



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

OFFICE OF BROADBAND



### UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM



# **Closing the Digital Divide in Illinois**

**BEAD Deep-Dive Webinar:** 

Connect Illinois Round 4 (Wave 2) Application Templates, Forms, & Example Documents

June 4, 2025

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**Recap of BEAD and progress to date** 



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

# 3

Deep dive on Connect Illinois Round 4 Application Templates – *Part 2* 



Live demo of Connect Illinois Round 4 Application Templates – *Part 2* 



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# Topics for Discussion Today

# Recap of BEAD and progress to date



# 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



# 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<sup>1</sup>



Run subgrantee selection process within one year of approval of the Initial Proposal, and complete implementation within four years of receipt of funds<sup>3</sup>



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<sup>2</sup>



**Focus on improving broadband affordability** through a low-cost broadband service option, and a middle-class affordability plan<sup>4</sup>

> BROADBAND LAB

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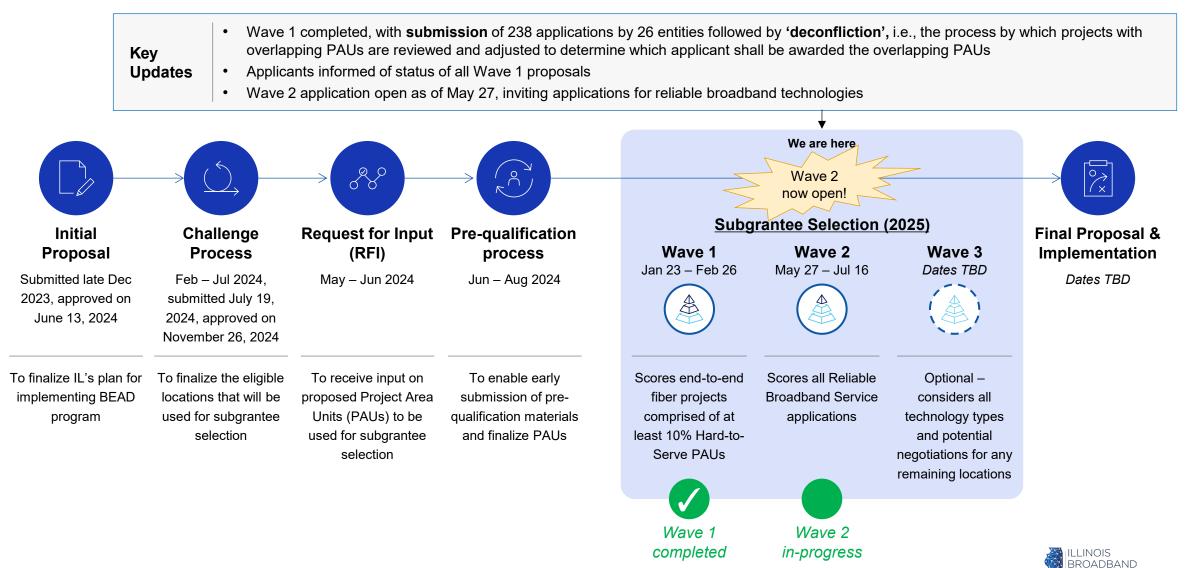
- 1. Page 14 of BEAD NOFO, on the definition of Priority Broadband Project
- 2. Page 33 of BEAD NOFO, on the allocation of grant funds
- 3. Page 65 of BEAD NOFO, on deployment deadlines and benchmarks
- Page 42-46 of BEAD NOFO, on inclusion of affordability in the BEAD scoring criteria

Source: BEAD NOFO

## **Overview of the BEAD-Funded Connect Illinois Round 4 timeline**

PRELIMINARY TIMELINE - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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



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The subgrantee selection process consists of up to three waves – the first Wave is complete, and the second Wave opened on May 27



- Only applications including at least 10% hard-to serve areas were processed
- Where there were conflicting applications, the higher scoring application prevailed
- The State will determine the cost threshold (EHCPLT), above which the State has the option to select non-fiber over fiber projects

The State will negotiate coverage

may consider Alternative

Technology

for remaining unbid locations, and



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

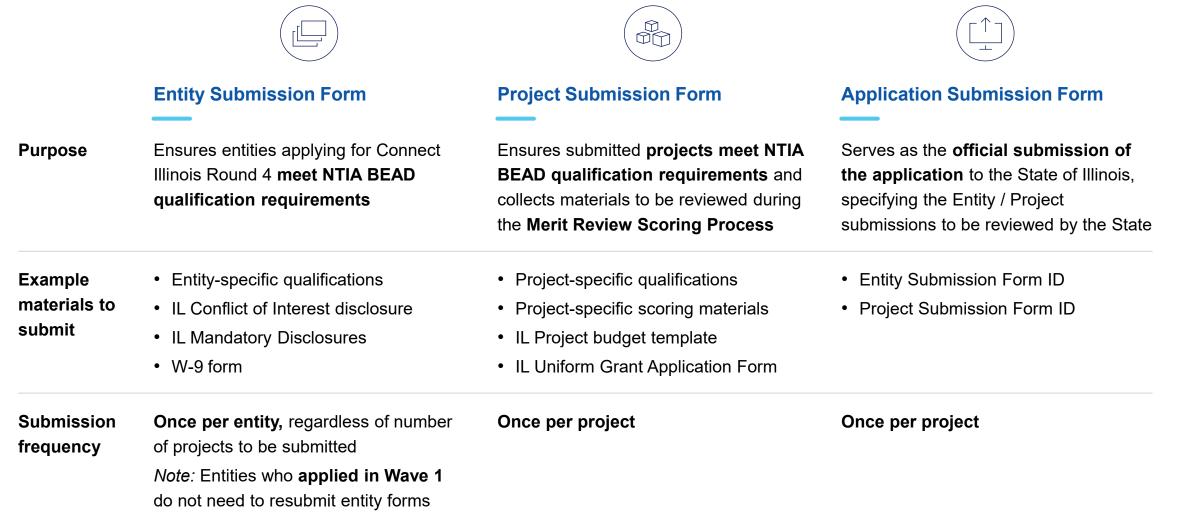


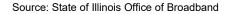
Note: Timeline is tentative based on currently available information and may change





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









#### **Connect Illinois Round 4 Entity Form**

	Entity Form (Part 1)	Administratives Ex	titu Information				
	This application form is part 1 of the submission Before proceeding, please review the BEAD-funde						
	Please note, each entity should submit the Entity		identification information for your entity.				
Entity	be submitted in the Project Form (part 2) of the a Connect Illinois Round 4, you should submit <i>this</i> This form requests materials that will be reviewed Qualification materials are not used in scoring bu and State requirements.	E.AD.1. Legal Entity 🐳	Please enter your legal entity name used in all company documents, including any filings with the FCC or the IRS.				
Submission		E.AD.2. Doing Business As (DBA)	Please enter the name that the legal entity is do	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).			
Form	Pre-Qualification Participants: If you participated have been approved, unless you wish to submit u Participation Notice Letter ready, as certain quest	E.AD.3. Employer * Identification Number (EIN) te E.AD.4. Type of * Entity th	Please enter the nine-digit Employer Identificat BEAD Pre-Qualification process, please enter th exact EIN may result in the qualifications appro application process.	E.B1. Résumés: * Documentation	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. (Permitted file types: PDF)		
	Please use standard templates wherever request		In the event you are applying as a multi-party a EIN that was used for SAM registration or, if no reporting to the State and ensuring that the mu		Orop files here or browse		
	Name all uploaded files using the following nami For example, if the EIN in E.AD.3 was 12-3456789 Evidence of Sufficient Funding May 19.xlsx"		If you do not have an EIN, please contact the		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. (Permitted file types: PDF, XLSX, DOCX, JPEG, PNG)		
	Please do not include any special characters in th		Select the relevant type that best describes you OPrivate/For-Profit Company or Organizati	Documentation	Orop files here or browse		
	Confidentiality Notice All information submitted is subject to the Freede proprietary information, they may mark it "Confic Information" to be presumptively exempt from di		Public-Private Partnership Public Utility, Private Utility, or Public Util Cooperative Municipality or political subdivision	E.B2.B. * Organizational chart(s): Entity Structure Documentation	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. (Permitted file types: PDF, XLSX, DOCX, JPEG, PNG)		
			Non-Profit Organization Tribal Government		Orop files here or browse		
			Consortium Other	E.B3. Managerial * Readiness: 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. (2100 character limit, approx. 300 words)		



1



#### **Connect Illinois Round 4 Project Form**

#### Project Form (Part 2)

This application form is part 2 of the submission process for the BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4. Prior to starting this that the Entity Form has been completed for the BEAD-

#### Part A: Project Overview and Locations Impacted

Before proceeding, please also review the BEAD-funded (					
	This section of the applica	ation requests an overview o	f the project and locations imp	acted by the proposed broadband project.	
<ul> <li>The Project Form requests materials to demonstrate that Merit Review Scoring Process.</li> <li>This form begins with all qualification materials (all for the application to be considered for BEAD fundi purposes (see below).</li> </ul>	P.A1. Project * Overview: Narrative	scope (e.g., geographic a provided; estimated time be advised that this narra	ase provide a high-level, introductory overview of the project. Please include a summary description of the project pe (e.g., geographic area, count of BSLs/CAIs to be served, technology); project budget, funds requested, and match vided; estimated time needed for start of deployment activities; and estimated time for deployment completion. Please advised that this narrative may be publicly used in announcements following any awards made, if applicable.		
<ul> <li>Section S contains all additional information not co Scoring Process. Information regarding the scoring <u>Proposal, Volume II</u>.</li> </ul>		(3500 character limit, ap	This section of the applicat	roject-Based Qualifications ion focuses on the technical design aspects of the proposed broadband project. Applicants must provide a project design and . demonstrating the capability to provide broadband service meeting or exceeding the BEAD program requirements. The	
Applicants must submit this form for each project applica section provides a detailed explanation for each compon	P.A2. Project Area 🔹 Selection Sheet: Template	Please upload BOTH of t The Project Area S from the BEAD Pro		ust be certified by a currently licensed professional engineer. The project design materials must include the components listed	
Please use standard templates wherever requested, and r Naming standard for all document and template uploar	rempiate	<ul> <li>Rd 4 – Instructions</li> <li>The original, unalt the template above</li> </ul>	P.B1. Detailed * Project Schedule: Template	Please provide a detailed project implementation schedule, including buildout timeline and milestones, using the <u>template</u> provided. This document must be accompanied by a certification from a Professional Engineer. (Permitted file types: XLSX)	
Name all uploaded files using the following naming conv format].xlsx" For example, if the project was named in P.AD.1 was 12-3 Schedule May 19.xlsx"		Please ensure the files a format].xlsx" and "[PROJ project was named in P./ "12-3456789-03 Project/		Orop files here or browse	
Please do not include any special characters in the file na		(Permitted file types: XLS	P.B2.A1. Network * Design Statistics: Total miles of fiber	Please indicate the total proposed miles of fiber deployment. If your project does not involve fiber deployment, please write "N/A".	
	P.A2.A. Locations * that are Not Unserved,	Please indicate whether that are not unserved, ur locations.	P.B2.A2. Network * Design Statistics: Miles of buried fiber	Please indicate the total proposed miles of buried fiber. The figure provided here and in P.B2.A3 must total to the figure provided in P.B2.A1. If your project does not include buried fiber, please write "N/A".	
	Underserved, or Eligible CAIs	Ves No	P.B2.A3. Network * Design Statistics: Miles of aerial fiber	Please indicate the total proposed miles of aerial fiber. The figures provided here and in P.B2.A2 must total to the figure provided in P.B2.A1. If your project does not include aerial fiber, please write "N/A".	
			P.B2.A4. Network * Design Statistics: Miles of fiber for last mile deployment	Please indicate the total proposed miles of last mile fiber. The figure provided here and in P.B2.A5 must total to the figure provided in P.B2.A1. If your project does not involve fiber deployment, please write "N/A".	



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Project

Form

**Submission** 

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# **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 Connect Illinois Round 4 (the BEAD Program) to be considered complete. Failure to submit this form will prevent your application from being considered for Connect Illinois Round 4.
Before proceeding, you must have completed Part 1: Entity Form and Part 2: Project Form to submit the Application Form.
Questions? Contact broadband@illinois.gov.
Click here for more information and guidance on the BEAD application process.
By checking this box I understand for my application to be considered, my entity must be GATA pre-qualified prior to application deadline. For more information on GATA pre-qualification, please visit https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/AboutDCEO/GrantOpportunities/Pages/GranteeRes ources.aspx. *
Contact First Name *
Contact Last Name *
Contact Email Address *



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

Qualification includes template

**Project application gualifications** 

Qualifications included in pre-gualification phase Qualifications not included in pre-gualification phase

#### $\bigcirc$ B С С R D $\square$ Α Financial Technical Compliance **Project overview** Technical Labor project-Managerial **Financial** and locations capabilities with law project-based project-based based capabilities capabilities impacted $\langle \circ \rangle$ F G Ε Н E $\langle \langle \rangle \rangle$ Other public Risk Environmental. Other project-Operational Ownership Regulatory Regulatory historical, climatebased capabilities information information capabilities funding management related projectbased

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





Entity application gualifications

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

In-depth guidance can be found in the Application Guidebook

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

<sup>13</sup> 

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

Focus for today Submission always required

Submission conditionally required

 $(\times)$  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
	F E.F1.A. Ownership Information Template		Template
Entity	G E.G3/G4. Existing Broadband Projects Template	(For applicants with other public projects)	Template
Submission Form	E.I1. Mandatory Disclosure Form		Form
	E.I2. Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form		Form
	E.I3. W-9 Form		Form
	A P.A2. Project Area Selection Sheet Template		Template
	B P.B1. Project Timeline Template		Template
	P.B2.D Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) Design Template	e 📀 (For proposed FWA projects)	Template
Project	P.B3. Example Logical Network Diagram	(Network Diagram is required)	Example document
Project Submission	P.B4. Project Budget & Capital Investment Schedule		Template
Form	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

**Templates** require applicants to input specific project-related information in a Statedefined format

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

**Example documents** demonstrate information that applicants must provide







## P.B2.D. Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) Design Template

	÷			
Sector ID (to match ID in the data file)	Name of Parent Site (the site name as referenced in the Tower Site Tab)	Transmit Antenna Gain (dBi)	Transmit Antenna Height (feet)	An (degree
		1		

Form: Project Submission Form

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

**Document required for application?:** Conditionally (for proposed FWA projects)

#### **Overview:**

 Includes network design information for fixed wireless deployment, to demonstrate that the proposed network meets technical qualifications outlined by the BEAD program

Live demo to follow



**Requires PE certification?** 

**⊠** Yes

# P.B4. Project Budget & Capital Investment Schedule Template

# Requires PE certification?

onnect Illinois Round 4 - Proj		
Category Select from drop-down	Cost Item Simple description of cost item (e.g., Material – 24"x26"x26" handhole). For labor, please include the per unit cost of labor (e.g., cost per foot, per hour). Breakdown <u>MUST</u> provide granularity at unit level, beyond high- level cost buckets.	Cost Designation If expense is a PRE-AWARD or CLOSEOUT expense, please select below. If not, leave blank

Form: Project Submission Form Section: B – Technical Project-Based Qualifications Document required for application?: Yes

#### **Overview:**

- Includes project budget and a capital investment schedule per BEAD requirements
- Captures project costs and justifications against State-defined categories, and breaks down requested grant funds at a granular level

**Note:** Cost information <u>**must**</u> be provided at unitlevel granularity (e.g., "Material – 24"x26"x26" handhole" as opposed to "Material costs")

#### Live demo to follow



## **P.C1. Pro Forma Template**

Applicant Information

Instructions

Assumptions

Pro Forma Financials: Income Statement					
r to r offia r mancials. Income Statement					
Forecast Year	1	2	3	4	5
Revenue					
Passings - BEAD funded					
Take Rate - BEAD funded					
Passings - Non-BEAD funded					
Take Rate - Non-BEAD funded					
Customers (All Passings)	-	-	-	-	-
Monthly Average Revenue Per User (ARPU)					
Subscriber Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Revenue*					
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenses					
Recurring Operating Expenses [negative values]					
Maintenance & Network Ops	-	-	-	-	-
Backhaul Expenses (e.g., IP Transit, operating leases for middle-mile)	-	-	-	-	-
Customer Operations and Support Costs (CSRs, billing, admin, etc.)	-	-	-	-	-
Project Overhead	-	-	-	-	-
Marketing and Sales	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-

Form: Project Submission Form Section: C – Financial Project-Based

Qualifications

**Document required for application?:** Yes

#### **Overview:**

- Substantiates financial sustainability of the proposed project per BEAD requirements
- Sets up high-level financial analysis and cost / revenue estimates for proposed broadband networks, and allows applicants to demonstrate their need for a grant

**Note:** Use of the State's Pro Forma template is mandatory for Wave 2

#### Live demo to follow

ILLINOIS

AB

Income Statement

Balance Shee



**Requires PE certification?** 

# Live Demo of Connect Illinois Round 4 Application Templates (Part 2)



# In today's session, we will cover:



**P.B2.D.** Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) Design Template



**P.B4.** Project Budget & Capital Investment Schedule Template



P.C1. Pro Forma Template



# Additional Resources & Helpful Links

Connect Illinois Round 4 NOFO: [Link]

Connect Illinois Round 4 App Guidebook: [Link]

BEAD Landing Page: [Link]

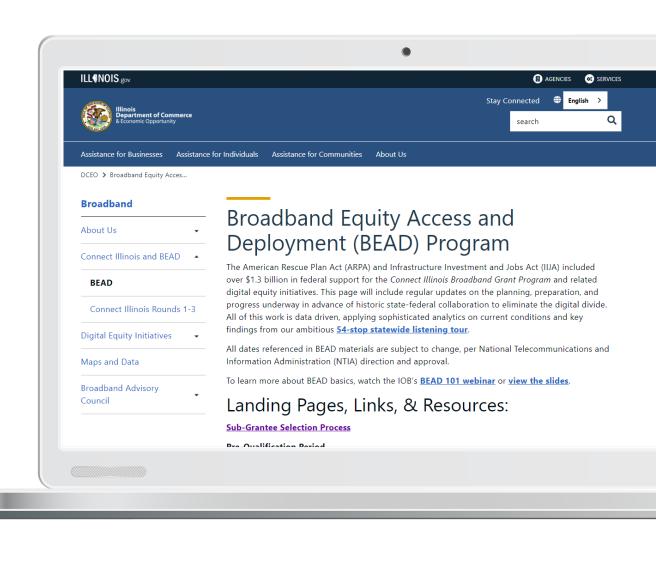
BEAD Subgrantee Selection Process Page: [Link]

 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





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https://bit.ly/IOBPartner

Sign up for Illinois Broadband Connections Newsletter

https://bit.ly/IOBnewsletter



# 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)

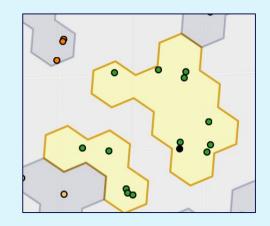
A business or residential location at which fixed broadband access is, or can be, installed, where:

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

#### Community Anchor Institution (CAI)

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

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

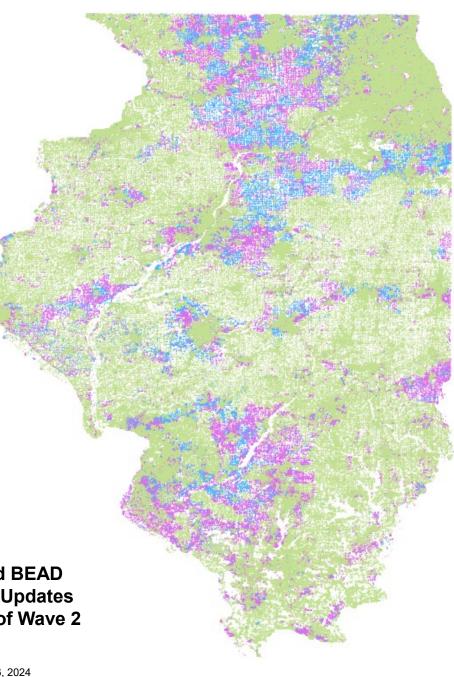


1. Details on Illinois's definition of CAIs can be found in Illinois's BEAD Initial Proposal Volume I



# 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 have been published at the start of Wave 2



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)

~172K BEADeligible BSLs

~65K (~1%)

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

## ~4.0M (~96%)

Served BSLs (locations with ≥100/20Mbps speed)

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



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

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

email in E.AD.8.B

#### **Illustrative Pre-Qualification Final Determination email**

	Hinois Department of Commerce Headers Data Net Headers Data Net	ILLUSTRATIVE
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Dear Sample Corporation (EIN: 12-3456789), The Illinois Office of Broadband appreciates your participing process for the BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4. The approved qualifications from the Pre-Qualification process participate in the formal subgrantee selection process whe (1) Summary of Approved Qualifications The following qualifications have been approved across y submissions: A. Financial Capabilities: A1, A2 B. Managerial Capabilities: B1 C. Technical Capabilities: C2	is letter is a summary of all s, and we encourage you to en it opens.
	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 approved qualifications, unless any materials originally su approved qualification have become outdated. However, re-assess the qualifications, capabilities, and resources of based on the application-specific technical, geographical, actual proposed projects prior to making final awards.	bmitted to support an the State reserves the right to all prospective subgrantees
	(2) Next Steps for Application Process	
	To link your pre-approved qualifications to your applicatio selection process, please enter the following in the Entity S application):	0 0
ĩ	EIN: 12-3456789     Pre-Qualification Participant ID: PPO-9999T	

Pre-Qualification Approved Qualifications: Please populate based on l

provided above

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

Navigate to Pre-Qualifications **Process** section in the **Entity** ILLUSTRATIVE **Submission Form** Administrative: Pre-Qualifications Proces E.AD.8.A. Pre Did you participate in the BEAD Funded Connect Illinois Round 4 Qualification Respond Yes to E.AD.8.A Process Participation Enter your **Pre-Qualification** E.AD.8.B. Pre-Oualification Notice Letter contains a Pre-Qualification Participant ID (starting with PPO), which will connect your approved Participant ID (PPQ-####X) Participant ID qualifications to this submission from your Final Determination 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 From the **pre-approved** E.AD.8.C. Pre-Using the Pre-Qualification Participation Notice Letter, select all qualifications below that have been denoted qualifications listed in your Qualification on the Pre-Qualification Participation Notice Letter. This will hide all qualifications for which you have been approved **Final Determination email**, Approved materials need to be updated, even if a qualification is approved, do not select the qualification in the list Qualification Note: You are responsible for cross-checking and confirming the selected qualifications are accurate and correct. Failure to select those that you would like submit all gualifications required in this form, either by carrying over your pre-approved gualifications or by submitting to reflect in your application in new materials for review, may result in your application not being considered during this Wave. A1 E.AD.8.C, which allows you to skip corresponding questions in the Entity Submission Form

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

