



MONTANA BEAD MAIN ROUND OVERVIEW

May 02, 2024

INTRODUCTIONS

Rebecca Fairchild-Lewis – Manager – Summit

- Leading Today's Presentation
- rebecca.fairchild-lewis@summitllc.us

Aimee Meacham– Director of State Broadband Programs, CTC

- Leading Today's Presentation
- ameacham@ctcnet.us

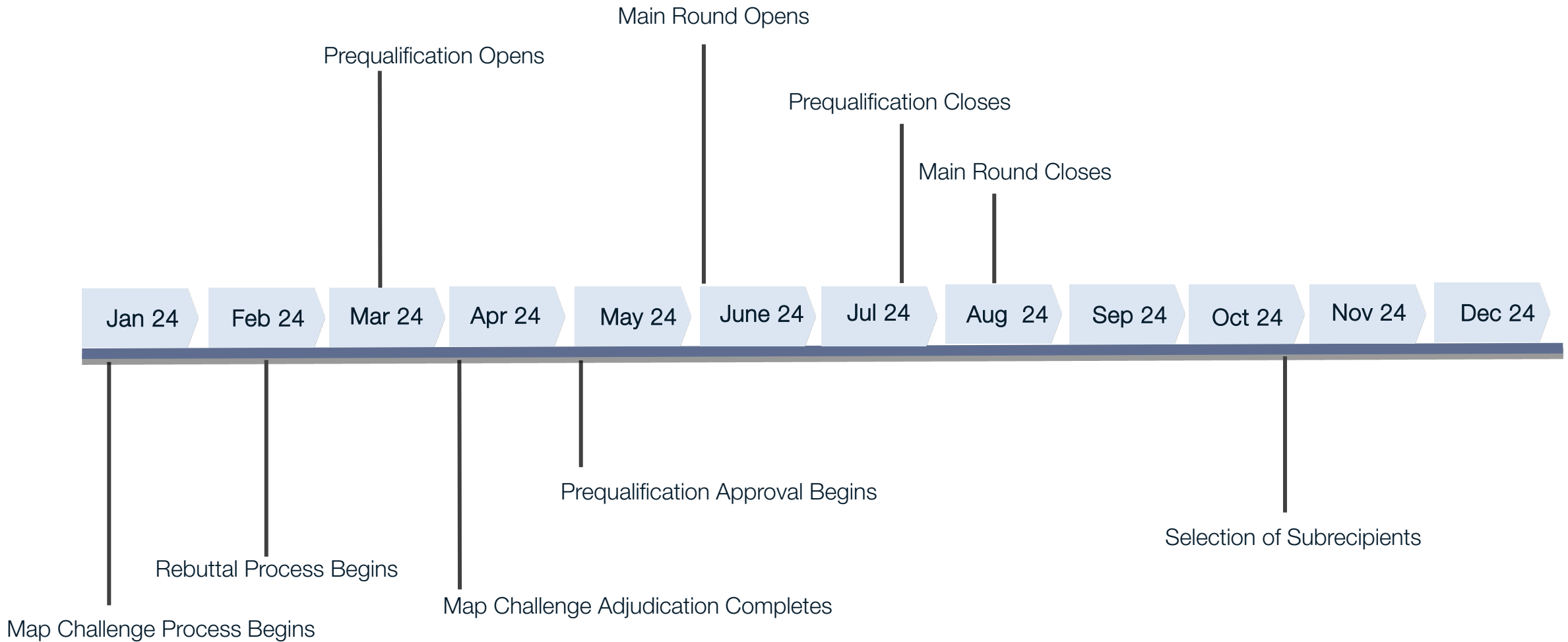


BEAD PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program is designed to expand high-speed internet access by funding planning, infrastructure deployment, and adoption programs across the country
- The State of Montana awarded \$628 million in BEAD funding to connect all unserved locations in the state with reliable and affordable broadband
- Montana Broadband Office (MBO) will execute the subgrantee selection process across three phases:
 - Map Challenge Process: Nonprofits, ISPs, and local governments can submit challenges to the broadband map.
 - Prequalification: Applicants will submit materials for prequalification to meet the BEAD minimum eligibility requirements
 - Main Round Application: Once prequalification is completed, applicants will be invited to submit proposals for projects as part of the main round



2024 PROGRAM TIMELINE



All dates are estimated and subject to change



MAIN ROUND OVERVIEW

Purpose

- The purpose of the Main Round Application is to allow prequalified applicants to submit detailed project proposals for consideration under the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD).

Subgrantee Eligibility Requirements

- To receive BEAD funding, subgrantees must:
 - Meet mandated financial requirements;
 - Demonstrated capability to provide broadband service in MT;
 - Propose a project that will provide 100/20 service to all locations within service area within timeline; and
 - Certify ability to comply with all requirements mandated by NTIA and the State of Montana.



UNDERSTANDING REQUIREMENTS

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants for a subgrantee from the BEAD program include cooperatives, nonprofit organizations, public-private partnerships, private companies, public or private utilities, public utility districts, or local governments. Please note that, to begin the Main Round application, users must first provide information in the Prequalification section of the application. You will have a chance to update this information if needed.

Eligible Program Areas

The Montana Broadband Office has opted to allow providers to define their desired project areas using existing Census Block Groups (CBGs). A list of the census block groups, associated Broadband Serviceable Locations, and benchmarking will be published before the main round application window opens.

Eligible Program Costs

The [BEAD NOFO](#) (Notice of Funding Opportunity) defines eligible uses of funding in connection with last-mile broadband deployment projects.



PRIORITY vs. NON-PRIORITY

Overview

To approach the process holistically, maximize competition, and give the State the most complete view of its service options, priority and non-priority bids will be accepted in tandem in the single main round.

Priority Application

- Project that will provision service via end-to-end fiber-optic facilities to each end-user premises.
- Priority bids will be evaluated first for every project area.

Non-Priority Application

- Any project that is not a priority project.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR UPDATES

Updates to the submitted Prequalification application

- There are two sections in the Main Round application that solely contain details from the Prequalification Round. Applicants will be provided the opportunity to update these sections if desired.
- Additional sections of the Main Round application allow applicants to update specific documents if need. This presentation will cover new questions.

Sections that include updates:

- Administrative
- Financial
- Organizational
- Ownership Information

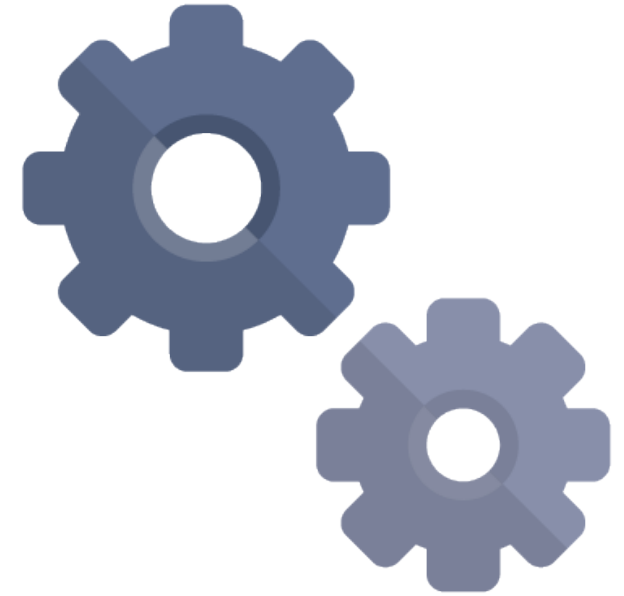


APPLICATION METRICS

▶ Summary:

This section asks for high level metrics associated with your application. This section is not scored.

- Funding request amounts:
 - Requested amount
 - Match amount
 - Total project cost
- Estimated route miles
- Project descriptions



SCORING CRITERIA

▶ Summary

Comprises of data to inform the scoring in alignment with the requirements in Initial Proposal Volume 2:

- BEAD Outlay
- Affordability
- Fair labor practices
- Speed to deployment
- Unserved areas
- Existing infrastructure
- High-cost areas
- Length of service
- Locations served

Templates

- Sample scoring worksheet
- Proposed CBGs in a csv file



FINANCIAL CAPABILITY

▶ Summary

Applicants will provide project specific financial information.

- Updates to financial documentation, including the audited and interim financial statements, and the Statement of Executive Authority
- Documentation from a third-party financial institution certifying access to funds
- Letter from a bank confirming commitment to issuing an irrevocable standby letter of credit or performance bond
- Business plans and related analyses supporting the long-term viability of the project
- Comprehensive pro forma detailing anticipated Capital Expenditures (CapEx), Operational Expenditures (OpEx), projected subscriber numbers, and service pricing, along with all assumptions



▶ Templates

- Pro forma
- Model letter of credit



ORGANIZATIONAL AND MANAGERIAL CAPACITY

▶ Summary

This section allows applicants to update and submit essential organizational documentation and certifications for their broadband project proposals as well as provide additional programmatic information.

- Legal opinion demonstrating capability to carry out funded activities competently and in compliance with applicable laws, including disclosure of any violations or pending court proceedings (in Word or PDF format)
- Organizational risk and readiness

▶ Templates

- Legal Opinion



PROJECT STAFFING AND LABOR REQUIREMENTS

Summary

Focuses on project staffing and subcontracting plans, ensuring workforce qualifications, and addressing tribal land considerations. Some sections offer updates from prequalification.

- Staffing approach
- Project-specific resumes
- Recruitment plans
- Workforce training and certifications
- Subcontracting plans
- Tribal consent

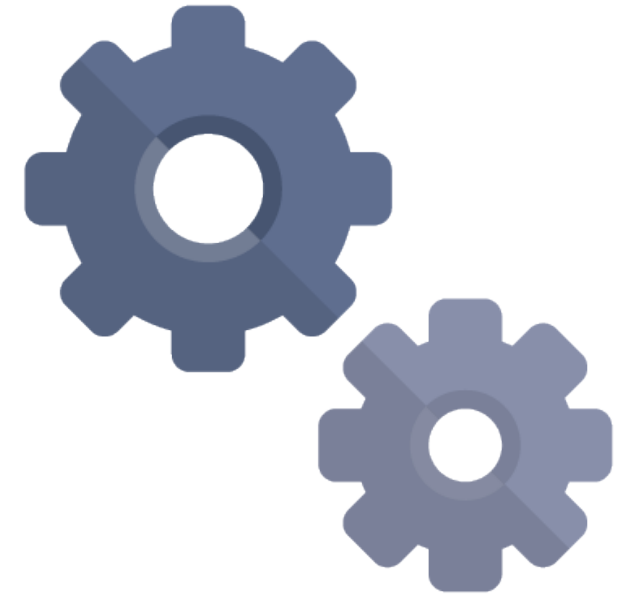


PROJECT PLAN

▶ Summary

Centers on the technical aspects and financial planning of the proposed broadband infrastructure project.

- Requires the submission of crucial documents and certifications, including:
 - Existing infrastructure relative to proposed network
 - Network design drawing
 - Project cost estimate
 - Project timeline
 - Certification of network capability
 - Technical and financial qualification certifications



▶ Templates

- Excel document detailing project costs, including itemized expenses
- Excel template outlining the project's planning and completion schedule



COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS

Summary

Ensures that applicants meet the legal requirements mandated by federal, state, and local regulations including.

- This section requires certification of compliance and documentation of any outstanding judgements or proceedings.



ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMPLIANCE

▶ Summary

Focuses on the environmental and historical preservation requirements of the project. Including questions relating to:

- Right of way
- Categorical exclusions



MAIN ROUND OVERVIEW Q&A

Q&A



PROGRAM CONTACTS

BEAD Program Information: <https://connectmt.mt.gov>

Initial Proposal Volumes 1 and 2: <https://connectmt.mt.gov/IIJA/Funding>

Frequently Asked Questions: <https://connectmt.mt.gov/IIJA/FAQ>

Technical Assistance Email: ConnectMTTechAssistance@mt.gov

Maria Jackson - Grants Contracts Coordinator

- Representing the State of Montana
- maria.jackson2@mt.gov
- 406.444.3393

Moriah Keller - Broadband Coordinator

- Representing the State of Montana
- moriah.keller@mt.gov
- 406-444-4099

