

Utah Broadband Center

Benefit of the Bargain: BIG BEAD

Formal Application Guide

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Introduction and General Information

On June 6, 2025, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) published a policy update for the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program described here - [NTIA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice](#). Based on this policy notice, the Utah Broadband Center (UBC) is opening Utah's Benefit of the Bargain (BoB) grant application portal for the state's Broadband Infrastructure Grant (BIG) program found at <https://business.utah.gov/broadband/grants/#big>. This guide provides detailed information on application support resources, application procedures, and requirements for submitting a successful application. This guide will help applicants navigate the application process and ensure that submissions meet all necessary guidelines found in [Volume 2 of Utah's Initial Proposal](#) as modified and approved by NTIA.

This grant is made possible through the federally funded BEAD program. This program aims to expand broadband infrastructure across unserved and underserved areas in Utah, promoting digital access throughout the state.

The BEAD program, funded by NTIA is a nationwide initiative designed to expand high-speed internet access by supporting infrastructure deployment and broadband adoption programs. The State of Utah was awarded \$317,399,742 in BEAD funding, aimed at connecting all unserved and underserved locations with reliable and affordable broadband.

Registration and pre-application are required for all interested BIG applicants. Registration and pre-application is open through the close of this application round and can be found at <https://business.utah.gov/broadband/grants/#big#big>. In this guide, you will find detailed information on eligibility criteria, pre-application support resources, registration procedures, and requirements for submitting a successful application. Whether you are a telecommunications provider, a cooperative, a nonprofit organization, a utility company, a public-private partnership, a local government entity, or a Tribal government, this guide will help you navigate the application process and ensure that your submission meets all necessary guidelines.

For the latest on support options and to obtain other documents please check the UBC website at <https://business.utah.gov/broadband/grants/#big>. By following the guidance provided, you will be better equipped to contribute to Utah's goal of enhancing broadband access for all its residents.

We encourage you to thoroughly review this guide and utilize the support services available. Together, we can work towards a more connected Utah.

When and Where to Submit Applications

Benefit of the Bargain BIG applications must be submitted by 5:00 pm MT on July 10, 2025 through the Utah application portal found at <https://business.utah.gov/broadband/grants/#big> or connecting.utah.gov/grants/big (when it's live).

Definitions

1. Capital Expenses are grant-eligible expenses and are capitalized. All grant eligible capital expenditures must be for new, non-depreciated items. They can include the construction of the outside plant, both last mile and middle mile, and electronic equipment necessary to deliver service, including equipment shelters, wireless radios and antenna, and other capital costs that are directly necessary to provide broadband service to the end user. The acquisition of facilities or companies are not eligible expenses. Laptops, handsets, tablets, and similar customer devices are also not eligible expenses for the program.
2. End User means the location "passed" by the broadband infrastructure network, be it a household, business, or other type of location. The end user may or may not be a subscriber to the service offered by the broadband network.
3. Location or Broadband Serviceable Location means a business or residential location in the United States at which fixed broadband Internet access service is, or can be installed.
4. Contribution is the matching contribution required by the applicant towards each UPFA or project area. The matching fund contribution is a minimum of 25% of the total project cost except as outlined in the section "Matching Funds Requirements." The match can be a cash or in-kind contribution and cannot be used to fund the operational costs of the project. The match must be available or shown to be available upon execution of the Subgrant Agreement.
5. Middle Mile means any broadband infrastructure that does not connect directly to an end-user location, including a community anchor institution. It includes (i) leased dark fiber, interoffice transport, backhaul, carrier-neutral internet exchange facilities, carrier-neutral submarine cable landing stations, undersea cables, transport connectivity to data centers, special access transport, and other similar services; and (ii) wired or private wireless broadband infrastructure, including microwave capacity, radio tower access, and other services or infrastructure for a private wireless broadband network, such as towers, fiber, and microwave links.
6. Operating Expenses are expenses or any ongoing cost necessary for operating a business, system, or network. This includes leases of any kind, bandwidth, and spectrum expenses, as well as salaries not directly related to the construction of the network, including, but not limited to, salaries and overhead related to engineering,

project management, accounting, administration, or marketing. Except as noted in the section “Matching Funds Requirements,” operating expenses are not an eligible expense.

7. Qualifying Broadband Speed means the minimum data rate of one hundred (100) megabits per second (Mbps) downstream and twenty (20) Mbps upstream (100/20) with a maximum 100 millisecond latency for internet service. Applicants must propose to deliver reliable service at these minimum speeds to every BIG eligible BSL location applied for.
8. Technology Type means the technology being proposed to provide service to a BSL. All broadband technologies that meet the performance requirements of IIJA and the NOFO are eligible to participate in the BEAD Program.
9. 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 (see [47 U.S.C. §1702\(a\)\(2\)\(I\)\(ii\)](#))
10. Non-Priority Broadband Project: means a project that provides broadband service by any Other Reliable Broadband Technology or combination of Technologies not meeting the requirements of [47 U.S.C. §1702\(a\)\(2\)\(I\)\(ii\)](#).
11. Unserved Location means a broadband-serviceable location that the Broadband DATA Maps show as (a) having no access to broadband service or (b) lacking access to Reliable Broadband Service offered with – (i) a speed of not less than 25 Mbps for downloads; and (ii) a speed of not less than 3 Mbps for uploads; and (iii) latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds.
12. Underserved Location means a broadband-serviceable location that is (a) not an unserved location, and (b) that the Broadband Data Maps show as lacking access to reliable broadband service offered with - (i) a speed of not less than 100 Mbps for downloads; and (ii) a speed of not less than 20 Mbps for uploads; and (iii) latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds.
13. Utah Project Funding Area (UPFA) means areas based on census blocks that contain BEAD-eligible broadband serviceable locations (BSLs) for which applicants will submit design and cost proposals to serve. They were drawn to reflect feedback from applicants received during the pre-application period. Boundaries may also reflect tribal, high cost, terrain, federal lands, and other factors. If, during construction, grant-eligible BSLs are found to be incorrect in some manner, such as being listed as a home when the location is actually a silo, the subgrantee will have the opportunity to correct the location by submitting evidence to UBC that the location should not be served by BIG funds. Grant awards will be made based on individual project funding areas.

Supplement Not Supplant

If other federal funds have been awarded for broadband construction within the UPFA contained in the application, those federal funds can only be supplemented, not supplanted. Any grant offered by this program cannot supplant the previously awarded federal funds. See [Matching Funds Requirements](#) for additional details.

Programmatic Changes

In order to comply with the [NTIA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice](#), the following programmatic changes to the BIG grant program have been made:

- Compliance with Federal labor and employment laws (Fair Labor Practices) are self-certified by an attestation and are no longer a scored category.
- Workforce development is no longer a requirement nor is it a scored category.
- Open access networks are no longer a scored category.
- Local and tribal coordination is no longer required nor is it a scored category. A resolution or similar from a tribal government is required to provide service on tribal lands.
- A middle-class affordability plan is no longer required. Affordability is no longer a scored category.
- The affordability and low-cost plans are no longer required. Applicants must offer not less than 1 low-cost broadband service option for eligible subscribers. Eligibility for the low-cost option is based on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Lifeline Program eligibility.
- Priority Broadband Projects now include any technology or combination or technologies that meet [47 U.S.C. §1702\(a\)\(2\)\(I\)\(ii\)](#).
- The scoring rubric has been changed to reflect the Policy Notice.
- BSLs shown as served or having no need for broadband service in the FCC Fabric must be accounted for in the Final Proposal. These locations will be indicated as non-BEAD eligible by UBC in their UPFA eligible BSL files.

Applying for the Grant

Eligibility

Applicants must have submitted a registration and pre-application during the first submission window from October 22, 2024, through December 23, 2024 or the Benefit of the Bargain Round (current round) submission window from June 20th, 2025 to July 10,

2025 to participate in the Benefit of the Bargain: BIG formal grant application. If you did not register and submit a pre-application, you cannot apply. Entities eligible to apply for funding under the Utah BIG program include:

1. **Telecommunications Providers or Internet Service Providers (ISPs)** – Entities that provide telecommunications services, including broadband internet services.
2. **Cooperatives** – Cooperatives involved in providing broadband or related services.
3. **Nonprofit Organizations** – Nonprofit organizations that are aligned with expanding broadband access.
4. **Public or Private Utilities** – Utility companies, whether public or private.
5. **Public Utility Districts** – Public utility districts focused on providing utility services.
6. **Public-Private Partnerships** – Partnerships between local government entities and private entities that were established to expand affordable broadband access.
7. **Local Government Entities** – Local government entities that are working in partnership with one or more private organizations as part of a public-private partnership.
8. **Tribal Government Entities** – Federally recognized Tribal governments.

How to Apply

Complete grant applications are due by 5:00 PM MDT on July 10, 2025. UBC will accept applications through the Amplifund grant portal linked at:

<https://business.utah.gov/broadband/grants/#big> or connectingutah.gov/grants/big when it is live. Prior to, and throughout this application period, UBC will issue clarifying guidance to applicants regarding the application process.

You must have the following in place to proceed with an application:

1. Be registered in the AmpliFund portal
2. Have an accepted BIG registration
3. Have an active and valid [sam.gov](https://www.sam.gov/) registration. This is available at no cost from <https://www.sam.gov/>

If you do not have these, or have any questions, please email connectingutah@utah.gov for assistance.

Applicants may access the application via a link at <https://business.utah.gov/broadband/grants/#big>. Once an applicant has accessed the portal, the applicant will create an application for the Benefit of the Bargain: BIG Formal Application funding opportunity.

1. Applicants will use the same account and login that was created during the registration and pre-application window.
2. If you are a company with multiple affiliates or subsidiaries and you registered them separately, you will submit separate applications using the appropriate AmpliFund subsidiary account for the UPFAs selected. For example, if ABC Telecom registered

Salt Flats Broadband as a subsidiary with its own AmpliFund account and wanted to apply for an UPFA under Salt Flats Broadband, they would use Salt Flats Broadband's account for the application.

3. If you have an affiliate or subsidiary that is not registered and you want to apply using that subsidiary, you must apply using the parent AmpliFund account. For example, if ABC Telecom is the account you created in AmpliFund and ABC Telecom is the 'parent' and Mountain Broadband is the 'child' without its own registration, the application is submitted using the primary ABC Telecom application. Any later award would be made to ABC Telecom.
4. Applicants using outside entities to assist with the development of the application may add those entities as users for their application. Since only applicants have accounts within AmpliFund, the outside users must have a unique email address for each applicant. It may be necessary to use the +1 method for their email address. For example, if john.doe@consultant.com is already associated with another applicant, you will need to invite them using the email john.doe+1@consultant.com or john.doe+broadbandprovider@consultant.com. This requirement is due to the restriction of only having one external account associated with an applicant.

Applicants Must:

1. If you have already applied to the program during Round 1, you will only need to update your consolidated pro-forma to reflect any revisions or additions made during this round. You must submit Part 2 applications for the UPFAs you are applying for in this Benefit of the Bargain round. If you have not previously applied, you will need to complete Part 1 of the application. Part 1 and Part 2 include the following:
 - Part 1 of the application includes all elements that are common to the applicant. The applicant completes Part 1 only once.
 - Part 2 of the application includes the UPFA selection and all elements specific to the UPFA (such as proposed technology, budgets, etc.). One Part 2 application containing multiple UPFAs and partial UPFAs may be applied for, but applications utilizing differing technologies must be in separate applications to allow for proper review and scoring.
2. Submit a separate proposed construction budget and projected speeds for each application submitted.
3. If you are submitting a Part 1, per #1 above, you must submit a three-year pro forma projection with two years of historical data. This is required. The pro-forma should be submitted using the template provided in the application or on the [UBC webpage](#). The pro forma should include income and expenses for all the UPFA projects being applied for. All aspects of the applicant's project must be included in the pro forma, including income and expenditures, and anticipated cash flow.

Application Support

UBC will provide multiple methods of application support, including phone and email support. For the latest support options and to obtain other documents, please see <https://business.utah.gov/broadband/grants/#big> or the connecting.utah.gov/grants/big when it goes live.

Email Questions: You may submit any questions regarding the BIG Program Application to connectingutah@utah.gov.

Frequently Asked Questions: An FAQ document will be posted on the BIG grants page with frequently asked questions and responses.

Privacy Notice pursuant to Utah Code §§ 63A-19-402 and 63D-2-103

The Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity (GOEO) and the Utah Broadband Center (UBC), both referred to collectively as the "State Agency," are committed to protecting your privacy. Below is a summary of the personally identifiable information, or personal data, that the State Agency collects as a part of its records to administer the grant program for the expansion of broadband internet in the state of Utah.

1. What personal data does the State Agency collect?
Organizational, managerial, technical, operational, and financial information relating to eligible applicants.
2. Why is the State Agency asking you to provide this personal data?
To validate the applicant organization's qualifications and capabilities to deploy publicly funded network facilities.
3. What are the intended purposes and uses of this personal data?
To ensure all prospective subgrantees seeking to deploy network facilities can comply with the requirements outlined in the BIG BEAD NOFO.
4. How does the State Agency use this personal data?
This data will be used to evaluate the applicant's ability to comply with the requirements outlined in the BIG BEAD NOFO.
5. What are the consequences of refusing to provide this personal data?
Without this data, the State Agency may deny a grant application, withhold grant payments, or terminate a grant contract.
6. With whom does the State Agency share this personal data?
To facilitate the administration of the grant program, the State Agency may share data with other state offices, such as the Utah State Department of Finance,

Treasurer's Office, Office of the Auditor, etc., who are necessary to facilitate payments to grantees. The State Agency may share data with vendors who have contracted with the State Agency to administer the grant program. These other state offices or vendors operate subject to confidentiality agreements or subject to state privacy laws to protect the data from public disclosure or unauthorized disclosure.

7. Who may receive this personal data, and how is this personal data disclosed?

Only state offices or vendors who work with the State Agency to administer the grant program may receive personal data. You, as the person or organization who submitted the data, may also review the data submitted.

8. What security measures are in place to protect this personal data?

All data will be stored on secure servers and only accessed by the State Agency, contracted vendors, and/or state offices that work with the State Agency to administer the grant program. Application data will be protected under GRAMA to the extent of Utah state law. Reviewing committee members will be required to hold this data confidential.

You may request access to your personal data or Personally Identifiable Information (PII), request a correction to your data or personally identifiable information collected by UBC, or have additional questions addressed by contacting the administrators listed below:

Rebecca Dilg rdilg@utah.gov

Project Funding Areas and Funding Rounds

UBC created Utah Project Funding Areas (UPFAs) taking applicant census block interest submissions from the initial pre-applications into account, as well as natural and man-made boundaries. The UPFAs were published on January 15, 2025, at least 14 days prior to the opening of the Round 1 application period.

In Round 1 of the formal application opportunity, applicants submitted one or more applications per UPFA. Each application specified a predominant technology, either fiber or other option (e.g., fixed wireless, hybrid, unlicensed fixed wireless, etc.). Multiple proposals using different technologies for the same UPFA were allowed, as long as each submission clearly identified its primary technology. Applications were reviewed, scored, and may be awarded separately. Applicants, when submitting a proposal, showed how they intend to serve all unserved and underserved locations within the UPFA or how underserved locations will be served through an alternative method. As much as possible, applicants should have provided separate project costs for all unserved and underserved locations in the UPFA.

A map showing all eligible applications submitted in Round 1 can be found [here](#).

For the Benefit of the Bargain Round, Applicants can apply or reapply for any UPFA including those that were applied for in Round 1. UPFAs that were previously under consideration for a Round 1 award ([See Appendix D](#)), must be applied for in individual applications or in one application, but with separate budgets for each UPFA. UPFAs not previously under consideration for a Round 1 award may be applied for in one or multiple applications. However, applicants are encouraged to consolidate applications only under the following conditions:

- Fiber applications vs all other technologies
- Non-priority vs priority broadband applications

Deconfliction

During the application period, ISPs are allowed to provide evidence of served BSLs or BSLs that are incorrectly identified as such and should be removed from BEAD-eligibility. UBC will review this evidence, and BSLs with sufficient evidence may be removed from the final award documents. This could mean that the number of BSLs in an award may change from those in the original UPFA. A link to the BSL evidence submission portal and submission instructions is posted at <https://business.utah.gov/broadband/grants/#big>.

Financial Sustainability

The applicant will be required to provide a letter of credit or performance bond per the federal BEAD requirements at the time of contractual agreement and must indicate their understanding of this requirement in their application. In accordance with the [BEAD Notice of Funding Opportunity](#), if a letter of credit is anticipated, a commitment letter from a bank or credit union committing it to issuing the letter of credit must be included. In accordance with the [BEAD Letter of Credit Waiver](#), if a performance bond is anticipated, a commitment letter from a surety company meeting the waiver requirements is required.

The Applicant is required to provide two (2) years of historical data and a three (3) year projected financial pro forma (post-construction) consisting of balance sheets, income statements, and cash flow statements as a part of the application.

As noted above, if you submitted a Part 1 application in Round 1, ensure the submitted information is still accurate or update it as needed. All previously submitted Part 1 applications will be reopened and must be resubmitted in order for the application to be considered complete, even if no changes are made.

Cost Allowability

UBC has developed a list of eligible and ineligible costs that align with other broadband programs and the Cost Principals found in [2 CFR Part 200](#), Subpart E and 48 C.F.R. Part 31.

Costs must be able to be capitalized based on the requirements of the General Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

Eligible costs for the BIG Program include:

1. Construction, improvement, and/or acquisition of facilities and telecommunications equipment required to provide qualifying broadband service, including infrastructure for backhaul, middle- and last-mile networks. All construction materials and equipment must be new and non-depreciated.
2. Purchase or lease of vehicles used primarily for construction or system improvements. A qualifying vehicle must be new and non-depreciated.
3. Long-term leases (for terms greater than one year) of facilities required to provide qualifying broadband service, including indefeasible right-of-use (IRU) agreements.
4. Deployment of internet and Wi-Fi infrastructure within an eligible multi-family residential building.
5. Engineering design, permitting, and work related to environmental and historical preservation reviews directly related to the project are permitted.
6. Personnel costs, including salaries and fringe benefits for staff and consultants providing services directly connected to the implementation of the BEAD Program (such as project managers, program directors, and subject matter experts).
 - NTIA has published a one-pager with guidance for [personnel time tracking](#).
7. Network software upgrades.
8. Facilities – funding the construction or improvement of facilities such as buildings, storage cabinets, conduit housing, or central offices required to provide broadband service. This includes any facilities required to provide other services over the same network, such as equipment needed for compliance with the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA). Facilities costs may include:
 - a. Permitting
 - b. Planning
 - c. Network Design and Engineering (also known as Architectural and Engineering (A&E))
 - d. Construction
 - e. Project Management
 - f. Equipment purchases
 - g. Environmental mitigation
 - h. Make ready costs including pole attachment or replacement fees
9. Pre-Award Costs –Per guidance from NTIA and in accordance with the [Uniform Guidance, 2 CFR Part 200.458](#), UBC will permit pre-award costs to be included in the

project budget. These costs will be referred to as pre-subaward costs and must meet the following conditions:

- a. Incurred between the start of the pre-application window (October 22, 2024) and the project start date of the sub-award.
- b. Costs must be incurred pursuant to the award negotiation and in anticipation of the subgrant; these costs may include costs associated with equipment and materials, rights of way and pole attachments, and environmental review, as outlined in the [NTIA Bead Acceleration Benefit Practices guidance](#).
- c. Costs may only include costs that would be allowable if incurred after the start date of the subgrant and are necessary for efficient and timely performance of the project.
- d. Costs must be approved by UBC in order to be reimbursed, and approved pre-subaward costs must be charged to the initial budget period of the subgrant.
- e. Any pre-subaward costs are incurred at the risk of the provisional subgrantee and are subject to NTIA approval in UBC's Final Proposal. Pre-sub-award costs that are necessary for the successful completion of an awarded project may be submitted for reimbursement. However, applicants incur these costs at their own risk; if no award is given, those costs cannot be reimbursed.
- f. UBC will apply scrutiny to pre-subaward and closeout costs in the proposed budget to ensure cost-reasonableness and reserves the right to remove them from the proposed budget if they do not meet the BEAD requirement that costs be "reasonable, necessary, allocable, and allowable for the proposed project and conforming to generally accepted accounting principles."

Ineligible expenses for the BIG Program include:

1. Operating expenses.
2. Acquisition of an affiliate or the purchase or acquisition of any facilities or equipment of an affiliate. Note that if affiliated transactions are contemplated in the project, approval of the application does not constitute approval of the affiliated transactions nor acceptance of affiliated arrangements that conflict with the obligations under the award documents. UBC must approve any affiliated transactions, which may only be for the actual cost or market rate of the work or item, whichever is less.
3. Purchase or lease of any vehicle other than those used primarily in construction or system improvements.
4. Broadband facilities leased under the terms of an operating lease.
5. Merger or consolidation of entities.

6. Costs incurred in acquiring spectrum as part of an FCC auction or in a secondary market acquisition. Spectrum that is part of a system acquisition may be considered.

Matching Funds Requirements

Applicants are required to provide a match equal to or greater than 25% of the total project cost and must show the match availability at the time of the agreement. Matching funds may come from either cash or in-kind contributions. In-kind contributions must be allowable and allocable to the project expenses. NTIA has published a [BEAD Match Primer](#) that should be reviewed for more information. Matching funds must be provided as grant funds are requested or they may be provided at the time the sub-grant agreement is signed.

In-kind match items must be capital costs required for the project. Project materials or costs that would be eligible for grant funding are allowable as an in-kind match.

Proof of an in-kind match fair market value must be provided with the grant application or prior to award document execution. UBC reserves the right to review all claims of value and determine their appropriateness. If an in-kind match item is denied or reduced in value based on the review, the applicant will be given the option of substituting cash for the in-kind match items.

In-kind match items can include:

1. Dark fiber used for middle mile or interconnection between UPFAs. Fiber must be dark and unused and used exclusively for the UPFA, where it is included. Value will be determined by examining the initial construction cost of the overall asset and pro-rating that cost to the individual fibers offered as match.
2. Land or easements that are required for network construction, such as land for cabinets. Value will be determined based on appraised value and/or general vacant land valuation for the area.
3. Pole attachment costs or other fees required by third parties. Proof of costs from third-party entities is required.
4. Employee costs for work directly related to the project. Hourly rates and fringe benefits must be approved and hours worked documented.
5. Materials required for the project, including outside plant materials and equipment. The value of materials will be set at the time of purchase of the items based on actual invoice costs.
6. Subscriber installation labor costs. Because this work generally occurs at the end of a project term, including installation costs as in-kind match may impact the pace of reimbursements. Hourly rates and fringe benefits must be approved.

Other items or costs directly relatable and required for the project may be considered.

In-kind contributions must comply with [2 CFR Part 200](#) (Uniform Administrative Requirements). For compliance purposes, see 2 CFR Part 200.306, Cost sharing, which sets forth qualifying requirements for any contributions. Items offered as in-kind match must:

1. Be verifiable based on records provided to UBC;
2. Not be included as contributions for any other Federal award;
3. Be necessary and reasonable for the accomplishment of project or program objectives;
4. Be allowable under 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart E Cost Principles;
5. Not be paid by the Federal Government under another Federal award, except where the Federal statute authorizing a program specifically provides that Federal funds made available for such program can be applied to matching or cost sharing requirements of other Federal programs;
6. Be provided for in the approved budget and
7. Conform to other provisions of 2 C.F.R. Part 200, as applicable.

See also 2 CFR Part 200.434, Contributions and donations, regarding the use of space, personal property, etc.

Matching Funds Waiver

From the [NTIA BEAD FAQ Version 9.0](#):

4.3 What are the circumstances under which NTIA may consider granting a match waiver?

As explained in Section III.B.5. of the NOFO, in evaluating requests for waiver of the BEAD Program's non-federal match requirement, NTIA will carefully balance the Program's various objectives. Thus, the Assistant Secretary will generally seek to minimize the BEAD funding outlay on a particular project to extend the Program's reach, and expects to grant waivers only in special circumstances, when waiver is necessary to advance objectives that are critical to the Program's success. In order to be considered for a waiver, an Eligible Entity must submit a request that describes the special circumstances underlying the request and explain how a waiver would serve the public interest and effectuate the purposes of the BEAD Program. The Assistant Secretary retains the discretion to waive any amount of the match, including up to the full 25 percent requirement.

UBC may consider a waiver for the required matching funds. Determined on a case-by-case basis, a full or partial waiver may be granted following UBC and NTIA review and approval. Proposals with more than 80% of BSLs in the project area located in regions defined as High-Cost Areas by NTIA may be considered for a waiver.

Waivers are subject to the availability of BIG funds.

If an applicant requests a waiver of matching funds, the following requirements must be met:

- Submission of a Waiver Justification File
 1. The applicant must provide a justification file explaining the need for a waiver. Justification must include a description of the special circumstances underlying the request and explain how a waiver would serve the public interest and effectuate the purposes of the BEAD Program
 2. Waiver Justification Financial Evidence: To demonstrate the effect of affordability on potential subscribers, the applicant must include pro forma financials with varying capital expenditure (capex) assumptions to illustrate the effect of different matching fund levels on subscriber rates and revenue.

Failure to submit the required justification files will result in the waiver request being denied.

Technology Neutrality

Priority Broadband Projects:

IIJA requires Eligible Entities to prioritize funding for “priority broadband projects.” The statute defines a priority broadband project as one designed to:

- (i) provide broadband service that meets 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, reliability, consistency in quality of service, and related criteria as the Assistant Secretary shall determine; and
- (ii) ensure that the network built by the project can easily scale speeds over time to
 - a. meet the evolving connectivity needs of households and businesses; and
 - b. support the deployment of 5G, successor wireless technologies, and other advanced services.

Any applicant may seek to have its application treated as a Priority Broadband Project regardless of the technology used. The applicant’s project, however, must still meet the required speed and latency standards set forth in the statute and the NOFO and demonstrate that it meets the additional statutory criteria, including that the project can easily scale speeds over time to support evolving connectivity needs and the deployment of 5G and successor wireless technologies. Applicants must provide supporting documentation sufficient for UBC to assess the network application and determine that the proposed network architecture for each specific project area meets this standard.

As required by IIJA, UBC shall give priority to proposals that meet the definition of a Priority Broadband Project. If UBC determines that no proposal meets the definition of a Priority Broadband Project, then it may select a non-priority broadband project that meets the speed and latency requirements of the statute and NOFO. An Extremely High Cost Per Location Threshold will not be established, but UBC shall reject a Priority Broadband Project if the cost of the project is excessive.

Scoring the Grant Application

Grants will be scored by a Review Committee based on the Scoring Rubric provided in [Appendix A](#).

Review Committee

The review committee may consist of UBC staff members and contractors, subject matter experts, state agency staff members, Tribal designees, and other experienced stakeholders. Review committee members will be required to disclose any potential conflicts of interest and will be removed from the review of any conflicted applications. Each application will be reviewed by a minimum of three reviewers or review teams before a Final Round of scoring is completed and a recommendation for each application is made.

If an UPFA is within Tribal Nation boundaries, a reviewer from the Tribal Nation designated by its Tribal leaders will be invited to participate in the evaluation of the associated application(s) and the awarding process. This ensures that Tribal entities are provided the opportunity to be involved in the process of selecting subgrantees that will construct projects and provide broadband service within their Tribal boundaries. In the case where one of the applicants for a project within a Tribal Nation boundary is the Tribe itself or a Tribal-owned entity, the Tribe will be asked to recuse itself from the review process to avoid conflicts of interest.

Scoring Criteria

The [NTIA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice](#) establishes scoring criteria for the BEAD program. UBC's scoring criteria related to the below secondary criteria is provided in [Appendix A](#).

- **Primary Criteria.** In evaluating competing applications covering the same general project areas, Eligible Entities must choose the option with the lowest cost based on minimal BEAD Program outlay. All applications classified as Priority Broadband will be given priority review.
 - **Minimal BEAD Program Outlay.** UBC will select the combination of project proposals with the lowest overall cost to the Program. This may involve selecting a proposal that is not the lowest-cost option for a given set of BSLs but is part of the combination of selected projects with the lowest overall cost to the Program.

- When comparing competing proposals, UBC will assess the total BEAD funding that will be required to complete the project (i.e., the total project cost minus the applicant's proposed match) and the cost to the Program per location (i.e., the total BEAD funding that will be required to complete the project divided by the number of BSLs the project will serve)
- **Secondary Criteria:** If an application to serve the same general project area proposes a project cost within 15% of the lowest-cost proposal received for that same general project area on a per BSL basis, the competing applications will be evaluated based on the following three criteria:
 - **Speed to Deployment:** Points will be awarded based on evidence of project readiness or significant preliminary planning efforts for an increased speed to deployment of a network and provide services to each BSL within the Project Funding Area within a shorter time frame than competitors will receive points during scoring. All funded projects must be completed within the four-year time frame of a signed award or projects may be subject to clawback provisions if services are not provided within the contracted timeline. Types of evidence to be scored include any combination of the following:
 - Proof of ROW, easement, pole attachment access, or towers
 - Documentation of the permit process is underway or a franchise agreement
 - Documentation of engineering design
 - Documentation of inventory or a bill of sale
 - Tribal resolution, or other applicable documentation related to the speed of deployment
 - **Speed of Network and Other Technical Capabilities:**
 - 1 Gbps/1 Gbps
 - 100 Mbps/100 Mbps
 - 100 Mbps/20 Mbps
 - **Preliminary/Provisional Subgrantees:** For UPFAs where UBC has already identified preliminary or provisionally selected subgrantees from the BIG BEAD formal application, these applicants have the option of having their Round 1 application stand as is, or they may resubmit it using this Benefit of the Bargain application.

Benefit of the Bargain: BIG Formal Grant Application

The application process for the Benefit of the Bargain: BIG program is divided into two distinct parts:

1. Part 1: Utah Broadband Center BIG Formal Application (Part 1) – submitted once

and applies to all Utah Project Funding Areas (UPFAs).

2. Part 2: BIG Individual UPFA Application (Part 2) – UPFAs may be consolidated into a single application with a single combined budget except for identified preliminary/provisionally awarded UPFAs from the BIG BEAD Round 1 formal application (see [Appendix D](#))

The application will be completed online using the AmpliFund platform.

Application Overview

How to Begin:

1. Log into the grant portal through the [UBC website](#).
2. Click “Apply” to start the process.
3. Navigate between sections using the “Save and Continue” button or the navigation menu. Remember to click “Save” before leaving a section to avoid losing changes.

There is a timeout security feature for the portal. After a set amount of time of inactivity, the portal will close, and any work not saved will be lost.

Part 1: Utah Broadband Center BIG BEAD Formal Application (Part 1)

If you submitted a Part 1 application in the BIG BEAD Round 1 formal application, it will be reopened to allow you to update any information, including the pro-forma. You will need to review and resubmit your Part 1 application, even if no changes are made

Project Information

Application Name: Enter a unique project name, preferably including your entity's name (e.g., “Salt Flat Broadband’s Great Expansion”). This name will be used in public announcements.

Total Amount Requested: Enter the cumulative amount of BIG BEAD grant funds requested across all UPFA applications.

Contact information will pre-populate from the applicant’s registration. Verify the following details:

1. Legal Organization Name
2. Primary point of contact
3. Address information
4. Email address and phone number

If changes are needed, notify UBC immediately.

1. Protected/Private Record Confidentiality Request

Applicants must indicate whether to request confidentiality for specific items in their application. This is the same form used for the pre-application, but it needs to be completed again due to the additional data required for this formal application request. Review the confidentiality request form carefully and indicate any items or records that require protection. Refer to the [Privacy Notice](#) for additional details.

2. SAM.gov Validation

Provide verification of your active Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) from the SAM.gov website. The UEI is collected a second time on this form as verification against the proof of validation document that must be uploaded. Follow these steps to get the PDF required for this form:

1. Log into SAM.gov
2. Once in Workspace, click the three-dot menu next to your entity name and choose "View Record"
3. Download the entity information as a PDF
4. Upload the PDF to this form

3. Technical Details

The questions on this form deal with the applicant's existing network.

3.1: Applicants must detail their organization's approach to network maintenance and management as integrated into daily operations. The response should outline established procedures, schedules, and protocols for maintaining network infrastructure and managing network performance. This explanation should demonstrate the organization's capability to sustain reliable network operations.

3.2: Applicants must describe their organization's comprehensive strategy for ensuring network resilience and growth capacity. The response should address four key areas: (1) route diversity approaches, (2) redundancy measures, (3) safeguards against natural disasters, and (4) future expansion planning. This explanation should demonstrate the organization's ability to maintain service continuity while accommodating increased demand over time.

3.3: Applicants must describe their organization's approach to managing complex permitting requirements. The response should detail methods for coordinating across local, state, and federal levels, addressing environmental protection measures, handling historic preservation requirements, and engaging with Tribal entities when required. This explanation should demonstrate the organization's capacity to navigate multiple regulatory frameworks.

3.4: Applicants must provide a comprehensive description of their current network operations. Applicants with existing networks in Utah must describe their Utah operations.

Applicants without Utah networks must describe comparable networks operated in other states. The response should include:

A. Service Area Documentation

- Submit a detailed description of all current service areas
- Provide an electronic map file in either .shp or .kml/.kmz format
 - The map must clearly delineate service area boundaries
- Include boundary data for each distinct service area

B. Service Types and Subscription Data

- List all services currently provided (voice, video, and/or data)
- Include current subscriber counts for each service type

C. Network Technology

- Detail all technologies currently deployed in the network
- Specify the technical infrastructure and systems in use

D. End User Statistics

For wireline networks:

- Provide the total number of end users currently **passed** by the network

For wireless networks:

- Provide the total number of end users currently **covered** by the network

E. Transport Network

- Describe the current transport network infrastructure
- Include details of the backbone and middle-mile systems used

Note: Applicants without existing networks in Utah must demonstrate relevant experience by providing the above information for other networks they operate in other states.

4. Letter of Credit or Performance Bond

5.1: Applicants must indicate their selection of either a Letter of Credit or Performance Bond as their security instrument. This selection and a commitment letter must be provided at the time of application. Read the NTIA guidance on the [Letter of Credit/Performance Bond](#) for more information.

Option 1: Letter of Credit

1. Initial value must be 10% of the subaward amount
2. Must be issued by either:
 - a. A bank meeting federal eligibility requirements, or

- b. A U.S. credit union that is:
 - NCUA-insured
 - Has a Weiss safety rating of B- or better
 3. A no bankruptcy opinion letter is required
- Option 2: Performance Bond
1. Initial value must be 10% of the subaward amount
 2. Must be issued by a surety company listed in [Department of Treasury Circular 570](#)

Required Documentation:

1. For Letter of Credit: Upload a commitment letter from your selected financial institution stating they will issue an irrevocable standby letter of credit, OR,
2. For Performance Bond: Upload a commitment letter from an approved surety company stating they will issue a performance bond with the maximum amount of the bond indicated.

Note: The selected security instrument's value may be reduced as project milestone objectives are achieved, according to the state's milestone schedule as provided in the NTIA Letter of Credit Waiver.

The commitment letter must be in PDF format and signed within 30 days of the application submission date. For example, if an applicant submits the application on March 20, the letter must be dated after February 18.

5. Financial Pro-Forma Documentation

If you have previously submitted a pro-forma and have modified or added to your Part 2 application(s), your pro-forma should be updated to reflect the revised income, expenses, and cash flows expected.

Provide a financial pro-forma demonstrating the overall project's sustainability. The pro-forma should include income and expenses for all applied for UPFAs.

- Download the spreadsheet template provided in the application form or on the [UBC website](#). An applicant should wait to submit the pro-forma until all UPFAs have been developed and submitted using the Part 2 individual UPFA application. Complete and upload the pro forma spreadsheet, including supporting documentation. Applicants must also upload a PDF copy of their completed pro forma spreadsheet in case of file formatting or corruption issues.
- Applicants must upload a financial assumptions document that aggregates assumptions from all selected UPFAs. This financial assumptions document must cover at least three years of post award information and include revenue projections, take rates, etc.

6. Supplemental Information

This form provides applicants the opportunity to upload any documents that need to be updated or corrected from the pre-application, or to add supplemental documentation to support the information reported in the pre-application. This documentation may include items such as a new audit, updated resumes for management, etc. If the applicant does not wish to provide supplemental documents, the applicant may save the form and continue.

7. Certification and Compliance

Applicants must certify that all information provided is accurate and complies with federal, state, and program requirements. The applicant must also certify that they have not colluded with another applicant, that they do not have any conflicts of interest in the application being submitted, nor do they have an affiliation or involvement in any other application not identified in the application.

UBC strongly recommends that applicants sign this form and wait to submit Part 1 of the application until all UPFA submissions have been made.

Part 2: BIG Individual UPFA Application (Part 2)

Previously submitted Part 2 applications may be allowed to stand as is or may be reapplied for with new UPFA files and new budgets. If an application is to stand as is, you must indicate this in a new Part 2 application so that the new scoring can be applied.

Applicants must submit a separate Part 2 application for each project they wish to apply for. Project refers to the collection of UPFAs and BSLs. While not required, we recommend that projects with similar technologies be submitted together to ensure that priority projects are considered appropriately.

UPFA Project Information

After the applicant clicks “Apply” on the Overview page for the Part 2 application, a Project Information page will be displayed. Using the total numbers from the completed budget form, enter the following:

- Application Name is to be in the form:

Applicant name_technology_type - *BIG Broadband ISP_fiber*

Technology type should be the predominant technology contained in the application.

If you submitted an application in Round 1 that you want to have stand as is, please name the application *Applicant Name_Round 1_asis*.

- Total amount of Federal funds requested
- Total cash match

- Total in-kind match

Once this information has been entered and the contact information has been confirmed, choose “Save” to continue.

Applicants should check this page prior to the UPFA final submission to ensure the numbers on this page match the budget amounts on the budget form, as well as those on the Detail Budget page and the budget spreadsheet.

1. UPFA Selection

Applicants have the option of having your Round 1 application stand as is, or you may resubmit it using this Benefit of the Bargain application. If you select yes, please provide the UPFA number(s) you would like to stand as is and considered for the Benefit of the Bargain round. UBC will review and score these applications as submitted in Round 1 according to the [NTIA Policy Update \(June 6th, 2025\)](#)

If you select no, the following will apply.

Applications may contain multiple UPFAs with a consolidated budget or individual UPFAs with individual UPFA specific budgets.

Using this [link](#), download the UPFA Selection zip file, extract it and locate the UPFA ID workbook that matches the UPFA ID(s) selected. Review the [UPFA master file](#) that shows Non-Bead eligible locations for potential removal of BSLs.

In the Benefit of the Bargain application, multiple UPFAs may be included in a single Part 2 application. Applicants may propose to exclude select BSLs within the UPFA that the applicant determines are excessively high-cost locations (or would otherwise make the project economically unviable for the technology being used). However, only those BSLs selected will be considered for an award.

Applicants will be providing evidence to prove that an UPFA or combined project proposal should be considered a priority project. If an UPFA or combined UPFAs project proposal contains multiple technologies and any of the technologies are found to be non-priority, then the entire application will be considered non-priority. Applicants are encouraged to create separate applications for different technologies to ensure that priority projects are properly compared and scored.

Using the appropriate UPFA spreadsheet, select the technology to be provided to each BSL from the dropdown in Column C, Technology Type. Enter any comments you might have in Column D.

Review the master BSL spreadsheet to see if any BSLs have been determined to be non-BEAD eligible. If you have evidence that any of the locations on the list are already served or are not BEAD-eligible, indicate those locations using the comment column. For example, if a location already has service, is currently being built to, or is not a residential, commercial,

or Community Anchor Institution, it may be considered not eligible for BEAD funding. If you indicate any locations in the file as “not BEAD Eligible,” you must provide evidence showing that the location is already served or is otherwise not BEAD eligible (e.g., abandoned building, haystack). Your evidence showing a location as not BEAD eligible must adhere to NTIA’s evidentiary requirements, as outlined in UBC’s [non-BEAD BSL Submission Instructions](#). Your list of non-BEAD BSLs and evidence must be submitted through UBC’s [non-BEAD Locations Submission tool](#) in order to be considered for removal from BEAD eligibility. The non-BEAD locations that have been submitted will be indicated on the Benefit of the Bargain BIG BEAD round but must still be considered as BEAD-eligible until they are submitted with the Final Proposal to NTIA.

If the applicant determines that a BSL will be excessively high-cost to serve, it may be identified as such in the comment column and omitted from the application. Applicants must select a technology for all the BSLs within all the UPFA(s) or identify those BSLs not selected as high cost. This may be submitted in one application with multiple UPFAs and one consolidated budget and one design narrative, etc. except for those UPFAs listed in [Appendix D](#). These listed UPFAs must be applied for in separate applications, or may be included in a single application, but must have a separate, stand-alone budget for each of the UPFAs, or if they are indicated as a preliminary/provisionally award, they can be marked with a checked box to be resubmitted as is.

Applicants may elect to provide differing technologies within an UPFA. This may be done as one UPFA application with one budget and one design narrative, etc. Applying for the UPFA in this manner may result in the application being scored as a non-priority project if any of the technologies are determined to be non-priority.

2. System Design

Applicants are asked to confirm if the project included is to be considered a Priority Broadband Project per the requirements of [47 U.S.C. §1702\(a\)\(2\)\(I\)](#).

- If no, applicants will provide more information on the Proposed Network.
- If yes, applicants will be required to explain why the technology selected is the best solution for the applied UPFA(s) and how their minimal BEAD outlay is the lowest option for the applied UPFA(s).
 - Applicants will select the predominant technology being used for the project area application from the list below:
 - Fiber optic technology
 - Hybrid fiber coaxial
 - Hybrid Fiber-Fixed wireless using licensing spectrum
 - Fixed wireless using licensing spectrum
 - Fixed wireless using unlicensed spectrum (symmetrical service of at least 100/100 Mbps)

- Fixed wires using unlicensed spectrum of at least 100/20 Mbps
- Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite
- Per NTIA requirements and 47 U.S.C. §1702(a)(2)(I)(ii) for all applicants that are indicating the project is to be considered Priority Broadband, proof must be provided to ensure that the network built by the project 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.

To ensure that this requirement is met, applicants will be asked the following:

- Provide information on how your proposed network will deliver broadband service at a minimum download speed of 100 Mbps and a minimum upload speed of 20 Mbps with no more than 100 ms of latency, reliably and with consistency in quality of service.
- Provide information on how your network can easily scale speeds over time to meet the evolving connectivity needs of households and businesses
- Provide information on how your network can easily scale speeds over time to support the deployment of 5G, successor wireless technologies, and other advanced services.
- Provide the estimated cost per BSL to increase speed to:
 - ♦ 100 Mbps download and 100 Mbps upload
 - ♦ 1Gbps download and 1 Gbps upload
- If **low earth orbit (LEO) satellite** technology is selected as the predominant technology, an additional question will be asked:
 - If an award is made, provide information on how you will guarantee that capacity will be available during the 10-year period of performance for the BSL locations you are applying for, should an award be made.
- Applicants can upload any documentation that supports the assertions made above.

Proposed Network Applicants are asked to upload detailed technical documentation for the project as outlined in [Appendix B](#). This documentation should include:

- Network design diagrams
- System deployment plans and documentation with a description of the proposed technology

If proposing a **wireless project**, you will be asked to provide additional information due to the impact of geography and technological choices on performance. This includes documentation indicating tower locations, height, existing and new infrastructure locations and an end-to-end conceptual design

Per NTIA requirements, Eligible Entities shall require potential BEAD subgrantees to propose a **low-cost service option** that meets broadband speed and performance criteria as part of their applications. Applicants are asked to certify that they offer this service option and how much it will cost.

As required by IIJA and the NOFO, **the low-cost service option** must offer speeds of at least 100/20 Mbps and latency performance of no more than 100 milliseconds. Applicants that already offer a low-cost plan that meets these service requirements may satisfy the requirement by proposing to offer their existing low-cost plan to eligible subscribers.

3. Project Funding Information

Detailed UPFA Budget

Consolidated budgets may be developed for an entire application's UPFAs if none of the UPFAs are listed in [Appendix D](#). The UPFAs listed in the referenced appendices should be applied for in separate applications with separate and specific UPFA budgets or may be combined into a single application with separate and specific UPFA budgets.

Download the Budget Workbook from this Project Funding Information form on the [UBC website](#). Enter information for each tab of the budget workbook specific to the UPFA(s) selected. Include details for construction, equipment, labor, and other costs. Grant and match amounts should be shown in the relevant columns to ensure proper match credit.

Each tab of the workbook will populate a summary worksheet that aligns to federal budget categories that will be used should an award be made. The totals indicated on the summary worksheet should be used to populate the cost fields on the Project Funding Information form.

Upload a narrative to justify each budget line in the worksheets.

On this Project Funding Information form, the applicant must also provide the total amount of federal funds being requested for the selected UPFA(s), the total combined match, inclusive of cash and in-kind, and the number of broadband serviceable locations that are contained in the UPFA(s). These numbers are used to calculate the application's minimal BEAD outlay that is entered on the form.

Enter the average cost to serve the unserved and underserved BSLs separately in the fields provided.

Matching Funds Documentation

All applicants must demonstrate their ability to provide the required matching contribution and sustain the project through completion. The match may be cash or in-kind contributions and must be available when the agreement is executed.

Documentation Requirements

Option 1: Cash on Hand

Submit ALL of the following:

- Recent bank statement(s) in applicant's name showing sufficient funds
- Detailed accounting of any restricted funds
- Declaration of third-party loans or grants contributing to cash reserves
- Explanation of funds available specifically for the project

Option 2: External Funding Commitments

Submit documentation meeting ALL of these criteria:

- Format: Formal agreement or commitment letter
- Required Content:
 - Contributing entity's name and contact information
 - Specific dollar amount committed
 - Detailed purpose of funds
 - Terms and conditions of commitment
- Supporting Documentation:
 - Recent bank statement from contributing entity
 - Evidence of the signatory's authority to commit funds
 - If multiple sources, documentation for each source

Option 3 In-Kind Match

Submit documentation supporting all proposed in-kind match:

- Fair Market Value Documentation
 - Provide documentation proving the fair market value of the in-kind match item
- Timing of Availability
 - Must be available when grant agreement is signed or as funds are requested
 - Applies to all forms of in-kind match
- a) Compliance Requirements
 - 1) Must be verifiable through records
 - 2) Cannot be claimed for other Federal awards
 - 3) Must be necessary and reasonable
 - 4) Must meet Cost Principles requirements
 - 5) Cannot be federally funded unless specifically authorized
 - 6) Must appear in approved budget
 - 7) Must comply with all applicable provisions of 2 CFR Part 200, subpart E

Important Notes

- Bank statements must be dated within 30 days of application.
- All commitment letters must be signed by officers or persons authorized to bind the committing party.
- Funds must be explicitly available for BEAD project use.
- Applications without proper documentation must be revised and the documentation must be added in order to be considered eligible for award.
- Combined sources must total the required match amount.
- Documents must be uploaded in PDF format.

4. Benefit of the Bargain BIG BEAD Scorable Items

This section contains the scorable elements of the application specific to the previously selected UPFAs and technology. For details on scored elements, applicants should review [Appendix A](#).

In accordance with the NTIA published BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice, applications will only be scored if the BEAD cost per BSL is within 15% of an application competing for the same area.

1. Speed to Deployment (up to 5 points)

Points will be awarded based on evidence of project readiness or significant preliminary planning efforts for an increased speed to deployment of a network and provide services to each BSL within the Project Funding Area within a shorter time frame than competitors will receive points during scoring. All funded projects must be completed within the four-year time frame of a signed award or projects may be subject to clawback provisions if services are not provided within the contracted timeline. Types of evidence to be scored include any combination of the following for one point for each evidence up to five total points:

- Proof of ROW, easement, pole attachment access, or towers
- Documentation of the permit process is underway or a franchise agreement
- Documentation of engineering design
- Documentation of inventory or a bill of sale
- Tribal resolution, or other applicable documentation related to the speed of deployment

Applicants will receive 1 point for each type of documentation type provided up to a maximum of 5.

2. Speed of Network and Other Technical Capabilities (up to 55 points)

Applicants must select the minimum speed the project will meet or exceed. Options are:

- 1 Gbps/1 Gbps (55 points)

- 100 Mbps/100 Mbps (5 points)
- 100 Mbps/20 Mbps (0 points)

3. Identified Preliminary/Provisional Subs (up to 60 points)

Identified preliminary/provision subaward applicants that have opted to let their application from Round 1 stand as is will be awarded 50 points.

5. Certification Statement

Applicants must agree to certain requirements and provide certain information in order to be in compliance with the BEAD program:

- Tribal Coordination Certification
 - If any of the applied for UPFAs are located within Tribal boundaries, a resolution of consent from the tribal government indicating their willingness to allow the applicant to provide broadband service is required.
- Employment Law
 - Subgrantees must demonstrate a record of compliance with federal labor and employment laws and plan to continue compliance. Subgrantees will satisfy this requirement through self-certification of compliance. Please read and electronically sign the certification statement regarding the UPFA selection. Once all forms are green and complete, you may submit this UPFA Part 2 application. If you have not submitted Part 1, you may do that once all of your Part 2 UPFA applications have been submitted.

Post Award Grant Agreement and Funding

All applicants offered an award must enter into a subgrant award agreement with the State of Utah.

Funding Procedures

BEAD subgrantees will submit documentation for reimbursement of eligible expenses on a quarterly basis, in conjunction with their regular report cadence. Reimbursement will be received after verification that project milestone objectives have been completed. Before reimbursement is released to subgrantees, their reports will be reviewed by UBC. If the reports are deemed insufficient or incomplete, funds will be withheld until the issues are resolved. The final grant payment will be withheld until after project completion and network activation are verified by UBC.

Post-Award Monitoring

Funds may be used to support ongoing post-award monitoring and compliance reporting activities. These are considered tasks eligible for reimbursement and may

be completed by staff or by retaining the services of a consultant. If using staff time, the time tracking standards and requirements must be followed. The NTIA has published a one-page guidance for [personnel time tracking](#).

Appendix A – Broadband Infrastructure Grant Scoring

Competing applications using the following criteria:

Primary Criteria. In deciding among competing applications covering the same general project areas, Eligible Entities must choose the option with the lowest cost based on minimal BEAD Program outlay.

Minimal BEAD Program Outlay. UBC must select the combination of project proposals with the lowest overall cost to the Program. This may involve selecting a proposal that is not the lowest-cost option for a given set of BSLs but is part of the combination of selected projects with the lowest overall cost to the Program.

When comparing competing proposals, UBC will assess the total BEAD funding that will be required to complete the project (i.e., the total project cost minus the applicant's proposed match) and the cost to the Program per location (i.e., the total BEAD funding that will be required to complete the project divided by the number of BSLs the project will serve).

Secondary Criteria. If an application to serve the same general project area proposes a project cost within 15% of the lowest-cost proposal received for that same general project area on a per BSL basis, UBC will evaluate such competing applications based on the following three criteria.

Speed to Deployment (5 points). Description: Applicants that can show speed to deployment through project readiness or significant preliminary planning efforts for an increased speed to deployment of a network and provide services to each BSL within the Project Funding Area within a shorter time frame than competitors will receive points during scoring. All funded projects must be completed within the four-year time frame of a signed award or projects may be subject to clawback provisions if services are not provided within the contracted timeline (section 2.16.2).

Scoring: Speed to deployment will be scored on a sliding scale based on proof of preliminary planning efforts provided in the application as well as commitments to provide service with a shorter time frame than four years. Proof of these efforts may include documentation providing proof of existing rights of way, easements, or pole attachment access in the project area; documentation of permit processes that are underway; documentation showing preliminary engineering designs; documentation showing inventory of bills of sale for project materials; or other convincing documentation showing preliminary project plans. One point will be awarded for each type of documentation submitted in the application, up to five points.

Documentation	Points
Proof of ROW, Easement, Pole Attachment Access, Towers	1
Documentation of Permit Process Underway or franchise agreement	1
Documentation of engineering design	1
Documentation of inventory or bill of sale	1
Other applicable documentation related to speed to deployment	1

Speed of Network and Other Technical Capabilities (50 points). UBC will weigh the speed, latency, and other technical capabilities of the technologies proposed by prospective subgrantees.

- 1 Gbps/1 Gbps (50 points)
- 100 Mbps/100 Mbps (5 points)
- 100 Mbps/20 Mbps (0 points)

Preliminary/Provisional Subgrantees (45 points). For locations where UBC has indicated that a Round 1 applicant was identified as a potential preliminary subgrantee, UBC will give additional weight to those applications in the Benefit of the Bargain Round.

Appendix B – System Design Narrative

The system design contains all the technical information on the applicant's existing (if applicable) and the proposed system. If you are a new entrant to the broadband or telecommunications sector, provide detailed information regarding your business acumen or related experience. The following information must be included in this section:

A. Existing Network (to be included in Part 1 of the application)

1. A detailed description of the applicant's existing Utah network, if applicable, which includes the following:
 - a. The **current** service area(s);

An electronic .shp or .kml/.kmz file map showing the applicant's existing service area(s) within Utah. Boundary data for each area must be included with the application.
 - b. The types of technologies used in the network;
 - c. The types of services (voice, video, and/or data) offered and the number of subscribers taking each type of service;
 - d. The total number of end users served;
 1. For **wireline** networks, specify the number of end users passed with the network;
 2. For **wireless** networks, specify the total number of end users covered by the network;
 - e. A description of the current transport network utilized by the applicant.

B. Proposed Network (to be included in Part 2 of the application)

Note: Following an award and prior to beginning the project, the network design and plan must be certified by a professional engineer, stating that the proposed network can deliver broadband service that meets the requisite performance requirements to all locations served by the Project.

1. A detailed description of the **proposed** network, which includes the following:
 - a. A line diagram of the proposed network infrastructure;

Wireline Service: *A separate electronic .shp or .kml/.kmz file map that shows an accurate representation of the proposed wireline path within the UPFA. Middle mile/Interconnection and Last mile should be clearly differentiated. The length of the wireline path should approximately match the wire material length for UPFA outside plant and Middle Mile/Interconnection outside plant included in the budget.*

Wireless Service: *A separate electronic .shp or .kml/.kmz file map that shows an accurate representation of the proposed tower locations within the UPFA.*

Backhaul facilities should be clearly differentiated. The number of towers should match the towers and backhaul facilities included in the budget.

- b. Any upgrades that will be made to the existing network, if applicable (grant and match funds are only eligible for work necessary to provide service to the UPFA);
 - c. The types of technology to be deployed in the UPFA and how the technology will facilitate the offering of service at the proposed Broadband Grant Speed (including technology standards, whether the technologies are in current use and manufacturers of the technology);
 - d. The number of BSLs to be offered service. Provide detailed engineering justification showing that all eligible BSLs within the UPFA will be offered broadband service at the Broadband Grant Speed when the system is complete.
 1. For **wireline** networks, specify the number of BSLs passed with the network.
 2. For **wireless** networks, specify the total number of BSLs covered by the funded network, any assumptions regarding foliage and obstructions, and the engineering justification for those assumptions;
 3. Describe any restrictions or costs associated with BSL service, including typical connection fees or extra costs for excessive drop lengths.
 - e. The types of services (voice, video, and/or data) to be offered in the UPFA, the cost and the number of subscribers expected to take each type of service. If you are planning “over-the-top” services, include a description of the service provider or potential service provider and how you will deliver the service from a technical (peering, caching) and business (marketing, contracts) perspective. This data should match the data provided in your pro-forma calculations.
 - f. A description of the network operation center.
2. A description of the proposed connection or connections to the upstream Service Provider and any changes needed to the existing system to accommodate additional capacity, connection to any data center, and whether and how resiliency and redundancy are built into the connection(s).
 3. A description of the design parameters used in engineering the system. Examples include oversubscription ratio calculations, bandwidth consumption per user, link loss, data rates per link, redundancy requirements, and component technical specifications.
 4. A description of any licenses and/or agreements required to construct and operate the network and the status of securing those licenses/agreements. These may include, but are not limited to, pole attachment agreements, rights-of-way agreements, spectrum licenses, fiber lease agreements, capacity lease agreements, antenna site agreements, and franchise agreements.
 5. Upload a network diagram of the applicant’s existing network (if applicable) and the

proposed network. This diagram shall be a block diagram that clearly shows how the traffic flows through the network from the interconnection points with the backbone service providers to the end users. The following information must be shown in the network diagram:

- a. The location of all major network elements
 - b. The route miles between each network element
 - c. The bandwidth capacity between the network elements
 - d. The types of facilities (fiber, copper, microwave, etc.) that are or will be used for establishing the connection between the network elements and the points of connection with the backbone service providers
 - e. The location of any leased facilities and the owner of these facilities, including any cloud or managed service providers.
6. A description of the main areas of risk in the project and the applicant's mitigation plan for addressing each risk. At a minimum, the following should be discussed:
 - a. Future upgrade and scalability
 - b. Cybersecurity and supply chain risk management
 - A cybersecurity plan and a supply chain risk management plan are each required prior to allocation of funds.
 - c. Disaster recovery and business continuity.
 7. Due to the impact of geography and technological choices on the performance of wireless network projects, wireless projects should provide the following additional information:
 - a. Electronic .shp or .kmz/.kml file of the location of the unserved households and project coverage area, including tower locations with geotag information showing tower height, equipment height, construction type, and ownership
 - b. Document existing and new infrastructure locations
 - c. Provide an end-to-end conceptual design of the network, including core and radio elements. The conceptual design should include the following:
 1. Radio Frequency (RF) heat maps showing signal strength with the tower radio equipment placement for each radio identified (assumed height above grade, antenna angle, and declination characteristics). This should be included as a .shp file or .kmz/.kml file
 - (a) For design purposes, in order to account for real-world conditions, the assumed Customer Premise Equipment (CPE) height above ground level is to be a maximum of 35 feet or lower, depending on CPE type and installation.
 - (b) If your design assumes CPE above 35 feet, describe how you will ensure that height is provided to customers during installation.

- (c) Provide information on the three dimensional variables, such as tree cover, geographic inputs, etc. used in the design.
- 2. Overall system network diagram
- 3. Height of equipment on existing infrastructure (towers, rooftops, etc.)
- 4. Backhaul methods and routes
- 5. Method of subscriber connection
- 6. Link budget, documenting all the gains and losses in the system from the transmitter to the receiver (in both the downlink and uplink direction)
- 7. Assumptions such as design requirements, RF inputs (technology selection and migration path, use cases, frequency band selection, system bandwidth, base station antenna, end user device), target coverage areas, asset preferences, geographic information, prediction tools, etc.
- 8. Core network conceptual design and deployment options (cloud, on premise, distributed with edge gateways, virtual, bare metal), and capacity and coverage
- 9. Selected manufacturer and equipment list
- 10. Description of network management system

Appendix C – Pro-Forma Instructions

Step-by-Step Guide for Completing the Pro Forma Financial Statements

In the provided [Excel workbook pro forma template](#) are tabs for the Balance Sheet, Income Statement, and Statement of Cash Flows. In each of those worksheets, enter prior year actuals for Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024. Then, in the columns to the right, enter the company's estimated figures for Fiscal Years 2025 through 2027. Estimates should be based on realistic and well-researched assumptions, such as historical performance, industry benchmarks, market trends, inflation, and other anticipated changes.

To fill out pro forma balance sheets, estimate future assets, liabilities, and equity based on anticipated growth and funding sources, ensuring the balance sheet equation remains accurate. For income statements, project future revenues, costs, and expenses, factoring in market trends and operational plans to calculate net income over a specific period. When completing the statement of cash flows, forecast cash inflows and outflows across operating, investing, and financing activities, ensuring alignment with the income statement and balance sheet projections.

Balance Sheet

1. Prepare to input current assets. Locate the current assets section in the template. Input the values for cash, accounts receivable, inventory, etc. For grant-related activities, estimate increases in cash or receivables from anticipated funding or project operations.
2. Complete the non-current assets section. Fill out the non-current assets section, including property, equipment, and infrastructure. Itemize any planned acquisitions tied to the grant project (e.g., network hardware, fiber optic cables). Use precise cost estimates based on vendor quotes or market research.
3. Enter current liabilities. Locate the current liabilities section of the template. Include short-term obligations like accounts payable, wages payable, and the current portion of long-term debt. Add any new short-term liabilities related to the grant project, such as upfront payments to contractors or suppliers.
4. Populate long-term liabilities. Fill out the long-term liabilities section for obligations like loans or leases that extend beyond one year. Include new liabilities directly associated with financing the grant project, such as loans for capital infrastructure.
5. Fill in equity information. In the equity section, input retained earnings, owner contributions, or shareholder equity. Incorporate the impact of the grant funding on equity, such as projected net income or additional contributions tied to the project.

6. Verify that total assets equal liabilities plus equity. Double-check that the balance sheet adheres to the accounting equation: Total assets = Total liabilities + Equity.

7. Validate inputs. Review the completed balance sheet for consistency, accuracy, and alignment with grant requirements.

Income Statement

1. Define operating revenue projections. Input estimated revenues from your current services (e.g., internet subscriptions, enterprise solutions). Use historical growth trends as a guide. Include projected revenues from new services or market expansions enabled by the grant project.

2. Input operating expenses. Include salaries, office expenses, and general overhead. Project costs for promoting new services or reaching new markets enabled by the grant. Account for the depreciation of new assets acquired for the project. Include any expenses covered by or resulting from the grant, such as consulting fees or compliance costs.

3. Include other income and expenses. Record anticipated interest income or costs from loans tied to the grant project. Add projections for any non-operating items, such as asset sales or donations.

4. Account for taxes. Estimate the tax impact based on your projected income and applicable tax rates. Adjust for any tax benefits related to the grant.

5. Validate inputs. Review the completed balance sheet for consistency, accuracy, and alignment with grant requirements.

Statement of Cash Flows

Operating Activities

1. Start with net income. Input projected Net Income from your pro forma income statement. Ensure it aligns with assumptions made in your other financial documents.

2. Adjust for non-cash items. Include non-cash expenses related to assets funded by the grant (e.g., network equipment depreciation). Record changes in deferred revenue, allowances, or write-offs if applicable.

3. Account for changes in assets and liabilities. Project changes in customer payments due, factoring in expanded services. Estimate timing and amounts of vendor payments. Account for inventory tied to customer equipment (e.g., modems, routers).

Investing Activities

4. Record cash flows from capital expenditures, equities, and securities. Include cash outflows for acquiring new infrastructure, technology, or equipment funded by the grant. Ensure expenditures align with grant guidelines and project milestones.

5. Account for asset sales or investments. Add any projected inflows from selling assets or withdrawing from long-term investments.

Financing Activities

6. Include grant disbursements. Record cash inflows from grant funding.

7. Record loan activity (if applicable). Include proceeds from new loans obtained for the project and repayments of existing loans.

8. Capture equity contributions or distributions. Add cash inflows from owner contributions or new equity investments tied to the grant project. Subtract any planned dividends or equity distributions.

9. Validate inputs. Review the completed balance sheet for consistency, accuracy, and alignment with grant requirements.

Instructions for preparing the Pro Forma Assumption Documentation

As part of your application for BEAD funding, it is essential to provide a clear and detailed narrative of the assumptions used in preparing your pro forma financial statements. This narrative will help reviewers understand the foundation of your financial projections, including key drivers behind revenue growth, cost estimates, funding allocations, and operational plans. Your assumptions should address the specific context of your broadband infrastructure project, including market conditions, project timelines, and the anticipated impact of grant funding. Be sure to highlight how these assumptions align with the goals of the BEAD program and support the long-term sustainability of your project. A well-documented narrative enhances transparency and demonstrates the credibility of your financial planning.

The following is a list of topics to consider including in your narrative:

- Revenue assumptions: Customer growth rate, pricing strategy, market penetration, grant impact on revenue, revenue diversification, etc.
- Cost assumptions: Capital expenditures, operating costs, labor costs, depreciation and amortization, inflation, etc.
- Funding assumptions: Grant disbursement schedule, debt financing, equity contributions, subsidies or tax credits, etc.
- Growth and market assumptions: Market demand, competitive landscape, technological advancements, project completion timeline, etc.
- Cash flow assumptions: Accounts receivable turnover, accounts payable turnover, working capital requirements, reserve funds, etc.
- Tax and regulatory assumptions: Tax rates, regulatory compliance codes, grant reporting requirements, etc.
- Risk and contingency assumptions: Risk adjustments, contingency planning, etc.

Appendix D –UPFAs Previously Identified for a Provisional/Preliminary Round 1 Award

8-006	Fiber
A9-002	Fiber
A9-005	Fiber
B8-007	Fiber
B8-010	Fiber
B8-014	Fiber
B9-005	Fiber
B9-006	Fiber
B9-007	Fiber
B9-012	Fiber
C1-003	Fiber
C1-004	Fiber
C1-009	Fiber
C1-011	Fiber
C1-012	Fiber
C1-016	Fiber
C1-025	Other
C1-031	Fiber
C1-035	Fiber
C2-003	Fiber
C2-006	Fiber
C2-008	Fiber
C2-013	Fiber
C2-014	Fiber
C2-019	Fiber
C2-021	Fiber
C2-022	Fiber
C2-023	Fiber
C2-023	Other
C3-001	Fiber
C3-005	Fiber
C3-019	Fiber
C3-021	Fiber
C3-022	Fiber
C3-024	Fiber
C3-028	Fiber
C3-036	Fiber

C4-004	Fiber
C4-006	Fiber
C4-009	Fiber
C8-001	Fiber
C8-002	Fiber
C8-003	Fiber
C8-004	Fiber
C8-005	Fiber
C8-008	Fiber
C8-009	Fiber
D1-008	Fiber
D1-010	Fiber
D1-015	Fiber
D1-016	Fiber
D1-017	Fiber
D1-020	Fiber
D1-021	Fiber
D1-022	Fiber
D1-024	Fiber
D1-025	Fiber
D1-026	Fiber
D1-027	Fiber
D1-028	Fiber
D1-029	Fiber
D1-031	Other
D1-032	Fiber
D1-035	Other
D1-036	Other
D1-037	Fiber
D1-040	Fiber
D1-041	Other
D1-045	Fiber
D1-046	Fiber
D1-049	Fiber
D1-050	Fiber
D1-051	Fiber
D1-052	Fiber

D1-053	Fiber
D1-054	Fiber
D1-055	Other
D1-056	Fiber
D1-057	Fiber
D1-058	Fiber
D2-007	Fiber
D2-008	Fiber
D2-009	Fiber
D2-010	Fiber
D2-011	Fiber
D2-012	Fiber
D2-013	Fiber
D2-014	Fiber
D2-015	Fiber
D2-016	Fiber
D2-017	Fiber
D2-018	Fiber
D2-019	Fiber
D2-020	Fiber
D2-021	Fiber
D2-022	Fiber
D2-023	Fiber
D2-024	Fiber
D2-026	Fiber
D2-027	Fiber
D2-029	Fiber
D2-030	Fiber
D2-035	Fiber
D2-036	Fiber
D2-037	Fiber
D2-038	Fiber
D2-039	Other
D2-042	Fiber
D2-043	Fiber
D2-044	Fiber
D2-045	Fiber

D2-046	Fiber
D2-047	Fiber
D2-052	Fiber
D2-053	Fiber
D2-054	Other
D2-055	Fiber
D2-062	Fiber
D2-065	Fiber
D2-066	Fiber
D2-067	Fiber
D2-068	Fiber
D2-070	Fiber
D2-071	Fiber
D2-072	Fiber
D2-074	Fiber
D2-075	Fiber
D2-079	Fiber
D2-087	Fiber
D2-092	Fiber
D2-096	Fiber
D2-105	Fiber
D2-109	Fiber
D3-001	Fiber
D3-006	Fiber
D3-008	Fiber
D3-009	Fiber
D3-013	Fiber
D3-014	Fiber
D3-016	Fiber
D3-017	Fiber
D3-018	Fiber
D3-019	Fiber
D3-021	Fiber
D3-022	Fiber
D3-024	Fiber
D3-025	Fiber
D3-033	Fiber
D3-034	Fiber
D3-035	Fiber
D3-036	Fiber
D3-037	Fiber

D3-038	Fiber
D3-039	Fiber
D3-041	Fiber
D3-043	Fiber
D3-044	Fiber
D3-045	Fiber
D3-047	Fiber
D3-048	Other
D3-049	Other
D3-050	Other
D3-051	Fiber
D3-052	Other
D3-053	Other
D3-054	Fiber
D3-055	Fiber
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D3-057	Fiber
D3-059	Fiber
D3-060	Fiber
D3-061	Fiber
D3-063	Fiber
D3-064	Fiber
D3-065	Fiber
D3-066	Fiber
D3-067	Fiber
D3-074	Fiber
D3-080	Fiber
D3-082	Fiber
D3-083	Fiber
D3-084	Other
D3-086	Fiber
D3-087	Fiber
D3-088	Other
D3-089	Other
D3-090	Other
D3-091	Fiber
D3-092	Fiber
D3-093	Fiber
D3-094	Fiber
D3-096	Fiber
D3-098	Fiber

D3-100	Fiber
D3-102	Fiber
D3-104	Fiber
D3-108	Fiber
D3-109	Fiber
D3-112	Fiber
D3-117	Other
D3-124	Fiber
D3-126	Fiber
D3-127	Fiber
D3-127	Other
D3-128	Fiber
D3-128	Other
D3-129	Fiber
D3-130	Fiber
D3-131	Fiber
D3-132	Fiber
D3-138	Fiber
D3-139	Fiber
D3-141	Fiber
D3-148	Fiber
D3-158	Fiber
D3-158	Other
D3-162	Fiber
D3-163	Fiber
D3-164	Fiber
D3-165	Fiber
D3-166	Fiber
D3-168	Fiber
D3-176	Fiber
D3-179	Fiber
D3-183	Fiber
D4_003	Fiber
D4-001	Fiber
D4-002	Fiber
D4-003	Fiber
D4-004	Fiber
D4-005	Fiber
D4-006	Fiber
D4-007	Fiber
D4-008	Fiber

D4-014	Fiber
D4-015	Fiber
D4-015	Other
D4-016	Fiber
D4-017	Fiber
D4-019	Fiber
D4-020	Fiber
D4-021	Fiber
D4-030	Fiber
D4-040	Fiber
D4-041	Fiber
D4-045	Fiber
D4-046	Fiber
D4-047	Fiber
D4-048	Fiber
D4-049	Fiber
D4-050	Fiber
D4-051	Fiber
D4-055	Fiber
D4-056	Fiber
D4-057	Fiber
D4-058	Fiber
D4-061	Fiber
D4-062	Fiber
D4-069	Fiber
D4-070	Fiber
D4-071	Fiber
D4-073	Fiber
D4-074	Fiber
D4-075	Fiber
D4-076	Fiber
D4-078	Fiber
D4-079	Fiber
D4-080	Fiber
D4-081	Fiber
D4-084	Fiber
D4-085	Fiber
D4-086	Fiber
D4-093	Fiber
D4-106	Fiber
D4-107	Fiber

D4-108	Fiber
D5-033	Other
D6-003	Other
D6-004	Other
E1-001	Other
E2-001	Fiber
E3-001	Other
E3-003	Other
E3-007	Other
E3-012	Other
E3-015	Other
E4-001	Other
E4-002	Other
E4-003	Other
E4-004	Fiber
E4-005	Fiber
E4-006	Fiber
E4-008	Other
E4-019	Fiber
E4-020	Other
E4-021	Other
E5-001	Fiber
E6-001	Other
E7-002	Other
F3-001	Other
F3-002	Fiber
F3-003	Other
F3-004	Other
F3-005	Other
F3-006	Other
F3-008	Other
F3-015	Other
F3-018	Fiber
F3-042	Other
F4-001	Other
F4-002	Other
F4-004	Fiber
F4-005	Fiber
F4-006	Other
F4-007	Other
F4-008	Other

F4-009	Other
F4-010	Fiber
F4-011	Other
F4-012	Other
F4-013	Other
F4-014	Other
F4-015	Other
F4-016	Fiber
F4-017	Other
F4-018	Other
F4-019	Other
F4-020	Other
F4-021	Fiber
F4-022	Other
F4-023	Other
F4-024	Other
F4-025	Fiber
F4-026	Fiber
F4-027	Fiber
F4-028	Fiber
F4-029	Fiber
F4-030	Fiber
F4-031	Fiber
F4-032	Other
F4-033	Fiber
F4-034	Fiber
F4-036	Other
F4-037	Other
F4-038	Fiber
G3-001	Other
G3-002	Other
G3-003	Fiber
G3-004	Fiber
G3-005	Fiber
G3-006	Other
G3-013	Other
G3-019	Other
G3-032	Other
G4-001	Other
G4-002	Other
G4-003	Other



G4-008	Other
G4-012	Other
G8-004	Other
G9-004	Other