

**Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program FAQs**

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

**Question:** **Why is the state requiring applicants to submit detailed information about the capabilities of their proposed networks?**

**Answer:** The NTIA’s [BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice](https://www.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/bead-restructuring-policy-notice.pdf) requires that states determine on a project-by-project basis whether the proposed network meets the statutory definition of a Priority project.

The Policy Notice states: “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 advanced services” (Policy Notice, p. 9).

According to the Policy Notice: “Applicants must provide supporting documentation sufficient for the [state] to assess the network application and determine that the proposed network architecture for each specific project area meets this standard” (Policy Notice, p. 9).

As a result, the state is obligated to conduct a full and rigorous analysis of each proposed application that seeks to be considered as a Priority project to determine whether the proposed network meets the definition. The data requested are intended to enable the state to conduct this analysis on a data-driven basis applied equally to all applications.

**Question: Why are the data requirements for describing our proposed networks so extensive?**

**Answer:** The data requirements are designed to enable the state to comply with the federal requirement established in the Policy Notice (“Applicants must provide supporting documentation sufficient for the [state] to assess the network application and determine that the proposed network architecture for each specific project area meets this standard” (p. 9)) while being as low burden as possible for applicants.

The data requested are elements that an applicant would use (regardless of the type of technology it proposes) to develop a conceptual-level design sufficient to submit a grant application and to determine the grant amount requested. Much of the data requested, including on a BSL-by-BSL basis, can be copied and pasted from typical modeling tools that are used to design a network for the purpose of submitting a grant application.

The data requested represent a necessary element of the state’s consideration of all grant applications. Applications submitted without sufficient data to analyze whether a proposed project meets the definition of a Priority Broadband Project will not be treated as Priority in the project selection process, in compliance with the federal requirement that states conduct this analysis.

**Question: Is the high-cost threshold calculated by location or as an average by Project Area?**

**Answer:** It is calculated as an average of the Project Area.

**Question: If an applicant submitted a Priority application previously, will an update be required?**

**Answer:** Yes, all applications previously submitted will require updates based on new requirements in the NTIA’s [Policy Notice](https://www.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/bead-restructuring-policy-notice.pdf). Applicants should reference WBO’s updated Application Guide (version 2.0) to understand how to update applications to align with the new program requirements. Applicants who want to identify their projects as “Priority” must update their response to Q1.1 and submit the relevant Priority technical templates.

**Question: Will information from prior applications be auto-populated in the portal?**

**Answer:** If applicants are revising previously submitted materials, their prior uploads and responses will be saved within the application. If applicants are starting new applications, responses from other previously submitted applications will not be auto-populated.

**Question: For existing applications, will a prior PE certification for network design need additional review for unchanged elements based on new submission requirements?**

**Answer:** No, if a network design is unchanged, the PE certification does not need to be updated.

**Question: If a provider includes a free-space optical (FSO) middle-mile segment in their application, should they use the Fixed Wireless design template and complete any applicable fields to document the technical data for this wireless optical technology?**

**Answer:** Middle-mile segments, regardless of technology, must be reflected in the logical network diagram and in the responses to any questions requiring backhaul details or narrative. Applications identified as “Priority” in Q1.1 should include the middle-mile segments in the logical network diagrams submitted with the Priority technical templates. Applications identified as “Non-Priority” in Q1.1 should also include the middle-mile segments in the logical network diagrams and should follow the Application Guide’s instructions on submitting technical materials.

**Question: Will an irrevocable standby letter of credit (ILOC) be required with specific amounts for each application?**

**Answer:** Subgrantee applicants are not required to submit the ILOC with the application. Applicants are required to submit documentation confirming the commitment to provide an ILOC) or a performance bond. Please see the guidance for Q6.2 in the Application Guide. The documentation should sufficiently demonstrate the subgrantee applicant’s ability to provide WBO with the ILOC or performance bond should the applicant be awarded.

**Question: Can performance bonds be submitted after the filing deadline?**

**Answer:** Yes, performance bonds can be submitted after the application deadline, as long as the subgrantee applicant submits the bond to WBO before the subaward contract is signed. For the purpose of meeting the application deadline, a subgrantee applicant may submit a letter from a company holding a certificate of authority as an acceptable surety on federal bonds as identified in the Department of Treasury Circular 570 (see [Department of Treasury Circular 570](https://www.fiscal.treasury.gov/surety-bonds/circular-570.html)) committing to issue a performance bond to the prospective subgrantee.

**Question: Why does the “Instructions” tab for the Project Area Location List have “Reason Code 6” for the “Omitted locations for BSLs removed from the latest fabric” reason?**

**Answer:** The instructions should say “NTIA Reason Code 3” instead of “NTIA Reason Code 6.”