

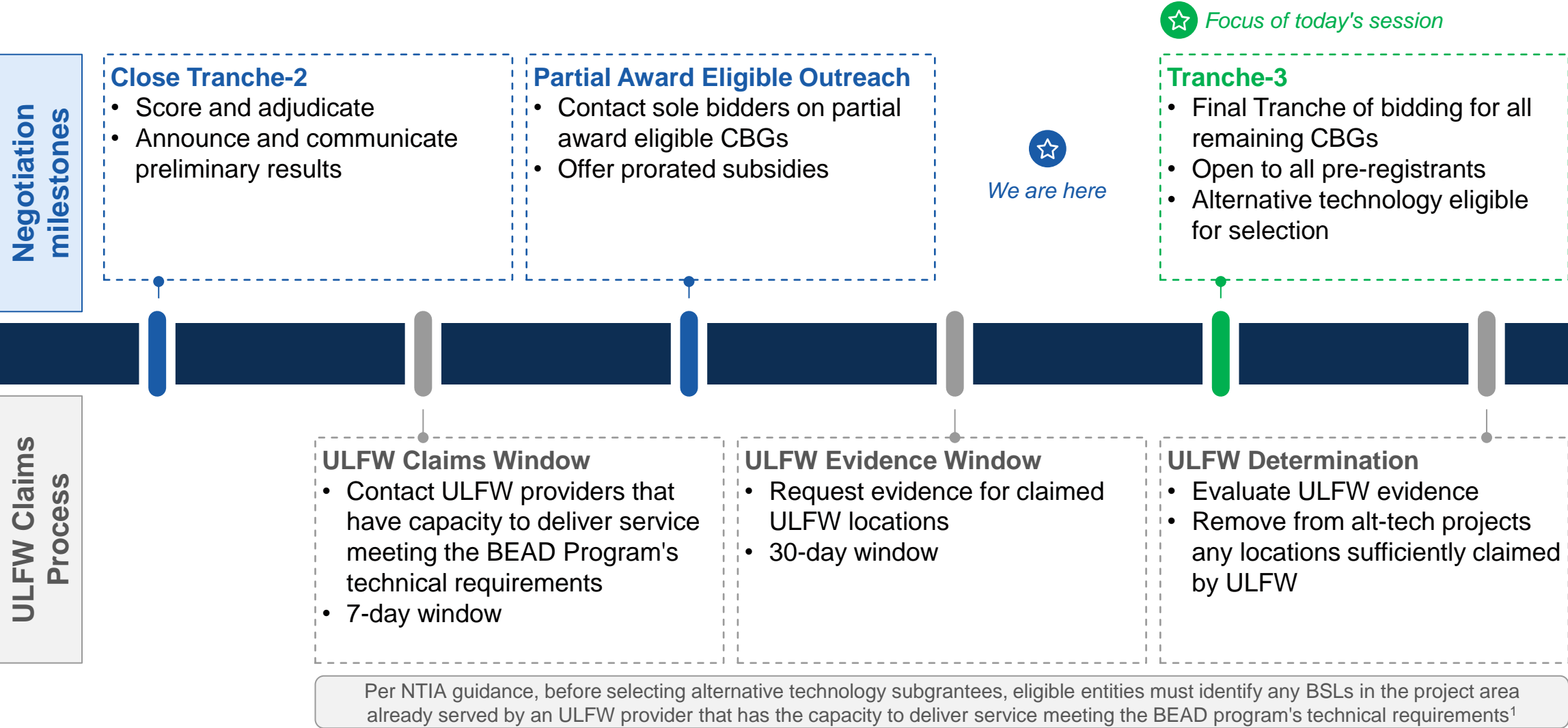
# The Arkansas BEAD Program

Infrastructure Roundtable - Technical Assistance

APRIL 11, 2025



# Recall | Overview of ARConnect's approach to achieving 100% coverage



1. BEAD Program: Alternative Broadband Technology Policy Notice

# Agenda

- 1 What are the application submission rules for Tranche-3?
- 2 What CBGs are available for bidding in Tranche-3?
- 3 How will applications be preliminarily selected in Tranche-3?

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## Key application submission rules for Tranche-3

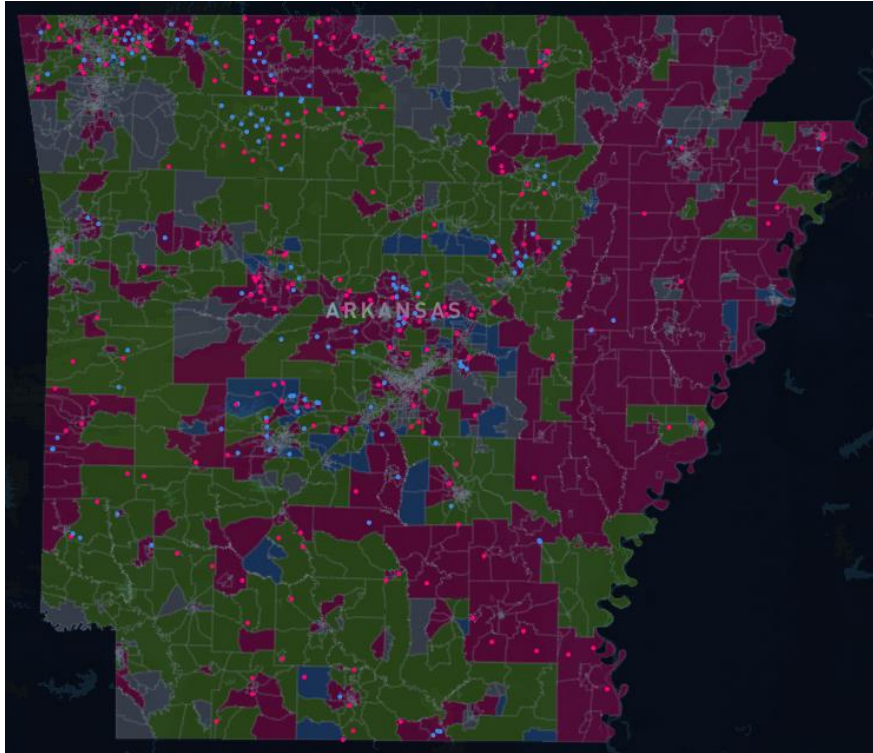
Tranche-3 application questions	Tranche-3 application rules
<b>Who can participate?</b>	All successfully pre-registered providers can participate
<b>What types of bids are there?</b>	New bids only
<b>What are the possible outcomes for bids?</b>	Preliminarily Selected or Not Selected (i.e., Closed)
<b>How many CBGs can be included in a project area?</b>	Project area size of 1 CBG with the exception of "donut" CBGs
<b>How many times can an applicant bid on a particular CBG?</b>	An applicant can bid on a particular CBG up to 3 times
<b>Are there any subsidy thresholds?</b>	There are no subsidy thresholds; however, subsidy request is still the largest portion of a bid's score
<b>Which technology types are eligible for selection?</b>	All technology types are eligible for selection, including Alternative
<b>How many points are available?</b>	95 points are available as the zero-bid criteria will not be scored
<b>How long is the application window, and when will it open?</b>	7-day application window tentatively scheduled to open next week

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Prior to opening Tranche-3, the CBG claims map will be updated to reflect the outcomes of the Partial Award Eligible Process and any rescinded selections

Map of Tranche-2 CBG results



CBG statuses following Tranche-2

- **Preliminarily Selected (unavailable)**
  - CBGs that were preliminarily selected in T1 or T2 and are no longer available for bidding
- **Available Partial Award Eligible**
  - CBGs that received bids in Tranche-2 but were not preliminarily selected and will be offered at prorated subsidies to their sole bidders
- **Available**
  - CBGs that will be available for bidding in Tranche-3
- **Ineligible**
  - CBGs that contain 100% served locations and are unavailable for bidding

**Note** | All CBGs currently labelled as **Available Partial Award Eligible** will either be shown as **Available** or **Preliminarily Selected**

**Note** | If a **Preliminarily Selected** bid from Tranche-1 or Tranche-2 was rescinded prior to Tranche-3, its CBGs will be shown as **Available**

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# Tranche-3 applications are scored and adjudicated after applicants have submitted them

Start here: Results from Tranche-2 and the Partial Award Eligible process are posted in the portal



Applicants may choose to submit new bids in Tranche-3



ARConnect scores bids according to the Scoring Rubric (except for inclusion of zero bid CBGs)



ARConnect completes deconfliction and adjudication according to the Tranche-3 rules



ARConnect notifies applicants of adjudication results through Grantor Portal



Applicant action



ARConnect action

## Sample screenshot of Scoring Rubric from Applicant Primer Section 3

Scoring Rubric

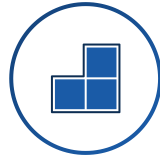
Figure 4a: Scoring Rubric (Primary, Secondary, and Additional Criteria)

Primary criteria	Points available	Determination process
1.1. Minimization of BEAD program outlay	40	The score will be assessed based on how high or low an applicant's requested subsidy is relative to ARConnect's reference subsidy for the CBGs within the applicant's project area. Reference subsidies will be calculated on a per-location basis for each CBG and will rely on the per-BSL cost data provided by NTIA in the Eligible Entity Toolkit and the State's experience with recent prior broadband funding programs. Scores will be based on a linear scale, with zero points being granted for bids that are 100% higher than the reference subsidy and forty points being granted for bids that request no BEAD subsidy. For example, an applicant who applies for a project with a per-location BEAD subsidy match that is exactly the same amount as the reference subsidy would receive twenty points, while an applicant who applies for a subsidy worth 120% of the per-location reference subsidy would receive sixteen points.
1.2. Affordability	25	Applicants will commit to a baseline price for the highest tier of service that they support, as disclosed in their deployment bid. The score will be assessed based on how high or low their commitments are relative to the below reference prices for the relevant tier of service:  Priority bids (1/1 Gbps service): \$85 per month Non-priority bids (100/20 Mbps): \$37 per month  Scores will be based on a linear scale, with applicants committing to plans that are, on average, 50% higher than the reference price receiving zero points and applicants committing to plans 50% lower than the reference price receiving twenty-five points.  For example, an applicant that commits to plans exactly at the recommended reference price would receive 12.5 points, while an applicant who commits to plans priced at 120% of the reference price would receive ten points.

Total Tranche-3 points: **95**

*Zero bid CBG distinction is no longer relevant and does not need to be scored*

# Restrictions, eligibility, and rules of adjudication for Tranche-3



## Project area restrictions

- All CBGs that remain at the beginning of Tranche-3 are available for bidding
- A bid's project area may only include a single CBG<sup>1</sup>
- An applicant may bid on a CBG up to 3 times



## Tranche-3 rules of adjudication

- **Rule #1:** Preliminary selections will have the highest score of the highest technology type or are the sole bidder on their project area



## Technology type eligibility

- In Tranche-3, all technology type categories – Priority, Non-Priority, and Alternative – are eligible for preliminary selection

1. With the exception of "donut" CBGs, where bidders must bid for both the outer and inner CBGs together in the case where one sits inside the other

# Tranche-3 deconfliction scenarios and adjudication results

## Tranche-3 rules of adjudication

- Rule #1:** Preliminary selections will be the **highest score** of the **highest technology type** or are the sole bidder on their project area

Scenario 1: All tech types			Scenario 2: Non-Priority and Alt tech			Scenario 3: Alt tech only		
Bid	Tech type	Score	Bid	Tech type	Score	Bid	Tech type	Score
A	Priority	70	A	Non-Priority	80	A	Alternative	80
B	Priority	60	B	Non-Priority	70	B	Alternative	79
C	Non-Priority	80	C	Non-Priority	60	C	Alternative	75
D	Non-Priority	70	D	Alternative	85	D	Alternative	60
E	Alternative	85	E	Alternative	80	E	Alternative	55

Preliminarily Selected bid