Closing the Digital Divide in Illinois

BEAD Update Webinar: Wave 2

May 27, 2025

Topics for Discussion Today

1

Recap of BEAD

2

Serviceability Updates Process

3

Wave 1 Results

4

Overview of Wave 2

1

Recap of BEAD

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

Note: NTIA has communicated that changes to the program are coming following a rigorous review by the U.S. Dept. of Commerce

$42.45 billion
Funds provided for BEAD

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

Program highlights

Eligible entities

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

Example eligible uses of funds

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

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What are the goals of BEAD?

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

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

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

Run subgrantee selection process within one year of approval of the Initial Proposal, and complete implementation within four years of receipt of funds[3]
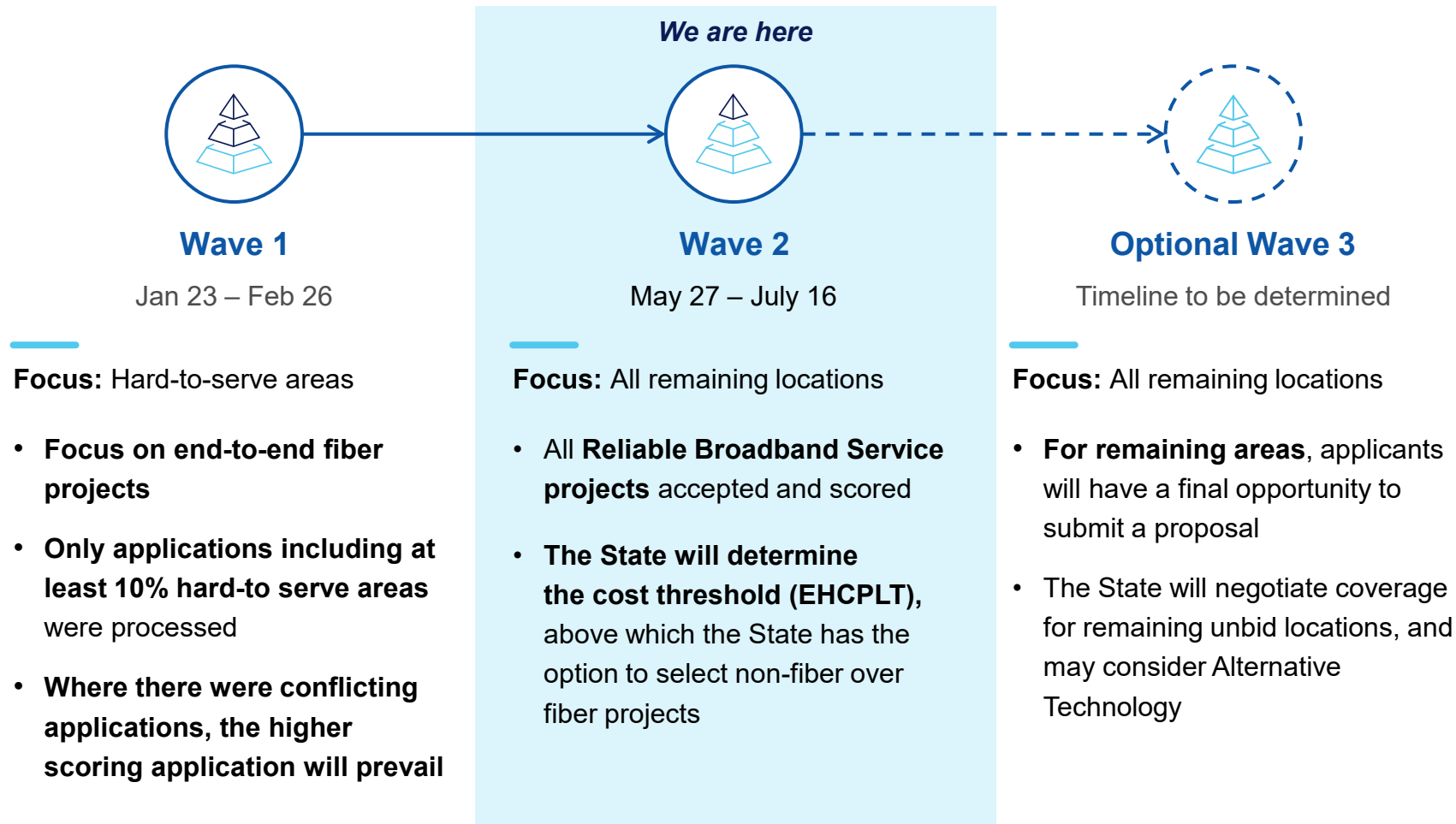
Focus on improving broadband affordability through a low-cost broadband service option, and a middle-class affordability plan[4]

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

Source: BEAD NOFO

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The subgrantee selection process consists of up to three waves - the first Wave is complete, and the second Wave opens today

We are here

Wave 1
Jan 23 – Feb 26

Focus: Hard-to-serve areas

- **Focus on end-to-end fiber projects**
- **Only applications including at least 10% hard-to serve areas** were processed
- **Where there were conflicting applications, the higher scoring application will prevail**

Wave 2
May 27 – July 16

Focus: All remaining locations

- All **Reliable Broadband Service projects** accepted and scored
- **The State will determine the cost threshold (EHCPLT),** above which the State has the option to select non-fiber over fiber projects

Optional Wave 3
Timeline to be determined

Focus: All remaining locations

- **For remaining areas**, applicants will have a final opportunity to submit a proposal
- The State will negotiate coverage for remaining unbid locations, and may consider Alternative Technology

Note: Timeline is tentative based on currently available information and may change

Source: Connect Illinois Initial Proposal Volume II

What are PAUs?

Project Area Units (PAUs) are clusters of eligible locations no more than five miles apart

PAUs function as the "building blocks" of applications - applicants can apply to serve one or more PAUs, and PAUs cannot be separated

Detailed definitions follow

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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

If awarded a PAU, a subgrantee must deploy to all included eligible locations

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)[1]

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

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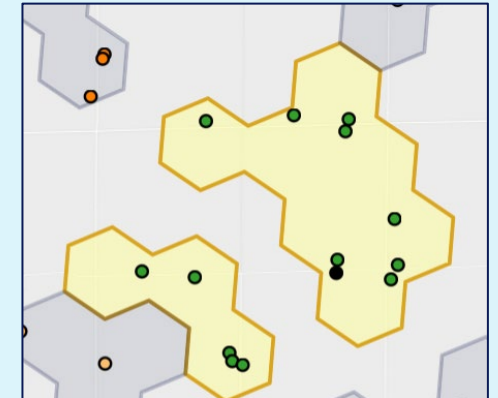
1. Details on Illinois's definition of CAIs can be found in Illinois's BEAD Initial Proposal Volume I

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175,293 locations are eligible to be connected through BEAD

Note: Locations deemed to no longer need BEAD funding based on the latest Serviceability Updates Process will be published at the start of Wave 2 – *more details to follow*

Source: Illinois Final BEAD Eligibility data approved by NTIA on November 26, 2024
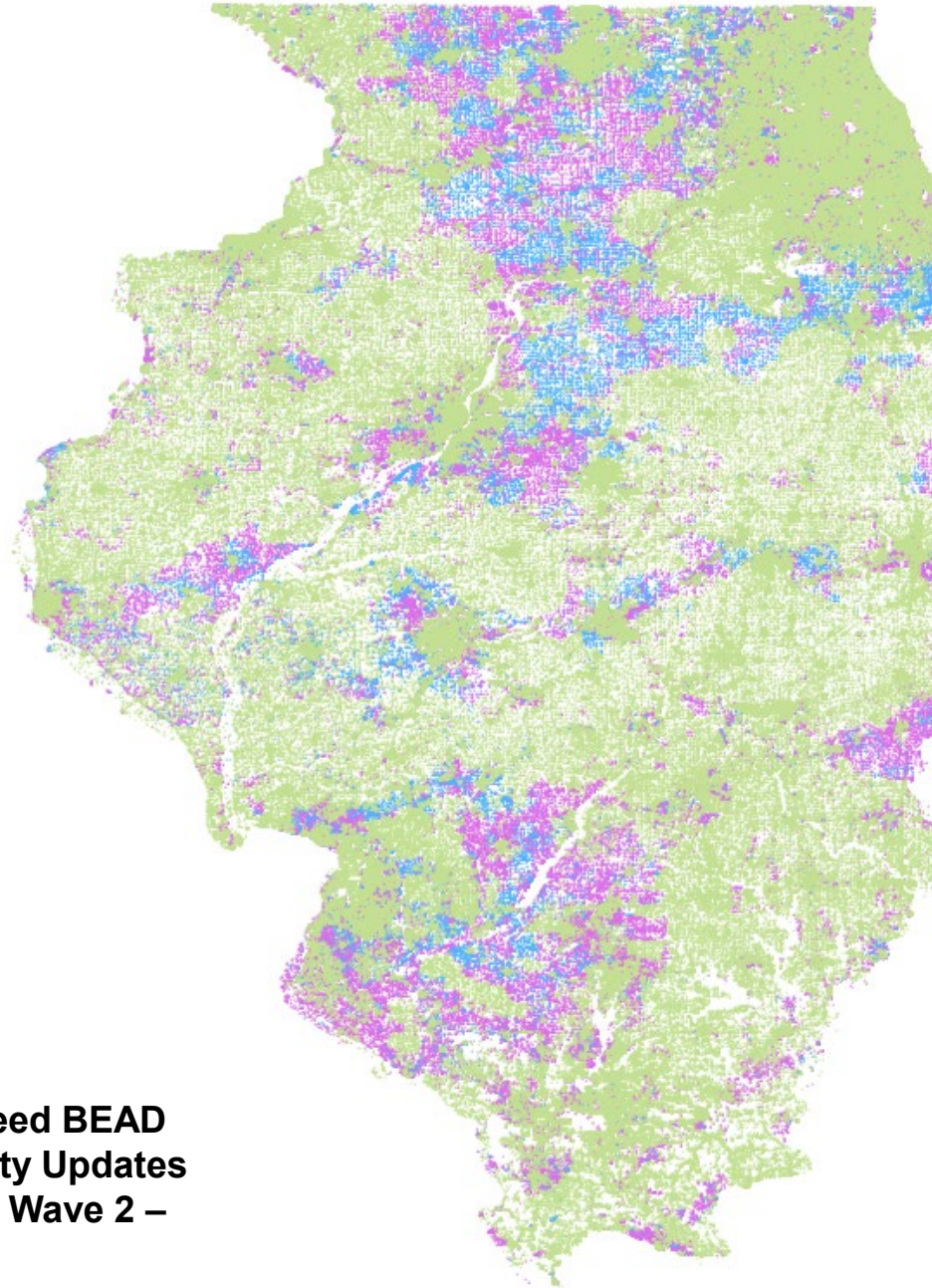
Broadband service availability in Illinois, per BEAD-eligibility data

~4.2M
Total Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs)

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

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

~172K BEAD-eligible BSLs

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

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

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Overview of the BEAD-Funded Connect Illinois Round 4 timeline

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

Key Updates

- Wave 1 completed, with **submission** of 238 applications by 26 entities followed by **'deconfliction',** i.e., the process by which projects with overlapping PAUs are reviewed and adjusted to determine which applicant shall be awarded the overlapping PAUs
- Applicants informed of status of all Wave 1 proposals
- Wave 2 application open as of May 27, inviting applications for reliable broadband technologies

Initial Proposal

Submitted late Dec 2023, approved on June 13, 2024

To finalize IL's plan for implementing BEAD program

Challenge Process

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

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

Request for Input (RFI)

May – Jun 2024

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

Pre-qualification process

Jun – Aug 2024

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

We are here

Wave 2 now open!

Subgrantee Selection (2025)

Wave 1
Jan 23 – Feb 26

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

✔️ *Wave 1 completed*

Wave 2
May 27 – Jul 16

Scores all Reliable Broadband Service applications

🟢 *Wave 2 in-progress*

Wave 3
Dates TBD

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

Final Proposal & Implementation

Dates TBD

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

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

Illustrative Pre-Qualification Final Determination email

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Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity OFFICE OF BROADBAND

Dear Sample Corporation (EIN: 12-3456789),

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

(1) Summary of Approved Qualifications

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

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

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

(2) Next Steps for Application Process

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Administrative: Pre-Qualifications Process

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

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

PPQ-9999T

＋ Add result

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

- ☑ A1
- ☑ A2
- ☐ A3

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

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

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Serviceability Updates Process

Serviceability Updates Process - Overview

What is it?

- Serviceability updates refers to the process of updating the universe of BEAD-eligible location by identifying locations which no longer require BEAD funding due to sufficient evidence of existing service

Why is it conducted?

- Recognizing time that has passed since the challenge process, Serviceability Updates allows Illinois to ensure BEAD resources are applied most effectively, where they are needed most

How are updates determined?

Updates were made to the BEAD-eligible locations based on:

- Evidence submitted by Internet Service Providers

- Internal analysis

- Comparison to FCC National Broadband Map

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'Reason codes' behind updates

Illinois made updates to its universe of BEAD-eligible locations across five Reason Codes:

1. Should not have a broadband connection (e.g., location is demolished, is a support structure)
2. Does not need mass-market broadband due to nature of use
3. Was removed from latest version of FCC Fabric
4. Already served by an enforceable State/Federal commitment
5. Already served by non-subsidized service (privately funded network)

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Results of Serviceability Updates Process

Based on the submissions from Jan-Feb 2025, ~10k locations have been identified that do not require BEAD funding, in the following **categories**:

Reason Code	Number of No-BEAD locations
1: Does not need mass-market broadband due to nature of use (non-serviceable locations)	92
3: Locations removed between Fabric v3 and v6 (Illinois-wide)	6,951
4: Already served by an enforceable State/Federal commitment (verified by State/Federal agencies)	1,117
5: Already served by privately funded network	2,058

- These locations have been **incorporated for Wave 2**
- On the Project Area Selection Tool, these "no-BEAD" locations are **identified separately** and are **not included in the total count** of un/underserved locations
- **Note:** Wave 1 preliminary awardees should expect communication from the IOB to descope no-BEAD locations

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Wave 1 Results

Illinois received 238 applications covering 86% of eligible locations statewide and 85% of hard-to-serve project area units (PAUs) in Wave 1

AS OF MARCH 16, 2025
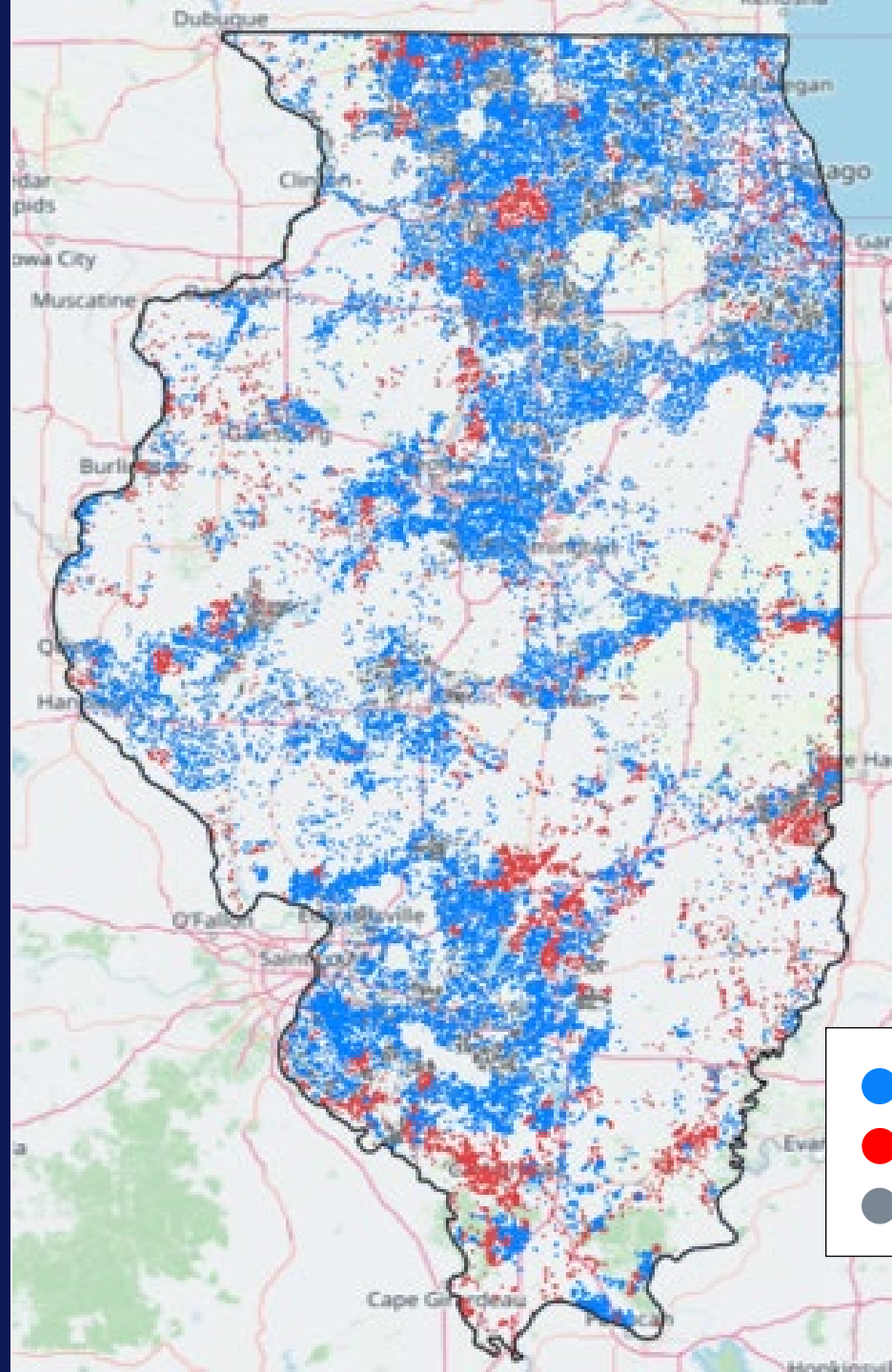
Wave 1 application summary

238
Applications received in Illinois, totaling …

~151K (86% of total)
Eligible locations

🔵 **5,615** (76% of total)
Regular PAUs

🔴 **1,582** (85% of total)
Hard-to-serve PAUs

🔵 Regular PAUs with ≥1 bid
🔴 Hard-to-serve PAUs with ≥1 bid
⚫ PAUs that received 0 bids

26 entities submitted applications in Wave 1 across 4 different entity types with a median of 1 application submitted per entity

AS OF MARCH 31, 2025

Wave 1 number of entities that submitted applications by <u>type of entity</u>

% of total:

| | 77% | 15% | 4% | 4% |

Values by entity type:
- Private / For-Profit Company: 20
- Cooperative: 4
- Municipality / Political Subdivision: 1
- Public / Private Utility: 1

Type of Applicant Entity
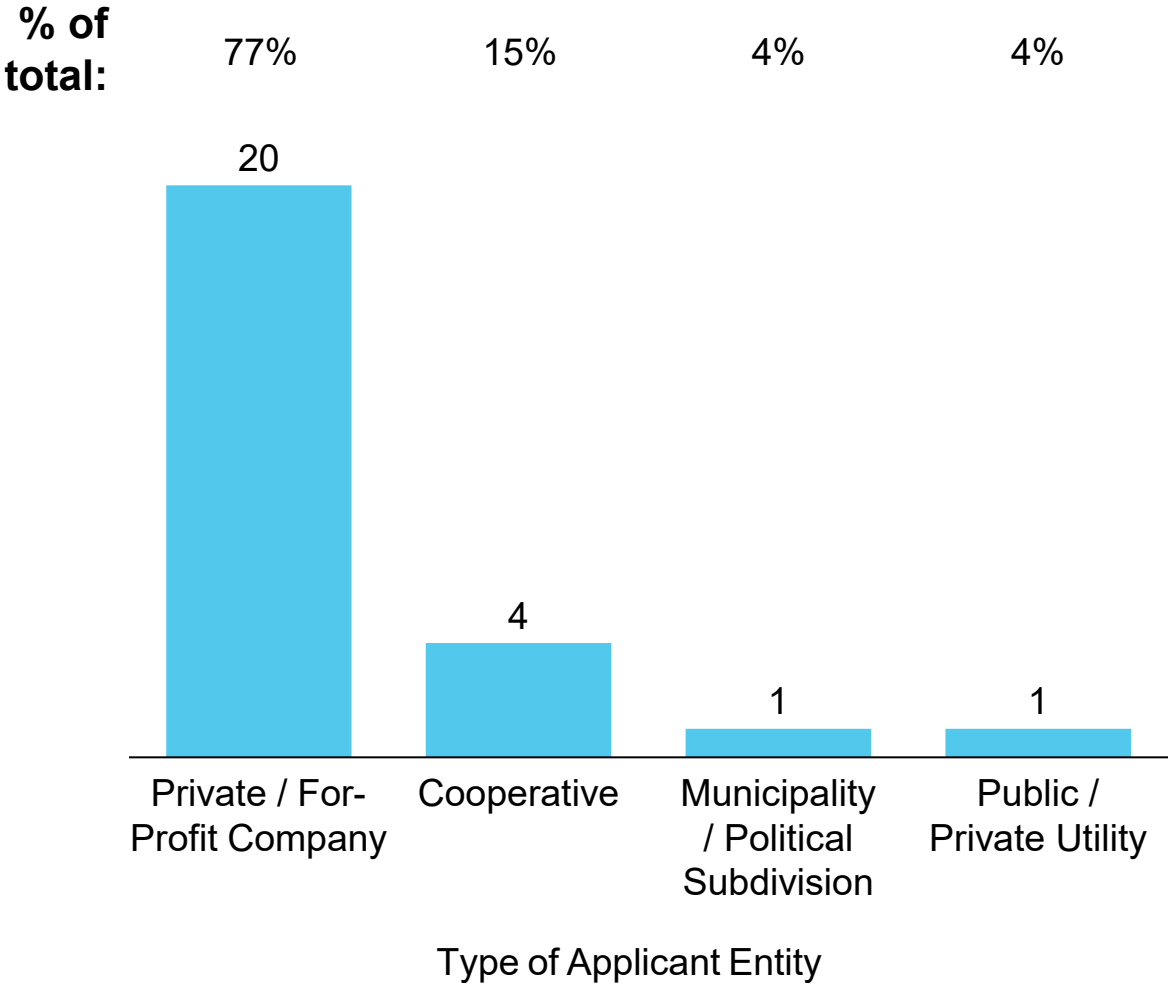
Wave 1 number of entities by <u>number of applications submitted</u>

| | 69% | 12% | 12% | 8% |

Values by number of applications:
- 1-5: 18
- 6-10: 3
- 11-15: 3
- >15: 2

Number of applications submitted

> Median: 1 app per entity
> Average: 9 apps per entity

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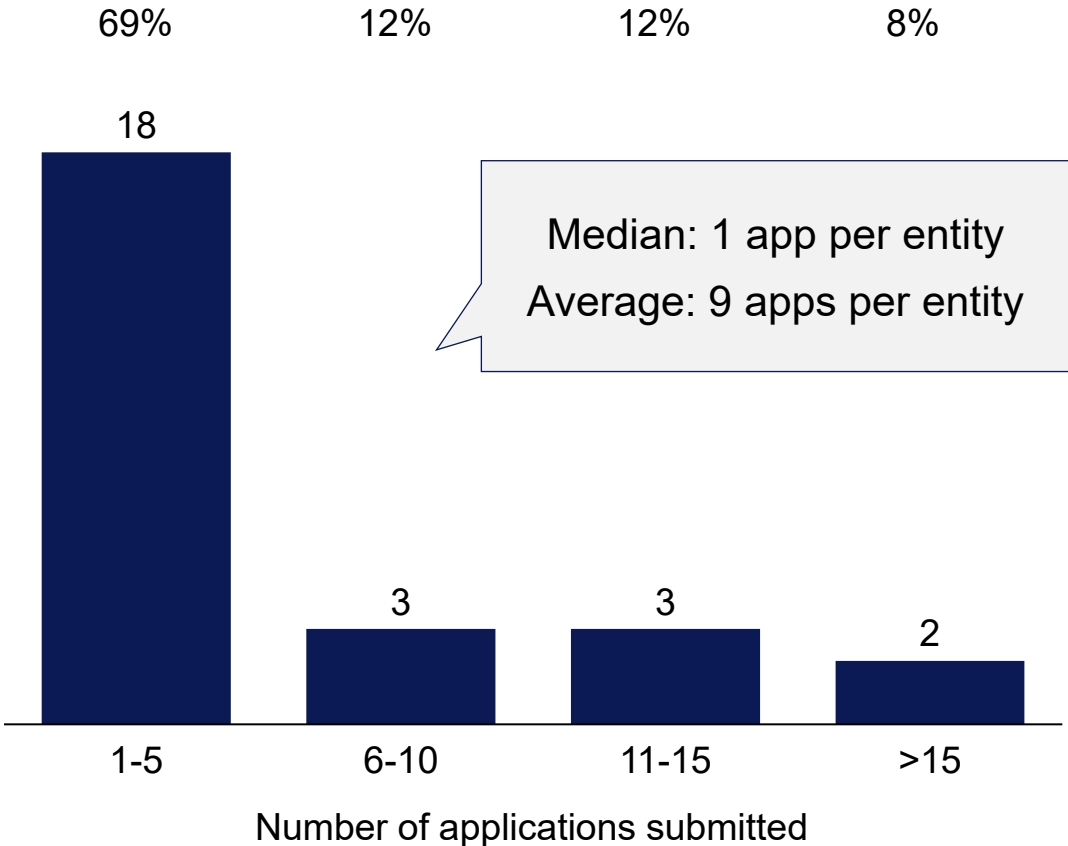
Wave 1 saw applications of varying size and competition across PAUs

AS OF MARCH 16, 2025

Most applications include 10 or fewer PAUs
Number of applications
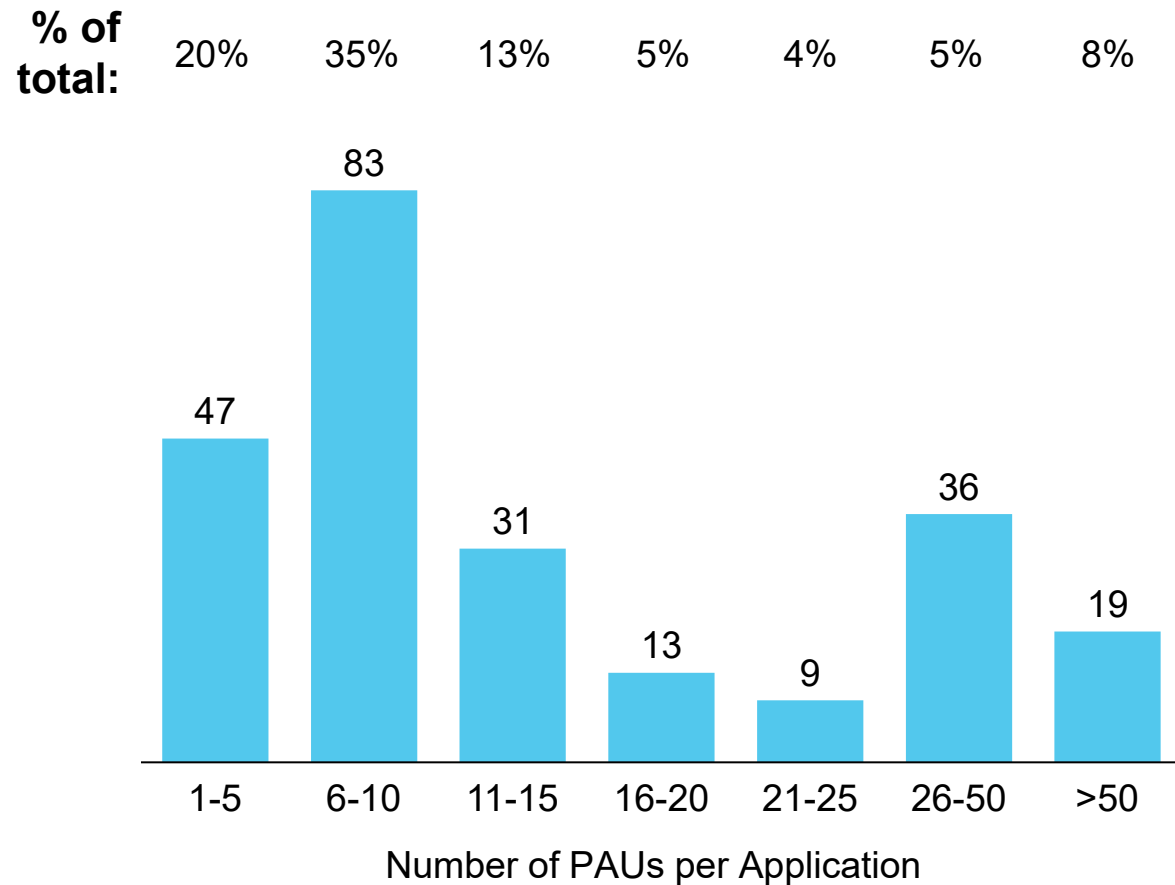
Nearly 30% of PAUs received competing proposals
Number of PAUs

Source: Wave 1 applications received by IOB during the Connect Illinois Round 4 BEAD subgrantee selection process

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18
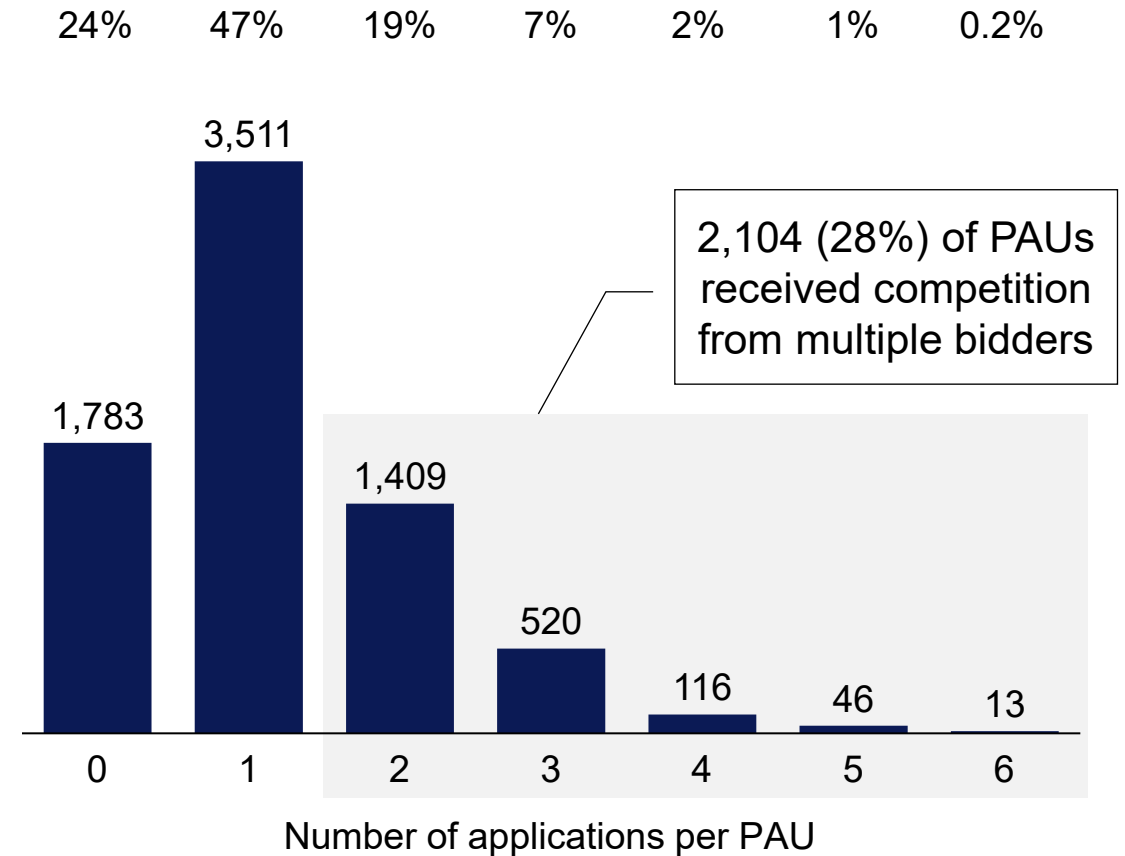
In Wave 1, Illinois preliminarily selected 137 applications covering 57% of eligible locations statewide and 35% of hard-to-serve project area units (PAUs)

AS OF MAY 23, 2025

Note that awards are preliminary, subject to comparison against the Extremely High Cost per Location Threshold (EHCPLT), negotiations, and NTIA approval

Source: Wave 1 applications received by IOB during the Connect Illinois Round 4 BEAD subgrantee selection process
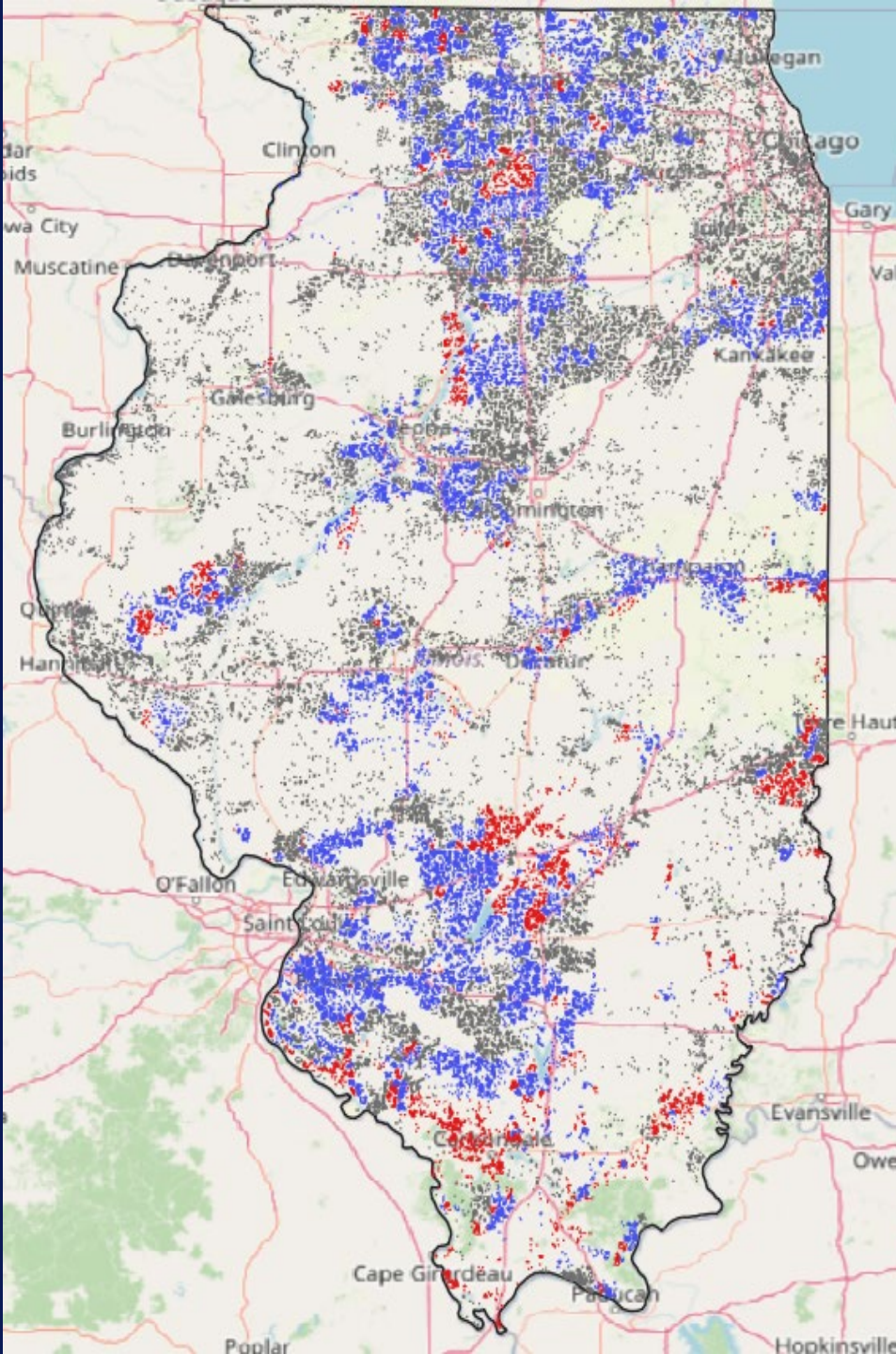
Wave 1 preliminary selection summary

137
Preliminarily selected applications, totaling …

~94K (57% of total)
Eligible locations

● **1,686** (31% of total)
Regular PAUs

● **628** (35% of total)
Hard-to-serve PAUs

● Regular PAUs with Wave 1 preliminary selectee

● Hard-to-serve PAUs with Wave 1 preliminary selectee

● Remaining PAUs in IL

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Overview of Wave 1

Requirements:

- End-to-end fiber projects

- At least 10% Hard-to-Serve (HTS) project area units (PAUs)

- HTS PAUs contiguous with other PAUs

Highlights:

238
Wave 1 applications received for 86% of the state

10,218
Locations removed through Serviceability Updates

137
Wave 1 applications preliminarily selected

57%
Eligible locations preliminarily selected

~71,600
Eligible locations available in Wave 2

- **~94K** locations
- **35%** of Hard-to-Serve PAUs
- With **$551M** in private match*
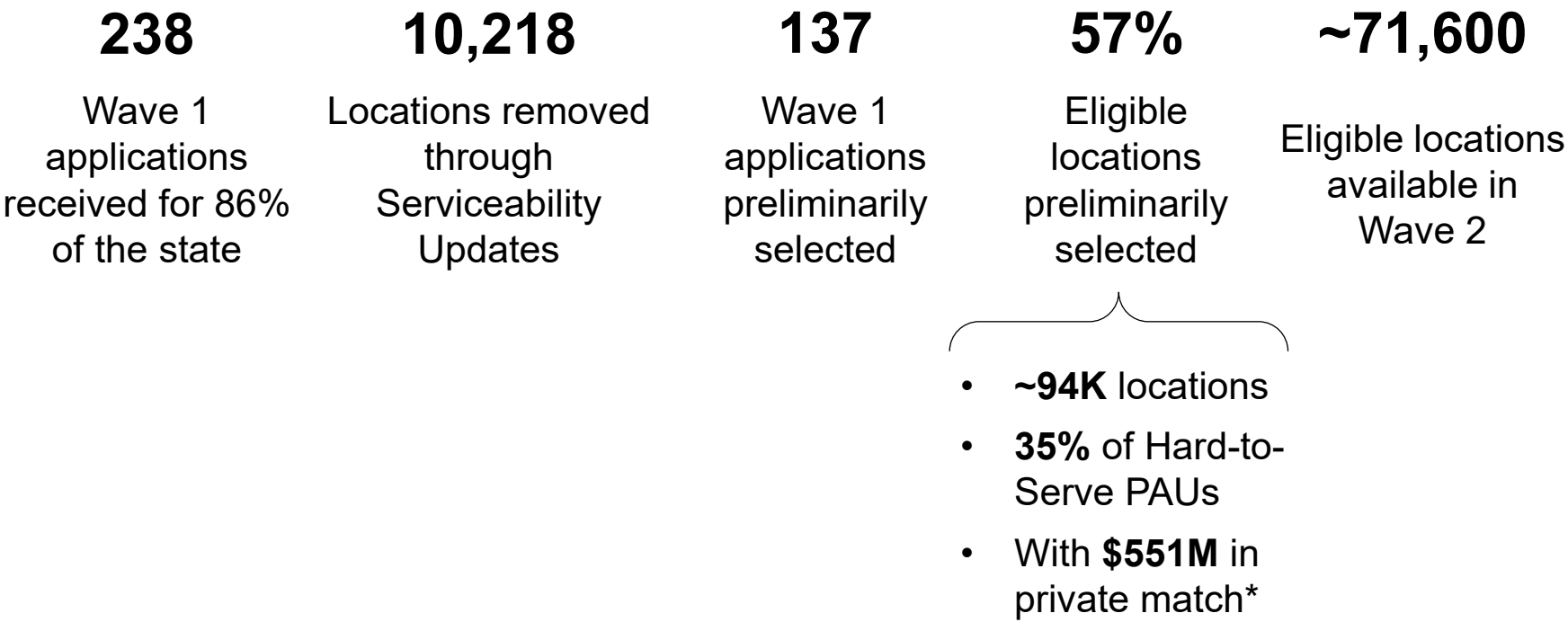
* May be reduced in tandem with descoping "no-BEAD" locations

1. Hard-to-serve Project Area Unit is a Project Area Unit that the State has designated as hard to serve, meeting at least one of the following criteria: A) Has a high proportion of unserved BSLs; B) Contains a high proportion of BSLs that have had little provider interest or outcomes in prior grant rounds; C) Is in a Persistent Poverty County; or D) Is in a High-Cost Area (HCA).
2. Contiguous Project Area Units mean there are no non-selected Project Area Units in the way when a straight line is drawn between the selected Hard-to-serve Project Area Unit(s) and the closest selected non-Hard-to-serve Project Area Unit(s).

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Overview: Preliminary Selection

What does 'Preliminarily Selected' mean?

Projects that met state and federal requirements AND earned the highest scoring for their selected PAUs have been preliminarily selected to serve their proposed project area

Subset of proposals with a high BEAD outlay are carried over to Wave 2 for review against other proposals to ensure ample funding for remaining locations

* Grant awards will not be issued and construction cannot begin until AFTER the completion of the entire 2-3-wave sub-grantee selection process and NTIA approval

* The IOB cannot disclose preliminarily awarded entities until after NTIA approval

Why are selections 'preliminary'?
What may occur that will lead to changes in the award?

- **Comparison against the Extremely High Cost per Location Threshold (EHCPLT)**, to be defined by IOB at close of Wave 2

- **Further budget due diligence** to ensure funds are used most efficiently

- **Descoping of locations that no longer require BEAD funding** based on the Serviceability Updates process

- Scope adjustments to **incorporate additional PAUs**

- **Final approval** by the Illinois DCEO and NTIA

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Notification to applicants

- All Wave 1 applicants today will receive a letter explaining Wave 1 results, as well as an Excel attachment with the results of all of their project applications

- Results in the attachment are listed by Project Area Unit (PAU) within each PFS

Sample letter notifying Wave 1 results

Illustrative attachment with Wave 1 results

4

Overview of Wave 2

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

	Entity Submission Form	**Project Submission Form**	**Application Submission Form**
Purpose	Ensures entities applying for Connect Illinois Round 4 **meet NTIA BEAD qualification requirements**	Ensures submitted **projects meet NTIA BEAD qualification requirements** and collects materials to be reviewed during the **Merit Review Scoring Process**	Serves as the **official submission of the application** to the State of Illinois, specifying the Entity / Project submissions to be reviewed by the State
Example materials to submit	• Entity-specific qualifications • IL Conflict of Interest disclosure • IL Mandatory Disclosures • W-9 form	• Project-specific qualifications • Project-specific scoring materials • IL Project budget template • IL Uniform Grant Application Form	• Entity Submission Form ID • Project Submission Form ID
Submission frequency	**Once per entity,** regardless of number of projects to be submitted *Note:* Entities who **applied in Wave 1** do not need to resubmit entity forms	**Once per project**	**Once per project**

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1 Entity form

Source: Connect Illinois BEAD website

2 Project form

Source: Connect Illinois BEAD website

3 **Application Submission form**

Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

3504-2942 BEAD-Funded Connect Illinois Round 4

The application form is the final form for an application to Connected 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@illinios.gov.

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Project Area Selection Tool: updates & recap (1/2)

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

As of May 27, 2025, the Project Area Selection Tool has been updated with the following:

1. PAUs preliminarily selected in Wave 1 are no longer available in Wave 2, and cannot be selected on the mapping tool
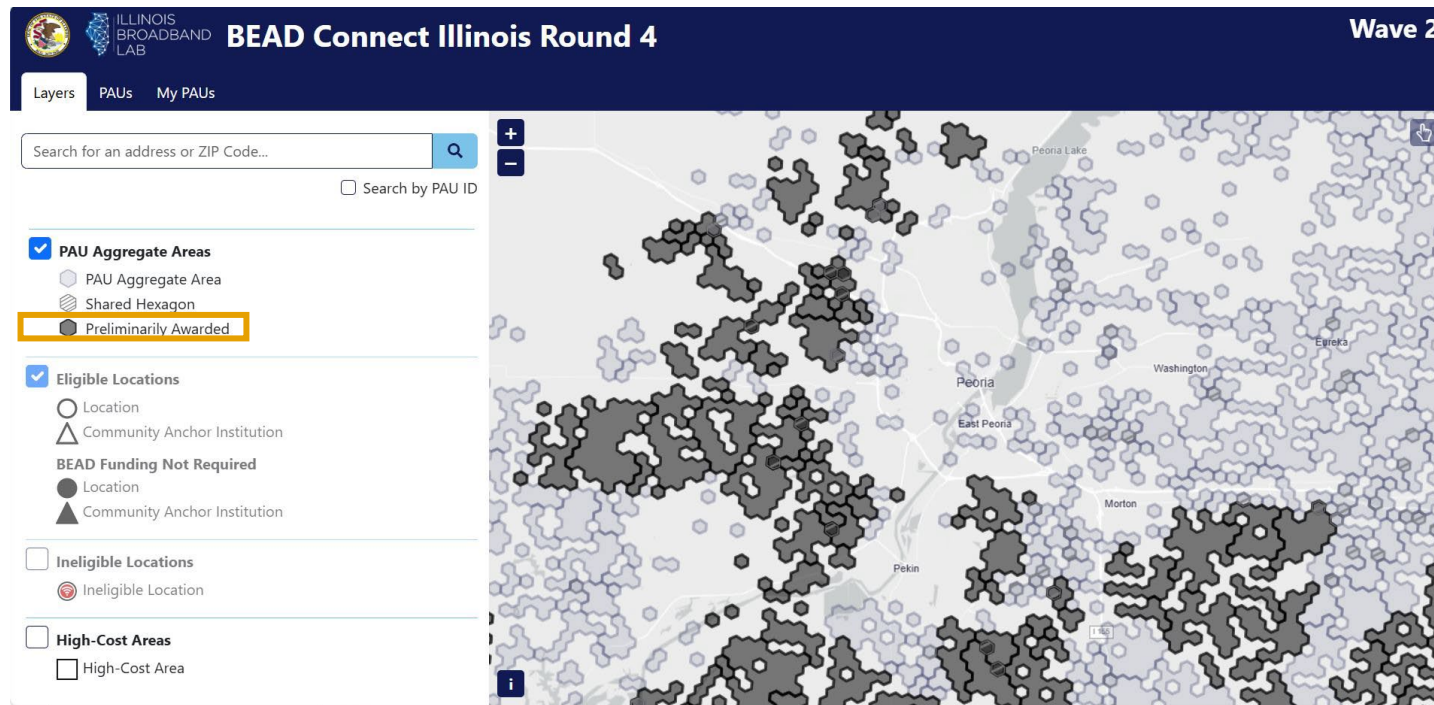
Project Area Selection Tool: updates & recap (2/2)

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

As of May 27, 2025, the Project Area Selection Tool has been updated with the following:

2. Map has new symbology for locations not requiring BEAD funds due to sufficient evidence of existing service, based on serviceability updates process
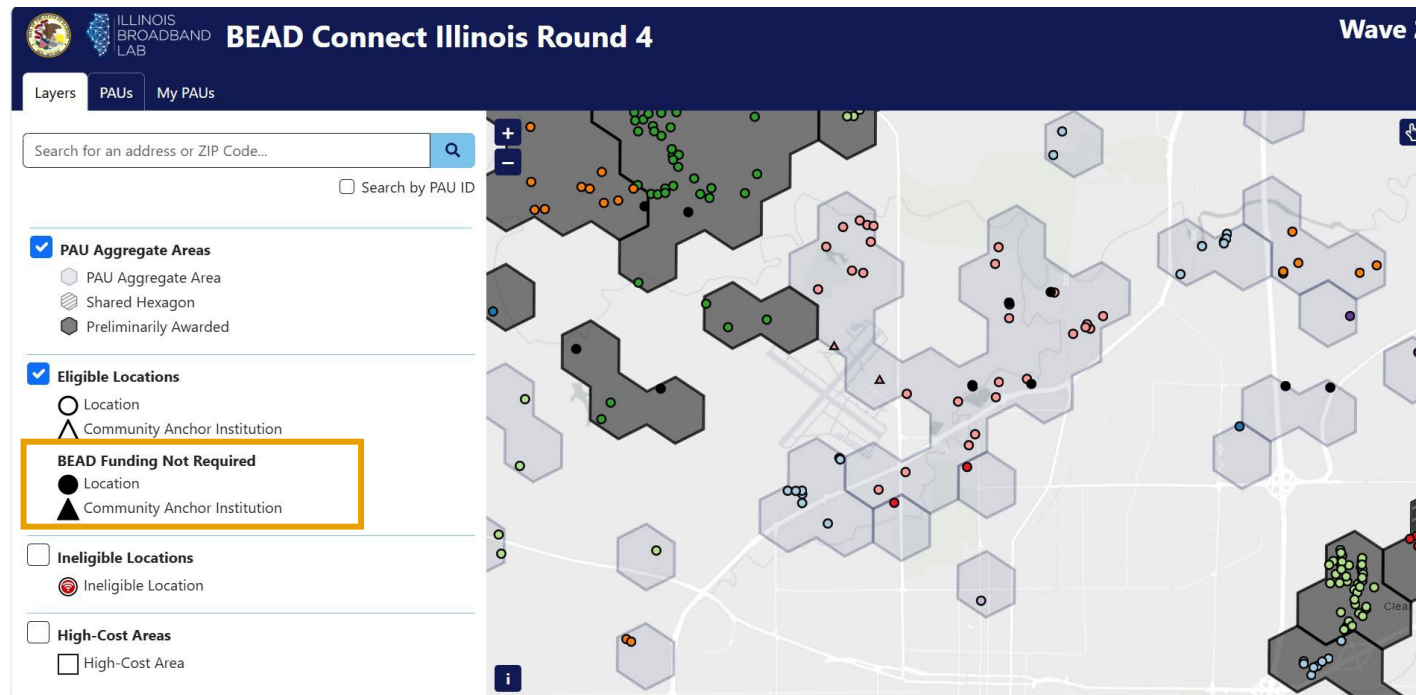
Some qualifications will be evaluated using a standard template that applicants must complete

🟨 Qualification includes template

🟦 Qualifications included in pre-qualification phase

🟦 Qualifications not included in pre-qualification phase

Entity application qualifications

A Financial capabilities

B Managerial capabilities

C Technical capabilities

D Compliance with law

E Operational capabilities

F Ownership capabilities

G Other public funding

H Risk management

I Regulatory information

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

Project application qualifications

A Project overview and locations impacted

B Technical project-based

C Financial project-based

D Labor project-based

E Environmental, historical, climate-related project-based

F Other project-based

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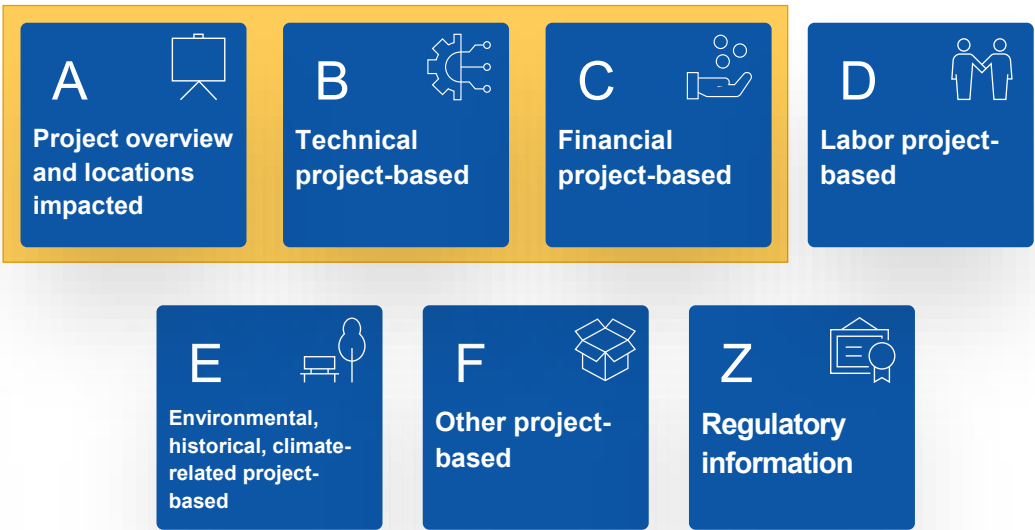
Regardless of pre-qualification status, **all applicants must submit project-based qualification materials**

In-depth guidance can be found in the Application Guidebook

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Overview of documents and templates

○ Submission always required   ◌ Submission conditionally required   ⊗ Submission not required for application

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

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

Definitions:

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

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

Example documents demonstrate information that applicants must provide

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Overview: BEAD-Funded Connect Illinois Round 4 scoring rubric

	Criteria	How it will be applied	Score, %
Primary[1]	**Minimal BEAD Program outlay:** non-state match	More points will be assigned to the degree of nonstate match over 30%, as a greater nonstate match signifies more "skin in the game" and therefore financial risk assumed by the applicant	**20%**
	Minimal BEAD Program outlay: financial need with respect to reference cost	Points will be assigned based on how much the application's required BEAD outlay deviates from the reference cost published by the state. More points will be assigned to applications with lower BEAD outlay compared to the reference cost	**30%**
	Affordability	Applicants will be scored based on the price they offer for either 1Gbps/1Gbps or 100/20Mbps: 1Gbps/1Gbps for Priority Broadband Projects and 100/20Mbps for other broadband projects	**15%**
	Fair Labor Practices	Applicants will be scored based on their demonstrated record of and plans to be in compliance with federal labor and employment laws, and submission of a project labor agreement	**15%**
			80%
Secondary/ additional[2]	**Speed to deployment**	Points will be assigned for enforceable deployment plans faster than 48 months	**3%**
	Speed of Network & Technical Capabilities	Points will be assigned based on performance levels and scalability of networks	**4%**
	Open Access	Points will be assigned based on subgrantee's provision of open access	**3%**
	Local Coordination	Points will be assigned based on the breadth and depth of community support for the project (5%) and financial investment by community members and organizations (5%)	**10%**
			20%
		Total	**100%**

1. That is: BEAD-stipulated criteria that must collectively account for no less than 75% of total points
2. That is: Other BEAD-stipulated criteria (Speed to Deployment, Speed of Network and Technical Capability), and additional criteria (Open Access, Local Coordination) that are not required but encouraged per the BEAD NOFO

Source: Connect Illinois Initial Proposal Volume II

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Local Coordination represents 10% of the total points an applicant can earn in BEAD-Funded CI Round 4

1. Local Coordination: *Evidence of Community Support*

5%
Scoring weight

Points will be awarded based on the breadth and depth of community support for the project. The State's evaluation of the evidence of community support will be similar to its evaluation in Connect Illinois, Round 3.

Examples of supporting evidence

A Degree of personalized and specific letters that reflect a broad spectrum of community members

B Degree to which the project fits into an existing community strategic plan or commitments from community

C Recent survey that covers a broad spectrum of the community, with meaningful results regarding level of need, gaps, and project support

D Evidence of community outreach efforts to gauge interest in the project

E Other community feedback or evidence of community engagement/collaboration that shows compelling need and support for the project

2. Local Coordination: *Verified Financial Commitment from Community*

5%
Scoring weight

Points will be awarded based on financial investment by community members and organizations. The state's evaluation of verified financial commitment from communities will be similar to its evaluation in Connect Illinois, Round 3.

Examples of supporting evidence

A The degree of financial contribution from community-based members and institutions

B In-kind resource commitments from community-based members and institutions

C Evidence to support verification of pledge

Resource for both **1) prospective BEAD applicants** and **2) communities considering offering support:** **Local Coordination Guidance Document Link**

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 [Link]

BEAD-Funded Connect Illinois Round 4 Application Guidebook

Version 2 - Published May 16, 2025

Table of Contents

III.6   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
Response Type: Document Upload (Permitted file types: PDF)

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.

E.B2.A. Organizational chart(s): Personnel Documentation
Response Type: Document Upload (Permitted file types: PDF, XLSX, DOCX, JPEG, PNG)

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.

E.B2.B. Organizational chart(s): Entity Structure Documentation
Response Type: Document Upload (Permitted file types: PDF, XLSX, DOCX, JPEG, PNG)

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.

E.B3. Managerial Readiness: Narrative
Response Type: Narrative

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.

Updates to Application Guidebook/Templates

Updates to App Guidebook Version 2
(May 16, 2025), from Version 1 (Jan 6, 2025)

- Naming convention provided for all uploads
- Reminder added to use standard templates and provide all information requested
- Text and descriptions updated for 4-5 questions to clarify instructions and add explanations
- New questions added for applicants to directly input fiber mileages (P.B2) as well as pole replacement costs (P.B4)

Full list of guidebook changes available in **Application Guidebook Appendix 6**

Updates to templates for Wave 2

- **Pro Forma:** Use of template now mandatory; template updated to include served locations passed
- **Project Area Selection Template**: Updated to reflect multiple technology types in Wave 2
- **Project Schedule Template**: Updated to show both (i) end-to-end project timeline starting from grant agreement, and (ii) actual activity timeline in case of delayed project start from agreement execution
- **Professional Engineer (PE) Certification:** Updated to reflect fiber miles
- **Project Cost Template:** Description now includes reminder that costs must be provided at unit level

Please **download the latest templates using the links in the App Guidebook or Submission Forms** (do not use a previously downloaded version from Wave 1, as it may have changed)

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Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

Formal grant opportunity posting [Link]

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 "State" 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. In accordance with the BEAD Program, this program prioritizes projects that provide fiber connectivity directly to the end-user while considering projects that use other technologies to ensure universal coverage.[1]

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.[2]

"**Alternative technology**" means any technology that does not qualify as Reliable Broadband Service, including Unlicensed Fixed Wireless (ULFW) and low-Earth orbit satellite (LEO), that meets the BEAD Program's minimum technical requirements of speeds not less than 100 Mbps for downloads and 20 Mbps for uploads and latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds.[3]

"**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

Source: Connect Illinois BEAD website

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 5 pm CT regardless of the reason

✓ Use standard templates, and provide all the information required while submitting materials

✓ 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 (Project Schedule) the file should be named *"12-3456789-03 Project Schedule May 19.xlsx"*

✓ While all awards at this time are preliminary and the state cannot disclose identifying information about preliminary awardees, applicants may opt to communicate with organized labor and local stakeholders about their projects to develop Project Labor Agreements and collect evidence of local coordination

- During this communication, please ensure that stakeholders are aware of the **preliminary** status of the selection, and that it is subject to change

Upcoming Webinars & Office Hours

Webinars:

Tuesday June 3 12-1 pm CT Wave 2 Templates Webinar Part 1	Wednesday June 4 12-1 pm CT Wave 2 Templates Webinar Part 2

Register here: https://registration.extension.illinois.edu/start/connect-illinois-bead

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Office Hours:

- Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1-2 pm CT on Zoom (Link to Join)

Illinois Jobs Board Update

Broadband Jobs Board Now Live!

The **Illinois Broadband Jobs Board** brings together broadband-related training programs and job opportunities from across Illinois to tackle an anticipated broadband workforce gap

Find a Job That Lets You Connect to the Future

- No University Degree Required
- High Earnings Potential
- Limitless Career Advancement

Explore High Speed Careers in Broadband Deployment Here!

https://jobs.connectingtheheartland.com/

Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity OFFICE OF BROADBAND

HEARTLAND FORWARD AN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC RENEWAL

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Post your jobs or training opportunities today

FOR EMPLOYEERS & TRAINING PROVIDERS

Are you a training provider employer in the heartland?

Promote your training programs or showcase yo company to connect with a growing skilled workforce in the heartland.

I'M A TRAINING PROVIDER ➔

I'M AN EMPLOYER ➔

FILL OUT THIS FORM TO PROMOTE OPEN JOBS

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

TITLE ·

ORGANIZATION ·

EMAIL ADDRESS ·

ZIP CODE ·

PHONE

ORGANIZATION WEBSITE

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Additional Resources & Helpful Links

Connect Illinois Round 4 NOFO: [Link]

Connect Illinois Round 4 App Guidebook: [Link]

BEAD Landing Page: [Link]

BEAD Subgrantee Selection Process Page: [Link]

- Includes materials from BEAD Deep Dive Webinar Series and FAQs

Connect Illinois Initial Proposal, Volume II: [Link]

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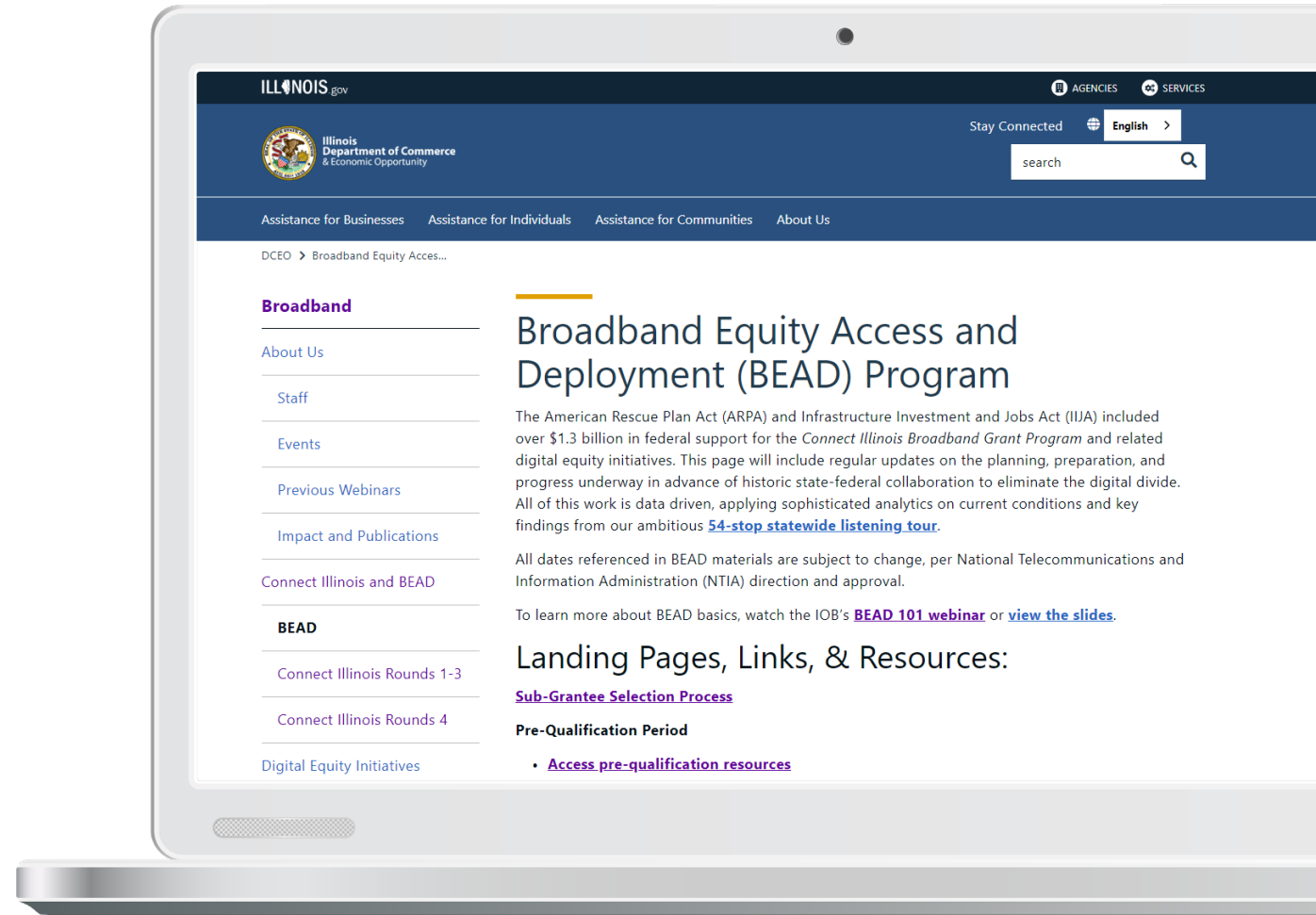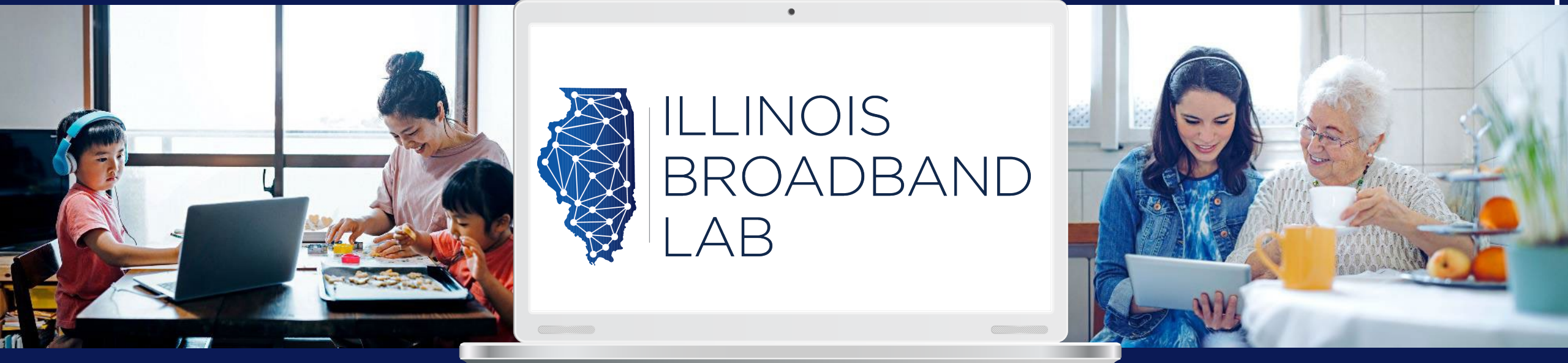
Stay informed!

**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

Appendix: Project Selection Tool demo

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

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

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

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

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

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

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