



ARConnect
The Arkansas State Broadband Office

BEAD Application User Guide: Tranche-2 Supplemental Guidance

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Note: There will be a communication blackout during the Tranche-2 bidding process to maintain fairness and transparency.

Tranche-2 Bidding Process

The purpose of the Tranche-2 bidding process is to allow applicants who submitted a bid in Tranche-1 to either modify an existing Tranche-1 bid that was carried forward or submit entirely new bids. All Tranche-1 rules still apply. However, there are a few differences regarding bid outcomes, thresholds, requested subsidy considerations, and points available. Please see the table below for more information.

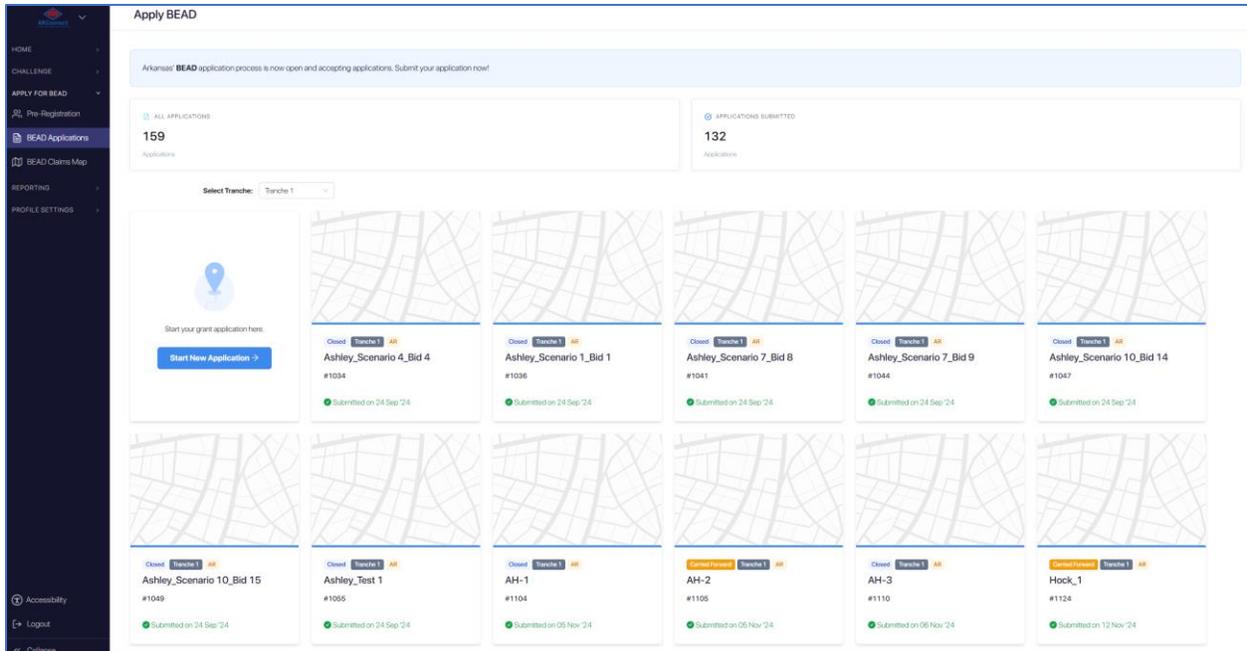
Key differences in Tranche-2 include the bid outcomes, thresholds, Requested Subsidy considerations, and points available

Key difference	Tranche-1	Tranche-2
Bid outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminarily Selected (Tranche-1) Carried Forward Closed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminarily Selected (Tranche-2) Partial Award Eligible Not Selected
Thresholds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Buy It Now" (BIN) threshold Minimum Point Threshold (MPT) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Requested Subsidy considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request below the Reference Price to be considered for selection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request below twice the Reference Price to be considered for selection
Technology considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only priority bids are considered for selection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority bids and nonpriority bids are considered for selection, but bids with alternative technology are not
Points available in Scoring Rubric	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 95 points available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 points available <i>Same 95 pts from Tranche-1, +5 pts available for Zero-Bid CBG included in project area</i>

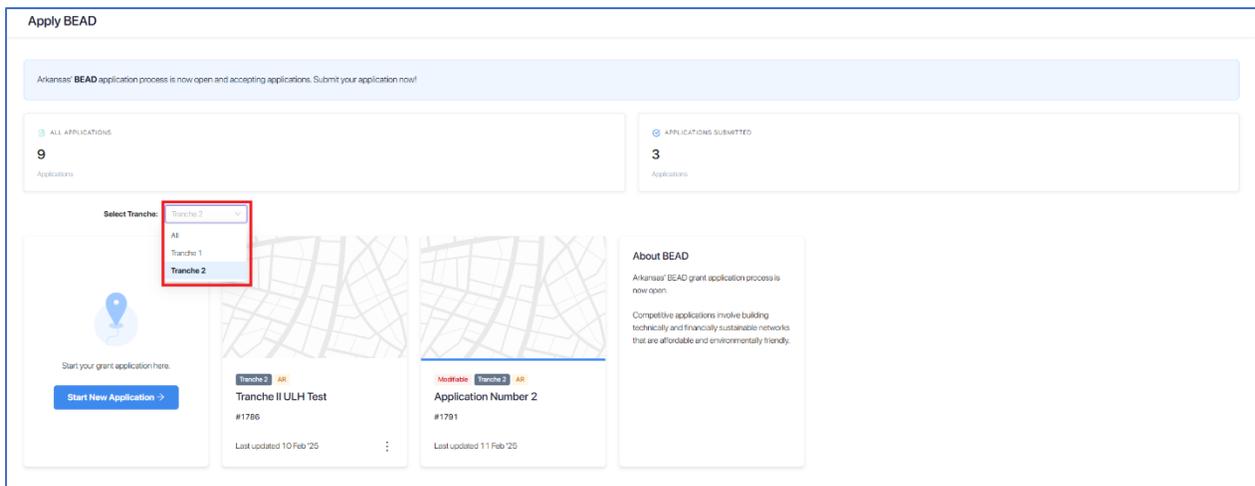
Bid Statuses after Tranche-1:

Upon log-in, all previously submitted bids are viewable. A project bid will have one of the following three statuses:

- Preliminarily Selected** – Bids that met all *Buy It Now* criteria and were preliminarily selected for the entire bid project area at the requested subsidy amount.
- Carried Forward** – Bids that were not preliminarily selected during Tranche-1 and are modifiable OR may be left as-is during Tranche-2.
- Closed** – Bids that were not preliminarily selected in Tranche-1 and have been closed due to an overlap with a Preliminarily Selected bid.



Applicants can filter between Tranche-1 and Tranche-2 bid statuses using the drop-down menu shown below.



Permissible Tranche-2 Actions:

There are three actions applicants can take in Tranche-2:

1. **Modify a Carried Forward bid:** A bid that is Carried Forward from Tranche-1 will show up in Tranche-2 with the same *project bid name* and be labeled as *modifiable*. These bids can be edited (see below).
2. **Let a Carried Forward bid stay as is:** Resubmitting a Carried Forward bid during Tranche-2 without any changes.

3. **Submit a new bid:** Applicants may submit an entirely new bid under the *Apply For BEAD* tab in the navigation pane on the left. The process for submitting a new bid is the same as Tranche-1 with a few differences which are addressed in the Submitting a New Bid section.

Modifying a Carried Forward Bid

Bids are considered Carried Forward from Tranche-1 if they were not preliminarily selected during Tranche-1, due to not meeting *Buy It Now* criteria, and did not overlap with a preliminarily selected bid. Applicants have the choice to modify these Carried Forward bids to be more competitive. If an applicant chooses NOT to modify these bids, they will automatically be submitted in Tranche-2 as a TRUE Carried Forward bid (meaning all elements stay the same).

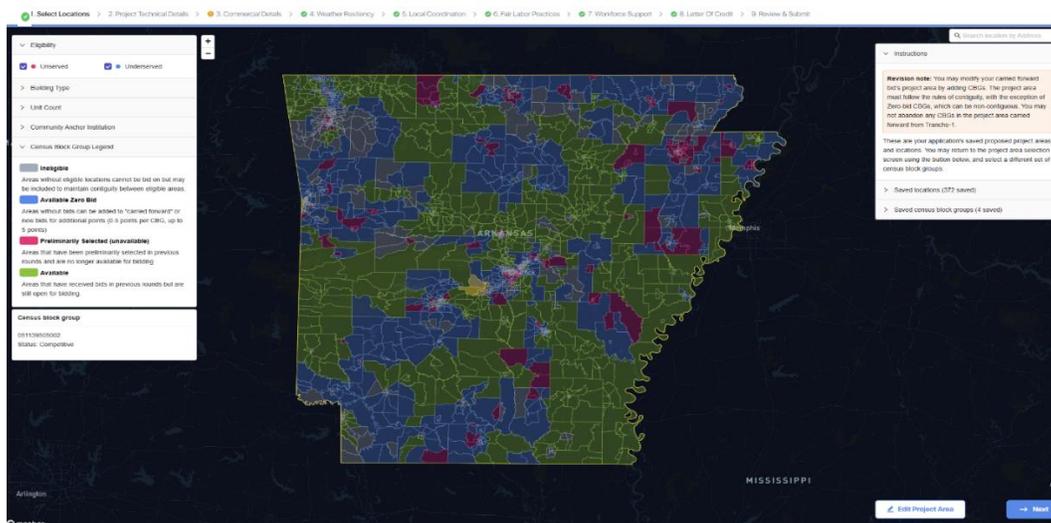
*Note: If you do not intend to **modify** your Carried Forward bid and choose to keep it as-is, please log into the portal and submit your as-is bid as early as possible.*

Only two sections in the Carried Forward bid are modifiable: Select Locations and Commercial Details.

Both sections will show this icon: 

Carried Forward bids may be modified during Tranche -2 in two ways (you may do one or both):

1. Decrease the requested subsidy for the project area in the Commercial Details section.
2. Add contiguous CBGs to the project area (or non-contiguous Zero-Bid CBGs) in the Select Locations section.



When accessing the Select Locations section of a Carried Forward bid, the portal will look like the image above and will show the box below with a revision note. You will be able to either:

1. Add competitive CBGs which are shown in green and labeled as available or
2. Add available Zero Bid CBGs which are shown in blue and labeled Available Zero Bid

Instructions

Revision note: You may modify your carried forward bid's project area by adding CBGs. The project area must follow the rules of contiguity, with the exception of Zero-bid CBGs, which can be non-contiguous. You may not abandon any CBGs in the project area carried forward from Tranche-1.

These are your application's saved proposed project areas and locations. You may return to the project area selection screen using the button below, and select a different set of census block groups.

> Saved locations (372 saved)

> Saved census block groups (4 saved)

Similar to Tranche-1, rules of contiguity still apply, and the portal will not allow you to click the next button (it will be grayed out) unless the bid follows this rule. However, the contiguity rules do not apply to Zero Bid CBGs. These can be added to any Carried Forward bid.

When you have verified that you are ready to save the locations in this bid, you can click next.

Modifying Your Requested Subsidy

If you have added additional CBGs (available competitive or Zero Bid CBGs) you are allowed to modify your requested subsidy in the Commercial Details section as shown below.

Note: You will only be able to increase the requested subsidy in the commercial details section if additional CBGs are added to the bid.

Minimization Of BEAD Program Outlay

* 6. Please enter your requested BEAD funding amount for this bid's project area. Please note that this amount does not represent the total estimated project budget, but only the amount of funding you are requesting for the project (grant request). This amount should represent, at most, 75% of your estimated project budget, to be supplemented by a minimum of a 25% match unless a waiver is granted by NTIA based on evidence of economic need for a given project.

Bids requesting more than twice the reference price for the proposed project area will not be eligible for preliminary selection.

Revision note: You may decrease the requested subsidy for the project area. You may increase the requested subsidy for the project area if and only if CBGs have been added to the project area. Please note, requested subsidies at or above twice the reference price for the project area are not eligible for preliminary selection in Tranche-2.

\$ 550,000|

Reference prices have also been updated for Tranche-2 and are available on the Arkansas Broadband Website. The table below shows how reference prices were updated.

For Tranche-2, Reference Prices of Zero Bid CBGs were increased relative to the level of interest and competition they received in Tranche-1

Zero Bid CBG Category	Description	Ref Price Multiple	Impacted CBGs
0 bids	CBGs that received no bids in Tranche-1	2x	266
1 bid (Closed)	CBGs that received 1 bid in Tranche-1 which was closed	1.5x	161
2+ bids (Closed)	CBGs that received multiple bids in Tranche-1 which were closed		
OR	OR	1.2x	203
1 bid (Carried Forward)	CBGs that received 1 bid in Tranche-1 which was carried forward		

Note | Adjusted Reference Prices for Zero Bid CBGs not to exceed \$50k per location

Submitting a New Bid

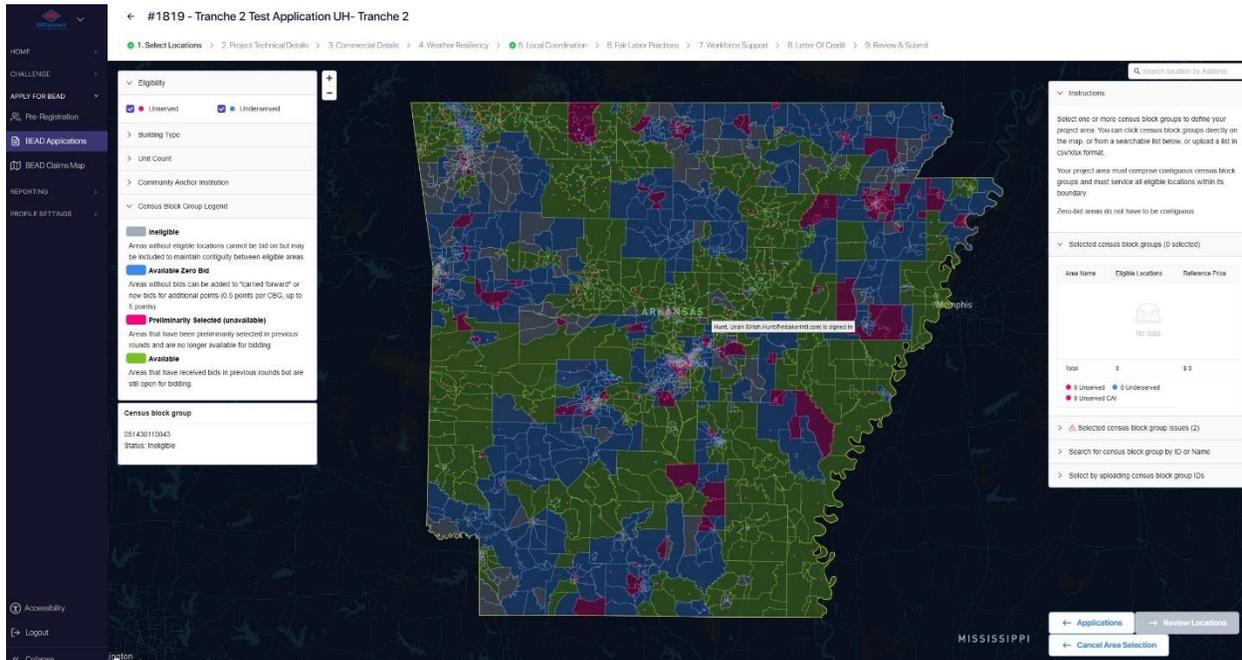
All applicants who submitted a bid in Tranche-1 are allowed to submit new bids in Tranche-2. If you did not submit a bid during Tranche-1, you will not be able to submit a bid in Tranche-2.

CBG Bidding Restrictions

During Tranche-2:

- An applicant may include a given CBG in a maximum of 3 bids
- CBGs included in a Carried Forward bid **may not** be included in a new bid

To submit an entirely new bid, click on the *BEAD Applications* tab in the navigation bar and then click 'Start New Application'. Once you create a name for the new project bid and save it, you will see the screen below with the map of all Arkansas CBGs. Like Tranche-1, select the locations you would like to bid on based on their status labels shown in the legend. Applicants may only select available CBGs (green), available Zero Bid CBGs (blue), and ineligible CBGs (gray) for bidding. Ineligible CBGs are not eligible for funding but may be used to connect available CBGs and maintain contiguity. Preliminarily selected CBGs cannot be selected.



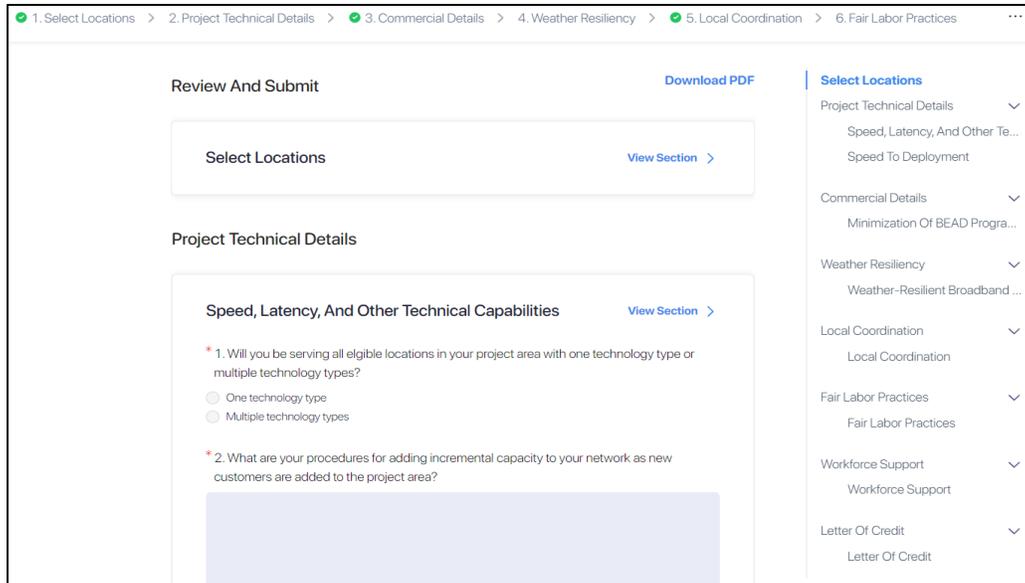
The screenshot displays the ARConnect application interface for a Tranche 2 application. The main map shows Arkansas divided into census block groups (CBGs) color-coded by status: green for available, blue for available zero bid, gray for ineligible, and red for preliminarily selected. A sidebar on the left contains navigation options like 'HOME', 'CHALLENGE', 'APPLY FOR BEAD', and 'BEAD Applications'. A legend on the left explains the color coding: Ineligible (gray), Available Zero Bid (blue), and Available (green). A panel on the right shows 'Selected census block groups (0 selected)' with a table for area name, eligible locations, and reference price. The bottom of the map has buttons for 'Applications', 'Review Locations', and 'Cancel Area Selection'.

Once you review your locations and save your selection, move on to the remaining sections. The remainder of the application follows the same process as bids submitted during Tranche-1. For additional instructions on submitting a new bid, refer to the Arkansas BEAD Application ISP User Guide.

Review and Submit

After you have completed all sections of the application, please go back and review each section or just the sections you've modified to ensure that all information is accurate. For your records, you may also download a PDF copy of the application in this section.

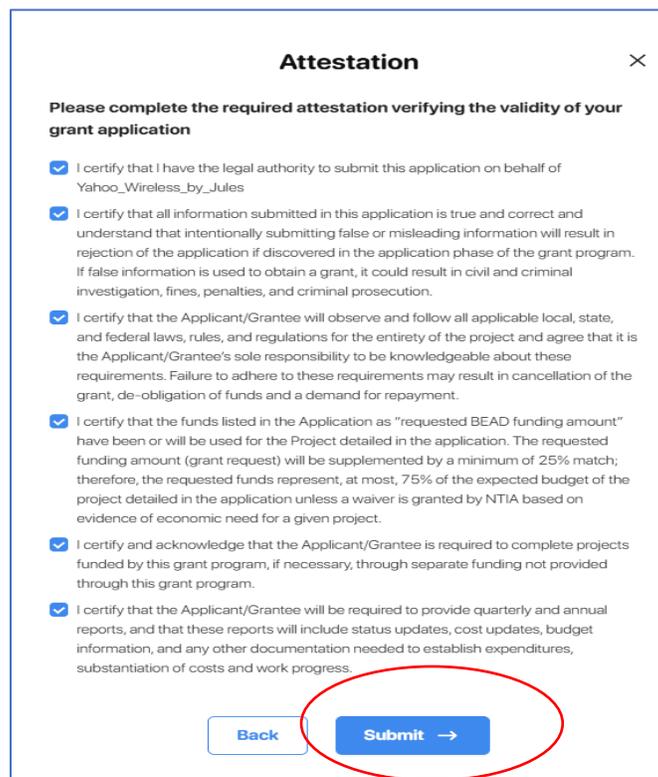
Note: There will be no revisions to Carried Forward bids allowed during Tranche-2.



The screenshot shows a web application interface for reviewing and submitting a BEAD application. At the top, there is a progress bar with six steps: 1. Select Locations, 2. Project Technical Details, 3. Commercial Details, 4. Weather Resiliency, 5. Local Coordination, and 6. Fair Labor Practices. The current step is 'Review And Submit', which includes a 'Download PDF' button. Below this, there are sections for 'Select Locations' and 'Project Technical Details'. The 'Project Technical Details' section is expanded to show 'Speed, Latency, And Other Technical Capabilities', which contains two questions: '1. Will you be serving all eligible locations in your project area with one technology type or multiple technology types?' and '2. What are your procedures for adding incremental capacity to your network as new customers are added to the project area?'. A sidebar on the right lists the application sections: Select Locations, Project Technical Details, Commercial Details, Weather Resiliency, Local Coordination, Fair Labor Practices, Workforce Support, and Letter Of Credit.

Final Attestation

To finish and submit your BEAD application, you will be asked to complete several attestations. Carefully read and complete each attestation by checking the boxes to the left, then submit the application.



The screenshot shows a 'Final Attestation' form. The title is 'Attestation' with a close button (X) in the top right corner. Below the title, there is a bold instruction: 'Please complete the required attestation verifying the validity of your grant application'. The form contains six items, each with a checked checkbox and a text description:

- I certify that I have the legal authority to submit this application on behalf of Yahoo_Wireless_by_Jules
- I certify that all information submitted in this application is true and correct and understand that intentionally submitting false or misleading information will result in rejection of the application if discovered in the application phase of the grant program. If false information is used to obtain a grant, it could result in civil and criminal investigation, fines, penalties, and criminal prosecution.
- I certify that the Applicant/Grantee will observe and follow all applicable local, state, and federal laws, rules, and regulations for the entirety of the project and agree that it is the Applicant/Grantee's sole responsibility to be knowledgeable about these requirements. Failure to adhere to these requirements may result in cancellation of the grant, de-obligation of funds and a demand for repayment.
- I certify that the funds listed in the Application as "requested BEAD funding amount" have been or will be used for the Project detailed in the application. The requested funding amount (grant request) will be supplemented by a minimum of 25% match; therefore, the requested funds represent, at most, 75% of the expected budget of the project detailed in the application unless a waiver is granted by NTIA based on evidence of economic need for a given project.
- I certify and acknowledge that the Applicant/Grantee is required to complete projects funded by this grant program, if necessary, through separate funding not provided through this grant program.
- I certify that the Applicant/Grantee will be required to provide quarterly and annual reports, and that these reports will include status updates, cost updates, budget information, and any other documentation needed to establish expenditures, substantiation of costs and work progress.

At the bottom of the form, there are two buttons: 'Back' and 'Submit →'. The 'Submit' button is circled in red.

You MUST hit the SUBMIT button or your application will not be considered received!!!!