

**New Jersey**  
**Office of Broadband Connectivity**

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment  
Program  
NJ BEAD



***Application Instructions***

**May 27, 2025**

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## Program Overview

The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program, administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) under the U.S. Department of Commerce, is a key initiative funded through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, Division F, Title I, Section 60102, Public Law 117-58, 135 Stat. 429 (November 15, 2021) also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. With an allocation of \$42.45 billion, the BEAD program aims to deploy high-speed internet infrastructure to unserved and underserved locations across the United States.

In New Jersey, the BEAD-funded initiative is known as the New Jersey Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (NJ BEAD) program. Managed by the Office of Broadband Connectivity (OBC) within the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU), NJ BEAD aims to provide a reliable, high-bandwidth internet service of at least 100/20 Mbps to every serviceable location in New Jersey. New Jersey has received \$263,689,548.65 in BEAD funding to advance this goal.

NJ BEAD will run a competitive subgrant process to fund deployment initiatives, including broadband infrastructure projects, prioritizing broadband services for unserved and underserved locations, including Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs). The program also includes initiatives for digital skills training, device access, and increasing broadband adoption among New Jersey residents, ensuring comprehensive broadband utilization across New Jersey. The subgrant process began with a prequalification phase, during which applicants provided select financial, operational, managerial, and technical qualifications and related information.

For the application, the following documents are required:

1. Completed Application Intake Form
2. Signed BEAD Program Conditions
3. Proposed Project Area Shapefiles

In addition to the required documents, applicants can also submit:

4. (Optional) Letters of support or proof of substantial effort

This document offers guidance for the documents required for the application of the NJ BEAD program. It is not intended to serve as a comprehensive legal interpretation of the program's rules and regulations, nor does it supersede, modify, or otherwise alter applicable statutory or regulatory requirements or the specific application requirements set by the OBC or the NTIA. Statutory and regulatory mandates, as well as the requirements detailed in New Jersey's Notice of Fund Availability (NOFA) and NTIA-approved Initial Proposal Volume 2, will take precedence over any inconsistencies in the document.

**UPDATE:** NTIA has informed all states that it plans to adopt "a more technology-neutral approach, cut unnecessary red tape, and streamline deployment" in its [Notice of Programmatic Waiver](#) published on April 22, 2025, prompting a 90-day extension to account for potential impacts on timelines. New Jersey's Final Proposal is now due on November 21, 2025. OBC will make any necessary adjustments to program requirements or deadlines to maintain compliance with NTIA guidance, as more information is received. Applicants should ensure they are aware of all the requirements of the program, including any requirements

impacted by the updated guidance; this information will be on OBC website within a brief timeframe of the state's review and posting.

For more information about the application process, please visit the NJ BEAD website:  
<https://www.nj.gov/connect/grants/bead/resources/index.shtml>.

For further information or clarification, please contact the Office of Broadband Connectivity at [broadband@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:broadband@bpu.nj.gov) and include "BEAD" in the subject line.

# 1. Application Intake Form

Applicants can submit multiple applications with each covering different proposed Project Areas (with a specific Project Area Building Block (PABB) in no more than two separate applications), and in doing so must be prepared to accept any application OBC provisionally awards i.e., applicants may not withdraw applications once fully submitted to OBC.

The Application Intake Form is an excel document that consists of 12 sections.

## Section 1: Instructions

*No input required:* Section 1 provides instructions for completing the application intake form.

### Legend:

In the application intake form:

- The Blue tabs contain application questions that must be completed by the applicant.
- The Black tab contains the PABBs and associated reference prices.

### Response Instructions:

Cells in the "Response" column are color-coded to indicate their status or required action, as described below. Note that the color of certain cells may change based on the applicants' responses to specific questions.

- **Action required:**
  - **Yellow cells:** Applicant to complete by adding a response.
  - **Red cells:** Auto-populated, indicating missing or invalid responses. Review the text prompt and update accordingly.
- **No action required:**
  - **Blue cells:** Applicant has completed (i.e., yellow will turn blue once completed).
  - **Gray cells:** For reference or auto completed based on information from other cells.
  - **Green cells:** Auto-populated, indicating the section is relevant, and responses are valid.

## Section 2: Application information

Note that questions in Table 2.1 and 2.2 are required to be included in OBC's Final Proposal to NTIA, as of the latest available guidance from NTIA (November 2024).

### Table 2.1: Applicant Profile

Provide the following information:

- **Applicant Name:** The name of the applicant

- **Applicant Full Address:** The full address of the applicant
- **Name of Parent Entity, Consortium, Holding Company, or N/A:** The name of the parent entity, consortium, or holding company of the applicant. This information is important for understanding the organizational structure
- **Doing Business As (DBA) Names, or N/A:** Additional names of the applicant. This is relevant for recognizing any alternate business names under which the applicant operates
- **Unique Entity Identifier (UEI):** SAM.gov assigned legal identifier of applicant
- **UEI Name:** Registered name associated with the UEI record in SAM.gov
- **FRN:** 10-digit FCC Registration Number of the applicant, with leading zeroes
- **Non-Traditional Broadband Provider:** Is the applicant a non-traditional broadband provider<sup>1</sup>? [To be answered as: Yes/No]
- **Type of Service Provider:** [Select from the drop-down] Select a category that best describes the service provider type of the applicant. The answer can be one of the following:
  - ILEC (Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier)
  - Non-ILEC Service Provider
  - Cooperative
  - Municipality
- **Woman-Owned Business Enterprise (WBE):** Is the applicant a woman-owned business? [To be answered as: Yes/No]
- **Minority Business Enterprise (MBE):** Is the applicant a minority-owned business? [To be answered as: Yes/No]
- **Small Business:** Does the applicant qualify as a small business? [To be answered as: Yes/No]
- **Webpage:** Address of the website (i.e., URL) for the applicant

## Table 2.2: Project Information

**Project Name:** Each submitted project must have a unique and distinguishable name. Applicants are encouraged to include the name of the county where the project is located and keep the project name short and precise (in 20 characters or less)

**Project Description:** Provide a brief description (1,000 characters or less) of the proposed project, focusing on its scope and objectives. The description should include:

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<sup>1</sup> Non-traditional providers are defined by Section I.C.p. of the BEAD NOFO 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"

- The type of technology to be deployed
- The communities to be served, including the number of BEAD-eligible BSLs, geographic coverage (by municipality and county), and relevant socioeconomic characteristics

Example: Deployment project for X location(s) in A County to install fiber optic cables in rural areas.

**Fiber:** [Select from the drop-down] Will the proposed project provision service via end-to-end fiber-optic facilities to each end-user premises?

Note that this question will determine the fields an applicant would have to answer for scoring for affordability in Section 6 - Pricing and Affordability.

### Table 2.3: Official Contact Information

This should be the primary representative of the organization who has the authority to make binding commitments on behalf of the organization

- **First Name:** First name of the representative
- **Last Name:** Last name of the representative
- **Title:** Title of the representative
- **Phone Number:** Phone number of the representative
- **Email Address:** Official email address of the representative

### Table 2.4: Project Contact Information

This should be the person primarily responsible for the day-to-day management and implementation of the program (may be the same as Official Contact)

- **First Name:** First name of the person primarily responsible for the day-to-day
- **Last Name:** Last name of the person primarily responsible for the day-to-day
- **Title:** Title of the person primarily responsible for the day-to-day
- **Phone Number:** Phone number of the person primarily responsible for the day-to-day
- **Email Address:** Official email address of the person primarily responsible for the day-to-day

## Section 3: Project area

See addition details in the Application Intake Form.

### Table 3.1: Which Census Block Groups (CBGs) are in the proposed Project Area?

**Column B:** List the Census Block Groups (CBGs) in the proposed Project Area

To add CBGs into column B, either paste the list of desired Census Block Group geoids into the designated area (highlighted in yellow) or select the CBG from a drop-down box in each cell individually. Applicants can also use the search tool in Table 3.4 that assists them in

identifying CBGs with BEAD-eligible Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) by county in New Jersey.

**Column C:** Identify in column C (Separable?) whether each CBG is separable by selecting Yes or No.

*No input required:* Column D (County), column E (High climate risk?), column F (# NJ BEAD-eligible BSLs), and column G (Reference price) are formula-based and will populate automatically.

### **Table 3.2: Summary table**

*No input required:* This table provides a summary of the number of CBGs selected, total number of NJ BEAD-eligible BSLs, total number of NJ BEAD-eligible BSLs in high climate risk counties, and total reference price categorized by separable and non-separable PABBs. These are formula-based and meant for the applicant's reference.

### **Table 3.3: Replication entry check**

*No input required:* This table ensures that the CBGs selected by applicants are unique, preventing duplication or errors in the application process. This is formula-based and meant for the applicant's reference.

Check that cell J13 shows "YES" and is highlighted in green. If the cell shows "No", then the applicant must check its CBG entries and remove all duplicates.

### **Table 3.4: Census Block Groups (CBGs) with eligible BSLs search tool**

*No input required:* This tool allows applicants to search for CBGs with eligible BSLs per county. It is useful for applicants to fill in Table 1 column B to enter which CBGs are in the applicant's proposed Project Area.

When applicants select their county of interest from the drop-down list, a list of CBGs with NJ BEAD eligible BSLs will appear below. Applicants can copy from the list of CBGs and paste **only the values** in Table 1. Follow the instructions provided in the worksheet to learn how to paste only the values.



## Section 4: Subsidy request

Provide financial information about the proposed projects.

**Table 4.1: Project information**

Descriptions for each question are below. Note that some questions in this section are required to be included in OBC's Final Proposal to NTIA, as of the latest available guidance from NTIA (November 2024).

**1. What is the total amount of NJ BEAD funds sought for the project? [Numeric value only]**

Enter the total amount of NJ BEAD funding for this proposed project.

**2. What is the total contribution (cash and in-kind) from the applicant itself to complete the project? [Numeric value only]**

Enter the total contribution (cash and in-kind) from the applicant itself to complete the proposed project.

**3. Is the applicant using any matching funds from federal, state or other sources? [To be answered as: Yes/No]**

Enter Yes/No. If Yes, answer Questions 4-7. If No, skip to Table 4.2.

**4. Amount of matching funds from federal sources [Numeric value only]**

The total amount of cash and in-kind matching funds for the project to be provided by match-eligible federal sources<sup>2</sup>

**5. Amount of matching funds from state sources [Numeric value only]**

The total amount of cash and in-kind matching funds for the project to be provided by the State of New Jersey

**6. Amount of matching funds from other sources such as nonprofits organizations [Numeric value only]**

The total amount of cash and in-kind matching funds for the project to be provided by other sources such as nonprofits organizations

**7. Names of all matching funds sources, if any**

The name of funding source(s). If multiple, enumerate sources, sorted by funding amount, and separated by a semicolon, with the highest amount first.

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<sup>2</sup> As outlined in the BEAD NOFO Section III.B.1, funds from other Federal programs (including funds from the Commission's Universal Service Fund programs) generally may not be used as matching funds; however, the Infrastructure Act expressly provides that matching funds for the BEAD Program may come from a federal regional commission or authority and from funds that were provided to an Eligible Entity or an applicant for the purpose of deploying broadband service under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Public Law 116-127; 134 Stat. 178); the CARES Act (Public Law 116-136; 134 Stat. 281), the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260; 134 Stat. 1182); or the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2; 135 Stat. 4), to the extent permitted by those laws.

**Table 4.2: Separable PABBs financial information**

- Column C: *No input required.* The Census Block Group GEOID will auto-populate based on the entries in Table 3.1 and if the CBG has been designated as separable.
- Column D: applicants must enter their BEAD subsidy request (as numerical values only, in USD) for the specific separable Census Block Group.

**Table 4.3: Reference table for project information - will auto-populate**

*No input required.*

This table provides reference price information for the Project Area and will auto-populate based on the data entered in Table 3.1, Table 4.1, and Table 4.2. This table is formula-based and provided for the applicant's reference.

The fields and values are below:

- **Reference price for the Project Area:** The total reference price for the proposed Project Area calculated as a sum of the reference prices of all the proposed CBGs. This will be auto-populated from the applicant's response in Table 3.1.
- **Total project cost:** The total cost of the proposed project calculated as a sum of the total amount of NJ BEAD funds sought, the total contribution (cash and in-kind) from the applicant to complete the project, and the amount of matching funds from federal, state and other sources if applicable. This will be auto-populated from the applicant's response in Table 4.1, Questions 1-7.
- **Requested BEAD subsidy as a percentage of the total reference price:** This indicates how much BEAD subsidy an applicant requests as compared to the total reference price of the proposed Project Area. This will be auto-populated from the applicant's response in Table 3.1 and Table 4.1, Question 1.
- **Requested BEAD subsidy per NJ BEAD-eligible BSLs:** This metric provides a per-location subsidy request, helping to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of the project in terms of the number of NJ BEAD-eligible BSLs it will serve. This will be auto-populated from the applicant's response in Table 3.1 and Table 4.1, Question 1.
- **Sum of requested BEAD subsidy for all separable PABBs:** The total sum of requested BEAD subsidy for all separable CBGs. This will be auto-populated from the applicant's response in Table 4.2.
- **Sum of requested subsidy for all separable PABBs does not exceed total BEAD subsidy requested:** This indicates whether the sum of requested subsidy for all separable PABBs has exceeded the total BEAD subsidy requested. In such a case, applicants must modify their BEAD subsidy request. This will be auto-populated from the applicant's response in Table 4.1, Question 1, and Table 4.2.
- **Is the amount of applicant matching funds (sum of matching funds from applicants and other sources) at least 25% of the total project cost<sup>3</sup>?** This

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<sup>3</sup> As outlined in the BEAD NOFO Section III.B.1, except in certain specific circumstances described herein (including projects in designated "high-cost areas" and other cases in which NTIA has waived the matching requirement), in the context of subgrants used to fund broadband network infrastructure

indicates whether the sum of matching funds (cash and in-kind) from the applicant itself to complete the project, and the amount of matching funds from federal, state and other sources (if applicable) is at least 25% of the total project cost. If not, applicants must modify their BEAD subsidy request. This will be auto-populated from the applicant's response in Table 4.1, Questions 1-7.

**Table 4.4: Reference table for separable PABBs - will auto-populate**

*No input required:* This table provides reference price values for the associated CBG (in column C) and will auto-populate based on the data entered in Table 4.2.

The columns are below:

- **Reference price for the CBG:** Reference price for each associated separable Census Block Group.
- **Requested subsidy as a percentage of the reference price:** The requested subsidy as a percentage of the reference price for each Census Block Group.

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deployment, each Eligible Entity shall provide, require its applicant to provide, or provide in concert with its applicant, matching funds of not less than 25 percent of project costs. A matching contribution may be provided by the applicant, an Eligible Entity, a unit of local government, a utility company, a cooperative, a nonprofit or philanthropic organization, a for-profit company, regional planning or governmental organization, a federal regional commission or authority, or any combination thereof. As detailed in the BEAD NOFO Section III.B.5, an Eligible Entity may seek, and the Assistant Secretary may grant, a partial or full waiver of the non-federal match requirement where warranted.

## Section 5: Offering details

Provide information about the service tiers that applicants plan to offer as part of their proposed broadband projects. Specify the technology, service areas, pricing, and technical specifications for each service tier they plan to offer.

### Instructions:

- Provide details of the tiers of services for the proposed project by completing the yellow-highlighted areas.
- Only add a new row if the applicant is offering a distinct tier of service. For example, if a Project Area will only offer 1 tier of service such as 1 Gbps symmetrical service at \$95/month, then the applicant will only complete one line. If the applicant is offering 3 tiers of service for the project, then it will need to complete 3 lines, one for each tier of service.
- Leave all other rows blank if they are not applicable.

### Table 5.1: Offering details

1. **Column C: Technology:** Select the technology to be used from the dropdown. Refer to the [FCC Technology Codes](#) for detailed descriptions.  
E.g., Optical Carrier / Fiber to the Premises
2. **Column D: Project Area details:** If multiple tiers of services are offered, provide details on where each tier is being offered.  
E.g., All locations included in the proposed Project Area
3. **Column E: Low-cost service plan:** Indicate whether the offering is a low-cost service plan. [To be answered as: Yes/No]  
E.g., Yes/No
4. **Column F: Download speed (Mbps):** Specify the planned maximum download speed in Mbps for each speed tier at which service will be offered for the proposed project. [Numeric values only]  
E.g., 1000
5. **Column G: Upload speed (Mbps):** Specify the planned maximum upload speed in Mbps for each speed tier at which service will be offered for the proposed project. [Numeric values only]  
E.g., 1000
6. **Column H: All-inclusive monthly price:** Provide the total monthly price for the service, including all taxes, fees, and charges. E.g., \$50
7. **Column I: Maximum latency (milliseconds):** Specify the maximum latency for the services. [Numeric values only]

Note: Low latency is defined as having a round-trip latency of less than or equal to 100 ms based on the 95th percentile of measurements.

E.g., 100

8. **Column J: Data caps (GB per month):** Indicate the data caps for each offering. Type "Unlimited" if no data cap applies. [Numeric values or "Unlimited" only]

E.g., 50

9. **Column K: Cost for exceeding cap:** Provide details on the cost for exceeding data caps.

E.g., \$10 per 50 GB

10. **Column L: Data cap justification:** Provide a succinct justification of how the proposed data cap is in the public interest and consistent with industry standards. This narrative is important for demonstrating the applicant's commitment to fair and reasonable service terms.

E.g., Applicant's narrative

## Section 6: Pricing and affordability

Provide information about the pricing and affordability of the broadband services proposed by the applicant.

### Table 6.1: Pricing and affordability - Condition

Question 1: **Will the proposed project provision service via end-to-end fiber-optic facilities to each end-user premises?**

*No input required:* This will be auto-populated from the applicant's response in Table 2.2, Question 16.

### Table 6.2: Pricing and affordability - General

Question 2: **What is the maximum upstream and downstream speed available to all locations in the Project Area?**

Enter maximum upstream and downstream speeds in Mbps. [E.g., 100/20 where 100 is downstream speed and 20 is upstream speed]

### Table 6.3: Pricing and affordability - Fiber Project

Question 3: **What is the monthly price inclusive of all taxes, fees, and charges for the symmetrical 1 Gbps service that the applicant would offer to subscribers?**

If the applicant selected "Fiber Project" as the response to Table 2.2, Question 16, enter the monthly price, inclusive of all taxes, fees, and charges, for a symmetrical 1 Gbps service<sup>4</sup> that the applicant will offer to subscribers.

If the applicant did not select "Fiber Project", skip to Table 6.4.

### Table 6.4: Pricing and affordability - Non-Fiber Project

If the applicant selected "Non-Fiber Project" in response to Table 2.2, Question 16, enter the monthly price, inclusive of all taxes, fees, and charges, for a 100/20 Mbps service<sup>5</sup> that the applicant would offer to subscribers, and whether the applicant certifies a useful network life of 10+ years.

Question 4: **What is the monthly price inclusive of all taxes, fees, and charges for the 100/20 Mbps service that is offered to subscribers?**

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<sup>4</sup> As outlined in section 2.4.2 of the NTIA-approved Initial Proposal Volume 2, for fiber applicants - OBC will prioritize the applicant's commitment to provide the most affordable total price to the customer for 1 Gbps symmetrical service in the proposed Project Area. To rank applications, OBC will set a reference price equal to the lowest price for 1 Gbps symmetrical service, or if not widely offered, the closest set of symmetrical speeds above 800 Mbps for New Jersey in the FCC Urban Rate Survey. OBC expects that many applicants will propose scores substantially lower than the Urban Rate Survey reference price and will score accordingly.

<sup>5</sup> As outlined in section 2.4.2 of the NTIA-approved Initial Proposal Volume 2, for fiber applicants, for non-fiber applicants - OBC will prioritize the applicant's commitment to provide the most affordable total price to the customer for 100/20 Mbps service in the proposed Project Area. To rank applications, OBC will set a reference price equal to the lowest price for 100/20 Mbps in the FCC Urban Rate Survey. OBC expects that many applicants will propose scores substantially lower than the Urban Rate Survey reference price and will score accordingly.

Provide a numeric value representing the monthly price in USD.

Question 5: **Does the applicant certify a useful network life of 10+ years<sup>6</sup>?**

Select "Yes" or "No" from the drop-down.

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<sup>6</sup> The length of grant obligations is a 10-year federal interest period after construction is completed.

## Section 7: Fair labor practices

OBC's scoring criteria, based on current NTIA guidance, which is subject to change, gives priority to projects based on a prospective applicant's demonstrated record of and plans to be in compliance with Federal labor and employment laws. New entrants without a record of labor and employment law compliance may earn points by making specific, forward-looking commitments to strong labor and employment standards and protections with respect to BEAD-funded projects. Applicants with a record of labor law compliance should complete Question 2. All applicants, regardless of their compliance record, have the option to complete Question 3.

### Table 7.1: Fair labor practices

**Question 1: Is the applicant able to provide proof of past compliance with all applicable labor laws within the last three years? [To be answered as: Yes/No]**

Enter Yes/No. If Yes, answer Question 2. If No, skip to Question 3.

**Question 2: Provide a narrative (300 words or less) describing compliance with all applicable labor laws and a record of outstanding labor practices. NTIA provided a list of factors in BEAD NOFO Section IV.C.1.e.**

**Question 3: Provide a narrative (300 words or less) describing the applicant's forward-looking commitments, if any, to strong fair labor practices on all BEAD-related projects and activities. NTIA provided a list of factors in BEAD NOFO Section IV.C.1.e.**

For reference, BEAD NOFO Section IV.C.1.e. "Fair Labor Practices and Highly Skilled Workforce" writes:

"As set forth above in Section IV.B.7, Eligible Entities 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. Eligible Entities are required to give preferential weight to projects based on the strength of the showing in their application on this factor. Doing so will help ensure that projects are carried out in accordance with the law, assist Eligible Entities in ensuring that a prospective subgrantee is capable of carrying out activities funded by a subgrant in a competent manner in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, and promote the effective and efficient completion of high-quality broadband infrastructure projects by ensuring a reliable supply of skilled workers and minimizing disruptive and costly delays.

Evaluation of a prospective subgrantee's demonstrated record of and plans to be in compliance with federal labor and employment laws requires focus on several components. First, Eligible Entities must obtain and evaluate information on the prospective subgrantee's record of compliance with federal labor and employment laws, as well as the records of any other entities that will participate in the project, including contractors and subcontractors. This information must include, at a minimum, information on these entities' compliance with federal labor and employment laws on broadband deployment projects in the last three years. For example, the Eligible Entity should collect data on a prospective subgrantee's historical use of contracting and subcontracting arrangements, including staffing plans, and at least one example of each contractor and subcontractor's past performance in the context of a similar project. Eligible Entities will be required to describe in their Initial and Final Proposals what specific information they will require prospective subgrantees to provide in their applications and how they will weight that information in their competitive selection



process. This should include, but not be limited to, (1) a certification from an Officer/Director-level employee (or equivalent) of the prospective subgrantee evidencing consistent past compliance with federal labor and employment laws by the subgrantee, as well as all contractors and subcontractors, and (2) written confirmation that the prospective subgrantee discloses any instances in which it or its contractors or subcontractors have been found to have violated laws such as the Occupational Safety and Health Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, or any other applicable labor and employment laws for the preceding three years.

Second, Eligible Entities must require submission of, and evaluate, the prospective subgrantee's plans for ensuring compliance with Federal labor and employment laws. These plans must address, at a minimum, how the prospective subgrantee will ensure compliance in its own labor and employment practices, as well as that of its contractors and subcontractors, including (1) information on applicable wage scales and wage and overtime payment practices for each class of employees expected to be involved directly in the physical construction of the broadband network and (2) how the subgrantee will ensure the implementation of workplace safety committees that are authorized to raise health and safety concerns in connection with the delivery of deployment projects. Eligible Entities will be required to describe in their Initial and Final Proposals what specific information they will require prospective subgrantees to provide in their applications and how they will weight that information in their competitive selection processes.

An effective plan for compliance with federal labor and employment laws can include a subgrantee's binding commitment to strong labor standards and protections for the project workforce (including contractors and subcontractors), which include:

- Using a directly employed workforce, as opposed to a subcontracted workforce;
- Paying prevailing wages and benefits to workers, including compliance with Davis-Bacon and Service Contract Act requirements, where applicable, and collecting the required certified payrolls;
- Using project labor agreements (i.e., pre-hire collective bargaining agreements between unions and contractors that govern terms and conditions of employment for all workers on a construction project);
- Use of local hire provisions;
- Commitments to union neutrality;
- Use of labor peace agreements<sup>7</sup>;

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<sup>7</sup> Ability to require labor peace agreements:

- By a governmental entity: Where a governmental entity receives NTIA grant funds, whether directly as an Eligible Entity or as a subgrantee, and the governmental entity uses those funds for the construction of facilities over which it will maintain a proprietary interest (e.g., governmental ownership of the network), it is authorized and encouraged to require labor peace agreements, unless prohibited by state or local law.
- By a non-governmental subgrantee: Subgrantees that are non-governmental entities, and construct broadband facilities over which no governmental entity maintains a proprietary interest, are authorized and encouraged to require labor peace agreements, unless prohibited by state or local law.

- Use of an appropriately skilled workforce, e.g., through Registered Apprenticeships or other joint labor-management training programs that serve all workers, particularly those underrepresented or historically excluded);
- Use of an appropriately credentialed workforce (i.e., satisfying requirements for appropriate and relevant pre-existing occupational training, certification, and licensure); and
- Taking steps to prevent the misclassification of workers.

If an Eligible Entity includes any of these as mandatory requirements for all subgrantees (including contractors and subcontractors), it should describe these requirements in detail its Initial and Final Proposal and explain how it will incorporate them as binding legal commitments in the subgrants it makes. An Eligible Entity taking this approach can reduce the showing that prospective subgrantees need to make in their applications regarding their plans to comply with federal labor and employment laws.

To ensure that subgrantees have the technical and operational capacity to carry out the subgrant, prospective subgrantees must have a plan for ensuring that the project workforce will be an appropriately skilled and credentialed workforce (including by the subgrantee and each of its contractors and subcontractors). For purposes of this section, the “project workforce” includes those employees of the subgrantee, its contractors, or subcontractors directly engaged in the physical construction of the broadband network. The plan for a highly skilled workforce should include the following information:

- The ways in which the subgrantee will ensure the use of an appropriately skilled workforce, e.g., through Registered Apprenticeships or other joint labor-management training programs that serve all workers;
- The steps that will be taken to ensure that all members of the project workforce will have appropriate credentials, e.g., appropriate and relevant pre-existing occupational training, certification, and licensure;
- Whether the workforce is unionized;
- Whether the workforce will be directly employed or whether work will be performed by a subcontracted workforce; and
- The entities that the proposed subgrantee plans to contract and subcontract with in carrying out the proposed work.

If the project workforce or any subgrantee’s, contractor’s, or subcontractor’s workforce is not unionized, the subgrantee must also provide with respect to the non-union workforce:

- The job titles and size of the workforce (FTE positions, including for contractors and subcontractors) required to carry out the proposed work over the course of the project and the entity that will employ each portion of the workforce;
- For each job title required to carry out the proposed work (including contractors and subcontractors), a description of:
  - safety training, certification, and/or licensure requirements (e.g., OSHA 10, OSHA 30, confined space, traffic control, or other training as relevant depending on title and work), including whether there is a robust in-house training program with established requirements tied to certifications, titles; and

- information on the professional certifications and/or in-house training in place to ensure that deployment is done at a high standard. ”

## Section 8: Deployment

Provide information about the deployment plans for the proposed broadband project.

**Table 8.1: Deployment**

Descriptions for each question are below. Note that some questions in this section are required to be included in OBC's Final Proposal to NTIA, as of the latest available guidance from NTIA (November 2024).

1. **What is the total number of miles of project infrastructure deployment? [Numeric value only]**

Enter the total number of miles of project infrastructure deployment.

2. **How many of those miles are estimated buried? [Numeric value only]**

Enter the anticipated number of buried miles of fiber to provide service to the locations within the project.

3. **How many of those miles are estimated aerial? [Numeric value only]**

Enter the anticipated number of aerial miles of fiber to provide service to the locations within the project.

4. **What's the projected construction start date? [MM/DD/YYYY]**

Enter the estimated start date of the deployment project.

5. **What's the projected date of project completion? [MM/DD/YYYY]**

Enter the estimated end date of the deployment project by when all unserved and underserved locations within the proposed Project Area will be served, and customers could receive service within 10 days upon request.

6. **How many jobs are estimated to be created as a result of the proposed deployment project? [Numeric value only]**

Enter the estimated number of employment opportunities created by the project.

## Section 9: Resiliency

Provide information about the resiliency measures that applicants plan to implement in their broadband deployment projects.

### Table 9.1: Resiliency - Condition

Question 1: **Will the proposed project provision service via end-to-end fiber-optic facilities to each end-user premises?**

*No input required:* This will be auto-populated from the applicant's response in Table 2.2, Question 16.

### Table 9.2: Resiliency - Fiber Project

Question 2: **What percentage of the proposed Project Area overlaps with high-risk counties (Ocean, Atlantic, Cape May, Hudson)<sup>8</sup>?**

*No input required:* Calculated based on NJ BEAD-eligible BSLs in the applicant's proposed Project Area.

Question 3: **Within the Project Area that overlaps with the high-risk counties (Ocean, Atlantic, Cape May, Hudson), what percentage of fiber will be buried?** [Numeric value only]

If the applicant selected "Fiber Project" as the response to Table 2.2, Question 16, enter the percentage of fiber, if applicable, that will be buried in the overlapping Project Area with high-risk counties.

If the applicant did not select "Fiber Project", skip to Table 9.3.

### Table 9.3: Resiliency - Non-Fiber Project

If the applicant selected "Non-Fiber Project" in response to Table 2.2, Question 16, answer:

Question 4: **"Does the applicant commit to hardening 90% of their above ground broadband equipment in high-risk counties (Ocean, Atlantic, Cape May, Hudson)?** [Select Yes/No from the drop-down]

Note: Infrastructure hardening measures<sup>9</sup> are intended to strengthen the resiliency of critical infrastructure in the case of extreme weather events."

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<sup>8</sup> As detailed in section 2.11.1.f of the NTIA-approved Initial Proposal Volume 2, OBC identified four coastal counties in Southeastern New Jersey that are most susceptible to climate risk (FEMA National Risk Index). These counties will have specific plant mix requirements (i.e., buried fiber), as detailed in Section 2.11.1d. The identified counties are: • Ocean • Atlantic • Cape May • Hudson Screenings will be refreshed every five years, in conjunction with updates to New Jersey's Hazard Mitigation Plan (see further details in Section 2.11.1e).

<sup>9</sup> As detailed in section 2.11.1.i of the NTIA-approved Initial Proposal Volume 2, for BEAD-deployment in high-risk counties identified (Ocean, Atlantic, Cape May, and Hudson) – all of which are subject to severe flooding risk – plans should articulate a commitment to put infrastructure electronics in hardened waterproof vaults above ground. Applicants are encouraged to reference [New Jersey's Strategic Climate Action Plan](#), which elaborates on existing state efforts to ensure resilience of

## Section 10: Support and engagement

Provide information about plans for community advisory groups, outreach activities, and/or engagement with local governments, if applicable.

**Question 1: If applicable, provide a narrative (500 words or less) describing the detailed plans, including intended outreach to community leaders, types of members and stakeholders requested, and potential cadence of meetings, to establish a permanent community advisory group for the duration of BEAD construction and the first 18 months of service.**

This office / working group will serve as a platform for local project accountability, as well as for potential sub-awardees to ensure and streamline future community engagement, especially as it relates to a project's outreach and marketing strategy (e.g., how their low-cost options will be promoted through their website, how they will ensure information accessibility).

**Question 2: If applicable, provide a narrative (500 words or less) describing outreach to the community in advance of submitting this application. Describe the breadth and depth of engagement activities and how they were integrated into the deployment plan, particularly as it relates to low-cost broadband options and middle-class affordability. Examples of engagement activities include:**

- Holding in-person public meetings to discuss deployment plans and their impact on the community.
- Hosting virtual webinars to discuss deployment plans and their impact on the community.
- Leading focus groups to gather feedback on deployment plans and their impact on the community.
- Evidence of integration into the deployment plan could include a description of the engagement, insights surfaced, and how they informed the proposal (or reasoning for not addressing certain insights)

Applicants will be evaluated on the breadth and depth of the engagement activities and how they were integrated into the deployment plan, particularly as it relates to low-cost broadband options and middle-class affordability.

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coastal infrastructure, to secure additional funding that supports climate resilience. Infrastructure hardening measures are intended to strengthen the resiliency of critical infrastructure in the case of extreme weather events.

## **Section 11: List of Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs)**

This application sheet does not need to be filled in. Use it as a template for the shapefiles of all NJ BEAD-eligible Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) within the proposed Project Area that the applicant intends to serve. Ensure the shapefiles include the specified columns with the correct field names.

### **Field Name:**

- location\_id: unique identifier for the location, as used in the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric published by FCC [10-digit code]
- comment: Optional: Use this column only to add comments for specific BSLs. Leave blank if no comments, or remove the column if not applicable [NA or text]
- latitude: Latitude of BSL [Decimal]
- longitude: Longitude of BSL [Decimal]

## Section 12: List of Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs)

This application sheet does not need to be filled in. Use it as a template for the shapefiles of all Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) within the proposed Project Area that the applicant intends to serve. Ensure the shapefiles include the specified columns with the correct field names.

### Field name:

- **type:** Indicates the type of CAI, where:
  - S: K-12 school, junior college, community college, university, or other educational institution
  - L: library
  - G: local, state, federal or Tribal government building
  - H: health clinic, health center, hospital, or other medical provider
  - F: public safety entity such as a fire house, emergency medical service station, police station, or public safety answering point (PSAP)
  - P: public housing organization
  - C: community support organization that facilitates greater use of broadband service by vulnerable populations, including low-income individuals, unemployed individuals, and aged individuals
- **entity\_name:** Captures the official name of the CAI [Text]
- **location\_id:** Unique identifier of the CAI from the Broadband Serviceable Location (BSL) Fabric if the location has a corresponding Location ID [NA or 10-digit code]
- **address\_primary:** Provides the primary street address of the CAI [Text]
- **city:** Specifies the city in which the CAI is located [Text]
- **zip\_code:** Includes the 5-digit zip code corresponding to the CAI's location [5-digit code]
- **comment:** Allows optional comments specific to individual CAIs; leave blank or enter "NA" if no comment is applicable [NA or text]
- **latitude:** Lists the latitude coordinates of the CAI [Decimal]
- **longitude:** Lists the longitude coordinates of the CAI as a [Decimal]



## 2. Program Conditions

Complete the certification form that applicants will comply with the following program conditions by submitting a signed Program Conditions Form provided on the OBC website as part of the application requirements. Below is a list of the program conditions.

1. The applicant will serve all unserved and underserved BSLs, as well as all CAIs (including, if requested, wiring or special construction required to connect a CAI within 10 business days of its request) within all PABBs included in the proposed Project Area. The applicant understands that in the event that there are insufficient funds to connect all unserved locations, CAIs and then underserved locations may be removed from final grant awards.
2. The applicant agrees to modify the proposed Project Area, if required, during the review process, which may include the additional of up to 10% or the removal of up to 20% of all unserved and underserved locations within the proposed Project Area. Such modifications will be implemented only as a “last resort” to maximize coverage in alignment with BEAD program guidelines. OBC will make every effort to avoid “force separating” proposed Project Areas and will primarily utilize the “separable designation” methodology to conduct the deconfliction process.
3. Following the pre-qualification phase, OBC will launch Phase 1 of the subgrant application window. Applicants can submit multiple applications, and in doing so must be prepared to accept any application OBC provisionally awards (i.e., applicants may not withdraw applicants once fully submitted to OBC).
4. The applicant will offer the same price commitment it made to OBC as the applicant’s “most affordable total price” to all locations included in the awarded Project Area. Additionally, the applicant understands that the prices for this service may only be adjusted annually during the 10 year federal interest period with OBC’s approval, and only at the rate of change of the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
5. The applicant will offer a low-cost broadband service option for the 10 year federal interest period to all locations included in the awarded Project Area and that such service option will meet the requirements described in Section 2.12 of NJ IP Vol II, will be priced at \$30 a month, and that the price may be only be adjusted annually at the rate of change of the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
6. The applicant will participate in any program that is designated as a successor to the Affordable Connectivity Program that provides subsidies or discounts for broadband services for low-income qualified participants.
7. The applicant certifies that it is financially qualified to meet the obligations associated with the project, has available funds for all projects costs that exceed the amount of the grant, and will comply with all program requirements, including service milestones.

8. The applicant will adhere to all OBC-mandated quarterly progress reporting requirements.
9. The applicant will comply with all applicable nondiscrimination requirements set forth in the following legal authorities, and acknowledges that failure to do so may result in cancellation of any award and/or recoupment of funds already disbursed: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and any other applicable non-discrimination law(s).
10. The applicant will comply with the New Jersey Prevailing Wage Act (N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.72(b) et seq.) and pay prevailing wages and benefits to workers as applicable.
11. The applicant and their contractors or subcontractors will remain neutral in union organizing and operations.
12. The applicant will maintain an apprenticeship program, directly or through subcontractors.
13. The applicant understands that awards are contingent on the availability of federal funding from the NTIA.
14. Within 14 days after being selected for a provisional award, the applicant will
  - a. provide a comprehensive project plan, certified by a licensed Professional Engineer, which includes specific project milestones for the capital investment schedule and a detailed project description, including a network design, diagrams, project budget, permitting requirements, and timeline and plans for completion of build-out and initiation of service within four years of subgrant award date.
  - b. provide a business plan and analyses upon being provisionally awarded, which include proposed project expenditures, general and low-cost option public awareness campaign proposals, customer service plans to ensure timely installation and repair, network redundancy efforts, cashflow and balance sheet projections, and proof of at least 3 years of operating cashflow post project completion.
  - c. provide letters of acknowledgement from local governments or evidence of the applicant's request for such letters. (Applicants that provided Letters of Support in the application process may refer to those here rather than submitting copies.)
  - d. provide a Climate Mitigation Plan upon being provisionally awarded, which includes 5 components: plant mix proposal, infrastructure hardening practices, description of network facility redundancies, history of natural hazards and best practices, and ongoing maintenance.
  - e. provide a Letter of Commitment from a qualified financial institution, credit union, or surety, on the financial institution's letterhead. The letter must confirm that the financial institution, credit union, or surety understands the requirements and commits to issuing an irrevocable standby letter of credit or a performance bond, as

applicable, if the project is selected for funding. If the subgrantee chooses to use a credit union, the credit union must be insured by the National Credit Union Administration and have a Weiss safety rating of B– or better. The letter must specify the necessary financial commitment, including the dollar amount of the letter of credit or performance bond, in accordance with the requirements of the BEAD program.

- f. provide evidence of financial resources to cover 6 months of project activity between reimbursement periods. Examples of evidence include, but are not limited to the following, the following, cash flow statement for the current year, pro forma financial forecast for a five-year period, or five-year annual earnings before income and tax (EBIT) projection. Audited financial statements or performance bonds may also suffice.
- g. provide evidence of an existing internship, preapprenticeship, apprenticeship, or on-the-job training program or plans to partner with one, focusing on students and graduates of relevant programs within New Jersey’s career and technical education programs, known as Career Clusters and Career Pathway programs.
- h. explain the steps they are taking to prevent the misclassification of workers.
- i. specify what strategies they will employ to prioritize, and potentially meet a minimum threshold for hiring a local workforce, including transportation, childcare, and related support wraparound support to enable New Jersey workers from one part of the state to support projects in another part of the state when it is not possible to hire employees or contractors closer to where the construction is taking place.
- j. provide ownership information consistent with the requirements set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations Title 47 § 1.2112(a)(1)–(7).
- k. provide evidence of a financial management system that can provide for financial reporting, accounting records, internal control, budget control, allowable cost, source documentation, and cash management.
- l. provide a cybersecurity risk management plan that reflects the latest version of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity (currently Version 1.1) 106 and the standards and controls set forth in Executive Order 14028 and specifies the security and privacy controls being implemented. Applicant further commits to submit to OBC any substantive changes to the plan within 30 days and to obtain attestations from any third party network provider that applicant will rely on for BEAD compliance with respect to that provider’s cybersecurity risk management practices.
- m. provide a supply chain risk management plan that is based upon the key practices discussed in the NIST publication NISTIR 8276, Key Practices in Cyber Supply Chain Risk Management: Observations from Industry and related supply chain risk

management guidance from NIST, including NIST 800–161, Cybersecurity Supply Chain Risk Management Practices for Systems and Organizations, and specifies the supply chain risk management controls being implemented. Applicant further commits to submit any substantive changes to the plan within 30 days and to obtain attestations from any third-party network provider that applicant will rely on for BEAD compliance with respect to that provider's supply chain risk management practices.

n. provide additional certification and documentation as required by OBC.

15. The applicant confirms by signature that they have fully reviewed New Jersey's Initial Proposal, Volume 2, New Jersey's BEAD NOFA and all follow-on guidance published by OBC and understand the obligations of an applicant.

### 3. Shapefiles

Submit the following shapefiles along with the Application Intake Form to OBC:

1. **BSL shapefiles (template provided):** Shapefiles of the proposed NJ BEAD-eligible locations to be served within the proposed Project Area, including location IDs.

Refer to Section 11: List of Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) for required field names and details.

2. **CAI shapefiles (template provided):** Shapefiles of the proposed CAIs to be served within the proposed Project Area, including their entity names and/or location IDs.

Refer to Section 12: List of Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) for required field names and details.

3. **High-level route map shapefiles:** Shapefiles of the high-level route map illustrating connectivity to all BSLs and CAIs included in the service area.

The geospatial route map shapefiles should include the wireline route and/or the location of tower placements.

#### **4. [Optional] Letters of support or proof of substantial effort**

Applicants may provide any one of them below:

1. A letter of support from one or more local governments within the proposed BEAD service area. The letter should:

1a. Acknowledge that the provider directly engaged with local government representatives to present and discuss their project proposal.

1b. Confirm that the application proposal acknowledges and, when possible, addresses major inputs and concerns from the local government.

1c. Include a statement indicating the local government's commitment to streamline permitting approvals and granting access to Right of Way.

**OR**

2. Proof that the provider made substantial efforts to directly engage with local government but was unable to do so due to lack of availability or willingness from the local government to meet.