**Arkansas BEAD Program**

# Frequently Asked Questions Document 40

**Benefit of the Bargain (BB) Round Questions**

1. Does the application question regarding interest in serving carved out locations only refer to carved out locations within the PAF being bid on?
   Yes. If an applicant is interested in serving carved out locations in a particular PAF, they must bid on that PAF.

2. Will ARConnect provide a template for the multiple technologies CSV upload?
   Yes. If a bid contains multiple technologies, a template pre-populated with the list of locations will be downloadable from within the portal.

3. Are there different engineering design packet templates for licensed and unlicensed fixed wireless?
   No. Both licensed and unlicensed fixed wireless providers will use the updated fixed wireless engineering design packet template available on the Arkansas BEAD webpage.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. In scenarios where deconfliction requires the evaluation of secondary criteria, how can an applicant be considered a previous preliminary subgrantee?
If an application to serve the same general project area proposes a project cost within 15% of the lowest-cost proposal received for that same general project area on a per BSL basis, ARConnect will evaluate such competing applications based on secondary criteria. For locations where ARConnect has already identified preliminarily selected subgrantees, ARConnect will select those applications in the BB Round. To be eligible, the BB round application technology type must match that of the previous selection

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.

7. If a bid is submitted for a PAF with multiple tech types, including the tech type belonging to a previous preliminarily selected bid for BSLs in the PAF, would that count as a previous preliminary selection according to the secondary scoring criteria?
As with all bids, the State reserves the right to evaluate the totality of the application relative to federal and state program guidance.