



INTERNET FOR ALL WISCONSIN

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Grant Program

Preliminary Subgrant Application Questions

Release Date: 12/9/2024

Version 1.0

Overview

The Wisconsin Broadband Office (WBO) is in the process of finalizing the BEAD grant application portal. This document is a preliminary draft of the questions that will be included in the application portal and is intended to assist eligible applicants begin their BEAD application preparations. While the questions outlined here are *preliminary*, the WBO expects questions will remain largely the same, but the final content and organization may be updated as the portal is completed.

Eligible applicants who have been approved through the [Letter of Intent process](#) will submit applications through a dedicated closed portal created for the BEAD sub-granting process. Eligible applicants will not be using the PSC's Grants System at this stage of the process.

The WBO will provide forthcoming detailed technical instructions for using the portal. In conjunction with our contractor, the WBO will provide in-person training and conduct a mock application round for eligible applicants before the official sub-granting process begins.

For additional questions about these preliminary BEAD application questions or the BEAD program generally, please visit the [BEAD Process webpage](#) or email WBO BEAD staff: PSCBEADGrants@wisconsin.gov

Timeline

Date	Event
1/6/2025	All materials available to approved applicants
1/7/2025	<i>Optional</i> In-person training for approved applicants (limit 2 participants per applicant) Training location Wausau, WI
1/8/2025 – 1/10/2025	<i>Optional</i> Mock BEAD Grant Round 1 for practice
1/13/2025	BEAD Grant Round 1 Opens
2/25/2025 at 11:59 p.m. CT	BEAD Grant Round 1 Applications Due

Preliminary Application Questions

1. Project Name

Tool tip: Enter the name of the project for reference throughout the bidding process. Each application must have a unique name.

2. Project Description

- a. Brief 1-2 sentence description of the application's proposed project

3. Changes to Letter of Intent

- a. Has the applicant had any relevant or substantial changes to any information submitted during the letter of intent process? (Yes/No)

Tool Tip: A relevant or substantial change would include changes in ownership, key personnel, additional default or released locations from enforceable funding commitments, or any change that impacts the operational, managerial, financial, or technical capacity of the applicant. If "yes" the applicant must reach out to the WBO by emailing PSCBEADGrants@wisconsin.gov and coordinate making updates to the LOI prior to the date that Round 1 closes.

4. Project Unit Selection

- a. Select one or more project units to include in the application,
 - i. Project units in a single project are required to be from no more than four counties, each that shares at least one border with another of the four counties.
 - ii. Note: Each project unit can be included in no more than two projects for each applicant.
 - iii. Note: By selecting a project unit, the applicant is committing to serve all BEAD eligible BSLs identified in the project unit.

Tool tip: Applicant has the option to designate one or more project units as non-separable, which means the applicant will not accept a preliminary award for the application without this/these project units included. Project units not designated as non-separable are considered separable, meaning the applicant would accept a preliminary award if a separable or a group of separable project units were removed during the deconfliction process.

5. Proposed Technology Selection

- a. Select one technology option below for the application:
 - i. Priority: Optical Carrier: Fixed wireline service using end-to-end fiber-optic cable to the premise (FTTP) (Code = 50) for all locations. Applicant commits to providing fiber connectivity to each unit for all MDU locations within the project units selected on this application.

- ii. Non-Priority: Coaxial Cable / HFC: Fixed wireline service using coaxial cable or hybrid fiber-coaxial (e.g., DOCSISx) (Code = 40)
- iii. Non-Priority: Terrestrial fixed wireless: licensed spectrum only (non-FTTP) (Code = 71)
- iv. Non-Priority: Terrestrial fixed wireless: hybrid licensed/unlicensed spectrum (non-FTTP) (Code = 72)
- v. Non-Priority: Copper/DSL. (Codes=10)
- vi. Non-Priority: mixed technology: where the project is a combination of fixed technologies (Code = 0)

6. Non-Priority Technology Speed (only if applicable)

- a. If the applicant has selected a non-priority technology, select the minimum certified speed and maximum latency provided to all eligible locations within the project units:
 - i. 100/20 Mbp, 100 ms max latency
 - ii. 200/20 Mbps, 100 ms max latency
 - iii. 300/30 Mbps, 100 ms max latency
 - iv. 500/50 Mbps, 100 ms max latency

7. Non-Priority Mixed Technology (only if applicable)

- a. For each technology below, enter the number of locations to be served by that technology.
 - i. Fiber (Code=50)
 - ii. Coaxial Cable/HFC (Code=40)
 - iii. Non-Priority: Terrestrial fixed wireless: licensed spectrum only (non-FTTH) (Code = 71)
 - iv. Non-Priority: Terrestrial fixed wireless: hybrid licensed/unlicensed spectrum (non-FTTH) (Code = 72)
 - v. Non-priority: Copper/DSL. (Code =10)

8. UPLOAD: Non-Priority Mixed Technology Locations (only if applicable)

- a. Upload a csv file that lists each BSL ID in the application and the technology and speed proposed for each BSL ID.

9. UPLOAD: Details of the proposed network design, quality, planned performance and resilience use the required template and complete based on technology selected.

- a. For all projects upload a detailed response using the required template that addresses the design of the network deployment including any critical context for the proposed technology and/or design and a resiliency analysis and mitigation plan that includes how the network deployment and its equipment is responsive and resilient to severe weather risks and the climate realities of the deployment area, including plans for redundancy.

- b. For Priority Projects including end-to-end fiber-optic cable to the premise (FTTP) (Code = 50) template includes the following:
 - i. What is the minimum percentage of buried fiber committed to being deployed for the project?
 - ii. What is the maximum percentage of aerial fiber that will be deployed for the project?
 - iii. What are the estimated fiber miles for the proposed project route?
 - iv. What percentage of the proposed fiber project route will deploy underground conduit?
 - v. What is the minimum number of fiber optic strands that will be deployed for this project?

- c. For non-priority projects including licensed fixed wireless: licensed spectrum only or hybrid licensed/unlicensed spectrum (non-FTTP) (Code = 71, 72) template will include the following:
 - i. How many radios and/or base stations will be deployed?
 - ii. What licensed spectrum allocations will be used for the proposed locations to be served by fixed wireless? (select all that apply)
 - 1. 2.5 GHz
 - 2. 3.45 GHz
 - 3. CBRS (3.5 GHz)
 - 4. C-Band (3.7 GHz)
 - 5. Upper-band spectrum (24 GHz, 28 GHz, 37 GHz, 39 GHz and 47 GHz)
 - 6. other (specify): _____
 - iii. What percentage of wireless radios/base stations will be directly backhauled by fiber?
 - iv. What percentage of wireless radios/base stations will be backhauled by a microwave or a millimeter wave connection from another base station/radio?
 - v. On average, how many locations will be served by a single radio/base station?

- d. For non-priority projects including fixed wireline service using coaxial cable or hybrid fiber-coaxial (e.g., DOCSISx) (Code = 40) template will include the following:
 - i. What percentage of the built network technology will be coaxial cable?
 - ii. Estimate the percentage of buried coaxial cable deployed for the project.
 - iii. What percentage of locations within the proposed network will have a last-mile connection using coaxial cable?

- e. For non-priority projects including Copper/DSL (Code = 10)
 - i. Provide a narrative description: why copper is the only reasonable technology solution for this project deployment.

10. UPLOAD: Geospatial Data of Proposed Network Plan

- a. Geospatial data demonstrating the planned wireline route and/or placement of towers and modelled coverage area. The format of your spatial data should be a shapefile or geodatabase with feature classes. Your spatial data must include:
 - i. For wireline projects: the wireline construction route including drops as lines, and a buffered polygon of the coverage of the planned route.
 - ii. For wireless projects: the tower locations as points, with attribute data that includes tower height and radio specifications, and a polygon demonstrating the modelled propagation of the wireless signal.
 - iii. Note for projects with more than one technology code, the geospatial data should indicate which technology is reaching which locations.
 - iv. Note for projects with separable and non-separable unit, the geospatial file should indicate if the unit (or locations) are in a separable or non-separable unit.

Tool Tip: Upload of spatial data depicting project should include project as depicted assuming entire application is awarded, i.e. all proposed separable and non-separable units. A “true up” of spatial data will be conducted after a preliminary award is made to remove any non-awarded separable units from the spatial data.

11. Project Unit Budget

- a. Input the following fields for each project unit in the proposed project:
 - i. BEAD funds requested.
 - ii. Contributed Match Funds, which includes the amount by the applicant, and any other third party or local government contributions to the match.

Tool Tip: For each project unit, the total budget will be displayed after the above fields are completed (BEAD funds requested + Contributed match funds = total budget). Use only whole dollar amounts, no cents.

12. Contributed Match Funds in the Project Application Budget (if applicable)

- a. For the total contributed match funds across all project units in the application, list the third-party source(s) and amount(s).

Tool tip: List any contributed match funds provided by a third party or local government, this should not include funds provided by the applicant. If no third-party funds are committed enter 0.

13. Primary Affordability Commitment

- a. Priority Project Applications (if applicable)
 - i. Applicant agrees to a five-year commitment to offer symmetrical 1 Gbps service for a monthly price of less than or equal to \$165, with no non-standard installation fees, equipment rental, required bundling or other charges to the end user beyond those established in the BEAD grant agreement. (Yes/No)
 - ii. If yes, applicant will enter the price commitment (\$165 or less).
- b. Non-Priority Project Applications (if applicable)
 - i. Applicant agrees to a five-year commitment to offer 100/20 service for a monthly price of less than or equal to \$165, with no non-standard installation fees, equipment rental, required bundling or other charges to the end user.
 - ii. If yes, applicant will enter the price commitment (\$165 or less).

14. Speed of Deployment Commitment

- a. Does the applicant certify, including binding commitments and assumption of contractual liability for non-compliance penalties to deploy and offer broadband services to all eligible locations within their awarded project within 36 months from the execution of grant agreement? (Yes/No)

15. Affordability: Low-Cost plan and middle-class affordability

- a. Priority Project Applications (if applicable)
 - i. Does the applicant agree to a five-year commitment to expand the BEAD required low-cost plan, as described in [Wisconsin's approved Volume 2: requirement 16, pages 81 - 84](#) to all of their eligible subscribers in the state? The five-year period begins when the project is complete. (Yes/No)
 - ii. Does the applicant agree to a five-year commitment to provide 100 Mbps/100 Mbps service at a price point of not more than \$75 per month with no additional costs or fees within the BEAD project? The five-year period begins when the project is complete. (Yes/No)
- b. Non-Priority Project Applications (if applicable)
 - i. Does the applicant agree to a five-year commitment to expand the BEAD required low-cost plan, as described in [Wisconsin's approved Volume 2: requirement 16, pages 81 - 84](#), to all of their eligible subscribers in the state? The five-year period begins when the project is complete. (Yes/No)
 - ii. Does the applicant agree to a five-year commitment to provide 50 Mbps/10 Mbps service at a price point of not more than \$75 per month with no additional costs or fees within the BEAD project? The five-year period begins when the project is complete. (Yes/No)

Tool tip: the questions relating to affordability including expanding the low cost offer and making a five year commitment to a price point of not more \$75 are related to score and not eligibility requirements for BEAD.

16. Priority Projects Only Community Anchor Institution (CAIs) Commitment (if applicable)

- a. Does the applicant agree to commit to connecting all eligible CAIs within or proximate to the project units included on their application without 1 Gig symmetrical service to at least 1 Gig symmetrical service? The cost for this connection may not be included as part of the BEAD funding request. (Yes/No)

Tool tip: Proximate includes CAIs within 0.5 road miles of any location included in the project unit that were identified in the challenge process or are currently CAIs and move to locations within or proximate to the project.

17. Tribal Consent

- a. Is the proposed project within, connecting to, or traversing Tribal lands? (Yes/No)
 - i. **UPLOAD:** If yes, upload Tribal consent documents or an explanation of substantial progress towards consent if official Tribal consent documentation is not yet available.

Tool tip: For all construction that traverses Tribal land or builds to Tribal locations, a resolution of consent from the Tribal government is required for each project application prior to the grant award.

18. **UPLOAD Engagement Outreach through public meeting(s) (if applicable)**

- a. Upload evidence of public meeting(s) to engage the community in the project planning and demonstrate community outreach.

Tool tip: Uploads should provide evidence of a public meeting(s) to engage the community in the project planning. For any uploaded file(s), specify where and with whom the public meetings or outreach were conducted. For multiple documents, create a zip file with all letters.

19. **UPLOAD Engagement with Municipal Governments (if applicable)**

- a. Upload evidence of support from any municipal government included in the project area.

Tool tip: Uploads should include letter(s) of support from any municipal government included in the application area. For any uploaded file, specify the name of the municipal government who provided the letter of support. For multiple documents, create a zip file with all letters.

20. UPLOAD Engagement with schools, libraries, and other organizations (if applicable)

- a. Upload evidence of support from the school district, the local public library or organizations that support a covered population in the project area.

Tool tip: Uploads should include letter(s) of support from the school district, the local public library or organization that supports a covered population in the project area. For any uploaded file(s), specify the entity type that provided the letter of support. For multiple documents, create a zip file with all letters.

21. UPLOAD Endorsement(s) (if applicable)

- a. Select from a dropdown list the county(ies) and/or Tribe(s) from whom the applicant has received endorsement.
- b. Upload evidence of endorsement by the select county(ies) and/or Tribes. Endorsement documentation must include the minutes that establish the endorsement action and any relevant supplemental material, and a letter addressed to the Public Service Commission from the clerk, chair or similar of the governing body certifying the date of the meeting, the name of the applicant and nature of the endorsement including any geographic boundary if applicable.

Tool tip: For multiple documents, create a zip file with all documentation.

22. UPLOAD Past Labor Practices

- a. For all applications upload a detailed response using the required template that addresses the applicant's demonstrated record of past compliance with Federal labor and employment laws for the last five years.
- b. Using the provided template provide the requested information on the applicant's past use of contracted and subcontracted workforce (for the last five years for both broadband and non-broadband projects if applicable) that includes but is not limited to detailing any labor and compliance enforcement actions, complaints, warnings, or incidents on record.

23. UPLOAD Future Labor Practices

- a. For all applications upload a detailed response using the required template that addresses the applicant's plans to be in compliance with Federal labor and employment law, and strong labor and employment standards and protections.
- b. What is the applicant's minimum committed percentage of the workforce working on BEAD projects in Wisconsin that will be directly employed (i.e. a full-time employee with the applicant)?

- c. What is the maximum percentage of the workforce that will be subcontracted?
- d. If available, provide documentation of any local hire provisions that will be utilized for the proposed project.
- e. If available, provide documentation of any efforts or recruitment plans to directly-employed Wisconsin residents on the project.
- f. Upload data using the provided template on the entities that the applicant plans or anticipates entering into contract and/or subcontract(s) with to carry out the proposed BEAD network deployment work.
- g. Include a Labor Practice workplan for the proposed project including:
 - i. Explain in detail how the applicant will ensure an appropriately skilled and credentialed workforce for the proposed project.
 - ii. Describe planned efforts to recruit and train direct hire workforce/local hire workforce, including the applicant local hire provisions and any local hire provisions the applicant will require of its subcontractors.
 - iii. Provide details on certification criteria and process used in hiring practices to extend preference to woman-owned (WBE), and minority-owned (MBE) businesses.
 - iv. Describe the applicant's planned inclusion of Labor Surplus Firms in Wisconsin, as determined by the US Department of Labor's list of Labor Surplus Areas.
 - v. Estimate job titles and size of the workforce (FTE positions, including for contractors and subcontractors) required to carry out the proposed work over the course of the project, the wages and benefits by classification, and whether any wages are less than prevailing wages (as determined by the 'Davis-Bacon Acts').

24. Attestations (to be completed by the Authorized representative)

- a. I acknowledge compliance with all applicable federal/state law and NTIA and Commission guidance, BEAD terms and conditions, including but not limited to all rules and regulations promulgated to implement BEAD, federal interest period, NEPA, Buy America, Build America, BEAD low cost service offering requirement, other price commitments made in this proposal, BEAD NOFO and the BEAD Deployment Grant Agreement.
- b. I acknowledge that by submitting an application, I am authorized on the applicant entity's behalf to make a binding commitment if awarded to enter into a grant agreement with the Commission for the proposed project in good faith, absent force majeure, subject to penalty for failure to execute the grant agreement.

- c. I certify that the statements herein are true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge and that our entity has done the due diligence to ensure the information is correct. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties and may impact current and future grant awards from the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin.

- d. I acknowledge that if the entity receives a preliminary award, it will submit the required additional materials within 60 days of the notice. The additional required material includes but is not limited to:
 - i. An Environmental Impacts and Documentation screening document.
 - ii. A document from a qualified bank or credit union agreeing to issue an irrevocable standby letter of credit to the applying entity for 10 percent of the preliminary BEAD award amount.
 - iii. If not included in the entity's submitted Letter of Intent, information about the project's cybersecurity risk management plan in alignment with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Framework 2.0 must be provided, as well as a detailed supply chain risk management (SCRM) plan following NIST guidelines.
 - iv. An itemized project budget in the format required by WBO staff.
 - v. If not included in the entity's submitted Letter of Intent, a Build America, Buy America Compliance plan.
 - vi. A network design, diagram, project costs, build-out timeline and capital investment schedule evidencing complete build out and initiation of service within four years of the execution of grant agreement, all certified by a professional engineer and stating that the proposed network can deliver broadband service that meets the requisite performance requirements to all locations served by the project.