



## BEAD Pre-Qualification FAQs

### 1. When does the pre-qualification application form open?

The pre-qualification application form opened on November 21, 2024 and will remain open throughout the project application phase. You can access the application here: [New Hampshire BEAD Program Pre-Qualification Application](#).

### 2. If a prospective subgrantee does not complete the pre-qualification phase, does that disqualify them from applying for BEAD funding?

Applicants are required to complete the pre-qualification phase in order to be considered for BEAD funding. The pre-qualification phase may be completed before or at the same time as project applications. However, it is recommended that applicants submit pre-qualification materials first, as project applications will not be considered until the applicant passes pre-qualification.

### 3. When will the list of unserved and underserved Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSL) be shared after the Challenge Process?

The list of eligible Broadband Serviceable Locations has been approved by the NTIA and has been posted on New Hampshire's [BEAD Challenge Process page](#). The project service area list and map will be made available soon and published on the [BEAD Subgrantee Selection page](#).

### 4. Will there be an opportunity to correct any deficiencies in the pre-qualification application?

Yes, prospective applicants may resubmit during Phase 1 for approval or additional feedback (recommended). Alternatively, revised pre-qualification materials can be submitted alongside the project application in Phase 2. Please note that BEA will grant applicants up to fifteen calendar days after notification to cure an incomplete application.

### 5. Where can I find support and resources for the Pre-Qualification Process?

The New Hampshire Broadband Office offers the following resources:

- [Pre-Qualification Guidance](#)
- [Pre-Qualification Certification Template](#)
- [Pre-Qualification Webinar Presentation](#)
- Office Hours: December 11<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm – 12:30pm ET
- Dedicated email for inquiries: [broadband@livefree.nh.gov](mailto:broadband@livefree.nh.gov)

Additional resources are available on the [BEA Subgrantee Selection page](#).

### 6. Does BABA apply to this BEAD grant?

Yes, Build America, Buy America (BABA) requirements apply to BEAD.



**7. What should I do if my Kiteworks link expired?**

Kiteworks links expire after 3 days. If your link has expired before you could upload documentation, a new link will be sent to you, providing another 3-day window for uploading.

**8. Is there a set deadline for pre-qualification, and when will the full application process launch?**

The project application phase opened on January 6, 2025. Pre-qualification can continue during this time, but we encourage participants to complete it as soon as possible to keep the project application review on schedule.

### **BEAD Project Applications FAQs**

**1. Is the Letter of Credit required with the application or before signing the subgrantee agreement?**

Alongside their application, applicants must submit a letter from an eligible bank that meets eligibility requirements committing to issue an irrevocable standby letter of credit, to the prospective subgrantee as outlined in the BEAD NOFO.

However, the Letter of Credit itself, or an [acceptable alternative](#), must be submitted prior to the contract being sent to Governor & Council for approval.

**2. Is there an estimated date for when the contracts are awarded to address the “speed of deployment” grant criteria?**

Contracts are anticipated to be submitted to G&C in Q3 or Q4 2025. Before that, applications must be submitted, preliminarily approved, and reviewed by NTIA.

**3. How should ISPs allocate shared infrastructure costs across multiple PSAs? Should these costs be included in both applications or distributed proportionally?**

BEA recognizes if adjacent PSAs are awarded to the same applicant, it could create economies of scale. However, applications for PSAs must remain entirely independent of one another in order to ensure a fair and competitive scoring processes. The cost estimate in one application should not rely on cost estimates from another application.

**4. Do ISPs need to apply for a PSA to submit the non-served BSL template?**

Yes, ISPs can only submit the non-served BSL template for a town if they apply for the PSA associated with that town.

**5. Is New Hampshire accepting in-kind match as part of the BEAD funding 25% match requirement?**

Please reference Section III.B.4 of the BEAD NOFO and Section 9.5 of the BEAD Frequently Asked Questions and Answers for details.



**6. Where can I find support and resources for the Project Application Process?**

The New Hampshire Broadband Office offers the following resources:

- [Project Application Guidance](#)
- [Project Application Certification Template](#)
- [Project Application Webinar Presentation](#)
- Dedicated email for inquiries: [broadband@livefree.nh.gov](mailto:broadband@livefree.nh.gov)

Additional resources are available on the [BEA Subgrantee Selection page](#).

**7. Can an application provide locations reported to the FCC as served during the most recent (12/31/2024) submission window for removal from BEAD eligibility?**

No, the State will not accept FCC filing information from applicants to remove locations from BEAD eligibility. The State reserves the right to adjust BEAD eligible locations under Reason Code 5 of the Final Proposal Guidance released by NTIA prior to the Final Proposal submission.

**8. If an applicant currently serves BEAD-eligible locations in a Project Area (or is currently extending its network to serve additional locations), should they submit the BSLs on the “Non-Served BSL” Template provided by BEA? If so, which reason code should be used, and what evidence is required?**

No, the State has made the decision not to accept served status updates from applicants during the Subgrantee Selection Process. The “Non-Served BSL” Template should only be used in circumstances where the location should not have broadband service, the location does not need mass-market broadband service, or the location is already served by an enforceable commitment. An enforceable commitment is defined as a location that is subject to a federal, state or local commitment to deploy broadband, normally through grant funding.

**9. If an applicant identifies BSLs that are included in the PSA for a particular town, but GIS data identifies the BSLs as being located in a neighboring town, how should the applicant communicate that information to BEA?**

Applicants should email this information to [broadband@livefree.nh.gov](mailto:broadband@livefree.nh.gov). Please include Fabric ID, latitude/longitude, the current PSA, the actual municipality per the GIS data and any other relevant information. BEA encourages applicants to submit this information as soon as possible, but it must be submitted no later than the close of the Application Window.

Determinations will be made on a case-by-case basis. This information will be communicated with the applicant and then subsequently posted publicly for all applicants on our website.



**10. Can the Professional Engineer certifying the Network Design be licensed in a state other than New Hampshire?**

No, per the Initial Proposal Volume II, the Professional Engineer certifying the Network Design must be licensed in the state of New Hampshire.

**11. If successful in a grant application, is it possible to be reimbursed for expenditures prior to signing a contract? Must all expenditures occur after the contract is signed or is there flexibility?**

Pre-award costs will be allowable for applicants selected to serve Project Service Areas (PSA) under the NH BEAD program. Pre-award costs will only be eligible if they are incurred on or after December 20, 2024, and before the award is approved by New Hampshire Governor & Executive Council. Pre-award expenses should be clearly identified in the proposed budget. Additionally, pre-award costs are incurred at the sole risk of the applicant and will not be reimbursed if the proposed project or other eligible activity does not receive an award pursuant to the BEAD program.

Pre-award costs are defined by 2 CFR part 200.458, as those incurred prior to the effective date of the Federal award or subaward directly pursuant to the negotiation and in anticipation of the Federal award where such costs are necessary for efficient and timely performance of the scope of work.

**12. Would the low-cost broadband service option need to be made available to all locations within a project service area, or just the BEAD eligible locations? (UPDATED 2/12/2025)**

Per Section 2.12 of the NH Initial Proposal Volume II, BEA will require all subgrantees to offer a low-cost broadband service option to all BSLs that are eligible for BEAD funding included in a subgrant project area that are eligible for or enrolled in ACP or any successor or equivalent program. BEA also strongly encourages that the same low-cost broadband service option be made available to all ACP-enrolled prospective customers across the subgrantee's service territory, regardless of whether the location is covered by BEAD funding. Further details about the low-cost broadband service option can be found in Section 2.12 of New Hampshire's Initial Proposal Volume II.

**13. Is Davis-Bacon Compliance mandatory for subgrantees? If an ISP does not certify to compliance with Davis-Bacon, must they provide a local impact report to the state?**

For individual projects with an expected total cost over \$5,000,000, subgrantees are required to certify that all workers are paid at or above prevailing wage rates under federal law through the Davis-Bacon Act or under State law (commonly known as "baby Davis-Bacon Acts"). If the



certification is not provided, subgrantees must provide a project employment and local impact report (BEAD NOFO Sec. VII.E.2).

**14. Can an ISP separate a Project Service Area (PSA) into 2 sub-projects if some of the locations in the PSA are extremely high cost in relation to the other locations in the PSA?**

No, applicants must submit one application for each project service area that they are applying to serve. Each application must serve all BSLs identified as part of the PSA and may not be broken up into sub-projects.