

BEAD Application User Guide: Benefit of the Bargain Round Supplemental Guidance

Version 1.0 – June 27, 2025
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Background

On June 6, 2025, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) published the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice (PN). This PN outlined new requirements for Eligible Entities to follow when implementing the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program. The Arkansas State Broadband Office (ARConnect) will comply with this PN. As required by the PN, ARConnect rescinds all preliminary selections under its previous subgrantee selection process. Additionally, ARConnect will conduct at least one additional subgrantee selection round for every BEAD-eligible location (the “Benefit of the Bargain Round”).

This guide is a supplemental document to assist potential applicants as they participate in the “Benefit of the Bargain” (BB) Round. For more information not covered here, please refer to the additional resources on the ARConnect website.

Note: There will be a communication blackout during the BB bidding process to maintain fairness and transparency.

BB Bidding Process

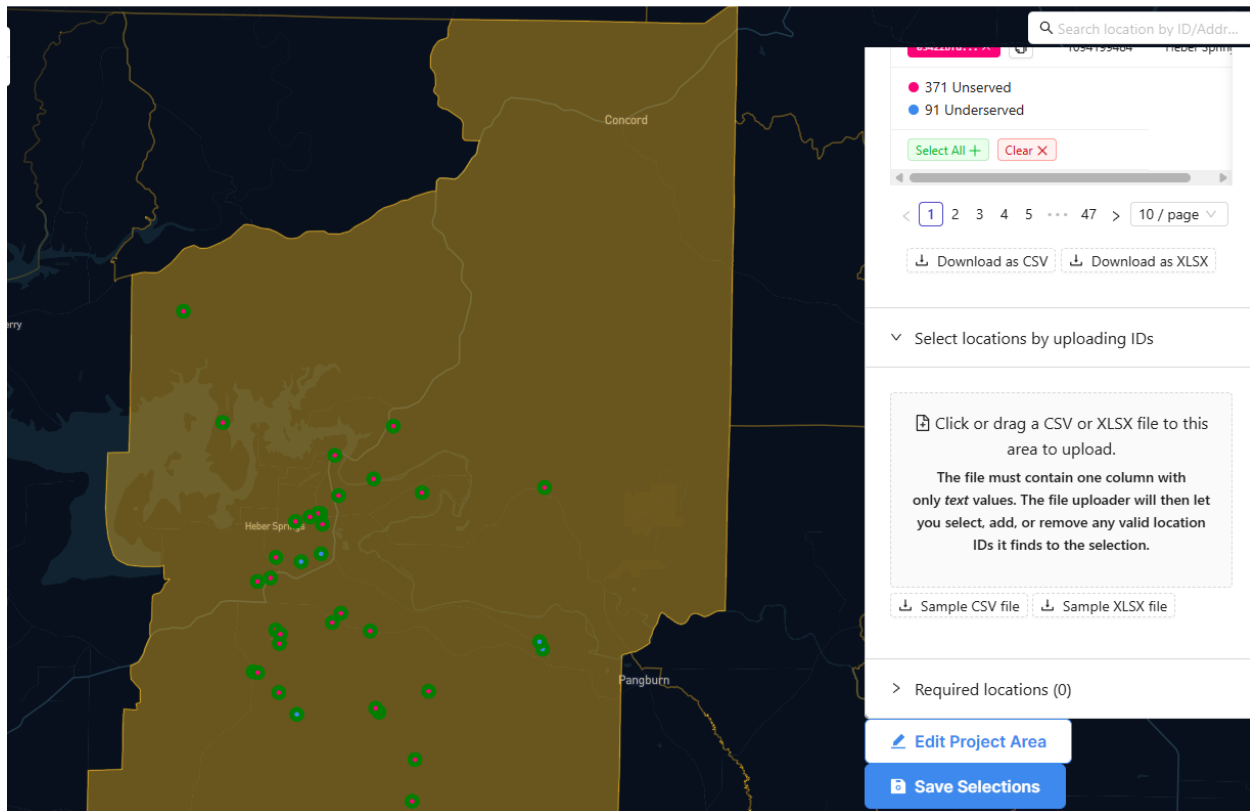
If you have not previously pre-registered, please go to the ARConnect Website.

Submitting a Bid

To submit a bid, click on the *BEAD Applications* tab in the navigation bar and then click ‘Start New Application.’ Applicants will only be able to submit 2 (two) bids per PAF. Once you create a name for the new project bid and save it, you will see a screen with the map of all available Arkansas PAFs (Project Area Footprint).

Select Locations

Applicants will have the ability to select one PAF (Project Area Footprint) per bid. If you propose to exclude select broadband serviceable locations (BSLs) from the selected PAF that you determine to be excessively high-cost locations (or would otherwise make the project economically inviable for the technology being used), you may select the locations individually on the map and remove them from the selected locations **OR** you may upload a CSV file of the locations you plan to remove (screenshot below). If you choose to remove locations by upload of CSV file, you will see a popup screen asking if you would like to either remove the locations in the CSV file you are uploading **OR** replace the current selections with the locations in the file. After you have chosen your PAF and removed high-cost locations if desired, save the Select Locations section and move to the next section.



Project Technical Details

The Project Technical Details section includes the following questions:

- Would you like to request this bid be considered for Priority Broadband Status?
 - [If Yes] Upload a document (narrative statement) describing how this application meets the criteria to be considered Priority Broadband. Applicants may upload additional documents to support the assessment of the network application and proposed network architecture. *For details on what requirements must be met to be considered Priority Broadband, please refer to the ARConnect Website.*
 - Please note, for an application to be considered for Priority Broadband Status, applicants must also submit certification from a professional engineer (PE) [template available on the ARConnect website] that attests to the accuracy of claims related to scalability in this application. Applicants may upload additional documents to support the assessment of the network application and proposed network architecture.

Technical Capabilities

* 1. Would you like to request this bid be considered for Priority Broadband Status?

☒ Yes

☐ No

* 1a. 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:

- Meet evolving connectivity needs of households and businesses, AND
- Support:
 - The deployment of 5G,
 - Successor wireless technologies, AND
 - Other advanced services

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.

Applicants may upload additional documents to support the assessment of the network application and proposed network architecture.

Click or drag file to this area to upload

Support for a single or bulk upload.

* 1b. Please submit certification from a professional engineer (PE) that attest to the accuracy of the claims related to scalability in this application. Please use the template available on the Arkansas BEAD webpage.

Click or drag file to this area to upload

Support for a single or bulk upload.

- Please acknowledge that ARConnect retains the right to request further information to determine if the bid meets the criteria for Priority Broadband Project.
- Will you be serving the eligible locations in your PAF with one technology type or multiple technology types?
 - Select either “One technology type” or “Multiple technology type”
- Please select your technology type(s) for this bid.
 - Select your technology type(s) from the dropdown.
- If you selected Multiple Technology Types, you **must** download a template and fill in the proposed technology type, the download speed, the upload speed, and the latency for each location as the question indicates below.

* 2b. Please download the template below containing your selected application locations and fill out the proposed technology type, download speed, upload speed and latency for each location before reuploading the file.

[⬇ Export Locations List](#)

Click or drag file to this area to upload

Support for a single or bulk upload.

- Please disclose the latency (in milliseconds) of the broadband service to be provided for the **primary technology** for the application (e.g., the technology to be used for the majority of locations in the PAF).
- Please input your proposed download and upload speed in Megabits per second of the **primary technology** for the application (e.g., the technology to be used for the majority of locations in the PAF).
- Please certify that you will offer at least one low-cost broadband service option for eligible subscribers.
- 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.
- Certify acknowledgement that the final subgrant agreement will include enforceable penalties for non-performance of final commitments.

Commercial Details

In the Commercial Details section, you will be asked the following questions:

- 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.
 - If you are not selected, are you interested in serving any carved-out locations from the project area?
 - [If yes] Please input the estimated average subsidy per location amount at which you would serve the carved out locations. *To clarify, this is the average grant request for a single location.*

Please note, as seen in FAQ-37, ARConnect will not consider requests for a match waiver. Therefore, applicants must meet the NTIA requirement of a 25% match commitment for BEAD projects. This is a federal program requirement.

Fair Labor Practices

In the Fair Labor Practices section, you will be asked to answer the following question:

- Do you certify future compliance to federal labor laws?

Letter of Credit

This Section asks you to certify your commitment to upload a Letter of Credit from an eligible bank or credit union prior to the execution of the subaward if selected, or to follow waiver requirements. The question reads:

- 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 precede entry into a subgrant agreement.

Additional Information

Each Applicant must provide the following items for each application:

1. A **Commitment Letter** from a qualified financial institution or performance bond issuer (template available, if needed).
2. A **Project Plan**. The components of the Project Plan include:
 - a. Engineering Design Package – Upload PDF
 - b. Total Project Cost Document (including the minimum 25 percent match) – Break out costs related to, at a minimum, the following categories: Engineering and Design, Labor, and Materials and Equipment (template available, if needed).
 - c. Project Implementation Plan (Gantt chart optional) – Build-out timeline with milestones for key project activities (template available, if needed).
 - d. Capital Investment Schedule – A high-level financial plan outlining the allocation of funds for network deployment, demonstrating that the full build-out and initiation of service will be completed within four years from the date the grant agreement is executed. The schedule should provide a clear timeline of investments, ensuring project milestones are met in accordance with the proposed Project Implementation Plan (template available, if needed).

The requirements listed above are taken from the Arkansas BEAD Initial Proposal Volume II and the BEAD NOFO, Page 74.

Please refer to the specific Instructions for your technology type that are available on the ARConnect Website along with all Templates in the “Supplemental Application Requirements” section.

Submitting the Required Documentation

Please upload each required document. Only the document types mentioned below each question will be accepted. For example, your commitment will be a PDF document.

1. Select Locations > 2. Project Technical Details > 3. Commercial Details > 4. Fair Labor Practices > 5. Letter Of Credit > 6. Additional Information > 7. Review & Submit

1. Additional Information
<p>Additional Information</p> <p>Please upload the following additional documents.</p> <p>*9. Please upload your commitment letter.</p> <div><p>Click or drag file to this area to upload</p><p>Support for a single or bulk upload.</p><p>.pdf file formats accepted</p></div> <p>*10. Please upload your engineering design package.</p> <div><p>Click or drag file to this area to upload</p><p>Support for a single or bulk upload.</p><p>.pdf file formats accepted</p></div> <p>*11. Please upload your total project cost documentation.</p> <div><p>Click or drag file to this area to upload</p><p>Support for a single or bulk upload.</p><p>.xlsx file formats accepted</p></div>

Please limit the information in the notes section to additional notes only – NOT items that are required in one of your submissions.

* 25. Please upload your project implementation plan.

Click or drag file to this area to upload

Support for a single or bulk upload.

.pdf file formats accepted

@ blank.pdf

* 26. Please upload your capital investment schedule.

Click or drag file to this area to upload

Support for a single or bulk upload.

.pdf file formats accepted

@ blank.pdf

27. Please leave any additional notes or comments here.

More info

Review and Submit

After you have completed all sections of the application, please go back and review each section to ensure that all information is accurate. For your records, you may also download a PDF copy of the application in this section.

Final Attestation

To finish and submit your BEAD application, you will be asked to complete several attestations.

Carefully read and complete each attestation by checking the boxes to the left, then submit the application.

Attestation

Please complete the required attestation verifying the validity of your grant application

- ☒ I certify that I have the legal authority to submit this application on behalf of Yahoo_Wireless_by_Jules
- ☒ I certify that all information submitted in this application is true and correct and understand that intentionally submitting false or misleading information will result in rejection of the application if discovered in the application phase of the grant program. If false information is used to obtain a grant, it could result in civil and criminal investigation, fines, penalties, and criminal prosecution.
- ☒ I certify that the Applicant/Grantee will observe and follow all applicable local, state, and federal laws, rules, and regulations for the entirety of the project and agree that it is the Applicant/Grantee's sole responsibility to be knowledgeable about these requirements. Failure to adhere to these requirements may result in cancellation of the grant, de-obligation of funds and a demand for repayment.
- ☒ I certify that the funds listed in the Application as "requested BEAD funding amount" have been or will be used for the Project detailed in the application. The requested funding amount (grant request) will be supplemented by a minimum of 25% match; therefore, the requested funds represent, at most, 75% of the expected budget of the project detailed in the application unless a waiver is granted by NTIA based on evidence of economic need for a given project.
- ☒ I certify and acknowledge that the Applicant/Grantee is required to complete projects funded by this grant program, if necessary, through separate funding not provided through this grant program.
- ☒ I certify that the Applicant/Grantee will be required to provide quarterly and annual reports, and that these reports will include status updates, cost updates, budget information, and any other documentation needed to establish expenditures, substantiation of costs and work progress.

BackSubmit →

You MUST hit the SUBMIT button or your application will not be considered received!!!!