



Infrastructure Roundtable & BEAD TA

Starting at 8:30!

May 9, 2025

Agenda



ARConnect
The Arkansas State Broadband Office

- **Updates**
- **BEAD TA Session**
 - FAQ 31
- **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.

Tranche-3 Participation Results



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- **1,137** total bids
 - **76%** of bids were competitive
 - **96%** of T3 BEAD-eligible locations received bids from 1+ ISPs
 - **82%** of T3 BEAD-eligible locations received bids from 2+ ISPs
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Aggregate Participation Results (all Tranches)



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- **2,697** total bids
 - **85%** of bids were competitive
 - **99%** of all BEAD-eligible locations received bids from 1+ ISPs
 - **85%** of all BEAD-eligible locations received bids from 2+ ISPs
 - **5.3** average bids per BEAD-eligible location
 - **44** applicants submitted 1+ bids
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BEAD Immediate Timeline*



Activity/Milestone	Target Date(s)
Tranche-3 Adjudication	Ongoing
Tranche-2 (including PAEs) Preliminary Selectee Submission Requirements Deadline	May 12 at 11:59 PM CT
Potential New Guidance from NTIA	May 15
Tranche-3 Aggregate Results Released	TBD
Tranche-3 Individual Results Released	TBD
Tranche-3 Preliminary Selectee Submission Requirements Deadline	TBD
Final Proposal Posted for Public Comment	TBD
Final Proposal Submitted to NTIA	TBD

**Tentative and subject to change.*

Tranche-3 Adjudication Considerations



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- **Potential new guidance from NTIA**
 - **Application of an Extremely High Cost Per Location Threshold (EHCPLT)**
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Preliminary Selectee Submission Requirements



- **Tranche 2/PAEs**

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

- **Tranche 3**

- TBD

- **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.**

- **You may propose combining projects within the same Tranche.**

- Email broadband@arkansas.gov and copy ARGrants@mbakerintl.com with your request

BEAD Weekly Reminders



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

- Commitment Letters for ISLOC/Performance Bond
 - 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 31



Discussion/Q&A



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