BEAD Pre-Qualification Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: When does the pre-qualification portal open?
A: The pre-qualification portal opened on August 26th at 9 am EST and closes on September 27th at 11:59 pm EST. The link to register can be found at connectingindiana.com/register/bead

Q: How can I set up a time to meet with the IBO for an individual meeting?
A: The IBO has allotted 30-minute time slots throughout the pre-qualification period for individual providers to have a 1:1 meeting with the IBO, if needed. To sign up for a time slot, please select all the times you are available to meet via this Calendly link. From there, the IBO will schedule a meeting time.

Q: Will the IBO provide a sample Legal Opinion Letter?
A: The IBO will not be providing a sample legal opinion letter. Instead, the IBO has provided guidelines for Opinion Letters that can be found in Appendix B of the Indiana BEAD Pre-Qualification Application Guide.

Q: Will the IBO provide a sample Letter of Credit?
A: Yes. The IBO has a sample Letter of Credit available in Appendix A of the Indiana BEAD Pre-Qualification Application Guide.

Q: If a prospective subgrantee does not complete the pre-qualification round, does that disqualify them for applying for BEAD funding?
A: Yes, all prospective subgrantees must complete the pre-qualification round to participate in the BEAD subgrantee selection rounds. Participating in this round is non-binding, but it is a required step in the BEAD application process. Please complete pre-qualification if you are unsure about your participation or intend to only participate in the later rounds of subgrantee selection. This is your only opportunity to pre-qualify.

Q: Can an applicant associate other users (e.g., consultants) with their organization?
A: Yes. Once the IBO accepts your registration, you may add other team members to your organization from the main dashboard in the Ready.net portal. You will click "Invite Teammate" to do so. If you need assistance, contact the IBO directly.

Q: Can any of the information submitted in the portal be treated as confidential?
A: Per federal law, the IBO may not disclose confidential or sensitive personal or business information created or obtained in connection with the BEAD Program. ISPs should designate which confidential financial information they wish to exclude from disclosure in the case of a public records request. The IBO will review to determine if

the information provided is exempt from relevant disclosure laws. Should a public records request be received, the IBO will internally redact confidential information.

Q: Is participating in Affordable Connectivity Program (or a successor program)/offering a low-cost plan to customers required to be considered for BEAD funding?
A: Yes. Per NTIA requirements, subgrantees must participate in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), its successor program, or offer a low-cost broadband plan in alignment with each state's requirements. Indiana's low-cost plan is outlined on pages 74 and 75 of [Indiana's Volume 2](#).

Q: How is the BEAD Program different from Next Level Connections (NLC)?
A: While some aspects of the BEAD Program may seem similar to the state-supported NextLevel Connection Program, these are two completely different programs with unique requirements.

The IBO encourages all prospective subgrantees to review the BEAD-specific guidance on pre-qualification and subgrantee selection that is available.

Specifically, the IBO has received several questions about subgrantee selection and whether BEAD includes a competitive application round or the opportunity to update a bid. These are application components unique to only NextLevel Connections. BEAD has no competitive application round, and applicants cannot revise projects once submitted. As you look forward to subgrantee selection, you should ensure that your projects are as complete and competitive as possible, as you only have one chance to submit.