



ARConnect

The Arkansas State Broadband Office

Arkansas BEAD Program

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Pre-registration Questions

1. Is pre-registration the same as pre-qualification?
Yes.

Application Questions

2. Can the word limit for the Fair Labor Practices question be higher?
The word limit for the Fair Labor Practices question will increase to 600 words.
3. When seeking signatures for letters of support, how can applicants share project details without sharing specific information related to applications?
ARConnect provided guidance to the officials who may be asked to sign letters of support on the questions they are permitted to ask applicants.
4. How much time will preliminary selectees have to submit network designs, commitment letters, and project budgets?
ARConnect will provide more details on the timeline at a later date.
5. How will hybrid technology applications be scored?
Applications will be scored based on the lowest technology class to be provided. For example, if an applicant plans to deploy both XGS-PON fiber and non-fiber technology (1000/500 Mbps), the application would score 1 point.
6. Will applications proposing multiple technology classes only have to commit to the baseline price for the highest tier of service? For example, will an application proposing both fiber and non-fiber technology only provide the 1G pricing commitment?
Yes. Applicants only have to commit to a baseline price for the highest tier of service being provided.
7. Some locations listed as BSLs may already be served or do not have any structure there. Can those locations be excluded when preparing our bids?
Applicants should prepare to serve all eligible BSLs on the finalized list. NTIA will provide a true up mechanism at the end of the subgrantee selection process for preliminary selectees.

8. How many points will an applicant receive for scale of geographic coverage if they are covering a whole county that has less than 3,000 locations?
Applicants whose project footprint covers 100% of locations in a county, regardless of the exact number of locations, will receive 5 points for scale of geographic coverage. Applicants whose project footprint does not cover all locations in a county will be scored according to the scale listed in the scoring rubric.
9. If an applicant bids on the whole county, does that mean they are bidding on all locations within that county?
By bidding on a CBG, applicants commit to serving all eligible locations within that CBG. If an applicant bids on an entire county, that means they are bidding on all CBGs within that county that have eligible locations.
10. Do applicants have to bid on an entire county?
Applicants do not need to bid on an entire county. A project footprint can be as small as one CBG.
11. In Tranche-2, can new bids include a CBG that was not included in an applicant's Tranche-1 project areas?
Yes. Applicants may bid on *available* CBGs in Tranche-2 that were not included in their Tranche-1 bids. Remember, however, any CBG preliminarily selected in Tranche-1 will not be available for bidding in Tranche-2.
12. Will a bid that requests more than two times the reference price in Tranche-1 be closed or carried forward to Tranche-2?
If the bid is not impacted by a Buy-It-Now bid, it will be carried forward to Tranche-2.
13. Where is Arkansas location data available?
The eligible location data is on the [AR BEAD Webpage](#) in the CBG Reference Price and BSL Resource section.
14. Regarding affordability, are applicants expected to offer the baseline price to all customers or just to customers who qualify based on NTIA's criteria?
The baseline price for the highest tier of service that a provider supports (*i.e.*, the service and price scored as primary criteria 1.2) must be made available to all customers on the BEAD-funded network. Applicants will be permitted to adjust their plan costs annually based on the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' annual Consumer Price Index. Affordable plan commitments will last per the term of Federal interest - 10 years after the year in which the subgrant for a project has been closed out in accordance with 2 CFR 200.344.

Other Questions

15. Related to guidance on conduit access from Page 66 of the BEAD NOFO, how will Arkansas address conduit access points for projects proposing to lay conduit? How will “regular and short intervals” and “excess conduit capacity” be defined?
Page 66 of the BEAD NOFO directs that ARConnect “shall consider the adequacy of the prospective subgrantee’s proposed excess conduit capacity and access points when evaluating the application.” Given expected variation in project characteristics, ARConnect will evaluate the adequacy of applicant’s proposals on a case-by-case basis.