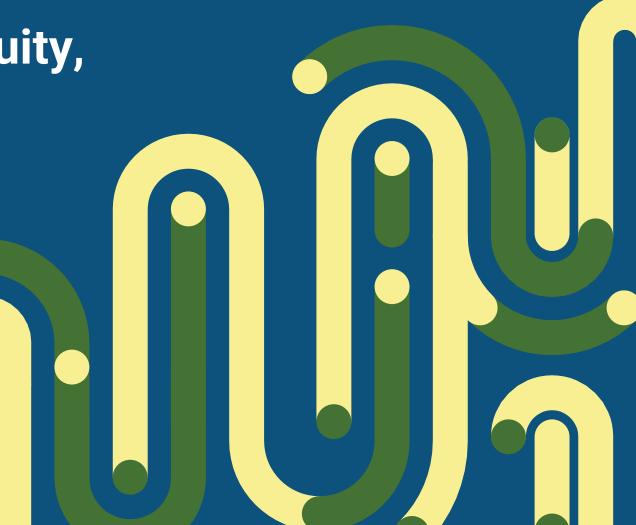


New Jersey Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (NJ BEAD)

Prequalification Process Overview April 15, 2025



Introductions



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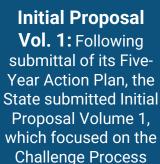
NJ BEAD Deployment Timeline



Where New Jersey is today



5-Year Action Plan: As part of the BEAD program, New Jersey developed a Five-Year Action Plan, serving as a comprehensive needs assessment and strategic blueprint







Initial Proposal Vol. 2: In the second volume of it's Initial Proposal, New Jersey provided its approach to the subgrantee selection processes State Challenge Process: Excluding NJBIDEfunded locations, there are approximately 12 thousand un/underserved locations and CAIs





BEAD subaward selection process:

The competitive subaward process begins with the prequalification and application processes. The State's proposed awards will be included in the Final Proposal to NTIA



Source: NTIA BEAD NOFO; New Jersey's Five-Year Action Plan; New Jersey's Initial Proposal Volume 1; New Jersey's Initial Proposal Volume 2



Prequalification Process

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Prequalification Requirements

Resources to support applicants



Prospective NJ BEAD applicants must pre-qualify for NJ BEAD in order to apply for funding

All eligible applicants in New Jersey are encouraged to apply for NJBEAD prequalification

		Additional steps, as needed	
0	1	2	3
OBC releases pre- qualification materials	OBC opens pre-qualification submission window	Applicants submit prequalification materials	OBC reviews prequalification materials and informs qualified applicants
7	6	5	4
OBC informs applicants about Project Area Building Block (PABB) status (i.e., PABBs awarded in Phase 1, 1+ bid, or no competition)	OBC informs winners from uncontested project areas and those whose application is "decisively superior"	Applicants submit bids in Phase 1	OBC opens Phase 1 application
	9	10	
OBC may adjust reserve prices for PABBs that did not receive any bids, offering additional subsidy	OBC opens Phase 2 application	Applicants submit revised bids	OBC evaluates revised applications and selects winners
15	14	13	.12
OBC revises the Final Proposal based on public comments and NTIA's application review. Final Proposal is submitted to NTIA for final award approval	OBC publishes the Final Proposal for public comment and submits draft to NTIA, initiating NTIA's review	OBC may engage in direct negotiations with applicants to achieve coverage for areas without bids	OBC performs deconfliction process





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Overview of NJ BEAD prequalification submission process

Step 1 Download and review Prequalification Intake Form (live walk-through to follow)

Step 2 Review NJ BEAD FAQs on OBC's website (ongoing)

Step 3 Submit any questions to <u>broadband@bpu.nj.gov</u> (ongoing)

Step 4 Submit prequalification materials



Live walkthrough of Prequalification Intake Form



New Jersey Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program ("New Jersey's BEAD program") Prequalification intake form, version 1.0

Introduction

The New Jersey Office of Broadband Connectivity (OBC) is pleased to solicit applications to prequalify for infrastructure funding from the New Jersey Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (NJ BEAD) program.

The NJ BEAD program represents a significant opportunity to expand broadband across New Jersey, with \$263.7 million allocated by NTIA. During prequalification, potential subgrantees will provide select NTIA-required financial, operational, managerial and technical qualifications. Only providers approved in the first application phase are eligible to apply in subsequent phases. No new providers will be accepted during the second phase.

Sheet legend

Green sheets provide instructions

Blue sheets provide the prequalification questionnaire

Response instruction

In the Response column of the prequalification questionnaire sheets, applicants will see cells with different colors as described below. Please note that the color of certain cells may change based on the applicants' responses to specific questions.

Yellow cells indicate area to fill in

Blue cells indicate area already filled in

Grey cells indicate areas not for editing

Profile & contact information Capabilities & compliance

+





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Resources to support applicants

What comes next for NJ BEAD applicants?



Resources on OBC's website

- **Prequalification Webinar** this presentation will be available for reference
- **Prequalification Intake Form** template for applicants to document prequalification materials
- NJ BEAD FAQs document containing weekly, ongoing updates to frequently asked questions received from applicants
- NJ BEAD Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) document announcing the availability of BEAD funding in New Jersey

Questions?

- Share questions with the team at <u>broadband@bpu.nj.gov</u> (please include "BEAD" in the subject line of your email). You will receive a personalized email confirmation that your question was received. Answers will be provided in the FAQs.
- FAQs are expected to be updated weekly, or more often depending on timelines. FAQs will be
 posted on the website. OBC will make best efforts to send an email out to all applicants alerting
 them to updates.

