# BEAD-Funded Connect Illinois Round 4 Application Guidebook

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# I   Introduction

This document is a guidebook for the application process for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)-funded Connect Illinois Round 4. The purpose of this guidebook is to provide applicants with full guidance for the materials required as part of the BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4 grant application, and to assist users in preparing a successful application that meets all Federal and State requirements.

This guidebook reflects changes to the BEAD Program required by the June 6, 2025 NTIA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice.

For further details on the BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4 program, including post-award requirements, please refer to the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) associated with the grant program, as well as the State of Illinois's BEAD Initial Proposal, Volume II and NTIA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice.

## I.1   Program Introduction

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) awarded Illinois $1.04 billion in federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program funds to connect all homes and businesses to high-speed internet.[1] Connect Illinois Round 4 uses this BEAD funding to support the deployment of broadband service to unserved and underserved Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) and eligible Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs).

In line with BEAD requirements to develop a competitive, fair, and open subgrantee selection process, the State of Illinois aims to support applicants in understanding the necessary procedures and requirements involved in developing successful applications that meet the requirements of the BEAD program.

The BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4 application process has been updated to reflect changes required by the NTIA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice, published on June 6, 2025. In line with the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice, the State will conduct at least one additional subgrantee selection round for every BEAD-eligible location, known as the Benefit of the Bargain Round. Per the Policy Notice, all previous preliminary awards through the BEAD Program have been rescinded, though previous applicants have the opportunity to reuse their applications for the new round.

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[1] BroadbandUSA, BEAD Overview

**Key Elements of the Benefit of the Bargain (BotB) Round**:

*Technology*: The BotB Round, as required by the Policy Notice, will accept and score applications using any technology that meets BEAD qualifications, with a priority for projects that qualify as Priority Broadband Projects.

*Priority Broadband Projects*: Applicants that seek to have their project considered as a Priority Broadband Project must meet the required speed and latency standards set forth in the statute and the BEAD NOFO, and demonstrate that the project meets the additional statutory criteria, including that the project can easily scale speeds over time to support evolving connectivity needs and the deployment of 5G and successor wireless technologies. Applicants must provide supporting documentation sufficient for the State to assess the network application and determine that the proposed network architecture for each specific project area meets this standard. The State requires applicants to complete templates linked in the application to provide evidence of meeting the Priority Broadband Project definition.

*Removing Locations*: Applicants may propose to exclude select locations from the project area that the applicant determines are excessively high cost (or would otherwise make the project economically unviable for the technology being used).  Applicants requesting such removal must provide their rationale for doing so to the State through the Project Area Selection Template, along with the incremental cost of connecting that location. When deciding among competing applications, the State will review the reasonableness of a given application's proposed removal of excessively high-cost BSLs to evaluate whether the proposed project can be regarded as competing for the same general project area(s) as another application.

*Achieving Universal Coverage*: Following the Benefit of the Bargain Round, the State may conduct direct negotiation or facilitate additional application rounds to meet the Program's goal of universal service.

*Previous Applicants*: Existing qualified applicants do not need to resubmit prequalification documentation or Entity Form Submissions (EFS). Where an applicant elects to stand on an existing subgrantee application received prior to the publication of the NTIA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice, that application shall be rescored under the rubric detailed in Section I.3 below and may be awarded during the Benefit of the Bargain Round. Wave 1 preliminary awardees and applicants whose applications were rolled over to Wave 2 may complete a form to indicate that the IOB should consider some or all of a Wave 1 application for the BotB Round. Such applicants may opt to resubmit the application as-is (no changes) or with changes to materials including the project area, speed to deployment, maximum speed, and/or budget.

**Information on Previous BEAD Application Rounds**:

On May 27, 2025, Illinois completed Wave 1 of the BEAD subgrantee selection process, preliminarily selecting projects covering 57% of eligible locations. Projects preliminarily selected during Wave 1 have been rescinded per the requirements of NTIA's BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice. However, preliminary

selection of the Wave 1 projects and applicants will be applied in the secondary criteria of the scoring rubric during the Benefit of the Bargain Round, as outlined in Section I.3 below.

## **I.2**     Details on Review and Selection Process

The Benefit of the Bargain (BotB) Round will accept and score applications for any technology that meets BEAD qualifications and requirements.

**Applications must be comprised of one or more Project Area Units (PAUs).** Project Area Units do not overlap and collectively contain all unserved and underserved locations and eligible CAIs in the state. The BotB Round does not require that PAUs in an application are contiguous, nor is there a requirement to include Hard-to-Serve PAUs. When selecting PAUs that comprise a project application in the Project Area Selection Tool, applicants may indicate PAUs as "must-have PAUs," meaning the project will no longer be viable for the applicant without that PAU. During the auto-deconfliction phase, if a must-have PAU is claimed by a higher scoring project, then the rest of the project may be automatically removed from the State's consideration. To maximize opportunities for award and facilitate universal broadband coverage through the BEAD Program, applicants should carefully consider whether to utilize the "must-have" feature, as it could lead to a project being automatically removed from consideration.

**All qualifying Priority Broadband Projects will be considered for preliminary award first.** A Priority Broadband Project is a project that provides broadband service at speeds of no less than 100 megabits per second for downloads and 20 megabits per second for uploads, has a latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds, and can easily scale speeds over time to meet the evolving connectivity needs of households and businesses and support the deployment of 5G, successor wireless technologies, and other advanced services.

During the application process, all applicants will have an opportunity to indicate whether they would like the State to consider their application as a Priority Broadband Project. If so, the applicant must submit completed documentation as requested by the State in the application to help the State make this determination.

As required in the Policy Notice, the State will not categorically exclude any given technology and may only reject treatment of an application as a Priority Broadband Project if the project could not meet the statutory definition for a specific project area.

**When deciding among competing applicants**, the State will review the reasonableness of a given application's proposed removal of excessively high-cost BSLs (if applicable) to evaluate whether the proposed project can be regarded as competing for the same general project area(s).

If the BEAD outlay of the lowest cost projects are within 15% of each other, the State will apply the secondary scoring criteria outlined in Section I.3 to make a final determination.

If the State determines that selecting a Priority Broadband Project would incur excessive costs, it will select a lower cost non-Priority Broadband Project.

**Where there is overlap in qualifying projects, the State will conduct deconfliction** to remove overlapping areas that have been claimed by a higher scoring project.

During the qualification and scoring process, the State will employ a 48-hour window for application curing. The State reserves the right to remove applicants from consideration who do not provide adequate information within this timeframe.

**Prior to finalizing preliminary awards, the State will conduct two review processes:**
1. A review of preliminarily selected projects to confirm that the total set of preliminary selections to each prospective subgrantee is consistent with the financial, operational, and managerial capabilities submitted; and
2. A review of preliminarily selected projects to confirm that the overall selection is consistent with the BEAD Initial Proposal Volume II, the BEAD NOFO, and the NTIA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice in respect to selections among competing projects accounting for Priority Broadband Project status, respective scores, and cost reasonableness.

After consultation with the NTIA, the list of provisional winners will be submitted to the NTIA in the Final Proposal and will be awarded once the NTIA approves the State's Final Proposal.

Grants will be awarded following the NTIA's approval of the State's Final Proposal. Applicants are expected to follow through with their application(s) should they be preliminarily selected, and it is thus expected that the applicant has the capabilities and capacity to successfully execute the full set of applications they submit.

## **I.3** Scoring Criteria

In line with the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice, applications will be scored by the State's Evaluation Committee, who will review and evaluate all applications using guidance in the Policy Notice.

| Primary Criteria | |
|---|---|
| **Minimum BEAD Program outlay**<br>The State will select the combination of project proposals with the lowest overall cost to the Program. This may involve selecting a proposal that is not the lowest-cost option for a given set of BSLs but is part of the combination of selected projects with the lowest overall cost to the Program. | N/A |

| Secondary Criteria<br>(If competing application(s) propose a project cost within 15% of the lowest-cost proposal received for that same general project area on a per-BSL basis) | |
|---|---|
| **Speed to deployment**<br>Points will be assigned based on the prospective subgrantee's binding commitment to provision service by a date certain that is earlier than four years after the date on which the subgrantee will receive the subgrant from the State subject to contractual penalties to the State. | 5% |
| **Speed of network and technical capabilities**<br>Points will be assigned based on the speed, latency, and other technical capabilities of the technologies proposed by prospective subgrantees. | 45% |
| **Preliminary/Provisional Subgrantees**<br>For locations where the State has already identified preliminary selected subgrantees during Wave 1 of Connect Illinois Round 4, points will be assigned to those applications in the Benefit of the Bargain Round. | 50% |

*Primary Criteria*

**Minimum BEAD Program outlay**

In deciding among competing applications covering the same general project areas, the State must choose the option with the lowest cost based on minimal BEAD Program outlay. This may involve selecting a proposal that is not the lowest-cost option for a given set of Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) but is part of the combination of selected projects with the lowest overall cost to the program.

Per the NTIA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice, the State must select the combination of project proposals with the lowest overall cost to the Program. When comparing competing proposals, the State will assess the total BEAD funding that will be required to complete the project (i.e., the total project cost minus the applicant's proposed match) and the cost to the program per location (i.e., the total BEAD funding that will be required to complete the project divided by the number of BSLs the project will serve).

*Secondary Criteria*

Secondary scoring criteria is considered if competing application(s) propose a project cost within 15% of the lowest-cost proposal received for that same general project area on a per-BSL basis.

**Speed to deployment (5%)**

Up to 5 points will be awarded to applicants with enforceable deployment plans that demonstrate that the project will be completed within two years of executed grant agreement.

| Scoring for speed to deployment | Points |
|---|---|
| Construction completed within two years | 5 |
| Construction completed within four years | 0 |

**Speed of network and technical capabilities (45%)**

Up to 45 points will be awarded based on the highest available download and upload speed to the customer after build. For projects using more than one technology, the State will apply a weighted average based on highest available speed by location count to assign a score.

| Scoring for speed of network and technical capabilities | Points |
| --- | --- |
| 2 Gbps / 2 Gbps | 45 |
| 1 Gbps / 1 Gbps | 35 |
| 500 Mbps / 500 Mbps | 25 |
| 100 Mbps / 100 Mbps | 15 |
| Less than 100 Mbps / 100 Mbps | 0 |

*7/2/2025 update: Incorporated a correction to the speed breakdown above.*

**Preliminary/Provisional Subgrantees (50%)**

Up to 50 points will be awarded where the State has already identified preliminarily selected subgrantees during Connect Illinois Round 4.

# II  Overview of the Application Process for BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4

## II.1    Methodology and Structure

Per the BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4 NOFO, applications will require three types of materials:

1.  **Entity-based qualification materials** are materials that provide information about the entity that is applying for grant funding. Materials must verify that the applicant meets all BEAD- and State-required qualifications to receive BEAD funds. These qualification materials only need to be submitted once and will apply across all of the entity's project applications. These materials are reviewed on an Approved / Not Approved basis, where those that do not satisfy entity-based qualification requirements will not be considered for BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4. Should an entity be found to not meet these qualifications, the entity will not be considered for subsequent further evaluation (e.g., scoring) or preliminary selection for the Benefit of the Bargain Round.

2.  **Project-based qualification materials** are materials that are specific to the proposed project, which will help verify whether the entity's proposed project meets all BEAD- and State-required qualifications to receive BEAD funds. These materials are project-specific, containing information unique to that project application. These materials are reviewed on an Approved / Not Approved basis, where those that do not satisfy project-based qualification requirements will not be considered for BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4. Should a project not meet these qualifications, the project will not be considered for subsequent further evaluation (e.g., scoring) or preliminary selection for the Benefit of the Bargain Round.

3.  **Project-based scoring materials** are project materials that are reviewed through the State's Merit Review process to calculate a score that will determine the priority by which applications will be preliminarily selected. Note, some Project-based qualification materials will be reviewed as scoring materials as well (see subsequent chapters in this Guidebook for details). While the Evaluation Committee will score and make recommendations for preliminary selections, the State will make all final decisions.

Please use standard templates wherever requested and provide all the information required while submitting these materials. Failure to do so may result in an application being removed from consideration.

## II.2    Application Submission Flow

As outlined in the BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4 NOFO, the application process is a **three-part process**.

**Part 1: Entity Form**

This form contains questions pertaining to all entity-based materials. Applicants who participated in the Pre-Qualification process may bypass portions of this form depending on the qualifications that were provisionally approved during the pre-qualification process. Pre-Qualification participants are advised to see Section II.4 for further details on how to provide the relevant information from the Pre-Qualification process into the application. Applicants will submit one Entity Form response for the entire application process. **Upon submission of the Entity Form, an** Entity Form Submission ID **will be generated (beginning with "EFS") and emailed to the applicant.**

*Previous applicants may use their existing Entity Form Submission ID (i.e., from their submission prior to the Benefit of the Bargain round).*

**Part 2: Project Form**

This form contains questions pertaining to all materials that are specific to the proposed project and relevant scoring materials. To submit this form, applicants must have completed **Part 1: Entity Form** and provide their Entity Form Submission ID that is generated from the completion of the Entity Form. Applicants will submit a Project Form for each application. **Upon the submission of the Project Form, a** Project Form Submission ID **(beginning with "PFS") will be generated and emailed to the applicant.**

**Part 3: Application Submission Form**

This form is used to finalize and complete the application, per State of Illinois requirements. To submit this form, applicants must have completed **Part 1: Entity Form** and **Part 2: Project Form**. Applicants will then include their Entity Form Submission ID and Project Form Submission ID in the final Application Submission Form. Upon submitting the Application Submission Form, the application is officially complete and formally received by the State for review.

## II.3    Relevant Terminology

The below contains key definitions for the BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4, defined per the BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4 NOFO and for this Guidebook:

| Term | Definition |
|---|---|
| Assistant Secretary | The Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information or the individual who holds any successor position. |
| BEAD | 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 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. |
| BEAD NOFO | Refers to the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) posted by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to describe the requirements under which it will award grants for the BEAD Program. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Benefit of the Bargain Round ("BotB Round") | Per the NTIA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice issued on June 6, 2025, Illinois must conduct at least one additional subgrantee selection round, titled the Benefit of the Bargain Round, for every BEAD-eligible location. |
| Broadband Serviceable Location (BSL or "location") | A business or residential location in the United States at which fixed broadband Internet access service is, or can be, installed. |
| Community Anchor Institution (CAI) | An entity such as a school, library, health clinic, health center, hospital or other medical provider, public safety entity, institution of higher education, public housing organization, or community support organization that facilitates greater use of broadband service by vulnerable populations, including low-income individuals, unemployed individuals, and aged individuals. |
| Consortium | A group of eligible entities bidding for BEAD deployment subgrants as a multi-entity partnership.[2] |
| DCEO or Department | Refers to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. |
| Deconfliction | The process by which projects with overlapping project area unit(s) will be reviewed and adjusted to determine which applicant shall be awarded the overlapping project area unit(s). |
| Eligible Community Anchor Institution | A Community Anchor Institution that lacks access to gigabit-level broadband service. The list of Eligible Community Anchor Institutions is subject to final review by NTIA. |
| Enforceable commitment | A commitment to deploy qualifying broadband to a location as a condition of another award for the provision of broadband service. The full list of awards counting toward an enforceable commitment can be found in the BEAD NOFO. |
| GATA | Refers to the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act [30 ILCS 708]. |
| Hard-to-serve Project Area Unit | A Project Area Unit that the State has designated as hard to serve, meeting at least one of the following criteria: <br> • Has a high proportion of unserved BSLs; <br> • Contains a high proportion of BSLs that have had little provider interest in prior Connect Illinois grant rounds, federal grant rounds, or outcomes of previous grant rounds (i.e., Connect Illinois Rd 1, Rd 2, and Rd 3); <br> • Is in a Persistent Poverty County; or <br> • Is in a High-Cost Area (HCA). <br> The State will publish the list of hard-to-serve Project Area Units before the subgrantee process commences. |
| High-cost area (HCA) | An unserved area that NTIA has determined that the cost of building out broadband service is higher, as compared with the average cost of building out broadband service in unserved areas in the United States. In the State of Illinois, this specifically |

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[2] BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4 NOFO

| | refers to the following Census Block Groups (by FIPS ID), based on the NTIA's determination as of August 2024: 170230601005 (Clark County), 171018808003 (Lawrence County), 171030001003 (Lee County), 171239613001 (Marshall County), 171599779003 (Richland County), and 171979800001 (Will County). Project areas consisting of only Project Area Units in High-Cost Areas are exempt from the minimum 25 percent matching funds requirement. |
|---|---|
| Illinois BEAD Map (or "Project Area Selection Tool") | An interactive map created for the Illinois Office of Broadband and available via its website for purposes of administering the BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Broadband Grant Program. |
| Must-include Project Area Unit | A Project Area Unit within an application that the applicant has identified as necessary to make the project viable. Applicants must indicate which Project Area Units are must-include Project Area Units upon application submission. During the deconfliction process, if an application's must-include Project Area Unit(s) conflicts with the project area of a preliminarily selected project, the application will not be automatically descoped during deconfliction. |
| NTIA-approved challenge process dataset | The complete list of locations and Community Anchor Institutions within Illinois that are eligible for BEAD grant funds, including whether a particular location is an unserved location, underserved location, or eligible CAI. Per the NTIA's BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice, the final eligible list of locations for BEAD funding may change due to reasons such as locations no longer served due to a default or change in service area on a Federal enforceable commitment, locations counted as already served by an unlicensed fixed wireless (ULFW) broadband service that meets the technical specifications of the Policy Notice, and updates to the definition of Community Anchor Institutions per the Policy Notice. The final list will be subject to NTIA review and approval at the end of the BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4 process. |
| Priority Broadband Project | A project that provides broadband service at speeds of no less than 100 megabits per second for downloads and 20 megabits per second for uploads, has a latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds, and can easily scale speeds over time to meet the evolving connectivity needs of households and businesses and support the deployment of 5G, successor wireless technologies, and other advanced services.[3] |
| Program | Refers to the Connect Illinois Broadband Grant Program that uses federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) dollars as a funding source. |
| Project | An undertaking by a subgrantee to construct and deploy infrastructure for the provision of broadband service. A "project" may constitute a single Project Area Unit or a grouping of Project Area Units in which not less than 80 percent of broadband- |

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[3] NTIA, "Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program: BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice," page 9, https://www.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/bead-restructuring-policy-notice.pdf

| | |
|---|---|
| | serviceable locations served by the project are unserved locations or underserved locations. |
| Project area | A set of Project Area Units that applicants propose to serve in a subgrantee application. Applicants may pick any number of Project Area Units to form a project area; however, applicants may not split up a Project Area Unit when defining their project area. Project Area Units within a project area are not required to be contiguous. |
| Project Area Unit (PAU) | A collection of unserved and underserved locations and CAIs that are eligible for inclusion in an application. Applicants cannot break up a Project Area Unit into smaller collections of unserved and underserved locations and CAIs. However, under the NTIA's BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice, applicants may propose to remove certain locations from a Project Area Unit. Project Area Units do not overlap and collectively contain all unserved and underserved locations and eligible CAIs in the state. Only unserved and underserved locations without an enforceable commitment are included in Project Area Units. |
| Reference cost | The per-Project Area Unit cost benchmark established by the State to represent the estimated financial need to serve the given Project Area Unit. Reference costs are established based on CostQuest Associates' (CQA) Net Present Value estimation assuming a greenfield buildout. The reference cost of a project area is calculated as the sum of the reference costs of the PAUs. |
| Restructuring Policy Notice ("Policy Notice") | The BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice issued by NTIA on June 6, 2025 making changes to the BEAD program and requirements. |
| State | Refers to the State of Illinois. |
| Subgrantee | An entity that receives grant funds from the BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4 program to carry out eligible activities. |
| Tribal Government | The governing body of any Indian or Alaska Native Tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, community, component band, or component reservation, individually recognized (including parenthetically) in the list published most recently as of the date of enactment of this Act pursuant to section 104 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. § 5131). |
| Tribal Lands | Refers to (A) any land located within the boundaries of — (i) an Indian reservation, pueblo, or rancheria; or (ii) a former reservation within Oklahoma; (B) any land not located within the boundaries of an Indian reservation, pueblo, or rancheria, the title to which is held — (i) in trust by the United States for the benefit of an Indian Tribe or an individual Indian; (ii) by an Indian Tribe or an individual Indian, subject to restriction against alienation under laws of the United States; or (iii) by a dependent Indian community; (C) any land located within a region established pursuant to section 7(a) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. § 1606(a)); (D) Hawaiian Home Lands, as defined in section 801 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. § 4221); or (E) those areas or communities designated by the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior that are near, adjacent, or contiguous to reservations |

| | where financial assistance and social service programs are provided to Indians because of their status as Indians; and the term. A Resolution of Consent is required from each Tribal Government for broadband deployment projects in its Tribal Land. |
|---|---|
| Uniform Guidance | Refers to the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, 2 CFR 200. |
| Underserved location | A broadband-serviceable location that is (a) not an unserved location, and (b) shown by the NTIA-approved challenge process dataset as lacking access to reliable broadband service with (i) a speed of 100 Mbps or above for download, (ii) a speed of 20 Mbps or above for upload, and (iii) latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds. |
| Unserved location | A broadband-serviceable location that the NTIA-approved challenge process dataset shows as (a) having no access to broadband service, or (b) lacking access to reliable broadband service offered with (i) a speed of 25 Mbps or above for download, (ii) a speed of 3 Mbps or above for upload, and (iii) latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds. |

## II.4   Pre-Qualification Participants

Pre-Qualification participants should review the **Pre-Qualification Participation Notice letter**, which was emailed by the State to the primary and secondary contacts indicated on the Pre-Qualification submission.

As noted in the Participation Notice letter, Pre-Qualification participants are not required to resubmit materials for approved qualifications during the Pre-Qualification process *unless* the materials underlying approved qualifications have been modified, in which case applicants must submit updated materials. Pre-Qualification is not impacted by the Restructuring Policy Notice. All Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) recipients are required to share updated progress information in the Entity Form.

In the **Entity Form**, Pre-Qualification participants may indicate which pre-approved materials they would like the State to reference for their application.

As noted in the Participation Notice letter, 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.

## II.5   Application Platform and Response Types

The Illinois Office of Broadband is using Airtable and Smartsheet as submission platforms for the BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4. The application process does not require login credentials. Airtable and Smartsheet support the latest version of Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, and Microsoft Edge. Applicants are advised **not** to use a mobile device or tablet.

**The submission platforms do not support applicants to save drafts and/or access previously submitted applications. As such, applicants are strongly encouraged to maintain a draft of their responses** (e.g., narratives) **and supporting materials** (e.g., attachments) **to be submitted, and save the final submitted versions for future reference.**

Please follow the formatting guidelines provided in this guidebook. The table below outlines the various response types.

| Response Type | Description |
|---|---|
| Single Select | Select the one choice that is applicable for the given question. |
| Multiple Select | Select all choices that are applicable for the given question. |
| Search and Select | Begin typing the value that you must enter (e.g., IDs). The relevant choices will be auto-searched based on the entered text. Select the choice that is applicable for the question. |
| Short Answer | Enter a brief text value that should not exceed one sentence. Please ensure that the value is correctly entered if a formatting standard is specified. |
| Numerical | Enter a numerical value, abiding by specific formatting standards to properly process the value entered. |
| Narrative | Enter long form text that can include rich text formatting (bolding, bullet points, etc.). |
| Document Upload | Upload the document(s) based on the permitted file types specified in the question. Please ensure that the file is correctly named using the naming standard specified below. |
| Template Upload | Upload the document(s) using the specified template as a baseline. Please ensure that the file is correctly named using the naming standard specified below.<br><br>Note that failure to use the template will flag the submission as an invalid response. |

**Naming standard for all document and template uploads:**
Name all uploaded files using the following naming convention: "[Project Name from P.AD1] [Template name] [Date submitted, in Month Day format].xlsx"

For example, if the project was named in P.AD.1 as 12-3456789-03, for P.B1.A (Project Timeline) the file should be named *"12-3456789-03 Project Schedule July 1.xlsx"*

Please do not include any special characters in the file name (such as_!"#$%&'()*+,./:;<=>?@[]^`{|}~). Hyphens (-) may be used.

## **II.6** Confidentiality

As outlined in the BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4 NOFO, all information submitted is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 5 ILCS 140/1, et seq. However, if prospective subgrantees include proprietary information, they may mark it "Confidential Information." The Department will consider any content designated as "Confidential Information" to be presumptively exempt from disclosure, pursuant to Section 7(1)(g) of FOIA.

If denoted as confidential, the information provided in the application process will be treated as trade secret information. If any party seeks to require the State, pursuant to any law, regulation, or legal process, to disclose any of the Confidential Information, the State will provide the respondent prompt notice so the applicant may seek a protective order or take other appropriate action.

# III Entity Form (Part 1)

The following section provides a detailed explanation for each component of the Entity Form. Each component has an index beginning with "E."

Please note that applicants should only submit this form once. All applications for a given entity must be tied to the same Entity Form submission.

All information requested in this form relates to the entity submitting the response.

## III.1    Administrative: Entity Information

This section requests basic identification information for your entity.

**E.AD.1. Legal Entity Name**
**Response Type:** Short Answer

Please enter your legal entity name used in all company documents, including any filings with the FCC or the IRS.

**E.AD.2. Doing Business As (DBA)**
**Response Type:** Short Answer

Please enter the name that the legal entity is doing business as (DBA).

**E.AD.3. Employer Identification Number (EIN)**
**Response Type:** Short Answer

Please enter the nine-digit Employer Identification Number (EIN) using the format ##-#######. If you participated in the BEAD Pre-Qualification process, please enter the exact EIN indicated on the Participation Notice Letter. Failure to enter the exact EIN may result in the qualifications approved during the Pre-Qualification process not being applied during the application process.

In the event you are applying as a multi-party applicant (e.g., public-private partnership or consortia), please provide the EIN that was used for SAM registration or, if not applicable, the EIN of the lead applicant who will be accountable for reporting to the State and ensuring that the multi-party application meets all program requirements.

**If you do not have an EIN, please contact the Illinois Office of Broadband at [broadband@illinois.gov](mailto:broadband@illinois.gov) before proceeding.**

**E.AD.4. Type of Entity**
**Response Type:** Single Select
Select the relevant type that best describes your entity.

1. Private/For-Profit Company or Organization
2. Public-Private Partnership
3. Public Utility, Private Utility, or Public Utility District
4. Cooperative
5. Municipality or political subdivision
6. Non-Profit Organization
7. Tribal Government
8. Consortium
9. Other

*Note:* *If E.AD.4. has 8. Consortium selected*

**E.AD.4A. Consortium Members – *For Consortiums Only***

**Response Type:** Narrative

List all entity information, including entity types (using the answer options listed in E.AD.4), in the consortium. This list should also include the Legal Entity Name, DBA, and EIN of all members at a minimum.

*Note:* *If E.AD.4. has 8. Consortium selected*

**E.AD.4B. Consortium Organizational Structure – *For Consortiums Only*: Narrative**

**Response Type:** Narrative

Elaborate on the organizational structure of the consortium, including the roles and responsibilities of each member.

*Note:* *If E.AD.4. has 8. Consortium selected*

**E.AD.4C. Consortium Organizational Structure – *For Consortiums Only*: Documentation**

**Response Type:** Document Upload (Permitted file types: PDF, XLSX, DOCX, JPEG, PNG)

Please upload the underlying consortium agreement between the parties. Furthermore, upload any documents that are relevant to support the narrative for E.AD.4B.

*Note:* *If E.AD.4. has 8. Consortium selected*

**E.AD.4D. Consortium – *For Consortiums Only*: Certification**

**Response Type**: Single Select (Yes/No)

Do you certify that, pursuant to BEAD requirements for a fair, open, and competitive subgrantee selection process, you and all other members of your consortium are not part of any other multi-party entity or consortium, and you and all other members of your consortium will not apply for PAU(s) simultaneously as an individual entity and as part of a consortium?

**E.AD.4E. Anti-collusion – Certification**

**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Do you certify that you and any representatives thereof, will not enter into any other combination, collusion, or agreement in regard to participation in the BEAD program?

## III.2 Administrative: Contact Information

This section requests basic contact information for your entity.

**E.AD.5. Primary Contact Information**
The primary contact will be the person who receives all materials and will be contacted first if there are any questions from the Office of Broadband. Please ensure that the contact information provided can be reachable. For the email address, please ensure that any email from "@illinois.gov" or "@airtableemail.com" does not automatically move to spam in your inbox.

**E.AD.5.A. Primary Contact First Name**
**Response Type:** Short Answer
Please enter the primary contact's first name.

**E.AD.5.B. Primary Contact Last Name**
**Response Type:** Short Answer
Please enter the primary contact's last name.

**E.AD.5.C. Primary Contact Job Title**
**Response Type:** Short Answer
Please enter the primary contact's job title.

**E.AD.5.D. Primary Contact Email**
**Response Type:** Short Answer
Please enter the primary contact's email address. Please use an email address that you can access.

**E.AD.5.E. Primary Contact Phone Number**
**Response Type:** Short Answer
Please enter the primary contact's phone number. Please use the form (XXX) XXX-XXXX, where "X" is a number.

**E.AD.6. Secondary Contact Information**
A secondary contact is optional but recommended in case the primary contact is unable to receive communications.

**E.AD.6.A. Secondary Contact First Name**
**Response Type:** Short Answer
Please enter the secondary contact's first name.

**E.AD.6.B. Secondary Contact Last Name**
**Response Type:** Short Answer
Please enter the secondary contact's last name.

**E.AD.6.C. Secondary Contact Job Title**

**Response Type:** Short Answer

Please enter the secondary contact's job title.


**E.AD.6.D. Secondary Contact Email**

**Response Type:** Short Answer

Please enter the secondary contact's email address. Please enter an email address that you can access.


**E.AD.6.E. Secondary Contact Phone Number**

**Response Type:** Short Answer

Please enter the secondary contact's phone number. Please use form (XXX) XXX-XXXX, where "X" is a number.


## III.3     Administrative: Prior Connect Illinois Rounds

This section provides additional context on your previous participation in the Connect Illinois program.

**E.AD.7.A. Prior Grantee Status in Connect Illinois Rounds**

**Response type**: Single Select (1. Applied and was awarded; 2. Applied and was not awarded; 3. Did not apply)

Please indicate if you have participated and were awarded in Connect Illinois Rounds 1, 2, or 3.


*Note: If E.AD.7.A. has 1. "Applied and was awarded" OR 2. "Applied and was not awarded" selected*

**E.AD.7.B. Applicable Connect Illinois Round**

**Response type:** Multiple Select (Connect Illinois Round 1, Connect Illinois Round 2, Connect Illinois Round 3)

Please indicate which prior Connect Illinois Round you participated in.


## III.4     Administrative: Pre-Qualifications Process

This section (other than E.AD.8.A.) is only for participants of the Pre-Qualification process.

**E.AD.8.A. Pre-Qualification Process Participation**

**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Did you participate in the BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4 Pre-Qualification process?


*Note: If E.AD.8.A. is Yes*

**E.AD.8.B. Pre-Qualification Participant ID**

**Response Type:** Search and Select

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.

*Note: If E.AD.8.A. is Yes*
**E.AD.8.C. Pre-Qualification Approved Qualifications**
**Response Type:** Multiple Select, corresponding to each Pre-Qualification index

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.

## III.5    Part A: Financial Capabilities

This section requests information about your entity to demonstrate compliance with BEAD requirements on financial capabilities for subgrantees deploying network facilities. Note, A3 from the Pre-Qualification phase has been updated and incorporated into the Project Form to reflect requirements at this stage of the BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4 process.

**E.A1.A. Financial qualification: Certification**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Do you certify that you are financially qualified to meet the obligations associated with the application you intend to submit?

**E.A1.B. Sufficient funds: Certification**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Do you certify that you will have funds available for all project costs that exceed the grant amount?

**E.A1.C. Compliance: Certification**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Do you certify that you will comply with all grant requirements, including service milestones to be determined by the State?

**E.A2.A. Evidence of Sufficient Funding: Narrative**
**Response Type:** Narrative

Provide a narrative that explains the source(s) of funding to cover the potential matching contribution for all applications that you plan to submit.

**E.A2.B. Evidence of Sufficient Funding: Documentation**
**Response Type:** Document Upload (Permitted file types: PDF, XLSX, DOCX, JPEG, PNG)

Please upload any evidence to support the narrative provided in E.A2.A. (e.g., cash on the balance sheet, credit lines, equity commitments, etc.).

**E.A2.C. Evidence of Sufficient Funding: Certification**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Do you certify that you will have and will continue to have sufficient financial resources to cover your eligible costs for the Project until such time as the State authorizes additional disbursements (i.e., upon completion of milestones)?

**E.A4. Financial Statements: Documentation**
**Response Type:** Document Upload (Permitted file types: PDF, XLSX, DOCX)

Provide financial statements from the prior fiscal year that have been audited by an independent, certified public accountant.

If the applicant has not been audited during the ordinary course of business, the applicant must submit unaudited financial statements from the prior fiscal year, and certify that it will provide financial statements from the prior fiscal year that are audited by an independent certified public accountant as soon as it is made available and no later than 90 days following provisional award notification.

Provisional winners may be asked for FY2024 financial statements before finalizing awards.

If applying as a consortium, each participant in the consortium must upload audited financial statements from the prior fiscal year that have been audited by an independent, certified public accountant. If any participant of the consortium has not been audited during the ordinary course of business, the participant must submit unaudited financial statements from the prior fiscal year, and certify that it will provide financial statements from the prior fiscal year that are audited by an independent certified public accountant as soon as it is made available and no later than 90 days following provisional award notification.

**E.A4.A. Financial Statements: Unaudited Financial Statements**
**Response Type:** Single select (Yes/No)

Click Yes below if the above financial statement is **not** audited.

*Note*: *If E.A4.A. is Yes*
**E.A4.B. Financial Statements: Certification**
**Response Type**: Single Select (Yes/No)

Do you certify that you will provide financial statements from the prior fiscal year that are audited by an independent, certified public accountant within 90-days of provisional award notification?

## 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.

**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.

## III.7 Part C: Technical Capabilities

This section requests information about your entity to demonstrate compliance with BEAD requirements on technical capabilities for subgrantees deploying network facilities.

**E.C1.A. Technical Qualifications: Narrative**
**Response Type:** Narrative

Please explain how you are technically qualified to complete and operate the project and are capable of carrying out the funded activities competently.

Prospective subgrantees must provide a narrative that explains how they will retain the technical expertise needed to successfully complete the project.

**E.C1.B. Technical Qualifications: Documentation**
**Response Type:** Document Upload (Permitted file types: PDF, XLSX, DOCX, JPEG, PNG)

Please upload any evidence to support the narrative provided in E.C1.A. Examples may include endorsements from current and prior partners on the technical capabilities of the applicant, or certifications from reputable institutions held by technical staff (e.g., Professional Engineer certification, fiber optic installer certification, PMP certification).

**E.C1.C. Technical Qualifications: Certification**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Do you certify that you are technically qualified to complete and operate the project you propose?

## III.8   Part D: Compliance with Law

This section requests information about your entity to meet BEAD requirements on compliance with all applicable Federal, State, Territorial, and local laws for subgrantees deploying network facilities.

**E.D2.A. Commitment to comply with all laws: Build America, Buy America Act (BABAA) Certification**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Do you certify that you will comply with all applicable Build America, Buy America Act (BABAA) requirements?

**E.D2.B. Commitment to comply with all laws: Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) Certification**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Do you certify that you have reviewed NTIA guidance (available here) on requirements pertaining to Environmental and Historical Preservation (EHP) requirements, and certify that you will comply with all applicable EHP requirements?

**E.D2.C. Commitment to comply with all laws: Prevailing Wage Act Certification**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Do you certify that you will comply with the requirements of the Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/0.01 et seq.)?

**E.D2.D. Commitment to comply with all laws: Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative Certification**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Do you certify that you will comply with the Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative?

**E.D2.E. Commitment to comply with all laws: Employment of Illinois Workers on Public Workers Act Certification**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Do you certify that you will comply with the Employment of Illinois Workers on Public Works Act (30 ILCS 570/0.01 et seq.)?

**E.D2.F. Commitment to comply with all laws: Lower Tier Participant Certification**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Do you agree to comply with the Lower Tier Participant Certification provided in pages 78-80 of the BEAD NOFO and agree to comply with the requirements of 2 CFR Parts 180, 1200 and 1326?

The Lower Tier Participant Certification can also be found in Appendix 1 of this Guidebook. Under these mandatory federal requirements, all entities receiving BEAD funds as part of a deployment effort must comply with the provisions of 2 C.F.R. Part 1326 (Non-procurement Debarment and Suspension), which

generally prohibit entities that have been debarred, suspended, or voluntarily excluded from participating in Federal non-procurement transactions either through primary or lower tier covered transactions, and which set forth the responsibilities of recipients of Federal financial assistance regarding transactions with other persons, including not only "lead" subgrantees but also sub-subrecipients and contractors.

## III.9   Part E: Operational Capabilities

This section requests information about your entity to demonstrate compliance with BEAD requirements on operational capabilities for subgrantees deploying network facilities.

**E.E1. Years of Service**
**Response Type:** Single Select

Have you (or are you a wholly owned subsidiary of an entity which) operated a voice, broadband, and/or electric transmission or distribution service for at least two consecutive years prior to the date of your application?

1.  Yes - Provided Voice and/or Broadband Service for at least two consecutive years

2.  Yes - Provided Only Electric Transmission or Distribution Service for at least two consecutive years

3.  No - Have not provided voice/broadband/electric service for at least two consecutive years

*Note: If the answer to E.E1. is Yes (either 1. Yes - Provided Voice and/or Broadband Service for at least two consecutive years or 2. Yes - Provided Only Electric Transmission or Distribution Service for at least two consecutive years)*
**E.E1.A. Voice and/or Broadband Service: Certification**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Do you certify that you have provided a voice, broadband, and/or electric transmission or distribution service for at least two consecutive years prior to the date of your application or that you are a wholly owned subsidiary of such an entity?

*Note: If the answer to E.E1. is Yes (either 1. Yes - Provided Voice and/or Broadband Service for at least two consecutive years or 2. Yes - Provided Only Electric Transmission or Distribution Service for at least two consecutive years)*
**E.E1.A.1. Number of Years of Service**
**Response Type:** Numerical
Enter the number of years you or your parent company have been operating. Entities that are wholly owned subsidiaries of such an entity must submit a certification that attests to these facts and specifies the number of years in which the prospective subgrantee or its parent company has been operating.

*Note: If E.E1. is (1. Yes - Provided Voice and/or Broadband Service for at least two consecutive years)*
**E.E2.A. Timely FCC Submission: Certification**
**Response Type:** Single select (Yes/No)

Do you certify that you have timely filed the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC" or "Commission") Form 477 and the Broadband DATA Act submission, if applicable, as required during this period and otherwise have complied with the Commission's rules and regulations?

**E.E2.A.1. Timely FCC Submission: Documentation**
**Response Type:** Document Upload (Permitted file types: PDF, DOCX, JPEG, PNG)

Provide evidence that the Federal Communication Commissions' Form 477 and Broadband DATA Act Submissions were filed on time as required during this time period of operation specified in E.E1.A.1. Prospective subgrantees should upload email confirmations or screenshotted verifications.

**E.E2.B. Timely FCC Submissions – Compliance**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Have you ever received an enforcement action, civil litigation, or other matter in which you failed to comply or were alleged to have failed to comply with the FCC rules or regulations?

**E.E2.C. Timely FCC Submissions - Compliance: Narrative**
**Response Type:** Narrative

Explain any pending or completed enforcement action, civil litigation, or other matter in which you failed to comply or were alleged to have failed to comply with the FCC's rules or regulations.

**E.E3. Timely Submission to Relevant Entities: Documentation**
**Response Type:** Document Upload (Permitted file types: PDF, DOCX, JPEG, PNG)

Provide evidence that qualified operating or financial reports were filed on time with the relevant financial institutions, as well as a copy of the submitted reports.

Acceptable submissions for this purpose are the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Form 7, Financial and Operating Report Electric Distribution; the RUS Form 12, Financial and Operating Report Electric Power Supply; the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) Form 7, Financial and Statistical Report; the CFC Form 12, Operating Report; the CoBank Form 7; or the functional replacement of one of these reports. See Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Order, 35 FCC Rcd at 719, n. 202.

**E.E3.A. Timely Submission to Relevant Entities: Certification**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Do you certify that the operating or financial reports you provided are true and accurate copies of the reports that were provided to the relevant financial institution(s)?

*Note*: *If E.E1. is (3. No - Have not provided voice/broadband/electric service for at least two consecutive years)*

**E.E4.A. Operational Capabilities: Narrative**
**Response Type:** Narrative

Describe how the newly formed entity has obtained, through internal or external resources, sufficient operational capabilities.

*Note*: *If E.E1. is (3. No - Have not provided voice/broadband/electric service for at least two consecutive years)*

**E.E4.B. Operational Capabilities: Documentation**
**Response Type:** Document Upload (Permitted file types: PDF, XLSX, DOCX, JPEG, PNG)

Please upload any evidence to support the narrative provided in E.E4.A. Acceptable evidence may include résumés from key personnel; project descriptions and narratives from contractors, subcontractors, or other partners with relevant operational experience; or other comparable evidence.

**E.E5. Operational Capabilities: Certification**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Do you certify that you possess the operational capability to complete and operate the Project you are proposing in your application?

## III.10  Part F: Ownership Capabilities

This section requests information about your entity to demonstrate compliance with BEAD requirements on ownership capabilities for subgrantees deploying network facilities.

**E.F1.A. Ownership information with the requirements set forth in 47 C.F.R. 1.2112(a)(1)-(7): Template Response Type:** Document Upload

Please upload the completed [template](#) to disclose relevant ownership information consistent with the requirements set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 1.2112(a)(1)-(7)[4]. Please follow the guidance provided in the template to ensure it is completed in line with State requirements. If you are a consortium, please include details for each participant in the consortium.

Requirements set forth in 47 CFR § 1.2112(a)(1)-(7):

1. List the real party or parties in interest in the applicant or application, including a complete disclosure of the identity and relationship of those persons or entities directly or indirectly owning or controlling (or both) the applicant;

2. List the name, address, and citizenship of any party holding 10 percent or more of stock in the applicant, whether voting or nonvoting, common or preferred, including the specific amount of the interest or percentage held;

3. List, in the case of a limited partnership, the name, address and citizenship of each limited partner whose interest in the applicant is 10 percent or greater (as calculated according to the percentage of equity paid in or the percentage of distribution of profits and losses);

4. List, in the case of a general partnership, the name, address and citizenship of each partner, and the share or interest participation in the partnership;

5. List, in the case of a limited liability company, the name, address, and citizenship of each of its members whose interest in the applicant is 10 percent or greater;

6. List all parties holding indirect ownership interests in the applicant as determined by successive multiplication of the ownership percentages for each link in the vertical ownership chain, that equals 10 percent or more of the applicant, except that if the ownership percentage for an interest in any link in the chain exceeds 50 percent or represents actual control, it shall be treated and reported as if it were a 100 percent interest; and

7. List any FCC-regulated entity or applicant for an FCC license, in which the applicant or any of the parties identified in paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(5) of this section, owns 10 percent or more of stock, whether voting or nonvoting, common or preferred. This list must include a description of each such entity's principal business and a description of each such entity's relationship to the applicant (e.g., Company A owns 10 percent of Company B (the applicant) and 10 percent of

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[4] [Title 47](#), Code of Federal Regulations

Company C, then Companies A and C must be listed on Company B's application, where C is an FCC licensee and/or license applicant).

**E.F1.B. Ownership Information: Documentation**
**Response Type:** Document Upload (Permitted file types: PDF, XLSX, DOCX, JPEG, PNG)

Attach any files relevant to the above template upload for E.F1.A.

## III.11 Part G: Stewardship of Other Public Funding

This section requests information about your entity to demonstrate compliance with BEAD requirements on other public funding for subgrantees deploying network facilities.

**E.G1. Lack of Federal Debarment**
**Response Type**: Single Select (Yes/No)
Have you ever been federally debarred?

**E.G2. Previous History of Incomplete Projects**
**Response:** Multiple choice
Have any of your publicly funded awards issued in the past five years experienced the following:

•         Suspension

•         Termination

•         Rescission

•         Non-completion

•         None of the above

*Note: If E.G2. is Suspension, Termination, Rescission, or Non-completion*
**E.G2.A. Previous History of Incomplete Projects: Narrative**
**Response:** Narrative

Please list all publicly funded awards issued in the last five years that have been suspended, terminated, rescinded, or not completed. For each, explain the cause.

**E.G3./G4.A. Other broadband projects in the State of Illinois**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Please indicate Yes below if there are any broadband deployment projects using federal funds in the State of Illinois at the time of this application that you or your affiliates (i) have submitted or plan to submit any application for, and/or (ii) are undertaking or have committed to undertake.

**E.G4.B. Rural Digital Opportunity Fund projects in State of Illinois**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Please indicate Yes below if there are any broadband deployment projects using **Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF)** funds in the State of Illinois at the time of this application that you or your affiliates are undertaking or have committed to undertake.

*Note: If E.G3./G4.A. is Yes, OR E.G4.B. is Yes*
**E.G3./G4. Disclosure of other broadband projects and federal broadband awards in the State of Illinois: Template**
**Response Type:** Template Document Upload (Permitted file types: XLSX)

Please upload the completed Existing Broadband Projects Template (available [here](#)) to disclose any application you or your affiliates have submitted or plan to submit, and every broadband deployment project that you or your affiliates are undertaking or have committed to undertake in the State of Illinois (G3). Additionally, please use the same template to disclose any updates on the progress to date on any RDOF and CAFII support for eligible locations (G4).

The State may request additional information from the prospective subgrantee to better understand the status of these projects.

If you have submitted this template during the Pre-Qualification process and updates have occurred since that submission, please report any updates by resubmitting this document.

If you are an RDOF participant who has been pre-qualified for G3/G4, please provide an updated template that includes updates since your pre-qualification submission. If no changes have occurred in CAFII and/or other broadband projects, please write "N/A" in the first cells for the respective row / tab.

*Note:* If E.G4.B. is Yes
**E.G4.C. RDOF projects in State of Illinois: Narrative**
**Response Type:** Narrative

Please include a narrative describing your progress against your RDOF award, which must include the following:

  i.    A detailed timeline, including key phases and deliveries, of your deployment plan leading up to your next RDOF milestone.

  ii.   Description of resources that you have dedicated to your next deployment milestone, and how you have structured your workforce and technology strategies to meet this specific goal.

  iii.  Progress you have made to date in pre-deployment steps, such as design and securing permits, and a list of the permits and easements you have obtained or filed for/requested, along with the date of file/request.

  iv.   Description of biggest challenges you anticipate in meeting your next deployment milestone, and contingency plans you have in place to address potential delays or obstacles.

*Note:* If E.G4.B. is Yes
**E.G4.D. RDOF projects in State of Illinois: Documentation**
**Response Type:** Document Upload (Permitted file types: PDF, XLSX, DOCX, JPEG, PNG)

Attach any files relevant to the above narrative E.G4.C.

## III.12  Part H: Risk Management

This section requests information about your entity to demonstrate compliance with BEAD requirements on risk management.

**E.H1. Cybersecurity Risk Management Plan: Certification**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Do you attest that:

1. You have a cybersecurity risk management plan (the plan) in place that is either (a) operational, if you are providing service prior to the award of the grant; or (b) ready to be operationalized upon providing service, if you are not yet providing service prior to the grant award;

2. The plan reflects the latest version of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity (currently Version 1.1) and the standards and controls set forth in Executive Order 14028 and specifies the security and privacy controls being implemented;

3. The plan will be reevaluated and updated on a periodic basis and as events warrant; and

4. The plan will be submitted to the State prior to the allocation of funds?

Please note, to the extent that you rely in whole or in part on network facilities owned or operated by a third party (e.g., purchases of wholesale carriage on such facilities), the above attestation must be obtained from your network provider.

**E.H2. Supply Chain Risk Management Plan: Certification**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Do you attest that:

1. You have a Supply Chain Risk Management (SCRM) plan in place that is either: (a) operational, if you are already providing service at the time of the grant; or (b) ready to be operationalized, if you are not yet providing service at the time of the grant award;

2. The plan is based upon the key practices discussed in the NIST publication NISTIR 8276, "Key Practices in Cyber Supply Chain Risk Management: Observations from Industry," and related SCRM guidance from NIST, including NIST 800-161, "Cybersecurity Supply Chain Risk Management Practices for Systems and Organizations," and specifies the supply chain risk management controls being implemented;

3. The plan will be reevaluated and updated on a periodic basis and as events warrant; and

4. The plan will be submitted to the State prior to the allocation of funds?

Please note, to the extent that you rely in whole or in part on network facilities owned or operated by a third party (e.g., purchases of wholesale carriage on such facilities), the above attestation must be obtained from your network provider.

## III.13  Part I: Regulatory Information

This section requests information about your entity to demonstrate compliance with State requirements on regulatory information.

**E.I1. Mandatory Disclosure Form: Template**
**Response Type:** Template Document Upload (Permitted file type: PDF, JPEG, PNG)
Upload the completed, dated, and signed [Mandatory Disclosure Form](#).

**E.I2. Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form: Template**
**Response Type:** Template Document Upload (Permitted file type: PDF, JPEG, PNG)
Upload the completed, dated, and signed [Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form](#).

**E.I3. W-9 Form: Template**
**Response Type:** Template Document Upload (Permitted file type: PDF, JPEG, PNG)
Upload the completed, dated, and signed [W-9 Form](#).

**E.I4. GATA Registration**
**Response Type:** Single select (Yes/No)

Please click below to confirm that you have registered in the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) Grantee Portal (https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/).

Note that GATA registration at the time of grant application is a ***mandatory prerequisite*** for all State grants. Failure to do so may result in your application not being considered for BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4 awards. This is ***not*** equivalent to participation in the BEAD Pre-Qualification process.

## III.14 Next Steps after Submission

Response Type: Single Select (Yes)

Upon completion of this form, the contact emails provided in E.AD.5. and E.AD.6. will receive an Entity Form Submission ID (EFS) via email. Please keep this for your records and enter this ID for **Part 2. Project Form** on Airtable and **Part 3. Application Form** on Smartsheet.

Please note that the submission of the Entity Form does not constitute full completion of the application. Only after all three parts have been completed will an application be considered complete.

**Please indicate your understanding below.**

"I understand that, to formally complete my application for BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4, I must complete the Project Form on Airtable, and then submit an Application Form on Smartsheet with the Entity Form Submission ID and Project Form Submission ID."

# IV 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 form, please ensure that the Entity Form has been completed for the BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4, as the EFS ID is required to submit this form** (P.AD.2)**.**

The Project Form requests materials to demonstrate that the applicant's project meets BEAD qualifications, and materials that will be considered in the Merit Review Scoring Process.

- This form contains all qualification materials. Qualifications are materials that must be satisfactorily completed for the application to be considered for BEAD funding per NTIA and State requirements. Some of these materials may be leveraged for scoring purposes. Information regarding the scoring criteria for the BotB Round is available in Section I.3 of this document.

Applicants must submit this form for each project application they intend to submit for the BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4. The following section provides a detailed explanation for each component of the Project Form. Each component has an index beginning with "P."

## **IV.1** Administrative: Project and Associated Entity Information

This section requests project-specific information and the associated entity's information.

**P.AD.1. Project Name**
**Response type:** Short Answer
Please enter the project name. Project names must follow a specific format of [EIN] – [Project number in two digits] (e.g., for EIN 12-3456789's third project application, enter 12-3456789-03).

For the EIN, in the event you are applying as a multi-party applicant (e.g., public-private partnership or consortia), please provide the EIN that was used for SAM registration or, if not applicable, the EIN of the lead applicant who will be accountable for reporting to the State and ensuring that all requirements are met for the multi-party application.

For the project number, should you have fewer than 10 projects you are applying for, please add a 0 to ensure it is 2 characters (i.e., "09" instead of "9"). In the event you are applying as a multi-party applicant, please add a letter "C" at the end. For instance, if this is the second project application you are submitting as a multi-party applicant, please denote "02C".

Applications do not need to be submitted in the same order as the two-digit project number at the end of the project name.

**P.AD.2. Entity Form Submission ID**
**Response type:** Search and Select
Enter the Entity Form Submission ID emailed to the applicant's designated contact(s) after completing the Entity Form submission.

Before continuing with this form, the Entity Form for the BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4 must be completed. The Submission ID is in the format of "EFS -####." The contact information entered in the Entity Form submission will receive a confirmation email upon submission of this form.

Please double-check that this ID is correct before proceeding. Failure to enter the correct EFS ID will result in your application being tied to the wrong entity.

Please note, as specified in the Entity Form, that each entity should submit the Entity Form only once, and that Submission ID will be applied across all Project Form submissions here. That is, the same Entity Form Submission ID should be used multiple times for each and every Project Form submission from your entity for the BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4.

*Applicants may use their existing Entity Form Submission ID (i.e., from their submission prior to the Benefit of the Bargain Round).*

**P.AD.3. Employer Identification Number (EIN)**
**Response type:** Short Answer
Please enter the exact EIN you submitted for your Entity Form. Please use the format ##-#######.

Failure to enter the exact EIN may result in your submission being incomplete and subsequently rejected or require resubmission of the entire form.

**P.AD.4. Primary Contact Email Address**
**Response type:** Short Answer

Please enter the primary contact email submitted in the Entity Form for your entity. This is available in the Entity Form confirmation email.

Confirmation of this form submission will be sent to the primary and secondary contacts identified in the Entity Form, as well as any subsequent communication as needed.

## IV.2  Part A: Project Overview and Locations Impacted

This section of the application requests an overview of the project and locations impacted by the proposed broadband project.

**P.A1. Project Overview: Narrative**
**Response Type:** Narrative
Please provide a high-level, introductory overview of the project. Please include a summary description of the project scope (e.g., geographic area, count of BSLs/CAIs to be served, technology); project budget, funds requested, and match provided; estimated time needed for start of deployment activities; and estimated time for deployment completion. Please be advised that this narrative may be publicly used in announcements following any awards made, if applicable.

**P.A2. Project Area Selection Sheet: Template**
**Response Type:** Template Document (XLSX, CSV)

Please upload **BOTH** of the following:

- The **Project Area Selection Sheet for this project** ([found here](#)), which must be populated with the Project Area Export from the [BEAD Project Area Selection Tool](#). Details on how to complete the template can be found in the Instructions tab of the template.

- The **original, unaltered Project Area Export file** (.csv) from the [BEAD Project Area Selection Tool](#), used to populate the template above.

Please ensure the files are named in the following structure: "[PROJECT NAME] Project Area [Date submitted, in Month Day format].xlsx" and "[PROJECT NAME] ProjectAreaExport [Date submitted, in Month Day format].csv". For example, if the project was named in P.AD.1. as 12-3456789-03, the files should be named "12-3456789-03 ProjectArea July 1.xlsx" and "12-3456789-03 ProjectAreaExport July 1.csv", respectively.

**P.A3.A. Locations that are Not Unserved, Underserved, or Eligible CAIs**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Please indicate whether the proposed project area in the Project Area Selection Sheet submitted above includes locations that are not unserved, underserved, or eligible CAIs. Note, a proposed project may only contain up to 20% of such locations.

**P.A3.B Locations that are Not Unserved, Underserved, or Eligible CAIs: Narrative**
**Response Type:** Narrative

Please include a narrative demonstrating how including these locations is necessary for the proposed project. Locations that are not unserved, underserved, or eligible CAIs should only be included if they are incidental toward targeting the unserved and/or underserved locations (e.g., wireline network must bypass such locations in order to reach the unserved and/or underserved location and/or the eligible CAIs; wireless network covers the locations because the RF signal permeates to such locations).

Please note that a Proposed Project Area is only eligible if at least 80% of the BSLs in the Project Area are unserved or underserved locations, or eligible CAIs.

**P.A4.A. Project Technology Type**
**Response Type:** Multiple Select

Please indicate which technologies will be used in the project. Note, if multiple technology types will be used in the project, please select *all* applicable technologies.
Options include:

- Fiber-optic
- Coaxial cable / HFC
- Licensed Terrestrial Fixed Wireless
- Licensed by-Rule Terrestrial Fixed Wireless
- Unlicensed Terrestrial Fixed Wireless
- Copper Wire
- Non-geostationary Satellite (e.g., Low Earth Orbit Satellite)
- Other technologies

**P.A4.B. Project Technology Type – Other technology: Narrative**
**Response Type:** Short Answer

If you selected "Other technologies" above, please indicate which technologies will be used for your project.

**P.A4.C. Project Technology Type: Same Technology Certification**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Do you certify that (i) you will not submit multiple applications under the same Project Technology Type for any given Project Area Unit (PAU), or (ii) if submitting a hybrid Technology Type application (i.e., leveraging 2 or more technology types), you will not submit multiple hybrid applications for the same PAU (even if using different combinations of technologies)?

Note that if an applicant chooses to submit more than one application for the same Project Area Unit (PAU), each application must use a different technology.

In other words, an applicant may only submit one application per unique technology type, or a maximum of one hybrid application for any Project Area Unit.

**P.A5.A. Tribal Locations**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Does your project include broadband-serviceable locations (BSLs) in Federally Recognized Tribal Nation land?

Please note, PAU ID 48_17037 includes a BSL in the Federally Recognized Tribal Nation land of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

Please check IOB's [Subgrantee Selection webpage](#) for any updates on additional BSLs on Tribal Lands.

*Note: If Yes in P.A5.A.*
**P.A5.B. Tribal Locations: Certification**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Do you certify that you will submit a Resolution of Consent from each Tribal Government, from the Tribal Council or other governing body, upon whose Tribal Lands the infrastructure will be deployed?

# IV.3   Part B: Technical Project-Based Qualifications

This section of the application focuses on the technical design aspects of the proposed broadband project. Applicants must provide a project design and other supporting materials demonstrating the capability to provide broadband service meeting or exceeding the BEAD program requirements. The project design materials must be certified by a currently licensed professional engineer. The project design materials must include the components listed below.

**P.B1.A. Detailed Project Schedule: Template**
**Response Type:** Template Document (XLSX)

Please provide a detailed project implementation schedule, including buildout timeline and milestones, using the template provided ([here for non-LEO applicants](#); [here for LEO applicants](#)). This document must be accompanied by a certification from a Professional Engineer. Detailed instructions on how to populate the form can be found on the "Instructions" tab of the template.

Please ensure that the project duration as shown in **Cell AJ4 of the "Timeline" tab** accurately reflects the length of your project, as this figure will be reviewed against the Scoring Criteria "Speed to Deployment."

The applicant must provide a project timeline that articulates its ability to complete the project within the four-year timeframe. The timeline must include the key milestones for project implementation:

- **Detailed Project Planning**: Includes the creation of a detailed project budget and schedule as an addendum to the executed subgrant agreement.

- **Network Design**: Includes all design engineering work resulting in sufficient documentation to construct, provision, and permit the proposed network deployment.

- **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) / National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Assessment**: Includes the preparation, submission, processing, and approval of all environmental requirements for the proposed network deployment.

- **Permitting**: Includes the preparation, submission, processing, and approval of all required permitting for the proposed network deployment.

- **Make Ready:** Includes the application preparation, submission, pole owner processing, and all make-ready construction of utility poles for the proposed network deployment (if applicable).

- **Material & Equipment Procurement**: Includes all procurement processes for contracting project material vendors. Completed when the applicant has received delivery of all construction materials, equipment, and network electronics.

- **Contracts Signed for Contractors**: Includes all procurement processes for engaging project contractors. Completed when the applicant has obtained signed contracts of all required contractors to complete the proposed project.

- **Network Deployment (Construction)**: Includes the construction, installation, and provisioning of all network components required for the applicant to provide service to the project's locations.

- **Project Locations passed**: The month in which the applicant anticipates reaching the 10% / 20% / 30% / 40% / 50% / 60% / 70% / 80% / 90% / 100% completion milestones and will request reimbursement from the State.

- **Subscriber Activations**: For wireline projects, this includes the construction of service drops and for all projects the installation / activation of CPE at individual subscriber locations, initiated upon individual customer sign-up. Please note that Subscriber Activations are **__NOT__** included in the four-year Project Completion Period.

- **Program Closeout Submission**: Represents the month in which the applicant proposes to complete the project by submitting the required closeout materials to the State.

**P.B1.B Detailed Project Schedule: Project Completion Period (Months)**

**Response Type:** Short Answer

Please enter the Project Completion Period (in number of months), from cell AJ4 in your proposed Detailed Project Schedule Template. This cell auto-populates based on the information you entered for your project in the template.

**P.B1.C Detailed Project Schedule: Binding commitment**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Per the NTIA's Policy Notice from June 6, 2025, applicants may earn additional points should they make a binding commitment to provision service by a date certain that is earlier than four years after the date on which the subgrantee will receive the subgrant from the State subject to contractual penalties to the State. This commitment is **not mandatory** and does **not** inform your project's qualifications review. However, this commitment is mandatory should the applicant wish to apply their timeline toward earning additional scoring points for their project evaluation. Note, regardless of your response here, all subgrantees are still required to complete the project within the four-year timeframe per BEAD requirements.

If your response to the previous question is less than 48 months, will you make a binding commitment to provision service by this timeline if selected for a subgrant, based on your proposed Detailed Project Schedule Template, subject to contractual penalties to the State?

**P.B2.A1. Network Design Statistics: Total miles of fiber**
**Response Type**: Short Answer

Please indicate the total proposed miles of fiber deployment. If your project does not involve fiber deployment, please write "N/A".

**P.B2.A2. Network Design Statistics: Miles of buried fiber**
**Response Type**: Short Answer

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".

**P.B2.A3. Network Design Statistics: Miles of aerial fiber**
**Response Type:** Short Answer

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**
**Response Type:** Short Answer

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".

**P.B2.A5. Network Design Statistics: Miles of fiber for middle mile deployment**
**Response Type:** Short Answer

Please indicate the total proposed miles of middle mile fiber. The figure provided here and in P.B2.A4 must total to the figure provided in P.B2.A1. If your project does not involve fiber deployment, please write "N/A".

**P.B2.A6. Network Design Statistics: Miles of buried fiber trenched**
**Response Type:** Short Answer

Please indicate the total proposed miles of buried fiber deployed by trenching. The figure provided here and in P.B2.A7 must total to the figure provided in P.B2.A2. If your project does not involve buried fiber via trenching, please write "N/A".

**P.B2.A7. Network Design Statistics: Miles of buried fiber bored**
**Response Type:** Short Answer

Please indicate the total proposed miles of buried fiber deployment by boring. The figure provided here and in P.B2.A6 must total to the figure provided in P.B2.A2. If your project does not involve buried fiber via boring, please write "N/A".

**P.B2.B Network Design and Technical Narrative**
**Response Type:** Document Upload (Shapefile [.shp, .shx, .dbf], .kml, .kmz, .zip, .tar, PDF)

**Please provide a technical narrative and network design that support the proposed design.** Both documents must be accompanied by a certification from a Professional Engineer.

**Technical Narrative**

**File Format**: PDF

**Description**: Please provide details how the proposed infrastructure will deliver service that reliably meets or exceeds the BEAD- required speeds for all proposed BSLs in the project area.

**For LEO applicants**, please submit both (i) a narrative that meets the below instructions as applicable, and (ii) an additional mandatory LEO Network Design template ([here](#)) to provide information for the State to determine whether the proposed project can meet BEAD requirements for broadband service.

Narrative must include:

- Detailed description of the proposed project's technical specifications and design. Please include (as applicable for your project):

- The anticipated number of miles of fiber, coaxial cable, and copper plant to provide service to the locations within the project;

- Anticipated number of square miles of licensed fixed wireless cover, and the anticipated number of square miles of unlicensed fixed wireless cover;

- The number of towers and access points to support fixed wireless deployment;

- The technology types to be deployed (fiber, hybrid fiber-coaxial, fixed wireless, etc.);

- Detailed information about the technology types being deployed including but not limited to the following examples:

  - Identification of access layer FTTP technology that will be used (e.g., GPON, XGS-PON, Active Ethernet);

  - A description of the proposed PON size, including the maximum split ratio, the number of serviceable passings per PON, and the anticipated number of subscribers per OLT port at service activation;

  - The version of DOCSIS proposed by the HFC network;

- The highest available speeds and maximum latency to be offered by the network.

- A detailed description of how the network will be connected to sufficient backhaul infrastructure to support the program performance requirements. Please include the following:

  - If the proposed network leverages backhaul infrastructure from the applicant's own existing network, describe that infrastructure and how the proposed network interconnects with it;

  - If the proposed network leverages backhaul infrastructure from another organization's existing network, describe that infrastructure, how the proposed network interconnects with it, and the terms for which the applicant will have access to the infrastructure for the life of their required service commitment; and

  - If the proposed network requires construction of new backhaul infrastructure, describe that infrastructure, how construction of the infrastructure will be funded, what steps have been taken to ensure the new infrastructure will be commissioned prior to the applicant's proposed subscriber activation dates, and how the proposed network interconnects with it.

- An explanation of the projected subscriber take rate and the anticipated level of oversubscription based on the proposed network capacity.

- A network scalability plan to meet the program performance requirements if subscriber take rate is higher than anticipated, customers subscribe to higher service level offerings than anticipated, or any other factors that may require additional network capacity.

- A detailed description of how the proposed network will be deployed using industry best practices:

- o If proposing a project with wireline components (fiber or HFC), describe what anticipated portions of the network will be built using underground or aerial;

  - If underground construction is proposed, describe the construction methods to be used (e.g., directional drilling, trenching);

  - If aerial construction is proposed, identify the status of the utility poles the project intends to attach to (e.g., applicant has current attachments, applicant has an agreement with the pole owner in place, a pole attachment agreement needs to be obtained). Additionally, describe the construction methods to be used (e.g., new attachment, overlash of existing attachments);

- o Describe the construction materials and equipment to be used in the network (e.g., 1.25" HDPE conduit, 144-count fiber-optic cable, brand name and product series of network electronic equipment platform) and how the selected materials support a sustainable and scalable network.

  - If proposing a project with fixed wireless components, describe what anticipated portions of the network will utilize licensed spectrum;

  - Describe the equipment to be used in the network (e.g., brand name of wireless transmitters and receivers, brand name and product series of network electronic equipment platform) and how the selected equipment support a sustainable and scalable network.

- If the project proposes to include locations that are not unserved or underserved (per P.A3.A), the exact narrative submitted demonstrating how including these locations is necessary for the proposed project.

  - o Note, as outlined in P.A3.A, locations that are not unserved or underserved should only be included if they are incidental toward targeting the unserved and/or underserved locations (e.g., wireline network has to bypass such locations in order to reach the unserved and/or underserved location; wireless network covers the locations because the RF signal permeates to such locations).

**Network Design**

**File Format**: Shapefile (all file extensions contained in a single .zip file) preferred. The shapefile format is designed to store and represent various types of geographic features, such as points, lines, and polygons, along with attribute information associated with these features. A shapefile is comprised of six separate file extensions (.CPG, .dfb, .prj, .sbn, .spx, and .shp). Shapefiles containing all six file extensions should be uploaded in a zipped folder. Note, while a shapefile is encouraged, the applicant may submit a .kmz file instead should providing a shapefile be difficult.

**Description**: The proposed network design must include all proposed unserved and underserved BSLs and CAIs to be served by the project, all proposed wireline infrastructure routes to be constructed via the project, all proposed tower locations, and project area boundary polygons encompassing all

infrastructure routes and BSLs. All PAUs that a prospective subgrantee applies for must be included in the proposed network design, and no other PAUs should be included. The proposed network design must also account for the full list of BSLs and CAIs exported from the Project Area Selection tool for the selected PAUs.

The **network design** must be accompanied by a certification from a Professional Engineer stating that the proposed network can deliver broadband service that meets the performance requirements for all locations served by the project. **Please note that this network design must substantiate the speed and latency information submitted, or the State reserves the right to adjust the relevant score for Scoring Criteria "Speed of Network and Technical Capabilities," accordingly.**

The network design must include the following layers in a .shp or .kmz file:

- All Unserved BSLs in the proposed project area as point features. This layer must be named "Unserved_BSL". The location data must be sourced from the [Project Area Selection Tool](#).

- All Underserved BSLs in the proposed project area as point features. This layer must be named "Underserved_BSL". The location data must be sourced from the [Project Area Selection Tool](#).

- All CAIs in the proposed project area as point features. This layer must be named "CAI". The location data must be sourced from the [Project Area Selection Tool](#).

- If the applicant proposes to remove any locations after determining them as excessively high-cost (or otherwise making the project economically unviable for the technology being used) per the [NTIA's BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice](#) (dated June 6, 2025), they must submit all such locations separately as point features. This layer must be named "Removed_Locations." The location data must map exactly to the information submitted in the Project Area Selection Template.

- If the applicant proposes to serve any BSL not officially classified as either unserved or underserved, they must submit all locations separately as point features. This layer must be named "Other_BSL". The location data must map exactly to the information submitted in the Project Area Selection Template.

- Applicable network infrastructure features, such as the applicant's proposed infrastructure routes, peering points, colocation facilities, fixed wireless towers (if applicable), and/or wireless access points (if applicable) as line and point features. The layers should be named "Network_Infrastructure" in the submitted shapefiles. The submitted routes should be provided as a singular line representative of all fiber infrastructure (conduit, fiber, aerial attachments) to be placed along any individual pathway (e.g., public rights-of-way, private easements). Routes should be inclusive of all new backhaul, backbone, and distribution infrastructure.

  - Routes that will only be constructed as part of subscriber activations (drops to individual subscriber locations constructed upon customer signup), should not be included in the submitted file. The project's estimated take rate will be captured separately within the application.

- o Routes should be attributed within the GIS files to differentiate between backhaul (middle-mile) network infrastructure and distribution network (last-mile) infrastructure. This can be provided as separate colors to identify the distinction.

- o Existing infrastructure should be attributed within the GIS files or provided as a separate color to designate it as "existing."

- The applicant's proposed service area(s) as polygon features. The polygon must encompass all proposed locations and proposed infrastructure routes submitted as part of the project shapefile and the layer should be labelled "Project_Boundary" in the submitted shapefiles.

**P.B2.C. Network Design – Conduit Access: Narrative**
**Response Type:** Narrative

If your project involves laying fiber-optic cables or conduit underground or along a roadway, please provide a narrative describing how you plan to comply with BEAD requirements to include interspersed conduit access points at regular and short intervals for interconnection by unaffiliated entities.

If your proposed project does not involve laying fiber-optic cables or conduit underground or along a roadway, please write "Not applicable."

*Note: If P.A4.A. is "Licensed Terrestrial Fixed Wireless," "Licensed by-Rule Terrestrial Fixed Wireless," and/or "Unlicensed Terrestrial Fixed Wireless"*
**P.B2.D. Network Design – Fixed Wireless Technology: Template**
**Response Type:** Document Upload

For applications that propose any deployment of fixed wireless broadband, applicants must complete and submit the State-provided design template that includes instructions. Note that as part of completing this template, applicants must also upload here the manufacturer's cut sheet of each antenna used in the design. This should include any tabular or plot representation of the far field radiation pattern. Additional guidance on how to complete the template can be found here.

The design must be certified by a Professional Engineer stating that the proposed network can deliver broadband service that meets the performance requirements for all locations served by the project.

**P.B3. Logical Network Diagram: Documentation**
**Response Type**: Document Upload (PDF)

Please provide a logical network diagram. This document must be certified by a Professional Engineer stating that the proposed network can deliver broadband service that meets the performance requirements for all locations served by the project. Please note that this network diagram must substantiate the speed and latency information submitted that will be applied toward application scoring, or the State reserves the right to adjust the relevant score, accordingly.

The network diagram must illustrate the logical connectivity for the network, depict the desired architecture of the network in terms of hardware placement, hardware redundancy, and indicate the

types of network platforms or technologies to use in each layer of the network. The diagram should convey the network's capacity to provide each proposed BSL with the required broadband speeds. Existing infrastructure present should be designated as existing on the diagram, so that newly proposed infrastructure is clearly identified. This document must be submitted in PDF format. **An example of the logical network diagram can be [found here for non-LEO](#) and [here for LEO satellite](#).**

**For Fiber Projects**, the logical diagram must show backhaul between the Internet and central office (CO) / headend location(s); active optical distribution network components (i.e., Optical Line Terminals, or OLTs); passive optical components, including splitters (if applicable); and customer premises equipment (CPE), including the optical network unit (ONU) and/or customer gateway device. Illustrate a worst-case scenario for link capacities, FTTP technology type (GPON, XGS-PON, Active Ethernet, etc.), splitter ratios (where applicable), and number of subscribers served per OLT port.

**For Hybrid Fiber-Coaxial Projects**, the logical diagram must show backhaul; headend systems, including cable modem termination system (CMTS); fiber nodes and links; active distribution network components (amplifiers, taps, etc.); and customer premises equipment (CPE), including the cable modem and/or customer gateway device. Illustrate a worst-case scenario for node combining, active component cascades, and number of subscribers served per node and/or CMTS port.

**For Fixed Wireless projects**, the logical diagram must show backhaul connection between the Internet and provider demarcation; provider-operated backbone fiber or wireless network to base station site(s); towers/vertical structures; radio access network (RAN); frequency bands and channels used; example premises installation(s) (vertical structure where applicable, connection from antenna to CPE, connection from CPE to user equipment). Illustrate a worst-case scenario for link capacities and number of subscribers served per network segment.

**For LEO projects**, the logical diagram must show terrestrial backhaul, terrestrial gateways, gateway to satellite uplink and downlink, inter-satellite connectivity, and satellite to CPE pathways. Illustrate spatial multiplexing, beams superimposed on the proposed project area, CPE placement, and CPE to user connectivity.

*Note: For P.B4.A-C., include the required information for each of the technology types selected in P.A4*

**P.B4.A. Download Speed**
**Response Type:** Short Answer

Enter the highest available download speed to the customer after build in Mbps. This must correspond with the Professional Engineer-certified technical narrative, network design and diagram provided in P.B2.B and B3.

Note: 1 Gbps is equivalent to 1000 Mbps. Do not enter any units of measure.

**P.B4.B. Upload Speed**
**Response Type:** Short Answer

Enter the highest available upload speed to the customer after build in Mbps. This must correspond with the Professional Engineer-certified technical narrative, network design and diagram provided in P.B2.B and B3.

Note: 1 Gbps is equivalent to 1000 Mbps. Do not enter any units of measure.

**P.B4.C. Maximum Latency**
**Response Type:** Short Answer

Enter the maximum latency after build available to the customer in milliseconds. This must correspond with the Professional Engineer-certified technical narrative, network design and diagram provided in P.B2.B and B3. Do not enter any units of measure.


**P.B5. Certification from Professional Engineer: Template**
**Response Type:** Document upload (Permitted file types: PDF, DOCX)

The applicant must obtain certification from a currently licensed Professional Engineer confirming the accuracy and completeness of the Project Plan materials and attesting, among others, that the proposed network can deliver broadband service that meets the requisite performance requirements to all proposed locations within the required four-year deployment timeline. The Professional Engineer must sign the certification document.

Applicants must use the template provided by the State. All fields must be completed by the Professional Engineer.


**P.B6.A. BEAD-required broadband technical requirements: Certification**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Do you certify that at the time of project closeout, all proposed broadband serviceable locations (BSLs) will be capable of receiving broadband service with speeds of not less than 100 Mbps for downloads and 20 Mbps for uploads with 95% of latency measurements during testing windows falling at or below 100 milliseconds round-trip time?


**P.B6.B. BEAD-required broadband technical requirements: Certification for CAIs**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Do you certify that at the time of project closeout, all proposed community anchor institutions (CAIs) will be capable of receiving broadband service with speeds of not less than 1 Gbps for downloads and 1 Gbps for uploads with 95% of latency measurements during testing windows falling at or below 100 milliseconds round-trip time?
If your proposed project does not include service to CAIs, please select "Not applicable".


**P.B6.C. Timeline estimates: Certification**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Do you certify that your submitted project timeline is accurate and that it will be capable of providing broadband service to each proposed broadband-serviceable location (BSL) that desires service within the committed timeframe?

**P.B6.D. Permits and approvals needed: Certification**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Do you certify that you will obtain all necessary federal, state, and local governmental permits and required approvals necessary for the proposed work to be completed?

## IV.4    Part C: Priority Broadband Project Qualifications

This section of the application focuses on the certifications and evidence needed to claim that the proposed broadband project qualifies as a Priority Broadband Project, per the definition laid out in the Restructuring Policy Notice.

**P.C1.A. Priority Broadband Project**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Does the applicant seek to have the IOB treat this application as a Priority Broadband Project based on NTIA's definition below? If yes, per the Policy Notice, supporting documentation is required sufficient for the IOB to assess the network application and determine that the proposed network architecture for each specific project area meets this standard.

Definition of a "Priority Broadband Project" — *The term "Priority Broadband Project" means a project that provides broadband service at speeds of no less than 100 megabits per second for downloads and 20 megabits per second for uploads, has a latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds, and can easily scale speeds over time to meet the evolving connectivity needs of households and businesses and support the deployment of 5G, successor wireless technologies, and other advanced services.*

*Note: Complete P.C1.B. and P.C2. if P.C1.A. is "Yes"*
**P.C1.B. Priority Broadband Project: Certification**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Do you certify that this project will provide broadband service at speeds of no less than 100 megabits per second for downloads and 20 megabits per second for uploads, has a latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds, and can easily scale speeds over time to meet the evolving connectivity needs of households and businesses and support the deployment of 5G, successor wireless technologies, and other advanced services?

**P.C2. Priority Broadband Project: Template**
**Response Type:** Document Upload (Permitted File Type: PDF)

Please upload completed documentation using the following required templates:
- Licensed Fixed Wireless
- Unlicensed Fixed Wireless
- Fiber
- Coaxial Cable / HFC
- LEO Satellite

Providing this documentation will allow the IOB to assess the network application and determine whether the proposed network architecture for each specific project area meets the Priority Broadband Project standard.

Please note that the State will review applicant responses in this section in conjunction with the technical section of the application.

## IV.5    Part D: Financial Project-Based Qualifications

This section of the application focuses on the financial aspects of the proposed broadband project. Applicants are required to provide supporting materials to demonstrate project-based financial qualifications.

**P.D1. Pro Forma to Demonstrate Project Sustainability: Template**
**Response Type:** Document Upload (XLSX, PDF)

Please submit the pro forma analysis that substantiates the sustainability of the proposed project. Non-LEO applicants must use the template provided by the State. For non-LEO applicants, detailed instructions on how to populate the template can be found on the "Instructions" tab of the template.

LEO applicants must provide a pro forma analysis that satisfies State requirements outlined in this guidance document, and submit a completed version of the guidance document's narrative portion.

**P.D2.A Commitment Letter for Letter of Credit / Performance Bond: Documentation**
**Response Type:** Document Upload (PDF)

Please provide a letter from a qualifying entity committing to issue an irrevocable standby letter of credit or performance bond meeting the requirements of the BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4 program.

Per the BEAD NOFO and the NTIA Letter of Credit Waiver, a Letter of Commitment for a **Letter of Credit** must be provided by either a bank that meets eligibility requirements consistent with 47 CFR 54.804(c)(2) or a US Credit Union insured by National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) and has a Weiss-issued safety rating of B- or better. A Letter of Commitment for a **Performance Bond** must be from a company holding a certificate of authority as an acceptable surety on federal bonds as identified in the Department of Treasury Circular 570. The letter must at a minimum provide the dollar amount of the letter of credit and the issuing bank's agreement to follow the terms and conditions of the State's model letter of credit.

The State will look for, among others, (i) a certification that the committing party meets relevant requirements as outlined by NTIA, (ii) the specific maximum dollar amount to be committed, and (iii) a proper signature from the committing party.

Note that this irrevocable letter of credit or performance bond *must* be prepared prior to entering into any subgrantee agreement with the State. A sample irrevocable letter of credit draft can be found here.

**P.D2.B. NTIA Letter of Credit Waiver for Initial Amount of Letter of Credit / Performance Bond**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Indicate "Yes" below if you intend to utilize the NTIA's Letter of Credit Waiver *specifically* to submit a letter of credit or performance bond of a reduced amount of no less than 10% of the award (see NTIA Letter of Credit Waiver, Section 2.4). ***Note, this does not impact the scoring or prioritization of this project.***

Please note, indicating Yes requires that reimbursements for the project do not exceed 6 months should your application be selected, per NTIA guidance. BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4 funds will be disbursed through fixed-amount subawards based on the milestones defined in the grant agreement and in compliance with the NTIA's guidance on the implementation of exceptions, adjustments, and clarifications to certain provisions of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance), codified at 2 CFR Part 200, and the application of related provisions of the Uniform Guidance to the BEAD Program. For subgrantees employing this waiver option, the grant agreement may allow for interim milestone reimbursements when necessary to ensure reimbursements occur no less than every six months to ensure compliance with the relevant requirement.

**P.D2.C. Letter of Credit / Performance Bond Certification**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Do you attest in good faith that you can obtain either (i) the irrevocable standby Letter of Credit and an opinion letter from legal counsel stating that, in a proceeding under the Bankruptcy Code, the bankruptcy court would not treat the letter of credit as property of the winning subgrantee's bankruptcy estate prior to final subgrant issuance, or (ii) a qualifying Performance Bond as outlined by the NTIA's Letter of Credit Waiver?

**P.D3.A. Project Budget and Capital Investment Schedule: Template**
**Response Type:** Document Upload (Permitted File Types: XLSX, PDF)

Provide the completed project budget and capital investment schedule template for the proposed project above. The budget total must be certified by a Professional Engineer. Applicants must use the template provided by the State. Detailed instructions on how to populate the form can be found below, and on the "Instructions" tab of the related templates.

**In addition to the Project Budget and Capital Investment Schedule, applicants using LEO satellite technology** must also submit a budget narrative on the State-provided template (here). This document also contains guidance on how to complete the project cost template.

For the project budget, applicants must provide a project cost estimate that offers sufficient granularity to demonstrate an understanding of the proposed project and associated estimated costs. The cost estimate must include a detailed itemization of each cost and sufficient description to verify the eligibility of each cost item proposed. For each cost item, the applicant must indicate the breakdown of costs to be covered by grant funds versus provided by applicant matching funds. The applicant should only provide eligible costs within its project cost estimate.

This template also includes information required for BEAD qualification pertaining to a capital investment schedule that shows the complete build-out and initiation of service within four years of the date on which you will have received the award. Capital investment schedule for projects proposing to use LEO satellite technology may extend up to 14 years.

Note that this grant opportunity is limited to capital improvement expenses. The grant will not compensate for indirect costs, overhead or administrative expenses associated with the execution of the program. Additional information on eligible and ineligible costs can be found in the BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4 NOFO.

**P.D3.B. Project Budget and Capital Investment Schedule: Total BEAD Outlay**
**Response Type:** Short Answer

Please enter the Total Grant Funds Requested from the Project Budget Template, tab "Project Cost Summary," cell C14 as a numerical input. Do not include any units or commas.

**P.D3.C Additional Costs: Pole Replacement rates**
**Response Type:** Short Answer

Please share the estimated rate (%) of pole replacement over the deployment period. If your project does not involve pole replacement, please enter "N/A."

**P.D3.D. Project cost estimates: Certification**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Do you certify that your submitted project cost estimate is accurate and encompasses all costs to be incurred by the applicant as part of the proposed broadband project?

**P.D4.A. Confirmation of Minimum 25% Match**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Is your match less than 25%, meaning you are requesting a match waiver? Please indicate "Yes" if so. This response must be consistent with the exact figure as shown in the "Project Cost Summary" tab, cell F14 of the Project Budget submitted above in P.D3.A. (Project Budget and Capital Investment Schedule Template).

*Note: If P.D4.A. is Yes*
**P.D4.B. Match Waiver: Narrative**
**Response Type:** Narrative

Please detail why this application is requesting a waiver for the 25% match requirement per BEAD.

Per BEAD requirements, matching funds must be not less than 25% of project costs. Should an applicant be unable to meet this requirement, the applicant may petition the State to apply for a match waiver from the NTIA for their proposed project, which will be subject to the NTIA's approval. However, note

that the NTIA, at its sole discretion, may choose to deny a full or partial waiver of the match requirement, in which case the applicant must revise the application.

An applicant may file a waiver for the BEAD match requirement if unique circumstances prevent a matching contribution of at least 25%. These special circumstances may include:

- A business case that does not earn the required rate of return, even with a grant award, due to a limited revenue opportunity (e.g., few customers, low average revenue per subscriber, etc.)

- A uniquely high-cost structure for capital or operating expenses

- Severe economic distress in the community to be served, citing specific challenges that limit the ability to contribute the 25% match

- An extenuating circumstance preventing the applicant from raising matching funds after repeated efforts.

**P.D5.A. Description of Match and Financial Partners: Narrative**
**Response Type:** Narrative

Provide a description of how you will provide a match for this project, including a description of all required documents to validate the availability of the match proposed. If additional financial partners will contribute to matching funds, identify below the financial partner(s) and the amount of contribution for each. Note that the award agreement will require confirmation of the project's matching funds requirement and a description of how the subgrantee will provide the match.

The match must be reported to the State at each project milestone and/or unit built and verified through documentation and subgrantee statements. The State will report on matching funds and drawdowns to the NTIA as part of its grant monitoring requirements and verify each match through Federal Program Officer monitoring.

See below for additional guidance on BEAD match requirements:

**General Requirements**: All matching funds for the BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4 Program must meet the requirements in 2 C.F.R. 200.306:

- Are verifiable from the non-federal entity's records

- Are not included as contributions for any other federal award

- Are necessary and reasonable to accomplish project or program objectives

- Are allowable under subpart E of 2 C.F.R. 200.306

- Are not paid by the federal government under another federal award, except where the federal statute authorizing a program specifically provides that federal funds made available for such program can be applied to matching or cost-sharing requirements of other federal programs

- Are provided for in the approved budget when required by the federal awarding agency

- Conform to other provisions of 2 C.F.R. 200.306, as applicable.

**Match Source**: Per BEAD NOFO, III.B.1, a matching contribution may be provided by the subgrantee, the State of Illinois, a unit of local government, a utility company, a cooperative, a nonprofit or philanthropic organization, a for-profit company, a regional planning or governmental organization, a federal regional commission or authority, or any combination thereof. Should State matching funds become available, the State will post the update on its BEAD website with a description of how the funds will become accessible in the subgrantee selection process. The State will also incorporate this information in the Illinois Broadband Connections newsletter to ensure all are aware of this opportunity.

While other federal program funds generally may not be used as match, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act expressly allows BEAD matching funds to come from a federal regional commission or authority, or from funds provided to a subgrantee for deploying broadband service to the extent permitted by law under:

- Families First Coronavirus Response Act
- CARES Act
- Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021
- American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
- Loan funding issued through a federal agency (e.g., USDA ReConnect Program)

**Match Type:** Per BEAD NOFO III.B.4, matching funds may be provided in the form of either cash or in-kind contributions, so long as such contributions are consistent with the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards set forth at 2 C.F.R. Part 200.

In-kind contributions, which may include third-party in-kind contributions, are non-cash donations of property, goods, or services that benefit a federally assisted project and that may count toward satisfying the non-federal matching requirement of a project's total budgeted costs when such contributions meet certain criteria. In-kind contributions must be allowable and allocable project expenses. The rules governing allowable in-kind contributions are detailed and encompass a wide range of properties and services. Applicants are encouraged to thoroughly consider potential sources of in-kind contributions that, depending on the particular property or service and the applicable federal cost principles, could include employee or volunteer services, equipment, supplies, indirect costs, computer hardware and software, and use of facilities. In the broadband context, this could include – consistent with federal cost principles – a waiver of fees associated with access to rights of way, pole attachments, conduits, or easements, or with access to other types of infrastructure. The State notes that in-kind contributions of articles, materials, and supplies to a project are subject to the requirements of the Build America, Buy America (BABA) Act and the United States Department of Commerce's "Limited General Applicability Nonavailability Waiver of the Buy America Domestic Content Procurement Preference as Applied to Recipients of Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program."

**P.D5.B. Match: Documentation**
**Response Type:** Document Upload (Permitted file types: PDF, DOCX, JPEG, PNG)

Upload documentation that supports the match that is being included for this project and elaborated in the narrative for P.D5.A. Examples may include a letter of credit, a letter confirming funds from a bank, a board resolution committing funding, or loan documentation. Ensure each document uploaded is sufficiently described in P.D5.A. Should your project have a proposed match of 0%, please submit documentation that supports why a 0% match is warranted (e.g., supporting evidence for the match waiver requirement).

**P.D6.A. Consumer Price: Monthly recurring price for 1/1 Gbps**
**Response Type:** Short Answer

Provide the monthly price without discounts, inclusive of all taxes, fees, and charges for consumers served by this project, for 1/1 Gbps service.

Enter the price, rounded to two decimal places (cents), without any symbol, for the relevant scenario (for example: $79.99 should be entered as "79.99"). If your project will not provide 1/1 Gbps service, please write N/A.

Please note that this price must reflect the price for internet service only, with no additional bundle requirements. Please do not include in this figure any one-time, non-recurring fees (e.g., set-up fee).

**P.D6.B. Consumer Price: Monthly recurring price for 100/20 Mbps (or for lowest speed tier which meets BEAD statutory requirements)**
**Response Type:** Short Answer

Please provide the monthly price without discounts, inclusive of all taxes, fees, and charges for consumers served by this project, for 100/20 Mbps service. If your project will not provide a 100/20 Mbps service plan to customers, please provide the speed tier and price for the service with the lowest speed tier that would meet BEAD's statutory requirements (minimum speed of 100/20Mbps, lower than 100 ms latency).

Please enter the relevant speed tier and price in the following format: [Download speed in Mbps]/[Upload speed in Mbps], $XX.XX (e.g., 100/20, $79.99)

Please note that this price must reflect the price for internet service only, with no additional bundle requirements. Please do not include in this figure any one-time, non-recurring fees (e.g., set-up fee).

**P.D6.C. Consumer Price: Non-recurring price**

**Response Type:** Short Answer

Provide all one-time non-recurring fees for the relevant speed tier above. Enter the price, rounded to two decimal places (cents), without any symbol, for the relevant scenario (for example: $79.99 should be entered as "79.99").

# IV.6 Part E: Environmental, Historical and Risk Management Project-Based Qualifications

This section of the application focuses on the environmental, historical, and risk management aspects of the proposed broadband project. Applicants are required to provide supporting narratives and materials to demonstrate project-based environmental, historical, and risk management qualifications.

**P.E1.A. Environmental and Historical Preservation: Narrative**
**Response Type:** Narrative

Describe how you have consulted the [NTIA Permitting and Environmental Information Application](#) and conducted the [Permitting Needs Assessment](#), and provide a narrative on how your network design plans can address the identified needs and minimize impact as it pertains to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historical Preservation Act (NHPA). The narrative must include, at a minimum:

- Awareness of NEPA / NHPA requirements as identified per the NTIA Permitting and Environmental Information Application

- Walkthrough of your Permitting Needs Assessment

- How you intend to sufficiently meet the needs identified per your assessment above (e.g., plans, budget, etc.)

If you intend to work with consultants to meet this requirement, please include information on the planned and/or confirmed consultants (e.g., experience on similar projects).

Note, per BEAD requirements, all projects containing construction and/or ground-disturbing activities must submit all required environmental documentation to NTIA prior to final selection, which also must describe how the project will comply with applicable environmental and national historical preservation requirements.

It is the subgrantee's responsibility to obtain all necessary federal, state, and local governmental permits and approvals necessary for the proposed work to be conducted. Projects and other eligible activities are expected to be designed so that they minimize the potential for adverse impacts on the environment. Subgrantees also must cooperate with NTIA in identifying feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts of their proposed projects or other eligible activities. The failure to do so may be grounds for not making an award.

Proposals will be reviewed to ensure that they contain sufficient information to allow agency staff to conduct a NEPA analysis so that appropriate NEPA documentation can be submitted to NTIA, along with the recommendation for funding of the selected projects or other eligible activities. If additional information is required after an application is accepted for funding, funds can be withheld by NTIA under a specific award condition requiring the awardee to submit additional environmental compliance information sufficient for the agency to make an assessment of any impacts that a project or other eligible activity may have on the environment.

**P.E1.B. Environmental and Historical Preservation: Prior violations**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Do you have any prior or current violations regarding Environmental and Historical Preservation requirements?

*Note: If Yes in P.E1.B.*
**P.E1.C. Environmental and Historical Preservation: Prior violations Narrative**
**Response Type:** Narrative

Please submit a narrative on the prior and current violations, how they have been mitigated, and your plans for ensuring future compliance.

Please note that the State will work with NTIA to ensure all subgrantees comply with all relevant compliance requirements for Environmental and Historical Preservation.

**P.E1.D. Environmental and Historical Preservation: Certification**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Do you certify that you are aware of BEAD requirements as they relate to permitting and Environmental and Historical Preservation, that you have reviewed NTIA guidance and resources to identify permitting needs and estimated impact regarding Environmental and Historical Preservation, and will develop a plan to meet all such requirements?

**P.E2. Compliance with Risk Management Requirements**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Do you commit to satisfying the statutory requirement to incorporate best practices defined by NTIA for ensuring reliability and resilience of broadband infrastructure in 47 U.S.C. §1702(g)(1)(C) by establishing risk management plans that account for technology infrastructure reliability and resilience, including from natural disasters (e.g., wildfires, flooding, tornadoes, hurricanes, etc.), as applicable, as well as cybersecurity best practices for your proposed project?

See, e.g., National Institute of Standards and Technology Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity, Cybersecurity Supply Chain Risk Management Practices for Systems and Organizations, NIST 800-161 Rev.1 and Key Practices in Cyber Supply Chain Risk Management: Observations from Industry, NIST IR 8276.

## IV.7   Part F: Other Project-Based Qualifications and Information

This section of the application focuses on additional certifications required to meet BEAD and State requirements.

**P.F1. General Compliance Requirements: Certification**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Do you certify that you have read (where available today) and will comply with all federal and state laws and related regulations to be considered for an award as stipulated in the State of Illinois's NOFO, including, but not limited to:

- Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards at 2 C.F.R. Part 200;
- 47 U.S.C. § 1702;
- The Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions;
- General Terms and Conditions of the BEAD Program;
- The State of Illinois's BEAD Specific Award Conditions;
- The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act; and
- Other existing or upcoming relevant NTIA guidance and applicable federal law?

**P.F2. Broadband Standard Installation: Certification**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Do you certify that, upon completion of the award, you will be capable of performing a standard broadband installation of qualifying broadband service to all end-users in the proposed Project Area, at a standard installation charge, within 10 business days of a service request?

**P.F3.A. Low-Cost Service Option: Certification**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Do you certify that you will provide a low-cost broadband service option to Eligible Subscribers, per BEAD statutory requirements?

Note that, per the NTIA's BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice, the term "Eligible Subscriber" means any household seeking to subscribe to broadband internet access service that is eligible for the FCC's Lifeline Program.

**P.F3.B. Low-Cost Service Option: Monthly recurring price**
**Response Type:** Short Answer

 Please provide the monthly price for your low-cost service option for all Eligible Subscribers (i.e., any household seeking to subscribe to broadband internet access service that is eligible for the FCC's Lifeline

Program). Please note that this price must reflect the price for internet service only, with no additional bundle requirements.

Enter the price, rounded to two decimal places (cents), without any symbol, for the relevant scenario (for example: $79.99 should be entered as "79.99").

**P.F3.C. Low-Cost Service Option: Corresponding speed tier**
**Response Type:** Short Answer

Please provide the corresponding speed tier for your low-cost service option for all Eligible Subscribers (i.e., any household seeking to subscribe to broadband internet access service that is eligible for the FCC's Lifeline Program).

Enter the relevant speed tier in the following format: [Download speed in Mbps]/[Upload speed in Mbps] (e.g., 100/20).

**P.F3.D. Low-Cost Service Option: One-time, non-recurring fees**
**Response Type:** Short Answer

If there are any one-time, non-recurring fees (e.g., set-up fee), please include them here and provide the relevant fee amounts. If not applicable, write "N/A".

**P.F4. Access to Service: Certification**
**Response Type:** Single selection (Yes/No)

Do you certify that you will provide access to broadband service to each customer served by the project that desires broadband service on terms and conditions that are reasonable and non-discriminatory?

**P.F5. Procurement Compliance: Certification**
**Response Type:** Single Selection (Yes/No)

Do you certify that you will adhere to methods of procurement per the relevant Procurement Standards (2 CFR 200.317, 200.321-323, 200.327) from the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance), codified at 2 CFR Part 200?

**P.F6. Commitment to Comply with laws**
**Response Type:** Single Select (Yes/No)

Do you certify that you will comply with all federal labor and employment laws for your proposed project?

## IV.8   Part Z: Regulatory Information

This section of the application collects the Uniform Grant Application Form, which is mandatory per State requirements for all applicants.

**P.Z1. Uniform Grant Application Form: Template**
**Response Type:** Template Upload (Permitted file types: PDF, PNG, JPG)
Please upload the completed Uniform Grant Application Form. The full form, along with the signature page, must be printed, signed, scanned and submitted with the application.

## IV.9    Next Steps after Submission

Response Type: Single Select (Yes)

Upon completion of this form, the contact information connected to your entity submission linked in P.AD.2. and the Primary Contact email address from P.AD.4. will receive a Project Form Submission ID (PFS) via email. You will need to enter this ID for Part 3, Application Form on Smartsheet available [here](#).

Please note that the submission of the Entity Form and the Project Form on Airtable does **not** constitute full completion of the application. Only after all 3 parts have been completed will an application be considered complete.

If you are submitting multiple applications as part of BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4, please repeat Part 2 (submission of this Project Form) and Part 3 (submission of the Smartsheet form with both Entity Form and Project Form Submission IDs) for each project. As a reminder, *only one* Entity Form entry must be submitted per applicant, and if one applicant is submitting more than one application, the *same* Entity Form submission ID must be used across *all* Project Form submissions.

**Please indicate your understanding below.**

"I understand that, to formally complete my application for the BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4, I must submit the Part 3 Application Form on Smartsheet with the Entity Form Submission ID and Project Form Submission ID sent to my email."

# V Application Form (Part 3)

**Instructions:**
*The application form, [linked here](#), is the final form for an application to be considered complete. **Failure to submit this form will prevent your application from being considered for the BEAD-funded 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.*

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**Certification**: 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://dceo.illinois.gov/dceo-grants.html](https://dceo.illinois.gov/dceo-grants.html).

**Contact First Name**
**Response Type:** Short Answer

**Contact Last Name**
**Response Type:** Short Answer

**Contact Email Address**
**Response Type:** Short Answer

**Contact Phone Number**
**Response Type:** Short Answer

**Applicant Legal Name**
**Response Type:** Short Answer
Enter the legal entity name which matches what was provided in the Entity Form, E.AD.1.

**Doing Business As (DBA)**
**Response Type:** Short Answer
Enter the DBA which matches what was provided in the Entity Form, E.AD.2.

**Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN)**
**Response Type:** Short Answer

**Project Name**
**Response Type:** Short Answer
Enter the project name identified in Project Form, P.AD.1.

**Entity Form Submission ID**
**Response Type:** Short Answer
Enter the EFS ID provided to the primary and secondary contacts upon submission of the Entity Form.

**Project Form Submission ID**
**Response Type:** Short Answer
Enter the PFS ID provided to the primary and secondary contacts upon submission of the Project Form.

The completion of this form marks the application as officially complete.

# VI Appendices

## VI.1 Appendix 1: Instructions for Lower Tier Participant Certification (applies to subgrantees)

This Appendix includes information related to Entity Form, E.D2.F. The language below is directly excerpted from the BEAD NOFO, pages 78-80.

**Instructions for Lower Tier Participant Certification (applies to subgrantees):**
1. By submitting this proposal and accepting federal funding, the prospective lower tier participant is providing the certification set out below and agrees to comply with the requirements of 2 C.F.R. Parts 180, 1200 and 1326.
2. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was entered into. If it is later determined that the prospective lower tier participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the federal government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension or debarment.
3. The prospective lower tier participant shall provide immediate written notice to the person to which this proposal is submitted if at any time the prospective lower tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.
4. The terms *covered transaction, civil judgment, debarment, suspension, ineligible, participant, person, principal, and voluntarily excluded*, as used in this clause, are defined in 2 C.F.R. Parts 180, 1200 and 1326. You may contact the person to whom this proposal is submitted for assistance in obtaining a copy of those regulations.
5. The prospective lower tier participant agrees by submitting this proposal that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is proposed for debarment under 48 C.F.R. Part 9, Subpart 9.4, debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the department or agency with which this transaction originated.
6. The prospective lower tier participant further agrees by submitting this proposal that it will include the clause titled "Instructions for Lower Tier Participant Certification" including the "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion- Lower Tier Covered Transaction," without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions and will require lower tier participants to comply with 2 C.F.R. Parts 180 and 1200.
    a. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that it is not proposed for debarment under 48 C.F.R. Part 9, Subpart 9.4, debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant is

responsible for ensuring that its principals are not suspended, debarred, or otherwise ineligible to participate in covered transactions. To verify the eligibility of its principals, as well as the eligibility of any prospective lower tier participants, each participant may, but is not required to, check the System for Award Management Exclusions website (https://www.sam.gov).

b. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.

c. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph 5 of these instructions, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is proposed for debarment under 48 C.F.R. Part 9, Subpart 9.4, suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the federal government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension or debarment.

**Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion - Lower Tier Covered Transactions:**

1. The prospective lower tier participant certifies, by submission of this proposal, that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participating in covered transactions by any federal department or agency.

2. Where the prospective lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

## VI.2  Appendix 2: Low-Cost Service Option

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act requires that each subgrantee receiving BEAD funding to deploy network infrastructure offer at least one low-cost broadband service option.

Requirements:
- Speed: At least 100/20 Mbps
- Latency: No more than 100 milliseconds
- Eligibility: The eligibility criteria used for the FCC's Lifeline Program must be used to define Eligible Subscribers for the low-cost broadband service option[5]

Applicants that already offer a low-cost plan that meets these service requirements may satisfy the low-cost broadband service option requirement by proposing to offer their existing low-cost plan to eligible subscribers.

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[5] NTIA, "Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program: BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice," page 8, https://www.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/bead-restructuring-policy-notice.pdf

## VI.3   Appendix 3: Additional Materials and Resources

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4 Application Forms** | Entity Form | [[Link](#)] |
| | Project Form | [[Link](#)] |
| | Application Submission Form | [[Link](#)] |
| **BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4 Application Templates and Reference Materials** | E.F1.A. (Template) Ownership Information Template | [[Link](#)] |
| | E.G3./G4. (Template) Existing Broadband Projects Template | [[Link](#)] |
| | E.I1. (Form) Mandatory Disclosure Form | [[Link](#)] |
| | E.I2. (Form) Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form | [[Link](#)] |
| | E.I3. (Form) W-9 Form | [[Link](#)] |
| | P.A2. (Template) Project Area Selection Template | [[Link](#)] |
| | P.B1.A. (Template) Project Timeline Template | [[Link](#)] |
| | P.B1.A. (Template) Project Timeline Template for LEO | [[Link](#)] |
| | P.B2.B. (Template) LEO Network Technical Narrative Template | [[Link](#)] |
| | P.B2.D. (Template) Fixed Wireless Design Submission Template | [[Link](#)] |
| | P.B2.D. (Instructions) Fixed Wireless Design Submission Template Instructions | [[Link](#)] |
| | P.B3. (Reference) Example Logical Network Diagram | [[Link](#)] |
| | P.B3. (Reference) Example Logical Network Diagram for LEO | [[Link](#)] |
| | P.B5. (Template) Professional Engineer Certification | [[Link](#)] |
| | P.C2. (Template) Priority Broadband Project | Links:<br>[Fiber](#)<br><br>[Coaxial cable / HFC](#)<br><br>[Licensed Fixed Wireless](#)<br><br>[Unlicensed Fixed Wireless](#)<br><br>[LEO Satellite](#) |
| | P.D1. (Template) Pro Forma Template | [[Link](#)] |
| | P.D1. (Reference) Pro Forma Narrative Template for LEO | [[Link](#)] |
| | P.D2.A (Reference) Sample Letter of Credit | [[Link](#)] |
| | P.D3.A (Template) Project Budget and Capital Investment Schedule Template | [[Link](#)] |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | P.D3.A (Template) Project Budget and Capital Investment Schedule Narrative for LEO | [Link] |
| | P.Z1. (Template) Uniform Grant Application Form | [Link] |
| **BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4 Resources** | BEAD-funded Connect Illinois Round 4 NOFO | [Link] |
| | BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice | [Link] |
| | State of Illinois BEAD Initial Proposal, Volume II | [Link] |
| | NTIA BEAD NOFO | [Link] |