Arkansas BEAD Program

Frequently Asked Questions
Document 18

Application Portal Questions

1. If an application currently has an "In Review" status in the portal, does that mean it was successfully submitted?
   Yes. If applicants did not receive an email notification after an application was submitted and would like confirmation, please email ARgrants@mbakerintl.com

2. What do I do if I am experiencing issues downloading a PDF of my application?
   The solution for PDF exports is still in progress. If an applicant is experiencing this issue, email broadband@arkansas.gov with the name(s) of the application(s), and ARConnect will generate and send the PDF.

3. What email address will portal notifications come from?
   Emails from the portal will come from an ARConnect email address: noreply@broadband.arkansas.gov

Tranche-2 Questions

4. If a bid has a requested subsidy over 200% of the reference price, will it be Carried Forward or Closed?
   Bids asking for more than two times the reference price will automatically be Carried Forward unless it overlaps with a Buy It Now bid.

5. Can an applicant submit a bid for a CBG in Tranche-2 that was included in a Tranche-1 bid that did not win Buy It Now?
   In Tranche-1, if a bid does not meet Buy It Now (BIN) criteria, the bid will either be Carried Forward to Tranche-2 or Closed due to an overlap with a BIN bid. New Tranche-2 bids **may not** contain CBGs included in a Carried Forward bid's project area. However, new Tranche-2 bids may contain CBGs included in a Closed bid's project area if they were not preliminarily selected as part of a BIN bid.

6. What modifications can be made to Tranche-1 Carried Forward bids?
   Applicants may modify their Tranche-1 Carried Forward bid in two ways:
   1. Reduce the requested subsidy; and/or
   2. Increase the project area size by adding contiguous Competitive CBGs and/or any non-contiguous Zero Bid CBGs
   *Note: applicants may increase the requested subsidy **if and only if** they add CBGs to the project area*
   Applicants are not required to modify their Tranche-1 Carried Forward bids.

7. What will happen to CBGs that are not covered after Tranche-2?
   All uncovered CBGs after Tranche-2 will move to the negotiations stage.

8. What determines if an application is competitive?
   An application is considered competitive when it overlaps with another application in at least one CBG.

9. What Tranche-1 results can ARConnect share?
   To ensure a fair and competitive process, ARConnect will not be able to answer specific data requests at this time. However, we can share that:
   - 98% of eligible locations received at least one bid
   - 96% of applications were competitive
   - 82% of eligible locations received bids from 2 or more competing ISPs

10. When will Tranche-2 open and how long will it last?
    The tentative opening date for Tranche-2 is February 13th. However, due to the high volume of applications received in Tranche-1, ARConnect reserves the right to adjust that date later as needed.
    The Tranche-2 application window will be open for 2 weeks.

11. When will applicants be notified of the Tranche-1 results?
    Applicants will be notified of the Tranche-1 results prior to Tranche-2 opening.

Reference Price Questions

12. Is the reference price in the portal the anticipated full cost of delivering services to those BSLs or only 75% of the cost?
    Reference prices are based on the full CostQuest build cost estimate for a fiber build.

13. How many reference prices will be updated for Tranche-2?
    ARConnect **may** update the reference prices for Zero Bid CBGs prior to Tranche-2.

EHCPLT Questions

14. How will the EHCPLT process work after Tranche-2?
    ARConnect will assess the need for an EHCPLT based on the final results from Tranche-2 and whether any locations still need to be covered. However, an EHCPLT is not required for the BEAD Program.

15. If the state does not have enough money based on Tranche-1 and 2 to cover the whole state, will low-earth orbit satellite service be considered for those high-cost bids?

Alternative technology (e.g, low-earth orbit satellite, unlicensed fixed wireless, etc.) will only be considered if the cost to serve certain locations with fiber or non-fiber technology is too high. Applications that include alternative technology are not eligible to be preliminarily selected in Tranche-1 or Tranche-2.