

The Arkansas BEAD Program

Infrastructure Roundtable - Technical Assistance

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2025



Agenda

- 1 What kind of bids can be submitted in Tranche-2?
- 2 What are the rules of adjudication for Tranche-2?
- 3 What resources are available?
- 4 Final reminders

Agenda

- 1 What kind of bids can be submitted in Tranche-2?
- 2 What are the rules of adjudication for Tranche-2?
- 3 What resources are available?
- 4 Final reminders

There are two types of bids in Tranche-2, which have unique criteria and rules

Carried Forward bids from Tranche-1

Bids which are "Carried Forward" from Tranche-1

Carried Forward bids may ONLY be modified during Tranche-2 in two ways:

1. Decrease the Requested Subsidy for the project area; and/or
2. Increase the project area size by adding CBGs

Requested Subsidy may be increased only if CBGs are added.

Note: **Unsubmitted** Carried Forward bids will automatically be submitted at the end of Tranche-2, even if applicant takes no action

New bids

All applicants who submitted a bid in Tranche-1 are allowed to submit new bids in Tranche-2



Description



**CBG
restrictions**

- An applicant may include a given CBG in a maximum of 3 bids
- A **new** bid cannot contain any CBGs that are a part of any of your carried forward bid(s)
- A **modified carried forward bid** cannot add any CBGs that are part of any of your other carried forward bid(s)

Note | Project area rules from Tranche-1 still apply: CBGs must be contiguous (unless zero bid), bidders must serve all eligible locations within a CBG included in the project area, and bidders must bid for outer and inner CBGs together if one sits inside the other

Based on permissible modifications, there are two primary methods to earn additional points for a Carried Forward bid in Tranche-2

Method > **1** Decrease requested subsidy for project area

Impacted criteria > Minimization of BEAD program outlay: **40** points available

Description > For the "Minimization of BEAD program outlay" criteria, applicants are scored based on how much higher or lower their requested subsidy is from the reference price

Decreasing the requested subsidy for a Carried Forward project area will result in an applicant earning more points for this criteria, as long as the new subsidy request is less than twice the reference price

2 Increase project area size with zero-bid CBGs

Inclusion of zero-bid CBGs: **5** points available

For the "Inclusion of zero-bid CBG" criteria, applicants will receive points based on the number of zero-bid CBGs they include in their Tranche-2 bid. Each zero-bid CBG is worth one-half point, for up to five points

Recall that zero-bid CBGs do not need to be contiguous to your Carried Forward project area

Note | These methods are **not** mutually exclusive. An applicant may increase their project area size **and** lower their requested subsidy

Agenda

- 1 What kind of bids can be submitted in Tranche-2?
- 2 What are the rules of adjudication for Tranche-2?
- 3 What resources are available?
- 4 Final reminders

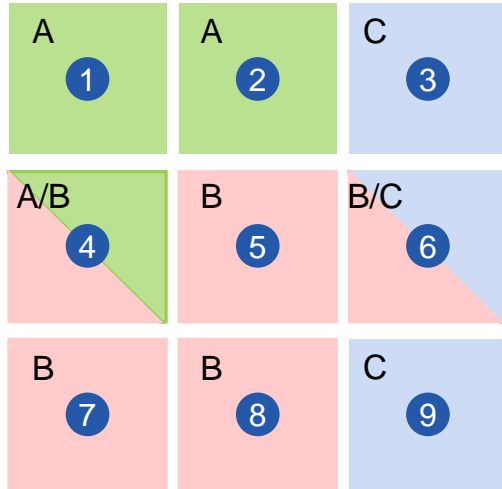
Tranche-2 |

Summary rules of adjudication

- **Rule #1:** Preliminary selections have the highest score of the highest technology type across their project area or are the sole bidder on their project area
- **Rule #2:** To be considered for a preliminary selection in Tranche-2, an applicant's Requested Subsidy must be less than twice the Reference Price, and the application may not include alternative technology
- **Rule #3:** Bids whose project area partially overlaps with a preliminarily selected bid may still be eligible to negotiate for partial awards
- **Rule #4:** All CBGs which are not covered at the end of Tranche-2 will continue to negotiations.

Example of Tranche-2 rules during adjudication

Example of Tranche-2 Adjudication



Bid details

Bid	Project Area	Score
A	CBG 1, 2, 4	65
B	CBG 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	55
C	CBG 3, 6, 9	50

All three bids are Priority and request subsidy below 2x their Reference Price

Competitive Overview

- Bid A scores highest in the cluster of overlapping bids
- Bid B overlaps with Bid A and in CBG 4
- Bid C overlaps with Bid B in CBG 6

Adjudication process

- Step 1: Bid A wins CBG 1, 2, and 4
 - *Because Bid B's project area is impacted by Bid A winning, it can no longer win its entire project area*
- Step 2: Bid C wins CBG 3, 6, and 9
- Step 3: State offers a partial award of CBGs 5, 7, and 8 during negotiations to bidder B

Agenda

- 1 What kind of bids can be submitted in Tranche-2?
- 2 What are the rules of adjudication for Tranche-2?
- 3 What resources are available?
- 4 Final reminders

ARConnect will only provide technical support during the Tranche-2 application window

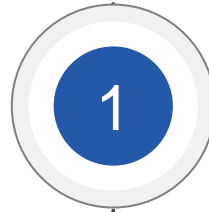
- If you are experiencing a technical issue with the portal, please reach out to argrants@mbakerintl.com

- If you have questions regarding the application and/or the Arkansas BEAD process, we encourage you to reference the following resources housed on the [Arkansas BEAD Webpage](#):
 - [IPvII](#)
 - [Applicant Primer](#)
 - [Applicant Portal User Guide](#)
 - [TA Session materials and FAQ documents](#)
(found under "Technical Assistance" dropdown)

Agenda

- 1 What kind of bids can be submitted in Tranche-2?
- 2 What are the rules of adjudication for Tranche-2?
- 3 What resources are available?
- 4 Final reminders

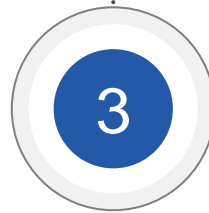
Key reminders for Tranche-2



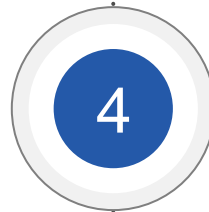
You should submit your strongest applications, but keep in mind your service commitment if selected



You must complete any revisions and **submit** within the 2-week application period. No exceptions



Carried Forward applications will automatically be resubmitted at the close of the application window, but you are encouraged to manually submit. Any unsubmitted modifications will not be captured



The applicant portal opens on Tuesday, February 25th at 12:00 p.m. and closes on Tuesday, March 11th at 6:00 p.m.

Only 3 possible revisions for new Tranch-2 applications



CBG ID upload (.xlsx)



Weather Mitigation Plan (.pdf)



Letters of Support (.pdf)



Allowable revisions (technical errors):

Invalid data entries, encrypted, locked or improper files, etc. to ensure they can be scored



Unallowable revisions (response modifications):

Insufficient, incomplete, or inaccurate responses, incorrect templates, etc. to change or enhance scores

Note | Revisions only apply to **new** bids in Tranche-2