



Infrastructure Roundtable & BEAD TA

Starting at 8:30!

April 25, 2025

Agenda



ARConnect
The Arkansas State Broadband Office

- **Updates**
- **BEAD TA Session**
 - FAQ 29
- **Discussion/Q&A**

BEAD Confidentiality Reminder



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The Arkansas State Broadband Office

- **Preliminary selections *throughout the entirety of the process* are confidential and may not be shared publicly or with other applicants.**
 - No press releases.
 - No media interviews.
 - No social media posts.
 - No disclosures to public officials.
 - If you are a contractor working on behalf of an applicant, ensure your client is aware of this confidentiality requirement.
 - The use of contractors does not relieve an applicant/preliminary selectee of this requirement.
 - If you hear complaints, have them contact our office.

Congratulations! And Thank You!



- **As of the close of T3, Arkansas has completed a fair, open, transparent, and competitive bidding process.**
- **It's been a long time coming, but we must finish strong.**
 - Score and adjudicate T3 applications; release results.
 - Preliminary selectee submission requirements.
 - CBGs without a bid?
 - Potential application of an extremely high cost per location threshold?
 - Location true-up process.
 - Potential policy changes from NTIA.
 - Final Proposal for public comment and submission to NTIA.
 - Mechanics of providing more detailed budgets, permits, environmental reviews

BEAD Immediate Timeline*

Activity/Milestone	Target Date(s)
Tranche-3 Participation Results Released	April 30
Tranche-3 Adjudication	May 1-2
Tranche-3 Aggregate Results Released	May 7
Tranche-3 Individual Results Released	May 8
Tranche-2 Preliminary Selectee Submission Requirements Deadline	May 12
Tranche-3 Preliminary Selectee Submission Requirements Deadline	June 9
Final Proposal Posted for Public Comment	June 16
Final Proposal Submitted to NTIA	July 4

- **Goal to submit Final Proposal to NTIA by July 4**
 - Six months ahead of schedule (FP due by January 4)
- **We are doing everything in our power to try to mitigate potential negative impacts of any policy changes on our program. Delays or otherwise.**

**Tentative and subject to change.*

Preliminary Selectee Submission Requirements: Tranches 2 & 3



- **Tranche 2**

- Deadline to submit preliminary selectee requirements is **May 12**, at 11:59 p.m. CT

- **Tranche 3**

- TBD; Likely June 9

- **PAEs**

- Will put out an official statement on this later today and update next week.

- **Get your submission(s) in on time/ahead of schedule.**

- Assistance will be available through 6:00 p.m. CT on deadline day
- If you need assistance, please email our support team at ARGrants@mbakerintl.com

- **Rescission is an option if submissions are not received by the deadline.**

LOC/PB – Updated Guidance



- **Arkansas anticipates executing one grant agreement per awardee.**
 - Will include all projects within one grant agreement.
 - Awardees will only need one letter of credit/performance bond with a value of not less than 10% of aggregate grant amount
 - Doesn't make sense to receive "letter of commitment" for each preliminary selection
 - There is an option for an awardee to maintain an LOC for not less than 25% or a PB for not less than 100% of the aggregate grant amount
 - Will go into more detail on the options next week
- **Preliminary Selections: One Letter of Commitment *Per Tranche***
 - As a part of the preliminary selectee submission process, preliminary selectees will need to submit one "letter of commitment" from a qualified financial institution or surety representing known facts as of the latest Tranche
 - Actual LOC/PB will need to be presented to the State of Arkansas prior to executing a grant agreement

Combining of Projects



- **Please feel free to propose combining projects within the same Tranche.**
 - This is very much encouraged.
 - Email broadband@arkansas.gov and copy ARGrants@mbakerintl.com with your request.
 - ARConnect will approve/deny the request.
 - Must be approved before submission deadline.
 - Combining projects within a Tranche will not extend the submission deadline.
- **Combining projects across Tranches may be an option at a later date.**

BEAD Weekly Reminders



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- **You should be working on...**

- Commitment Letters for ISLOC/Performance Bond (10% of aggregate grant award)
 - Engagement with a P.E.
 - Engagement with an Environmental Firm
 - As it stands today, the BEAD program contains certain environmental review requirements
 - Was not applicable to CARES (ARC Round 1) or ARPA (ARC Rounds 2/3)
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Updates from Our Partners



ARConnect
The Arkansas State Broadband Office

- **Michael Baker International**
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BEAD Technical Assistance

- FAQ 29



Discussion/Q&A



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