



BEAD FAQs

Answers are provided in this document for the reference of all subgrantee applicants; questions have been condensed, consolidated, and edited for clarity.

Prequalification Phase

1. Our company would like to register for a WBC Salesforce account for approval by WBC before beginning the application, but when I accessed the site to submit my request, I get an error message. Can you confirm if you received the registration request?

The Pre-qualification portal will begin accepting new users on August 15, 2024. You will be able to create an account at that time.

2. Will (or is,) there a way to set up under one account, multiple users for the BEAD application page?

The portal allows for two users per subgrant applicant entity, a Primary Contact and an Alternative Contact. If the Authorized Certifying Official is not the Primary Contact, you must also add their name and contact information. An entity with an active account can update the Primary Contact, Alternative Contact, and Authorized Certifying Official contact information at any time.

3. Our cybersecurity plan was prepared based on the BEAD NOFO and is based on NIST 1.1. Will that be accepted by Wyoming, or do we need to draft a new version based on NIST 2.0?

According to the BEAD Notice of Funding Opportunity requirement (IV.C.2.c.vi) that subgrantee applicant's cybersecurity risk management plan "reflects the latest version of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity and the standards and controls set forth in Executive Order 14028."

Because the latest version (v2.0) of the NIST cybersecurity framework was released less than six months ago, WBO will provisionally accept cybersecurity risk management plans based on the NIST framework version 1.1 with your prequalification application. You must, however, include in your application information about your cybersecurity plan review cycle and a planned date within this cycle to update your cybersecurity plan to NIST 2.0. When you update your cybersecurity plan to NIST 2.0, please upload the new plan to the portal.

4. Is there a way for companies to merge profiles if the former grant employee no longer works for the business? Can WBO add a second user to the profile if the business does not have access?

Yes, WBO can merge profiles or provide login credentials to the subgrantee applicant. Subgrantee applicants should reach out to broadbandoffice@wyo.gov if they require this technical support.

5. Outside the portal, do you have an application template with the questions?

No, there is not a blank application template. However, please see the [Prequalification Application Guide](#) which provides detailed guidance for each question in the application.

6. Do we need to prove citizenship as part of the Ownership portion or just listing them?

In the Ownership Information Template upload required in the application, for each person or entity with ownership in the subgrantee applicant, you will need to list the name, address, country of citizenship or, if an entity, the jurisdiction of formation, and percent of ownership, whether direct or indirect, held in the subgrantee applicant. You do not need to provide documentation of citizenship with the application.

7. For section 3.3, Past Performance and Other Public Funding, do you want a list of projects specific to grants applied for/received/constructed in Wyoming or do we need to supply a nationwide list?

In the Other Public Funding template, please provide information for all broadband deployment projects for which the applicant received public funding in Wyoming and/or nationally. For projects outside of Wyoming, provide information by Geographic Area, which should include details such as County name or applicable census blocks.

8. For the State Registration requirement for the BEAD preapplication, will a Certificate of Good Standing from the Secretary of State be sufficient, or do we need to supply our annual report?

A Certificate of Good Standing from the Wyoming Secretary of State is sufficient. Please see <https://wyobiz.wyo.gov/Business/ViewCertificate.aspx> to verify and validate a Certificate of Good Standing.

9. If an entity submits an application that uses a blend of fiber and fixed wireless solutions, would that application be scored as a non-priority application?

Yes. Only projects that are end-to-end fiber will be considered “priority broadband projects.” As defined by the BEAD Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) on p. 14, “The term “Priority Broadband Project” means a project that will provision service via end-to-end fiber-optic facilities to each end-user premises. An Eligible Entity may disqualify any project that might otherwise qualify as a Priority Broadband Project from Priority Broadband Project status, with the approval of the Assistant Secretary, on the basis that the location surpasses the Eligible Entity’s Extremely High Cost Per Location Threshold (as described in Section IV.B.7 below), or for other valid reasons subject to approval by the Assistant Secretary.” Wyoming’s Initial Proposal Volume II further explains the scoring and prioritization of such projects on pages 51-61.

10. In the Profile section Tax and Employment, it asks for EIN, employer ID #. What information are you trying to capture in the Full- Time; Part-Time; Contractors portion of this question?

Please provide the EIN for the company for which you are applying. Completing the fields for Full-Time, Part-Time, and Contractors are not required for this application.

11. For Section 4, my understanding is that we only need to submit the 4-8-no-conflict document if we cannot certify. We certified, so the document should not be required. However, our Section 4 documents continue to show as not completed. The only document we haven't uploaded is 4-8-no-conflict so that must be the issue. If that document is required, can you provide a template?

You may be experiencing a glitch in the portal. To address this, upload a blank document using the correct file naming convention. When reviewing submission materials, WBO will know to disregard the blank document if you certified the statement.

12. Section 4.8, "No Conflict," is looking for a certification on statements 1-6. What file do we need to upload here, in addition to our certification check box?

The document is only required if you cannot certify.

13. As an applicant, can I review the items uploaded after they have been uploaded? How can I double check this? How do I replace or delete something I have already uploaded?

To review the uploaded documents, please use Step 3 – Document Management. Replacing or deleting files can be done in Step 3. After clicking on Step 3, select Manage Files. The drop-down menu next to each file name will provide the option to edit/delete uploaded files as needed.

14. Regarding the naming requirements for the attached documents, are we able to add our company name or other text behind the required format?

Yes. We recommend using an underscore (_) or dash (-) to separate any additional language from the required portion of the file name.

15. Do we need to supply a Letter of Credit Certification during the Prequalification Stage?

No. We want applicants to be aware of the requirement for the application phase so they can begin working with their financial institution to meet the Letter of Credit or Performance Bond requirement.

16. Must I complete the entire application before I can manage documents? I am unable to access doc management until everything is completed... is that intended?

Responses are required to see the documents management portion in Step 3. Step 3 is a validation step, so it requires application completion to a certain degree. However, you can edit these responses as needed before submitting your prequalification application.

17. Question 3.5A asks applicants to provide a list of relevant business, technical, and management certifications and licenses held by staff and the organization that are relevant for the deployment of broadband infrastructure. Would you please provide some clarification on what WBO is looking for? There are many certifications and licenses held by the staff and it is not always easy to determine which ones are relevant to broadband deployment.

The BEAD NOFO does not require or list specific certifications or licenses. We recommend subgrantee applicants list licenses and certifications they consider relevant to broadband deployment based on their best judgment and industry experience.

18. Section 3.5B states: “Certify that subgrantee applicant has training programs, hiring and retention processes, and employee resources in place to ensure proper certifications and employ appropriately skilled and credentialed workforce necessary to successfully complete a BEAD funded program, including but not limited to a chief technology officer, project engineer, and contractor oversight team with appropriate skills and certifications.” This statement appears to require subgrantee applicants have on staff with the title chief technology officer (“including but not limited to”). Please provide specific reference to statute or programmatic rules with this requirement. Otherwise, please clarify.

Please see page 47 of the Wyoming Initial Proposal Volume II under “Technical capability” and Section 2.4.13.1 “Using an Appropriately Skilled Workforce” on page 74: “During the pre-qualification round, as part of the submission outlined in Section 2.4.12.1, subgrantee applicants should include the resumes of their organization’s Chief Technology Officer, project engineer, and, if the subgrantee anticipates using a contracted workforce for any part of their proposed project, the relevant management personnel who will be responsible for overseeing any contracted labor or other organizations.”

19. I see the submission deadline is 9/14, which is a Saturday – is that correct, so applications will be accepted on that day? And, is there a time by which they must be submitted – say, 11:59p MST?

Applications must be submitted by 11:59 pm, Mountain Standard Time, on September 14, 2024.

20. Can you confirm that financial information such as financial statements will be submitted confidentially, and if not, can you provide guidance as to how to submit a request for confidentiality?

You may request that information in your application be considered business proprietary, which depends on the state's FOIA laws.

21. Do we need to submit separate prequalification applications for each of our affiliates within the state that may apply for a project?

If an affiliate intends to apply individually, it will need to submit its own prequalification application. Conversely, If affiliates wish to apply under the parent corporation, the parent corporation could submit one prequalification application and multiple main round project applications but, in that case, only one entity would be awarded funds.