

BIG BEAD HYBRID PROJECT

Milestone Disbursement Guidance

OPERATIONAL TECHNOLOGY SEGMENTATION

BIG BEAD project milestone disbursements are designed for different network technologies. Because wireline and terrestrial non-wireline networks are deployed at different rates, matching disbursements to the specific network technology aligns with construction technologies. Subgrantees with hybrid network projects (e.g. fiber/fixed wireless) are encouraged to strategically subdivide their network footprint into separate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Project Areas based on technology. Each NEPA area will be governed by the milestone disbursement schedule corresponding to its deployment technology.

INDEPENDENT UTILITY

In order to divide a project into different NEPA areas, each area must have independent utility. This means that each proposed NEPA area has logical termini and is functionally independent. This means that each area must have a beginning point and an end point, and does not require other broadband projects or expenditures to function as intended.

BLENDED PRO-RATA ALLOCATIONS

In instances where a hybrid network project cannot be subdivided into NEPA areas by technology, the Utah Broadband Center (UBC) will apply a weighted pro-rata funding allocation to the project disbursements. UBC will evaluate the engineering design of the project to determine the percentage of the total project build attributed to each technology. This technology ratio will then be applied to the disbursement milestone payouts for the project.

HYBRID NETWORK ALLOCATION EXAMPLE

01

Project Profile

A hybrid project with 70% of the build utilizing fiber and 30% of the build utilizing wireless is awarded \$100,000 in BEAD funds.

02

Budget Segmentation

The overall budget is separated into a wireline allocation of \$70,000 and a wireless allocation of \$30,000.

03

Disbursements

The \$70,000 wireline budget will be disbursed using the Fiber Milestone Schedule. The \$30,000 wireless budget will be disbursed using the Fixed Wireless Milestone Schedule. Both schedules will be used for disbursements concurrently as the milestones are achieved.

