speed)

Plus **2,395** eligible community anchor  
institutions (CAIs)

1. Note: Map visualization leverages BEAD eligibility information from the original post-Challenge Process data approved by NTIA, and does not account for eligibility changes due to the NTIA BEAD Restructuring Notice (dated June 5, 2025).

# 3

## Benefit of the Bargain Round – Subgrantee Selection Process

# Subgrantees must meet BEAD programmatic and match requirements

i



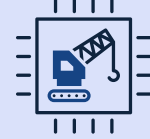
## Network capabilities

**Speed:**  $\geq 100/20$  Mbps or 1/1 Gbps for CAs

**Latency:** 95% of measurements  $< 100$  ms round-trip time

**Outages:**  $< 48$  hrs over any 365-day period except in the case of natural disasters or force majeure

ii



## Deployment requirements

**Deadlines:** Deploy and begin service not later than four years after subgrant received (with possible one year extension)

**Conduit access points:** Include interspersed conduit access points at regular and short intervals for interconnection

iii



## Service obligations

**Access to service:** Reasonable and non-discriminatory terms and conditions and ability to connect within 10 business days of request

**Low-cost plan:** Offer at least one low-cost service option for all eligible subscribers<sup>1</sup>

**Cybersecurity and supply chain:** Adhere to baseline requirements

iv



## Match requirements

BEAD program requires a **minimum 25% match of project costs** for all BEAD-funded projects, absent a waiver approved by NTIA

1. Per the BEAD [Restructuring Policy Notice](#) (June 6, 2025) The term "Eligible Subscriber" means any household seeking to subscribe to broadband internet access service that is eligible for the FCC's Lifeline Program  
Source: NTIA



# Applicants must submit three forms to complete an application for BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4



## Entity Submission Form

**Purpose**

Ensures entities applying for Connect Illinois Round 4 **meet NTIA BEAD qualification requirements**

**Example materials to submit**

- Entity-specific qualifications
- IL Conflict of Interest disclosure
- IL Mandatory Disclosures
- W-9 form

**Submission frequency**

**Once per entity**, regardless of number of projects to be submitted  
*Note:* Entities who **qualified in Wave 1** may use that entity form for Benefit of the Bargain Project Submissions

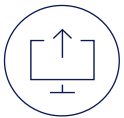


## Project Submission Form

Ensures submitted **projects meet NTIA BEAD qualification requirements** and collects materials to be reviewed during the **Merit Review Scoring Process**

- Project-specific qualifications
- Project-specific scoring materials
- IL Project budget template
- IL Uniform Grant Application Form

**Once per project**



## Application Submission Form

Serves as the **official submission of the application** to the State of Illinois, specifying the Entity / Project submissions to be reviewed by the State

- Entity Submission Form ID
- Project Submission Form ID

**Once per project**



1

# Entity Submission Form



## Connect Illinois Round 4 Entity Form

### Entity Form (Part 1)

This application form is part 1 of the subgrant application and Deployment (BEAD)-funded Connect Illinois Round 4 Entity Form (part 2) of the application process.

Please note, each entity should submit this form only once. If you submitted an entity application, you intend to submit as part of Connect Illinois Round 4 Entity Form (part 2) of the application process.

This form requests materials that will be used in scoring but must be satisfactory for BEAD funding per NTIA and BEAD requirements to participate in the BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4 Entity Form (part 2) of the application process.

**Pre-Qualification Participants:** If you participated in the Pre-Qualification process, you are not required to resubmit materials for qualification requirements to participate in the BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4 Entity Form (part 2) of the application process. Before submitting updated materials, please have the Pre-Qualification Participation Materials information included in the Notice Letter.

Please use standard templates wherever applicable while submitting these materials.

### Administrative: Entity Information

This section requests basic identification information for your entity.


E.AD.1. Legal Entity Name *	Please enter your legal entity name used in all company documents, including any filings with the FCC or the IRS.
E.AD.2. Doing Business As (DBA)	Please enter the name that the legal entity is doing business as (DBA).
E.AD.3. Employer Identification Number (EIN) *	<p>Please enter the nine-digit Employer Identification Number (EIN) used in the BEAD Pre-Qualification process, please enter the exact EIN may result in the qualifications approval application process.</p> <p>In the event you are applying as a multi-party application, please enter the EIN that was used for SAM registration or, if not, reporting to the State and ensuring that the multi-party application is consistent with the EIN.</p> <p>If you do not have an EIN, please contact the IRS for more information.</p>
E.AD.4. Type of Entity *	<p>Select the relevant type that best describes your entity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="radio"/> Private/For-Profit Company or Organization</li><li><input type="radio"/> Public-Private Partnership</li><li><input type="radio"/> Public Utility, Private Utility, or Public Utility</li><li><input type="radio"/> Cooperative</li><li><input type="radio"/> Municipality or political subdivision</li><li><input type="radio"/> Non-Profit Organization</li><li><input type="radio"/> Tribal Government</li><li><input type="radio"/> Consortium</li><li><input type="radio"/> Other</li></ul>

### Part B: Managerial Capabilities

This section requests information about your entity to demonstrate compliance with BEAD requirements on managerial capabilities for subgrantees deploying network facilities (BEAD NOFO, pages 73-74).

E.B1. Résumés: Documentation *	<p>Provide 5-7 résumés for essential financial, technical, and managerial personnel who will support project implementation. Résumés should include educational experience, detailed descriptions of work history, and all relevant experience in undertaking projects of similar size and scope.</p> <p>(Permitted file types: PDF)</p> <div>Drop files here or <a href="#">browse</a></div>
E.B2.A. Organizational chart(s): Personnel Documentation *	<p>Provide a personnel organizational chart that includes all relevant personnel who will support project implementation. Names and titles should be clearly identified for all positions.</p> <p>(Permitted file types: PDF, XLSX, DOCX, JPEG, PNG)</p> <div>Drop files here or <a href="#">browse</a></div>
E.B2.B. Organizational chart(s): Entity Structure Documentation *	<p>Provide company structure organizational chart(s) detailing all parent companies, subsidiaries, and affiliates. If relevant, prospective subgrantees should also provide a narrative on upcoming organizational changes, including mergers, acquisitions, and organizational policies.</p> <p>(Permitted file types: PDF, XLSX, DOCX, JPEG, PNG)</p> <div>Drop files here or <a href="#">browse</a></div>
E.B3. Managerial Readiness: Narrative *	<p>Provide a narrative of managerial readiness to manage a broadband services network. This narrative should describe the experience and qualifications of key management for undertaking this project, its experience undertaking projects of similar size and scope, recent and upcoming organizational changes including mergers and acquisitions, and relevant organizational policies.</p> <p>(2100 character limit, approx. 300 words)</p> <div></div>

# Project Submission Form



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## Connect Illinois Round 4 Project Form

Project Form (Part 2)

This application form is part 2 of the submission process for the BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4. Prior to starting this form, please ensure that the Entity Form has been completed for the BEAD-funded project. Before proceeding, please also review the BEAD-funded project information.

The Project Form requests materials to demonstrate that the project meets the Merit Review Scoring Process.

- This form begins with all qualification materials (all materials must be submitted for the application to be considered for BEAD funding purposes (see below).
- Section S contains all additional information not covered in the Merit Review Scoring Process. Information regarding the scoring process is available in [Proposal Volume II](#).

Applicants must submit this form for each project application. The application section provides a detailed explanation for each component.

Please use standard templates wherever requested, and please refer to the [Application Guidebook](#) for more information.

**Naming standard for all document and template uploads**

Name all uploaded files using the following naming convention: [Project ID]\_[Project Name]\_[File Type].xlsx"

For example, if the project was named in P.AD.1 was 12-3456789-03 P, the file name would be "12-3456789-03 P Schedule May 19.xlsx"

Please do not include any special characters in the file name.

Part A: Project Overview and Locations Impacted

This section of the application requests an overview of the project and locations impacted by the proposed broadband project.

PA1. Project Overview: Narrative

Please provide a high-level, introductory overview of the project. Please include a summary description of the project scope (e.g., geographic area, count of BSLs/CAIs to be served, technology); project budget, funds requested, and match provided; estimated time needed for start of deployment activities; and estimated time for deployment completion. Please be advised that this narrative may be publicly used in announcements following any awards made, if applicable. (3500 character limit, approx. 500 words)

PA2. Project Area Selection Sheet: Template

Please upload BOTH the Project Area Selection Sheet from the [BEAD Round 4 – Instructions](#) and the original template. Please ensure the file is named "[Project ID]\_Project Area Selection Sheet.xlsx" and "[Project ID]\_Project Area Selection Sheet Template.xlsx" (Permitted file types: .xlsx)

P.A3.A Locations that are Not Unserved, Underserved, or Eligible CAIs

Please indicate whether the locations are served, underserved, or eligible for service.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Part B: Technical Project-Based Qualifications

This section of the application focuses on the technical design aspects of the proposed broadband project. Applicants must provide a project design and other supporting materials demonstrating the capability to provide broadband service meeting or exceeding the BEAD program requirements. The project design materials must be certified by a currently licensed professional engineer. The project design materials must include the components listed below.

PB1.A. Detailed Project Schedule: Template


Please provide a detailed project implementation schedule, including buildout timeline and milestones, using the template provided. This document must be accompanied by a certification from a Professional Engineer. Please refer to the Application Guidebook for specific details required by the template. The applicant must provide a project timeline that articulates its ability to complete the project within the four-year timeframe. (Permitted file types: XLSX)

PB1.B. Detailed Project Schedule: Project Completion Period (Months)

Please enter the Project Completion Period (in number of months), from cell AJ4 in your proposed Detailed Project Schedule Template. This cell auto-populates based on the information you entered for your project in the template.

PB1.C. Detailed Project Schedule: Binding commitment


Per the NTIA's Policy Notice from June 6, 2025, applicants may earn additional points should they make a binding commitment to provision service by a date certain that is earlier than four years after the date on which the subgrantee will receive the subgrant from the State subject to contractual penalties to the State. This commitment is not mandatory and does not inform your project's qualifications review. However, this commitment is mandatory.



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# Application Submission form



## 3504-2942 BEAD-Funded Connect Illinois Round 4

The application form is the final form for an application to Connect Illinois Round 4 (the BEAD Program) to be considered complete. Failure to submit this form will prevent your application from being considered for Connect Illinois Round 4.

Before proceeding, you must have completed Part 1: Entity Form and Part 2: Project Form to submit the Application Form.

Questions? Contact [broadband@illinois.gov](mailto:broadband@illinois.gov).


Click [here](#) for more information and guidance on the BEAD application process.


☐ By checking this box I understand for my application to be considered, my entity must be GATA pre-qualified prior to application deadline. For more information on GATA pre-qualification, please visit <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/AboutDCEO/GrantOpportunities/Pages/GranteeResources.aspx>. \*

Contact First Name \*

Contact Last Name \*

Contact Email Address \*





# For Wave 1 Participants

*Previous participants can leverage past applications*

Who	BotB Opportunity
All Wave 1 applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use existing EFS number to reference past entity qualifications</li><li>• Pre-qualifications still apply</li></ul>
Applicants who received a Wave 1 preliminary award or rolled over application	<p>Complete the <i>Reusing a Wave 1 Submission Form</i> to indicate if you'd like the IOB to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Option 1:</b> Consider your Wave 1 submission as-is</li><li>• <b>Option 2:</b> Consider your Wave 1 submission with changes to budget, project area, etc.</li></ul>

Related Project Form Submission ID \*

What is the Project Form Submission ID (PFS-###) for the previous project that you would like to retain for the Benefit of the Bargain Round?

+ Add project

PAD.2. Entity Form Submission ID \*

Enter the Entity Form Submission ID emailed to the applicant's designated contact(s) after completing the Entity Form submission. Before continuing with this form, the Entity Form for the BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4 must be completed. The Submission ID is in the format of "EFS-###." The contact information entered in the Entity Form submission will receive a confirmation email upon submission of this form. Please double-check that this ID is correct before proceeding. Failure to enter the correct EFS ID will result in your application being tied to the wrong entity. Please note, as specified in the Entity Form, that each entity should submit the Entity Form only once, and that Submission ID will be applied across all Project Form submissions here. That is, the same Entity Form Submission ID should be used multiple times for each and every Project Form submission from your entity for the BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4.

+ Add entity

Participation Status: \*

How would you like your project application to be considered for the Benefit of the Bargain Round?

☐ Consider application as-is for the BotB Round


☒ Modify project area, budget, maximum speeds, or speed to deployment

Wave 1 participants will also need to submit evidence that their submission is a Priority Broadband Project.

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

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## Illustrative Pre-Qualification Final Determination email



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

ILLUSTRATIVE

**Note:** Some qualifications are eliminated based on NTIA Restructuring Policy Notice and will no longer appear on the Entity Submission Form. Information previously submitted by applicants that is no longer required will not be considered in application review, and applicants do not need to provide updates to these

Source: Connect Illinois Round 4 Pre-Qualification Final Determination Letters; Connect Illinois Round 4 Entity Submission Form



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

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

ILLUSTRATIVE

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 submit updated materials for G4



# Applicants will need to submit documentation confirming qualification for BEAD, with some qualifications requiring a standard template

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

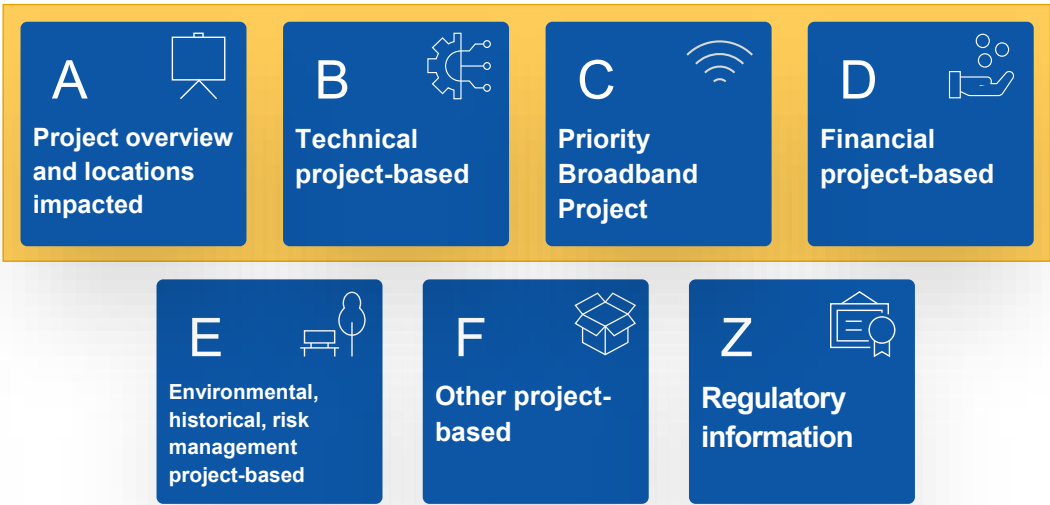
## Entity application qualifications



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

All applicants may apply their pre-qualification to the Benefit of the Bargain round when submitting their Entity Form, or may submit a new Entity Form.




## Project application qualifications



















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

In-depth guidance can be found in the Application Guidebook

# Overview of templates, forms, and example documents for Benefit of the Bargain round

 Submission always required
  Submission conditionally required
  Submission not required for application

	Question index	Document required for application?	Document type
Entity Submission Form	E.F1.A. Ownership Information Template		Template
	E.G3/G4. Existing Broadband Projects Template	 (For applicants with other public projects)	Template
	E.I1. Mandatory Disclosure Form		Form
	E.I2. Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form		Form
	E.I3. W-9 Form		Form
Project Submission Form	P.A2. Project Area Selection Sheet Template		Template
	P.B1.A Project Timeline Template	 (Templates for non-LEO and LEO projects)	Template
	P.B2.B Low-Earth Orbit Satellite Design Template	 (For proposed LEO Satellite projects)	Template
	P.B2.D Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) Design Template	 (For proposed FWA projects)	Template
	P.B3. Example Logical Network Diagram	 (Network Diagram is required)	Example document
	P.B5. Professional Engineer Certification Template		Template
	P.C2. Priority Broadband Project Documentation	 (For proposed Priority Broadband Project status)	Template
	P.D1. Pro Forma Template	 (Templates for non-LEO and LEO projects)	Template
	P.D2.A-C Model Letter of Credit	 (Required if awarded)	Example document
	P.D3.A. Project Budget & Capital Investment Schedule	 (Templates for non-LEO and LEO projects)	Template
	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

# P.A2. Project Area Selection Sheet

Requires PE certification?

☐ Yes

☒ No

**Form:** Project Submission Form

**Section:** A – Project Overview and Locations Impacted

**Document required for application?:** Yes

## Overview:

- Documents **applicant's proposed project area** based on the Project Area Selection Tool
- Automatically summarizes **key project characteristics** including:
  - **High-level statistics**  
(e.g., project type, BSL count by technology type, CAI count, PAU reference cost)
  - **Gating criteria requirements**  
(e.g., % not un-/underserved)

*Project Area Selection Tool deep dive follows*

### 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 Eligibility	
% of not Unserved/Underserved Locations Threshold Met	Threshold Not Met
Total PAUs Selected	0
Total PAUs' Reference Cost	\$0
Total BSLs Selected	0
# of Eligible Un/Underserved BSLs selected	0
# of All Un/Underserved BSLs in selected PAUs	0
# of No-BEAD Un/Underserved BSLs in selected PAUs	0
# of Excessively High-Cost BSLs proposed for removal	0
# Locations not Un/Underserved/Eligible CAIs Selected	0
% Locations not Un/Underserved/Eligible CAIs Selected	
Total Eligible CAIs Selected	0
# of Eligible CAIs selected	0
# of All CAIs in selected PAUs	0
# of No-BEAD CAIs in selected PAUs	0
# of Excessively High-Cost CAIs proposed for removal	0

# Project Area Selection Tool: Overview

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

**BEAD Connect Illinois Round 4** **Wave 2**

**Layers** | PAUs | My PAUs

Search for an address or ZIP Code...

☐ Search by PAU ID

☒ **PAU Aggregate Areas**

- ☐ PAU Aggregate Area
- ☐ Shared Hexagon
- ☐ Preliminarily Awarded

☒ **Eligible Locations**

- ☐ Location
- ☐ Community Anchor Institution

**BEAD Funding Not Required**

- ☐ Location
- ☐ Community Anchor Institution

☐ **Ineligible Locations**

- ☐ Ineligible Location

**PAU ID:** 16\_17099

**Underserved:** 44 **Unserved:** 12

**Community Anchor Institution:** 0

**BEAD Funding Not Required:** 2

**Total:** 58

**Reference Cost:** \$1,013,761.94

**Add to My PAUs**

Use the menu options to toggle layers, view a list of PAUs as you explore the map, and see summary statistics for selected PAUs

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

Click "Add to My PAUs" to add them to a project area

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



# Project Area Selection Tool: Menu options

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

On the Layers tab, click on the check boxes to toggle on or off layers to view different elements of the map or use the search bar to search for a location

The screenshot shows the 'Layers' tab selected. At the top, there are three tabs: 'Layers', 'PAUs', and 'My PAUs'. Below the tabs is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Search for an address or ZIP Code...' and a magnifying glass icon. To the right of the search bar is a checkbox labeled 'Search by PAU ID'. Below the search bar, there are two main sections. The first section is 'PAU Aggregate Areas' with a checked checkbox. It contains three items: 'PAU Aggregate Area' with a hexagon icon, 'Shared Hexagon' with a hexagon icon, and 'Preliminarily Awarded' with a hexagon icon. The second section is 'Eligible Locations' with a checked checkbox. It contains two items: 'Location' with a circle icon and 'Community Anchor Institution' with a triangle icon. Below these, there is a section for 'BEAD Funding Not Required' with two items: 'Location' with a circle icon and 'Community Anchor Institution' with a triangle icon. At the bottom, there is a section for 'Ineligible Locations' with an unchecked checkbox and one item: 'Ineligible Location' with a circle icon.

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

The screenshot shows the 'PAUs' tab selected. At the top, there are three tabs: 'Layers', 'PAUs', and 'My PAUs'. Below the tabs is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Search for an address or ZIP Code...' and a magnifying glass icon. To the right of the search bar is a checkbox labeled 'Search by PAU ID'. Below the search bar, there are two PAU entries. The first entry is for PAU ID: nov\_2237. It shows 'Underserved: 0', 'Unserved: 5', 'Community Anchor Institution: 0', 'BEAD Funding Not Required: 0', 'Total: 5', and 'Reference Cost: \$5,000.00'. Below this entry is a button labeled 'Add to My PAUs' with a plus icon. The second entry is for PAU ID: nov\_717. It shows 'Underserved: 0', 'Unserved: 4', 'Community Anchor Institution: 0', 'BEAD Funding Not Required: 0', 'Total: 4', and 'Reference Cost: \$30,056.69'. Below this entry is a button labeled 'Add to My PAUs' with a plus icon.

On the My PAUs tab, view summary statistics about selected PAUs, including:

- Count of PAUs
- Total Reference Cost
- Breakdown of location classifications

The screenshot shows the 'My PAUs' tab selected. At the top, there are three tabs: 'Layers', 'PAUs', and 'My PAUs'. The 'My PAUs' tab has a yellow exclamation mark icon. Below the tabs is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Search for an address or ZIP Code...' and a magnifying glass icon. To the right of the search bar is a checkbox labeled 'Search by PAU ID'. Below the search bar, there are two main sections. The first section is 'Summary Statistics' with a title and three buttons: 'PAUs', 'Locations', and 'Reference Cost'. Below these buttons, it says 'Total PAU Aggregate Areas: 2'. The second section is for a specific PAU, PAU ID: 12\_17063, with a star icon. It shows 'Underserved: 24', 'Unserved: 5', 'Community Anchor Institution: 0', 'BEAD Funding Not Required: 2', 'Total: 31', and 'Reference Cost: \$692,251.25'. Below this entry is a button labeled 'Remove from My PAUs' with a plus icon.



# Project Area Selection Tool: Description of Tools

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

## Description of 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.

## Next Steps

After finalizing your project area and saving the PAUs as a CSV, copy and paste into the Project Area Selection Tool Template as per the instructions in the form

# P.A2. Project Area Selection Sheet – Submission Summary tab

## How to review the Submission Summary tab

### Project Eligibility

Confirms whether the project meets the threshold for locations not un/underserved to be included in the project

### Total BSLs selected

Breakdown of (i) All un/underserved BSLs, (ii) No-BEAD BSLs, (iii) Excessively high-cost BSLs removed by applicant, and (iv) locations not un/underserved included by applicant

### # of Locations by technology type

Count of locations to be included in the project broken down by technology type

### 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 Eligibility

% of not Unserved/Underserved Locations Threshold Met	Threshold Not Met
---	-------------------

#### Total PAUs Selected

0

#### Total PAUs' Reference Cost

\$0

#### Total BSLs Selected

0

#### # of Eligible Un/Underserved BSLs selected

0

#### # of All Un/Underserved BSLs in selected PAUs

0

#### # of No-BEAD Un/Underserved BSLs in selected PAUs

0

#### # of Excessively High-Cost BSLs proposed for removal

0

#### # Locations not Un/Underserved/Eligible CAIs Selected

0

#### % Locations not Un/Underserved/Eligible CAIs Selected

0

#### Total Eligible CAIs Selected

0

#### # of Eligible CAIs selected

0

#### # of All CAIs in selected PAUs

0

#### # of No-BEAD CAIs in selected PAUs

0

#### # of Excessively High-Cost CAIs proposed for removal

0

#### # of Locations by technology type

##### Fiber-optic

0

##### Coaxial cable / HFC

0

##### Licensed Terrestrial Fixed Wireless

0

##### Licensed by-Rule Terrestrial Fixed Wireless

0

##### Unlicensed Terrestrial Fixed Wireless

0

##### Copper Wire

0

##### Non-geostationary Satellite (e.g., Low Earth Orbit Satellite)

0

##### Other technology

0

### Total PAUs selected

Count and reference cost of all PAUs selected for the project

### Total Eligible CAIs selected

Breakdown of (i) All CAIs, (ii) No-BEAD CAIs, and (iii) Excessively high-cost CAIs removed by applicant

*Deep dive on select tabs to follow*

# P.A2. Project Area Selection Sheet | Deep dive 1

## How to propose removal of high-cost locations from project area



The NTIA's BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice allows applicants to propose to exclude select broadband serviceable locations (BSLs) that the applicant determines are excessively high-cost locations from the project area (or would otherwise make the project economically unviable for the technology being used).

ILLUSTRATIVE, SUBJECT TO CHANGE

PAU ID	Underserved	Unserved	CAI	BSL or CAI?	No BEAD Required	Must-have PAU	Removal?	Rationale for removing given location	Incremental BEAD funding required (\$)
0 17151 0 17151	1012162749			BSL	0 no	0 no	Yes	Applicant to provide rationale	\$100,000.00
0 17151 0 17151	1012161708			BSL	0 no	0 no	Yes	Applicant to provide rationale	\$100,000.00
0 17151 0 17151		1413382631		BSL	0 no	0 no	Yes	Applicant to provide rationale	\$100,000.00
0 17151 0 17151		1012161757		BSL	0 no	0 no	Yes	Applicant to provide rationale	\$100,000.00
0 17151 0 17151		1012167661		BSL	0 no	0 no	Yes	Applicant to provide rationale	\$100,000.00
0 17151 0 17151		1012167678		BSL	0 no	0 no	Yes		
0 17151 0 17151		1012161212		BSL	0 no	0 no	Yes		
0 17151 0 17151		1012162672		BSL	0 no	0 no	Yes		
0 17151 0 17151		101216065		BSL	0 no	0 no	Yes		

Navigation tabs: Applicant Information | Raw Data Input | **Removed Locations** | PAUs | PAUs - Mixed Tech | Additional Locations | Submission Summary

### How to propose removal of excessively high-cost locations from project area:

- Navigate to **“Removed Locations”** tab
- Mark **“Yes”** for applicable locations in **Column I**
- For each location proposed for removal, provide the following information for IOB to evaluate:**
  - Rationale for determining the given location as excessively high-cost
  - Incremental BEAD funding required to serve that location

# P.A2. Project Area Selection Sheet | Deep dive 2

## How to provide technology information for each PAU selected

### How to provide technology information for proposed project:

#### A PAUs deployed with one technology type: Technology selection in “PAUs” tab

PAUs

Instructions

This tab captures your planned technology type for each PAU selected.

ILLUSTRATIVE

1. Columns B-H and K-N (i.e., areas highlighted in light grey) are automatically generated and should **not** be edited.

2. Column I: Please fill in column I “Technology” for **all** rows with PAUs, to indicate the type of technology to be used to deploy broadband in each PAU.

3. Column J: Please populate this column **ONLY IF** you selected “Other technology” in Column I.

If this applies for any given PAU row, please indicate the specific technologies to be used for that PAU.

Note: If you select “Mix of technology” for any PAU, you must complete the “PAUs - Mixed Tech” tab.

After filling out Columns I and J, check Cell P5 to confirm that your submission is valid, which will read “Valid Submission” if each cell has been filled out correctly.

If Cell P5 reads “Invalid Submission,” please check Column N to see which row(s) are invalid and update your input accordingly based on indicators provided in Columns L and M.

PAU ID	# Eligible BSLs	# Eligible CAIs	# Eligible locations (BSLs + CAIs)	# No BEAD locations (BSLs + CAIs)	# removed locations (BSLs + CAIs)	Must-include status	Technology
0_17151_0_17151	15	0	15	0	0	no	Fiber-optic
0_17151_1_17151	1	0	1	0	0	no	Fiber-optic
0_17165	38	0	38	1	0	no	Coaxial cable / HFC
0_17181	40	0	40	1	0	no	Licensed Terrestrial Fixed Wireless
0_17003_1_17003	4	0	4	2	0	no	Licensed by-Rule Terrestrial Fixed Wireless
							Unlicensed Terrestrial Fixed Wireless
							Copper Wire
							Non-geostationary Satellite (e.g., Low Earth Orbit Satellite)
							Other technology
							Mix of technology

> ...

Applicant Information

Raw Data Input

Removed Locations

PAUs

PAUs - Mixed Tech

Additional Locations

Submission Summary

#### B PAUs deployed with mix of technology (if applicable): Per-technology location count in “PAUs – Mixed Tech” tab

Information about PAUs using mix of technology deployment

Instructions

This tab is **only** required for applicants who have PAUs to be covered via a mix of technology.

If you had any PAU in the “PAUs” tab listed as “Mix of technology,” you **must** complete this tab.

ILLUSTRATIVE

1. Columns B-D are automatically generated to import data from the “PAUs” tab, and should **not** be edited.

Cells in Column D with “Mix of technology” will be highlighted in orange.

These are the only rows requiring input in Columns E-L, and M if applicable.

2. Columns E-L should be populated **only** for those PAUs with technology listed as “Mix of technology.”

Cells requiring input will be indicated with a **yellow highlight**.

For applicable PAUs only, please fill in the number of locations (BSLs and/or CAIs) within the given PAU to be deployed with the respective technology listed on the column header.

If no location in your mixed-technology PAU will be deployed with the given technology, please enter 0.

3. Column M is required **only** if you have location(s) in mixed-technology PAU(s) to be deployed using other technology.

Cells requiring input will be indicated with a **yellow highlight**.

If this applies, please indicate which technology will be used to deploy to the locations accounted for in Column L (“Other technology”).

After filling out Columns E-M where applicable, check Cell P5 to confirm that your submission is valid, which will read “Valid Submission” if each cell has been filled out correctly.

If Cell P5 reads “Invalid Submission,” please check Column N to see which row(s) are invalid and update your input accordingly.

PAU ID	# Eligible locations not removed (BSLs + CAIs)	Technology	# of locations				
			Fiber-optic	Coaxial cable / HFC	Licensed Terrestrial Fixed	Licensed by-Rule Terrestrial Fixed	Unlicensed Terrestrial Fixed
0_17151_0_17151		Mix of technology					
0_17151_1_17151		Mix of technology					
0_17165							
0_17181	40	Fiber-optic					
0_17003_1_17003	4	Fiber-optic					

> ...

Applicant Information

Raw Data Input

Removed Locations

PAUs

PAUs - Mixed Tech

Additional Locations

Submission Summary

+

Source: Connect Illinois Round 4 Project Submission Form and Project Area Selection Template as of 06/30; Connect Illinois Initial Proposal Volume II; NTIA BEAD NOFO; NTIA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice (dated June 6, 2025)

ILLINOIS  
BROADBAND  
LAB

32

# P.B1.A Project Timeline Template

Requires PE certification?

☒ Yes

☐ No

**Form:** Project Submission Form

**Section:** B – Technical Project-Based Qualifications

**Document required for application?:** Yes

## Overview:

- Details **build-out timeline and milestones** for proposed project
- Enables applicants and evaluators to review the proposed project progression against State-defined milestones
- For LEO applicants, please follow instructions provided in LEO version of the template (in application guidebook)

*Live demo to follow*

Connect Illinois Round 4 - Project Timeline		
Program Milestone	Description	Milestone Start In what number month does this milestone begin?* i.e., 6 months into the project is month 6, one year in is month 13
Detailed Project Planning		
Network Design		
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) / National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Assessment		
Permitting		
Make Ready		
Material & Equipment Procurement		
Contracts Signed for Contractors		
Network Deployment (Construction)		
Passed 10% Project Locations		
Passed 20% Project Locations		

# Tips & Reminders

- ✓ Airtable form does not save progress – be sure to submit in one session to avoid losing your work
- ✓ Do not wait until the last few hours to submit. DCEO will not accept submissions after July 18, 11:59 pm CT regardless of the reason
- ✓ Use standard templates, and provide all the information required while submitting materials; **An incomplete application may lead to an application being removed from consideration**
- ✓ Due to the short timeline, curing turnaround time will be fast – please be mindful of deadlines
- ✓ Follow the file naming convention for any document/template uploads
  - For entity form, use "[EIN from E.AD.3] [Document name] [Date submitted, in Month Day format]"
  - For project form, use "[Project Name from P.AD1] [Document or Template name] [Date submitted, in Month Day format]". For example, if the project was named in P.AD.1 as 12-3456789-03, for P.B1.A (Project Schedule) the file should be named *"12-3456789-03 Project Schedule July 1.xlsx"*
- ✓ Be mindful when indicating "must have" PAUs in the Project Area Selection Tool, as this will limit your opportunity for award during deconfliction



# 4

## Stakeholder resources

# **\*UPDATED\*** **Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)**

Formal grant opportunity  
posting - *coming soon*

## **Agency-specific Content for the Notice of Funding Opportunity**

### **Connect Illinois Broadband Program**

**NOFO ID: 3504-2942**

For information about grants please visit <https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/granteeresources.html>.

#### **A. Program Description**

##### Notice of Funding Opportunity Intent

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (the "Department" or "DCEO") is issuing this Notice of Funding Opportunity ("NOFO") to set forth the requirements for the BEAD Funded Connect Illinois Round 4.

##### Program Description

BEAD Funded Connect Illinois Round 4 utilizes federal funds from the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) through the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, which was authorized by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, Division F, Title I, Section 60102, Public Law 117-58, 135 Stat. 429 (November 15, 2021) (Infrastructure Act or Act), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

BEAD Funded Connect Illinois Round 4 deploys broadband service to unserved and underserved locations.<sup>1</sup>

Definitions. The following terms are defined accordingly for the purposes of this NOFO and the BEAD Funded Connect Illinois Round 4:

**"Assistant Secretary"** refers to the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information or the individual who holds any successor position.<sup>2</sup>

**"BEAD"** means the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program, authorized by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, Division F, Title I, Section 60102, Public Law 117-58, 135 Stat. 429 (November 15, 2021) (Infrastructure Act or Act), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

**"BEAD NOFO"** herein refers to the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program Notice of Funding Opportunity posted by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to describe the requirements under which it will award grants for the BEAD Program.

**"Broadband Serviceable Location"** (also abbreviated as "BSL" or "location") means a business or residential location in the United States at which fixed broadband Internet access service is, or can be, installed.<sup>3</sup>

**"Community Anchor Institution" (CAI)** means an entity such as a school, library, health clinic, health center, hospital or other medical provider, public safety entity, institution of higher



# \*UPDATED\* Application Guidebook

The BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4 Application Guidebook provides details about the application process, all application questions, templates, and instructions to complete the three required forms – *coming soon*

## BEAD-Funded Connect Illinois Round 4 Application Guidebook

Version 3 - Published

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### I Introduction

This document is a guidebook for the application process for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)-funded Connect Illinois Round 4. The purpose of this guidebook is to provide applicants with full guidance for the materials required as part of the BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4 grant application, and to assist users in preparing a successful application that meets all Federal and State requirements.

This guidebook reflects changes to the BEAD Program required by the June 6, 2025 [NTIA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice](#).

For further details on the BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4 program, including post-award requirements, please refer to the [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) associated with the grant program, as well as the State of Illinois's [BEAD Initial Proposal, Volume II](#) and NTIA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice.

#### I.1 Program Introduction

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) awarded Illinois \$1.04 billion in federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program funds to connect all homes and businesses to high-speed internet.<sup>1</sup> Connect Illinois Round 4 uses this BEAD funding to support the deployment of broadband service to unserved and underserved Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) and eligible Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs).

In line with BEAD requirements to develop a competitive, fair, and open subgrantee selection process, the State of Illinois aims to support applicants in understanding the necessary procedures and requirements involved in developing successful applications that meet the requirements of the BEAD program.

The BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4 application process has been updated to reflect changes required by the NTIA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice, published on June 6, 2025. In line with the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice, the State will conduct at least one additional subgrantee selection round for every BEAD-eligible location, known as the Benefit of the Bargain Round. Per the Policy Notice, all previous preliminary awards through the BEAD Program have been rescinded, though previous applicants ~~have the opportunity to~~ reuse their applications for the new round.


<sup>1</sup> [BroadbandUSA, BEAD Overview](#)

## Office Hours – Schedule and format

- Tuesdays and Thursdays between July 1-17, 1-2 pm CT ([Link to join](#))
- IOB will meet with attendees one by one; please wait to be admitted from the waiting room
- FAQs will be published on IOB's [BEAD subgrantee process webpage](#)

# Upcoming webinar on July 2, 12 pm CT with IOB and DoIT



 UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Illinois Extension  
**Registration**

## Illinois Century Network: Overview of the middle mile network and fiber access opportunities

Illinois Century Network: Overview of the middle mile network and fiber access opportunities  
Wednesday, July 2, 12PM CT

Join the Illinois Office of Broadband and Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT) to learn about opportunities to tap into the middle mile fiber network, [Illinois Century Network \(ICN\)](#), in preparation for the upcoming Benefit of the Bargain BEAD application round.

Login with Extension User Account

[Create an account](#)

### Contact Information

First Name <small>REQUIRED</small>	Last Name <small>REQUIRED</small>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

[Link to register](#)

# Additional Resources & Helpful Links

BEAD Landing Page: [\[Link\]](#)

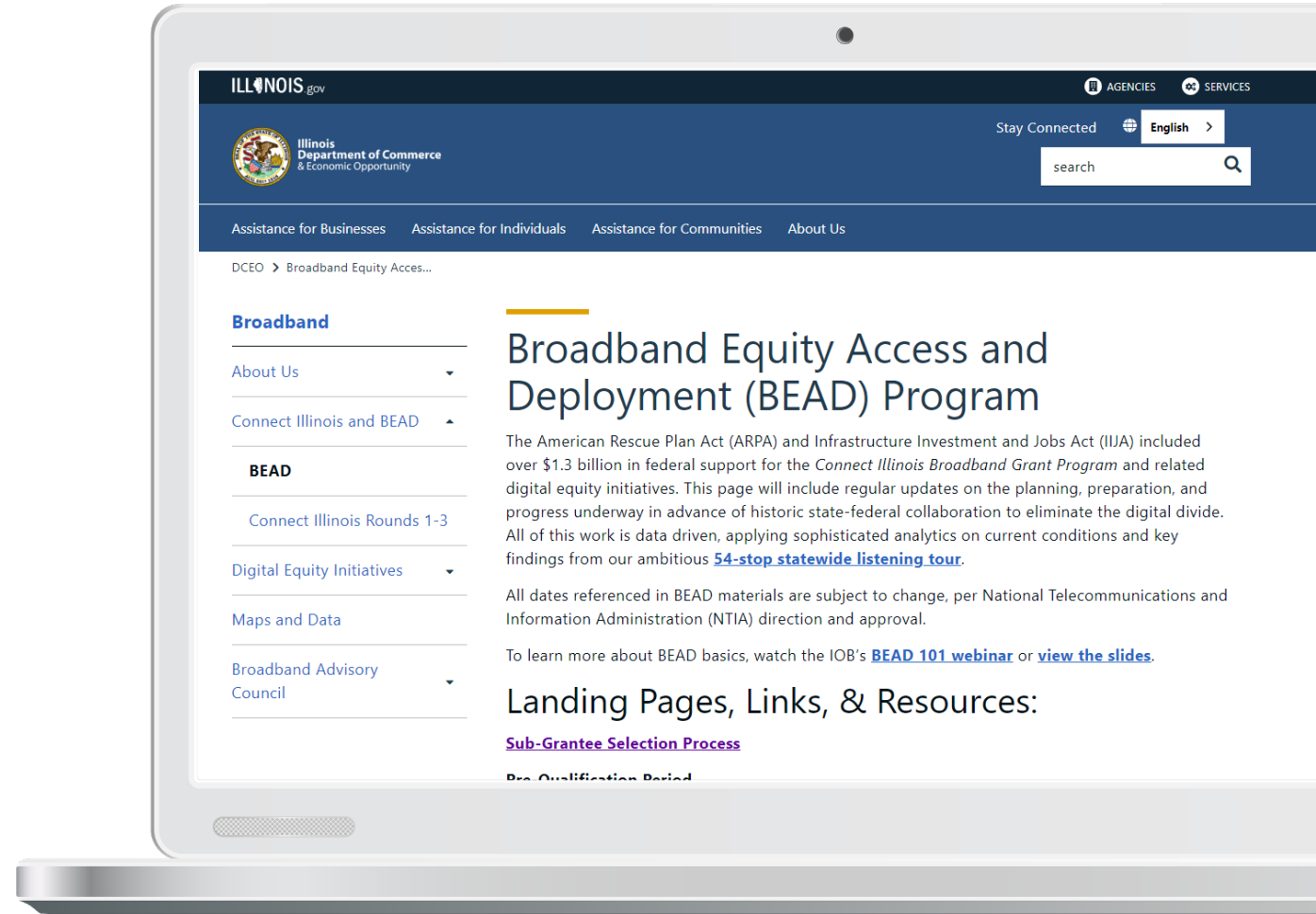
BEAD Subgrantee Selection Process Page: [\[Link\]](#)

NTIA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice: [\[Link\]](#)

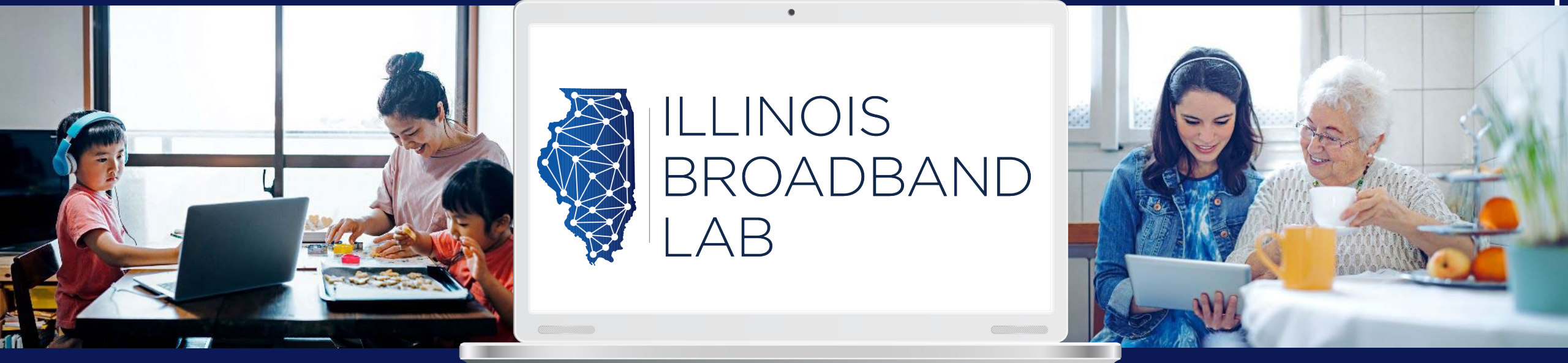
Connect Illinois Initial Proposal, Volume II: [\[Link\]](#)



For further questions, please email [broadband@illinois.gov](mailto:broadband@illinois.gov)







## Stay informed!

**Sign up to receive updates from the  
Illinois Office of Broadband (IOB)**

<https://bit.ly/IOBPartner>

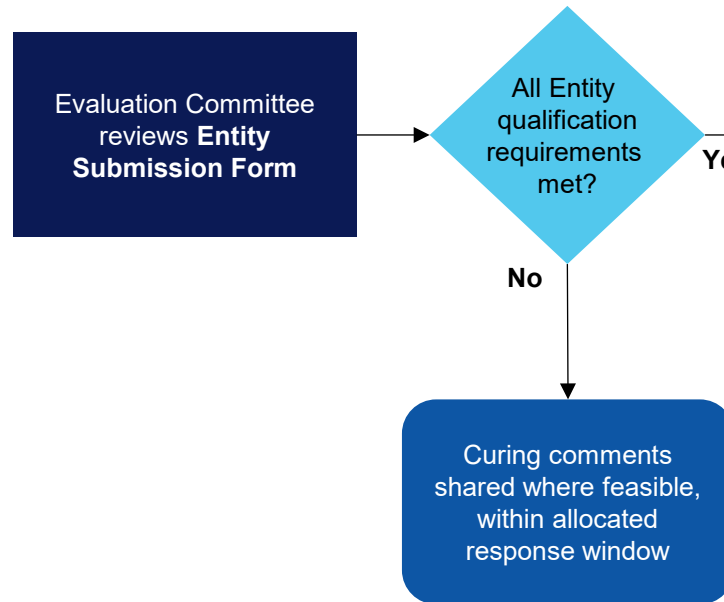
**Sign up for Illinois Broadband Connections Newsletter**

<https://bit.ly/IOBnewsletter>

# Qualification Review & Scoring: All applicants must pass qualification reviews for their application to be scored



## Entity Submission Form



## Project Submission Form

