



## **Frequently Asked Questions & Answers Version 7.0**

### **1. What types of project areas can be used when tendering bids for underserved and unserved locations?**

Underserved and unserved locations can be defined in several flexible ways to ensure that all households lacking adequate service are covered. Here are the primary approaches outlined:

**1. Census Tract–Based Project Funding Areas (PFAs):**

Existing geographic boundaries (such as census tracts) will be used to form standardized project areas. In this approach, all Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) determined to be unserved or underserved are grouped into a fixed number of PFAs in which American Samoa has 17 such areas. This method creates uniform bidding units and helps ensure that every eligible location is addressed.

**2. Unserved and Underserved Service Projects:**

The proposal distinguishes between “unserved service projects” (targeting areas where broadband service is entirely absent) and “underserved service projects” (where service exists but does not meet minimum performance requirements). An unserved or underserved project area can be defined as narrowly as a single unserved location, or more broadly as clusters of locations (e.g. a village, town, or a specific neighborhood). This flexible definition allows bids to be tailored to the unique needs and existing infrastructure of each area.

**3. Alternative Geographic Units:**

Bids can also be structured around other locally meaningful geographic units—for instance, by grouping locations using communities, villages, or even specific census blocks. The key requirement is that the project area(s) clearly isolates those households that are unserved or underserved, while avoiding overlap. Applicants are allowed to submit multiple project areas in a single bid, provided that each is a distinct, non-overlapping zone.

**4. Adjustments for Overlap with Other Funding Programs:**

In cases where a provider might already be receiving funding from another program (state, federal, or private) that overlaps with the designated project area, the proposal allows for the possibility of submitting an alternative configuration. However, these alternative definitions must still cover all unserved locations and be non-overlapping so that comparisons across proposals remain fair.



In summary, when tendering bids, eligible project areas can be based on standardized census tract groupings (PFAs), defined as individual unserved or underserved areas (even as small as a single location) or as larger zones (villages or communities), and can be adjusted to avoid overlapping with other funding sources. This flexible, geographically driven approach is designed to ensure that every unserved household is reached, and that the bid process is transparent and competitive.

## **2. Where can the map/ GIS data file as shown on the American Samoa Broadband Serviceable Locations Map be downloaded from?**

All Underserved and Unserved Broadband Serviceable Location data can be downloaded from our website [doc.as.gov/broadband](https://doc.as.gov/broadband) using links incorporated into the Project Funded Areas Summary Tool. These links provide data corresponding to the PFA (Census Tract) in which the link is associated with. The data for each PFA is packaged in a .csv file which can be easily imported as a delimited text layer into most GIS software. Once imported they should show up as points on your respective maps.

## **3. Where can the BEAD National Environmental Policy Act Compliance Requirements be found?**

NTIA NEPA Resources can be found [here](#).

## **4. Is the Letter of Intent (LOI) submitted by each applicant or is this a letter submitted by ASDOC BCORD Office to the grantor, NTIA?**

Each applicant interested in applying for BEAD funds must submit a letter of intent to the BCORD Office of their intention to participate in the BEAD program for the intended project area(s). The letter will be submitted via our online application.

## **5. What is the acceptable age or date range for submitted financial statements?**

Prospective subgrantees must submit financial statements from the prior fiscal year that are audited by an independent certified public accountant. If not previously audited during the ordinary course of business, prospective subgrantees can provide unaudited statements but must commit to supplying audited statements by a deadline specified by the BCORD Office.



## **6. If an applicant is applying to propose four different projects, would organizational information (financial, managerial, etc.) be submitted four different times as well in the pre-qualification phase?**

The pre-qualification phase is for entities to show their capability and capacity to carry out their proposed activities that will be detailed and submitted later in the Application phase - after the applicant is deemed eligible. Therefore, no, entity information needs not be submitted four different times as an entity would need to prove capability first.

After an applicant has certified capability of carrying out BEAD funded projects, the BCORD Office will evaluate and possibly request for more qualification certifications/ information. As the applicant engages in more projects, the BCORD Office would have to re-evaluate the applicant's capacity to continue with more projects.

## **7. What type of information needs to be submitted for the Public Funding section of the application?**

Public Funding requires an applicant to specify which projects are funded federally and/ or locally to ensure there is no duplication of funds. As stated in the [BEAD NOFO](#), prospective subgrantees must disclose any application have submitted or plan to submit, and every broadband deployment project that the subgrantee or its affiliates are undertaking or have committed to undertake at the time of the application using public funds, including but not limited to funds provided under: the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Public Law 116- 127; 134 Stat. 178); the CARES Act (Public Law 116-136; 134 Stat. 281), the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260; 134 Stat. 1182); or the American Rescue Plan of 2021 (Public Law 117-2; 135 Stat. 4), any federal Universal Service Fund high-cost program (e.g., RDOF, CAF), or any Eligible Entity or local universal service or broadband deployment funding program.

## **8. What purpose does the pre-qualification application serve? What documentation will applicants need to provide?**

An applicant is required to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) noting their intention to participate in the BEAD funding program, alongside financial, operational, managerial and technical qualifications, as well as required certifications and authorizations. Refer to the [Pre-Qualification Application Guide](#) pp. 9-19 for more guidance.



## **9. Is pre-qualification application mandatory?**

Following the release of the [BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice](#) released on 6/6/2025, BCORD's prequalification submissions are being accepted as part of the application in the application phase.

## **10. Will the pre-qualification deadline be pushed back?**

The pre-qualification deadline is pushed back to June 30, 2025.

## **11. Is the BEAD timeline on the website considered accurate (application window, etc.)?**

Yes, the BEAD timeline is accurate. The BCORD Office intends to proceed with this timeline; however, dependent on changes to the program from NTIA on the federal level considering possible changes in the grant program.

## **12. What is the status of the BABA Waiver for Pacific Islands?**

The updated waiver was issued on January 10, 2025 and expires January 9, 2025. The waiver waives BABA requirements for all iron and steel, manufactured products, and construction materials for public infrastructure projects funded by the Agencies in the Pacific Island territories except for telecommunications infrastructure that have been identified as having critical supply chains that are essential to U.S. strategic interests (pp. 1-2). The updated BABA Waiver can be accessed [here](#), also accessible on our website in the linked NTIA Guidance folder.

## **13. The pre-qualification includes a LOI where the applicant states its project areas of interest. Will the applicant be required to cover a certain percentage of the locations (BSLs) in each project area (PFA)?**

No, applicants will specify in their proposal during the application process which BSLs they will cover in each of the project funded areas.

## **14. Will applicants be required to submit a separate application for each project area?**

An applicant would need not submit several pre-qualification applications as it is a single process for each applicant to deem eligibility. An applicant would need to submit a narrative to coincide with each project area explaining BSL coverage and buildout plan.



## **15. Will each project area require its own narratives, budget, (financial) pro forma, cybersecurity plan, etc.?**

The BCORD Office will be releasing guidance information regarding the (next phase) BEAD Application in the forthcoming *BEAD Application Guide*. This will be shared once available.

BCORD foresees Public Funded Areas (PFAs) to be broken down by tract areas and would need the following information. There are a total of 17 PFAs. For each PFA you are bidding on, you must submit the following:

- BSL List: If you're not bidding for all Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) in a PFA, submit a separate CSV file listing only the BSLs you are bidding for.
- Narrative: Describe where your selected BSLs are located. Include any villages, roads, landmarks, or local references to help identify the area.
- Scope of Work: Outline the work you'll do in the PFA (e.g., construction, installation, services to be provided).
- Itemized Budget: Provide a detailed budget for this PFA. Include cost breakdowns and justifications for each expense.

Note: If you're using different technologies or costs in different areas, submit a separate narrative and budget for each.

Documents for the Full Proposal (All PFAs) that cover the entire project:

- Financial Pro Forma
- Cybersecurity Plan
- Sustainability Plan
- Project Resources and Budget
- And more, as detailed in the ASBroadbandiNEI\_IPV2 (pp. 15-17).

More detailed instructions and templates will be provided in our forthcoming BEAD Application Guide but can also be found in the ASBroadbandiNEI\_IPV2 (pp. 17).

## **16. How much of the application requirements can be submitted as a coverall? What is going to be itemized for each project area?**

The BEAD Pre-Qualification Application documentations are a coverall such as the certifications, financial statements, letters of credit, etc. These are to be submitted during the Pre-Qualification Phase as needed to ensure capacity to implement proposed projects.



Requirements such as sustainability and cybersecurity plans can be submitted as a coverall for all proposed project areas. More detailed instructions and templates will be provided in the forthcoming BEAD Application Guide.

### **17. Can the same narrative be used for different project areas?**

Yes, only if the proposed project areas have the same cost and other relevant information. If you end up having several project areas with different narratives, specify which BSLs/ project areas are covered under a certain narrative. If you are planning to not have all the BSLs in that PFA, please specify which villages or specific BSLs. Listing BSLs is encouraged in case a BSL point overlaps in two different PFAs.

Yes, you may use the same narrative for different project areas, if you are foreseeing each location to have similar projects. Please note not to use specific information that will differ in each PFA, like location details, villages, etc.

### **18. How can a proposal receive high scores?**

Please refer to the rubric in the Initial Proposal Volume 2. The rubric explains more details on how an application can earn high scores.

### **19. Are there any templates that BCORD can provide for the full application phase?**

The BCORD Office will be releasing guidance information regarding BEAD Application, in the forthcoming BEAD Application Guide. This will be shared once available.

### **20. Will each project area require a separate Letter of Credit (or equivalent), or will it be sufficient to provide a single Letter of Credit for the total project?**

A single LOC for the entire proposed project is sufficient, as long as the LOC will cover at least 25% of the total proposed cost.

### **21. Will the Pre-Qualification Application deadline be extended?**

The BCORD Office has released an Official Public Notice of the extension to the Pre-Qualification Application Deadline to June 30, 2025.

### **22. Is there a cost-matching for deployment projects?**

Yes, there is a minimum matching requirement of 25%.





See Section III.B of the [BEAD NOFO](#) for more information pertaining to the cost sharing requirements for this Program.

## **23. Is there a waiver to cover local cost matching requirements?**

There is a new extended BABA Waiver for Pacific Island Territories ([Link](#)).

## **24. Are applicants able to specify the priorities of their deployment projects if submitting more than one (e.g. An applicant has 4 proposed projects.)?**

The AS Broadband iNEI IPVol2 states that projects will be prioritized as follows:

- #1 Deploying and/or upgrading internet in connection in unserved or an underserved locations;
- #2 Deploying and/or upgrading internet to an eligible community anchor institution;
- #3 Non-deployment projects address digital equity barriers (separate from infrastructure build-out).

Note: In light of the recent NTIA policy changes, funding for allowable non-deployment purposes is under review and NTIA will issue updated guidance in the future. As of the date of Policy Notice (June 6, 2025), NTIA rescinds approval of all nondeployment activities approved in Initial Proposals.

During the review stage of Deployment applications, BCORD will align proposed projects to the scoring rubric and BEAD funding priorities (copies of the current scoring rubric is on our website).

## **25. Are any parts of the pre-qualification affected by the Restructuring Policy Notice (RPN)?**

The RPN strikes out several sections of the original scoring rubric in which we are currently updating on right now. This does not change any of the pre-qualification sections. However, applicants are able to submit prequalification documents packaging with the application if the prequalification submission period was missed. Additional details will be provided in the forthcoming Scoring Rubric and Scoring Narrative.

## **26. How will the funds be disbursed amongst the different technologies proposing projects?**



As mandated by NTIA, all broadband technologies will be considered for deployment projects. BCORD will evaluate proposals based on cost-effectiveness and alignment with the Broadband Serviceable Location (BSL) data. Additional details will be provided in the forthcoming Scoring Rubric and Scoring Narrative.

## **27. What is the status of workforce development? Is it rescinded under non-deployment?**

BCORD alongside other Pacific Island Territories planned for additional workforce development under non-deployment. Those workforce plans have been rescinded according to RPN. However, BEAD deployment applicants can still propose workforce development plans (training, recertification, etc.) for deployment projects.

## **28. Does ASDOC have a preference for technology preference?**

ASDOC BCORD follows NTIA RPN allowing the chance for all technologies.

## **29. If two proposals are different types of projects, how would that be scored? E.g. if a proposal is to upgrade the network to faster speeds, and other bids to update fleets, two very different types of projects, will they be scored by category or total cost.**

As required by IIJA, Eligible Entities shall give priority to proposals that meet the definition of a "Priority Broadband Project". If an Eligible Entity determines that no proposal meets the definition of a Priority Broadband Project, then it may select a non-priority broadband project that meets the speed and latency requirements of the statute and NOFO.38 (BEAD Restructuring Notice p .9).

## **30. To be a collaborator in the application, does that person have to register on the portal?**

Yes, all new users will need to be a registered SimpliGov user to collaborate on an application. Links to register are on the [broadband.as.gov](https://broadband.as.gov) website.





### **31. If an applicant is applying for multiple PFAs do they need to complete multiple project cost templates? Or, can project costs for multiple PFAs be included in one project cost template?**

Yes, multiple PFAs can be listed in one project cost template. An applicant can gather all information for each BSL location and include it in the overall template, covering the full project.

In addition, if a different technology is proposed per PFA, then a separate budget must be submitted per PFA for those projects.

If an applicant is looking into servicing CAIs, this must be separated from the BSLs budget as they are not of the same priority and will be assessed separately.

### **32. If applying for multiple PFAs should multiple technical designs/diagrams/shapefiles and timelines be submitted as well (particularized on a PFA basis)? Or will one file encompassing all PFAs be sufficient?**

Shapefiles/ diagrams/ technical designs are required for each location. They can be submitted in one file if it encompasses the entire project or separately if an applicant wishes to do so. Just as long as they fall in line with the narrative(s) and the overall scope of work.

If you are having issues uploading your shapefiles, contact our office.

### **33. What is the Benefit of the Bargain (BoB) round? Is it part of the application round?**

In general, the "Benefit of the Bargain Round" as mandated in the RPN is at a minimum subgrantee selection round for every BEAD-eligible location. However, for territories such as American Samoa, the BEAD deployment application phase is only now being conducted. Therefore, the BoB round is the application round.

### **34. Once pre-qual is completed and we are given the clear, can we then move forward with the application?**

Yes; however, following the release of the RPN, applications are still open to every applicant regardless of pre-qual status. Pre-qual documents will still have to be submitted and packaged with the application for those who missed the pre-qualification period.



**35. If we are bidding on multiple PFAs, do we need to complete a Project Funded Area Selection Tool for each PFA and upload each separate file in #56 of our application under the respective census tract? Or, are we able to complete one Project Funded Area Selection Tool with all of the PFAs we are bidding on and upload this same file for each census tract in #56 our application?**

Yes, you are able to complete one Project Funded Area Selection Tool and upload the same for each census tract to fulfill the portal requirement.

**36. Per the guidance in the 7.17.2025 Office Hours presentation, it appears that we can submit one Project Cost Template to cover all of the PFAs we are bidding on, and we would upload that file for #66a in the application. Can you please confirm that's correct?**

Yes, the Project Cost Template should include all planned costs for your proposed project.