

**DEEP Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program  
Frequently Asked Questions**

**Question Period: January 15, 2025 – February 9, 2025**

**Responses Originally Posted: February 14, 2025**

**Reponses Last Updated: February 20, 2025**

*The questions have been organized by theme and may have been edited for clarity.*

Number	Question	Response
1	Can an applicant bid to serve all remaining underserved/unserved locations in the state?	An applicant can bid to serve all remaining unserved and underserved locations in the state.
2	Where are the lists of BEAD eligible locations?	The results of Connecticut’s Challenge Process, including the list of eligible locations, is posted to DEEP’s website: <a href="https://portal.ct.gov/deep/energy/broadband-deployment/bead-program">https://portal.ct.gov/deep/energy/broadband-deployment/bead-program</a> . Additional location profiles were emailed to each Prequalified Entity’s point of contact.
3	How many unserved and underserved locations are there in total?	The total number of unserved and underserved locations eligible for the BEAD Program is 1,207 (plus 1,538 Eligible Community Anchor Institutions). This figure was derived from the results of the Challenge Process, with subsequent adjustments to remove specific locations identified as 'No-BEAD Locations' per the NTIA's Final Proposal guidance. Such locations may include, but are not limited to, enforceable commitments and Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) that have since been removed from the FCC Fabric. These adjustments

		provide applicants with more accurate information on which locations will ultimately be eligible to receive BEAD funds.
4	Does the BEAD Eligibility Mapping Tool include locations awarded during Round 1 of the ConneCTed Communities Grant Program?	The BEAD Eligibility Mapping Tool indicates locations announced in Round 1 of the ConneCTed Communities as well as those that may be awarded in Round 2 in a separate layer. These locations have also been listed separately in the applicant files in order to help applicants propose budgets with greater accuracy due to the likelihood that these locations will not be served by BEAD.
5	Is the application portal the same platform as the BEAD Prequalification portal?	Yes, DEEP is using AmpliFund as the platform for all BEAD application processes.
6	Who should I reach out to if I am having technical difficulties with the application portal?	For technical difficulties with the application portal, please reach out to AmpliFund Customer Support at <a href="mailto:support@amplifund.zendesk.com">support@amplifund.zendesk.com</a> .
7	Are there character/word limits on application question responses?	Generally, no, there are not character/word limits on the submission items. If any limitations on file type or length are relevant, they will be specified.
8	Does the Professional Engineer need to be licensed in Connecticut?	No, the professional engineer does not have to be licensed in the State of Connecticut.
9		While DEEP must ensure that all unserved and underserved locations will be served as a primary objective, the state anticipates it will have

	Are applications for Community Anchor Institutions (CAI) on a different funding timeline than unserved and underserved locations?	funds remaining and has therefore requested that CAI applications be submitted concurrently for consideration.
<b>10</b>	Does each CAI require an individual application?	No, applicants submitting a CAI application may include some or all CAIs in a given Town Grant Area.
<b>11</b>	Can an applicant include CAIs in a Priority or Non-Priority Application as a single project with combined costs or must proposals for CAIs only be presented in a separate application?	Applications for CAI locations must be submitted with the application designated for CAIs and cannot be combined into a Priority or Non-Priority application. Applicants may supply additional context as needed.
<b>12</b>	If CAIs must be presented separately, can an applicant make the CAI proposal conditioned on an award of the companion broadband serviceable location (BSL) application?	If an application qualifies to move forward into the Negotiations Phase, DEEP will work with the potential awardee to determine the best approach to achieving BEAD Program goals. This may include discussions about the overall network, encompassing both Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) and Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs).
<b>13</b>	Can a priority application and a non-priority application be submitted at the same time?	Yes, and all applications must be submitted by February 25, 2025, by 5:00 PM EST.
<b>14</b>	Where can I find information on the One Touch Make Ready application process for poles in Connecticut?	Information on this process can be found in Docket No. 19-01-52RE01. The docket can be accessed <a href="#">here</a> . The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) approved this process for improving the pole attachment process for above-ground broadband and advanced

		telecommunications infrastructure. Additional information on this decision can be found <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>15</b>	Section 5.B. states that the Low-Cost Service Plan must be made available to all households that meet the eligibility requirement of the former Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). Does the requirement specify that the Low-Cost Service Plan must be offered exclusively to locations funded by the BEAD program?	All applicants must propose to offer a Low-Cost Service Plan Option that meets program requirements, which awardees will be required to offer for the duration of the federal interest period. This requirement only applies to locations included in a funded project area, but applicants are encouraged to offer low-cost service plans across their operating footprint.
<b>16</b>	Can an applicant earn additional points if it offers another low-income plan throughout its footprint in Connecticut?	While applicants are encouraged to consider affordability in all their service offerings, applicants will not receive additional points for other offers throughout their footprint.
<b>17</b>	Section 5.B. states that Low-Cost Service Plans must allow the end user to apply the ACP and Lifeline program benefit subsidies to the service. Please indicate whether eligibility to apply under the Connecticut Subgrantee Selection Process is limited to only Eligible Telecommunications carriers (ETCs). If not, does the requirement to allow Lifeline program benefit subsidies to the service only apply to providers participating in the Lifeline program?	Eligibility is not limited to only Eligible Telecommunications Carriers. The requirement to allow end users to apply Lifeline program benefit subsidies to the Low-Cost Service Plan only applies if the provider participates in the Lifeline program. If a provider is not a participant in the Lifeline program, this specific requirement would not be applicable.
<b>18</b>	Section 7.A.i (Lowest Price for Gigabit Service) indicates that applicants will receive 15 points if they commit to offering 1Gbps/1Gbps service “at rates consistent with existing markets in CT.” How does ubiquity of service offering relate to the lowest price for gigabit service?	The ubiquity of a service offering can influence the lowest price for gigabit service by promoting competitive pricing and ensuring broader access. A provider offering service more widely may help establish competitive pricing benchmarks, encourage affordability, and support

		equitable access to high-speed broadband across different communities.
<b>19</b>	For the Lowest Price for Gigabit Service, if an internet service provider offers 1 Gbps / 1 Gbps service currently for a certain amount and commits to providing that same rate for BEAD-funded locations, would the applicant receive the full 15 points even if another ISP offers the service at a lower rate?	Yes, to receive the full 15 points, the applicant must have a commitment to offer 1 Gbps/1 Gbps service at rates consistent with existing markets in Connecticut.  <i>Additional information is provided on page 21 of the application guidance.</i>
<b>20</b>	For the Lowest Price for Gigabit Service, if an ISP offers the same rate to BEAD-funded locations and to other locations in the state, is the rate charged to the other locations also subject to the restriction on price adjustments based on Consumer Price Index (CPI)?	For Priority Projects, the requirement that the commitment to offer 1 Gbps/1 Gbps service at rates consistent with existing markets in Connecticut must exclude all rate increases greater than CPI applies to BEAD-funded locations.
<b>21</b>	For the Lowest Price for Gigabit Service, if an ISP offers a rate to BEAD-funded locations that is different (either less or more) than what the ISP offers generally in the state, would the applicant earn 15 points if that rate were the lowest price for gigabit service offered in any BEAD proposal?	No, to receive the full 15 points, the applicant must have a commitment to offer 1 Gbps/1 Gbps service at rates consistent with existing markets in Connecticut.
<b>22</b>	What parameters are being imposed on ISPs when including Economic Development Locations, at no cost, to the state? Can an ISP earn an additional 14 points because the entity is able to offer service to additional locations beyond those included in the BEAD application?	Economic Development Locations are locations in Connecticut that are not eligible for funding under the BEAD Program (such as served locations in excess of the 20% BEAD-funded project area limit), which an Applicant proposes to serve (to a Standard Installation) in the course of buildout at no additional cost to the State of Connecticut. Points will be

		proportional to the number of additional locations served beyond BEAD-eligible locations at no extra cost.
23	How will the scoring be determined for Economic Development Locations?	<p>DEEP will award points in this category based on the following formula: The percentage of available points (up to 14 points for Priority Broadband Projects; up to 10 points for Other Last-Mile Broadband Deployment Projects) that is equal to the ratio of the number of Economic Development Locations to which the applicant commits to build at no additional cost to the state relative to the total number of unserved and underserved locations in the Town Grant Area.</p> <p>For example, if a non-end-to-end fiber project is proposing 10 Economic Development Locations in addition to their proposal for 100 BEAD-funded unserved and underserved locations, they would earn 1 point in this category.</p>
24	For applicants that stated their intent to utilize NTIA's waiver allowing a performance bond equal to 10 percent of the subaward during the Prequalification Phase, can DEEP please confirm whether, during the Scoring Phase, those applicants may submit a performance bond commitment letter equal to 10% of the subaward?	Yes, question A.3.2 in the Administration and Compliance Application asks applicants to provide a PDF of a letter from a qualified financial institution or a surety that confirms the applicant qualifies for an irrevocable standby letter of credit (ILOC) or a performance bond and that the institution commits to issuing the same.
25	What are the technical requirements for BEAD-funded networks?	Requirements regarding network performance and buildout can be found in Section 5 of the Program and Application Guidance. The NTIA has also provided a summary of obligations here: <a href="https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2024-">https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2024-</a>

		<a href="#">08/BEAD Obligations for Subgrantees Deploying Network Guidance.pdf</a>
<b>26</b>	<p>Section B1.2 asks the applicant to “enter the estimated number of employment opportunities (full-time equivalent) to be created by the proposed project.”</p> <p>Does this include opportunities provided for the applicant's third-party subcontractors to support the project (i.e., subcontractor staff that will complete proposed project construction)?</p>	<p>Yes, Section B1.2 includes employment opportunities created both directly by the applicant and indirectly through third-party subcontractors supporting the proposed project. This means that subcontractor staff involved in project construction should be included in the estimated number of full-time equivalent positions.</p>
<b>27</b>	<p>Why are some Connecticut towns not available in the dropdown menu of the application(s)?</p>	<p>Only Town Grant Areas with eligible locations are available to choose from in the dropdown list.</p>
<b>28</b>	<p>Applicants are permitted to include “served” locations in a Project Area (if they do not exceed 20% of the total locations) or if including such locations in their proposal as Economic Development Locations for consideration in scoring.</p> <p>If an applicant is not proposing service to such locations in a Town Grant Area, how would it submit general information regarding “served” locations to DEEP?</p>	<p>If an applicant is not proposing service to such locations in a Town Grant Area as part of a BEAD proposal, there is no mechanism for submitting general information on served locations to DEEP. Per NTIA guidelines, DEEP held an open Challenge Process prior to requesting applications to determine final location eligibility.</p>
<b>29</b>		<p>The Served Locations Template includes tabs for 1) the up to 20% of locations classified as served that may be included in a project area, and</p>

	<p>If an applicant is submitting a Priority or Non-Priority application for a Town Grant Area, can it include CAIs in the Served Locations Template?</p>	<p>2) Economic Development Locations. Applicants are permitted to include CAIs (as defined by Connecticut's Initial Proposal) in either category. Please note that any such served locations may not be already served by the applicant themselves.</p>
<b>30</b>	<p>Should all Pro Forma templates be uploaded to section A3.3 of the Administration and Compliance Application?</p>	<p>Yes, applicants should include all Pro Forma Templates in the Administration and Compliance Application.</p>