

## BEAD-Funded Connect Illinois Round 4

### Serviceability Updates Submission Guidance

*As of January 15, 2025*

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) approved the results of Illinois’ Challenge Process in November 2024, locking in the locations that Illinois is required to connect through the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, also known as Connect Illinois Round 4. However, given the time that has passed since the February 2024 start of the Challenge Process, the Illinois Office of Broadband (IOB) is accepting new evidence should internet service providers (ISPs) seek to demonstrate that locations currently classified as unserved or underserved are already served by Reliable Broadband Service.

In line with NTIA’s Final Proposal Guidance Version 1.2, the IOB will accept evidence from **January 10 – February 6, 2025, 11:59 pm CT** within two categories, outlined below. If the IOB believes the evidence successfully demonstrates that the location is already has Reliable Broadband Service, the IOB may opt to not fund this location’s connection through the BEAD program.

Note: This process is optional for states, and the IOB is not required to make any changes to BEAD funding plans based on evidence received.

Per NTIA, for Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs), Reliable Broadband Service is defined as:

- Download speed of not less than 100 Mbps;
- Upload speed of not less than 20 Mbps; and
- Latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds (ms).

Reliable Broadband Service must also be delivered to a location via (i) fiber-optic technology; (ii) cable modem / hybrid fiber coaxial technology; (iii) digital subscriber line (DSL) technology; or (iv) terrestrial fixed wireless technology using an entirely licensed spectrum or a hybrid of licensed and unlicensed spectrum.

*Clarification added January 15, 2025:* For Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs), evidence must demonstrate gigabit symmetrical service.

All evidence provided must demonstrate that such service is available at the location in question. The IOB will need to maintain this evidence and produce it for NTIA, as requested.

#### **Acceptable Reasons and Evidence for Serviceability Updates:**

<b>NTIA Reason Code</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Acceptable Evidence</b>
Reason Code 4	Location is already served by an enforceable commitment. Eligible enforceable commitments include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State</li> <li>- Federal enforceable commitments (BIP, CAFII, CPF, EACAM, RDOF,</li> </ul>	<u>State:</u> Name of Connect Illinois round, grant agreement, and Location IDs, which the IOB will verify against internal documentation and grant agreements.



	<p>RECONNECT, SLFRF, TBCP1, TBCP2)</p> <p>Submissions should ONLY include Enforceable Commitments and Location IDs that are <u>not</u> already incorporated in the BEAD-eligibility data. Please do not share Location IDs which are already considered served.</p>	<p><u>Federal</u>: Name of grant program, grant agreement, and Location IDs, which the IOB will verify with relevant federal agencies.</p> <p>All Location IDs should be based on Fabric v3 to align with the list used to define BEAD-eligible locations.</p>
<p>Reason Code 5</p>	<p>Location is already served by nonsubsidized service (privately funded network).</p> <p>Only for locations with qualifying broadband service in the current National Broadband Map. Evidence must unequivocally demonstrate that the location is already served with qualifying broadband (is currently connected or can be connected within 10 business days of a request with no more than a standard installation fee).</p>	<p><u>For Priority Broadband Service:</u></p> <p>Allowable on its own:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of customer subscription (service record or customer bill) for <u>specific location</u></li> <li>Network speed test for <u>specific location</u>, with an attestation by an officer of the internet service provider</li> </ul> <p>Allowable in combination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Photographic evidence of infrastructure AND network diagram, including an attestation by an officer of the internet service provider</li> </ul> <p><u>For Non-Priority Reliable Broadband Service:</u></p> <p>Allowable on its own:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of customer subscription (service record or customer bill) for <u>specific location</u></li> <li>Network speed test for <u>specific location</u>, with an attestation by an officer of the internet service provider (can be conducted by the ISP or a customer)</li> </ul> <p><i>Evidence must be location specific. Evidence representative of an area will not be considered.</i></p>



### Additional Evidence Guidance:

- **Evidence of Subscription (Service Record or Customer Bill):** Evidence of subscription must be preserved as a PDF file and contain a date. Any personally identifiable information should be redacted. The evidence of subscription should indicate the service address, service provider, the technology type, and the speed tier.
- **Network Speed Test for Specific Location:** The speed test results can be recorded in a PDF or CSV file. Speed tests can use any of the applications named in NTIA Model Challenge Process or the State of Illinois' [Initial Proposal Volume I](#). The speed test can be conducted by the service provider, meaning customer subscription is not required to show the availability of service at a location.
- **Photographic Evidence:** Photographic evidence must be a JPEG file, timestamped and geocoded with six decimal digits resolution for the seconds part of longitude and latitude. The photo should show a terrestrial (street-level) view. If the ISP must rely on aerial or satellite images, the ISP must justify why terrestrial photographic evidence could not be provided.
- **Network Diagram:** A network diagram should include an attestation by the internet service provider.

### How to Participate:

- Populate [CSV template](#), which requires:
  - Location ID (of served location)
  - Reason Code (4 or 5)
  - Technology Code (see below)
  - Max. Upload Speed (in Mbps)
  - Max. Download Speed (in Mbps)
  - [if Reason Code 4] Grant Program Name
- Gather applicable evidence and name each file with the Location ID to which it applies
- Complete the [Serviceability Updates Submission Form](#), which requires:
  - Entity Name
  - Entity EIN
  - Contact Name
  - Contact Email
  - Contact Phone Number
  - CSV Upload
  - Evidence Upload
  - (optional) Additional comments

To ensure data integrity throughout BEAD application waves, the IOB will identify a point in time to incorporate changes to the list of available locations and Project Area Units, collaborate with applicants to de-scope applications, and update the PAU map, as applicable.

### Technology Codes:

- 10 - Copper Wire



- 40 - Coaxial Cable
- 50 - Fiber
- 71 - Licensed Terrestrial Fixed Wireless
- 72 - Licensed-by-Rule Terrestrial Fixed Wireless

**Resources:**

- Contact [broadband@illinois.gov](mailto:broadband@illinois.gov) with questions
- Visit the BEAD [website](#)
- [Sign up](#) to receive updates
- [Subscribe](#) to the Illinois Broadband Connections newsletter