IBO

BEAD PRE-QUALIFICATION

IN BEAD Subgrantee Pre-Qualification Webinar

August 19, 2024

Agenda

Overview & Timeline

Accessing the Portal & Registration

Overview of Each Section

Review & Submit

Revisions

Next Steps

Resources

Q&A

Subgrantee Pre-Qualification Overview

The pre-qualification phase is designed to assess and confirm that all prospective subgrantees possess the technical expertise, experience, and financial stability required to deliver reliable, high-speed service effectively if awarded funding by the BEAD program.

- All prospective subgrantees must complete a pre-qualification application if they intend to participate in *any* round of BEAD subgrantee selection

- Participating in pre-qualification is *non-binding*. ISPs do not have to participate in any rounds of subgrantee selection after getting pre-qualified.

Estimated BEAD Timeline

March - July
Challenge Process

August 26th - September 27th
Subgrantee Pre-Qualification

IBO posts lists of Round 1 eligible addresses

Approx. Mid-October
Round 1 of Subgrantee Selection begins

Pre-Qualification Portal

- The IBO is using the Ready.net portal for pre-qualification and all rounds of subgrantee selection

  - All materials must be submitted through this portal

- The pre-qualification portal will be accessible starting on **August 26 at 9 AM EST**

- Indiana's Pre-Qualification application will be available at: https://apply.connectingindiana.com

Registration

- All organizations must re-register for the Ready.net portal to participate in prequalification
    - You **will not** be able to use your previous registration to access the pre-qualification portal.
    - You **can** use the same email address when you re-register.
- Please have the primary contact for your organization register your organization
    - Multiple users can be added to the same organization and can work on all pre-qualification sections simultaneously
- Registration will be accessible from ConnectingIndiana.com starting August 26th at 9 AM EST
- Registrations will be approved within 1 business day. You will receive an email confirming access to the portal once approved.

Registration

About You

* **Organization Name**

Organization Name

* **Organization Website**

https:// | Organization Website

* **Primary Contact Name**

Primary Contact Name

* **Primary Contact Email**

Primary Contact Email

Primary Contact Number

Primary Contact Number

Indiana Bidder Registration Number

Bidder Registration Number

☐ I do not have an IN Bidder Registration #, but have started the registration process.

Next

Organizational Information

* **Please confirm which provider you are. If your name is not on this list, please select other.**

* **Please type your IRS Employee Identification Number (EIN)**

12-3456789

* **FCC Registration Number (FRN)**

FCC Registration Number (FRN)

* **Address Line 1**

Address Line 2

* **City**

* **State**

* **Zip**

Back   Finish

Main Dashboard

Indiana Broadband TEST

- HOME >
- CHALLENGE >
- APPLY FOR BEAD >
- SETTINGS >

Logout

Home

🎉 BEAD pre-qualification process is now open!
You can submit your pre-qualification application.

Pre-Qualification

Pre-qualification process is required to become an eligible BEAD applicant.

Start

Organization Profile ✓ Completed

As a first step of the application process, please build your company profile, which will be reused across all broadband grant applications.

Start

Team

YOUR TEAMMATES

1 See All

👤 Invite Teammates

Summary

APPLICATION SUBMITTED

0

APPLICATION IN PROGRESS

0

Resources

Main Dashboard

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APPLICATION IN PROGRESS

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CHALLENGE

APPLY FOR BEAD

Pre-Qualification

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Pre-Qualification Application

Pre-Qualification

✓ 1. Financial › ✓ 2. Managerial › ✓ **3. Compliance With Laws** › 4. Operational Capability › 5. Ownership › 6. Labor Laws And Protection ···

Compliance With Laws

* 5. All prospective subgrantees must demonstrate their planned compliance with applicable Federal, State, and local laws. Please certify your capability to carry out any BEAD Program deployments competently and in compliance with all applicable laws.

❓ Instructions

Vol 2 page 44, NOFO page 74

https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/BEAD%20NOFO.pdf

◉ Yes   ○ No

❓ INSTRUCTIONS
For more information about these certifications, please review page 74 of the BEAD Notice of Funding.

* 6. Please upload a legal opinion and any other relevant documentation that shows your capability to carry out BEAD deployment competently and in compliance with all applicable laws.

❓ Instructions

Click or drag file to this area to upload
Support for a single or bulk upload.

Save Application   ← Back   Next →

Progress is shown across the top of the screen. Users can jump between sections without completing them.

Pre-Qualification Application

Pre-Qualification

✅ 1. Financial > ✅ 2. Managerial > ✅ **3. Compliance With Laws** > 4. Operational Capability > 5. Ownership > 6. Labor Laws And Protection ···

Compliance With Laws

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❓ Instructions

Vol 2 page 44, NOFO page 74
https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/BEAD%20NOFO.pdf

🔵 Yes   ⚪ No

*6. Please upload a legal opinion and any other relevant documentation that shows your capability to carry out BEAD deployment competently and in compliance with all applicable laws.
❓ Instructions

> Click or drag file to this area to upload
> Support for a single or bulk upload.

❓ **INSTRUCTIONS**
For more information about these certifications, please review page 74 of the BEAD Notice of Funding.

Utilize the "Save" functionality whenever you upload documentation or finish a section. This allows multiple users to work on the same application.

Save Application   ← Back   Next →

Financial Section

Letter of Credit Certification

- During each round of subgrantee selection, prospective subgrantees are required to submit one of the following in an appropriate amount:
  - Letter of Credit from a bank
  - Letter of Credit from a credit union
  - Letter of commitment to issue a performance bond
- During pre-qualification, applicants will certify their understanding of these requirements and commit to uploading appropriate documentation during selection rounds.
  - Certification via checkbox.

Financial Statements

- Applicants must upload audited financial statements from the prior fiscal year.
- If an applicant does not have audited financial statements, they can upload unaudited financial statements and commit to submitting audited statements by the end of November.

Managerial Section

Pre-Qualification

Managerial

* 3. Per NTIA requirements, the Indiana Broadband Office must gather information about each prospective subgrantee's managerial capabilities. Please upload resumes for all key management personnel and organization charts detailing all parents, subsidiaries, and affiliates of your organization.
ⓘ Instructions

Vol 2 page 42, NOFO pages 73-74
https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/BEAD%20NOFO.pdf

> Click or drag file to this area to upload
> Support for a single or bulk upload.

ⓘ **INSTRUCTIONS**
For more information about these requirements, please review pages 42 of the BEAD Notice of Funding.

Your documentation should be detailed and show that your organizations has key personnel with the necessary, relevant experience for executing on BEAD projects.

* 4. Please submit a narrative describing your organization's readiness to manage a broadband services network.
ⓘ Instructions

> Click or drag file to this area to upload
> Support for a single or bulk upload.

Instructions and links to resources, such as the NOFO or other NTIA Guidance, are available on all questions.

Save Application   ← Back   Next →

Managerial Section

Resumes and Organization Charts

- Required to upload the following:
  - Resumes for all key management personnel in the organization. These resumes should be detailed and show necessary, relevant experience for completing BEAD projects.
  - Organizations chart(s) that shows the relationships between your organization and all parents, subsidiaries, or affiliates.

Readiness Narrative

- This narrative should be a single document that describes your organization's readiness to manage a broadband services network.
- This narrative can take many formats, but consider including information like:
  - Experience taking on projects of similar size and scope to what you may undertake in BEAD
  - Details about skills acquisition through merger or acquisition
  - Organizational policies that set you up for success with BEAD

Compliance with Laws

Certifications

1. Prospective subgrantees must certify, via checkbox, that they are capable of carrying out any BEAD deployment competently and in compliance with all applicable laws.

2. Prospective subgrantees must certify, via checkbox, they will comply with occupational safety and health requirements, including allowing workers to create work-led health and safety committees and ensuring management will meet with any health and safety committees periodically and upon reasonable request.

Legal Opinion

- This document should show your ability to carry out BEAD deployment competently and in compliance with all applicable laws.
- The document must include:
  - Details on any past violations or pending court proceedings that contradict your ability to comply with applicable laws.
  - A clear identification of the key management personnel who will be responsible for all aspects of legal compliance.
- This document can also provide details about organizational processes or procedures that will help ensure compliance.

Operational Capability

All prospective subgrantees must submit:
- The number of consecutive years your organization has provided internet service
- The number of consecutive years your organization has provided internet service in Indiana
- Current number of internet subscribers in Indiana

Applicants will then select the option that most closely aligns with their organization:
1. Has provided voice or broadband service for at least two consecutive years.
2. Subsidiary of a parent company that has provided voice or broadband service for at least two consecutive years.
3. Has only provided electronic transmission/distribution services previously.
4. New entrant to the market with less than 2 years providing voice or broadband service.

Operational Capability

Selection	Requirements
Has provided voice or broadband service for at least two consecutive years.	• Certify that you have filed timely Commission Forms 477s and Broadband DATA Act submissions. • If no, you must upload documentation explaining these failures to comply.
Subsidiary of a parent company that has provided voice or broadband service for at least two consecutive years.	• Same certification as above. • Upload a document detailing your parent company's number of years in service.
Has only provided electronic transmission/distribution services previously.	• Upload qualified operating or financial reports that have been filed with the relevant financial institution.
New entrant to the market with less than 2 years providing voice or broadband service	• Upload a document that provides evidence demonstrating that your newly formed entity has sufficient operational capabilities to perform BEAD deployment.

Ownership Section

All prospective subgrantees must provide a detailed disclosure of ownership and related companies. It must:

- Include a detailed ownership chart showcasing direct and indirect stakeholders

- Detail a list of associated FCC-regulated entities and clear explanations of relationships between the entities

- Be compliant with all requirements set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations Title 47 § 1.2112(a)(1)- (7)

  - More info here: https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-47/chapter-I/subchapter-A/part-1/subpart-Q/subject-group-ECFR7e6f5a3219dc9cd/section-1.2112

Labor Laws and Protection

Past Compliance

- Upload one or several documents that include:
  - Information about the entities' compliance with federal labor and employment laws on broadband deployment projects in the last three years;
  - A certification from an Officer/Director-level employee (or equivalent) showing evidence consistent with past compliance with federal labor and employment laws, as well as all contractors and subcontractors;
  - Written confirmation disclosing any instances in which you or your contractors or subcontractors have been found to have violated laws such as the Occupational Safety and Health Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, or any other applicable labor and employment laws for the preceding three years.

INCLUDED IN SUBGRANTEE SELECTION SCORING

Future Compliance

- Upload one or several documents that detail your plans for continuing to be in compliance with federal labor and employment laws. This documentation should include:
  - How your organizations will ensure compliance across itself, contractors, and subcontractors;
  - Information on applicable wage scales and overtime payments practices for each class of employee expected to be involved in the physical construction of BEAD projects; and
  - How your organization will ensure the implementation of workplace safety committees that are authorized to raise health and safety concerns in connection with the delivery of deployment projects.

INCLUDED IN SUBGRANTEE SELECTION SCORING

Other Public Funding

- In this section, prospective subgrantees must upload information about all their current broadband deployment projects using public funds, any projects that have been applied for, or projects the organization is planning to submit.
- Prospective subgrantees only need to include projects using public funds that are taking place in Indiana.
- **For each project, applicants must submit:**
  - The speed and latency of the broadband service to be provided
  - The geographic area to be covered
  - The number of unserved and underserved locations committed to serve
  - The amount of public funding to be used
  - The cost of service to the consumer
  - The matching commitment, if any, provided by you or your affiliates.

Be sure to include any projects funded by ARPA dollars, RDOF, CAF, NextLevel Connections, and the Indiana Connectivity Program.

Build America, Buy America

- Prospective subgrantees are required to certify, via checkbox, that they have read, understand, and agree to abide by all programmatic Build America, Buy America requirements.

Resources:
BEAD NOFO Pages 31-32
https://www.ntia.gov/build-america-buy-america-act
https://www.commerce.gov/oam/build-america-buy-america

Environmental Historic Preservation

- Prospective subgrantees are required to certify, via checkbox, that they have read, understand, and agree to abide by all programmatic Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation requirements.

Resources:
BEAD NOFO Pages 31-32
https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2022-12/EHP_Fact_Sheet_2022.pdf

Cybersecurity

Prospective subgrantees must attest, via checkbox, that they:

1. Have a cybersecurity risk management plan that is either operationalized or ready to be operationalized upon providing service;

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. That the plan will be submitted to the Indiana Broadband Office prior to the allocation of funds. If the subgrantee makes any substantive changes to the plan, a new version will be submitted to the IBO within 30 days.

Supply Chain Risk Management

Prospective subgrantees must attest, via checkbox, that they:

1. Have a SCRM plan in place that is either: (a) operational, if the prospective subgrantee is already providing service at the time of the grant; or (b) ready to be operationalized, if the prospective subgrantee is not yet providing service at the time of 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 Indiana Broadband Office prior to the allocation of funds. If the subgrantee makes any substantive changes to the plan, a new version will be submitted to the IBO within 30 days. The IBO must provide a subgrantee's plan to NTIA upon NTIA's request.

Low-Cost Plan Certification

- Prospective subgrantees are required to certify, via checkbox, that they will:
  1. Participate in the Affordable Connectivity Program or any successor program
  2. In the absence of either ACP or a successor program, adopt the low-cost plan outlined by Indiana in its Initial Proposal Volume 2

Resources:
Approved Volume 2 pages 74-76
https://www.in.gov/indianabroadband/files/IndianaApprovedVolume2.pdf

Review & Submit

Pre-Qualification

Review And Submit   **Download PDF**

Financial

Financial	>
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Compliance With Laws	
Operational Capability	
Ownership	
Labor Laws And Protection	
Other Public Funding	
BABA	
EHP	
Cybersecurity	
Supply Chain Risk Management	
Low Cost Plan Certification	

Letter Of Credit   **View Section >**

* 1. During each round of subgrantee selection, all prospective subgrantees must provide a letter of credit or, under certain circumstances, a letter guaranteeing a performance bond. Please certify that you have read and understand the letter of credit and letter of credit waiver requirements and will submit the appropriate documentation during each round of subgrantee selection.
Vol 2 pages 40-41, NOFO pages 72-73, Letter of Credit Waiver
https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/BEAD%20NOFO.pdf

○ Letter of credit from bank that meets eligibility requirements
○ Letter of credit from a credit union
● Letter committing to issue performance bond

1a. Please upload your letter from a company holding a certificate of authority committing to a issue a performance bond.

Applicants will have a chance to review their answers before submitting.

There is also a "Download PDF" button that can be used to document your responses.

Save Application   **← Back**   **Submit Prequalification →**

Review & Submit

Pre-Qualification

Review And Submit

Download PDF

Financial

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Ownership	
Labor Laws And Protection	
Other Public Funding	
BABA	
EHP	
Cybersecurity	
Supply Chain Risk Management	
Low Cost Plan Certification	

Letter Of Credit

View Section >

* 1. During each round of subgrantee selection, all prospective subgrantees must provide a letter of credit or, under certain circumstances, a letter guaranteeing a performance bond. Please certify that you have read and understand the letter of credit and letter of credit waiver requirements and will submit the appropriate documentation during each round of subgrantee selection.

Vol 2 pages 40-41, NOFO pages 72-73, Letter of Credit Waiver

https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/BEAD%20NOFO.pdf

○ Letter of credit from bank that meets eligibility requirements
○ Letter of credit from a credit union
● Letter committing to issue performance bond

1a. Please upload your letter from a company holding a certificate of authority committing to a issue a performance bond.

Save Application   ← Back   **Submit Prequalification →**

Attestation

Attestation ✕

Please complete the required attestation verifying the validity of your grant application

☑ I certify that I have the legal authority to submit this application on behalf of Challenge – Test Account

☑ I certify that all information submitted in this application is true and correct and understand that intentionally submitting false or misleading information will result in rejection of the application if discovered in the application phase of the grant program. If false information is used to obtain a grant, it could result in civil and criminal investigation, fines, penalties, and criminal prosecution.

[Back] [Submit →]

You must complete the final attestation for your pre-qualification application to be submitted.

Revisions

- The IBO will review all applications on a rolling basis throughout and after the pre-qualification window

- During the review process, reviewers will make note of any revisions that are needed on each section of the application

- Prospective subgrantees will receive all revision notes at once. All members of the organization will be notified via email, and revision notes can be seen in the portal.

- **Subgrantees have 5 *calendar* days to revise their application once notified**

Resources

Indiana's Approved Volume 2

- https://www.in.gov/indianabroadband/files/IndianaApprovedVolume2.pdf
- Pre-qualification-specific information: pages 31-32, 40-42, 47-49, 50-51, 56, 72-76, 82-83

Indiana's Subgrantee Pre-Qualification Guide

- https://www.in.gov/indianabroadband/files/Website-Pre-Q-Guidance-Doc-2.0.pdf
- Provides an outline of all information required of subgrantees in the pre-qualification portal

IBO 1:1 Meetings

The Indiana Broadband Office will be offering several time slots for any prospective subgrantees that want to have dedicated time to meet with the IBO.

Please click the link below to request a 20-minute meeting slot:

https://calendly.com/d/cpp6-m5n-89j/indiana-bead-subgrantee-one-one-meeting?month=2024-08

The IBO is always reachable for questions at: IndianaBroadband@iot.in.gov