Closing the Digital Divide in Illinois

BEAD Deep-Dive Webinar:
Connect Illinois Round 4 (Wave 2) Application Templates, Forms, & Example Documents

June 4, 2025

Topics for Discussion Today

1 Recap of BEAD and progress to date

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

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

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

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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[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]
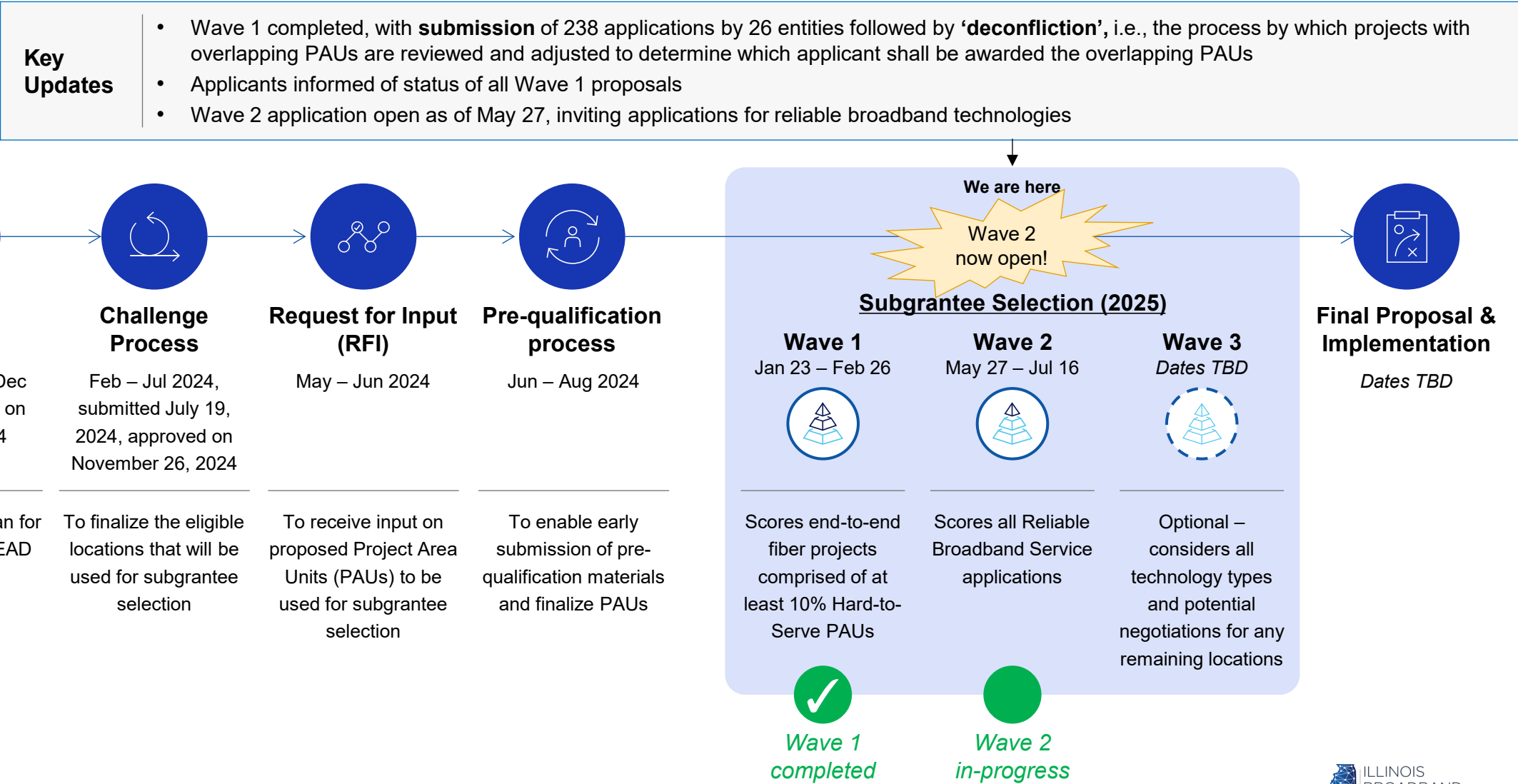
Focus on improving broadband affordability through a low-cost broadband service option, and a middle-class affordability plan[4]

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
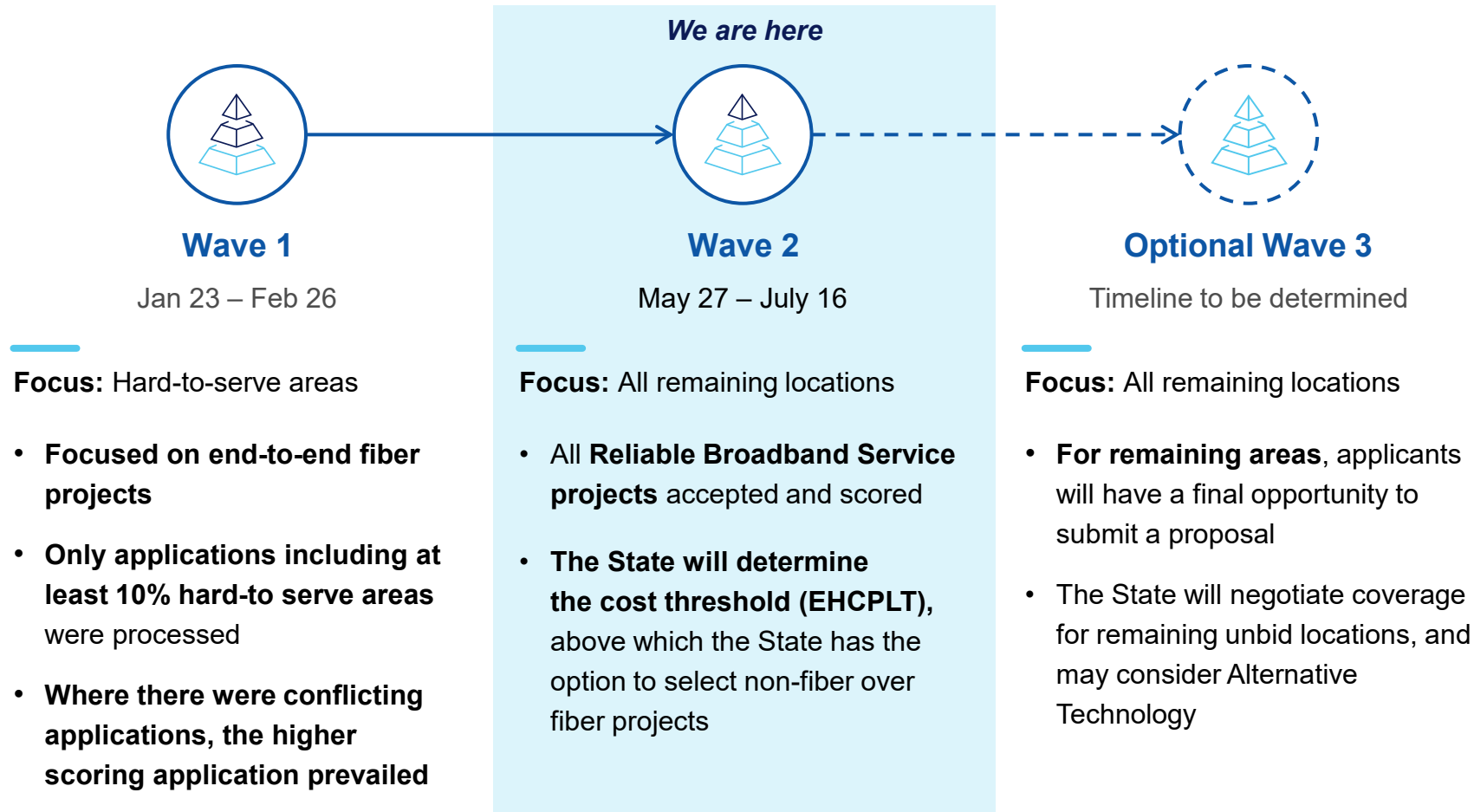4. Page 42-46 of BEAD NOFO, on inclusion of affordability in the BEAD scoring criteria

Source: BEAD NOFO

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

We are here

Wave 1

Jan 23 – Feb 26

Focus: Hard-to-serve areas

- **Focused 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 prevailed**

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

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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**

Source: State of Illinois Office of Broadband

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Entity Submission Form

2

Project Submission Form

3

Application Submission form

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

Legend:
- 🟨 Qualification includes template
- 🟦 (dark navy) Qualifications included in pre-qualification phase
- 🟦 (blue) 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
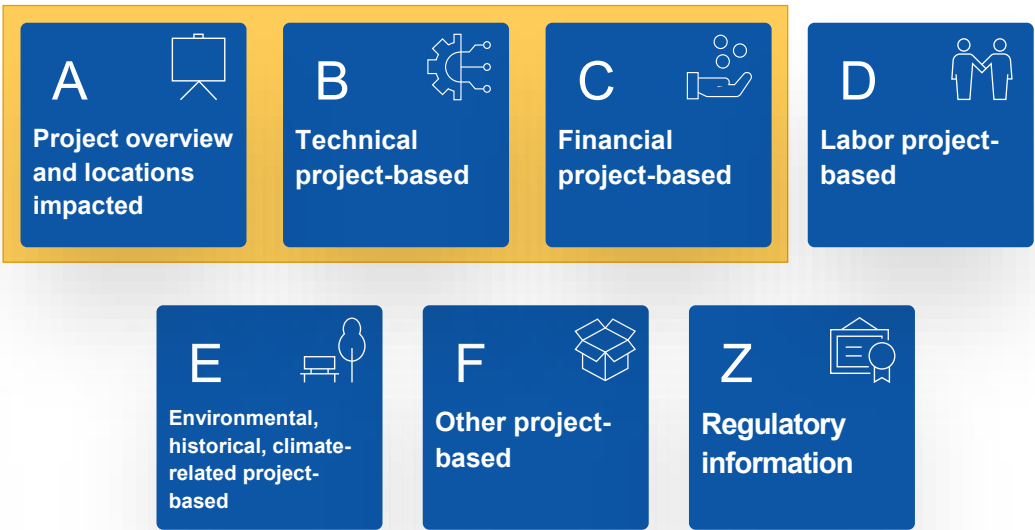
Regardless of pre-qualification status, **all applicants must submit project-based qualification materials**

In-depth guidance can be found in the Application Guidebook

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

Focus for today ✓ 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.D Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) Design Template	◌✓ *(For proposed FWA projects)*	Template
	P.B3. Example Logical Network Diagram	✓ *(Network Diagram is required)*	Example document
	P.B4. Project Budget & 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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Deep dive on Connect Illinois Round 4 Application Templates (Part 2)

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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

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

Source: Connect Illinois Round 4 Project Submission Form and Fixed Wireless Access Design Template as of 05/27; Connect Illinois Initial Proposal Volume II; NTIA BEAD NOFO

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Requires PE certification?
☑ **Yes** ☐ No

Connect Illinois Round 4 - Project Cost Details

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 MUST 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 **must** be provided at unit-level granularity (e.g., "Material – 24"x26"x26" handhole" as opposed to "Material costs")*

Live demo to follow

Source: Connect Illinois Round 4 Project Submission Form and Project Budget and Capital Investment Template as of 05/26; Conn ect Illinois Initial Proposal Volume II; NTIA BEAD NOFO

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P.C1. Pro Forma Template

Pro Forma Financials: 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	-	-	-	-	-
…	-	-	-	-	-
…	-	-	-	-	-
…	-	-	-	-	-
…	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-

Instructions | Applicant Information | Assumptions | **Income Statement** | Balance Sheet | Cash Flow, NPV, & TV | +

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

Source: Connect Illinois Round 4 Project Submission Form and Pro Forma Template as of 05/27; Connect Illinois Initial Proposa l Volume II; NTIA BEAD NOFO

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

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In today's session, we will cover:

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

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

3   **P.C1.** Pro Forma Template

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Additional Resources & Helpful Links

Connect Illinois Round 4 NOFO: [Link]

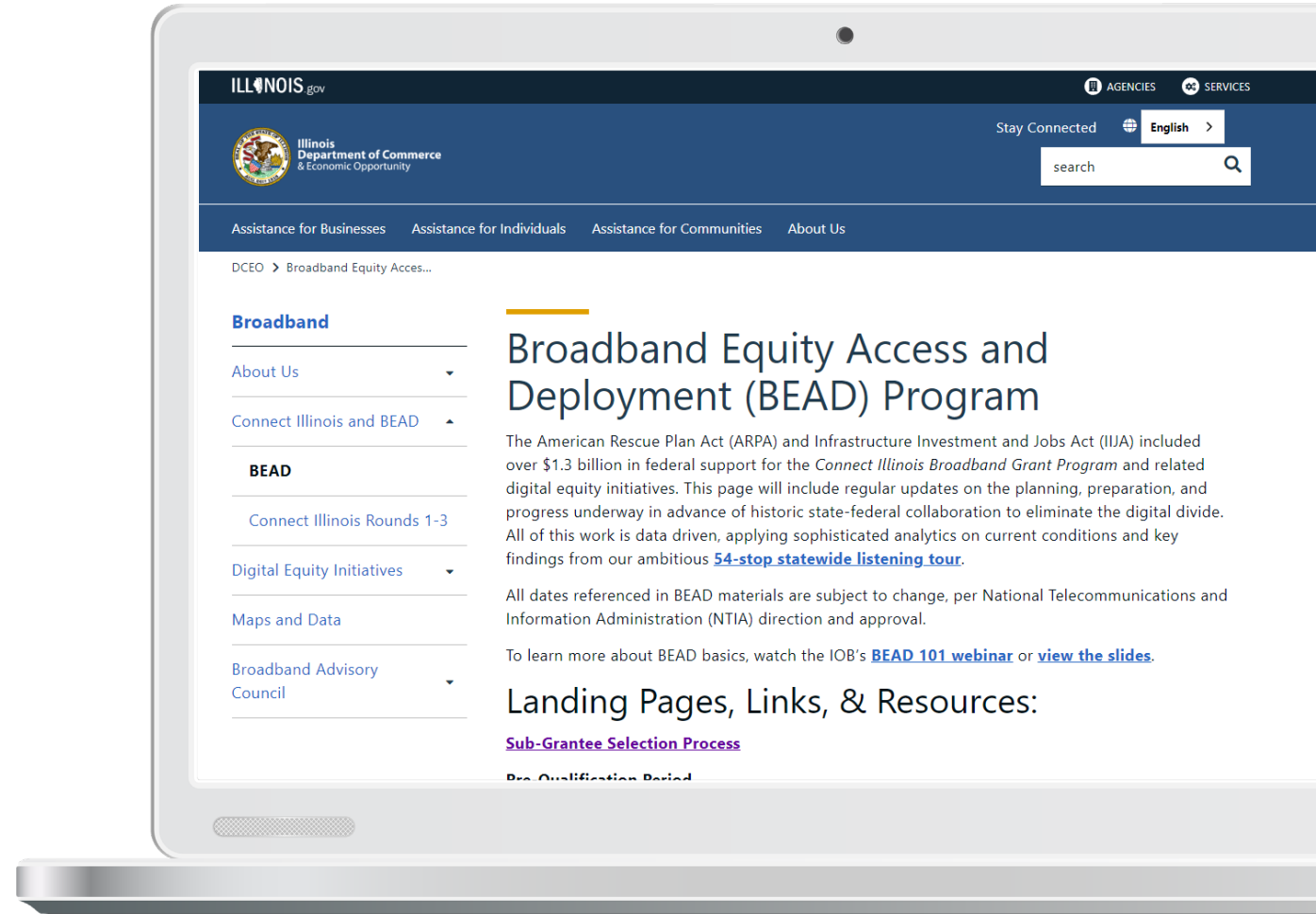Connect Illinois Round 4 App Guidebook: [Link]

BEAD Landing Page: [Link]

BEAD Subgrantee Selection Process Page: [Link]
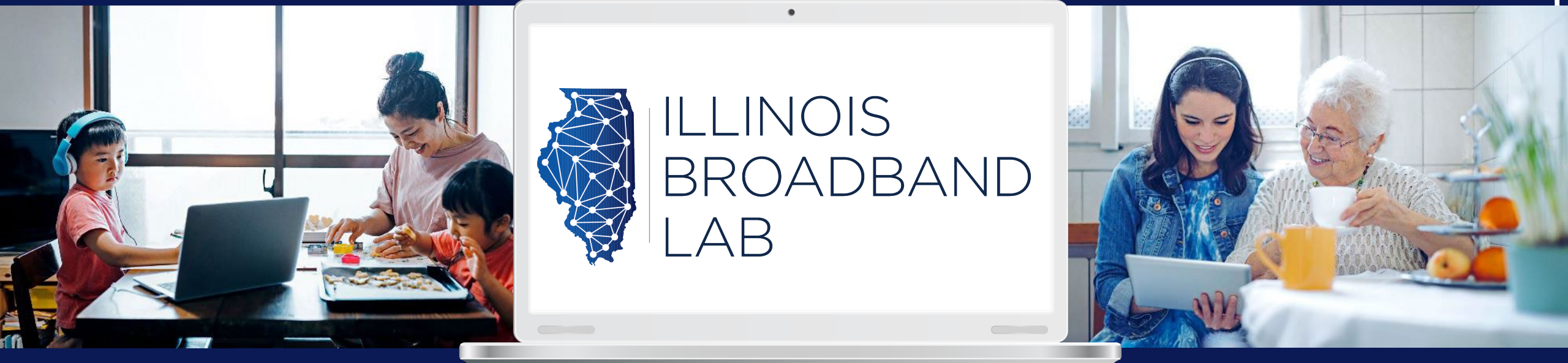
- Includes materials from BEAD Deep Dive Webinar Series and FAQs

Connect Illinois Initial Proposal, Volume II: [Link]

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

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Illinois Office of Broadband (IOB)**
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

- **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]
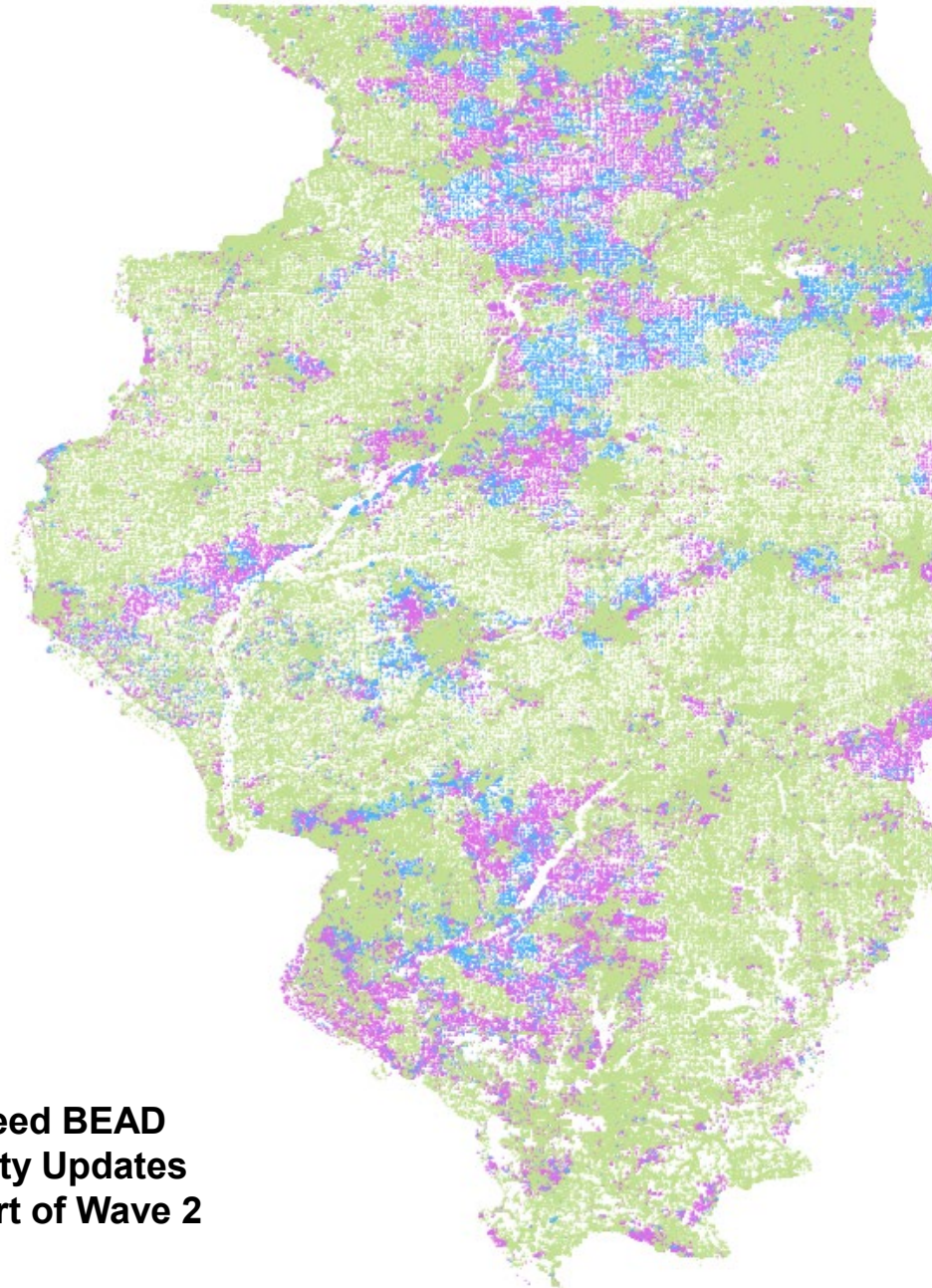
CAIs without access to 1Gbps symmetrical broadband service are eligible for BEAD funding

Illustration of a PAU, where each point shown is an eligible location
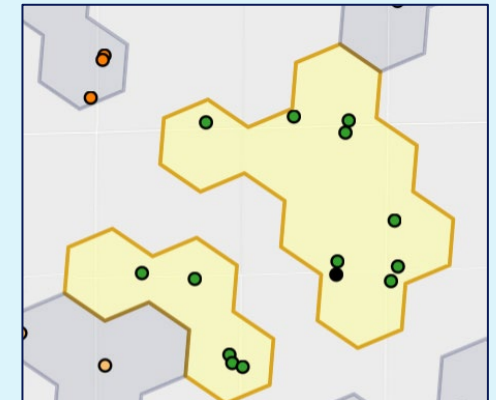
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175,293 locations are eligible to be connected through BEAD

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)

~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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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

ILLUSTRATIVE

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

ILLUSTRATIVE

Administrative: Pre-Qualifications Process

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

Clear Selection

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

PPQ-9999T

+ Add result

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

- ☑ A1
- ☑ A2
- ☐ A3

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

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