



# ARConnect

The Arkansas State Broadband Office

**Arkansas BEAD Program**

# Frequently Asked Questions Document 1

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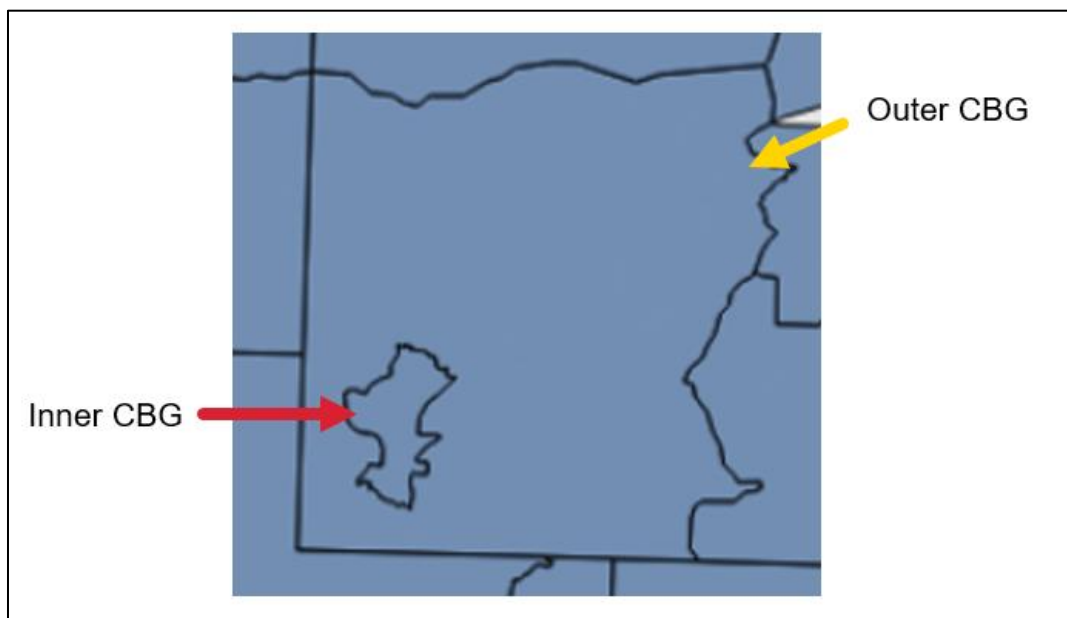
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Arkansas BEAD Program  
Frequently Asked Questions – Document 1

**Project Area Questions**

1. Which CBGs have to be bid on together?  
When a CBG sits within the boundaries of another CBG, the applicant must include both CBGs in its project area if bidding for either. Please refer to this diagram for a visualization of this scenario.

**Diagram of inner and outer CBG set**



The following set of outer and inner CBG(s) must be bid on together, because the inner CBG(s) sit within the outer CBG. Please note, this list of CBG IDs is a **draft** and will be finalized after the conclusion of the Challenge Process.

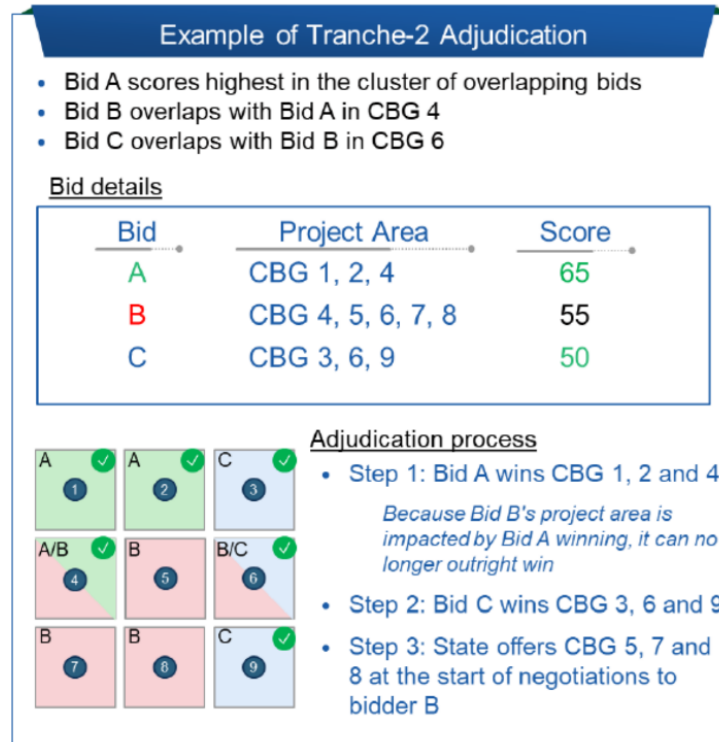
Outer CBG ID	Inner CBG ID(s)
050219501002	050219506002
051174601002	051174601003 051174601004
051074806002	051074806001
050014808001	050014808002
05099092003	050990902001 050990902002
051039503023	05103950321
051399502002	051399502003
051114901002	051114901004
050674801001	050674801004 050674801003 050674801002
051114901001	051114901005
050619502002	050619503003 050619503004

- Is it a better strategy to submit multiple bids composed of singular CBGs or one bid with a larger project area composed of multiple CBGs?  
A bid with a high number of CBGs is more likely to overlap with other bids but ultimately could win a larger project area. The rules are flexible for bidders to decide what strategy works best with their business goals.

### Deconfliction Questions

- In Tranche-2, why wouldn't Bid B be the next in line for an award? (see 2b from Applicant Primer)

Figure 2b: Adjudication in Tranche-2 (Example Scenario)



In this scenario, Bid B has lost part of its project area due to overlap with Bid A, a winning bid. Since a bid (entire project area) is the unit of adjudication and cannot be broken into smaller parts, Bid B cannot outright win and is eliminated from the deconfliction process (allowing Bid C to win its entire project area). However, ARConnect will approach Bid B after Tranche-2 to negotiate on CBGs 5, 7, and 8.

4. Why would non-priority bids be deconflicted in Tranche-1 given they have no chance of winning anyway?

Non-priority bids will receive a status at the end of Tranche-1 based on the results of deconfliction, with the status being either “closed” or “carried forward.”

Applicants will have the opportunity to modify their carried forward bids, including non-priority bids, to receive more points in Tranche-2.

### **Bid Submission and Review Questions**

5. How does an applicant score in Workforce Support?

As part of the application, applicants will have the opportunity to answer questions and demonstrate their workforce support plans and initiatives. Applicants can refer to the Scoring Rubric (3.1) to see examples of workforce support initiatives that can earn points.

6. If an applicant misses the Tranche-1 closing date, can it still submit a late bid?  
No, if an applicant misses the Tranche-1 closing date for any reason (including failure to press “submit” on an otherwise complete application), it will not be allowed to submit the bid at a later date. Once Tranche-1 is closed, ARConnect will stop accepting Tranche-1 bidding applications.
7. How is ARConnect confirming the validity of fiber designs and that the costs match up with the design specifications?  
Professional Engineering stamps will be required. ARConnect will hire a subcontracting firm to perform a technical review, which will ensure the costs are reasonable from a design perspective.
8. If only fiber (priority) bids are considered for award in Tranche-1, what would be the benefit of submitting a non-priority bid in Tranche-1?  
In order to participate in Tranche-2, an applicant must submit a bid in Tranche-1 (however, an applicant is not restricted to the same technology type for new bids in Tranche-2). Additionally, all bids submitted in Tranche-1 help ARConnect understand the cost to serve given areas and the overall demand in Arkansas as it prepares Reference Prices for Tranche-2.

### **Other Questions**

9. Is Citizens Broadband Radio Service considered Reliable Broadband Service for non-priority bids?  
Yes.
10. Can an applicant do a performance bond instead of having to obtain a Letter of Credit (Requirement 2.4.11B)?  
Yes, an applicant can opt for a performance bond instead of obtaining a Letter of Credit from an eligible bank. The requirement to obtain a Letter of Credit is waived under the conditions described in section 2.4.11C of IPvII.