



# Connect Illinois Round 4 BEAD Orientation

Part 1

September 16, 2026

Part 2

September 23, 2026



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# Agenda: Part 2 (Sept. 23)

- 11-11:30 - The Grantee Journey (part 2)
  - 1) On-Boarding
  - 2) Grant Agreement Execution
  - 3) Pre-Deployment & Build Readiness
  - 4) Reporting
  - 5) Build
  - 6) Outreach & Adoption
- 11:30-11:45 - Learnings from the Past
- 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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# Webinar Progress

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

*Tentative schedule of topics, subject to change:*

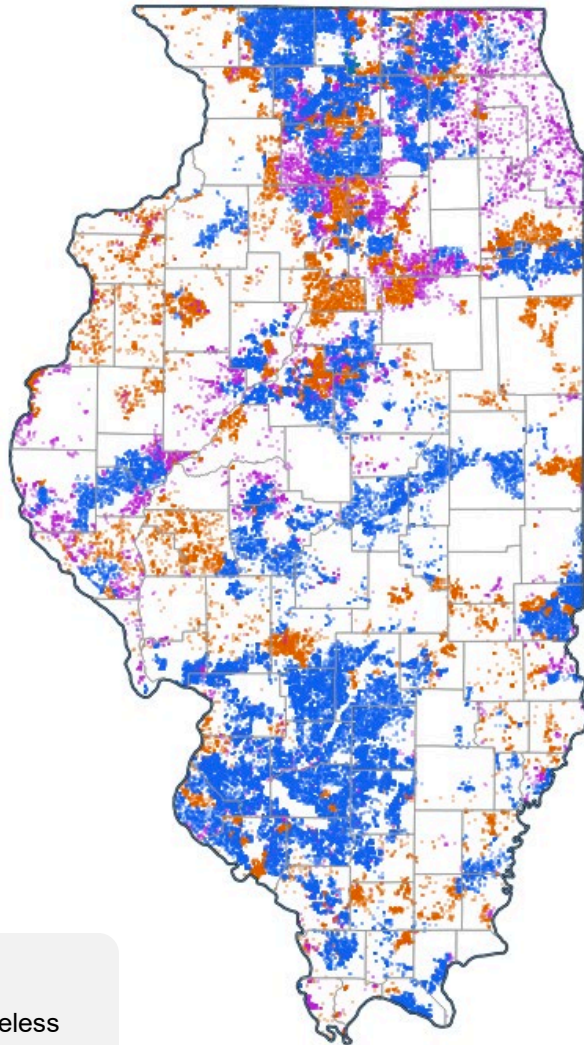
- Sept 16 | BEAD Grantee Orientation Part 1 ✓
- Sept 23 | BEAD Grantee Orientation Part 2 **Today!**
- Sept 30 | Complying with Illinois Requirements
- Oct 7 | Complying with Federal BEAD Requirements
- Oct 14 | Disbursement Approach & Fixed Amount Subawards (FASA)
- Oct 21 | Permitting Part 1 – Right-of-Way 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>

# 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

# 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](http://IllinoisBEAD.org)**

## BEAD Connect Illinois Round 4: Award Map

## How do I use this site?

Color map by

### Location Type

### Filter by area

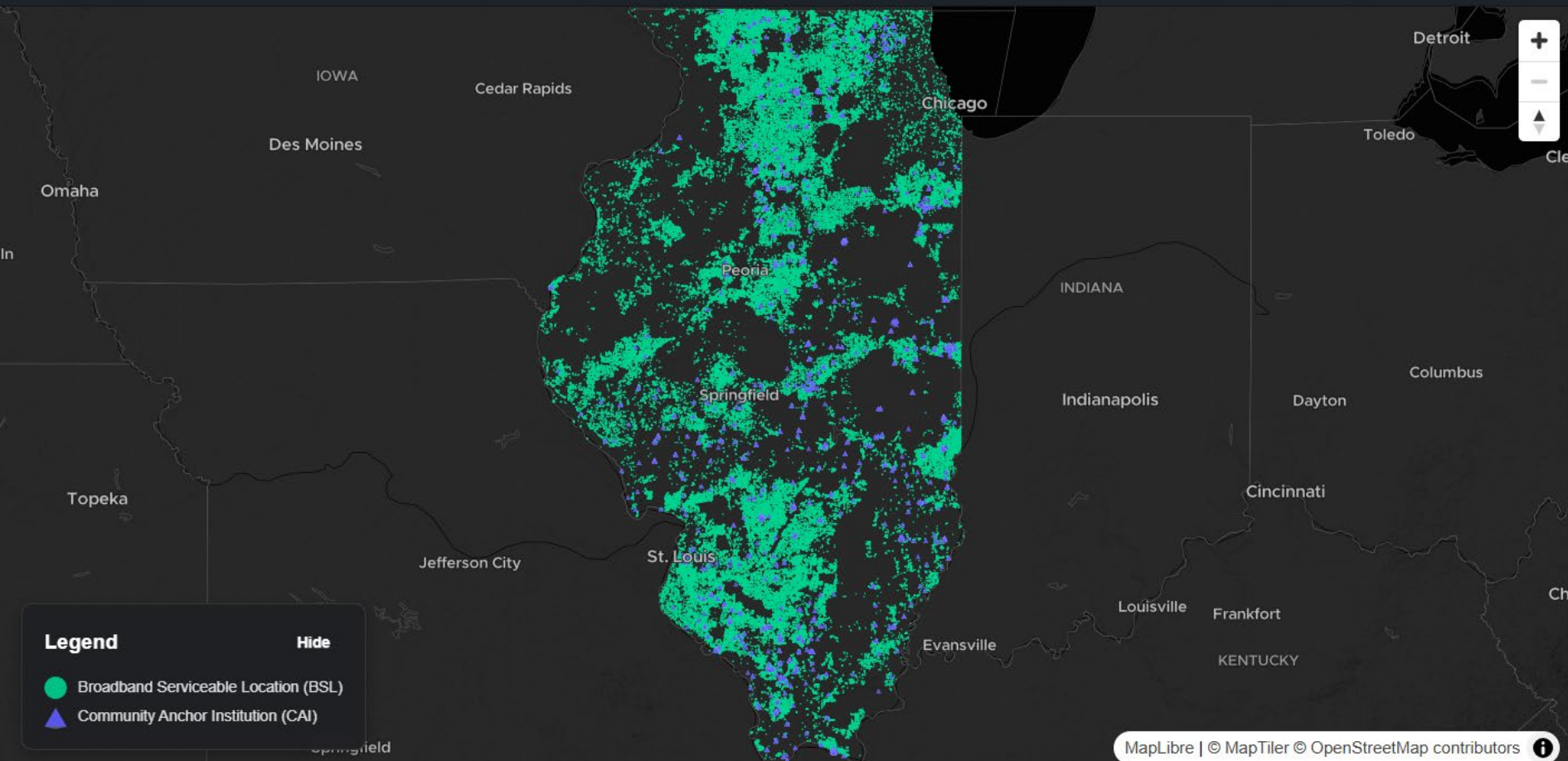
County or municipality...

Filter by provider

Search providers...

### Filter by project

Search projects...

[Download the data](#)

This is a summary of  
**locations statewide**

### Total Locations

142,546

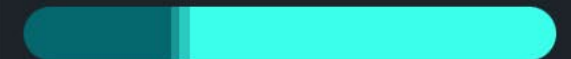
### Broadband Serviceable Locations

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

# Latest Updates

## Notice of Award – received!

- Illinois received its Notice of Award (NoA) from NIST on September 22, 2026
  - NIST signed it on Sept. 18, 2026
- This starts the 6-month timeline to execute grant agreements
- **Deadline for grant agreement execution:** March 18, 2027

## \*New\* “What Good Looks Like” Guides – [Now online](#)

- Guides to assist grantees in understanding document requirements and preparing complete, review-ready submissions
- Includes practical considerations and illustrative examples



# Key Roles in the BEAD Program



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# Key Players in the BEAD Program

| NTIA                                                                                                   | Illinois Office of<br>Broadband                                       | Grantee                                                                                                                                                                            | Other External<br>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

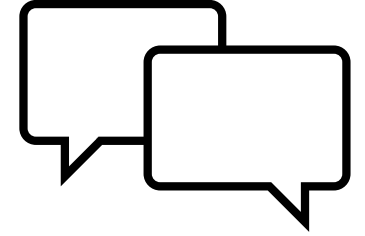
# Who You'll Engage With

*\*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; <b>this is your primary point of contact once grant agreement execution begins</b> | 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 <a href="#">economic development region</a> (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](mailto: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

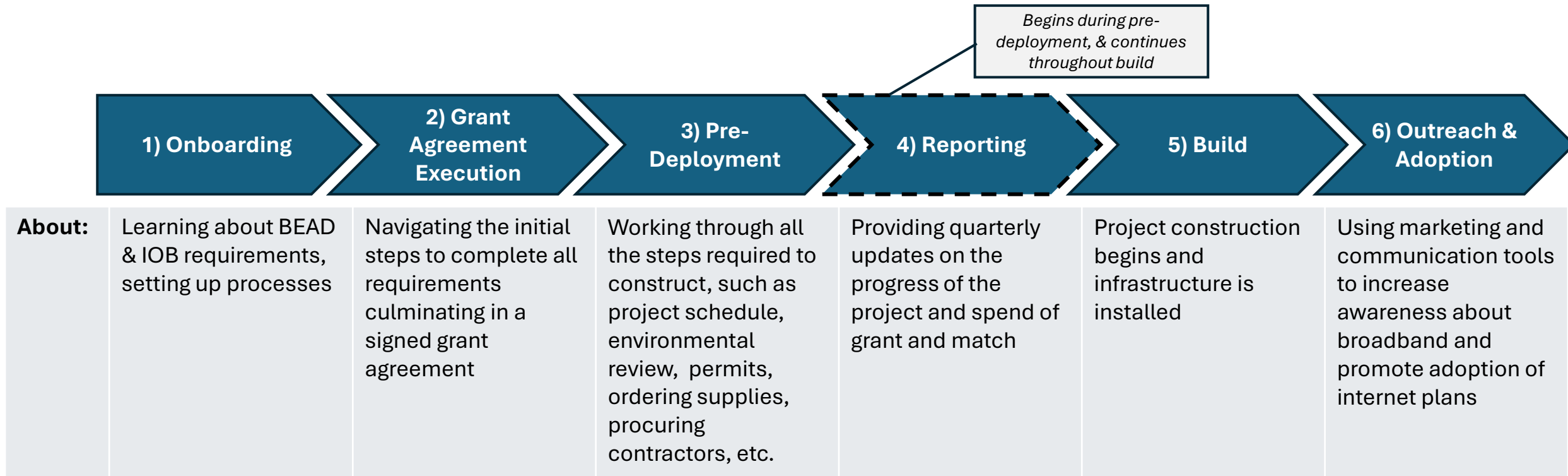


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# Grantee Journey – Key Milestones



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## Step 4: Reporting



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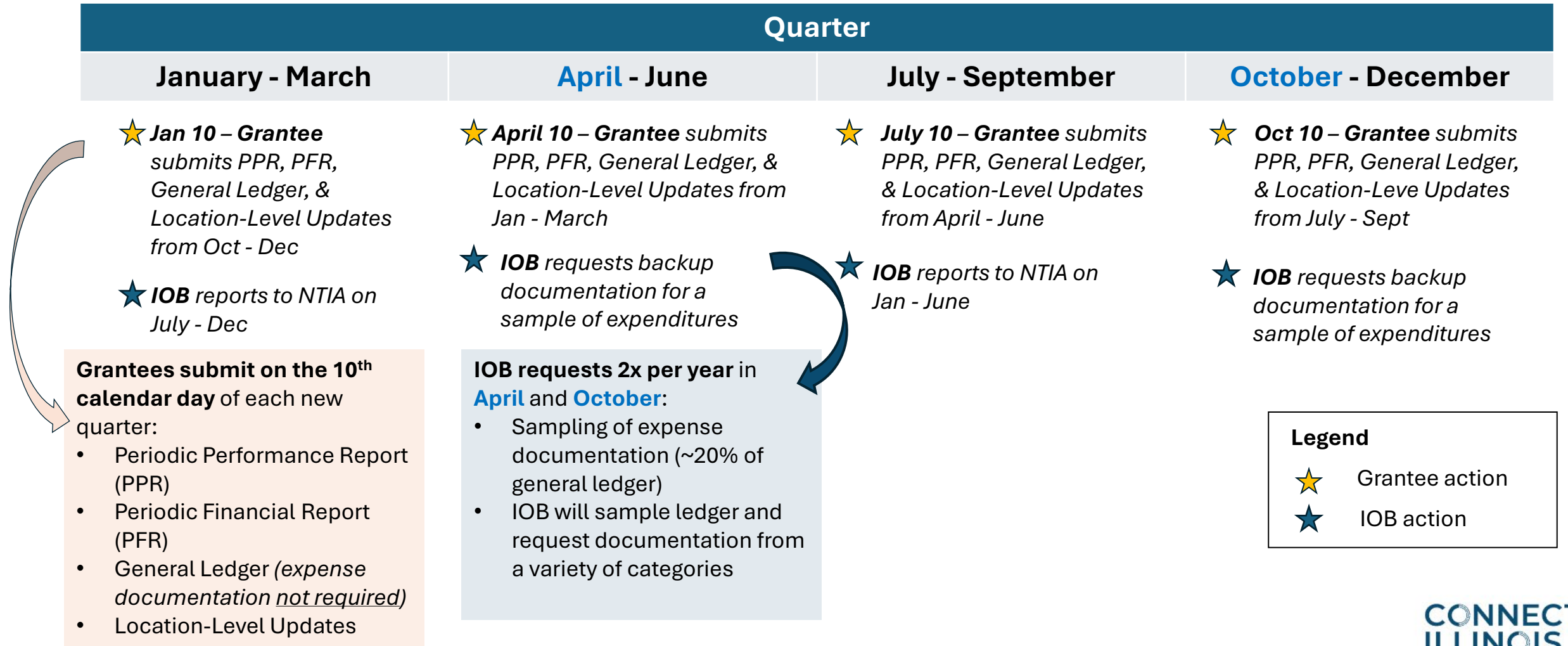
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# Step 4: Reporting - Preparing

Grantees can begin preparing to meet reporting requirements now:

| Type of Information                                                                                                          | What grantees can do now to prepare                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Financial Reporting &amp; Documentation</b><br>(collected through <i>Periodic Financial Report &amp; General Ledger</i> ) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Create a plan to easily track expenditures specific to the grant, including award and match</li><li>• Determine staff members who will be responsible for reporting forms; ensure attendance at reporting orientation webinar</li></ul>                             |
| <b>Metrics on project progress</b><br>(collected through <i>Periodic Performance Report</i> )                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prepare to collect qualitative and quantitative metrics on project progress</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Documenting Location-Level Progress</b><br>(collected through <i>Location-Level Updates</i> )                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Setup internal tracking of status at the Location ID and CAI ID level</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Evidence of completing Fixed Amount Subaward (FASA) milestones</b>                                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review FASA documentation requirements and raise any questions with your Assistant Grants Manager</li><li>• Review What Good Looks Like (WGLL) examples to understand IOB expectations for documentation</li><li>• Attend relevant trainings and webinars</li></ul> |

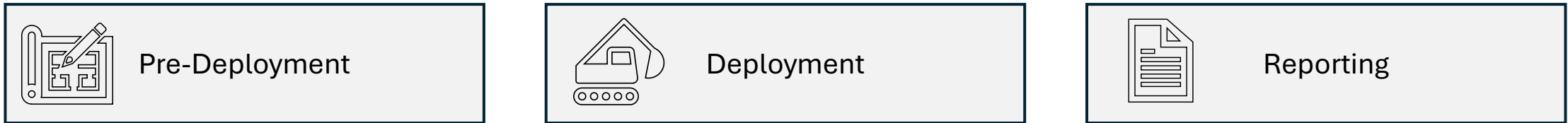
# Step 4: Reporting – Quarterly Reporting Schedule



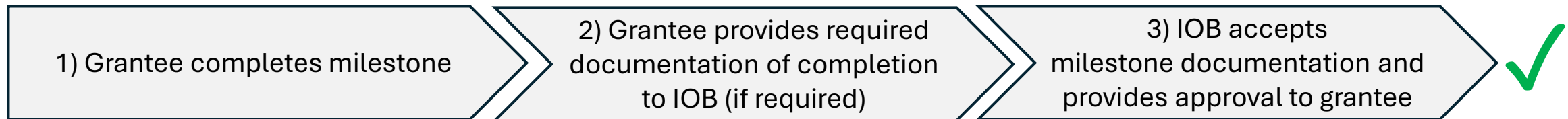
# Step 4: Reporting – Disbursements

Milestone-based Fixed Amount Subawards (FASA) are payments are based on achieving specific project milestones.

Milestones are divided into three categories:



Generally, payments will be made once three things happen:



# Step 4: Reporting – Disbursements

**Milestone-based Fixed Amount Subawards (FASA)** are payments based on achieving specific project milestones.

- **Milestones and corresponding payments are determined on a per-project basis**
  - “Project” is defined as one unique BOTB-ID
- **IOB will facilitate disbursements** (i.e., make payments) for the portion of the grant associated with each milestone (e.g., signing the grant agreement unlocks 5% of the project’s grant award)
- **Frequency of Payments**
  - Maximum – IOB will process disbursements up to 1X per month, aggregating a grantee’s disbursement requests across milestones; to request disbursement, a grantee will submit associated milestone evidence, and ensure relevant reports are up-to-date (i.e., location-level updates)
  - Minimum – Grantees will receive a payment following the submission of quarterly reporting for periods ending March 31 and September 30

Further details and instruction:  
[Fixed Amount Subawards Guidance Document](#)

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1) Onboarding

2) Grant  
Agreement  
Execution

3) Pre-  
Deployment

4) Reporting

**5) Build**

6) Outreach  
& Adoption

## Step 5: Build



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# Step 5: Build

Grantees should expect to share project information with the community and then deploy infrastructure:

|                                                                                     | Prep to Build & Build Step                                                | Description                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|     | Engage the community                                                      | Speak with local officials, attend a Town Hall, and have local officials spread the word of the upcoming project in newsletters. |
|     | Conduct joint meets and call in locates                                   | Conduct joint meetings in line with JULIE standards and call in locate tickets.                                                  |
|    | File any follow-ups to permits (traffic control, railroad flaggers, etc.) | Arrange for construction specific permissions, like traffic control, and have other area specific permits on hand.               |
|   | Allocate crews and track Prevailing Wage hours                            | Track labor hours and file certified payroll templates with the Department of Labor.                                             |
|  | Install facilities                                                        | Deploy infrastructure.                                                                                                           |

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1) Onboarding

2) Grant  
Agreement  
Execution

3) Pre-  
Deployment

4) Reporting

5) Build

6) Outreach  
& Adoption

## Step 6: Outreach & Adoption



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# Step 6: Outreach & Adoption

Building trust and awareness among prospective customer is critical to successful broadband adoption

## Overview

- Many eligible households remain offline simply because they are **unaware of the availability of high-speed broadband** in their areas.
- Outreach, such as marketing, community engagement and education efforts, **increases awareness and boosts service adoption.**
- Community education about broadband also **combats misinformation and sets expectations**, leading to **better relationships with community members** and can **increase adoption and subscription rates.**

# Step 6: Outreach & Adoption

Building trust and awareness among prospective customer is critical to successful broadband adoption

| IOB Expectations & Tips                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | How CEMs can support                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Be transparent</b> in internet plan commitments, such as terms, cost, and speeds. Make your FCC broadband consumer labels easy to view</li><li>• When promoting broadband, work <b>alongside organizations that customers already trust</b> in accessible locations (libraries, community centers, etc.)</li><li>• <b>Publicize affordably priced plans</b> in a way that is <b>accessible and tailored</b> to the community (i.e., available in common languages, straight-forward instructions)</li><li>• Consider <b>supporting initiatives</b> that help customers build digital skills and access affordable devices</li><li>• Allow customers to <b>donate to the <a href="#">Eliminating the Digital Divide Fund</a></b> through their monthly internet bill to enable digital access programs in Illinois</li></ul> | <p><b>IOB Community Engagement Managers</b> can support grantee outreach and adoption efforts by...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Connecting grantee</b> with local partners to broaden network of outreach</li><li>• Providing BEAD <a href="#">outreach &amp; overview materials</a> (one pagers, presentations, etc.)</li><li>• <b>Attending community events</b> and providing remarks as needed</li><li>• Providing a press release template, quote, and other <b>templated communications materials</b></li></ul> |

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# Learnings from the Past



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# Learnings from the Past

## 4) Reporting

### What Often Goes Wrong:

- Reports incorrectly completed

### Result:

- Payments cannot be issued until reports are approved

### Tips to Mitigate

- Review drafts with your AGM and respond quickly to feedback
- Use IOB guidance up front to submit an accurate report on the first try

## 5) Build

### What Often Goes Wrong:

- Locates are not completed in time for construction
- Permits approvals are delayed
- Pole make-ready is delayed
- Delays in scheduling flaggers for rail crossings

### Result:

- Overall installation moves slowly or inefficiently, leading to cost overruns

### Tips to Mitigate

- Collaborate with local stakeholders early through joint meets and/or permitting round tables

# Learnings from the Past

## 6) Outreach and Adoption

### What Often Goes Wrong:

- Time not invested in establishing relationships
- Construction starts without communicating with community
- No direct way for customers to contact ISP
- Reliance on generic materials

### Result:

- Community pushback on construction disruptions
- Potential customers unaware of new service
- Customers overwhelmed by ads
- Lower subscription rates

### Tips to Mitigate

- Begin engagement early and through trusted local partners
- Tailor marketing strategy & messaging to locals' way of consuming information & needs

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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 and review guidance on the [BEAD Grantee Resource Hub](#)
- ✓ Identify project roles & responsibilities
- ✓ Ensure team members & contractors (as applicable) [register for](#) & attend webinars
- ✓ Identify and document pre-award expenses
- ✓ Start to procure NEPA and EHP expertise, if needed
- ✓ Review [FAQs](#) from recent webinars

# Upcoming Webinars

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*Tentative schedule of topics, subject to change:*

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# Resources

**BEAD Grantee Resource Hub:** [dceo.illinois.gov/broadband/bead/bead-grantee-resource-hub](https://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](#)
- 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
- [What Good Looks Like Guides](#)

# Get in Touch!

## General questions?

Email [broadband@illinois.gov](mailto: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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