The Arkansas BEAD Program

Technical Assistance

MAY 29, 2025

ARConnect
The Arkansas State Broadband Office

Holistic Review Process | ARConnect will conduct a holistic review process of all preliminary selectees

Holistic Review Process Overview

Holistic Review Process
- Now that the third and final round of the preliminary subgrantee selection process has concluded, ARConnect will conduct a holistic review of all preliminary selectees as part of the transition from *preliminary* selections to *provisional* selections

From IPvII (pg. 17)
- *"As a final step in determining award winners, ARConnect will review the total awards of each applicant in the context of the prequalification information received. This review will be done at the discretion of ARConnect to ensure that applicants have the means to successfully deploy all contracted projects within the proposed timelines"*

Supplemental information requests
- As part of the holistic review process, ARConnect may ask for additional details on the information provided during pre-registration
- Responses may include narrative responses and/or supporting evidence

Communication Details

Notification by email

Dear Provider,

Thank you for participating in the Arkansas BEAD Program. Now that the preliminary subgrantee selection process is complete, the Arkansas State Broadband Office (ARConnect) will **conduct a holistic review of all preliminary selectees** as part of the transition from preliminary selections to provisional selections.

As stated in Section 2.04.01 of IPvII:

As a final step in determining award winners, ARConnect will review the total awards of each applicant in the context of the prequalification information received. This review will be done at the discretion of ARConnect to ensure that applicants have the means to successfully deploy all contracted projects within the proposed timelines.

During the review, ARConnect may ask for additional details on the information provided during pre-registration. Additionally, preliminary selectees may be required to specify how their BEAD project area(s) align with the overall organizational strategy and existing footprint in Arkansas. Responses may include **narrative responses and/or supporting evidence**. ARConnect will provide more specific details for each request.

Preliminary selectees may receive requests for additional information via **email** later today, May 27, and will have **30 days to respond**. All narrative responses and supporting evidence must be submitted to ARGrants@mbakerintl.com by **6pm CT on Thursday, June 26**.

Requests for additional information were sent via email on May 27, and recipients will have 30 days to respond

Please submit all responses to ARGrants@mbakerintl.com by 10pm CT on Thursday, June 26

Holistic Review Process | ARConnect may ask for additional information as part of the holistic review process (I/II)

Request Category	Supplemental Information Requests
Sustainability Plan	Describe how your company plans to fund and sustain operations throughout the project. Include how you will maintain service quality, meet obligations, and stay financially stable over time
	Please describe how your company plans to fund the 25% mandatory match requirement
	Please describe your plan to finance the deployment and build out of your preliminarily selected project areas specifically between the achievement of the initial two disbursement milestones (which will disburse 20% of award) and connecting 10% of project BSLs (which will disburse an additional 15% of award)
	Please provide at least one document as evidence to support your answers. Examples of acceptable evidence include, but are not limited to, cash flow forecasts, pro forma, CPA letter, or 2024 audited financial statements
Community or Partner Reference Letters	Please provide letter(s) of reference from local governments, community anchor institutions, and/or community partners that can speak to your organization's track record, reliability, and/or community presence
Past Performance or Grant Management Explanation	If your organization has not previously managed a federal infrastructure grant, describe any relevant experience administering state, local, or private funding. Explain how you plan to ensure compliance with federal requirements, including any external advisors, systems, or internal policies you have adopted. If your organization has previously managed a grant with performance or compliance issues, describe the challenges and the corrective actions you have taken to strengthen future execution
	Please provide at least one document as evidence to support your answers. Examples of acceptable evidence include, but are not limited to, a compliance advisor agreement, internal SOPs, or training certificates (e.g., 2 CFR 200)
Operational Delivery Plan	Describe how you will staff, manage, and deliver your preliminarily selected projects. This may include internal teams, contractors, partnerships, equipment sourcing, and project management methods
	Please provide at least one document as evidence to support your answers. Examples of acceptable evidence include, but are not limited to, a staffing plan with roles and headcount, subcontractor agreements, resourcing chart, or a sample internal project tracking workflow

Holistic Review Process | ARConnect may ask for additional information as part of the holistic review process (II/II)

Request Category	Supplemental Information Requests
Cost Justification and Benchmarking	Please describe your methodology for determining your requested subsidies for bids. Highlight key drivers such as labor rates, material costs, population density, terrain, make-ready work, deployment method, or technology type
	Please describe how your company plans to fund the 25% mandatory match requirement.
	Please describe your plan to finance the deployment and build out of your preliminarily selected project areas specifically between the achievement of the initial two disbursement milestones (which will disburse 20% of award) and connecting 10% of project BSLs (which will disburse an additional 15% of award)
	Please provide at least one document as evidence to support your answers. Examples of acceptable evidence include, but are not limited to, procurement savings evidence or vendor quotes, cost modeling summary, budget benchmark from a comparable recent project, cost breakdown by phase or function, or 2024 audited financial statements.
Project Motivation and Justification	For your preliminarily selected bid(s) that have a requested subsidy less than $63,000 and/or less than 5 BEAD-eligible locations, please explain the rationale for bidding on them. Describe strategic, community, or operational reasons that justify your interest in the area
	Please provide at least one document as evidence to support your answers. Examples of acceptable evidence include, but are not limited to, a map showing alignment with existing or planned service areas.