



Connect Illinois Round 4 BEAD Orientation

Part 1

September 16, 2026

Part 2

September 23, 2026



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Agenda: Part 1 (Sept. 16)

- 11:00-11:10 - Welcome & Recap
- 11:10-11:20 - Key Roles in the BEAD Program
- 11:20-11:45 - The Grantee Journey (part 1)
 - 1) On-Boarding
 - 2) Grant Agreement Execution
 - 3) Pre-Deployment & Build Readiness
- 11:45-12:00 – Next Steps & Q&A

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Welcome!



Please type your name, role, and organization in the chat.



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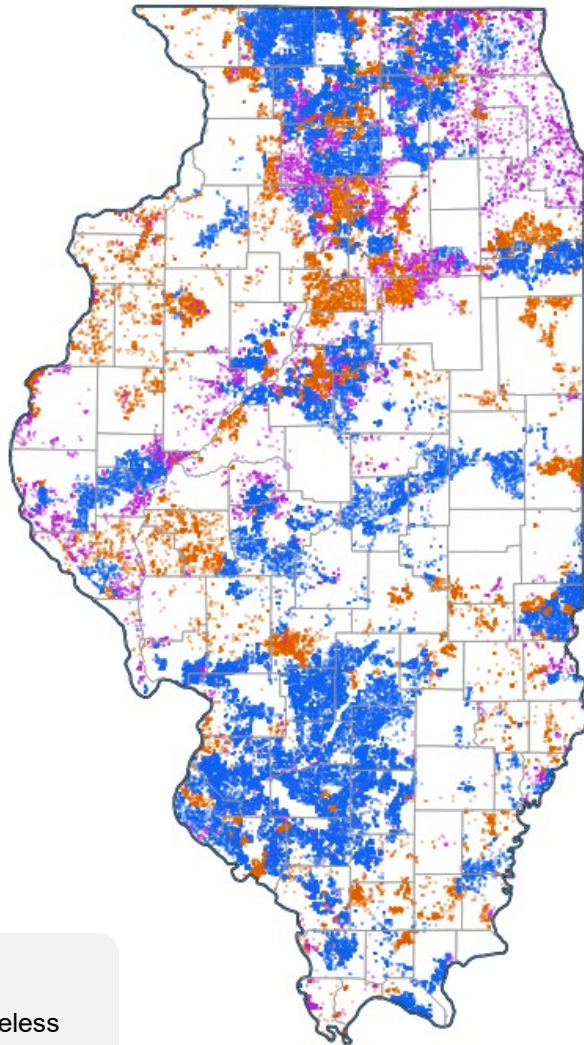


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Purpose of Today's Webinar

- Get oriented to the Illinois Office of Broadband (IOB), BEAD Program, and how we'll work together
- Understand program basics, expectations, and immediate next steps
- Feel prepared to succeed as a BEAD grantee

Today's orientation will provide a high-level overview of **what to expect** as a BEAD grantee. More detailed guidance and how-to instructions will be covered throughout the **subsequent webinars and trainings**.



As of 8/25/26

- Fiber
- Fixed Wireless
- Satellite
- HFC / Coaxial

Illinois was allocated \$1.04B to connect 142,000+ locations

\$831M

BEAD outlay for grantees

\$500M

Total match amount from internet service providers

Over \$1.5B

Total investment in Illinois broadband

\$5,830

Average federal cost per location

~142K

Locations covered through BEAD

- 141,311 households and businesses
- 1,235 Community Anchor Institutions

View Awards at [IllinoisBEAD.org](https://illinoisbead.org)

BEAD Connect Illinois Round 4: Award Map

How do I use this site?

Color map by

Location Type

Filter by area

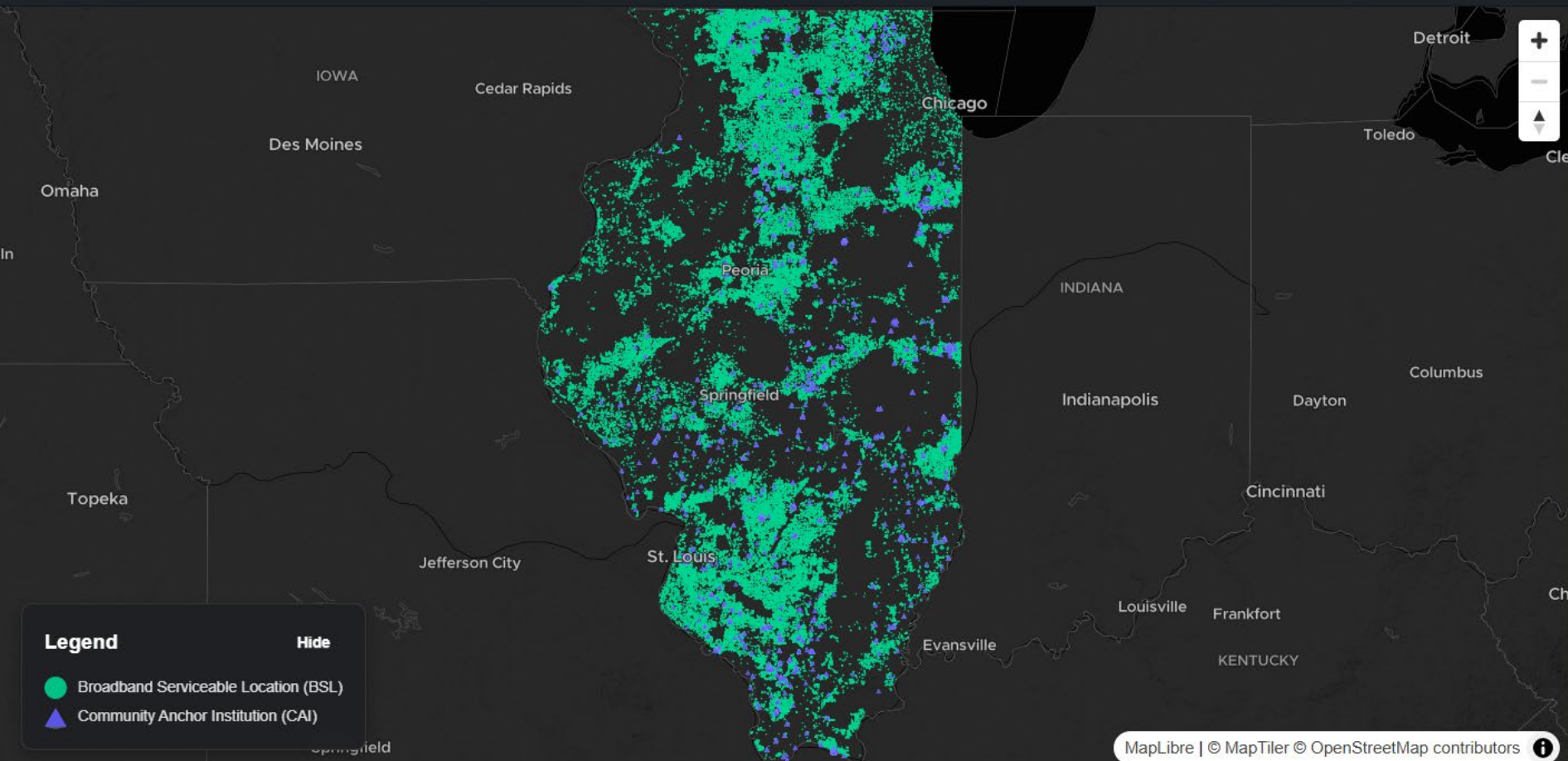
County or municipality...

Filter by provider

Search providers...

Filter by project

Search projects...

[Download the data](#)

This is a summary of
locations statewide

Total Locations

142,546

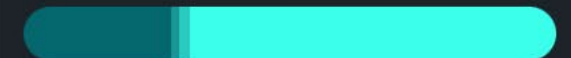
Broadband Serviceable Locations

141,311

Community Anchor Institutions

1,235

Maximum Download Speeds



100-200 Mbps	39,338 (27.6%)
200-500 Mbps	2,239 (1.6%)
500-1000 Mbps	3,071 (2.2%)
1000+ Mbps	97,898 (68.7%)

Maximum Upload Speeds

MapLibre | © MapTiler © OpenStreetMap contributors



Key Roles in the BEAD Program



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Key Players in the BEAD Program

NTIA	Illinois Office of Broadband	Grantee	Other External Stakeholders
Sets rules and guidelines for federal BEAD Program	Adds state-specific details to NTIA guidelines	Builds and deploys broadband infrastructure to locations awarded in project(s), following the requirements in grant agreement and in compliance with all IOB and NTIA requirements	Local officials and permitting authorities review local project plans and approve permits
Allocates funds to IOB through a Notice of Award (NoA), which includes Special Award Conditions (SACs)	Allocates funds to grantees through grant agreements		State agencies review permits, environmental and cultural impact, and compliance with Illinois requirements
Monitors IOB progress, finances, and compliance through bi-annual reporting	Monitors grantee progress, finances, and compliance through reporting		Community members are kept informed of project status and when they can be connected
Disburses funds to IOB	Disburses funds to grantees based on evidence of milestone completion		

Meet the Illinois Team

Illinois Office of Broadband (IOB)

Devon Braunstein, Director
Chelsey Peters, Assistant Director

Grants & Compliance

Tim Laffey, Grants Unit Manager
Aaron Rife, Compliance Manager

Assistant Grants Managers:

- Jayonna Craig
- Jaclyn Franke
- Adam Rainis
- Patrick Walwer

Melissa Bridgewater, Fiscal Liaison

Community Engagement

Community Engagement Managers:

- Alicia Ross, Northern
- Hillary Rains, Southern
- Lingling Liu, Central

Policy & Permitting

Shawna Taets, Broadband Policy Manager

Stephanie Schnauffer, Permitting & Policy Coordinator

Jose (Joe) Rivera, Dig Once Coordinator

Illinois Broadband Lab

Data & Mapping

Phillip Garrett, Data Analyst

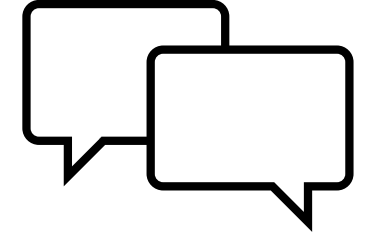
Who You'll Engage With

**Grantees with a high volume of projects may have projects assigned more than one AGM*

Illinois Role	How you'll engage	Ask me about...	Team Member(s)
Assistant Grants Manager (AGM)	Each grantee* will be assigned one AGM; this is your primary point of contact once grant agreement execution begins	Grant agreement processing, payments, reporting	Adam, Jackie, Jayonna, & Patrick (under Chelsey & Tim's leadership)
Compliance Manager	Provides ad hoc subject matter expertise and support	BEAD and State of Illinois policies & rules	Aaron
Permitting & Policy Coordinator	Each grantee will be assigned one P&P Coordinator	Local, state, and federal permitting requirements & process	Stephanie, with a second Coordinator coming soon (under Shawna's leadership)
Data & Mapping	Provides ad hoc subject matter expertise and support	Data collection, mapping, preparing for reporting, analytics	Phillip
Community Engagement Manager (CEM)	CEMs are assigned to projects based on the economic development region (North, Central, or South)	Broadband adoption, community trust-building, outreach events & promotion	Alicia (North), Hillary (South), & Lingling (Central)
Technical Team	Provides technical support and monitoring to grantees	Finance, engineering, project planning, timelines, & more	Illinois has a deep bench of experts to support grantees

For broader programmatic or policy questions, contact IOB Director, Devon Braunstein, or broadband@illinois.gov

How We'll Communicate



Your assigned **Assistant Grants Manager (AGM)** will:

- Be your **primary point of contact** for all grant activities once the grant agreement execution process begins (ETA **early October**), including grant agreement, reporting, and compliance
- Organize regular check-ins between grantees & the IOB support team
 - Frequency of check ins informed by project characteristics, permitting risks, and other project- or grantee-specific factors surfaced through risk assessment
 - Technical support and subject matter experts (permitting, community engagement, etc.) participate in regular check ins, and will be available more frequently as needed

The **BEAD Grantee Resource Hub** is your **one-stop-shop** for Illinois BEAD resources, including:

- Policy Guidance Documents
- Permitting Resources
- FAQs

IOB is in the process of integrating software to centralize document collection and communication; in the meantime, communication and document sharing will occur via email or forms

Key Functions on Grantee's Team

Grantees should be prepared to assign internal roles to cover all functions required to meet day-to-day BEAD grant requirements.

Function on Grantee Team	Description
Project Management / Administration	Main point of contact who ties together each function required to meet program requirements.
Reporting	Collects the necessary information to complete the reporting templates each quarter, sign, and submit to IOB for AGM review.
Compliance	Quality control for the project to ensure alignment to Federal and State requirements, and related submissions are timely, accurate, and complete.
Finance	Maintains complete records for all purchases using grant & match dollars; including invoices and proof of payments.
Engineering & GIS / Mapping	Engineers the network diagram, ensuring the route meets BEAD and technical requirements. Maintains up to date information on project locations; includes the middle mile construction and specific locations passed.
Permitting	Compiles and submits permit applications. Tracks permit applications from submission to approval and through the full deployment in that permit area.

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The Grantee Journey

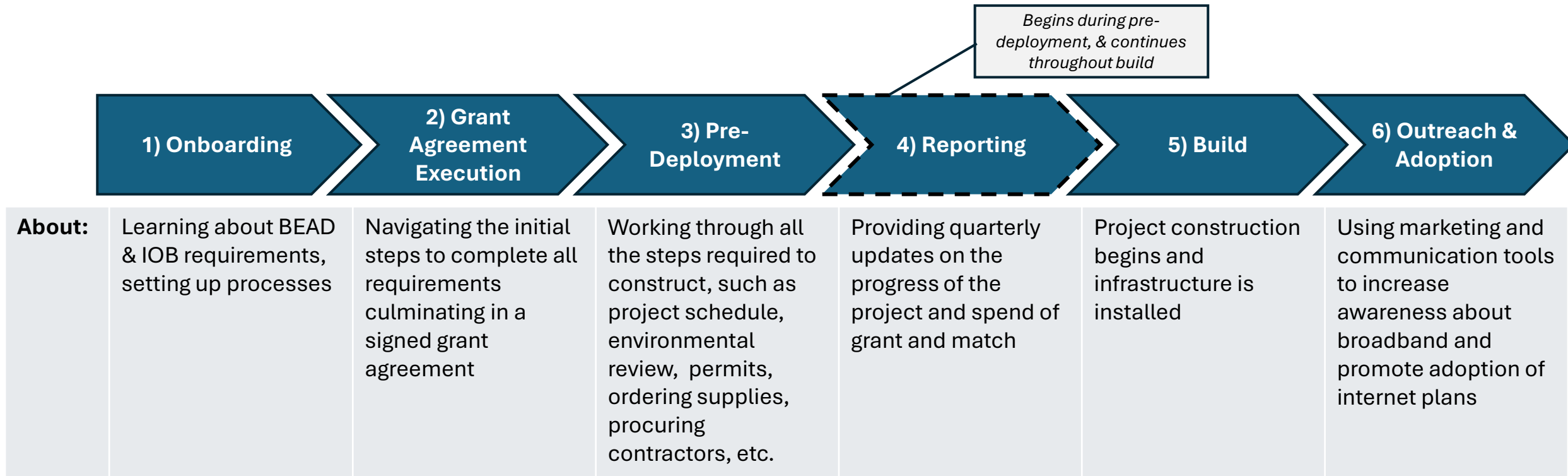


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Grantee Journey – Key Milestones



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1) Onboarding

2) Grant
Agreement
Execution

3) Pre-
Deployment

4) Reporting

5) Build

6) Outreach
& Adoption

Step 1: On-Boarding



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Step 1: On-Boarding

The IOB will be hosting a series of orientation webinars and making other resources available to on-board grantees onto the Connect Illinois Round 4 BEAD Program.

Orientation Webinars

Orientation Parts 1 & 2

Complying with Illinois Requirements

Complying with Federal BEAD Requirements

Disbursement Process Overview & Fixed Amount Subawards (FASA)

Enviro / Historic Preservation & Permitting

State & Local Permitting

Support Documents

BEAD Guidance Documents
(i.e., *Letter of Credit, Build America Buy America*)

State Guidance Documents
(i.e., *Prevailing Wage*)

[Permitting Resources](#)
(i.e., *Permitting Directory*)

Environmental & Historic Preservation (EHP) Resources
(i.e., *NEPA compliance for BEAD*)

Trainings & Workshops

BEAD Grantee Portal Training
(Coming late 2026 / early 2027)

In Person Grantee Training
(To be confirmed, Spring/Summer 2027)

Step 1: On-Boarding

How to prepare for on-boarding:

The IOB recommends that the following grantee team members attend the upcoming webinar series:

- Project Manager / Administrator
- Reporting Lead
- Compliance Officer
- Financial Manager / Accountant
- Permitting Specialist and EHP (NEPA) Specialist

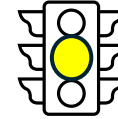
Step 1: On-Boarding

Things you can do in advance:



Start now

- ✓ [Sign up](#) for Illinois Broadband Connections newsletter
- ✓ Bookmark [BEAD Grantee Resource Hub](#)
- ✓ Identify project roles & responsibilities
- ✓ Ensure team members & contractors (as applicable) [register for](#) & attend webinars
- ✓ Gather documents needed for grant agreement execution, once prompted by assigned Asst. Grants Manager
- ✓ Identify and document pre-award expenses
- ✓ Review guidance already published
- ✓ Procure NEPA and EHP expertise, if needed



Start soon

- ✓ Conduct site walks to inform engineering
- ✓ Identify permitting jurisdictions and plan for Permitting Round Tables
- ✓ Identify parcels of land where easements or notifications of projects may be required

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Step 2: Grant Agreement Execution



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Step 2: Grant Agreement Execution

The following documents will be needed as part of the grant agreement execution process **at the project level**:

Document	Per project or per grantee?	Description of Grantee Action	When is this needed?
Budget	Per project	Update IOB-provided budget template reflecting final award & match	Within first 15 days of grant agreement execution process
Signed Budget Certification	Per project	Sign a budget certification document, provided by IOB	Following completion of budget template
(1) Cybersecurity, (2) Supply Chain Risk Mgt, (3) Outage Management Plans	Per project	Submit three plans, in line with NTIA requirements	Before the grant agreement is executed (<i>with updated copies required within 30 days of any updates to plan</i>)
Pre-Award Expense Letter	Per project	If grantee incurred expenses pre-grant agreement execution, complete and sign IOB-provided letter template	15 days following grant agreement execution

Grant agreement execution process begins upon Assistant Grants Manager outreach to grantee, expected in early October.

Step 2: Grant Agreement Execution

The following documents will be needed as part of the grant agreement execution process **at the grantee level**:

Document	Per project or per grantee?	Description of Grantee Action	When is this needed?
Programmatic Risk Assessment (PRA) Questionnaire	Per grantee	Complete questionnaire provided by IOB via online form to facilitate IOB's assessment of grantee risk, which will inform monitoring, compliance, and technical assistance	Within first 15 days of grant agreement execution process
Internal Control Questionnaire (ICQ)	Per grantee	Complete questionnaire in GATA portal to inform conditional requirements of grantee, which will be documented in grant agreement	Within first 15 days of grant agreement execution process
Letter of Credit (or confirmation to pursue alternative)	Per grantee – inclusive of all projects	Provide IOB with a Letter of Credit; if using Performance Bond (as an alternative to, or in tandem with, a LoC), provide evidence that the bond has been secured	• Letter of Credit: Before the grant agreement is executed • Performance Bond: 60 days <u>following</u> grant agreement execution
Protecting the BEAD Program from Defaults Certification Form	Per grantee	Sign IOB-provided Protecting the BEAD Program from Defaults Certification Template	Before the grant agreement is executed
In good standing in Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) system	Per grantee	Must remain in good standing during time of agreement execution and throughout lifecycle of grant	Throughout grant agreement execution process (and beyond)
Business Enterprise Program (BEP) Conditional Approval Letter	Per grantee	Populate and sign IOB-provided letter template indicating grantee's commitment to provide BEP Utilization Plan	Within first 30 days of grant agreement execution process
Acceptance of Notice of State Award (NOSA)	Per grantee	Accept the NOSA in the GATA Portal, which is a culmination of initial approval of the scope of work, budget, and risk assessments will allow for the release of the NOSA	Following finalization of the scope of work, budget, and risk assessment questionnaires

Step 2: Grant Agreement Execution

Grant Agreements must be signed and completed 6 months following IOB's receipt of a Notice of Award (NoA) from NIST but can be completed sooner. (**Estimated** due date: March 31, 2027)

Grant Agreement Structure:

Section	Description	Details
Part I: Uniform Terms	Terms that apply to all State of Illinois grants	Includes: - Award Information including grant term, grant amount and awardee specific information - Certifications and representations for specified laws and statutes - Generalized terms regarding scope, budget, allowable costs, monitoring and reporting requirements, and audit requirements
Exhibit A	Project Description	Project-specific details (i.e., locations, technology) and BEAD terms
Exhibit B	Deliverables or Milestones	Information on required reporting and funding disbursements
Exhibit C	Contact Information	DCEO and grantee points of contact
Exhibit D	Performance Measures & Standards	Requirements and expectations as part of carrying out a BEAD grant

Step 2: Grant Agreement Execution

Grant Agreements must be signed and completed 6 months following IOB's receipt of a Notice of Award (NoA) from NIST but can be completed sooner. (**Estimated** due date: March 31, 2027)

Grant Agreement Structure:

Section	Description	Details
Exhibit E	Specific Conditions	Additional requirements originating from the results of the Internal Control Questionnaire (ICQ) and Programmatic Risk Assessment (PRA)
Part II: Grantor-Specific Terms	Terms that apply to all State of Illinois grants issued by DCEO	Includes: - Additional certifications and representations for specified laws and statutes as determined relevant by DCEO - <u>Point of Emphasis</u>: Authorized Signatory/Designee(s) are the only accepted signors for grant-related documentation
Part III: Project-Specific Terms	Terms that apply specifically to the BEAD Program	Includes: - Report Deliverable Schedule – due dates for the periodic reporting - BEAD Specific Terms and Conditions including fixed amount subawards and compliance with specific IJA and NTIA requirements. - Other state requirements (BEP, IL Works, Employment of Illinois Workers Act, Prevailing Wage)

Step 2: Grant Agreement Execution

Pre-Award expenses are those **costs incurred prior to the start date** of the grant award which are **eligible and necessary** for the efficient and timely performance of the scope of work of the project.

? How can I request a pre-award cost for inclusion?

Within 15 days of grant agreement execution, on a per project basis, provide a request letter on the [IOB template](#) detailing:

- Total amount of pre-award expenses;
- Each pre-award expense broken down by budget category; and
- A short narrative describing why the costs are necessary and could not have been completed during the period of performance.

Further details and instruction:

[Pre-Award Expenses guidance document](#)



Step 2: Grant Agreement Execution

Pre-Award expenses are those **costs incurred prior to the start date** of the grant award which are **eligible and necessary** for the efficient and timely performance of the scope of work of the project.



What pre-award expenses are allowed?

The following expenses incurred **between 11/15/2022 and the date of grant agreement execution** with IOB:

- Administrative costs directly related to the BEAD project
- Application costs related to applying for the BEAD grant
- Pre-construction planning
- Applying for permits, including Federal, State, local and environmental
- Procurement of equipment and materials (i.e., purchase or lease of equipment, applicable or conditional insurance, obtaining land or building leases, including right-of-way easements and pole attachments)



What pre-award expenses are NOT allowed?

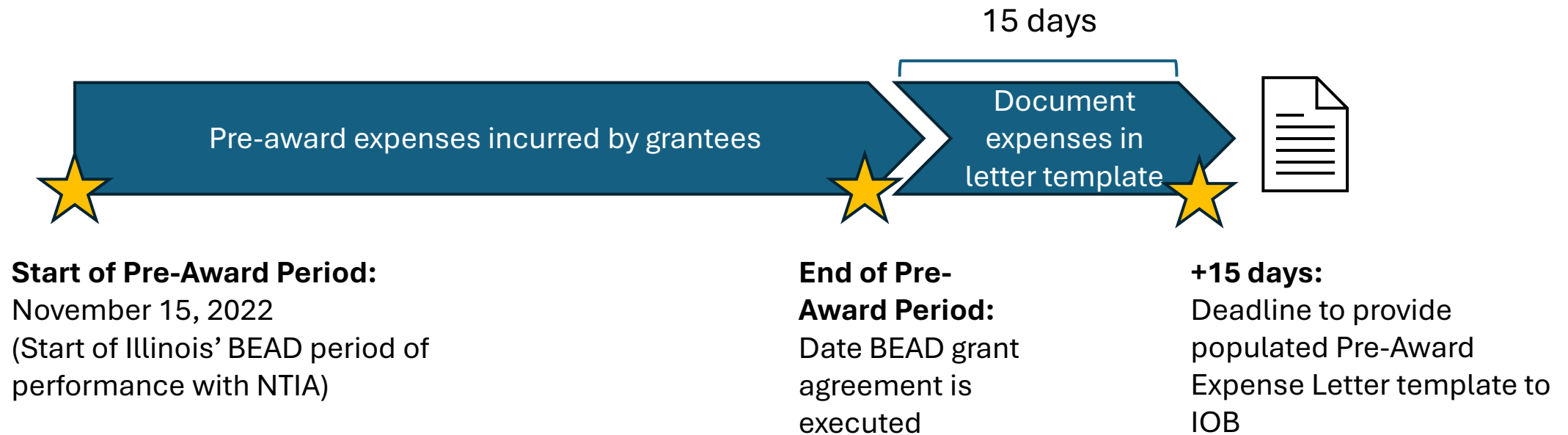
- Project implementation activities (e.g., site preparation, demolition, construction, ground disturbance, or fixed installation)
- Advance payments for activities not yet undertaken
- Indirect costs (i.e., not directly allocable to the BEAD-funded project)

Further details and instruction:

[Pre-Award Expenses guidance document](#)

Step 2: Grant Agreement Execution

Pre-Award expenses are those **costs incurred prior to the start date** of the grant award which are **eligible and necessary** for the efficient and timely performance of the scope of work of the project.



Further details and instruction:
[Pre-Award Expenses guidance document](#)

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Step 3: Pre-Deployment & Build Readiness



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Step 3: Pre-Deployment & Build Readiness – State Requirements

Grantees can begin preparing now to adhere to **Illinois requirements and laws**. Grantees can start by...



Preparing to pay the [Prevailing Wage](#)

Determine which position classification titles will be used. Locate the prevailing wage for that county. Become familiar with the Department of Labor (DOL) reporting portal.



Preparing to complete a [Business Enterprise Program \(BEP\)](#) Utilization Plan

Research Commission on Equity & Inclusion (CEI)-approved BEP eligible business(es) to hire for construction or purchase of materials/equipment to meet or exceed the goal.



Sourcing labor in line with [Illinois Works](#) requirements

Mirror the classification titles for prevailing wage, determine if eligible apprentices are available from Illinois Works approved programs. Find remaining apprentices from either union or non-union sources or initiate an in-house apprenticeship program.



Remaining current and in good standing with Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) [Home](#)

Review GATA status for potential issues to be resolved. Note when third party System for Award Management (SAM) SAM.gov, Secretary of State, etc.) authorization expires to be ready for timely resubmission.

Step 3: Pre-Deployment & Build Readiness – Initial Steps

Grantees may begin the following processes before executing grant agreements, but must complete these processes before construction:

Start by...



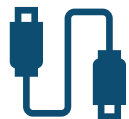
Finalizing network designs & maps



Obtaining Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) expertise



Identifying the needed federal, state, and local permits and initiate permitting roundtables



Starting to procure Build America, Buy America (BABA) compliant supplies.

Description

Complete engineering and network route maps allows for Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) processes and permitting processes to begin as soon as possible.

It is recommended that grantees procure EHP expertise in order to meet the EHP requirements for BEAD. The IOB has also procured EHP experts to support grantees in the EHP process.

Host local meetings (permitting roundtables) with permitting entities to share project information. All permits and the permit statuses will be reported to the IOB via the Permit Tracker.

Procure materials and supplies in line with BABA requirements. Document any challenges with obtaining BABA compliant materials.

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Learnings from the Past



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Learnings from the Past

1) Onboarding

What Often Goes Wrong:

- Grantee does not maintain GATA pre-certification status
- Lack of clarity in awarded project scope or budget

Result:

- Grant agreement process halted or delayed

Tips to Mitigate

- Monitor GATA status regularly as found at [this link](#)
- Save project and budget documentation as provided by IOB

2) Grant Agreement Execution

What Often Goes Wrong:

- Grant agreement state boiler plate language causes concerns

Result:

- Delay in signing the grant agreement

Tips to Mitigate

- Review boiler plate language early. Raise questions for discussion with DCEO Legal

Learnings from the Past

3) Pre-Deployment

What Often Goes Wrong:

- Permits submitted without meeting with relevant authorities or with missing information
- Acquiring easements delays permits or pole attachment

Result:

- Long permit back and forth delays approval
- Permits sit in purgatory until easements are acquired

Tips to Mitigate

- Conduct meetings and permitting round tables to discuss project ahead of submitting permit applications
- Designate one point of contact for permits
- Begin easements outreach as soon as possible

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Next Steps



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Between now and next week...

Below are initial steps grantees can take before our next webinar:

- ✓ [Sign up](#) for Illinois Broadband Connections newsletter
- ✓ Bookmark [BEAD Grantee Resource Hub](#)
- ✓ Identify project roles & responsibilities
- ✓ Ensure team members & contractors (as applicable) [register for](#) & attend webinars
- ✓ Identify and document pre-award expenses
- ✓ Review guidance already published on the [BEAD Grantee Resource Hub](#)
- ✓ Start to procure NEPA and EHP expertise, if needed
- ✓ Review [FAQs](#) from today's webinar

Upcoming Webinars

All webinars will be held at every Wednesday, 11 am – 12 pm CT.

Tentative schedule of topics, subject to change:

- Sept 16 | BEAD Grantee Orientation Part 1
- Sept 23 | BEAD Grantee Orientation Part 2
- Sept 30 | Complying with Illinois Requirements
- Oct 7 | Complying with Federal BEAD Requirements
- Oct 14 | Disbursement Approach & Fixed Amount Subawards (FASA)
- Oct 21 | Permitting Part 1 – Right-of-Way and Railroad Permits
- Oct 28 | Permitting Part 2 – Pole Attachments & Fixed Wireless Permits
- Nov 4 | Environmental & Historic Preservation Webinar 1
- Nov 11 | Environmental & Historic Preservation Webinar 2
- Nov 18 | Environmental & Historic Preservation Webinar 3

Registration Link: <https://registration.extension.illinois.edu/start/bead-orientation-webinars-1>

Resources

IOB Website: dceo.illinois.gov/broadband

BEAD Grantee Resource Hub: dceo.illinois.gov/broadband/bead/bead-grantee-resource-hub

Resources Available:

- Federal Requirements
 - [Pre-Award Expenses & Request Letter Template](#)
 - [Matching Funds and In-Kind Contributions](#)
 - [Build America, Buy America \(BABA\)](#)
 - [Letter of Credit Guidance](#)
 - [Performance Measures Testing](#)
 - Fixed Amount Subaward Milestones, Required Documentation, and Disbursement Process (*coming soon*)
- State Requirements
 - [Grant Accountability and Transparency Act \(GATA\)](#)
 - [Illinois Works](#)
 - [Prevailing Wage](#)
 - [Business Enterprise Program \(BEP\)](#)
 - Quarterly Reporting (*coming soon*)
- Permitting
 - [Permitting Resources](#), including:
 - Broadband in Illinois Starter Guide
 - Illinois Broadband Permitting Directory
 - Guide to Hosting Permitting Round Tables
 - Illinois Broadband Permitting Map

Get in Touch!

General questions?

Email broadband@illinois.gov

Sign up to receive our newsletter:

<https://bit.ly/IOBnewsletter>

Find all our links:

<https://bit.ly/m/IllinoisBroadband>



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Q&A



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