



ConnectLA

Louisiana Office of Broadband
Development & Connectivity

Louisiana Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program

Pre-Qualification Application Guide (Version 1.3)

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Introduction

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program aims to expand and improve broadband access in underserved and unserved areas across the United States. It is the responsibility of the Louisiana Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity (ConnectLA) to implement the planning, infrastructure deployment and broadband programs across the State. BEAD program funds will be administered via the Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities 2.0 (GUMBO 2.0) grant program.

The purpose of this document is to provide prospective applicants with a clear and comprehensive guide to the Louisiana BEAD Pre-Qualification Application process. This document aims to help applicants understand the necessary procedures, requirements, and steps involved in creating and submitting successful applications. Due to this unprecedented endeavor and the potential for additional and/or clarifying guidance from NTIA, it is anticipated that circumstances will arise that will require deviations from the processes outlined in this guide. In those instances, the reason for the deviation needs to be clearly documented and included in the subrecipient's file. In some cases, these circumstances will require amending the Pre-Qualification guide to include new or revised requirements or procedures to accommodate these situations.

Louisiana was awarded \$1.355 billion in BEAD funds to deploy broadband statewide to all unserved locations. ConnectLA will conduct the subgrantee selection process across the following phases:

1. **ConnectLA Challenge Process:** Local governments, Nonprofit organizations, and internet service providers (ISPs) can submit challenges to the broadband map **(IP Volume 1, pg 7-13)**
2. **Pre-Qualification:** ConnectLA will publicly release pre-qualification requirements on the ConnectLA website for interested prospective subgrantees and initial SPA list for public comment for 30 days. Then, there will be another 30-day period for review of public comments on SPA listing and final SPA list determination. A 2-week prequalification filing window will open for applicants to submit materials to meet the BEAD minimum eligibility requirements. Following this window, there will be a 30-day period for review of pre-qualification materials and notification to qualified applicants. **(IP Volume 2, pg 27)**
3. **Round 1:** Pre-qualified subgrantees will be invited to submit applications for BEAD funding during a 2-week window. Round 1 application processing will take approximately 2-4 weeks. **(IP Volume 2, pg 27)**
4. **Round 2:** All remaining unawarded Round 1 applicants will be automatically pulled forward, evaluated, and may not be withdrawn as part of Round 2. Applications submitted in Round 1 may be left "as is" for Round 2, or the applicant may make certain changes including adding new SPAs to the application and/or changing the amount of requested BEAD funding (within limits). Any Round 1 applicant may also propose new Round 2 applications comprising SPAs that did not receive any applications in Round 1. Any sub-project area not provided for Round 1 funding will be reevaluated. Round 2 will also be open for a 2-week period. Round 2 application processing and determination of final subgrant selections will take approximately 6-8 weeks. **(IP Volume 2, pg 27)**

Program Eligibility

To receive BEAD funding, subgrantees must minimally:

1. Meet mandated financial requirements;
2. Meet mandated organizational requirements, including ownership;
3. Propose a project that will provide at least 100/20 service to all locations within service area within the required timeline; AND
4. Certify ability to comply with all applicable requirements mandated by NTIA, 2 CFR 200 Uniform Guidance, and the State of Louisiana.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants as a subgrantee of the BEAD program may include institutions of higher learning, nonprofit organizations, cooperatives, public or private utilities, public utility districts, public-private partnerships, private companies, local governments, tribal organizations, and for-profit organizations.

Eligible Program Areas

ConnectLA and GUMBO 2.0 will use an overall approach of organizing the eligible locations in the state into a set of pre- defined areas, or “sub-project areas (SPAs).” Prospective subgrantees in Louisiana will have wide flexibility to define their proposed overall deployment projects, but such proposals must be submitted in the form of sets of SPAs. **(IP Volume 2, pg 24)**

Eligible Program Costs

According to the [BEAD NOFO \(Notice of Funding Opportunity\)](#), all allowable costs are determined in accordance with the cost principles identified in 2 CFR 200, including Subpart E, and 48 CFR 300 for commercial organizations, as well as in the grant program’s authorizing legislation. In addition, costs must be reasonable, necessary, allocable, and allowable for the proposed project or other eligible activity and conform to generally accepted accounting principles. Funds committed to an award may only be used to cover allowable costs incurred during the period of performance.

Pre-Qualification Application Resources

ConnectLA will post this guide, templates, FAQ documents, and relevant application portal links to the ConnectLA [website](#). Any changes to documents will be noted in version history.

As a reminder, any documents submitted as part of the pre-qualification and application may be subject to Freedom of Information Act requests. ConnectLA will work with applicants and awardees to protect proprietary information, however, applicants should be sure to mark such information as “confidential” or “proprietary” upon submission.

Pre-Qualification Requirements

GUMBO 2.0 Application Timing

Once pre-qualification for GUMBO 2.0 has opened, notice will be provided via announcement on the ConnectLA public website, with additional outreach via email or other forms of direct communication to both providers

and other local stakeholders. The pre-qualification application period will remain open for 2 weeks with results being announced after 30 days. **(IP Volume 2, pg 27)**

During the 30-day review period, applicants may receive requests from ConnectLA for any missing or incorrect required Pre-Qualification documentation. Requested additional documentation should be provided to ConnectLA within a timely manner.

Prospective grantees will be notified at the end of the 30-day review period whether they have been deemed qualified to participate in GUMBO 2.0. **(IP Volume 2, pg 27)** The qualification decision will permit an approved prospective grantee to proceed to the application phase of the BEAD program. ConnectLA reserves the right to re-assess the qualifications, capabilities, and resources of all prospective subgrantees based on the application specific technical, geographical, and financial details of the actual proposed projects prior to making final awards.

Pre-Qualification Application

Pre-qualification is the first step in the multi-phase GUMBO 2.0 application process. This step evaluates the potential applicant's eligibility to participate in the program prior to being invited to apply directly for funding. During the prequalification filing window, prospective subgrantees must provide financial, operational, managerial and technical qualifications as well as submit required certifications and authorization as required by the [BEAD NOFO](#) and Uniform Guidance (UG) [2 CFR 200](#). The [BEAD NOFO](#) explicitly outlines the requirements to meet the minimum eligibility criteria for the program. These include:

1. **Financial Capability:** Certifications and documentation, Letter of credit compliance statement, Audited financial statements, business plans
2. **Organizational Capability:** Key management resumes, Organizational charts, Certification of operational readiness, Evidence of prior service in relevant areas, Compliance with regulatory filings, Uniform Guidance requirements for federal awards
3. **Technical Capability:** Certifications and documentation, plans for skilled and credentialed workforce, deployment/service obligations
4. **Certifications and Compliance:** Adherence to federal, state, and local laws, Compliance with occupational safety regulations
5. **Federal Labor and Employment Laws:** Adherence to federal labor and employment laws, Labor and employment practices
6. **Risk Management:** Cybersecurity and Supply Chain Risk Management plans
7. **Ownership:** Ownership information required by [47 C.F.R. § 1.2112\(a\)\(1\)-\(7\)](#)
8. **National Laws:** Adherence to National Environmental Protection Act, National Historic Preservation Act and Build America, Buy America

Pre-Qualification Required Documentation and Certifications/Attestations

This preliminary Pre-Qualification Application Guide is subject to change to comply with changes to the BEAD federal program requirements and to GUMBO 2.0 grant requirements. ConnectLA may request clarifications as needed, and require additional specifications, updates, and documentation for program eligibility. Additionally, this guide is intended as a summarized version of required pre-qualification materials. Applicants should consult ConnectLA Initial Proposal Volume 2, Exhibit D for more detailed requirements related to each line item.

The Pre-Qualification application is divided into nine sections: Administrative, Financial Capability, Organizational Capability, Technical Capability, Certifications and Compliance, Federal Labor and Employment Laws, Risk Management, Ownership, and National Laws. All forms must be marked as complete prior to submission. **Additionally, for identification purposes, all uploads should utilize the following naming convention: Entity Name_File Name.**

SECTION 1: Administrative

Summary

Applicants must provide their administrative details, including company details and primary and secondary contacts.

Administrative Application Questions/Document Uploads

1.1 – Provide the following information related to your company:

- **Company Name:** Include full company name.
- **Company Address:** Include full company address.
- **Primary First and Last Name:** This should be the person primarily responsible for completing the application.
- **Primary Title**
- **Primary Email**
- **Primary Phone**
- **Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) First Name and Last Name**
- **AOR Title**
- **AOR Email**
- **AOR Phone**

1.2 – If submitting application as a consortium, please provide information related to second company:

- **Company Name:** Include full company name.
- **Company Address:** Include full company address.
- **Primary First and Last Name:** This should be the person primarily responsible for completing the application.
- **Primary Title**
- **Primary Email**
- **Primary Phone**

- **Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) First Name and Last Name**
- **AOR Title**
- **AOR Email**
- **AOR Phone**

1.3 – Prepare to appoint your Authorized Organizational Representative. The authorized organizational representation (AOR) should be legally able to make financial decisions and sign contracts on the applicant’s behalf.

1.4 – Provide Company Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). The UEI is the primary key used to identify an entity throughout the federal awarding lifecycle and in SAM gov. The BEAD NOFO requires “each subrecipient must obtain a UEI and provide it to the Eligible Entity.” Entities doing business with the federal government must have an active registration in SAM.gov. Please note that your application will not be accepted unless you have an active SAM.gov registration and, if awarded, no funding can be reimbursed in the future unless the SAM.gov registration is active.

If your company does not already have a UEI, please obtain one by visiting sam.gov and registering. *(NOTE: The UEI was previously known as a DUNS number.)* See the entity registration checklist [here](#). Please upload proof of your active registration via screenshot or PDF. *(Textbox/Upload)*

1.5 – Provide documentation of your state business registration. If your business is not registered with the state, you must complete and upload the documentation required by the Louisiana Secretary of State found [here](#) to obtain a business registration **prior to** submitting your application. *(Upload)*

SECTION 2: Financial Capability

Summary

Companies applying for BEAD funding are required to provide organizational financial information in the prequalification round. Project specific financial projections will be required as part of the application process's second phase. A summary of the application questions and associated documentation are provided below.

Application Questions/Document Uploads

2.1 – Do you certify that you are financially qualified to meet the obligations associated with the grant program? Upload audited financial statements that have been certified by an independent certified public accountant for the last 3 years. (UG 2CFR200.332 / IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 6) (Checkbox/Upload)

- *If applicant has not been audited during the ordinary course of business, in lieu of submitting audited financial statements, applicant must submit unaudited financial statements from prior fiscal year and certify that applicant will provide financial statements from prior fiscal year that are audited by an independent certified public accountant upon award.*
- *If audited statements are Qualified or are not available, please upload a narrative explanation of the qualifications of the report or a narrative explanation regarding lack of audit plus current year interim financial statements (Profit & Loss, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow statement, etc.) Financial statements from prior fiscal year that are audited by an independent certified public accountant will be required prior to award.*
- *If applying as a consortium, upload audited financial statements that have been certified by an independent certified public accountant for the last 3 years for each participant in the consortium.*

2.2 – Provide references to successful and timely execution of other publicly funded projects. (IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 2) (Upload)

- See Appendix B, Template – Prior Experience

2.3 – Do you certify that you have available funds for matching requirements that exceed the grant amount and that you will comply with all grant requirements, including service milestones of 10%, 35%, et al.? (IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 3) (Checkbox/Upload)

- *To verify, please upload your most recent bank account balances from bank statements with provider funds dedicated to GUMBO 2.0. Ensure funds on bank statement include a note that clearly delineates that these funds are earmarked for GUMBO 2.0.*
- *If providing audited financial statements that document cash flow in other parts of Pre-Qualification application, bank statements may not be required. In lieu of bank statements, provide other acceptable documentation that demonstrates applicant's financial capacity (i.e., certification from applicant's financial department that sufficient funding is available to pay for project costs prior to receipt of BEAD funds upon reaching required fixed milestones). However, if applicant cannot provide audited financial statements or is a new business, bank statements will be required.*

2.4 – Do you certify that you have and will continue to have sufficient financial resources to cover your eligible costs for the project until ConnectLA authorizes additional disbursements? To verify, provide bank account balances with provider funds dedicated to GUMBO 2.0 and detail. **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 4)** (Checkbox/Upload)

- *Please reference the uploaded bank account statement and provide details of funds.*
- *If providing audited financial statements that document cash flow in other parts of Pre-Qualification application, bank statements may not be required. In lieu of bank statements, provide other acceptable documentation that demonstrates applicant’s financial capacity (i.e., certification from applicant’s financial department that sufficient funding is available to pay for project costs prior to receipt of BEAD funds upon reaching required fixed milestones). However, if applicant cannot provide audited financial statements or is a new business, bank statements will be required.*

2.5 – Do you attest that you will provide a Letter of Credit to ConnectLA prior to entering into grant agreement? **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 5; NOFO pg. 72-73)** (Checkbox)

2.6 – Provide short description of how you intend to comply with the requirements of section 2.4.11.B, (Letter of Credit Limited Waiver Option) in the event subgrant award(s) are received, including the particular option(s) for compliance that the applicant plans to utilize, the identity of qualified bank(s) that the applicant plans to enlist, and any other relevant description. **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 5; NOFO pg. 72-73)** (Upload – 1 page maximum)

- *These submissions must be made in good faith by applicants as representations that the applicant has the ability to obtain the required LOC commitment letters, final LOC, and bankruptcy opinion letters prior to final subgrant issuance.*
- *According to NOFO language, pg 72-73, “The letter shall at a minimum provide the dollar amount of the letter of credit and the issuing bank’s agreement to follow the terms and conditions of the Eligible Entity’s model letter of credit. Prior to entering into any subgrantee agreement, each prospective subgrantee shall obtain an irrevocable standby letter of credit, which shall be acceptable in all respects to the Eligible Entity and in a value of no less than 25 percent of the subaward amount. Eligible Entities may adopt rules under which a subgrantee may obtain a new letter of credit or renew its existing letter of credit so that it is valued at a lesser amount than originally required by the Eligible Entity upon verification that the subgrantee has met optional or required service milestones. In no event, however, shall the letter of credit have a value of less than 25 percent of the subaward amount. A prospective subgrantee shall provide with its letter of credit an opinion letter from legal counsel clearly stating, subject only to customary assumptions, limitations, and qualifications, that in a proceeding under Title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C. § 101 et seq. (the “Bankruptcy Code”), the bankruptcy court would not treat the letter of credit or proceeds of the letter of credit as property of the winning subgrantee’s bankruptcy estate under Section 541 of the Bankruptcy Code.*
- *NTIA has issued a [waiver](#) for the Letter of Credit requirement of 25% of the value of the grant in addition to the minimum match.*
- *The NTIA Letter of Credit Waiver options can be found here: <https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/funding-programs/policies-waivers/BEAD-Letter-of-Credit-Waiver>.*

2.7 – Provide detailed business plans and related analyses that substantiate the sustainability of your participation in the grant program, beginning on the signing of award and grant agreement and ending no less than five years after construction completion. **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 7)** (Upload – 5 page maximum)

- *This can be provided in the form of pro forma statements or analyses and must include cash flow and balance sheet projections. This information should include at least three years of operating cost and cash flow projections post targeted completion of project.*
- *The ConnectLA team realizes that at this stage you may not have detailed business plans as you have not decided how you will apply. Please provide financial summaries profiling the company's current broadband business operations in the state, such as income statements or other certified summaries demonstrating sound financial health, and/or pro forma business projections for your company's overall broadband business operations in the State. More detailed business plans per Sub-Project Area will be required upon award.*

SECTION 3: Organizational Capability

Summary

Companies applying for BEAD funding are required to provide information on organizational key personnel, management structure, prior experience, and current projects.

Application Questions/Document Uploads

Overall Organizational Capability

3.1 – Upload one file (.PDF) containing a one-page resume for each essential financial, technical, and managerial key personnel. **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 8)** (Upload)

- *Each resume must include a minimum of five years of relevant experience.*

3.2 – Upload (.PDF) an Organizational chart detailing all parent companies, subsidiaries, and affiliates. **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 8)** (Upload)

- *The organizational chart should include all relevant personnel. Names and titles should be clearly identified for all positions.*
- *If relevant, also provide a narrative on upcoming organizational changes including mergers, acquisitions, and organizational policies.*

3.3 – Do you certify that you have at least two years of operational experience and can continue operational capability? **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 19)** (Checkbox)

3.4 – Please upload evidence that you have timely filed the Federal Communications Commission’s Form 477 and Broadband DATA Act submissions. **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 20)** (Upload)

- *This can be verified by uploading email confirmations or screenshotted verifications.*

3.5 – Please detail the speed, latency, geographic area, number of unserved and underserved locations committed to serve, amount of public funding, cost of service to consumer and matching commitments for every single project of GUMBO 1.0, RDOF, et al. **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 22)**

- *Use the template provided in [Appendix C](#) to detail your history of compliance with all federal, state, and local laws for previous broadband projects such as those funded by GUMBO 1.0, RDOF, et al. (Template, Upload)*

Organizational Grant Capability

Summary

Uniform Guidance (UG) 2 CFR 200 outlines various administrative, cost principles, and audit requirements for recipients and subrecipients of federal awards. As BEAD applicants will be considered subrecipients for purposes of federal grant management, applicants will be required to provide certain documentation to ConnectLA to satisfy these UG requirements.

Application Questions/Document Uploads

3.6 – Please provide copies of the following documents, as PDF, demonstrating organizational grant capabilities. If the organization does not have a policy or believes a policy is not applicable, upload a document with an explanation. (Upload)

1. Negotiated Federal Indirect Cost (IDC) Rate Agreement ([UG 2CFR 200.332](#))
2. Policy & Procedure: Pay Rates & Benefits ([UG 2CFR 200.332](#))
3. Policy & Procedure: Time and Attendance ([UG 2CFR 200.332](#))
4. Policy & Procedure: Leave ([UG 2CFR 200.332](#))
5. Policy & Procedure: Conflict of Interest ([UG 2CFR 200.318c](#))
6. Policy & Procedure: Travel ([UG 2CFR 200.332](#))
7. Policy & Procedure: Purchasing ([UG 2CFR 200.317-327](#))
8. Policy & Procedure: Vendor Payments ([UG 2CFR 200.317-327](#))
9. Policy & Procedure: Accounting, Grants & Budgeting ([UG 2CFR 200.334](#))
10. Policy & Procedure: Records Retention ([UG 2CFR 200.334](#))
11. Policy & Procedure: Inventory & Property Management ([UG 2CFR 200.310-316](#))
12. Description of organization's financial tracking system
13. Evidence of training provided to subrecipient staff on relevant policies, procedures, and compliance requirements
14. Copies of signed subrecipient agreements or contracts

SECTION 4: Technical Capability

Summary

Companies applying for BEAD funding are required to provide evidence of technical capability in the prequalification round. Project specific technical reports, estimates, etc. will be required as part of the application process's second phase. A summary of the application questions and associated documentation are provided below.

Application Questions/Document Uploads

4.1 – Do you certify that you are technically qualified to complete and operate grant construction and that you are capable of carrying out the funded activities in a competent manner? **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 9)** (Checkbox)

4.2 – Do you certify that you will use an appropriately skilled and credentialed workforce? **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 10)** (Checkbox/Upload)

- *Upload and detail your plans to use an appropriately skilled and credentialed workforce, including details on the credentials required and/or trainings provided. (2 page maximum)*

4.3 – Do you certify that your construction timeline, from grant agreement signature to construction completion, can be completed within 4 years? **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 11-12)** (Checkbox/Upload)

- *Provide network design, diagram, project costs, build-out timeline and milestones for construction implementation and a capital investment schedule evidencing complete build-out and initiation of service within 4 years of the date you receive the grant award. **This must be clearly certified by a professional engineer.***
- *The ConnectLA team realizes that at this stage you may not have the detailed network design, diagram, project costs, build-out timeline, and milestones, etc. as you have not yet decided how you will apply. Please provide a description of your company's baseline Fiber-To-The-Home/FTTH (or other technology) architecture to be deployed, **including a certification by a professional engineer that said architecture can provide the required service levels.***
- *Please note that full details, including the detailed network design, diagram, project costs, build-out timeline, and milestones, etc. will be required upon award.*

4.4 – Do you certify that your proposed network can deliver broadband service that meets the requisite performance requirements to all locations served by the project? **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 13)** (Upload/Checkbox)

- *Please upload a document clearly certified by a professional engineer that your proposed network can deliver broadband service that meets requisite performance requirements to all locations served by project.*
- *The ConnectLA team realizes that at this stage you may not know which locations you will apply for. Please provide a description of your company's baseline Fiber-To-The-Home/FTTH (or other technology) architecture to be deployed, **including a certification by a professional engineer that said architecture can provide the required service levels.***

- *Please note that full details, including the fact that proposed network can deliver broadband service that meets the requisite performance requirements **to all locations served by the project** will be required upon award.*

4.5 – State and detail the technology type you are proposing. **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 14)** (Upload)

To the best of your knowledge, please provide details of the technology type you are proposing. The ConnectLA team realizes that at this stage you may not have decided which technologies you will use; however, a more detailed explanation will be required upon award. (Upload – 5 page maximum)

4.6 – Do you certify that your deployed service can and will meet the BEAD-required minimum latency and speed of 100/20 Mb per second, or greater if seeking higher application points via scoring criteria? **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 15)** (Checkbox)

- *This will apply to every single location applied for.*

4.7 – Please provide your speed and latency. **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 28)** (Textbox)

4.8 – Do you certify that you will not have network outages that last more than 48 hours over any 365-day period, apart from natural disasters or force majeure? **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 29)** (Checkbox)

4.9 – What is the speed to deployment you are committing to? **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 30)** (Textbox)

4.10 – Do you acknowledge that ConnectLA encourages underground construction and that BEAD program rules require certain accessibility provisions for Funded Network infrastructure, including the following? **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 31)** (Checkbox)

- *Per NOFO Language, pg 66, "Any Funded Network deployment project that involves laying fiber-optic cables or conduit underground or along a roadway must include interspersed conduit access points at regular and short intervals for interconnection by unaffiliated entities."*

4.11 – Please upload your detailed plans to deploy a reasonable amount of excess conduit capacity and conduit access intervals. **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 32)** (Upload – 2 page maximum)

4.12 – Detail your low-cost broadband service option. **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 34)** (Upload – 5 page maximum)

- *Explicitly define your low-cost broadband service option and justify why and how that is low-cost. This definition must include all recurring charges to subscribers and all non-recurring fees.*

4.13 – Do you confirm your intent to provide services to each customer served by the grant funding on terms and conditions that are reasonable and non-discretionary? **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 35)** (Checkbox)

4.14 – Please detail your marketing plans and budget to educate potential and current consumers of low-cost plans and federal subsidies for low-income households. Detail your multi-media methods such as online, print, radio, et al. Include equitable considerations (i.e., communicating with consumers who may not speak English). **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 36)** (Upload – 2 page maximum)

4.15 – Please detail your methodology on notifying every single address in the proposed project area that they have access to low-cost plans and federal subsidies upon project completion. **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 37)** (Upload – 1 page maximum)

4.16 – Provide a high-level budget overview of marketing plans upon project completion. **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 38)** (Upload – 1 page maximum)

SECTION 5: Certifications and Compliance

Summary

Applicants will be required to certify and/or attest to the requirements below to be considered for BEAD / GUMBO 2.0 program eligibility. Certifications and Attestations will be captured within the portal and must be completed by an authorized official of the organization.

Application Questions/Document Uploads

Subgrantee Selection Process

5.1 – Do you certify that you will engage in fair, equal, and equitable business practices such as grant application safeguards against collusion, bias, conflicts of interest, arbitrary decisions, and other factors that could undermine confidence in the public process? **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 44)** (Checkbox)

- *Provide a detailed Safeguarding Policy. (IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 46)* (Upload) 2 page maximum

5.2 – Do you certify that you will adhere to prohibited communications rules as defined by the FCC and/or ConnectLA until Louisiana announces final awards at the end of the GUMBO 2.0 award process? **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 45)** (Checkbox)

- *Complete and upload a signed copy of the Anti-Collusion and Prohibited Communication Certification. This certification can be found on ConnectLA's website [here](#).*

5.3 – Do you certify your commitment to keep your application confidential until Louisiana announces final awards at the end of the GUMBO 2.0 award process? **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 47)** (Checkbox)

Ensuring Subgrantee Accountability

5.4 – Do you certify that you will submit timely monthly and quarterly progress reports, commit to the details of your grant application, submit to technical reviews and financial audits, and uphold the grant agreement if awarded and signed? **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 23)** (Checkbox)

5.5 – Do you certify that you have read and will abide by the Notice of Funding Opportunity ([NOFO](#))? (Checkbox)

5.6 – Do you certify that you have read and will abide by [Louisiana's Initial Proposal Volume II](#), including any addendums and changes? (Checkbox)

5.7 – Do you certify that you have read and will abide by [Louisiana Revised Statute 51\\$2370.29](#)? (Checkbox)

5.8 – Do you certify that if allowed to participate in the GUMBO 2.0 process: (Checkbox)

1. *Applicant firm will have one (1) Admin user and no more than four (4) non-admin users. The admin user will be the only one that can officially submit applications and commit the Application company.*
2. *All users will be required to sign a EULA before using the GUMBO 2.0 SaaS platform.*

Various

5.9 – Do you attest and certify that you are able and will 1) commit to the grant application and that, 2) if granted a grant award, any inconsistency or failure to follow-through on application details shall be considered a

violation of the grant agreement and subject to claw-back of funds, at the discretion of ConnectLA, and 3) that you have read and understand the clawback conditions as stated in Requirements for Exemptions outlined in Louisiana Revised Statute [47§4304](#) (IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 1) (Checkbox)

5.10 – Do you acknowledge that your grant application creates a binding obligation if accepted by Louisiana and cannot be withdrawn once submitted until Louisiana announces the conclusion of the GUMBO 2.0 award process? (IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 48) (Checkbox)

5.11 – Do you acknowledge that Louisiana reserves the right to request modifications and/or attach conditions to GUMBO 2.0 awards, including but not limited to: Louisiana reserving the right to eliminate BEAD funding for some or all CAIs and/or underserved locations contained within an application, along to be based on the reasonable per-location cost values established by the CostQuest Associates cost data used to establish initial BEAD support offers, et al? (IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 49) (Checkbox)

5.12 – Do you attest that all information provided in application and supporting documents are true and accurate to the best of your knowledge? (DOC Standard Terms and Conditions - "Criminal and Prohibited Activities", 32) (Checkbox)

Affordable Connectivity Program

5.13 – Do you certify your participation, or intent to participate, in the federal Affordable Connectivity Program, or any potential successor program, if applicable? (IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 33) (Checkbox)

Build America, Buy America

5.14 – Do you certify that you will comply with Build America, Buy America Act? (IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 43) (Checkbox/Upload – 2 page maximum)

- *Please upload your plans to comply with Build America, Buy America Act requirements as outlined in the [BEAD NOFO](#).*

SECTION 6: Federal Labor and Employment Laws

Summary

Companies applying for BEAD funding must certify compliance with federal labor and employment laws and describe their labor and employment practices and wage scales.

Application Questions/Document Uploads

Federal, State and Local Law Compliance

6.1 – Do you attest that you have complied with all federal, state, and local laws for previous broadband projects such as those funded by GUMBO 1.0, RDOF, et al.? **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 16)** (Checkbox)

- *Use the template provided (in [Appendix C](#)) to detail your history of compliance with all federal, state, and local laws for previous broadband projects such as those funded by GUMBO 1.0, RDOF, et al. (Template, Upload)*
- *Additionally, detail your commitment to comply with all federal, state, and local laws. **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 17)** (Template, Upload)*

6.2 – Detail your commitment to comply with occupational safety and health requirements, including explicitly permitting employees to create worker-led health and safety committees that management will meet with upon request. **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 18)** (Upload – 2 page maximum)

Labor and Employment Practices

6.3 – Do you certify your historical commitment and compliance with fair labor laws for the last three years? **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 24)** (Checkbox/Upload)

- *Provide a summary of your historical commitment and compliance with fair labor laws for the last three years. This should include your use of contracting and subcontracting arrangements, including staffing plans, with at least one example of each contractor and subcontractor's past performance in the context of a similar project. (Upload – 3 page maximum)*

6.4 – Upload and detail your plans for ensuring compliance with Federal Labor and employment laws for your organization and contractors. **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 25)** (Upload)

- *Per NOFO language pg. 56-57, "These plans must address, at a minimum, how the prospective subgrantee will ensure compliance in its own labor and employment practices, as well as that of its contractors and subcontractors, including (1) information on applicable wage scales and wage and overtime payment practices for each class of employees expected to be involved directly in the physical construction of the broadband network and (2) how the subgrantee will ensure the implementation of workplace safety committees that are authorized to raise health and safety concerns in connection with the delivery of deployment projects."*

6.5 – Upload and detail your plans for ensuring compliance with Federal Labor and employment laws for your organization and contractors. **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 26)** (Upload – 3 page maximum)

- *Per NOFO language pg. 58, "to ensure that subgrantees have the technical and operational capacity to carry out the subgrant, prospective subgrantees must have a plan for ensuring that the project workforce will be an appropriately skilled and credentialed workforce (including by the subgrantee and each of its contractors and subcontractors). For purposes of this section, the "project workforce" includes those employees of the subgrantee, its contractors, or subcontractors directly engaged in the physical construction of the broadband network. The plan for a highly skilled workforce should include the following information:*
 - *The ways in which the subgrantee will ensure the use of an appropriately skilled workforce, e.g., through Registered Apprenticeships or other joint labor-management training programs that serve all workers;*
 - *The steps that will be taken to ensure that all members of the project workforce will have appropriate credentials, e.g., appropriate and relevant pre-existing occupational training, certification, and licensure;*
 - *Whether the workforce is unionized;*
 - *Whether the workforce will be directly employed or whether work will be performed by a subcontracted workforce; and*
 - *The entities that the proposed subgrantee plans to contract and subcontract with in carrying out the proposed work."*

6.6 – Upload and detail your plans for ensuring compliance with Federal Labor and employment laws for your organization and contractors. **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 27)** (Upload – 3 page maximum)

- *Per NOFO language pg. 58, "If the project workforce or any subgrantees' contractor's, or subcontractor's workforce is not unionized, the subgrantee must also provide with respect to the non-union workforce:*
 - *The 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 and the entity that will employ each portion of the workforce;*
 - *For each job title required to carry out the proposed work (including contractors and subcontractors), a description of:*
 - *safety training, certification, and/or licensure requirements (e.g., OSHA 10, OSHA 30, confined space, traffic control, or other training as relevant depending on title and work), including whether there is a robust in-house training program with established requirements tied to certifications, titles; and*
 - *information on the professional certifications and/or in-house training in place to ensure that deployment is done at a high standard."*

Federal Child Labor Laws

6.7 – Do you attest and certify that you will follow the federal child labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938? **(NTIA Terms & Conditions)** (Checkbox/Upload – 3 page maximum)

- *Upload and detail your plans for ensuring compliance with Federal Child Labor provisions for your organization and contractors. The plan should include clear procedures regarding the employment of minors, training on child labor laws for managers and supervisors, record retention considerations, monitoring, reporting, and enforcement activities and communication at a minimum.*

SECTION 7: Risk Management

Summary

Companies applying for BEAD funding **must** provide Cybersecurity and Supply Chain Risk Management plans. See [IP Volume 2, Exhibit G](#) for guidance on requirements related to Cybersecurity and Supply Chain Risk Management Plans.

Application Questions/Document Uploads

7.1 – Do you attest that you have the following (NOFO LANGUAGE pg. 70): **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 39)**

1. *“The prospective subgrantee has a cybersecurity risk management plan (the plan) in place that is either: (Checkbox)*
 - a. *operational, if the prospective subgrantee is providing service prior to the award of the grant; or*
 - b. *ready to be operationalized upon providing service, if the prospective subgrantee is not yet providing service prior to the grant award;*
2. *The plan reflects the latest version of the [National Institute of Standards and Technology \(NIST\) Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity](#) (currently Version 1.1) and the standards and controls set forth in [Executive Order 14028](#) and specifies the security and privacy controls being implemented; (Checkbox)*
3. *The plan will be reevaluated and updated on a periodic basis and as events warrant; and (Checkbox)*
4. *The plan will be submitted to the Eligible Entity prior to the allocation of funds. If the subgrantee makes any substantive changes to the plan, a new version will be submitted to the Eligible Entity within 30 days. The Eligible Entity must provide a subgrantee’s plan to NTIA upon NTIA’s request.” (Checkbox)*

7.2 – If your organization does not have a plan, do you commit to providing one for the main round application? Please note that answering no to this question will disqualify the applicant from applying in the main round. **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 40; NOFO, pg 39 & 70-71)** (Checkbox)

7.3 – Upload your detailed network cybersecurity plan. **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 40; NOFO, pg 39 & 70-71)** (Upload – 5 page maximum) *Key items to include for consideration (not all inclusive):*

- *Potential risks*
- *Types of security policies and procedures*
- *Network security measures*
- *Endpoint security*
- *Data protection*
- *Training*
- *Compliance*

7.4 – Do you attest that you have the following (NOFO LANGUAGE pg. 70-71): **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 41)**

1. *“The prospective subgrantee has a SCRM plan in place that is either: (Checkbox)*
 - a. *operational, if the prospective subgrantee is already providing service at the time of the grant; or*
 - b. *ready to be operationalized, if the prospective subgrantee is not yet providing service at the time of grant award;*

2. *The plan is based upon the key practices discussed in the [NIST publication NISTIR 8276](#), Key Practices in Cyber Supply Chain Risk Management: Observations from Industry and related SCRM guidance from NIST, including NIST 800-161, Cybersecurity Supply Chain Risk Management Practices for Systems and Organizations and specifies the supply chain risk management controls being implemented;* (Checkbox)
3. *The plan will be reevaluated and updated on a periodic basis and as events warrant;* and (Checkbox)
4. *The plan will be submitted to the Eligible Entity prior to the allocation of funds. If the subgrantee makes any substantive changes to the plan, a new version will be submitted to the Eligible Entity within 30 days. The Eligible Entity must provide a subgrantee's plan to NTIA upon NTIA's request."* (Checkbox)

7.5 – If your organization does not have a plan, do you commit to providing one for the main round application? Please note that answering no to this question will disqualify the applicant from applying in the main round. **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 42)** (Checkbox)

7.6 – Upload your detailed supply chain risk management plan. **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 42)** (Upload – 3 page maximum)

- *Plan should include strategies to identify, assess, mitigate, and monitor risks within a supply chain.*

SECTION 8: Ownership

Summary

Companies applying for BEAD funding must submit relevant ownership information as required by [47 C.F.R. § 1.2112\(a\)\(1\)-\(7\)](#).

Application Questions/Document Uploads

8.1 – Provide proof of ownership information. **(IP Volume 2, Exhibit D, 21)** (Upload)

- *In the case of entities comprising more than a single party, such as a joint or consortium application entities forming to pursue BEAD funds in Louisiana, ownership information must be submitted for each participant in the multi-party entity. In addition, the underlying consortium agreement between the parties must also be provided in order for ConnectLA to assess whether the underlying obligations amongst the parties provide for sufficient operational, technical, and managerial commitments to meet BEAD program requirements.*

SECTION 9: National Laws

Summary

Companies applying for BEAD funding must analyze the potential environmental impacts, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) ([42 U.S.C §4321 et seq.](#)) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) ([54 U.S.C. §300101 et seq.](#)).

Application Questions/Document Uploads

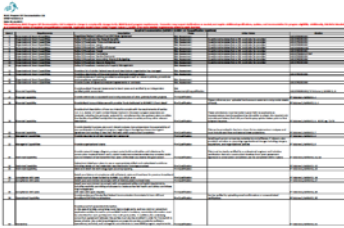
9.1 – Do you certify that you will comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)? (**IP Volume 2, Section 2.4.5/ Environmental & Historical Preservation Fact Sheet**) (Checkbox)

9.2 – Do you certify that you understand that NEPA Analysis will be required for every project funded through the BEAD Program and agree to provide sufficient information to allow for NEPA Analysis such as a detailed project description, including applicable supporting documentation? (**Environmental & Historical Preservation Fact Sheet**) (Checkbox)

9.3 – Do you certify that that you understand that you are responsible for identifying and obtaining applicable Federal, State and Local Permits (such as easements) required to complete project? (**Environmental & Historical Preservation Fact Sheet**) (Checkbox)

Appendix A: ISP Required Documentation (Version 1.0)

The document below was released on March 14, 2024, as part of clarifying documents related to the BEAD program. Information included in this Pre-Qualification Application Guide was based on the ISP Required Documentation (Version 1.0). Any additional information included in this guide is intended only to provide clarification and assistance to prospective grantees during the Pre-Qualification Application process. Nothing in this guide is intended to supersede, modify, or update any previously approved guidance (i.e., Initial Proposal, Volume 1 or 2, previously published subgrant documents, etc).



The image shows a small, low-resolution screenshot of a table. The table has multiple columns and rows, with some text visible but mostly illegible due to the small size. It appears to be a structured document or spreadsheet, possibly related to the ISP Required Documentation mentioned in the text above.

Project 2

- 1. Scope, Amount, Length, Funding Source**
- 2. Past Involvement in Telecommunications Deployments and Similar-Scale Projects**
- 3. Methods and Strategies in Handling Projects of a Comparable Size and Scope**

Project 3

1. Scope, Amount, Length, Funding Source

2. Past Involvement in Telecommunications Deployments and Similar-Scale Projects

3. Methods and Strategies in Handling Projects of a Comparable Size and Scope

Appendix C: Existing Broadband Projects

Please download the spreadsheet in the figure below to report Existing Broadband Projects/all broadband deployment projects that have received or are expected to receive public funding (both state and federal). Include projects for which your company has applied or intends to apply, along with any publicly funded broadband deployment endeavors conducted or planned by your company or its affiliates. These may include (but not limited to) Families First Coronavirus Response Act, CARES Act, Consolidated Appropriations Act, American Rescue Act Plan of 2021 (GUMBO 1.0); Any federal Universal Service Fund high-cost program (e.g., RDOF, CAF).

The downloadable form is available on the Attachments tab on the left side of the PDF document.

All columns must be filled in for each project noted.

EXISTING BROADBAND PROJECTS									
INSTRUCTIONS:									
In the space below, please submit a list of all broadband projects that have received or are expected to receive public funding (both state and federal). Include projects for which your company has applied or intends to apply, along with any publicly funded broadband deployment endeavors conducted or planned by your company or its affiliates. These may include (but not limited to) Families First Coronavirus Response Act, CARES Act, Consolidated Appropriations Act, American Rescue Act Plan of 2021 (GUMBO 1.0); Any federal Universal Service Fund high-cost program (e.g., RDOF, CAF).									
REQUIREMENTS									
#	Project Name	Prior, Current, or Upcoming application?	Speed and latency of broadband service to be provided	Geographic area to covered	Locations Committed to Serve - Unserved	Locations Committed to Serve - Underserved	Amount of Public Funding To Be Used	Cost of Service To Consumer	Matching commitment (if any) provided by company or its affiliates
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									
10									

Definitions and Acronyms

Agency - The Louisiana Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity (ConnectLA).

Assistant Secretary - The assistant secretary of the United States Department of Commerce for Communications and Information.

BEAD - Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program.

Bid – An offer by a company, firm or individual to provide good or services submitted in response to solicitation for those goods or services.

Broadband; Broadband Service - The term “broadband” or “broadband service” has the meaning given the term “broadband internet access service” in Section 8.1(b) of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation, meaning it is a mass-market retail service by wire or radio that provides the capability to transmit data with a minimum of one hundred megabits per second, or Mbps, download 21 and receive data at least twenty megabits per second upload transmission speeds, from all or substantially all internet endpoints. This includes any capabilities that are incidental to and enable the operation of the communications service but excluding dial-up internet access service.

Broadband DATA Maps - Maps created in accordance with the 18 provisions of 47 U.S.C. 642.

Broadband-Serviceable Location - A business or residential location in the United States at which fixed broadband internet access service is, or can be, installed. See IJJA, Pub. L. No.117-58, §60102(a)(2)(h), 135 Stat. 429, 1184 28 (2021). In the Third Broadband Data Collection Report and Order, the Commission adopted "as fundamental definition of a 'location' for purposes of the broadband serviceable location fabric: a business or residential location in the United States at which fixed broadband Internet access service is, or can be, installed." See Establishing the Digital Opportunity Data Collection; Modernizing the FCC Form 477 Data Program, WC Docket Nos. 19§195, 11§10, Third Report and Order, 36 FCC Rcd 1126m 1175 para. 126 (2021).

CAI – Community Anchor Institution The term “community anchor institution” means an entity such as a school, library, health clinic, health center, hospital or other medical provider, public safety entity, institution of higher education, public housing organization³, or community support organization that facilitates greater use of broadband service by vulnerable populations, including, but not limited to, low-income individuals, unemployed individuals, children, the incarcerated, and aged individuals

CFR – Code of Federal Regulations.

Change Order – Work that is added or deleted from the original contract activities to be performed and changes the original contract amount and/or the completion due date. The change order must be approved by ConnectLA, subrecipient, contractor, subcontractor, and project architect and/or engineer, as appropriate, prior to being implemented.

Compliance Team - The Compliance Team will consist of contractors with extensive experience and knowledge of accounting and audit principles, Uniform Guidance and federal grant funding.

Concern – An issue identified in ConnectLA’s monitoring report sent to the subrecipient and/or subrecipient that, if not addressed or corrected, may result in a finding in a future monitoring report.

Consultants - Individuals or entities hired by grant recipients or subrecipients to provide professional services related to the BEAD program.

Contract/Contractors - Contract means, for the purpose of Federal financial assistance, a legal instrument by which a recipient or subrecipient purchases property or services needed to carry out the project or program under a Federal award.

Corrective Action – Required steps to be taken to resolve identified findings and/or concerns.

Cost Reimbursement – Distribution of funding to subrecipients under the GUMBO 2.0 program will occur on a reimbursement basis, with 10 % of the subgrant award being provided based on provider certification and ConnectLA verifying that 10% of the eligible locations have been reached. The remaining disbursements will occur at the following thresholds of completion: 35%, 60% and 85% with the final 100% provided only after verification of 100% deployment to eligible locations (final 15% of a grant shall not be paid without an approved completion report), all within the mandatory 48 months maximum deployment timeline (or another shorter timeline certified by the applicant).

Deficiency – An inadequacy based on a federal or state statutory, regulatory or program requirement.

DOC – U. S. Department of Commerce.

Eligible Entity - Any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or, in the case of an application failure, a political subdivision or consortium of political subdivisions that is serving as a Substitute Entity. As used in this policy, the State of Louisiana, Office of Broadband Development & Connectivity (ConnectLA) is the grant recipient of Louisiana’s BEAD formula grant funds from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Eligible Costs - Costs that are eligible for BEAD Program funding as specified by the Assistant Secretary.

Eligible Grant Recipient - A provider of broadband service, including a provider operated by a local government if the local government is compliant with the Local Government Fair Competition Act, R.S. 45:844.41 et seq., prior to July 1, 2021, with respect to providing such services, a cooperative, or any partnership thereof.

Eligible Location - An unserved location or underserved location.

Eligible Parish - Any parish with unserved or underserved broadband-serviceable locations.

Enforceable Commitment - Any location that is already subject to a legally enforceable federal, state, or local commitment to deploy broadband.

Extremely high-cost per location threshold - A BEAD subsidy cost per location to be utilized during the grantee selection process described in Section IV.B.7 of the BEAD NOFO above which the office may decline to select an application if use of an alternative technology meeting the BEAD Program's technical requirements would be less expensive.

Federal Register – The official journal of the federal government of the United State that contains government agency rules, proposed rules, and public notices issued by federal administrative agencies.

Finding(s) – A specific issue of noncompliance with federal or state regulatory requirements, including the BEAD subgrant agreement provisions, that is identified in a monitoring report produced by ConnectLA.

Formula Grant - Allocations of federal funding to states, territories, or local units of government determined by distribution formulas in the authorizing legislation and regulations. To receive a formula grant, the entity must meet all the eligibility criteria for the program, which are pre-determined and not open to discretionary funding decisions.

Formula grants typically fund activities of a continuing nature and may not be confined to a specific project. Common elements in formulas include population, proportion of population below the poverty line, and other demographic information. The BEAD program funding type is formula grant under the US Department of Commerce as the funding organization (reference Funding Opportunity Number NTIA-BEAD-2022).

Grantee – As used in this manual, the State of Louisiana, Office of Broadband Development & Connectivity is the grant recipient of Louisiana’s BEAD formula grant funds from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Grant Recipients - Organizations or individuals awarded grants under the BEAD program.

Gumbo 2.0 - Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities 2.0 (GUMBO 2.0) program. Louisiana passed HB 653 in the 2023 Regular Session which creates the GUMBO 2.0 program under Act 383 effective August 1, 2023, allowing the state to administer the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The new law provides the ConnectLA office the authority and responsibility to create state rules and scoring to administer funds, provided they comply with federal infrastructure law, state law and guidance. The Division of Administration shall be the designated agency for receipt and disbursement of state and federal funds received to implement the BEAD program.

Household - Any individual or group of individuals who are living together at the same address as one economic unit. A household may include related and unrelated persons. An "economic unit" consists of all adult individuals contributing to and sharing in the income and expenses of a household. An adult is any person eighteen years or older. If an adult has no or minimal income, and lives with someone who provides financial support to him, both people shall be considered part of the same household. A child under the age of eighteen living with his parent or guardian is considered to be part of the same household as his parent or guardian.

Infrastructure - Existing facilities, equipment, materials, and structures that an internet service provider has installed either for its core business or public enterprise purposes. Examples include but are not limited to copper wire, coaxial cable, optical cable, loose tube cable, communication huts, conduits, vaults, patch panels, mounting hardware, poles, generators, batteries and cabinets, network nodes, network routers, network switches, microwave relays, microwave receivers, site routers, outdoor cabinets, towers, easements, rights-of-way, and buildings or structures owned by the entity that are made available for location or collocation purposes.

IJA - Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Ineligible Costs - Ineligible costs include those costs that are unallowable under the applicable federal cost principles. Please note that costs ineligible for the BEAD Program may not be paid for with matching funds committed to an award. If an Eligible Entity is found to have used grant or matching funds on a prohibited cost,

the Assistant Secretary may take remedial action, including but not limited to de-obligation or clawback of funding.

The following costs are specifically identified as prohibited under the BEAD Program:

a. Prohibition On Use of Grant Funds for Covered

Communications equipment or services under the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act an Eligible Entity or subrecipient (including contractors and subcontractors of subrecipients) may not use grant funds received under the BEAD Program to purchase or support any covered communications equipment or service (as defined in Section 9 of the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C. § 1608)).

b. Prohibition on Profit and Fees

A profit, fee, or other incremental charge above actual cost incurred by an Eligible Entity or subrecipient is not an allowable cost under this Program.

c. Prohibition on Use of Grant Funds to Support or Oppose Collective Bargaining

An Eligible Entity or a subrecipient may not use grant funds, whether directly or indirectly, to support or oppose collective bargaining.

ISP – Internal Service Provider.

Local Government - A parish, municipality, or school board.

NGP - National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Grants Portal.

NTIA - National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

NOFO – Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) includes a description of the project and the entities that are eligible to apply.

OBDC – Louisiana Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity (ConnectLA).

Offer – A response to a solicitation that, if accepted, would bind the over. Responses to an Invitation to Bid (ITB) are offers called “bids” or “sealed bids”.

Project Cost – Total of BEAD funds, local and other matching funds, and total business investment in the project.

Project or Deployment Project – An undertaking by an eligible grant recipient to construct and deploy infrastructure for the provision of broadband service. A project may constitute a single unserved or underserved broadband-serviceable location, or a grouping of broadband-serviceable locations in which not less than eighty percent of broadband-serviceable locations served by the project are unserved locations or underserved locations. If an overall project area crosses from one eligible parish into one or more eligible adjacent parishes, for the purposes of this Subpart, the project shall be determined to be located in the parish where the greatest number of unserved or underserved households are proposed to be served.

Reliable Broadband Service - Broadband service that the Broadband DATA Maps show are accessible to a location via any of the following: (a) Fiber-optic technology. (b) Cable modem or hybrid fiber-coaxial technology.

(c) Terrestrial fixed wireless technology utilizing entirely licensed spectrum or using a hybrid of licensed and unlicensed spectrum.

Request for Proposals (RFPs) – A solicitation, often made through a bidding process, by an agency to communicate an entity’s requirements for goods or services to prospective contractors. The Louisiana Procurement Code allows for best value procurement through the RFP process to obtain high technology acquisitions, complex services, and to contract with a group purchasing organization. This procurement method is a competitive negotiation and is used when criteria other than cost is considered in determining the best value for the State.

Request for Qualifications (RFQs) – A bidding solicitation where an entity asks vendors to provide a cost quote to provide goods or services. A request for qualifications (RFQ) is for engineering or architectural services. Louisiana State law (R.S. 38:2318.1 A.) prohibits price or price related considerations as a selection factor. Qualification statements cannot be used to procure any other service (2 CFR 200.302 (d)(5)).

RFF – Request for funds. Subrecipient request for funds from ConnectLA.

Shapefile - A file format for storing, depicting, and analyzing geospatial data depicting broadband coverage, comprised of several component files.

SPAs – GUMBO 2.0 will use an overall approach of organizing eligible deployment locations into a set of pre-defined areas, or “sub-project areas” (SPAs).

Staff - Employees of grant recipients, subrecipients, and consultants.

Subgrant/subaward - An award provided by a pass-through entity to a subrecipient for the subrecipient to carry out part of a Federal award received by the pass-through entity. It does not include payments to a contractor or payments to an individual that is a beneficiary of a Federal program. A subaward may be provided through any form of legal agreement, including an agreement that the pass-through entity considers a contract.

Subrecipient/subrecipients - An entity, usually but not limited to non-Federal entities, that receives a subaward from a pass-through entity to carry out part of a Federal award; but does not include an individual that is a beneficiary of such award. A subrecipient may also be a recipient of other Federal awards directly from a Federal awarding agency. The term “subgrantee” or “subrecipient” means an entity that receives grant funds from an Eligible Entity to carry out eligible activities.

Technical Field Auditors - Contractors with technical experience in broadband deployment will be utilized to provide technical reviews of progress and document planned versus actual project progress. The Technical Field Auditors will be responsible for conducting field audits and other comparative and technical analysis to ensure the projects are being executed as agreed upon in the Grant Agreements between OBDC and ISPs

Uniform Guidance (UG) - establishes uniform administrative requirements, cost principles, and audit requirements for Federal awards

Underserved location - An underserved location as defined in the IJA and the BEAD NOFO.

Unserviced Location - An unserved location as defined in the IJA and the BEAD NOFO.

Version History

Date	Notes
04/17/2024	Version 1.0 Published
05/16/2024	Version 1.1 Published – updated Q2.3 & Q2.4 to include additional clarification.
5/28/2024	Version 1.2 – published updated Q4.3 & Q4.4 to include additional clarification.
5/29/2024	Version 1.3 – published updated Q2.3, Q2.4 & Q2.7 to include additional clarification.

Version Policy

Version history is tracked in the table above, with notes regarding version changes. The dates of each publication are also tracked in this table. Procedure and requirement changes within this document will result in the issuance of a new primary version number with a publish date clearly noted. For example, a change in eligibility criteria to the program would warrant issuance from Version 1.0 to Version 2.0, an increase in the primary version number. Future changes will result in additional revision and the issuance of a new primary version number.