



ARConnect

The Arkansas State Broadband Office

Arkansas BEAD Program

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Tranche-3 Questions

1. Will there be additional bidding rounds after Tranche-3?
Tranche-3 will be the final bidding round. However, ARConnect may need to negotiate for CBGs that do not receive any bids as well as determine if an EHCPLT is necessary.
2. If an applicant is placing two bids for contiguous CBGs, should they base the requested subsidies on the project cost to serve both CBGs?
Applicants should place bids at a price point that is sustainable if the applicant is selected for only one CBG.
3. If a hybrid fiber/satellite bid is preliminarily selected, will ARConnect sign two subgrant agreements, one with the fiber provider for the locations being served with fiber and one with the satellite provider for the locations being served with satellite?
No, in the case where a hybrid fiber/satellite bid is preliminarily selected, ARConnect will sign one subgrant agreement with the applicant of record.

Please note that the applicant of record will be contractually liable for the deployment and ongoing network performance of the other provider.

Preliminary Selectee Questions

4. Who should applicants reach out to with a request to combine project areas from selected bids within a tranche?
Applicants should email ARGrants@mbakerintl.com to request that project areas from selected bids within a tranche be combined.

Match Commitment Questions

5. What is the process for requesting a waiver for the 25% match?
After being notified of a preliminary selection, applicants will be required to submit additional information including a full budget for the proposed project. If a waiver from or reduction in the 25% match requirement is necessary based on that budget and the amount of awarded BEAD funds, ARConnect will request from the subgrantee additional supporting information needed for ARConnect to potentially submit a waiver request under applicable NTIA guidelines.

Applicants are reminded that only NTIA, not states, has the authority to approve a waiver or reduction from the federal statutory 25% match requirement.

Other Questions

6. Is a sales tax waiver on materials available?
No.