

**DEEP Broadband Infrastructure Programs Request for Information
Q&A – August 5, 2022**

Number	Question	Answer
1	Is CT filing or has filed a Digital Equity Planning Grant Application with NTIA (Due July 12th)?	The Commission for Educational Technology (the Commission) is leading the Digital Equity Act programs. The Commission has submitted the Digital Equity Planning Grant Application on behalf of the state by the deadline. The application is currently under review by the Department of Commerce, and the Commission will share the final version once it is approved.
2	Is CT filing or has filed a Letter of Intent to participate in the BEAD program (Due July 18th)?	Yes, the State has submitted its Letter of Intent to participate in the IJJA BEAD program to NTIA. A copy is posted on DEEP’s Broadband Infrastructure Programs Request for Information .
3	Does CT plan to submit or has submitted an application for Initial Planning Funds (Due no later than August 15th)?	Yes, DEEP plans to submit the Initial Planning Funds Application by August 15, 2022, per the guidance set forth by NTIA in the BEAD Planning Application Guidance.pdf (doc.gov) .
4	Has CT begun to hold meetings or solicit input to craft the Five-Year Action Plan that is required if Initial Planning Funds are granted? Has the state communicated what its process will be for soliciting public comment on the draft plan?	The State has begun holding meetings in advance of and in conjunction with our RFI release. This engagement (current and over time) will likely be part of our Five-Year Action Plan. The creation of that Action Plan, however, has not started yet.
5	Has CT begun to hold meetings or solicit input to craft the Initial Proposal that explains how CT will use its BEAD grant? Has CT communicated what its process will be for soliciting public comment on the draft plan?	The State has begun holding meetings in advance of and in conjunction with our RFI release. This engagement (current and over time) will likely be part of our Initial Proposal. The creation of that Initial Proposal, however, has not started yet. The State will communicate the process for public engagement on the Proposal as required by the NOFO.

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6	Is it possible to get a GIS MAP (in Shapefile or KML or any GIS Format) for the CT map showing the underserved areas?	All publicly available mapping data, including data sets and shapefiles, can be accessed at broadbandmaps.ct.gov . Please note the State is in the process of identifying inaccuracies and data gaps to improve the maps and will publish updates as they become available.
7	What safety data is DEEP relying on to ensure that Wi-Fi and wireless networks they support are safe for children? Specifically ensuring memory and nervous system impacts have been evaluated as well as children's unique vulnerability due to their developing brains.	DEEP released this RFI to gather input on all broadband-related subject matter, including topics not directly addressed in the text. Respondents are encouraged to submit their comments, concerns, and recommendations including any supplemental attachments and supporting documentation with their responses by 8/26. In this case, such comments, recommendations, and documentation can include an advocacy for or against certain technologies or topologies.
8	What safety data or federal agencies is DEEP relying on to ensure that any infrastructure they install is safe for birds and bees?	Please refer to the response for #7.
9	If you have safety data - please send a link to the specific reports and safety documentation.	Please refer to the response for #7.
10	Will DEEP be doing an environmental impact assessment for the networks they are supporting If so please send details. If not please explain why.	Connecticut is required to analyze the potential environmental impacts, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act for proposals and awardee projects and other eligible activities seeking funding under the BEAD Program. Projects or other eligible activities containing construction and/or ground-disturbing activities are required to submit all required environmental documentation to DEEP.

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		<p>Projects funded by the Capital Projects Fund (CPF) must also comply with all applicable federal environmental laws. CPF projects that involve construction may be subject to federal environmental review requirements.</p> <p>Projects may be subject to the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act, which is meant to identify and evaluate the impacts of proposed State actions that could have the potential to significantly affect the environment.</p>
11	Under CT and federal law, does a municipality have the legal authority to construct and own a fiber network designed to serve non-municipal users, including private homes and businesses?	<p>Guidance from both the CPF and the BEAD programs require states to consider a wide array of entities as subrecipients, including local governments. As such, DEEP encourages stakeholders to seek legal advice regarding the extent of their authority to participate in any capacity in the DEEP Broadband Infrastructure Programs, including as either the owner of a network or as an Internet service provider. Additionally, DEEP encourages stakeholders to identify, in its response to the RFI, any existing laws that may be a barrier to participation in a subgrant competition by public sector entities. (See Section IV.C.1.a of the BEAD NOFO.)</p>
12	Under CT and federal law, does a council of governments (COG) have the legal authority to construct and own a fiber network designed to serve non-municipal users, including private homes and businesses?	Please refer to the response for #11.
13	<p>Answering many questions in this RFI could take considerable text. Do you have a limit on the number of pages submitted?</p> <p>If length gets beyond, say, 5 pages, would you prefer summaries in the body of the response with appendices filling in a larger picture?</p>	<p>No, there is no page limit for comments.</p> <p>As possible, respondents are encouraged to attach any supporting documentation and/or supplemental information referenced in their comments.</p>

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14	<p>Relative to the estimate of current fiber optic coverage in Connecticut given on page 10, does DEEP have any intentions of obtaining from the current set of broadband carriers in the state their future new infrastructure plans?</p> <p>Frontier is clearly building out many towns now with fiber. Optimum will be finished with its franchise towns within a year or so. GoNetSpeed has been connecting more and more homes. Charter has built full Fiber to the Home (FTTH) networks now in western Massachusetts, suggesting that they are interested with the proper inducements. Any planning for a regional effort that may not begin construction until 2025 or 2026 (or later, depending) would want to comprehend the best picture of what is going to be already connected or likely to be connected with FTTH by private carriers. This information is generally not available. We note that Frontier is now installing fiber optic networks in sections of Torrington, New Milford, Harwinton, and New Hartford, suggesting they may have future plans for segments of other towns in our region. Any new project planning should be conducted with knowledge of these plans.</p>	<p>Broadband mapping initiatives and related data requests are managed by the Office of Policy and Management’s GIS Office rather than DEEP. Respondents are encouraged to submit any recommendations for program design and project planning via comment by 8/26.</p>
15	<p>Also, will the information made available to OPM by carriers be made available to us in full detail; the state law (21-159) demanding this information also includes privacy protections that we understand some carriers invoked, suggesting that the details will not be available.</p>	<p>All publicly available mapping data can be accessed at broadbandmaps.ct.gov. By December 1, 2022, the Office of Policy and Management will publish the official Connecticut Broadband Availability Map, or “CBAM”. In the meantime, users can explore broadband data and download data sets and shapefiles via the data library.</p>

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<p>16</p>	<p>In the Webinar conducted on 21 July the word “costs” did not seem prominent (we cannot remember it being used). The first requirement for evaluating projects under the BEAD program is minimum costs to BEAD, so their money is spread as far as possible. Four questions:</p> <p>Does DEEP believe the money likely available will actually produce high speed reliable broadband to every home and business in Connecticut?</p> <p>If not (we do not see it), how do costs weigh against equal access and non-carrier partners in the picture?</p>	<p>DEEP released this RFI to gather input on questions such as these. The goal is to utilize the federal funding opportunities to provide affordable, reliable, and resilient broadband service to all residents and business in the State by addressing the issues of both access and adoption. The weighted influence of BEAD program outlay on grant applications may be informed by federal guidance, this RFI, and subsequent public processes. Respondents are encouraged to provide any information or insights they have on network costs and the potential ability or inability to serve certain cohorts in the State via comment by 8/26.</p>
<p>17</p>	<p>What, if any, are you expecting from municipalities, realistically, for cost sharing?</p>	<p>BEAD-funded projects will require at least a 25% match to extend the reach of funds. In certain cases, a full or partial waiver may be requested, such as when a match requirement could deter participation by small and non-traditional providers, in marginalized or low-income communities, or could threaten affordability (i.e., if an applicant seeks to offset the cost of a substantial match through higher end user prices). Additional details on the process of requesting a match waiver can be found in Section III.B.5 of the BEAD NOFO.</p> <p>DEEP has not yet determined the required match for CPF-funded projects and encourages respondents to provide input including recommendations via comment.</p>

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18	<p>Are you thinking of collecting the state COGs into some kind of conversation that would enable state-wide programs to promote state-wide participation in municipal contributions?</p>	<p>DEEP encourages municipalities and COGs to engage in cross-boundary communication and plans to continue outreach throughout the lifetime of the programs to promote participation and provide technical support. Suggestions for outreach and engagement formats and topics are welcomed.</p>
19	<p>Does DEEP have confidence that its methodology of mapping unserved homes will capture the full inventory?</p> <p>The estimate of 50,000 on page 12 includes underserved as well as unserved, but the maps themselves show almost no unserved. We know that Comcast has provided a number of 248 unserved for Sharon. We are developing that figure for Norfolk by examining cable networks on poles (we are not willing to trust Comcast estimates). As we understand the federal mapping process, they are asking carriers to supply actual addresses or GIS pin locations for all homes actually connected and any that could be connected in 10 days, which figure should exclude any home not connected but passed, but requiring underground curb to home wiring.</p>	<p>The Office of Policy and Management’s (OPM) GIS Office is currently working to update Connecticut’s broadband maps in order to provide residents, policymakers, and broadband stakeholders a curated set of data sets, maps, and web applications.</p> <p>The GIS Office and its partners, including DEEP, are engaged in an ongoing process of data collection with Internet service providers and local community groups to improve the data’s accuracy. In February, OPM initiated talks with Internet service providers as a result of Public Act No. 21-159 (the ‘Broadband Bill’) and in March officially requested service area data be submitted by the end of April. The GIS Office is also partnering with the Conference of Connecticut Municipalities and other local organizations to obtain further data through surveys and local data collection.</p> <p>By December 1, 2022, the GIS Office plans to publish the official Connecticut Broadband Availability Map, or ‘CBAM’. DEEP will use the data collected for CBAM as necessary to challenge the forthcoming FCC DATA maps which are also expected to be released later this year.</p>
20	<p>Would DEEP consider such homes served or unserved, that is, passed but only connectable for a considerable fee?</p>	<p>Under the BEAD program, a location with access to a reliable 100 Mbps/20 Mbps connection will be considered served by the infrastructure. DEEP is currently working with the Department of Treasury to refine its definition of</p>

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		<p>underserved under the CPF program and is interested in receiving stakeholder feedback on the cost of connection via a curb-to-home component.</p> <p>Of note, the funds allocated by Connecticut from the CPF for broadband may be used to subsidize curb-to-home infrastructure. DEEP welcomes any comments on how and where projects of this type might be implemented.</p>
21	<p>Does DEEP know what advice the FCC is giving carriers on how to report such homes—served or unserved?</p> <p>(Northwest Connect performed a survey of Litchfield County using cable company billing records, counted by zip code, that showed 35% of homes in the County were not connected, with ranges from 15% in New Hartford to 45% in Torrington. We of course do not know the percentage passed who opted out for one reason or another compared to those not passed. We know that 160 homes out of 932 in Norfolk are too far from the road for aerial wiring, many of which are not connected because of very high Comcast fees for underground wiring).</p>	<p>Information for filers submitting data to the FCC as part of their Broadband Data Collection initiative can be found at: https://www.fcc.gov/BroadbandData/filers</p>
22	<p>As it stands now, cable companies will likely claim that they meet the criteria of 100/20 that sets the bar for “underserved” in most of the state if not all of the state. But cable network upstream speed is not reliably above 20 mbps (and there are instances when the downstream speed drops below 100 mbps).</p> <p>What standard will you apply for “underserved?”</p> <p>The answer to this question is critical to the manner in which DEEP distributes BEAD money, and the costs involved with</p>	<p>DEEP recognizes that reliability is an important component of broadband service. Section IV.C.2 of the BEAD NOFO outlines subgrantee obligations, including network capabilities, deployment requirements, and service obligations, including a reporting requirement, “to describe the peak and off-peak actual speeds of the broadband service being offered in addition to the maximum advertised speed of the broadband service being offered to ensure locations are serviced.”</p>

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	<p>serving the “unserved” with fiber optics. If cable networks “underserve,” then DEEP can justify building fiber networks over cable networks, perhaps thus covering the state under some scenarios, and getting fiber much closer to the small pockets of ‘unserved’ homes that will be in the far corners of most towns, if they exist at all. Otherwise, reaching the “unserved” with fiber optics may be prohibitively expensive.</p>	<p>DEEP encourages respondents to submit their comments and suggestions for service reliability standards for both programs by 8/26.</p>
23	<p>Would DEEP consider a standard for “underserved” to include “proof” that networks with widely shared last mile lines will produce 97% reliable 100/20 service under all traffic conditions, that is, providing 100/20 “reliably”?</p> <p>This would solve the problem.</p>	<p>Please refer to the response for #22.</p>
24	<p>Could DEEP explain why the state of Connecticut is unwilling to contribute any money to new network construction (we advert to the phrase “subject to the availability of federal funding” in the second paragraph of page 5 and the broadband bills submitted to the state legislature by the governor’s office)?</p> <p>From our perspective, the only barrier to full deployment of fiber optics in our region is money, and specifically the unwillingness of municipalities and their residents to shoulder the full or significant load, even though the costs are relatively small (when bonded over 30 years) and probably pay for themselves if the networks generate economic development. State contributions would make a significant impact on negotiations with town elected leaders who must be, in our view, participants in most collaborations constructed</p>	<p>The Request for Information is seeking stakeholder input regarding how DEEP may best utilize the funding that it has already received for broadband infrastructure programs. Stakeholders are welcome to offer additional input regarding their view on additional funds necessary, and the source of said funds, to achieve the State’s goal of universal broadband.</p>

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	for thinly populated towns, and perhaps for all towns, large and small.	
25	<p><i>Ref: Participation and Partnerships 1.3</i></p> <p>What is your understanding of current Connecticut law on municipal broadband networks?</p> <p>Statute §16-233 seems to imply the power, but without any of the apparatus we find for electric utilities in Statute §7-213 ff. The latter provides for utility owned broadband networks, but only as part of an electric utility.</p>	Please refer to the response for #11.
26	<p>Are there any plans to introduce legislation that would formally enable a municipal broadband network without requiring an electric utility as the host enterprise?</p> <p>(We note that State Representative Maria Horn introduced such language into the proposed 2020 broadband bill, but that bill was modified before that language was considered.)</p>	Per the response to #11, guidance from both the CPF and the BEAD programs require states to consider a wide array of entities as subrecipients, including local governments. DEEP encourages respondents to recommend any legislation or policies that would foster full program participation.
27	<p><i>Ref: Participation and Partnerships 1.8</i></p> <p>Would DEEP consider a plan covering the entire state rather than just a region?</p>	DEEP has not made a decision on which region(s) of the State a potential RFP or grant application would cover and therefore seeks input on areas of interest and/or strategies for providing service to the maximum number of residents and businesses.
28	<p><i>Ref: Timeline 2.2</i></p> <p>Having participated in the PURA development of One Touch Make Ready (OTMR) regulations, we feel obliged to ask if DEEP has any way to accelerate such proceedings should they be required for effective and efficient deployment?</p>	<p>PURA, rather than DEEP, administers the timeline for the development of the OTMR regulations. The Final Decision was released by PURA on May 11, 2022, and can be found here:</p> <p>https://www.dpuc.state.ct.us/dockcurr.nsf/8e6fc37a54110e3e852576190052b64d/4d4b047910a0304d8525883f0055a9cb/\$FILE/190152RE01-051122.pdf</p>

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29	<p>In this regard as well, does DEEP feel it has the requisite power to enforce the new OTMR regulations, particularly regarding timing (meaning delays) in pole engineering studies and pole replacement that must happen before OTMR becomes operative?</p> <p>We note that the most persistent contribution to the OTMR Docket from Eversource related to manpower overloads resulting from the existing level of new attachment applications and the effects new regulations would impose on such manpower loads.</p>	<p>PURA, rather than DEEP, has the authority to enforce the OTMR regulations.</p>
30	<p><i>Ref: Matching Contributions 3.2</i></p> <p>It seems to us that the IJA law and the NTIA NOFO are less than clear about the implications of classifying an area as “high cost.”</p> <p>Could you explain how DEEP sees it? It seems that DEEP decides on the boundary. How do you plan to compute it?</p>	<p>According to the BEAD NOFO, “the term ‘high-cost area’ means an unserved area in which the cost of building out broadband service is higher, as compared with the average cost of building out broadband service in unserved areas in the United States (as determined by the Assistant Secretary, in consultation with the Commission), incorporating factors that include— (I) the remote location of the area; (II) the lack of population density of the area; (III) the unique topography of the area; (IV) a high rate of poverty in the area; or (V) any other factor identified by the Assistant Secretary, in consultation with the Commission, that contributes to the higher cost of deploying broadband service in the area. For purposes of defining “high-cost area,” the term “unserved area” means an area in which not less than 80 percent of broadband-serviceable locations are unserved locations. NTIA will release further information regarding the identification of</p>

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		<p>high-cost areas for purposes of BEAD funding allocations at a later date.”</p> <p>As such, DEEP is awaiting further information from NTIA regarding the definition of ‘high-cost area’ but encourages respondents to provide feedback on any factors they believe should be considered.</p>
<p>31</p>	<p><i>Ref: Broadband Technologies and Speed</i></p> <p>General question. Sensible answers to these question will be complex, technical, require market forecasts, and explanations. The answers also depend a great deal on how one segments the market and what priority should be given low density, but important segments that will require high speeds and low latencies (below 10 ms) than the average consumer in the time frame suggested, which itself deserves some comment. For example, the answer to the first question is “fiber optics”; any other answer likely comes from a cable company touting DOCSIS 4.0 modems without a hint as to their serious limitations. The reasoning (answering “why?”) beyond the simple observation that fiber optics have 100,000 times the capacity of cable networks is quite complicated if anything more than a redescription of the value of fiber optics. There is also a sense that the questions might be ordered differently. You state a preference for fiber optics in question 2. In a FTTH network none of the other questions are relevant. It might be better to make this question one, and then lead into the other questions with a preface that applies to networks that are not fiber optics.</p>	<p>DEEP does not plan to release subsequent versions of this RFI and will therefore not be altering its content. Respondents are encouraged to provide any information they believe should be considered by DEEP, including a recommendation for Program technologies or topologies with supporting documentation, via comment by 8/26.</p>

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32	<p><i>Ref: Open Access</i></p> <p>Does DEEP have any realistic expectations that an open access network would be possible for the “unserved” in the state?</p>	<p>DEEP released this RFI to gather input on questions such as these. Respondents are encouraged to provide any information they have on open access networks and their ability or inability to serve certain cohorts in the State via comment by 8/26.</p>
33	<p>Is there an example of an open access network in the state (do you consider CEN and Crown Castle to be open access networks for residential service)?</p> <p>We are not objecting to open access, nor denying its virtues. But open access as we understand it requires common trunk wiring from one vendor who permits drop wire and electronics attached to such trunk wiring by another vendor, in a network usually deploying shared lines, which means multiple vendor access to network end cabinets and offices, plus equipment space therein for more than one middle mile network connection and suitable switches, plus assurances that signaling protocols over such shared arrangements are all compatible. Crown Castle has connected individual customers to its trunk system (in Norfolk), but they are the ISP.</p> <p>It would be good to know how you see this working.</p>	<p>Per the BEAD NOFO, the term “open access” refers to an arrangement in which the subgrantee offers nondiscriminatory access to and use of its network on a wholesale basis to other providers seeking to provide broadband service to end-user locations, at just and reasonable wholesale rates for the useful life of the subsidized network assets.</p> <p>Respondents are encouraged to provide any information they have on open access networks and their ability or inability to serve certain cohorts in the State via comment by 8/26.</p>
34	<p><i>Ref: Middle Mile Network Infrastructure</i></p> <p>Given that CEN runs over a Crown Castle network, would it be worthwhile to add Crown Castle to this set of questions?</p>	<p>DEEP does not plan to release subsequent versions of this RFI and will therefore not be altering its content. Respondents are encouraged to provide any information they believe should be considered by DEEP via comment by 8/26.</p>
35	<p><i>Ref: Program Alignment</i></p>	<p>In order to utilize the federal funds in the most effective and efficient manner, DEEP is considering how to evaluate</p>

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	<p>The situation is not clear to us. It is unlikely that we will have map agreement relative to unserved locations (after challenges) until June of 2023.</p> <p>Are you suggesting that we defer CPF funding applications until after that date? Or are you relying upon state mapping to determine “unserved” locations?</p> <p>As suggested above, the costs of reaching “unserved” locations in rural areas is highly contingent upon networks adjacent to such areas, the nature of which may also depend upon BEAD funding and determinations of “underserved” areas. We think we understand the point, but it may need some clarification.</p>	<p>projects that are eligible under both programs compared to those that may only be eligible for one. The goal is to avoid exhausting CPF funds on proposals that are dually eligible for the BEAD Program at the expense of proposals that may only apply for the CPF-funded Connecticut Broadband Infrastructure Program. DEEP also understands that a higher quantity of funded proposals does not necessarily equate to an increase in number of households and businesses served, and therefore has sought public input via this RFI for any information or insights into the best method(s) for extending the reach of this federal funding.</p>
<p>36</p>	<p><i>Ref: Affordability, Adoption, and Equity</i></p> <p>We have the same concerns for these questions that we had for those related to broadband speeds. Competent answers will be long and complex, the issues often beyond easy quantification, and contingent upon often subjective criteria as to, for example, what constitutes adequate speed for working at home if you are on the economic margins compared to someone who is not. Question 8 alone would take pages to treat adequately.</p> <p>Do you think it might be valuable to rank-order the question by importance to you, or suggest that you only want answers from those clearly qualified to give them (although some of these questions relate to areas for which no one has a lot of experience, hence almost anyone would be making intelligent guesses rather than experiential claims.)</p>	<p>DEEP agrees that many of the questions presented are multi-faceted which is why the State has sought public input via this RFI. DEEP encourages respondents to answer in as much depth as necessary.</p>

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37	<p>Thanks so much for the power point presentation last week on the RFI and the additional information provided. I did want to follow up on one piece of data on the slides.</p> <p>I wanted to know how the state is defining high speed internet. One of the slides suggests that 300,000 residents do not have access and that is a high number, just trying to get underneath that one, thanks.</p>	<p>The State has not defined high-speed internet but has set a goal of universal access to 1 Gbps download speeds and 100 Mbps upload speeds. To clarify the information on the slide referenced, the 300,000 (source: American Community Survey 2020) represents those without a subscription to wireline broadband, which could indicate an issue with either access or adoption.</p> <p>The State’s GIS Office is working to improve the accuracy of its mapping layers as directed by Public Act. No 21-159.</p>
38	Does DEEP consider broadband to be a utility?	Connecticut law defines community antenna television companies and holders of a certificate of cable franchise authority as a public service company.
39	Can Municipalities and COGs apply for funding with a private company in a PPP? Or would the Muni or COG need to apply separately and then participate in a PPP?	<p>Yes, public-private partnerships may apply for funding. Please refer to the response for #11 for more information regarding municipal and COG applications.</p> <p>The BEAD Program considers these types of arrangements “Non-Traditional Broadband Providers” which is defined as, “an electric cooperative, nonprofit organization, public-private partnership, public or private utility, public utility district, Tribal entity, or local government (including any unit, subdivision, authority, or consortium of local governments) that provides or will provide broadband services.”</p>
40	Will Connecticut follow the federal guidelines of prioritization of unserved and underserved residents?	All BEAD-funded programs must follow the prioritization requirements as described in the BEAD NOFO, which first

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		<p>address unserved locations followed by underserved locations and community anchor institutions.</p> <p>The CPF-funded Connecticut Broadband Infrastructure Program will prioritize underserved areas, which is distinct from BEAD definitions in that underserved areas include, rather than excludes, unserved areas.</p>
41	Local data servers will be required for efficient data operations, does DEEP have plans for state distributed hubs?	Currently, DEEP does not have plans for State distributed hubs.
42	Will there be a “Made in America” clause associated with the funding?	All funds made available through the BEAD Program for broadband infrastructure must comply with the Build America, Buy America Act. The Build America, Buy America Act requires that all of the iron, steel, manufactured products (including but not limited to fiber-optic communications facilities), and construction materials used in the project or other eligible activities are produced in the United States unless a waiver is granted. Funds made available through the CPF program are not subject to the Build America, Buy America Act.
43	Is DEEP coordinating all available funding from state and federal?	No, DEEP is not coordinating all available broadband-related funding from State and federal allocations. DEEP is managing certain programs, including CPF funds allocated by Connecticut for “low-income/multi-family curb-to-home and business broadband infrastructure buildout and underserved area broadband infrastructure grants”, and funding from the BEAD Program. Additional funds made available through the Capital Projects Fund and Infrastructure Bill related to broadband are being managed by other State agencies

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		including the Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology.
44	Will the RFP mention any climate monitoring goals?	While DEEP has not made final decisions on the content of any future RFP, DEEP endeavors to fund climate-resilient broadband infrastructure that accounts for, mitigates, and where possible, avoids the known and identifiable risks of current and future projected weather and climate conditions.
45	The IIJA and the subsequent Notice of Funding Opportunity requires States to prioritize subgrantees that use fair labor practices. What process will the state use to gather input on its plan to carry out this requirement?	As set forth above in Section IV.B.7 of the BEAD NOFO, DEEP must give priority to projects “based on (among other things) a demonstrated record of and plans to be in compliance with federal labor and employment laws”. DEEP is required to give “preferential weight to projects based on the strength of the showing in their application on this factor”. Additional details can be found in Section IV.C.1 of the NOFO. Specifics on the types of data requested and how it will be weighted in the selection process will be included in the Initial and Final Proposals, both of which will be posted for public comment before submission to the NTIA.
46	What type of points or weighting system and decision-making process will the program use to make grant awards?	DEEP is still in the process of finalizing program details, including how a potential grant application will be evaluated, and encourages respondents to submit comments on such topics by 8/26.
47	What type of technical and financial prequalification requirements will subgrantees be expected to meet, at a minimum?	The minimum subgrantee qualifications for BEAD-funded programs can be found in Section IV.D of the BEAD NOFO. Respondents are encouraged to provide any information they believe should be considered by DEEP via comment by 8/26.

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48	Will the contracts to perform BEAD-funded deployment be covered by prevailing wage requirements?	DEEP reserves the right to determine whether it will require BEAD-funded deployment to be covered by prevailing wage requirements based on stakeholder input received prior to DEEP's submission of its Initial Proposal.
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