



# WY BEAD PROGRAM UPDATES

PREQUALIFICATION & BENEFIT OF THE BARGAIN ROUND

July 2025

# INTRODUCTION



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# **PROGRAM CHANGES**

# PROGRAM CHANGES



## Policy Notice Impacts to WBO's Subgrantee Selection Process:

### Elimination of Non-Statutory Requirements

- Removal/Alteration of application questions pertaining to:
  - Labor, Employment, and Workforce Development
  - Climate Resiliency
  - Open Access and Net Neutrality
  - Local Coordination and Stakeholder Engagement
  - Non-Traditional Broadband Providers
  - Middle-Class Affordability Plan
  - Low-Cost Service Option

### Optimization of BEAD Locations

- Update to Wyoming's BEAD-eligible BSLs encompassing:
  - Indication of BSL that have been reported as served BDC Map fabric v6
  - Omission of BSL served by ULFW meeting BEAD program performance requirements specified by the NTIA
  - Omission of BSL that have been removed from BDC Map fabric v6 or have a federally enforceable commitment.

### Technology Neutrality

- Inclusion of an additional subgrantee selection round "Benefit of the Bargain Round" encompassing:
  - Revised Priority Broadband definition based on "performance" not "technology type"
  - Revised scoring rubric that prioritizes cost above other factors

# PROGRAM CHANGES



## New Timeline for Program Completion:

### NTIA Policy Notice Issued on June 6, 2025

- All Eligible Entities are given a 90-day window to complete their program (September 4, 2025)
- Prior to opening subgrantee selection All Eligible Entities must have completed the following:
  - Updated the BEAD-eligible BSL list (*including the results of the 14+ day ULFW process*)
  - Received approval of the IP correction letter from NTIA
  - Rescinded all preliminary awards
- NTIA requires a 7-day public notice period prior to the submission of WBO's Final Proposal

# **ELIMINATION OF NON-STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS**

# NON-STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS



## WBO's BEAD program changes:

- **Labor, Employment, and Workforce for Development Requirements**
  - Fair labor practices and highly skilled workforce
  - Advancing equitable workforce development and job quality objectives
  - Civil rights and nondiscrimination law compliance
  - Contracting with small and minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms
  - Related Initial Proposal and Final Proposal requirements and corresponding reporting requirements are also eliminated
- **Climate Change Requirements**
  - Climate resilience
  - Related Initial Proposal and Final Proposal requirements and corresponding reporting requirements are also eliminated
- **Open Access/Net Neutrality**
  - Consumer protections
  - Interconnection requirements and wholesale data
  - Conduit access points

# NON-STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS (CONT.)



## WBO's BEAD program changes:

- **Local Coordination and Stakeholder Engagement**
  - Local coordination
  - Public notice
  - Related Initial Proposal and Final Proposal requirements and corresponding reporting requirements are also eliminated
- **Non-Traditional Broadband Providers**
  - Consider all provide types
  - Related Initial Proposal and Final Proposal requirements and corresponding reporting requirements are also eliminated
- **Middle Class Affordability Plan**
- **Low-Cost Service Option**
  - Affordability and low-cost plans
  - Related Initial Proposal and Final Proposal requirements and corresponding reporting requirements are also eliminated



# **PREQUALIFICATION ROUND**

# WBO BEAD PREQUALIFICATION PROCESS



The Prequalification Round will open on July 11, 2025.

- Applicants that have already prequalified have no actions UNLESS they want to reopen their application to update responses to eliminated questions
- WBO to reopen the Prequalification portal (Salesforce) to allow new entrants to submit applications
- WBO has published a revised [Prequalification Application Guide](#) to provide instructions on the [WBO BEAD website](#)

Prequalification Round	Date
Window opens	July 11, 2025
Window closes	July 20, 2025

# PREQUALIFICATION QUESTIONS CHANGES



## Changes resulting from the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice

### Q2.1 (2.1, 2.1Ai, 2.1A, 2.1B, 2.1C) – LEO satellite providers only

- Financial statement questions are no longer required for LEO satellite providers. A LEO satellite provider may choose to upload a statement in response to question 2.1C indicating that it intends to provide a financial certification letter from NTIA in lieu of audited financial statements.

Questions eliminated as a requirement from the Prequalification Application (all providers)

3.5A	4.5	5.1A1	5.1C1	5.1C4
3.6	4.5B	5.1A2	5.1C2	5.2
3.6A	5.1	5.1B1	5.1C3	6.3

Please refer to the guide for instructions on responding to these questions to bypass the portal’s required response configuration.

# PREQUALIFICATION QUESTIONS



## Guidance on submitting “null” answers for previously required questions

### **Instructions for answering these questions in the Prequalification portal**

Because WBO’s [Prequalification portal](#) requires a response to all questions, applicants must answer these questions, but WBO will not consider those answers in its review. Please enter the following “null” responses to the questions identified above:

- If it is a yes or no response, answer either yes or no
- If it is a narrative response, answer “N/A”
- If it is numeric response, answer “1”
- If it is a drop-down response, select any option
- If it is a certification checkbox, select the checkbox
- If it is a file upload response, upload a blank document following the required file naming convention

Again, these null responses are solely to meet the portal’s requirement for an answer. WBO will not consider these answers in its review, because these questions have been eliminated in compliance with NTIA’s Policy Notice.

# **BENEFIT OF THE BARGAIN ROUND: PRIORITY PROJECTS**

# PRIORITY BROADBAND PROJECTS



The Policy Notice restored ‘Priority Broadband Project’ to the IIJA definition:

- The term “Priority Broadband Project” means a project that provides broadband service at speeds of no less than 100 megabits per second for downloads and 20 megabits per second for uploads, has a latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds, and can easily scale speeds over time to meet the evolving connectivity needs of households and businesses and support the deployment of 5G, successor wireless technologies, and other advance services.

The Policy Notice also requires a revised approach to identifying priority broadband projects:

- BEAD applications will be evaluated against the “priority broadband” definition on a per project basis, not on a specific technology type.

# PRIORITY PROJECT EVALUATION



## WBO's BEAD program changes:

- WBO will be allowed to process and assign 'Priority' applications before assessing 'Non-priority' applications
- For each submitted application, applicants will be able to identify if their submission is a 'Priority project'
- For each application submitted as a priority project:
  - Applicants will be required to answer a series of project performance questions
  - WBO will validate the provided information to ensure the project qualifies as a priority project
- Key performance criteria such as capacity and scalability will be assessed
- Project area criteria such as location density and geography will be included in the analysis
- The questions will be included as part of the benefit of the bargain round application submission

# EXCESSIVE COSTS



## WY BEAD: Project Cost Threshold

Average:  $\leq$  \$25,000 / BSL

### NTIA BEAD Restricting Policy Notice :

- As Eligible Entities conduct further rounds of subgrantee selection to comply with this Notice, they must prioritize Priority Broadband Projects over Non-Priority Broadband Projects. If an Eligible Entity determines that selecting a Priority Broadband Project would incur excessive costs, it shall select a lower cost Non-Priority Broadband Project.
- If an Eligible Entity determines that selecting a Priority Broadband Project would incur excessive costs, it shall select a lower cost Non-Priority Broadband Project.
- NTIA declines to adopt a national cost threshold over which a project would be deemed excessive. However, NTIA hereby reserves the right to reject any proposed deployment project or specific BSL connection for which costs to deploy are excessive



# NEW TECHNICAL TEMPLATES



Subgrantee applicants proposing a Priority application must complete and submit templates for each technology type employed in the proposed project

- Templates and instruction manuals have been published to the WBO BEAD website
- Subgrantee applicants should refer to the updated Application Guide for guidance on submitting the technical templates in Section 4 of the Bargain Round Application

Subgrantee applicants who are not proposing a Priority application are not required to submit the new technical templates.

- Subgrantee applicants should follow the instructions in the updated Application Guide

# PRIORITY TEMPLATE PREVIEW – FIBER



## Preview of the Fiber Priority Technical Template

Fiber-to-the-Premises (FTTP) Networks		
2: Access Layer (CPE to OLT)		
2.1	Describe the access layer FTTP technology that will be used (e.g., GPON, XGS-PON, Active Ethernet). Include the reasoning for this selection based on the density and characteristics of the project area.	
2.2	Describe the OLT configuration, including the number of PON segments per chassis and how the segments are distributed across the chassis.	
2.3	Describe the proposed PON size, including the maximum split ratio, the number of serviceable passings per PON, and the anticipated number of subscribers per OLT port at service activation.	

# SCORING RUBRIC

# SCORING RUBRIC CHANGES PER NTIA



NTIA requires a revised scoring rubric to be implemented in the Bargain Round

- Minimal BEAD Outlay is the primary factor in ranking applications
- Secondary scoring is only relevant if the project grant request is within 15% of the lowest cost proposal in same general project area

## Primary Criteria

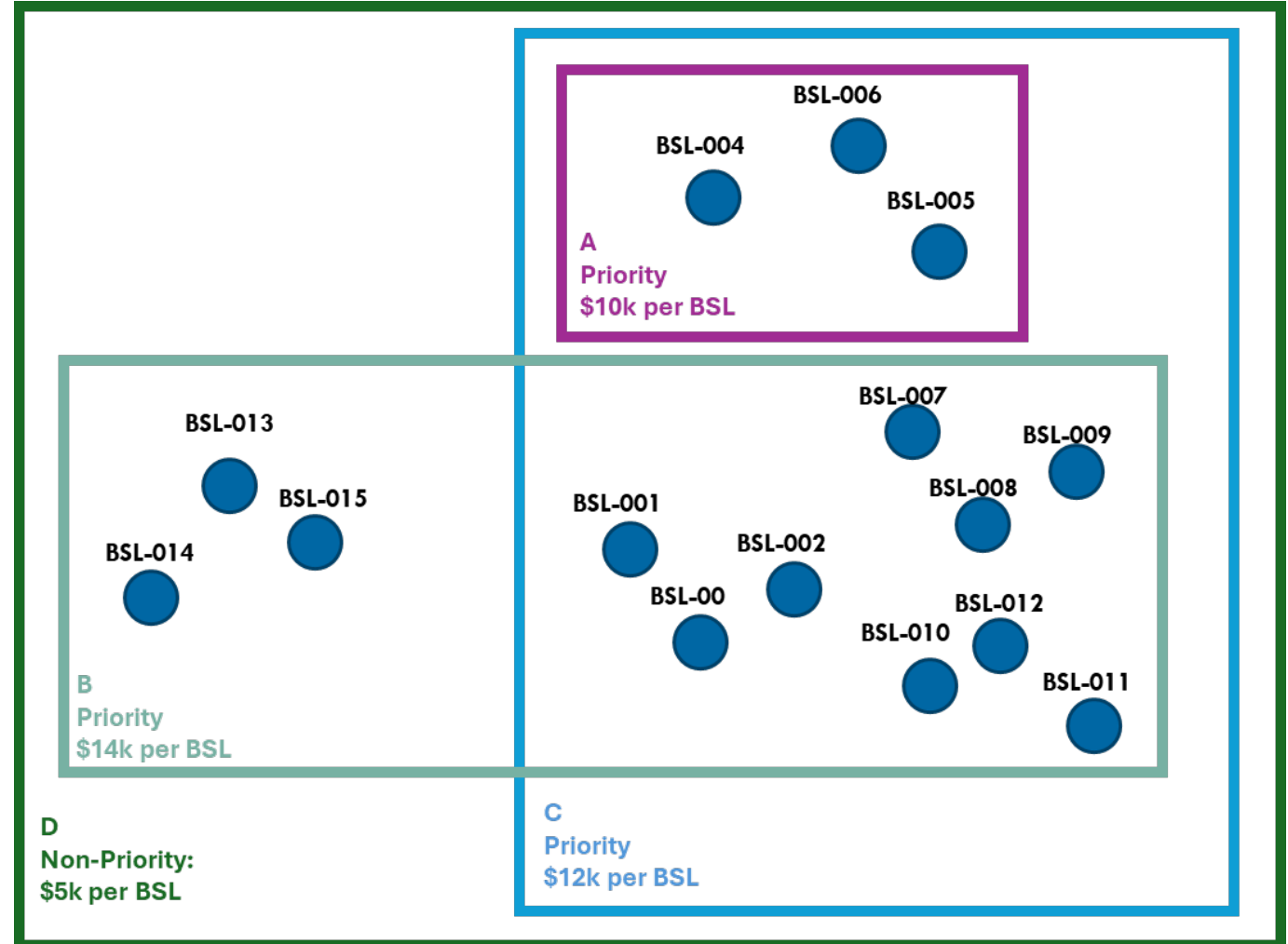
- Total grant requested amount
- Per location grant request cost

## Secondary Criteria

- Preliminary subgrantees
- Speed of network and other technical capabilities
- Speed to deployment

# SCORING: PRIMARY CRITERIA

- Calculation:  $(\$ \text{ Total BEAD outlay}) / (\# \text{ of BSLs committed to serve in project})$   
= BEAD funding cost per passing
- Where multiple projects overlap, the secondary scoring criteria can be utilized if the projects are within 15% of the lowest cost project for that general area.
- Eligible Entity must select the combination of project proposals with the lowest overall cost to the Program



# SCORING: SECONDARY CRITERIA

ONLY used if an overlapping project is within 15% of the lowest cost project



- Potential points: 100

## Preliminarily Selected

50 points

- 50 points awarded if applicant had previously been preliminarily selected by WBO for this project area
- No points if applicant was not previously preliminarily selected

## Speed of Network

50 points

- Points awarded based on network speed claims
- See next slide for point breakdown based on network speeds

# SCORING: NETWORK SPEED

ONLY used if an overlapping project is within 15% of the lowest cost project



- Potential points: 50
- Applicants will now submit a response for network speed in Q3.7

Answer option	Download	Upload	Points
A	$\geq 2$ Gbps	$\geq 2$ Gbps	50
B	$\geq 1$ Gbps and $< 2$ Gbps	$\geq 1$ Gbps and $< 2$ Gbps	40
C	$\geq 500$ Mbps and $< 1$ Gbps	$\geq 500$ Mbps and $< 1$ Gbps	30
D	$\geq 100$ Mbps and $< 500$ Mbps	$\geq 100$ Mbps and $< 500$ Mbps	20
E	$\geq 100$ Mbps	$> 50$ Mbps and $< 100$ Mbps	10
F	$> 100$ Mbps	$< 50$ Mbps	0

# **BENEFIT OF THE BARGAIN ROUND: PROJECT AREAS**



# PROJECT AREAS – UPDATED

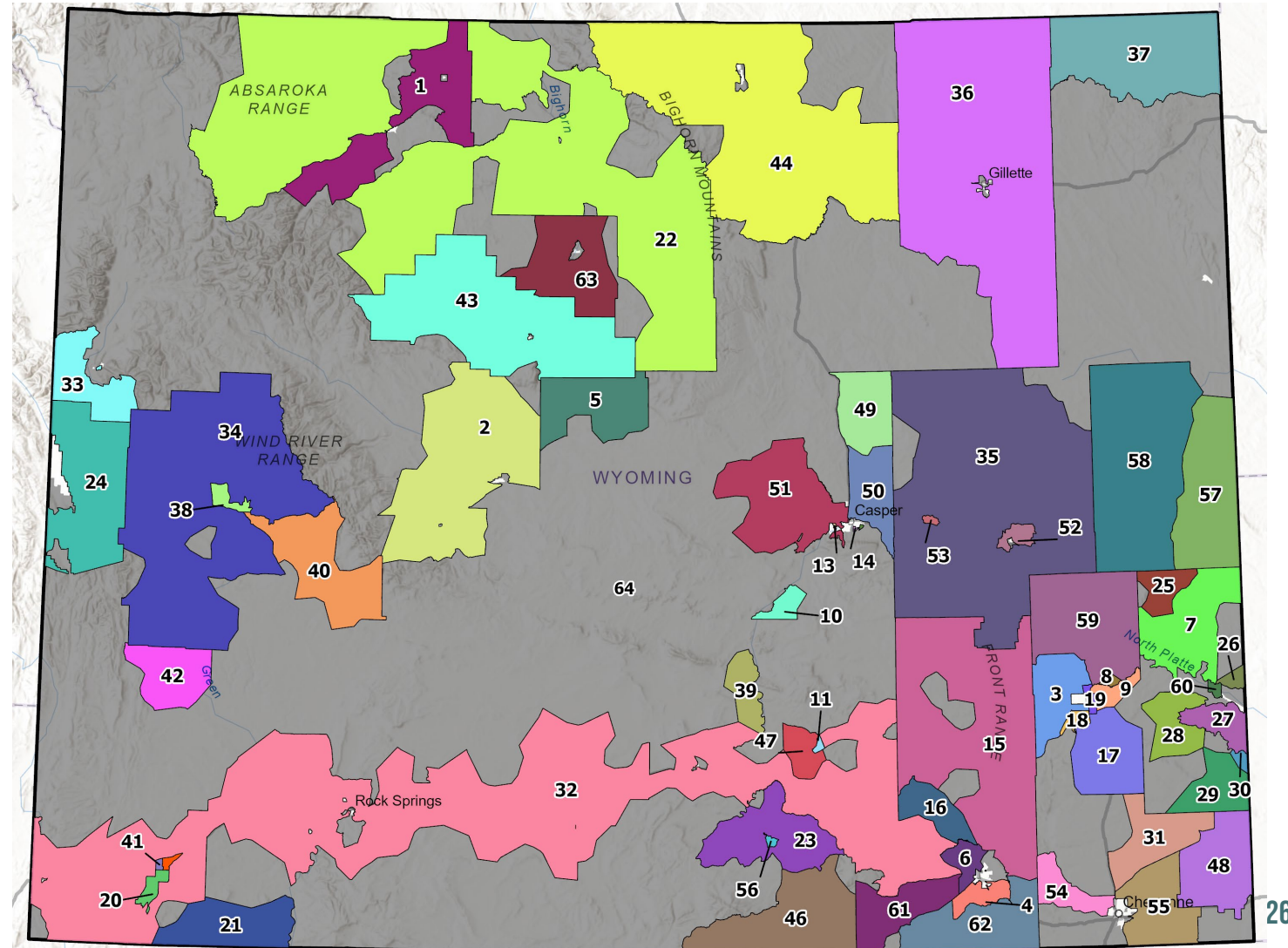


WBO has revised the boundaries of the project areas to align with previously preliminarily selected proposals

- The revised project areas allows Wyoming to comply with NTIA's 90-day program deadline by leveraging the state's previous BEAD work
- Subgrantee applicants can only include a maximum of one (1) project area per application submission
- Wyoming's Bargain Round has 64 project areas

# PROJECT AREAS MAP

- This map is a visual representation of the project areas; BoB project areas are defined down to the individual BSL
- Detailed map resources and corresponding Project Area Location Lists are published on the website as a zip file
- Optimization of BEAD Locations:
  - No BSL added via federal default
  - Substantiated ULFW identified
  - NTIA reason code 3 or 4 "omitted"
  - BDC v6 serviceability "indicated"



# PROJECT AREA LOCATION LIST



Updated BSL list for 64 Project Areas will capture BSL-level data for proposed projects

Project Area ID	PAU ID	BSL ID	BEAD Status	Reason Code	Explanation	Served by Application	Technology Code	Anticipated Upload Speed	Anticipated Download Speed	Low Latency
1	56029965301L0	1289162306	Omit	Omit - NTIA reason code 4	CPF	FALSE				
1	56029965301L0	1289162308	Omit	Omit - NTIA reason code 4	CPF	FALSE				
1	56029965301L0	1289162311	Omit	Omit - NTIA reason code 4	CPF	FALSE				
1	56029965301L0	1289162325	Omit	Omit - NTIA reason code 4	CPF	FALSE				

NTIA Ineligible or non BSL Reason Code	Non BSL Code	Location Type	Evidence Type	FCC Location Challenge ID
			<div>⌵ Selecting Tool</div>	

# MATCH REQUIREMENTS



A minimum match amount of 25% of the total project cost is required\*

*\*Except in certain projects in designated "high-cost areas," as previously identified by the NTIA.*

- The NTIA provided WBO with the Census Block Groups (CBGs) that qualify as high-cost areas (*all BSL in those CBGs and corresponding PAUs are high-cost BSLs*).
- The Project Areas defined in Wyoming's BEAD Bargain Round may encompass more than one CBG (*meaning there may be a combination of regular and high-cost BSL within a specific Project Area*)
- Wyoming has **85 PAUs** that qualify as high-cost per the NTIA, those can be referenced in the posted benchmark spreadsheet.
- Applicants can calculate their required match amount using the following formula:

$$1 - \left( \frac{\text{\# of High-Cost BSL Applied For}}{\text{\# of Total BSL Applied For}} \right) * 25\% = \text{Match \%}$$

# **BENEFIT OF THE BARGAIN ROUND: APPLICATION MATERIALS**

# APPLICATION MATERIALS



WBO has published an updated Application Guide and templates to support subgrantee applicants through the Benefit of the Bargain Round

- Updated materials are available on the [WBO BEAD website](#)
- The “cheat sheets” summarize application changes and requirements to navigate the differences for Priority and Non-Priority projects
- [The Project Area Locations List](#) (BSL list) is available on the [WBO BEAD](#) website as a zip file

Templates and Samples	Data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Addendum Template</li><li>• <a href="#">Bargain Round Application Submission Cheat Sheet</a></li><li>• BEAD Contract Template</li><li>• BEAD Attachment A</li><li>• LOC &amp; Waiver</li><li>• Network Diagram Attestation</li><li>• Priority Technical Templates (.zip file)</li><li>• Project Timeline Template</li><li>• Pro Forma Template</li><li>• Project Costs Sample</li><li>• Project Costs Template</li><li>• Logical Network Diagram Sample</li><li>• Fixed Wireless Design Template</li><li>• Satellite Design Template</li><li>• Professional Engineer Certification Template</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Benchmark Spreadsheet</li><li>• Connect WY ARPA/CPF Additional Awarded Locations 12/17/24</li><li>• Project Area Locations List</li><li>• Project Area Boundaries Map</li><li>• Wyoming BEAD CAIs</li></ul>

# “CHEAT SHEET”

Applicants may reference this document as a simplified guide to differentiate the requirements for Priority vs. Non-Priority projects

Wyoming: Benefit of the Bargain Application Adjustments Cheat Sheet –  
Non-Priority Projects

Q #	Response	Q #	Response
1.1	Required – updated	4.2	Required – updated
1.2	Required – updated	4.3	Required
1.3	Required	4.3A	Required/Null depending on technology
1.4	Required – updated	4.3B	Required/Null depending on technology
1.5	Required	4.4	Required
2.1	Required	4.5	Required
2.2	Required	4.6	Required
2.3	Required	4.7	Required
2.3A	Required	4.7A	Required
2.3B, 2.3B1	Required	4.7B	Required
2.3C	Required	4.7C	Null
2.3D	Required	4.7D	Required
2.4	Required	4.7E	Required
2.4A	Required	4.7F	Required
2.4B	Required	5.1 – 5.10A	Required if applicable
2.5	Required	5.11	Required
2.6	Required	5.12	Required
2.7	Required	6.1	Required
2.8	Required	6.1A	Required if applicable - updated
2.9	Null	6.2	Required if applicable
2.10	Null	6.2A	Required if applicable
2.11	Null	6.3	Required

# PORTAL RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS



The Application Guide provides instructions for answering questions to comply with the updated program structure

- Applicants should carefully review instructions to provide sufficient responses for required questions and navigate updated requirements
- Applicants must indicate to WBO whether the proposed project should be classified as “Priority” or “Non-Priority” (Q1.1)
- Previously submitted applications must change the Project Type to “Alternative Technology” regardless of technology type (Q1.2)
- File naming – file names must still follow previous requirements even if the document is different
- BEAD funding request – response to Q2.2 should reflect the funding request (total cost minus match)



# BENEFIT OF THE BARGAIN TIMELINE



The Benefit of the Bargain Round will open on July 11, 2025.

- Applicants that have already submitted applications may revise submissions to comply with new requirements and submit updated materials
- WBO will “unlock” all previously submitted applications
- Applicants may also submit new applications and follow the updated guidance
- WBO has published a revised Application Guide to provide instructions on the [WBO BEAD website](#)
- Applicants are encouraged to have application questions asked/answered by Friday July 18<sup>th</sup>

Bargain Round	Date
Window opens	July 11, 2025
Window closes	July 20, 2025

# QUESTIONS



<https://broadband.wyomingbusiness.org/bead/bead/>



[broadbandoffice@wyo.gov](mailto:broadbandoffice@wyo.gov)