



BEAD Subgrantee Selection Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: When does the subgrantee application portal open?

A: Round 1 of subgrantee selection opens on December 30th at 9 am EST and closes on February 12th at 11:59 pm EST. Future rounds will be announced as soon as possible.

Q: Can we still submit a project application if my organization did not apply and get approval during the pre-qualification process?

A: No. Eligible applicants for subgrantee selection must have been pre-qualified during the pre-qualification period.

Q: How long will the subgrantee application portal be open for the first round?

A: The applicant period will be forty-five (45) calendar days for the first round.

Q: How will applicants select the project areas they want to bid on?

A: Prior to the subgrantee selection portal opening, the IBO posted the list of [eligible BEAD addresses](#) on their website so providers could view eligible locations and begin to create project areas. In round one, all applicants can select the Census Blocks (CB) they want to bid on in the Ready.net portal. CBs can be selected by clicking on a map, via searching for the CB ID number, or by uploading a .csv or .xlsx list of CBs.

Q: What is the Extremely High-Cost Threshold, and how will it be used during subgrantee selection?

A: The Extremely High-Cost Threshold, or EHCT, is a calculation that helps states determine when it is most cost-effective to utilize another technology instead of fiber. When reaching a location is more expensive than the EHCT, then the IBO can award non-fiber technologies over fiber technology. The IBO will set the EHCT after the first round of subgrantee selection so that the threshold uses the most current data.

Q: How will applications be scored?

A: All scoring details are outlined in [Indiana's Volume 2](#), the [Subgrantee Selection Guidance document](#), and the [webinar slides](#) from December 18th. Please reference these materials for information on application scoring.

Q: Can ISPs submit more than one application during a round of subgrantee selection?

A: Yes. All pre-qualified ISPs may submit multiple applications during a given round of subgrantee selection. There is no limit to how many applications an ISP can submit.

Q: When will awards be announced?

A: Awards will be *preliminarily* announced to participating ISPs shortly after the application round has closed. Due to NTIA guidance, the IBO is not permitted to publicly announce awards all rounds of subgrantee selections have completed and the IBO meets with NTIA personnel.

Q: How many rounds of subgrantee selection will there be? Can applicants participate in multiple rounds?



A: The IBO plans to host up to three (3) rounds of subgrantee selection, the first round being forty-five (45) calendar days long. The subsequent two rounds will be shorter. ISPs may participate in multiple rounds of bidding. Depending on the outcome of earlier rounds, the IBO may opt for only two rounds of subgrantee selection.

Q: How can I set up a time to meet with the IBO for an individual meeting?

A: The IBO can meet with pre-qualified ISPs during Round 1 of the subgrantee selection process to answer any questions. If you would like to set up a time to meet, please email the IBO directly at IndianaBroadband@iot.in.gov and someone from the IBO will contact you to schedule a meeting time.

[The remaining questions were asked during Subgrantee Webinars \(December 18th and 19th 2024\):](#)

Q: When will today's slides be available for participants to review?

A: Webinar slides have been posted on the IBO's website. The link to the slides can be found [here](#).

Q: Will the IBO provide a date deadline for pre-application expense recovery if awarded BEAD funding? For example, are ISPs able to start contracting for design and engineering, permitting, and purchasing equipment, at their own risk, but allowed to recover these necessary expenses if awarded?

A: The IBO will discuss this question internally. The IBO plans to use fixed-amount subawards wherever possible but may also use reimbursable subawards where needed. ISPs can start contracting, at their own risk, for engineering, permitting, etc. As a general matter, written approval by the IBO will be required for provisionally selected subgrantees to charge pre-subgrant costs. Only those costs that would have been allowed if incurred after the start date of the subgrant and are necessary for the efficient timely performance of the project may be reimbursed. Provisionally selected subgrantees should consult 2 CFR 200.458 if they plan to incur pre-subgrant costs, including pre-subgrant costs associated with equipment and materials, right of way and pole attachments, and environmental review.

Q: Can the letters of support come from local Economic Development directors?

A: Unfortunately, letters of support are only permitted to be written the following list of local government officials outlined in Indiana's Volume 2: County Commissioners, County Council members, Auditors, Mayors, and City Council members.

Q: Can some requirements be submitted at the ISP level, not the project level? In other words, will the risk management plans have to be uploaded with each project area?

A: The portal does not support reusing the same content from the ISP across multiple applications. ISPs should upload their risk management plans for each project they submit (if not completed during the pre-qualification phase).



Q: Are the cybersecurity and risk management plan requirements still the same as communicated before with NIST compliance?

A: The NTIA has specific requirements for cybersecurity and risk management plans. These specific requirements are outlined on pages 70-71 of the [BEAD Notice of Funding Opportunity](#). ISPs who wish to speak to the IBO about these requirements may do so by emailing indiana.broadband@iot.in.gov to schedule a meeting.

Q: In Round 1, are project areas based on contiguous “Census Block Groups” or “Census Blocks”? Page 29 of the Volume 2 states Census Block Groups, while Page 32 of the Volume 2 states Census Blocks. Can we include census block/census block groups that do not have eligible locations (e.g., to make an area contiguous)?

A: Applicants will select Census Blocks, not Census Block Groups. Census Block Groups is an error on page 29 in Indiana’s Volume 2. Applicants may select non-eligible locations, up to 20% of their total locations. This can include selecting a census block with no eligible locations to connect two other CBs and make them contiguous.

Q: On the topic of Davis Bacon Prevailing wage details. What is the process for a county’s wage determination? Is this necessary if the labor force is not unionized? Is one required for each county work where work is performed? What is the timeline to complete this?

A: There is no requirement from the NTIA or from the IBO for applicants to adhere to Davis-Bacon or prevailing wages. For non-unionized workers, the NTIA requires applicants to provide the wage they are paid. However, it does not have to be the prevailing wage. Providers are encouraged to consult with their legal advisors if they have questions regarding how Davis-Bacon may impact their projects.

Q: ReConnect is allowing one of our staff engineers (who is not a certified professional engineer) to sign off on documents instead of a PE. If I gave you the USDA's approval notes, would BEAD allow this? Since we don't have a PE on staff.

A: The NTIA and the BEAD Notice of Funding Opportunity explicitly require certified professional engineers to certify documents.

Q: Will there be a curing process for application documentation like the pre-registration phase?

A: There will be consistent communication from the IBO during the application process, including potential curing for ISPs who submit projects early, if IBO capacity exists. There will not be an opportunity for curing for applicants who submit materials right at the deadline.

Q: For existing or future construction assets to be considered in the matching portion of the subgrantee, what are the criteria to be accepted?

A: Typically, existing infrastructure does not count as a part of the matching portion for the subgrant. The NTIA has guidance on in-kind matches, which can be found [here](#).



Q: I'm confused about how served locations can be included in a project area. They aren't eligible for funding, so why are they relevant?

A: The NTIA and the BEAD Notice of Funding Opportunity allow for up to 20% of a project area to be ineligible locations. Please see page 36 of the [BEAD NOFO](#).

Q: Will the IBO be holding weekly office hours so as we digest all of this material applicants have the ability to ask questions?

A: The IBO will not hold weekly office hours. However, ISPs who wish to ask questions may email the IBO directly at IndianaBroadband@iot.in.gov to pose questions via email or schedule a time to meet with the IBO's team.

Q: To be clear applicants won't be told what the Extremely High-Cost Threshold (EHCT), correct?

A: The IBO will set the EHCT after round 1 awards are preliminarily awarded. Once this threshold is set, the IBO will announce it to all ISPs to help inform their subsequent bid requests.

Q: Are the Cybersecurity plan and Supply Risk management plan due upon the submission of Round 1 or before IBO submits to NTIA?

A: Cybersecurity and Supply Chain Risk Management plans are required to be uploaded as part of the application. There is a spot in the portal for applicants to upload their risk management plans if they did not do so in the pre-qualification round.

Q: How are letters of support scores calculated for projects that span multiple census blocks? For example, how many points would an applicant receive if they got basic letters from 2 of the 4 CBs in a project?

A: Applicant should only receive one letter of support per project area, regardless of the size of the project area. Project areas with multiple letters of support will not receive additional points – only one letter will be scored.

Q: Is a legal opinion letter also required if an applicant is choosing the Letter of Credit option?

A: The legal opinion letter is not required during the subgrantee selection process. It will only be needed for participants who are awarded BEAD funds. The IBO will request a legal opinion letter from awarded applicants as part of the process when finalizing the subgrant agreement.

Q: If the IBO requires the submission of Cyber and SCRM plans with the application, what protections will the IBO have in place to ensure that these sensitive documents are protected? Has there been any consideration for only asking for Cyber or SCRM plans from those selected for preliminary awards to limit the amount of exposure?

A: The NTIA requires that all applicants must submit Cybersecurity and Supply Chain Risk Management Plans during the application (or pre-qualification) round(s). The IBO's software vendor, Ready.net, has a publicly available and published security and data privacy policy shared with all their customers. This policy is standard, compliant, and aligns with industry best practices for data security and privacy. Ready.net can make this policy available through the IBO upon request.



Q: Will the NTIA-approved locations be available before the opening of Round 1?

A: Yes, the NTIA-approved locations list and map were made available to ISPs on December 20, 2024. The address list can be found [here](#).

Q: Do applicants need to provide a letter of credit or performance bond at the time that the application is submitted, or is a letter from an eligible bank committing to issue a letter of credit sufficient?

A: Applicants may provide a letter of credit during the application round. However, the minimum requirement, as outlined in Volume 2 and the BEAD Notice of Funding, is to submit a letter from a bank that meets all eligibility requirements committing to issue an irrevocable standby letter of credit, in the required form, to the prospective subgrantee. If a commitment letter is received during the application round, then subgrantees must provide the actual letter of credit before the subgrant agreement can be finalized. Please see pages 72-73 of the BEAD NOFO for more information.