Oklahoma BEAD Grant Program
Benefit of the Bargain

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 relied5 on for a complete assessment. The OBO encourages potential applicants to consult their legal counsel in finding answers to these questions.

Updated: 5:30 p.m., July 21, 2025

1. 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.

2. Why are some applications previously submitted not opening for review and editing?

   If an application was submitted in round 1, the same application will be available but will be identified as 'round 2.' Open the round 2 application to edit the original application.

3. We are interested in applying for multiple NETs as one singular entity. However, some NET's will be applied for using Fiber and others as Fixed wireless. Would we need to submit two applications, one for any NETs which will be deployed using Fiber and a second application for those using Fixed wireless? Also, should we want to split a NET into a certain percentage as being deployed by Fixed wireless and the remainder as Fiber?

   While applications are limited to one technology, applicants may submit multiple applications each with different types of technology. If locations will be severed for different technology utilization, please make note of this within the applications.

4. Is there an updated location map for unserved BSLs and CAIs for the BEAD Benefit of the Bargain round?

   An updated list of BSLs is posted at this link:
   https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/broadband/documents/grant-programs/bead/OK.Eligible.BSLs.7-14-25.csv

An updated list of Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) can be found here: https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/broadband/documents/grant-programs/bead/OK.Eligible.CAIs.7-14-25.csv

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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 affect payment to subgrantees.

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

The registering entity should list themselves as a supplier.

14. 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).

15. 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.

16. 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 a different technology utilizing a new application.

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. Will the OBO confirm what version of the BDC data it is using and if the number of available locations will be reduced before applications begin?

The list of the locations can be found here under Applicant Resources.

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

According to the June 6 Policy Notice, all technology types are allowed to apply for BEAD funding.

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

    75% request + 25% match= Total Project Cost

22. Can the OBO clarify what a Priority Broadband Project is?

    According to the June 6 Policy Notice, the term "Priority Broadband Project" means a project that provides broadband service at speeds of no less than 100 megabits per second for downloads and 20 megabits per second for uploads, has a latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds, and can easily scale speeds over time to meet the evolving connectivity needs of households and businesses and support the deployment of 5G, successor wireless technologies, and other advanced services.

23. 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.

24. 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?

    According to the June 6 Policy Notice, BEAD subgrantees must still comply with the statutory provision to offer at least one Low Cost Service Option (LCSO), but NTIA hereby prohibits Eligible Entities from explicitly or implicitly setting the LCSO rate a subgrantee must offer.

25. 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

26. 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.

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

Outlay per Location (cost per passing) is the **Primary Scoring Criteria** within the BEAD application.

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

    While the match is not a scored criterion, the lower the per location outlay is, the higher the score.

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

    The Policy Notice states that applicants can now drop broadband serviceable locations that they determine to be excessively high cost and would cause a project to become economically unviable. Applicants that wish to exclude a location from a NET must indicate their reasoning for removing that location. Eligible reasoning includes location(s) that are extremely high cost, and/or "No BEAD Code" 1, 2, 3, 5, and 7.

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

    Please view the Benefit of the Bargain Primer here.

31. 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.

32. 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.

33. 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 Benefit of the Bargain Primer reflects a range in scores associated with a range in Outlay per Location After Match.

34. **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.

35. **Regarding the Low-cost offer of 100/20**, 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.

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

The Final BEAD Eligible CAIs has columns for Latitude and Longitude coordinates for the purpose of mapping the location.

37. 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.

38. For question: *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.

39. How is Outlay per Location determined?

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

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

Yes.

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

    The downloadable template is for any type of ISP. The cost details can be adjusted to fit the specific needs of each applicant.

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

    The Policy Notice states that applicants can now drop broadband serviceable locations that they determine to be excessively high cost and would cause a project to become economically unviable. Applicants that wish to exclude a location from a NET must indicate their reasoning for removing that location. Eligible reasoning includes location(s) that are extremely high cost, and/or "No BEAD Code" 1, 2, 3, 5, and 7.

43. Please describe what actions will be taken if a provider is not able to serve all BSL's in a NET within its award.

    If an applicant applies for an entire NET and is awarded said NET, they will be required to serve all BSLs applied for. If the applicant drops locations due to high cost in the application, they will not be included in the award and therefore, will not be required to serve them.

44. Please describe the testing procedure you will use to determine if a NET is meeting the "served speed requirements".

    Please see the OBO Monitoring Plan for specific questions regarding testing which will be posted to the OBO website in the coming days.

45. Will the served speed testing procedure be conducted on an ongoing basis?

    Yes.

46. Please describe what actions will be taken against the provider that does not meet the "served speed requirements".

    This will be outlined in the Subrecipient Grant Agreement which will be posted to the OBO website in the coming days.

47. Please describe "However, all Priority Broadband Projects must adhere to speed and latency requirements, easily scale speeds over time to meet the evolving connectivity needs of households and businesses and support the deployment of 5G, successor wireless technologies, and other advanced services." And what actions will be taken against a provider that is not able to meet these requirements.

    This will be outlined in the Subrecipient Grant Agreement which will be posted to the OBO website in the coming days.

48. How will the cost of replacing or upgrading wireless equipment be accounted for, when the life expectancy of most wireless equipment is less than 10 years and the BEAD service requirement is a minimum of 10 years?

    This will need to be considered in the applicant's application and budget.

49. We want to submit applications for the same BSL's and NET's that we applied for in the first BEAD application process. Will we need to submit new applications with this information, or will we just re-submit the old applications in the portal somehow?

    You are welcome to submit a new application, edit the old application align with new guidance, or submit the old application as is.

50. Given the changes to the scoring criteria, can we now serve a NET(s) in a single application with a mixture of fiber and wireless?

    Applicants may submit multiple applications for the same NETs utilizing different technologies per application.

51. Regarding a fiber/wireless hybrid solution, what speeds are to be claimed? For instance, would a 90/10 fiber to wireless ratio be considered the same speed as a 50/50 ratio, because of the wireless limitation?

    The minimum BEAD performance and technical requirements must all be met on a per location basis.

52. In Round 2, would the portal automatically delete locations that are now ineligible from Round 1? At present we see all the locations that we initially applied for still selected in the portal in our Round 2 'In Progress' applications. Does this mean that no locations from our applications were deemed in-eligible in Round 2?

    If locations are no longer eligible for BEAD funding, they will be automatically removed from the application.

53. Is there a limit on the number or percentage of locations that can be removed from a NET application due to high cost?

    The number of locations that can be removed is not capped.

54. For applications marked as 'archived Round 1,' will they be submitted as-is, or will there be an opportunity for further updates? While reviewing the 'in progress Round 2' applications to address the updated questions, we noticed that the number of locations has changed for all of them. This would significantly impact other elements such as design, budget, and more. So, will the 'archived' applications be considered 'old applications' submitted without any changes? Could you please advise on how we should proceed?

Applications titled "Round 1" have been archived and may not be updated. Applications labeled "Round 2" are exact copies of Round 1 applications with the locations removed that are now considered served by the FFC Version 6 map and based on the updated CAI definition. Locations that were removed are no longer considered eligible for funding as determined by NTIA. Applicants have the opportunity to update budgets, designs, and other aspects of the application to align with the updated eligible location determinations.

55. Please outline the requirements and documentation necessary for an ISP to partner with a Tribal entity on an Oklahoma BEAD application where the ISP is the lead applicant? Specifically, we are seeking guidance on what information or agreements are required from the Tribal partner to ensure compliance with both the BEAD program and Tribal sovereignty considerations.

Applicants that are applying to serve Tribal areas must submit to the OBO an official Tribal Resolution of Consent.

56. Where can an ISP find the most up-to-date list of locations? What version of the Fabric was used by the OBO?

The list of BEAD eligible BSLs and CAIs can be found under "BEAD Applicant Resources" here. Version 4 of the Fabric was used by the OBO, however some locations were removed based on updates from Version 6.

57. How can an ISP receive feedback regarding the ULFW notice period?

An ISP can submit an Open Records Request after the OBO has its Final Proposal approved by NTIA.