

Oklahoma BEAD Grant Program

Subgrantee Selection Process

Questions and Responses

This FAQ is an evolving document. Information might be modified or eliminated in later iterations. The latest version should be used exclusively.

This FAQ was developed as a broad public resource and is intended to be strictly informational. The answers contained in this FAQ will not include complete information as the questions posed do not provide complete information. This document may be consulted as a reference but should not be relied on for a complete assessment. The OBO encourages potential applicants to consult their legal counsel in finding answers to these questions.

Updated: 4:15 p.m., May 21, 2025

Request for Information (RFI) Process

1. Can the OBO clarify how the Net Present Value will be determined for the creation of NETs?

The net present value will be determined through the Request for Information as well as cost modeling data.

CostQuest defines their Net Present Values as, “20-year NPV of Greenfield investment assuming a cash flow of 70% take rate on \$75 ARPU, 4-year ramp of construction and subscription, operating expenses, income taxes, and replacement capital.”

Read CostQuest’s definitions at this [link](#).

2. What is the difference between Net Present Value (NPV) and Cost per location?

Net Present Value factors in construction cost, as well as potential subscription revenue for an internet service provider and other business financial information [as read in the above answer].

Cost per location is based on the cost to build service to each location.

3. During the BEAD application process, will an ISP be able to apply for a partial NET, i.e., not all of the locations in the NET?

No, during the application process ISPs will be required to apply for each NET as a whole. If an ISP wants to split a pre-determined NET, this needs to be done during the RFI process.

4. Is the price listed for the NET the amount available to provide service within that NET?

The dollar amount listed for the NET(s) represents an estimated value when factoring in construction costs and projected revenue (see questions 1 & 2). It is not a cost per passing.

The Request for Information window is an opportunity for ISPs to inform our office whether the values listed are accurate, according to their own estimates.

5. Why are most NETs showing a negative NPV on the interactive map?

The remaining available locations have an estimated negative NPV. Refer to Questions 1 & 2 for the definition of NPV.

6. Can an ISP recommend the removal of a location from a NET or removal of a location from the entire list of eligible locations? (Example: locations that should not be considered broadband serviceable locations such as barns, storage sheds, or rocks)

ISPs may recommend locations be moved between NETs however, locations may not be removed from NETs as this was the use case of the Challenge Process.

7. If an ISP does not express interest in a NET during the RFI process, can it still apply for the NET during the application process?

Yes, an ISP may still apply. However, it is highly recommended that ISPs indicate their interest during the RFI process.

8. When reviewing the NETs.csv, one might contain 7 locations but when compared to the locations.csv, the number of locations listed are not compatible. Why is that?

In order to see the total number of locations within each NET, ISPs must download the locations.csv and the cais.csv.

9. How does an ISP map the locations that are provided for download?

Both the locations.csv and cais.csv have fabric ID numbers associated with Version 4 of the CostQuest Fabric Dataset. In order to map the locations available for downloading, an ISP is required to have a CostQuest license.

10. If an ISP would like to recommend the split of a NET into multiple NETs, and would then be interested in one of the resulting NETs, is it sufficient to submit the one RFI form for the NET split? Or does an ISP also need to submit an RFI form for partial interest in the original NET?

The ISP should submit both a request to sever as well as an interest form.

11. How should an ISP handle CAIs included in the NETS that already have fiber?

Please note this in your RFI response.

12. What kinds of information would the OBO consider as potentially justifying a request to split or modify a proposed NET?

Examples of this could include cost information, narrative justification, or blueprint or mapping materials.

13. What information, if any, is available to allow a commenter to calculate the NPV for the proposed split/modified NET?

The commenter should utilize their own data to recalculate the NPV for modified NETs.

14. How will the NPV for a NET will be used in the process of choosing the winning bidder for that NET?

The NPV is not a scored criterion.

15. If an ISP is splitting a NET in the RFI, can it be split into more than two NETs? (Example: 1 NET à 5 NETs)

Absolutely. Feel free to split NETs in the best ways for you to provide service.

16. Can changes in the NPV calculation and/or the estimated subsidy requirement for a currently proposed NET or modified NET impact the EHCPLT that OBO assigns to location(s) within that NET?

Yes, this can impact the EHCPLT.

17. Are ISPs expected to perform the analysis consistent with any or all of the published CostQuest assumptions i.e., 20-year NPV, 4-year construction ramp-up, 70% take rate and \$75 per month ARPU?

The NPVs that have been suggested by the OBO are based on the criterion listed above. If an ISP wishes to adjust the NPV, please indicate which portions of the analysis have been changed to determine the new NPV.

18. Does the \$75 ARPU include any assumptions regarding a sub-grantee's "affordability" commitments as described in BEAD Volume II, including assumptions regarding customer eligibility rates and service pricing commitments?

No assumptions are included.

19. Are ISPs expected to provide support for cost assumptions utilized to calculate NPVs, including expected construction costs and O&M costs?

While support documentation is not required, it is appreciated. However, ISPs must provide sound reasoning, in a narrative form, outlining the reasoning for the change.

20. How should companies comply with the RFI process requirement to provide a "CSV file that lists locations from the NET that are able to connect" ?

A csv file with a list of locations and their corresponding NET ID is available on the RFI [landing page](#).

21. Once NTIA has approved the OBO's challenge data, will the NETs be subject to a second RFI process?

No, the OBO will make adjustments as necessary while integrating the RFI data post NTIA approval.

22. Why were only some of the NETs available in the second RFI window?

As stated on the [OBO's BEAD webpage](#), only NETs that were impacted by updated information from NTIA regarding Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program funding were available for the second RFI window. An original RFI window for all NETs ran from 1/30/25-2/21/25.

Pre-Qualification

23. Will Oklahoma have a pre-qualification process for BEAD Subgrantee Selection?

Please refer to Oklahoma's Volume 2 section 02.04.11.

24. Does the OBO have templates for the non-conflicts of interest attestation and the non-collusion statement?

No, this is just a certification, no template or information will be required.

25. Can the OBO please clarify which document is required for Question 16, "provide documentation of your state business registration." Will a certificate of good standing suffice?

Please provide a copy of your registration with the Oklahoma Secretary of State's Office.

26. What is the deadline for submitting the pre-qualification application?

The deadline for submitting the pre-qualification application will be May 19 at 11:59pm.

27. Would an organization with broadband construction projects dating from 2022 meet the two-year service requirement?

Yes, this would be within the two-year requirement.

28. If an organization has a relationship to provide service with an ISP, does the ISP need to be the primary applicant?

The entity who will be building out the infrastructure and who will be acting as the service provider will be considered the “Lead Organization.”

29. If multiple companies and ISPs form a consortium and want to apply as a consortium, would there be one lead applicant representing the entire consortium?

Yes, there is one lead organization, which should be applying for the BEAD program. This organization should be the ISP that will be building and managing the internet service.

30. Could individual organizations also apply on their own outside of the consortium?

Yes, an ISP may apply with a consortium and independently.

31. What legal structure would the consortium require? Can it be an association with a memorandum of understanding among members?

The OBO would like to review the legally binding agreement between the consortium entities. Entities may redact as needed.

32. In the BEAD Preregistration Guide, it says that ISPs must provide a description of “your company’s baseline Fiber-To-The-Home/FTTH (or other technology) architecture to be deployed, including a certification by a professional engineer that said architecture can provide the required service levels.”

Does the engineer need to be licensed in the state of Oklahoma, or can it be a certified engineer from another state for this item?

The engineer must be licensed in Oklahoma.

33. Does an applying Tribe have to have an established ISP or can they be in the process of creating one?

At the time of prequalification, an FRN must be provided. So long as an active FRN can be provided, the applicant may proceed.

34. Can an applicant submit UEI, FRN, Provider ID, and proof of Secretary of State registration with different company names?

In order for an applicant to be approved in pre-qualification, the company name on the application needs to match with all supporting documentation. An applicant cannot submit UEI, FRN, Provider ID, and proof of SoS filing with different names.

35. If a company wants to submit three different applications that will **not be a consortium**, will they need to have 3 different profiles, or upon submitting the 2nd and 3rd Pre-Quals, would they just simply need to update the organizational profile before submitting the Pre-Qual?

Yes, each company will need its own organizational profiles and pre-qualification application. However, each company can submit multiple Candidate Pool project applications.

36. Can an applicant have a Provider ID in the Organization Profile that represents a different company than the name of the entity in the General pre-qualification application?

No, the name of the entity, all documentation related, and the application must have the same entity name. However, if the provider ID is registered to an affiliate of the same company, please include the affiliation and relationship to show they are same company.

37. Can the OBO confirm its redaction process to ensure appropriate documents are kept confidential?

Applicants may designate portions of information provided on their application and/or any supporting documentation as confidential in accordance with the provisions of the Oklahoma Trade Secret Act and the Oklahoma Open Records Act. ([78 O.S. § 86](#) et seq. (OSCN 2023), Uniform Trade Secrets Act.; [51 O.S. § 24A.3](#) et seq. (OSCN 2023), Oklahoma Open Records Act.)

Such claims must be clearly articulated and made at the time of submittal in accordance with OAC 260:115-3-9.

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38. Do organizations registering for the Oklahoma BEAD portal need an FCC Registration Number (FRN)?

Yes, an FRN is required to register for the Oklahoma BEAD portal.

39. Will there be an updated location map for unserved BSLs before the BEAD subgrantee selection process or only after the NETs are defined?

There will be an updated official list of locations posted to the OBO website once the post challenge results have been approved by NTIA.

40. Is a Tribal government eligible to be a subgrantee? Does the Tribe need to be an established ISP or can it be in the process of creating one?

If an entity has an FRN and will be the service provider, the entity is valid.

41. Can a Tribal nation partner with an ISP to submit a grant application?

Yes, a tribal entity may partner with an ISP to submit a BEAD application. The lead organization must be the applying entity, both for pre-qualification and subgrantee selection.

42. Can a Tribal consortium submit a grant application?

If the tribal consortium plans on serving the locations with their own ISP or partners with an ISP to service the locations, they may submit an application.

43. Is the OBO going to host Q&A sessions for the BEAD program or should all questions be directed to BEAD@broadband.ok.gov?

All questions should be directed to the BEAD@broadband.ok.gov email. At this time, no webinars are scheduled.

44. Regarding bonds for the BEAD program, are they required to be from T-Listed insurers, or will non-T-Listed insurers be allowed?

Treasury-Listed, or T-Listed, Insurers will be required for bonds permitted by the BEAD program. Language for this requirement can be found [here](#).

45. During the BEAD application process, can NETs that span multiple counties (Counties A, B and C) be combined into a subproject?

Yes, they may be combined.

46. Can an ISP designate in the severability matrix that it will only serve NETs in Counties B and C if also awarded the NETs in County A?

Yes, ISPs should include any and all severability matrices.

47. Does a Tribal government planning to submit a BEAD application need a business license with the Oklahoma Secretary of State?

No, a business license is not required for a Tribal Government with the Oklahoma Secretary of State.

48. Must a Tribal government register as a vendor with the State of Oklahoma?

Vendor Registration with the State of Oklahoma has several functions, chief among them is that it is the method used to effect payment to subgrantees.

49. Would the Tribal government sign up as a supplier, bidder, or payee?

The registering entity should list themselves as a supplier.

50. If a Tribal Government and an LLC associated with a Tribal Government decide to apply together, which entity can be the lead applicant?

The entity with an active FCC Registration Number (FRN).

51. Will the process to apply to serve CAIs be a separate process than the process to apply for unserved and underserved locations? (If an ISP will be required to apply for each NET as a whole, will that ISP be required to apply for the unserved, underserved, and CAI locations within the NET, or only the unserved and underserved locations?)

No, the CAI locations are included in unserved and underserved locations within NETs.

52. Can an ISP propose to serve a NET using multiple technologies? (e.g. some locations served with HFC and some served with Fiber)

An applicant must submit an application indicating only one technology type. However, an applicant may submit an application for an alternative technology utilizing a new application in the correct candidate pool.

53. Will applicants that are tribal governments be required to submit a Letter of Credit or a bond to the OBO? Is there a tribal waiver option similar to other NTIA grants?

Please see the [link](#) to the NTIA guidance discussing the Letter of Credit waiver.

54. Can 3 ISPs (ISP A, ISP B, ISP C) form a consortium, put in an application for 3 NETs under the lead organization (ISP A) and upon getting the Grant each ISP builds one NET and provides service in that NET? (ISP A will submit the application and will be responsible for all reporting but each ISP will individually do their own build and provide services in their NET.)

Yes, this would be acceptable, as long as the lead applicant understands that they assume the responsibility of the award, regardless of partnerships.

55. Will you confirm what version of the BDC data you are using and if the number of available locations will be reduced before applications begin?

The National Broadband Map Broadband Availability data used is dated 05/28/2024. Once NTIA has approved the OBO's challenge data, an updated list will be posted to the website.

56. Which technology types will be allowed to apply for BEAD funding?

Please see page 24 of Oklahoma's approved BEAD Volume 2.

57. How will the 25% match requirement be calculated?

75% request + 25% match= Total Project Cost

58. Can you clarify what a Priority Broadband Project is? (Is it a project that meets the criteria of the first candidate pool?)

Yes, Candidate Pool 1 projects are considered priority broadband projects.

59. Can you clarify the timing of the candidate pools? Are the 4-week window and 5-week window for Candidate Pools 2 and 3, respectively, inclusive of the first 3-week window for Candidate Pool 1 and essentially allow an extra 1-2 weeks of preparation for submission? Or is it a new window after the initial 3-week window to revise projects from Candidate Pool 1?

Candidate pools will have some overlap. Exact dates are TBA.

60. In Volume II, the affordability section references both pricing commitments 10 years after project closeout and five years after project closeout. Can you clarify the length of time for the monthly price commitment?

When project closeout is complete, pricing commitments will end.

61. Does a project need to propose a monthly price under a certain dollar amount to be considered by the OBO, or will the monthly price impact scoring of the project alone?

The low-cost option requirement is \$60.

62. Does an applicant have to serve a CAI in their application that meets FCC-served criteria of 100/20 (based on the OBO's published CAI list) but not the 1 gig/1 gig threshold?

Per the NTIA requirements, the OBO is required to complete the following in the following order...

1. Serve all unserved locations
2. Serve all underserved locations
3. Serve all CAI's at 1gig/1gig

63. Can an ISP combine different technologies within a single NET, where the network includes CAIs already served by a reliable technology (such as HFC, which doesn't offer 1G symmetrical speeds), as well as BSLs where the ISP plans to offer 1G symmetrical speeds using fiber?

NETs are limited to a single technology per application. An entity may submit multiple applications each with a different technology type.

64. How is the cost per passing treated in BEAD compared to previous OBO grant programs?

Outlay per Location (cost per passing) is the largest scored section within the BEAD application. It was not a scored section in previous programs.

65. Does an ISP receive more points for a higher match?

ISPs will receive more points with a higher match as it relates to the outlay per location. Outlay per location is determined on an after-match basis. The lower the per location cost, the higher the score.

66. Are ISPs required to include CAIs in their bids?

If there is a CAI within a NET, the applicant is required to serve that location if awarded.

67. Can an ISP have access to the application before submitting the pre-qualification?

Applicants may not review the application prior to pre-qualification approval by the OBO.

68. How many unserved locations must an ISP serve within a NET to be eligible for Candidate Pool 1?

Candidate Pool 1 is for applicants serving 80% or more unserved locations within their proposed project.

69. The number of locations within the Post Challenge .csv files appear to be different than the number of locations within the final_ok_locations csv on the NET landing page. Can the OBO explain the discrepancy?

The final_ok_locations.csv and the final_ok_cais.csv have been updated with new fields. Please view the description on the [OBO BEAD webpage](#).

The final_ok_locations.csv may include some CAIs. A new column (is_cai) has been added to mark (TRUE) whether it is a CAI. Another column (is_underserved) has been added to distinguish between unserved and underserved locations.

70. Is there a limit of how many NETs an ISP can propose to serve in their application?

No, but the severability matrix will need to be filled out for each NET.

71. What is the formula to determine the percent of unserved?

The formula for identifying the percentage of unserved locations in a project application goes as follows: Percentage of Unserved Locations = count of unserved BSLs / (count of unserved BSLs + count of underserved BSLs + count of unserved CAIs**)

** Note: In this approved formula the count of unserved CAIs does not include CAIs that double as unserved or underserved BSL. If the corresponding BSL is served, then the CAI counts normally as a CAI. final_ok_cais is the correct reference list for the “unserved CAIs” count.

72. If a proposed FTTH project meets the >80% unserved location requirement and falls into candidate pool 1, are the subprojects that remain after deconfliction eligible for award in pool 1 regardless of their unserved percentage?

No, the remaining projects post deconfliction will be funneled into the correct candidate pool.

73. Is Minimum BEAD Outlay scored based on the step function (as outlined in the BEAD App Primer), or based on the output of the formula for a given outlay per passing? For example, is the score for an application for \$1500 BEAD Program Outlay per Passing = 55.25 or 58.5?

It is based on output of the formula. [The Primer](#) has been updated to reflect a range in scores associated with a range in Outlay per Location After Match.

74. The OBO's Volume II describes the Minimal BEAD Program Outlay being calculated with the number of unserved BSLs as the denominator, but the BEAD Application Primer uses total BSLs in a project. Which is correct?

The BEAD Application Primer does not calculate the true Minimal BEAD Program Outlay and merely demonstrates the idea of Candidate Pools. The Minimal BEAD Program Outlay is determined after factoring in the ISP match, which is not calculated in the example in the BEAD Application Primer.

75. **Regarding the Affordability of the ISP price for 1G service**, is the duration of the pricing commitment only through 6/30/28 or 5 years-post deployment? Whatever the post-deployment price commitment period, are Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases permitted?

The pricing commitment will be required for the period of performance and 5 years post deployment. This will vary based on project completion date.

76. **Regarding the Low-cost offer of 100/20 for \$60/mo**, is the duration of the pricing commitment only through 6/30/28 or 5 years-post deployment? Whatever the post-deployment price commitment period, are annual CPI increases permitted?

The pricing commitment will be required for the period of performance and 5 years post deployment. This will vary based on project completion date.

77. With some CAIs not having Fabric IDs, what is the best way to map the locations?

The final_ok_cais.csv has columns for Latitude and Longitude coordinates for the purpose of mapping the location.

78. Is the EHCPLT already incorporated into the OBO BEAD Portal? Is that what "high-cost locations" stand for?

No. The high-cost location count represents locations that are eligible for a match waiver. The EHCPLT will be determined by the OBO after applications have been received and will not be eligible for the match waiver but will determine what technology type will be utilized per location.

79. Can the OBO clarify if proposing service to a NET that contains a community anchor institution, that the proposal must be a fiber proposal?

The proposal must be able to meet speeds of no less than 1 Gigabit per second for downloads and 1 Gigabit per second for uploads with 95 percent of latency measurements during testing windows falling at or below 100 milliseconds round-trip time.

80. For question 91: *Does applicant have a Letter of a credit (LOC) from a Bank? (Yes or no)*. Can a provider also check this box if they have a performance bond?

Applicants may also include a performance bond as a method of meeting the LOC requirement.

81. How is Outlay per Location determined?

The OBO BEAD portal determines outlay per location to be: $(\text{total grant funds requested}) / (\text{count of unserved BSLs} + \text{count of underserved BSLs} + \text{count of unserved CAIs})$.

82. Q#48 of the application asks: "Middle-Class Affordability Plan: I acknowledge and certify that our entity will offer a middle-class affordability plan for relevant speed tier of service in the proposed project area (1 Gbps/1 Gbps for Priority Broadband Projects, 100 Mbps/20 Mbps for Non- Priority Broadband Projects) of service with a cost not in excess of \$120.00 per month."

Is it a requirement that this box be checked for an application to move forward? Is the duration 5 years from deployment? Is this subject to CPI increases?

This is a requirement and will be required for the required time as specified by NTIA.

83. If an ISP has a project that is in Candidate Pool 1, but some of the NETs end up being above the EHCPLT value that is selected, will they automatically qualify for selection in Candidate Pool 2?

Cost per location is determined off of the entire project, not individual NETs. If the cost per location for the entire project is over the EHCPLT then the project will drop from Candidate Pool 1 to Candidate Pool 2.

84. Do ISPs need to provide separate pro-formas, business plans, and other related documents for each individual subproject listed in the severability matrix?

Yes.

85. Is the Budget Schedule template linked in the application specifically for a fixed wireless or fiber provider?

No, the downloadable template is for any type of ISP. The cost details can be adjusted to fit the specific needs of each applicant.

86. How will the cost per passing be calculated with high-cost locations being given a waiver?

The portal calculates cost per location as: $(\text{total grant funds requested}) / (\text{count of unserved BSLs} + \text{count of underserved BSLs} + \text{count of unserved CAIs})$.

87. When entering the grant and matching costs for an individual NET, if a waiver of the matching is requested, should the matching amount prior to a waiver be added to the grant amount?

The portal will automatically adjust the match requirement down depending on the number of waiver eligible high-cost locations per NET.

88. Is an ISP required to propose to serve all eligible BSLs within a NET?

Yes, an awarded ISP must serve all eligible BSLs within its proposed project area (NETs).