



# BEAD Program

## PREQUALIFICATION PHASE

Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program

## Application Guidance

### Introduction

The State of Connecticut, through the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), issues this application to enable all prospective applicants to become prequalified to participate in the Connecticut Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) grant program. Potential subgrantees must participate in this Prequalification Process in order to submit a project-specific funding application during the subgrantee selection phase of this grant program.

Prequalification submissions were due by 11/20/2024 at 5:00 p.m. **That deadline has been extended to Friday 11/22/2024 at 5:00 p.m.** and must be submitted via DEEP's portal at: <https://www.gotomygrants.com/Public/Opportunities/Details/8c12a7c1-2c00-4660-9439-1ca3846333b2>. For further instructions and technical assistance regarding the prequalification application and process, prospective applicants should participate in the application webinar on 11/21/24 at 1:00 p.m. The workshop will be recorded and available on the DEEP website. For questions and to request technical assistance, please contact [DEEP.Broadband@ct.gov](mailto:DEEP.Broadband@ct.gov).

### Background

The BEAD Program is administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), which must approve a series of required plans and proposals prepared by the state before Connecticut receives its \$144 million in allocated BEAD funding. The state's plans include the Initial Proposal Volume II, which describes the state's grant program design, proposed subgrantee selection process, grant application scoring criteria, plans for workforce development and affordability strategies, and other critical information. That document and other details about the BEAD Program are available here:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Energy/Broadband-Deployment/BEAD-Program>

Now that the NTIA has approved Connecticut's Initial Proposal, Connecticut has initiated its BEAD grant program and will make provisional grant awards for projects intended to enhance broadband deployment and access in the state; reduce barriers to connectivity for the most vulnerable communities; and seek to achieve universal access to reliable, high-speed services.

These awards will be a critical step in the state's efforts to overcome existing barriers and leverage the state's strengths to facilitate equitable access to the digital world for all state residents and businesses, especially underrepresented communities that have historically been marginalized.

## Goals

DEEP conducted an extensive planning process, including meaningful and inclusive public engagements across diverse stakeholder groups, to develop its draft BEAD plans. Through that process, the state developed a series of goals to guide the BEAD grant program:

### **Goal 1: Enhance Broadband Deployment**

Fund broadband infrastructure projects that support high-performance technologies, equitable access to services, maximum interoperability, and network interconnectivity to maximize the efficient and effective use of state and federal funds.

### **Goal 2: Promote Affordability**

Improve the affordability of high-speed internet so residents and businesses can access high-quality broadband services at reasonable rates within the federally established timeline for the BEAD Program.

### **Goal 3: Facilitate Adoption**

Reduce barriers to adoption by leveraging existing state and federal resources to encourage new entrants in areas with low adoption rates, supporting the development of new programs and enhancing stakeholder outreach and engagement.

### **Goal 4: Identify Opportunities to Leverage Existing Assets to Increase Network Resiliency and Reliability**

Employ strategies for the efficient use of state assets and resources with stakeholder input through facility sharing and prioritization of future-proof project designs.

### **Goal 5: Implement the State Digital Equity Plan**

Continue collaboration and coordination efforts with community organizations, educational institutions, and other Community Anchor Institutions to support digital equity programs and resources in the state.

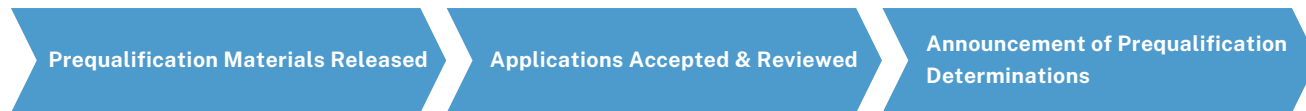
The Prequalification Phase will be part of a fair and transparent subgrantee selection process designed to align with the BEAD Program rules and with the objectives of “An Act Concerning Equitable Access to Broadband” (Public Act 21-159).

Through a commitment to broad and ongoing local coordination and public engagement, DEEP will work to ensure it will efficiently distribute subgrants for last-mile broadband deployment projects to maximize the impact of the BEAD funding and other resources the state may commit to support the state’s goals.

## BEAD Subgrantee Selection Process and Timeline

DEEP is planning a multi-step process for selecting subgrantees and making BEAD fund awards:

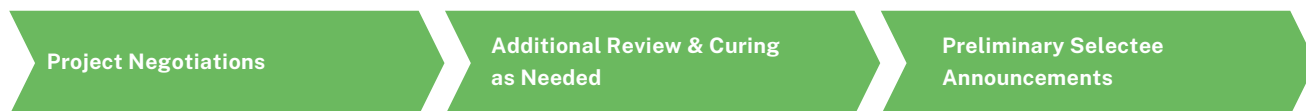
**1. Prequalification Phase:** DEEP will begin with prequalification of applicants.



**2. Scoring Phase:** DEEP will issue a grant application and accept and score grant applications from prequalified applicants for specific projects.



**3. Negotiations Phase:** DEEP will then proceed to negotiations with the highest-scoring applicants and make provisional grant awards.



DEEP will include the provisional grant awards in its draft BEAD Final Proposal, which it will submit to NTIA for review and approval. Upon NTIA’s approval of DEEP’s Final Proposal, DEEP will finalize BEAD subgrantee grant agreements.

The following is the tentative schedule for the Prequalification Process:

Milestone	Dates
Prequalification Webinar & Application Materials Released	October 21, 2024
Questions for FAQ Deadline	October 30, 2024
Office Hour	November 6, 2024
FAQ Release	November 8, 2024
Prequalification Application Deadline	November 22, 2024
Application Reviews & Curing	November 21, 2024 - December 11, 2024
Announcement of Prequalification Determinations	Estimated December 17, 2024

## Overview of Prequalification Phase Requirements

DEEP will accept prequalification materials from all prospective applicants, enabling applicants to establish their qualifications and DEEP to prequalify them in advance of the Scoring Phase. Each applicant will be required to submit a single prequalification application rather than a separate prequalification application for each project, as a single prequalification application will be sufficient to determine whether an applicant is prequalified.

This approach is designed to enable efficient application review with no geographic overlap or need for deconfliction. In addition, the approach is designed to enable participation by applicants of all sizes for a robust competitive environment, given that Connecticut's many towns are small relative to most states and their size should not pose a barrier to participation by smaller entities.

The Prequalification Phase is designed to serve several crucial purposes. First, it helps mitigate the challenges of the compressed timeline for the BEAD Program. It will enable DEEP to maximize the limited time available for the Scoring Phase, extending the available time to this earlier phase so as to allow both prospective applicants and DEEP's reviewers sufficient time to address qualifications. Given the rigorous and robust documentary requirements for the BEAD Program, a prequalification process will enable applicants to spread their grant application efforts across a lengthier timeline.

Second, this process will help to manage DEEP's own resources efficiently. By filtering out applicants who do not meet the minimum criteria, a prequalification process can ensure that reviewers can focus their time and attention on evaluating proposals from organizations that meet NTIA's and the State of Connecticut's requirements and are most likely to achieve the objectives of the BEAD Program.

Third, a prequalification process will enable adequate opportunity to provide revisions by allowing additional time for follow-up data requests by DEEP, as necessary, and provision of additional information by applicants. With an earlier process for qualification, this revision need not take place at the same time as revisions of proposed project applications themselves, which will be a significant undertaking in and of itself.

DEEP is committed to vetting applicants through this Prequalification Phase to ensure that the applicants seeking to deploy BEAD-funded network facilities meet the qualifications for financial, managerial, and technical qualifications as defined by NTIA's BEAD NOFO and further guidance as well as Connecticut's Initial Proposal and subsequent state-specific rules.

Applicants must demonstrate their qualifications through a series of application questions, narrative responses, and document requests. Applicants' responses and documentation will be collected through an online portal and analyzed to assess the applicant's financial, managerial, and operational capability to meet the obligations of receiving BEAD funding. DEEP will consider whether the prequalification application conforms to the following principles:

1. **Completeness:** The materials provided must be thorough and directly aligned with the request.
2. **Sufficiency:** The materials must indicate compliance and adherence to the required standards and statutes.
3. **Risk:** DEEP will consider whether there are any omissions or indications that might give rise to concerns about the history or capabilities of potential subgrantees, their contractors, and subcontractors in meeting the specified standards and statutes.

## Fair Labor Standards

Other than materials regarding Fair Labor Standards, the materials submitted during the Prequalification Phase will not be scored but rather will be evaluated to determine whether the submitting entity is qualified to participate in the BEAD subgrantee selection process. Materials regarding Fair Labor Standards will be evaluated for prequalification purposes and will be included in scoring consideration in the Scoring Phase. Applicants that submit complete materials will not be required to supplement them further to support their score during the Scoring Phase but will be given an opportunity to supplement them during the Scoring Phase to reflect any changes.

## Financial Capability

As part of the Prequalification Phase, an applicant must certify that it has the necessary financial qualifications, capabilities, and resources to participate in the BEAD Program and comply with all program requirements. DEEP will determine if an applicant has the "necessary financial qualifications" by considering several factors, including whether the submitted financial reports reflect sufficient cash flow to indicate financial stability and an absence of significant discrepancies among its reported financial data and performance.

Applicants must also provide materials that demonstrate the financial strength to fulfill BEAD Program commitments, support a successful completion of a BEAD funded project, and adhere to standards set by NTIA and the State of Connecticut. Applicants' materials must also show the ability to successfully perform under a reimbursement model by committing resources to carry out the obligations of a BEAD subaward before receiving grant award funding.

DEEP's review of an applicant's financial capability during the Prequalification Phase is complementary to, but separate from, DEEP's review of a qualified applicant's submitted financial analysis and documentation for a specific proposed project during the Scoring Phase.

## Letter of Credit or Performance Bond

As part of the requirement to demonstrate financial capability to participate in the BEAD Program, DEEP will require participants to certify that they are aware of and understand the letter of credit or performance bond obligations and processes for the BEAD Program and to indicate whether they plan to make use of any of the alternative options available under NTIA's waiver (discussed below).

BEAD Program rules model the letter of credit requirement on the FCC's structure for its Rural Digital Opportunities Fund. BEAD Program rules require subgrantees to obtain an irrevocable standby letter of credit equal to 25 percent of the subaward amount from a qualified financial institution or a performance bond equal to 100 percent of subaward amount executed by a surety company. The issuing institutions used by applicants for either the letter of credit or the performance bond must be qualified and approved pursuant to BEAD Program rules. During the Scoring Phase (not the Prequalification Phase), applicants providing a letter of credit must also supply an opinion letter from legal counsel stating that in a proceeding under the Bankruptcy Code the bankruptcy court would not treat the letter of credit as property of the winning applicant's bankruptcy estate.

Applicants can request a waiver of the requirement to provide a letter of credit or performance bond in the full amount if an applicant will commit to obtaining a new letter of credit or performance bond in a reduced amount at each deployment milestone on a schedule as specified by DEEP.

As part of Prequalification Phase, applicants may also request to reduce the initial letter of credit or performance bond to 10 percent of a subaward amount (rather than the 25 percent for the buildout period). If awarded, a subgrantee that chooses this option will be able to receive funding on a reimbursable basis (consistent with BEAD NOFO Section IV.C.1.b) twice per year. The subgrantee must maintain the letter of credit or performance bond in the amount of 10 percent of the subaward until it has completed the buildout of 100 percent of the locations to be served by the project or until the period of performance for the BEAD subaward has ended, whichever comes first.

Prior to submitting a certification regarding the BEAD Program rules for a letter of credit or performance bond, applicants should review the BEAD Program rules regarding the letter of credit and performance bond requirements (BEAD NOFO Section IV.D.2.a.ii), the FCC's letter of credit requirements for its Rural Digital Opportunity Fund program (47 C.F.R. §54.804(c)(2), and the NTIA BEAD Letter of Credit Programmatic Waiver.

## Prequalification Application Review Processes

During the Prequalification Phase:

- DEEP may choose to request revisions in the event reviewers find the data or descriptions submitted to be insufficient or unclear. DEEP will provide applicants with an opportunity to clarify or submit additional materials. Applicants will generally have seven calendar days to respond to a revision request.
- All requests for clarification or additional submissions will be made in writing and all responses will be required to be in writing.
- DEEP will notify Prequalification Phase participants if they are prequalified and eligible to submit a Scoring Phase application within 65 days of the close of the Prequalification Phase window.

## Application Checklist

Please submit all information requested in this prequalification application:

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION	Response Type
Applicant Name: If applicant is a corporate entity, the name must match the corporate entity authorized to do business in the state	Text Box
Applicant Address	Text Box
Primary Contact: First Name, Last Name, Title, Email, Phone	Text Box
Authorized Certifying Official (if different from Primary Contact): First Name, Last Name, Title, Email, Phone	Text Box
Alternative Contact: First Name, Last Name, Title, Email, Phone	Text Box
SAM.gov UEI: Please provide the unique entity identifier (UEI) from an a SAM.gov registration pursuant to <u>2 C.F.R. § 25.300</u> . You do not need to complete full SAM registration to obtain a UEI.	Text Box
Documentation of applicant’s state business registration. If applicant is not registered with the state, please complete and upload the documentation found here: <a href="https://business.ct.gov/start/registering-your-business">https://business.ct.gov/start/registering-your-business</a> .	Upload
Entity Type	Dropdown
FCC Registration Number	Textbox
<i>If applicable</i> , documentation of the applicant’s status as a women and/or minority owned business.	Upload
<i>If applicable</i> , documentation of the applicant’s status as a small business.	Upload



<p><b>FINANCIAL CAPABILITY</b>                      Applicants will be expected to demonstrate financial expertise, capabilities, and available resources to meet program requirements and successfully complete a funded project.</p>	<p><b>Response Type</b></p>
<p><b>Financial Statements</b></p>	
<p>If the applicant has unqualified financial statements audited by an independent certified public accountant from the prior fiscal year, a copy of the unqualified audited financial statements from the prior year.</p>	<p>Upload</p>
<p>If the applicant has qualified audited financial statements from the previous fiscal year, a copy of the qualified audited financial statements from the previous year AND a description and explanation regarding why unqualified statements were unavailable, the reason for the qualification, and measures taken to address the qualifications.</p> <p>If the applicant’s audited financial statements for FY23 are currently unavailable but will be available soon, please provide audited financial statements for FY22, interim unaudited financial statements for FY23, an explanation for the unavailability, and an estimated date for providing the audited financial statements.</p>	<p>Upload &amp; Textbox</p>
<p>If the applicant does not prepare audited financial statements in the ordinary course of business, answers for the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.Does applicant commit to submitting audited financial statements for the prior year within eight months of the date of this application;</li> <li>2.Provide one year of interim unaudited financial statements that contain substantially the same level of detail and information as audited statements;</li> <li>3.Provide an explanation of the circumstances and reasons for the lack of audited financials.</li> </ol>	<p>Upload &amp; Textbox</p>
<p>If the applicant has unqualified financial statements audited by an independent certified public accountant from the prior fiscal year, a copy of the unqualified audited financial statements from the prior year.</p>	<p>Upload &amp; Textbox</p>
<p>If applicant is a public entity and does not prepare audited financial statements, applicant must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.Provide relevant and applicable financial documentation that provides substantially similar information to substantiate applicant’s financial qualifications and capabilities to participate in the program; and</li> <li>2.An explanation of the financial documentation. Applicant will provide a certification in the certifications template that the documentation provided is true and correct.</li> </ol>	<p>Upload &amp; Textbox</p>
<p><b>Letter of Credit</b></p>	
<p>Provide a description of how the applicant plans to meet the requirements for a letter of credit or performance bond, including whether the applicant intends to make use of any of the alternative options, in alignment with the instructions in the BEAD NOFO as updated by the BEAD Letter of Credit Waiver (11/01/23, NTIA Notice of Programmatic Waiver, <a href="https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/funding-programs/policies-waivers/BEAD-Letter-of-Credit-Waiver">https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/funding-programs/policies-waivers/BEAD-Letter-of-Credit-Waiver</a>).</p> <p>In the certifications template, the applicant will certify awareness, understanding, qualifications, and resources regarding the letter of credit or performance bond obligations and processes</p>	<p>Textbox</p>
<p><b>Certifications</b></p>	
<p>Provide other required certifications related to financial capability in the <u>Certifications Template</u>.</p> <p><i>There is one certifications template for the entire prequalification application, and it is linked at the end of each section of the application. The applicant will be required to upload the completed certifications template at the end of the application.</i></p>	<p>Certifications Template</p>



MANAGEMENT & ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITY	Response Type
<b>Key Personnel</b>	
<p>Upload <b>one</b> file containing a one-page resume for <b>each</b> essential managerial key personnel and a narrative explaining the role each person is expected to play as part of an awarded BEAD project. Each of the identified individuals must be an employee of the organization, have at least five years of experience in the same or similar role with broadband network design, construction, maintenance, and operations within the communications industry, and have the demonstrated experience, skills, and authority to successfully fulfill the obligations of the role.</p> <p>These should include officers and directors of the organization, executive level management, financial planning and strategy, technical design, risk management, human resources, equipment procurement, operations, and planning. Applicants must provide resumes for an employed Chief Technology Officer and contractor oversight team with the relevant certifications, both management and non-management, for deployment projects as mandated by state and federal law. <i>Personally Identifiable Information, such as addresses, phone numbers, and personal hobbies and activities, should be removed from resumes before submission.</i></p>	Upload
<p>Please describe plans to maintain sufficient levels of management resources throughout the project period, including any planned training, retention programs, and recruitment initiatives.</p> <p>If the applicant plans to retain any independent contractors, consultants, or subcontractors to supplement its managerial capabilities, 1) please also describe these resources, including the scope of their role and the expected term of engagement and 2) upload documentation of these resources.</p>	Upload & Textbox
<b>Management Organizational Chart</b>	
<p>Please upload detailed organizational charts that include the organization's structure, relevant operational teams, parent company and/or affiliates, if any, and all key management personnel, including but not limited to those key personnel identified above.</p>	Upload
<p>Please include a description of any recent or expected changes to the organization's structure, processes, or planning that may impact BEAD project operations. If not applicable, write "NA."</p>	Textbox
<b>Organizational Experience &amp; Publicly Funded Projects</b>	
<p>Please use the <a href="#">Past Performance and Organizational Experience Template</a> to provide evidence detailing applicant's past performance for recent broadband projects.</p> <p>In the template, applicant will discuss the scope, amount, timeframe, reimbursement structure, and funding source for the included projects. Please include any past involvement in similar-scale telecommunications deployment projects.</p> <p>Additionally, applicant will provide information in the template about applicant's methods and strategies, resources and readiness, and key personnel and teams that were involved in handling projects of a comparable size and scope.</p>	Upload Template
<p>Please use the <a href="#">Other Public Funding Template</a> to submit a list of all of applicant's broadband deployment projects that have received or are expected to receive public funding (both state and federal). Include projects for which applicant has applied or intends to apply and publicly funded broadband deployment projects conducted or planned by applicant's parent company or any affiliates.</p> <p>These projects could be, but do not necessarily have to be, associated with programs in the below list of relevant federal and state statutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Public Law 116-127; 134 Stat. 178)</li> <li>• CARES Act (Public Law 116-136; 134 Stat. 281)</li> <li>• Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260; 134 Stat. 1182)</li> <li>• American Rescue Plan of 2021 (Public Law 117-2; 135 Stat. 4)</li> <li>• Any federal Universal Service Fund high-cost program (e.g., RDOF, CAF)</li> <li>• DEEP's own broadband grant programs, as well as any state or local universal service or broadband deployment funding program</li> </ul>	Upload Template
<p>Please use the <a href="#">Service Pricing in Non-Grant Funded Areas Template</a> to submit the current pricing of products or services that applicant offers in non-grant-funded areas that are analogous to those products that applicant expects to offer as part of a BEAD funded project; please include speeds, rates, and any terms of service including ETFs or data caps.</p>	Upload Template

MANAGEMENT & ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITY (CONTINUED)	Response Type
<b>Operational Capability</b>	
<p>In the <u>Certifications Template</u>, applicant will provide a certification by an officer or director that the applicant 1) possesses the operational expertise, capabilities, and resources to successfully complete and operate a BEAD funded project; and 2) has at least two years of experience providing voice, broadband, or electric transmission or distribution services to end users or is a wholly owned subsidiary of a parent entity that has two years of operational experience in the communications industry.</p>	Certifications Template
<p>Specify the number of years offering voice, broadband, and/or electric transmission or distribution services.</p>	Textbox
<p>If applicant is referencing operations in other states to demonstrate operational capabilities, please provide a list of those operations including licensing and certification identifiers, years of operating experience, and description of services provided by applicant or by its affiliates or parent organization.</p>	Upload
<b>Licenses and Certifications for Appropriately Skilled Workforce</b>	
<p>In the <u>Certifications Template</u>, applicant will provide a certification from an officer or director that the applicant is fully and properly licensed in Connecticut to conduct BEAD funded activities and comply with all post-award obligations.</p>	Certifications Template
<p>Please provide a list of the relevant business, technical, and management certifications and licenses held by key personnel and by the organization that are relevant for the deployment of broadband infrastructure as mandated by state and federal law and reflective of industry best practices.</p> <p>This list should be organized by role and have a brief description of each certification and any unique identifiers and license numbers to allow DEEP to validate the reported data.</p>	Upload
<p>Please provide descriptions of workforce training and certification programs that the applicant relies on, or expects to rely on, to support a continued commitment to a highly skilled and trained workforce.</p> <p>These programs should include certified apprenticeship programs, community college curricula, and for-profit certification programs, programs offered by trade and labor unions, as well as industry sponsored programs.</p>	Upload
<p>In the <u>Certifications Template</u>, applicant will provide a certification from an officer or director that it has the processes and resources in place to employ an appropriately skilled and credentialed workforce and that key technical personnel and technical team members are current on all required training, licensing, and license renewals.</p>	Certifications Template
<b>Contracted Resources</b>	
<p>Does applicant intend to contract or subcontract for resources if it is chosen as subgrantee for one or more BEAD-funded projects?</p> <p>If answer to the previous question is “yes,” be prepared in the Scoring Phase to list these resources. Check yes to indicate understanding of this requirement. (see link to searchable list of MWB contractors, <a href="https://biznet.ct.gov/SDSearch/SDSearch.aspx">https://biznet.ct.gov/SDSearch/SDSearch.aspx</a>, and program, <a href="https://portal.ct.gov/DAS/Procurement/Supplier-Diversity/SBE-MBE-Program-Certification-Application-Small-or-Minority-Business-Enterprise">https://portal.ct.gov/DAS/Procurement/Supplier-Diversity/SBE-MBE-Program-Certification-Application-Small-or-Minority-Business-Enterprise</a>).</p>	Y/N Checkbox
<p>In the <u>Certifications Template</u>, applicant will certify that if applicant chooses to contract resources, all contracted resources will have the relevant and necessary skills to perform the project work.</p>	Certifications Template

MANAGEMENT & ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITY (CONTINUED)	Response Type
<b>New Entrants</b>	
<p>If applicant is a provider of electricity transmission or distribution services without two years of experience offering communications services or is a new entrant to the communications market, please provide additional documentation of operational capabilities to successfully complete and operate a BEAD funded project. This documentation could include a narrative demonstrating that the applicant has obtained, through internal or external resources, sufficient operational capabilities. Such evidence may include resumes from key personnel, project descriptions and narratives from contractors, subcontractors, or other partners with relevant operational experience, or other comparable evidence (NOFO Section IV.d.2.e). Electric services providers and new entrants will also be required to provide documentation of plans to acquire additional resources to increase the organizations' organizational capabilities, including third party contractors and partners with relevant operational expertise, to the extent that they cannot demonstrate that they have already acquired those capabilities.</p> <p>If applicant is a provider of electricity transmission or distribution services, also provide qualified operating or financial reports that were filed with the relevant financial institution or applicable regulatory agency for the relevant time period. In the certifications template, applicant will certify that the submission is a true and correct copy of the reports that were provided to the relevant financial institution or regulatory agency. Acceptable submissions to fulfill this requirement include Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Form 7, Financial and Operating Report Electric Distribution; the RUS Form 12, Financial and Operating Report Electric Power Supply; the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) Form 7, Financial and Statistical Report; the CFC Form 12, Operating Report; or the CoBank Form 7; or the functional replacement of one of these reports.</p>	Upload
<p>If applicant is a new entrant, provide a narrative demonstrating how applicant will develop its organization's managerial expertise and resources through the recruitment of directly employed key management personnel with the requisite leadership experience of at least five years in prior roles and positions in the communication industry.</p>	Upload
<b>Tribal Support</b>	
<p><i>If applicant seeks to build on Tribal lands</i>, then applicant may provide evidence of support from Tribal authorities, such as a formal demonstration of consent from each Tribal Government's Tribal Council or other governing body, upon whose Tribal lands the infrastructure will be deployed. While lack of pre-application Tribal consent will not be a disqualifying factor, DEEP anticipates that, during the Negotiation Phase of the grant program, it will request that applicants provide written support from Tribal authorities if such documents have not already been provided.</p>	Textbox
<b>Certifications</b>	
<p>Applicant will provide other required certifications related to management and organizational capability in the <a href="#">Certifications Template</a>.</p>	Certifications Template

<p><b>COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS</b></p> <p>Applicants must demonstrate awareness and understanding of all applicable state and federal laws and the qualifications and resources to perform BEAD-related commitments in compliance with all applicable laws. Applicants are also expected to provide a full and complete picture of its corporate ownership and structure to demonstrate who is being entrusted with BEAD funding to ensure an efficient and effective use of funds that benefits the largest number of end users.</p>	<p><b>Response Type</b></p>
<p><b>EHP &amp; BABA Compliance</b></p>	
<p>In the <u>Certifications Template</u>, applicant will certify that the applicant understands and will comply with the Environmental and National Historical Preservation requirements outlined in the BEAD NOFO (Section VII.d.4) and the DEEP solicitation for this program (link to NOFO: <a href="https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/BEAD%20NOFO.pdf">https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/BEAD%20NOFO.pdf</a>)</p>	<p>Certifications Template</p>
<p>In the <u>Certifications Template</u>, applicant will certify that the applicant has no history of failure to comply with environmental and historic preservation requirements, or provide an explanation in the questions that follow.</p>	<p>Certifications Template</p>
<p>In the <u>Certifications Template</u>, applicant will certify that the applicant understands and will comply with the Build America, Buy America Act (BABA) requirements as outlined in the BEAD NOFO, including Section 9 of the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C. § 1608) (see the regularly updated “List of Equipment and Services Covered By Section 2 of The Secure Networks Act,” FCC, <a href="https://www.fcc.gov/supplychain/coveredlist">https://www.fcc.gov/supplychain/coveredlist</a>), the Department of Commerce Waiver at <a href="https://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/2024-02/BABA%20Waiver%20Signed.pdf">https://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/2024-02/BABA%20Waiver%20Signed.pdf</a>, and the DEEP solicitation for this program. If relevant, this certification also represents that the applicant has no history of failure to comply BABA requirements.</p>	<p>Certifications Template</p>
<p>If applicant cannot certify a track record of full compliance with EHP or BABA requirements, provide a detailed narrative and documentation regarding applicant’s history of challenges or noncompliance.</p>	<p>Textbox</p>
<p><b>Compliance Processes</b></p>	
<p>Please provide a narrative description of the monitoring and compliance tracking processes the applicant has in place to conduct funding activities in compliance with all state and federal laws, including descriptions and documentation of procurement practices. Additionally, applicants are required to provide an explanation of any special circumstances or considerations that may prevent compliance with specific applicable laws. The narrative must address specific requirements and discuss the applicant’s plans to mitigate the impact of any noncompliance on its participation in the program.</p>	<p>Upload</p>
<p><b>Safety and Health Certification and Documentation</b></p>	
<p>Please provide documentation of the organization’s policies and practices regarding compliance with applicable federal and state health and safety laws and regulations. Participants will also be required to provide documentation of communications with workers and worker representative organizations regarding the applicable labor laws and fair labor standards, as well as the formation of worker-led health and safety committees that management will meet with upon reasonable request. Documentation of a participant’s outreach to workers on these topics may include sample emails, copies of posters, worker surveys, worker meetings, phone call and social media scripts, as well as organizing activities by worker-led organizations.</p>	<p>Upload</p>

COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS (CONTINUED)	Response Type
<b>FCC Form 477 and Broadband DATA Act</b>	
Has the applicant (or its parent company) provided a voice and/or broadband service for at least two years?	Y/N Checkbox
If yes, in the <a href="#">Certifications Template</a> , applicant will provide a certification from an officer or director that applicant has filed Federal Communication Commission Forms 477 and the Broadband DATA Act submission, as applicable and required, and otherwise complied with the Commission's rules and regulations.	Certifications Template
If the applicant previously provided a voice and/or broadband service for at least 2 years, but has not complied, or is accused of failing to comply, with the Federal Communications Commission's rules and regulations, or with other federal rules and regulations, please provide a description of any pending or completed enforcement action, litigation, or other action regarding said non-compliance and provide a description of any effort to cure the noncompliance or violation.	Textbox
<b>Ownership Information</b>	
Please submit the relevant ownership information, including demonstration of foreign interests, as required by 47 C.F.R. § 1.2112(a)(1)-(7), using the <a href="#">Ownership Information Template</a> .	Upload Template
Are there any discrepancies between the information provided in this application and the information provided by the applicant to the FCC in compliance with 47 C.F.R. §1.2112 and other FCC reporting requirements including reporting for Eligible Telecommunications Carrier requirements, licensure, and other purposes?	Y/N Checkbox
<i>If yes, identify and explain any discrepancies or inconsistencies in the reported ownership and corporate structure information between the information reported to the FCC and the information submitted as part of this application.</i>	Textbox
Are there any discrepancies between the information provided in this application and the information reported by the applicant for relevant business licensing requirements for the State of Connecticut?	Y/N Checkbox
<i>If yes, explain any discrepancies or inconsistencies between the two sets of reported data.</i>	Textbox
<b>Certifications</b>	
Applicant will provide other required certifications related to compliance with applicable laws in the <a href="#">Certifications Template</a> .	Certifications Template

<b>FAIR LABOR PRACTICES</b> Applicants must demonstrate a plan for future compliance with federal and state labor and employment law, as well as a commitment to programs that will develop a robust, diverse, and highly trained and skilled workforce.	Response Type
<b>Compliance with Fair Labor Standards and Protections</b>	
Please submit a brief narrative detailing applicant’s existing labor and employment practices, practices regarding health and safety compliance, and plan for compliance with labor and employment laws, as well as any circumstances that may prevent compliance, alongside mitigation strategies, and submit relevant supporting materials (including documentation of communications with workers and worker representative organizations on these topics) as PDF attachments.	Uploads
Applicant will submit a certification in the <a href="#">Certifications Template</a> acknowledging that in the main BEAD application, the applicant will be required to supply information about the applicant’s history of compliance or non-compliance with federal and state labor and employment and unfair trade practices laws in the past five years. Further information regarding Fair Labor Practices will also be requested in the main BEAD application.	Certifications Template
<b>Women and Minority Owned Business</b>	
Does applicant, or any planned contractors or subcontractors, qualify as a women-owned or minority-owned business under Supplier Diversity program of the CT Dept of Administrative Services or CT Dept of Economic and Community Development or CT Department of Transportation or other regional and municipal organizations or as a Labor Surplus Area Firms?	Y/N Checkbox
<i>If yes, please identify the program the applicant or contractor qualifies under, the designation, and any unique identifier.</i>	Textbox
<b>Certifications</b>	
Applicant will provide other required certifications related to fair labor practices in the <a href="#">Certifications Template</a> .	Certifications Template
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>	Response Type
<b>Suspensions or Debarment</b>	
Has the applicant currently or previously been suspended or debarred by any federal/state agency?	Y/N/NA
<b>Recoupment</b>	
Has the applicant ever been subject to recoupment of payments under any federal/state grant?	Y/N/NA
<b>Violations of Employment Laws</b>	
Has the applicant ever been found to have violated federal, state, or local labor, nondiscrimination, or equal employment opportunity laws?	Y/N/NA

## Technical Assistance

To support openness, fairness, and competition in its BEAD grant efforts, DEEP will be available for technical assistance and administrative support throughout the subgrantee selection process, including during this Prequalification Phase.

## Contact Information

Questions and technical assistance requests should be sent to [DEEP.Broadband@ct.gov](mailto:DEEP.Broadband@ct.gov).

DEEP will update its website with program developments, including a FAQ document with the questions and answers generated through email inquiries and meetings.

## Office Hour

In addition to the applicant webinar, DEEP will hold at least one office hour before the prequalification application window closes. Register on DEEP's website.

## Additional Resources

Technical assistance resources and announcements regarding events, deadlines, and program milestones can be found at:

<https://portal.ct.gov/deep/energy/broadband-deployment/bead-program>