



# ARConnect

The Arkansas State Broadband Office

**Arkansas BEAD Program**

## Frequently Asked Questions Document 9

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**Partnerships and Consortia Questions**

1. Do consortium members need to form a separate legal entity that would contract with ARConnect if awarded, or does each member contract directly with ARConnect for the portion of the project area they are committing to serve?  
ARConnect will consider requests to disaggregate consortium selections into separate final subgrant agreements for individual consortium members, if it is determined that such a step would be in the best interests of the efficient administration of the program. Note that in all such cases, a subgrantee must fully meet all qualifications of the BEAD program; therefore to the extent a consortium entity relied on different capabilities of different members to establish minimum qualifications, disaggregated subgrant awards may not be permitted.
2. How do partnerships and consortia participate in the Arkansas BEAD program?  
Multi-entity parties should complete a single pre-registration application to register a partnership or consortium. Also, please declare to the office via email ([broadband@arkansas.gov](mailto:broadband@arkansas.gov)) the decision to apply as a partnership or consortium, and designate the lead applicant (for future correspondence). Please disclose all applicants who will be involved in the partnership or consortium.
3. If two entities have separately pre-registered and decide to form a consortium to bid on a CBG, do they need to jointly pre-register as a consortium?  
Yes.
4. What information will be collected from the partnership or consortium?  
Question 37 in the pre-registration application requires the disclosure of the ownership structure. Applicants may point to the capabilities (operational, technical, managerial) of any entity in the partnership or consortium when completing the pre-registration application.
5. How will partnerships complete and submit applications?  
Designate one lead entity within the partnership that will take responsibility for submitting the application and coordination with the other entities participating in the partnership.
6. How do the bidding rules apply to partnerships and consortiums?  
Bidding rules apply separately to the consortium or partnership joint entity, irrespective of how the individual entities apply on their own. For example, an applicant may apply for a CBG up to 3 times independently and up to 3 times through a partnership, because partnerships are treated as independent applicants.

## Reimbursement Questions

7. If I am between the 25% and 50% project BSL milestones, can I request reimbursement based on a per-location amount?  
Yes, if an applicant uses a letter of credit or performance bond that is 10% the subaward amount. If an applicant has not achieved its next milestone (in this example, 50% project BSLs), they still must file for reimbursement at the 6-month mark, at a minimum. There will be a proportional amount of funding released at the time, depending on the progress.
8. Once a milestone is reached, will ARConnect have to request approval from NTIA to receive the BEAD funding before disbursing funds to the subgrantee?  
ARConnect will not seek NTIA's approval of the (evidence of) milestone achievement. Rather, once ARConnect is satisfied that the subgrantee has met all of the criteria for reimbursement under the subgrant agreement, ARConnect will request funding from U.S. Commerce and disburse funds to the subgrantee as soon as is practical.
9. Do applicants need to show that they have requested all permits to receive 10% disbursement (at the 20% disbursement milestone)? Or can they show that they are actively requesting permits based on our project timeline?  
ARConnect understands that applicants will likely need to continue obtaining permits during the build phase, and it may be difficult to predict permitting needs that may rise later in the project. The milestone is intended to focus on the reasonably understood set of primary permits required to ensure that a deployment project will be able to proceed with its main activities and that the subgrantee has taken all reasonable steps to secure those permits. In reviewing requests for disbursement at this milestone, ARConnect will welcome additional context from subgrantees about any unique permitting requirements associated with their deployment projects.

## Eligible Location Questions

10. Regarding a subgrantee's obligation to reach a BSL, what happens if a property owner of a funded BSL will not agree to a private easement for our facilities to cross their property?  
NTIA is expected to provide a mechanism to true this up over the life of a grant, but right now, the guidance has not been released. For now, applicants should prepare to serve all eligible BSLs on the finalized list of eligible BSLs (once released).
11. What happens if, during the construction phase, we find locations in our project area that are already being served?  
Subgrantees should build out qualifying service to those locations per the terms of their award.