



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: <u>New Hampshire</u> 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 <u>BEAD Challenge Process page</u>. The project service area list and map will be made available soon and published on the <u>BEAD Subgrantee Selection page</u>.

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 11th at 12:00pm 12:30pm ET
- Dedicated email for inquiries: <u>broadband@livefree.nh.gov</u>

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.

◆ 100 North Main Street, Suite 100

Concord, New Hampshire 03301

- **6**03.271.2341
- visitnh.gov nheconomy.com choosenh.com





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 <u>acceptable alternative</u>, 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.

Concord, New Hampshire 03301





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: <u>broadband@livefree.nh.gov</u>

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.