



ARConnect

The Arkansas State Broadband Office

Arkansas BEAD Program

Frequently Asked Questions Document 39

Benefit of the Bargain (BB) Round Questions.....3

Arkansas BEAD Program
Frequently Asked Questions – Document 39

Benefit of the Bargain (BB) Round Questions

1. What information and analysis must applicants submit when requesting Priority Broadband Status?

If requesting Priority status, applicants must demonstrate that the project can easily scale speeds over time to meet evolving connectivity needs of households and business, and support the deployment of 5G, successor wireless technologies, and other advanced services. Applicants are encouraged to consult with qualified engineers when compiling their responses. Please note that, to be considered for Priority Broadband status, applicants must submit two PE certifications; one attesting that the proposed network detailed in the engineering design packet can deliver broadband service that meets the requisite performance requirements to all locations and one attesting to the accuracy of claims related to scalability in the application.

ARConnect will not provide guidance on specific details for Priority Broadband Status claims as the relevant information may vary for each applicant and project area.

2. If an applicant indicates they are interested in serving any carved out locations for a project area footprint (PAF), will they be required to upload a CSV within the application indicating the subsidy per location they would request to serve them?

No. If an applicant indicates interest in serving carved out locations, they must provide an estimated average subsidy per location to serve them in the application.

3. Do applicants need to obtain a new PE stamp for the engineering design packet if they previously submitted one?

If the project details are the same, applicants do not need to obtain a new PE stamp for the engineering design packet. However, if any information changes, a new stamp will be required. Please note, applicants seeking Priority status for an application for a PAF will be required to submit an additional PE certification attesting to the scalability claims made in the application.

4. Do applicants need to submit evidence of engagement with an environmental firm within the application?

No.

5. Will ARConnect provide a template for the PE certification of scalability information?

Yes.

6. For the PE certification, does the engineer need to be licensed in Arkansas?
No. The engineer may be licensed in any of the 56 Eligible Entities.
7. Can an applicant submit preliminary network designs in the application and provide the PE certification after the Low-level Design phase if selected for the project?
No. Given the short timeframe to submit the Final Proposal to NTIA, all applicants must submit the engineering design packet with the PE stamp in the application.
8. Do PAFs contain partial CBGs?
No. All PAFs consist of whole CBGs.
9. Will any changes to an application besides technology type cause an application to lose treatment as a previous preliminary selectee?
No.
10. Are applicants allowed to submit bids with multiple technologies?
Yes.
11. If an applicant places two bids for the same PAF with two different technology types and one is preliminarily selected, can they build to the locations in the PAF with the technology type from the losing bid?
No. Applicants must use the technology specified in the preliminarily selected bid.

ARConnect would like to reiterate the importance of good-faith efforts in running a fair, open, and transparent BEAD Program. It is the expectation of the State that the submission of a bid represents a commitment by the applicant to execute on the information provided in the event the bid is selected.

12. For applications requesting Priority Broadband Status, is the PE expected to certify performance just at the time of deployment, or must they also certify future scalability potential?
The PE must certify scalability over time in addition to performance at the time of deployment. Please note that, to be considered for Priority status, applicants must submit two PE certifications; one attesting that the proposed network detailed in the engineering design packet can deliver broadband service that meets the requisite performance requirements to all locations and one attesting to the accuracy of claims related to scalability in the application.
13. Can applicants submit contingent applications in the event of tower siting failure or permitting challenges?
No. Applicants must submit an application for a network they can feasibly design and operate. It is the expectation of the State that the submission of a bid

represents a commitment by the applicant to execute on the information provided in the event the bid is selected.

14. How long will the BB Round application window be open?

The BB Round application window will run from 12pm CT on Monday, July 7, until 6pm CT on Monday, July 14.

15. How long will applicant credential registration be open?

New applicant credential registration for the portal will open at 12pm CT on July 6 to ensure that applicants will have access for pre-registration and the BB Round application, which are both open from Monday, July 7, to Monday, July 14.

Please note that credential registration and pre-registration are only required for new applicants who have not previously participated in the Arkansas BEAD Program.

16. Will a list of BEAD-eligible locations in each PAF be provided?

Yes. The list of BEAD-eligible locations in each PAF is available on the [Arkansas BEAD webpage](#).

17. Will CBG IDs be shown in the portal when a PAF is selected?

Applicants may view CBG IDs by zooming in on the map when a PAF is selected. Additionally, each CBG is mapped to a PAF in the data sets available on the [Arkansas BEAD webpage](#).

18. Can applicants re-use previously submitted documents such as commitment letters, implementation plans, and project cost documentation?

If the project details are the same, applicants do not need to update documents such as commitment letters, implementation plans, and project cost documentation. However, if any information changes, a new documents will be required.

19. Will CBG IDs be available in the export of locations from the portal?

No. However, a list of locations and CBGs in each PAF is available on the [Arkansas BEAD webpage](#).

20. Are underserved locations available for BEAD funding in addition to unserved locations?

Yes. Unserved, underserved, and CAI locations are all available for BEAD funds.