



ARConnect

The Arkansas State Broadband Office

Arkansas BEAD Program

Frequently Asked Questions Document 10

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Milestone Reimbursement Questions

1. How will an ISP provide proof of BABA compliance for milestone #2? Is this different than what is required in the pre-registration application?

Yes. At this milestone, an applicant will need to demonstrate that they have obtained a contract for BABA-compliant equipment. The pre-registration application does not require the actual contract with the supplier.

2. Materials, engineering, staging, and make-ready costs can be significant upfront costs in these projects. Will we be able to seek reimbursement for these costs in the initial milestones and reimbursement filings?

Yes. You can request reimbursement for these costs after you incur the expenses and when you file for reimbursement in the early stages of the project. The achievement of a milestone unlocks the ability to receive a specific portion of the award (the disbursement percentage).

Application Questions

3. How does an applicant score in Workforce Support?

Applicants will have the opportunity to answer questions to demonstrate their workforce support plans and initiatives. Applicants can refer to the Scoring Rubric (3.1) to see examples of the seven workforce support initiatives that can earn them up to five points. If an applicant has workforce initiatives that are not listed, they should select the most similar example and explain their initiative in the textbox that will be provided.

4. Can an applicant change from buried fiber in Tranche-1 to aerial fiber in Tranche-2?

Applicants will have to indicate whether they will achieve 85% or higher as a share of fiber that is buried (as opposed to aerial) for their project. An applicant may not change their answer to this question for a bid that is Carried Forward from Tranche-1 to Tranche-2.

5. Is there a method for an applicant to bid fiber (priority) but list hybrid options in case we want to bid with hybrid technology in Tranche-2?

Applicants will need to submit these as separate applications. This applicant, for example, might submit two bids for the exact same project area: one bid application can use fiber, and one bid application can use hybrid technology. Applicants are permitted to bid for the same CBG up to three times.

6. How many steps is the official submission of the application?
Official submission is three steps. Once complete, applicants will have the opportunity to review their answers and press “Submit Application.” After an applicant presses submit, applicants will complete a required attestation to verify the validity of their application. Then, applicants will be asked if they are sure they want to submit, to which an applicant will click “Yes” to officially submit.

Affordability Questions

7. Is the affordability plan all inclusive? What all is included in the commitment price?
The affordability plan commitment is the total price, inclusive of all charges and fees associated with the tier of service. However, taxes, other government related fees, and equipment charges are not included.