



Arkansas BEAD Program - Benefit of the Bargain Round Application Question Updates

The Arkansas State Broadband Office (ARConnect) is opening the Benefit of the Bargain (BB) Round for the Arkansas BEAD Program on Monday, July 7. The application questions were updated to comply with the requirements set forth in the [NTIA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice](#). An updated [Application User Guide](#) was released on Friday, June 27, and is available on the Arkansas BEAD webpage. The following document contains a summary of the changes to the application.

BB Round Application Questions

Each application question below is marked with one of three statuses:

- **Unmodified** – The question was not changed in the previous application.
- **Modified from Previous Application** – The question was modified from the original language in the application.
- **New** – The question was added specifically for the BB Round.

Application Section	Question	Status
Select Locations	Please select the Project Area Footprint (PAF) for your bid.	Modified from Previous Application
Project Technical Details	Would you like to request this bid be considered for Priority Broadband Status?	New
Project Technical Details	<p>If checked, please upload a document describing how this application for this specific project area meets the additional statutory criteria, including that the project can easily scale speeds over time to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Meet evolving connectivity needs of households and businesses, AND- Support:<ul style="list-style-type: none">o The deployment of 5Go Successor wireless technologies, ANDo Other advanced services <p>Please note, for an application to be considered for Priority Broadband Status, applicants must also submit certification from a professional engineer (PE) that attest to the accuracy of claims related to scalability in this application.</p> <p>Applicants may upload additional documents to support the assessment of the network application and proposed network architecture.</p>	New
Project Technical Details	Please acknowledge that ARConnect retains the right to request further information to determine if the bid meets the criteria for a Priority Broadband Project.	New

Project Technical Details	Will you be serving the eligible locations in your PAF with one technology type or multiple technology types?	Modified from Previous Application
Project Technical Details	Please select your technology type(s) for this bid.	Unmodified
Project Technical Details	If you selected multiple technology types, please upload a CSV file that includes: 1. A list of each location ID within the project area footprint you intend to service, and 2. The technology type you intend to provide for each location	New
Project Technical Details	Please disclose the latency (in milliseconds) of the broadband service to be provided for this bid.	Unmodified
Project Technical Details	Please input your proposed download and upload speed for the proposed project (e.g., 100/20)	New
Project Technical Details	Please certify that you will offer at least one low-cost broadband service option for eligible subscribers in accordance with 47 U.S.C. §1702(h)(4)(B).	Modified from Previous Application
Project Technical Details	Please provide your planned deployment timeline in months for this bid (from the date of applicant receiving notice of their final award). Please note that timelines shall not span more than 48 months from the date the Subgrant Agreement is executed by the State.	Unmodified
Project Technical Details	Certify acknowledgement that the final subgrant agreement will include enforceable penalties for non-performance of final commitments.	Unmodified
Commercial Details	Please enter your requested BEAD funding amount for this bid's project area. Please note that this amount does not represent the total estimated project budget, but only the amount of funding you are requesting for the project (grant request). This amount should represent, at most, 75% of your estimated project budget, to be supplemented by the NTIA required minimum 25% match.	Unmodified
Commercial Details	If you are not selected for this PAF, are you interested in serving any carved out locations from the project area?	New

Commercial Details	[If yes] Please input the subsidy per location amount at which you would serve the carved out locations. To clarify, this is the grant request for a single location.	New
Fair Labor Practices	Do you certify future compliance to federal labor laws?	Unmodified
Letter of Credit	Please certify your commitment to, if preliminarily selected, provide in accordance with the requirements of the BEAD NOFO at 72-73, § IV.D.2.a.ii and the BEAD Letter of Credit Waiver either (a) a Letter of Credit and bankruptcy opinion letter or (b) a performance bond by a deadline identified by ARConnect that will proceed entry into a subgrant agreement.	Unmodified
Additional Information	Please upload your commitment letter.	New
Additional Information	Please upload your engineering design package.	New
Additional Information	Please upload your total project cost documentation.	New
Additional Information	Please upload your project implementation plan.	New
Additional Information	Please upload your capital investment schedule.	New
Additional Information	Please leave any additional notes or comments here.	New

List of Removed Application Questions

The following questions were removed from the application.

Application Section	Question	Status
Project Technical Details	What are your procedures for adding incremental capacity to your network as new customers are added to the project area?	Removed
Project Technical Details	Please acknowledge that ARConnect retains the right to further review and request modifications to these plans at the provisional selectee stage.	Removed
Weather Resiliency	Please upload your weather mitigation plan, where you describe your network redundancy planning.	Removed
Weather Resiliency	Please acknowledge the state may require further information or evidence of your weather mitigation plan if preliminarily selected.	Removed

Weather Resiliency	Will you achieve 85% or higher as a share of fiber that is buried (as opposed to aerial) for this bid?	Removed
Weather Resiliency	Do you commit to attending municipality emergency management meetings on an ongoing basis to coordinate timely restoration of service in the case of outages for this bid's project area?	Removed
Local Coordination	Please download the template then upload letters of support from local governments for this bid. Please note, you can upload a maximum of 5 Letters of Support.	Removed
Fair Labor Practices	How many years of operational experience do you have?	Removed
Fair Labor Practices	Please provide examples and brief descriptions of your historical compliance to federal labor and employment laws over the past three years. Please cite the specific federal labor and employment laws. Ensure your response remains in the context of deployment and operation of existing broadband services. (600 words max)	Removed
Fair Labor Practices	Please certify that, if provisionally selected, you will provide the information specified in Initial Proposal Volume II section 2.7.1 to demonstrate your commitments to future compliance with federal labor and employment laws. This includes ensuring the future compliance of your contractors and subcontractors.	Removed
Workforce Support	Do you commit to collaborating with apprenticeship programs that offer support services? (e.g., project management resources, computing services, back-end administration) [If yes] Please provide additional details on your commitment plans.	Removed
Workforce Support	Do you commit to hiring a local workforce, with a particular focus on rural and high-poverty areas? [If yes] Please provide additional details on your commitment plans.	Removed
Workforce Support	Do you commit to providing financial support to employees on BEAD-related projects for services that address family needs? (e.g., childcare, transportation, mentorship) [If yes] Please provide additional details on your commitment plans.	Removed
Workforce Support	Do you commit to provisioning scholarships and student stipends for community college training programs for software, radio frequency, and field engineers? [If yes] Please provide additional details on your commitment plans.	Removed

Workforce Support	Do you plan to offer any in-house training or certification programs covering areas such as fiber optics, cybersecurity, and other telecommunications and broadband digital skills? [If yes] Please provide additional details on your commitment plans.	Removed
Workforce Support	Do you plan to facilitate guaranteed letters of commitment with state technical colleges, demonstrating good-faith efforts through letters of intent to hire Arkansas graduates [If yes] Please provide additional details on your commitment plans.	Removed
Workforce Support	What steps will you take to identify new sources of workforce, such as recent graduates and ex-convict populations? Please provide a brief description of 2-3 steps or initiatives to identify new sources of workforce.	Removed