

Montana BEAD Program

Main Round Application Guide Addendum

Revised July 2025

Version History

Version	Date	Update
1.0	07/2025	Updates from New Policy Guidance



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INTRODUCTION

On June 6, 2025, NTIA released its BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice, which outlined additional guidance for the subgrantee selection process to reflect a technology-neutral approach. As a result, Eligible Entities are required to conduct an additional subgrantee selection round before final awards are made. This round is known as the “Benefit of the Bargain.”

To reduce time and administrative costs, existing applicants are not required to resubmit an entirely new application. Existing applicants have the option to modify their existing application to reflect updates in program requirements that will be rescored per the updated policy.

Please consult the Application Guide (which reflects Version 2.0 of the guide, published in September 2024) for guidance on issues other than the specific questions identified in this document. For sections of this guide that have been superseded by the Policy Notice, please disregard the original guidance and refer exclusively to the Policy Notice for accurate program requirements.

Applicants making substantial changes to project proposals (e.g., end-to-end fiber proposals to hybrid solutions) must submit a new application in the Benefit of the Bargain Round.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to provide applicants with clear and comprehensive guidance on the Montana BEAD Main Round application process and to assist users in understanding the necessary steps, requirements, and procedures involved in submitting their applications successfully. At the end of this document, you will find a Glossary of Terms with explanations of key terminology used.

APPLICATION UPDATE

The ConnectMT Broadband Office will still verify that the prospective subgrantee meets the following requirements prior to entering any subgrantee agreements:

- Is capable of carrying out activities funded by the subgrant in a competent manner in compliance with all applicable federal, Eligible Entity, and local laws;
- Has the financial and managerial capacity to meet the commitments of the subgrantee under the subgrant, the requirements of the program, and other requirements prescribed by the assistant secretary or the Eligible Entity; and
- Has the technical and operational capability to provide the services promised (at least 100/20 Mbps) in the subgrant in the manner contemplated by the subgrant award.

ELIGIBLE PROGRAM AREAS

During the initial rounds of the MT BEAD program, the ConnectMT Broadband Office opted to allow applicants to define their proposed broadband project areas, consisting of existing Census Block Groups (CBGs). For the Benefit of the Bargain Round, ConnectMT has streamlined the eligible CBGs into Project Areas. Applicants are able to apply for individual project areas. Please note, applicants are able to choose which eligible Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) they would like to serve in any given Project Area.

A list of the Project Areas, associated CBGs, and grant-eligible BSLs and community anchor institutions (CAIs) will be published before the Benefit of the Bargain Round application window opens.

BEAD ELIGIBLE LOCATIONS

The ConnectMT Broadband Office initially published the approved results of the Challenge Process, which included all eligible BSLs and CAIs. This list also includes the FCC location ID for all locations determined to be eligible for funding under the BEAD program.

The ConnectMT Broadband Office has updated the list in accordance with the June 6, 2025, [BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice](#). The ConnectMT Broadband Office provided unlicensed fixed wireless (ULFW) providers with the opportunity to indicate that BEAD-eligible locations are currently served by existing ULFW networks and meet the requirements outlined in Appendix A of the Policy Notice. In addition, the Policy Notice directed Eligible Entities to incorporate serviceability changes from defaults or changes in federal enforceable commitments. The Policy Notice also required Eligible Entities to ensure their list of CAIs conforms with the definition in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

The new list includes locations that have been removed from the latest version of the FCC Fabric, locations already served by an enforceable commitment, and locations already served by non-subsidized service.

BEAD ELIGIBILITY MAP

The ConnectMT Broadband Office has provided a BEAD Eligibility Map tool. The BEAD Eligibility Mapping tool categorizes BSLs and CAIs in the state as served, underserved, or unserved based on Montana's BEAD Challenge process. Users can explore eligible locations within Census Block Groups for planning purposes. Data is current as of July 2025 and reflects federal broadband investments. Users may also request access to download information from the map.

To request access, users must have an Okta account:

- Sign in to <https://login.mt.gov> using one of the following methods:
 - For first sign-on, sign in with your existing ePass Montana login email address; or
 - Create a new account through <https://login.mt.gov>.
- Visit <https://okta.mt.gov/Help> for additional assistance with Okta.

After creating an Okta account, potential applicants may request access to the Montana BEAD Eligibility Map by submitting the form found on the [ConnectMT website](#).

APPLICATION REVIEW PROCEDURES

Proposals for “Priority Broadband” projects will be prioritized.¹ Each application will be evaluated against the revised Priority Broadband definition² on a per-project basis. Provider capacity and scalability will be assessed, in addition to project area criteria such as location density. Applications will be scored according to the revised criteria in the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice and the scoring rubric approved by the Communications Advisory Committee on June 25, 2025.³ The ConnectMT Broadband Office will also conduct a holistic review of the applicant’s financial, managerial, technical, and operational capabilities per Montana’s Initial Proposal Volume II ([IPVII Section 2.4.11-17](#)).

¹ As outlined in the [NTIA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice](#), pgs. 11-12.

² [NTIA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice](#), pgs. 8-9.

³ [NTIA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice](#), pgs.12-13.

SUBMITTING AN UPDATED APPLICATION

If an applicant is opting to update their existing application(s), they should complete the following updates.

1. Review project areas and confirm serviced BSLs against updated location list.
2. Determine if the project is considered priority according to the new priority project definition.
 - 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 advance services.
3. Confirm the information provided in the following sections is still accurate and make changes in accordance with the instructions provided for each of the following sections and in accordance with any additional curing instructions provided by the ConnectMT Broadband Office.

PROJECT

Confirm the information provided in this section is still accurate.

SECTION 1: ADMINISTRATIVE

If an existing applicant would like to change their company details or contact information, please submit a new application with this section filled out.

If an existing applicant would like to change their Project Name, Amount being requested or Amount being contributed, please submit a new application with this section filled out.

SECTION 2: METRICS

If an existing applicant would like to change their ***project cost, amount requested for a grant, or the match amount***, please update this section in the application. Updated metrics are in alignment with the Restructuring BEAD Policy Notice.

Specifically, please ensure the **project description** includes number of serviceable locations, route miles (either buried or aerial) and jobs created.

SECTION 3: SCORING

Existing applications will be rescored in accordance with the updated Scoring Rubric approved by the Communications Advisory Committee on June 25, 2025.

In order to do this, existing applicants should submit the following information in the curing section (Section 10) of the application:

- Please indicate the maximum speed the proposed network will be capable of delivering to every proposed BSL (Select the lowest option that applies to all BSLs):
 - ≥ 2 Gbps download over ≥ 2 Gbps upload
 - ≥ 1 Gbps and < 2 Gbps download over ≥ 1 Gbps and < 2 Gbps upload
 - ≥ 500 Mbps and < 1 Gbps download over ≥ 500 Mbps and < 1 Gbps -
 - ≥ 100 Mbps and < 500 Mbps download over ≥ 100 Mbps and < 500 Mbps upload
 - ≥ 100 Mbps download over < 100 Mbps upload

Submit supporting evidence if not submitted as part of other responses as a question response in Section 10.

SECTION 4: FINANCIAL CAPABILITY

The requirements in the financial capability section of the application have remained the same. However, the applicant should review the policy notice to ensure materials are still aligned with program requirements. Specifically:

- The Irrevocable Standby Letter of Credit requirement should be understood to be updated in compliance with the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice issued by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) on June 6, 2025. For guidance that has been superseded by the Policy Notice, please disregard the original guidance and refer exclusively to the Policy Notice for accurate program requirements.
- Cost structures may exclude any eliminated regulatory burdens.
- Business plans may be updated if substantially impacted by policy notice.
- If an applicant is submitting multiple applications, they should use the same companywide pro forma for all applications. Applicants must ensure detailed assumptions for each project are included.

All existing applicants must review previously submitted documents for accuracy and address any curing requests. If updates are necessary, please submit this in section 10.

SECTION 5: ORGANIZATIONAL AND MANAGERIAL CAPACITY

Applicants should review previously provided information and provide any curing updates. Appendix F lists questions that are no longer relevant in this section. All updates should be noted in Section 10.

Existing applicants will need to provide certifications in alignment with the Restructuring BEAD Policy Notice. A template is provided (Appendix C) and should be uploaded in Section 10.

This includes certifications:

- To provide a Low-Cost Service Option;
- Comply with federal labor and employment laws;
- Provide regular access points if a project involves laying fiber optic cables or conduit underground or along a roadway;
- Utilize best practices for reliability and resiliency;
- Comply with Environmental and Historical Preservation requirements; and,
- That the proposed project will deliver at least 5 Mbps of capacity to each BSL.

SECTION 7: PROJECT PLAN

For the project plan section, existing applicants should review previously submitted materials to ensure they remain aligned with program requirements and any curing provided. All updates should be uploaded in section 10.

SECTION 8: ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORICAL COMPLIANCE

The Environmental Guidelines are to encourage applicants to focus on environmental and historical preservation of the project. These are not required by NTIA, but forthcoming information will be announced after the award. **No action necessary.**

SECTION 9: OWNERSHIP INFORMATION

If an existing applicant would like to change their ownership information regarding their company, please submit updates in section 10.

SECTION 10: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND CURING

As applicable, please submit any changes or updates to the following attachments of your original application in Section 10. This is also when any curing should be addressed.

NEW REQUIRED SUBMISSIONS FOR EXISTING APPLICATIONS

For applicants that wish to modify their existing application to participate in the Benefit of the Bargain Round, the following materials should be uploaded, as applicable, in Section 10, “Additional Information and Curing” of their selected Main Round application:

1. **Locations List Template** (Appendix A):
 - This template should include every BLS and CAI that the project intends to serve along with any identified ineligible or non-BLS locations. The file name should be Applicant Name - Primary County of Project – Location List.
 - If an applicant is aware of locations within their proposed project area that are not eligible for BEAD funding or are non-BLSs (haybales, outcrops, etc.) in addition to identifying such locations in the location list, please upload one zipped file containing evidence for each location the application has identified as ineligible for BEAD funding or as a non-BLS, using the templates as required (instructions and guidance in Appendix E).
 - If an applicant includes locations that are tagged as "NTIA Not Approved" please confirm that your application is still viable should those locations be removed and provide an amount your total grant request would be reduced. If none of these locations are included in your proposal, please submit \$0.
2. **Statement of Capacity and Evidence of Service Capacity:** If claiming points for secondary scoring please indicate the speed and upload associated evidence to support claim.
3. **Statement of Request to be Considered Priority Broadband:** Priority projects must employ technologies in the project proposal that meet the technical performance requirements in the NOFO, as redefined by NTIA’s BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice (June 6, 2025) and the statute. Depending on the priority type selection, applicants must provide evidence to validate the claim that the project considered priority broadband according to the definition outlined in the Restructuring BEAD Policy Notice.
 - **Evidence for Priority Project Designation** (Appendix D): Applicants must complete the appropriate evidence templates depending on the technology types included in their proposed projects.
4. **Updated Certifications Template** (Appendix C): In alignment with the updated policy notice, existing applicants must complete the Updated Certifications template.

5. **Updated Design Templates:** If not previously submitted applicants should assure that the relevant design templates are included as part of their applications (Appendix G: Fixed Wireless Design Submission Template or Appendix H: LEO Satellite Design Submission Template).

GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
AmpliFund	Application system where the Prequalification and Benefit of the Bargain Round applications are hosted. Applicants apply and submit all documents through this system.
Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR)	The person who is legally able to make financial decisions and sign contracts on the applicant's behalf.
Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD)	The BEAD Program is a federally funded initiative by the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). The program aims to expand high-speed internet access across the United States by providing financial support for planning, infrastructure deployment, and broadband adoption efforts. BEAD focuses on closing the digital divide by ensuring that unserved and underserved communities have access to reliable and affordable broadband services, thereby promoting digital equity and inclusion nationwide.
BEAD Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)	The NOFO outlines the criteria for awarding grants under the BEAD program. This program is authorized by 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.
BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice	Outlines additional guidance for the subgrantee selection process to reflect a technology neutral approach. The Policy Notice modifies and replaces certain requirements outlined in the BEAD NOFO.
Benefit of the Bargain Round	Additional subgrantee selection round outlined in the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice.
Broadband Availability Map	The Broadband Availability Map is the outcome of Montana's BEAD Challenge process, and it identifies which locations within Census Block Groups (CBGs) are eligible for funding under the BEAD program.
Broadband Serviceable Location	A valid address in the state of Montana representing either a household, business, or farm.
Broadband Serviceable Location (BSL) Fabric	The data set of all residential and business locations (or structures) in the United States where fixed broadband internet access service is or can be installed.
Build America Buy America (BABA)	Act that requires that all the iron, steel, manufactured products (including but not limited to fiber-optic communications facilities), and construction materials used in the project or other eligible activities are produced in the United States unless a waiver is granted.
Census Block Groups (CBGs)	A geographical unit used by the United States Census Bureau that is bounded on all sides by visible features (streets, roads, streams, railroad tracks), nonvisible boundaries (city, town, township, and county limits), and short line-of-sight extensions of streets and roads.
Challenge Process	The Montana BEAD Challenge Process was designed to provide stakeholders with an opportunity to participate in the process of

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	challenging the eligibility of locations for BEAD funding. Local governments, tribal governments, nonprofit organizations and broadband service providers were eligible to participate in the process. This process launched in January 2024.
Community Anchor Institution (CAI)	An entity such as a school, library, health clinic, health center, hospital or other medical provider, public safety entity, institution of higher education, public housing organization, or community support organization that facilitates greater use of broadband service by vulnerable populations, including low-income individuals, unemployed individuals, and aged individuals.
ConnectMT Broadband Office	Section of the Montana Department of Administration (DOA) responsible for overseeing and carrying out broadband development and implementation.
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)	U.S. agency that regulates interstate and international communications by radio, television, wire, satellite, and cable in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories.
Fixed Broadband	Any data transmission to a residence or business, i.e., a fixed location, using a variety of technologies such as cable, DSL, and fiber optics. It does not include cellular and satellite-based internet.
Fixed Wireless	A type of communications service that uses radio signals or other wireless links to transmit data between two fixed points. Under BEAD, fixed wireless may use licensed spectrum, unlicensed spectrum, or a hybrid of licensed and unlicensed spectrum.
Indefeasible Right-of-Use (IRU)	The exclusive, unrestricted, and indefeasible right to use one, a pair or more strands of a fiber cable for any legal purpose; with an IRU contractual arrangement the buyer of the IRU can unconditionally use the fiber of the IRU for long periods of time, approximately 25–30 years.
Initial Proposal Volume II (IPVII)	The main proposal submitted by the state of Montana to NTIA detailing the implementation of BEAD program within the state.
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)	Authorized \$1.2 trillion for transportation and infrastructure spending with \$550 billion of that figure going toward new investments and programs.
Interim Financial Statement	A financial report covering a shorter period (usually a quarter or half-year) that has not been externally audited, offering a snapshot of a company's finances during that time.
ISP	Internet Service Provider
Latency	Latency measures the time it takes for information to travel from one point on a network to another. The BEAD program defines a low latency network as having 95% of its service connections at or below 100 milliseconds of latency (roundtrip), with no individual measurements above 300 milliseconds.
National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)	U.S. federal government agency responsible for promoting innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards, and technology.
National Telecommunications	Federal government agency principally responsible for advising the administration on telecommunications and information policy issues,

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and Information Administration (NTIA)	including administering grant programs that further the deployment and use of broadband and other technologies in America; both NIST and NTIA are part of the U.S. Department of Commerce.
Personally Identifiable Information (PII)	Any information that can be used to identify an individual, such as their name, address, social security number, or other unique identifiers.
Prequalification Application	The first round of the BEAD application, which allows the ConnectMT Broadband Office to screen applications for eligibility. A prequalification application is required in order to be eligible to apply for the Benefit of the Bargain Round.
Priority Broadband Project	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.
Qualifying Broadband	For all locations except CAIs, this is Reliable Broadband Service with (i) a speed of not less than 100 Mbps for downloads; and (ii) a speed of not less than 20 Mbps for uploads; and (iii) latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds. For a CAI, it is Reliable Broadband Service with (i) a speed of not less than 1 Gbps for downloads and uploads alike and (ii) latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds.
Reliable Broadband Service (RBS)	Defined by the BEAD NOFO, Reliable Broadband Service is service that is accessible to a location via 1) fiber-optic technology, 2) Cable Modem/ Hybrid fiber-coaxial technology, 3) digital subscriber line technology (DSL), or 4) terrestrial fixed wireless technology utilizing entirely licensed spectrum or using a hybrid or licensed and unlicensed spectrum.
Subgrantee	An entity to which a subgrant is awarded and who is accountable to the grantee for use of funds provided.
Supply Chain Risk Management Plan (SCRM)	Document identifying and mitigating risks within a company's supply chain to ensure continuity and minimize disruptions.
Underserved location	BSLs that lack access to reliable broadband service with a speed of not less than 100 Mbps downstream and 20 Mbps upstream and latency less than or equal to 100 ms.
Unserved location	BSLs that lack access to reliable broadband service at speeds of at least 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream and latency levels less than or equal to 100 ms.
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Unserved location	BSLs that lack access to reliable broadband service at speeds of at least 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream and latency levels less than or equal to 100 ms.

APPENDIX A: LOCATIONS LIST TEMPLATE

The Location List provides applicants with instructions on how to list eligible BSL location IDs for each project area, the non-fundable or non-eligible locations, and evidence type (with applicable reason code. A separate tab is included for eligible CAIs. This list is prepopulated with all BEAD eligible locations and associated Project Areas, CBGs, and BEAD Status.

INSTRUCTIONS

Start with the full eligible BSL dataset provided by ConnectMT. Then identify the locations served by the application within the “Served by Application” column (Yes/No/Blank).

For the locations you proposed to serve (Yes), populate the remaining required attributes for all BSLs served by the project proposal:

- Technology Code
- Anticipated Upload Speed
- Anticipated Download Speed
- Low Latency

For locations that are non-BLS (No), populate the following attributes:

- NTIA Ineligible or non BSL Reason Code
- Non BSL code
- Location Type
- Evidence Type
- FCC Location Challenge ID

If serving CAIs, populate the same “Served by Application” (Yes/No/Blank) and all required columns:

- Anticipated Upload Speed
- Anticipated Download Speed
- Low Latency

6.1 Locations List Template		
Eligible BSLs Tab		
Column Name	Column Functionality	Column Instructions
Project Area ID	Prepopulated (Do not alter)	The Benefit of the Bargain Round project area that the BSL falls within. This data is provided allow Applicants to filter data by CBG. Applicants may not make any changes to this column.
CBG ID	Prepopulated (Do not alter)	The Census Block Group (CBG) that the BSL falls within. The CBG IDs are the same as the previous round of BEAD subgrantee selection. This data is provided allow Applicants to filter data by CBG. Applicants may not make any changes to this column.
BSL ID	Prepopulated (Do not alter)	All BSL location IDs in the BEAD fabric will be populated in this column. Applicants may not make any changes to this column.
BEAD Status	Prepopulated (Do not alter)	<p>The BEAD eligibility status of each BSL in the BEAD fabric. Applicants may not make any changes to this column.</p> <p>Eligible - Unserved: The BSL is eligible for BEAD and can be proposed by the Applicant to be served as part of their application with no additional constraints.</p> <p>Eligible - Underserved: The BSL is eligible for BEAD and can be proposed by the Applicant to be served as part of their application with no additional constraints.</p> <p>Indicated: The BSL has been reported as served in v6 of the BDC Map (NTIA Reason Code 5). Applicants may apply for these BSL in their application but will need to submit a FCC challenge for each BSL prior application submission. The NTIA may reject any of the applied for locations that are designated as indicated.</p> <p>Omitted: The BSL is not BEAD eligible due to either, an identified enforceable commitment (NTIA Reason Code 4), or the BSL was removed from the v6 of the BDC map fabric (NTIA Reason Code 6). Applicants may not apply for omitted BSL in their BEAD application.</p> <p>BEAD Eligible ULFW: The BSL is not BEAD eligible due a substantiated ULFW challenge. Applicants may not apply for omitted BSL in their BEAD application.</p> <p>Not on NTIA approved BEAD Fabric: The BSL is available on v6 of the BDC Map, however the NTIA has not currently approved MBO's request to include these location in its BEAD program. MBO is allowing Applicants to apply for these BSL as long the application is capable of descopeing these locations should NTIA reject these locations.</p>
Reason Code	Prepopulated (Do not alter)	For BSL that are either indicated or omitted this column identifies corresponding NTIA Reason Code
Explanation	Prepopulated (Do not alter)	For BSL that are omitted due to an enforceable commitment (NTIA Reason Code 4), this identifies the Program name of that commitment.
Served by Application	Populated by Applicant (Required)	<p>Select "YES" if the BSL will be served by this application with a speed of not less than 100 Mbps for downloads and 20 Mbps for uploads and latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds.</p> <p>Select "No - location is a non-BSL or ineligible" (if this reason is selected, complete the NTIA ineligible or non BSL reason code column and subsequent instructions)</p> <p>Otherwise leave blank</p>
Technology Code	Populated by Applicant (Required)	<p>Technology Code: Select the type of technology to be deployed to serve the location, using the FCC Broadband Data Collection technology codes in the drop-down list.</p> <p>If the applicant claims that the location is served by an enforceable commitment (NTIA Reason Code 4), or that they already serve the location (NTIA Reason Code 5) the technology type must be filled in this column.</p>
Anticipated Upload Speed	Populated by Applicant (Required)	Upload Speed Anticipated: Enter the planned maximum upload speed in Mbps.
Anticipated Download Speed	Populated by Applicant (Required)	Download Speed Anticipated: Enter the planned maximum download speed in Mbps.

Figure 1: Screenshot of the Locations List template.

APPENDIX B: SCORING RUBRIC

Primary Criteria	VALUE	NOTES		
BEAD Outlay	N/A	Average cost per BSL calculated on award request divided by number of proposed locations and considering overall cost to the program.		
Secondary Criteria: If multiple applications are within 15% of the lowest cost per location bid, the following score is calculated				
Speed of Network and Other Technical Capabilities	50	Download	Upload	Points
		≥ 2 Gbps	≥ 2 Gbps	50
		≥ 1 Gbps and < 2 Gbps	≥ 1 Gbps and < 2 Gbps	40
		≥ 500 Mbps and < 1 Gbps	≥ 500 Mbps and < 1 Gbps	30
		≥ 100 Mbps and < 500 Mbps	≥ 100 Mbps and < 500 Mbps	20
		≥ 100 Mbps	< 100 Mbps	10
Preliminary/Provisional Subgrantees	50	50 points for applicants who previously participated by submitting a Main Round application		

Figure 22: Screenshot of the Scoring Rubric overview.

APPENDIX C: UPDATED CERTIFICATIONS TEMPLATE

Applicant Certification	Initials
1. The applicant certifies that it commits to providing a low-cost service option (LCSO) that offers speeds of at least 100/20 Mbps and latency performance of no more than 100 milliseconds and that is available to any household seeking to subscribe to broadband internet access service that is eligible for the FCC's Lifeline Program. Applicants that already offer a low-cost plan that meets these service requirements may satisfy the LCSO requirement by proposing to offer their existing low-cost plan to eligible subscribers.	
2. The applicant certifies that it is in compliance with federal labor and employment laws.	
3. The applicant certifies that it will ensure there is sufficient excess conduit capacity for future needs such as adding subscribers, expanding the network, adding capacity and resiliency, adding business products, or leasing transport.	
4. The applicant certifies that it will incorporate best practices defined by NTIA for ensuring reliability and resilience of broadband infrastructure by establishing risk management plans that account for technology infrastructure reliability and resilience, including from natural disasters (e.g., wildfires, flooding, tornadoes, hurricanes, etc.), as applicable, as well as cybersecurity best practices.	
5. The applicant certifies that it will comply with applicable Environmental and Historical Preservation (EHP) requirements referenced in the BEAD NOFO, including but not limited to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq.) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. §§ 300101 et seq.).	
6. The applicant certifies that the proposed project will deliver at least 5 Mbps of capacity (or 2 TBs of usage per month) to each BSL in the project area where a subscriber requests and is provisioned service.	

SIGNATURE

I, the undersigned, am an officer, director, or equivalent, authorized to obligate my entity and enter into agreements for my organization. I understand that the above certifications and assurances, which I have initialed, do not guarantee funding. I further understand that a subaward agreement, which may contain terms and conditions, will be executed prior to project funds being awarded. I further understand that, if the information provided by my organization to MBO in the application is materially false or the application information

cannot be verified, no grant funds will be awarded under this program. Finally, to the best of my knowledge, the information in this application, including all certifications and assurances as well as information input into the portal and uploaded to the portal, is true and correct.

Name and Signature of Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR):

Applicant Name: _____

Contact Information: _____

Date: _____

APPENDIX D: EVIDENCE TEMPLATES

There are separate templates and instruction manuals for the five eligible technology types: Low-Earth orbit (LEO) satellite, Unlicensed fixed wireless (ULFW), Licensed fixed wireless (LFW), Hybrid fiber-coaxial (HFC), and Fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) provided on the ConnectMT website. Please upload descriptions of the proposed project's technical specifications and design using the excel template for the applicable technology type.

For FTTP and HFC, fill out all five tabs:

- Logical network diagram – Image of a logical diagram showing backhaul between the Internet and central office
- Access layer – Describe the access layer FTTP technology, OLT configuration and proposed PON that will be used
- Headend & internet backbone connectivity – Describe the capacity of all links between the OLTs and Internet
- Reliability & quality of service – Ensure that service provided will be reliable
- Performance calculations – Provide calculations demonstrating that network can provide to each location

For LEO, fill out all six tabs:

- Logical network diagram
- Access layer
- Customer Premises Equipment
- Gateway Infrastructure and Satellite Uplinks
- Reliability and Quality of Service
- Performance Calculations

For ULFW and LFW, fill out seven tabs according to the instructions on the first tab:

- Instructions
- Logical network diagram
- Network assumptions
- Tower sites
- Sectors
- BSLs
- Uplink MCS Table
- Downlink MCS Table

APPENDIX E: INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING NO BEAD LOCATIONS

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING NO BEAD LOCATION EVIDENCE

If applicants chose to indicate BSLs in the Locations List Template to be ineligible for BEAD funding or to be a non-BSL, following the process below.

REASON CODE 1

If you indicated in the Locations List Template submitted to question 61.A that you identified locations that are ineligible for BEAD funding due to NTIA reason code 1, “location should not have broadband service,” please provide evidence supporting your claim following the process below.

MBO’s preferred evidence type for reason code 1 is an FCC Location Challenge ID. If you have not already done so, submit an FCC Location Challenge for each location following the process on [the FCC's website](#). Download the FCC Location Challenge ID Template from the portal. List all resulting FCC Location Challenge IDs in the FCC Location Challenge ID Template and upload.

Alternatively, you may submit an attestation from a unit of government or private property owner for each location, in compliance with the following requirements:

- *Attestation by a Unit of Local or Tribal Government:* An attestation by a unit of local or Tribal government, agency of the federal government, or other government entity owning the location must be dated and retained as a PDF file. Attestations for locations on Tribal Lands must be made by a representative of the Tribal government. The signatory must be identified by title as a representative of the unit of local or Tribal government or federal government agency. The signature may be either digital or scanned. If a single attestation applies to multiple locations, the attestation should list all Location IDs.
- *Attestation by Private Property Owner:* An attestation by a private property owner should be retained as a PDF file. It should contain a date and a digital or scanned signature. If a single attestation applies to multiple locations, it should list all street addresses or Location IDs. Upload all attestations as one PDF file.

If necessary, you may provide FCC Location Challenge IDs for some locations and attestations for others.

REASON CODE 2

If you indicated in the Locations List Template submitted that you identified locations that are ineligible for BEAD funding due to NTIA reason code 2, “location does not need mass-market broadband service,” please provide evidence supporting your claim following the process below.

MBO’s preferred evidence type for reason code 2 is an FCC Location Challenge ID. If you have not already done so, submit an FCC Location Challenge for each location following the process on [the FCC's website](#). Download the FCC Location Challenge ID Template from the portal. List all resulting FCC Location Challenge IDs in the FCC Location Challenge ID Template and upload.

Alternatively, you may submit an attestation from a unit of government or private property owner for each location, in compliance with the following requirements:

- *Attestation by a Unit of Local or Tribal Government:* An attestation by a unit of local or Tribal government, agency of the federal government, or other government entity owning the location must be dated and retained as a PDF file. Attestations for locations on Tribal Lands must be made by a representative of the Tribal government. The signatory must be identified by title as a representative of the unit of local or Tribal government or federal government agency. The signature may be either digital or scanned. If a single attestation applies to multiple locations, the attestation should list all Location IDs.
- *Attestation by Private Property Owner:* An attestation by a private property owner should be retained as a PDF file. It should contain a date and a digital or scanned signature. If a single attestation applies to multiple locations, it should list all street addresses or Location IDs. Upload all attestations as one PDF file.

If necessary, you may provide FCC Location Challenge IDs for some locations and attestations for others.

REASON CODE 4

If you indicated in the Locations List Template that you identified locations that are ineligible for BEAD funding due to NTIA reason code 4, “location is already served by an

enforceable commitment,” please provide evidence supporting your claim following the process below.

Provide a copy of the enforceable commitment in PDF format. Evidence must demonstrate that all location IDs are already served, or are expected to be served, with qualifying broadband. Upload documentation of all enforceable commitments as one PDF file.

REASON CODE 5

If you indicated in the Locations List Template submitted that you identified locations that are ineligible for BEAD funding due to NTIA reason code 5, “location is already served by nonsubsidized service (privately funded network),” please provide evidence supporting your claim following the process below.

This option is only for locations with qualifying broadband service in the current National Broadband Map. Evidence must unequivocally demonstrate that the location is already served with qualifying broadband (i.e., the location is currently connected or can be connected within 10 business days of a request with a standard installation fee).

You may provide a subscription record for each location ID. Evidence of subscription must be provided as a PDF file and must contain a date. Any personally identifiable information must be redacted. The evidence of subscription must indicate the service address, service provider, technology type, and speed tier. Individual PDF files must be named using the following format, replacing only “locationID” with the proper information: locationID_5_ineligible.pdf. All PDF files must be zipped as one file and uploaded.

Alternatively, you may provide a network diagram (including all locations) that shows adequate interconnection points and capacity to serve those locations. The network diagram must be clearly labeled and include a key for components. The network diagram must be accompanied by an attestation from an officer of the company on company letterhead, using the Network Diagram Officer Attestation Template found in the application portal, certifying the accuracy of the network diagram and that your organization will not accept BEAD funding to serve the location(s). All network diagram shapefiles or KMZs and the officer attestation PDF must be zipped as one file and uploaded.

APPENDIX F: QUESTIONS FROM THE APPLICATION THAT ARE NO LONGER RELEVANT

In compliance with NTIA's BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice, the following questions are no longer applicable.

SECTION 2: METRICS

Question 2.5

SECTION 3: SCORING CRITERIA

Questions:

3.1	3.4	3.8A
3.1A	3.4A	3.9
3.2	3.4B	3.9A
3.2A	3.5	3.10
3.2B	3.6	
3.3	3.8	

SECTION 4: FINANCIAL CAPABILITY

Question 4.8

SECTION 5: ORGANIZATIONAL AND MANAGERIAL CAPACITY

Questions:

5.1A	5.4A	5.7A
5.2	5.5	5.9A
5.2A	5.5A	5.10
5.3	5.6	5.19
5.3A	5.6A	5.23AA
5.4	5.7	

SECTION 6: PROJECT STAFFING AND LABOR REQUIREMENTS

Questions:

6.1	6.5	6.6B
6.2	6.5A	6.7
6.3	6.6	6.8
6.4	6.6A	

SECTION 7: PROJECT PLAN

Questions 7.7A and 7.8

SECTION 8: ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORICAL COMPLIANCE

Question 8.0

APPENDIX G: FIXED WIRELESS DESIGN SUBMISSION TEMPLATE

FIXED WIRELESS DESIGN SUBMISSION TEMPLATE INSTRUCTIONS

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
MONTANA BEAD PROGRAM: MAIN ROUND



To allow the MBO to assess your proposed Fixed Wireless Designs in a consistent and concise manner, they must be submitted via this standard program template. Below you will find instructions to properly complete this form. The **Each** tab must be completed by the Applicant. For fields with **Light Blue** headers, a string value must be entered. For fields with **Dark Blue** headers a single numeric value must be entered.

Tab Name	Tab Instructions
Tower Sites	Each site in the network must be designated by an individual row in the table. The site name which is specifically a unique name for a given site, its location described by latitude and longitude in decimal coordinates projected to NAD83 datum. The information should also include the address. The structure type is a description of the tower being such as monopole or guyed tower. The backhaul type parameter should be described as the technology and medium used such as fiber, wireless, coax, etc. The capacity of the backhaul is described in Megabits Per Second (Mbps).
Sectors	Each sector in the network must be designated by an individual row in the table. The sector id must be a unique name for a given sector. That sector must belong to a parent site in the previous sheet. The transmit antenna parameters are described in decibels referenced to a milliwatt (dBmW). Antenna gain is reference to an isotropic antenna. The operating band is the name describing the frequency band in use such as CBRS, BRS/EBS, etc. The bandwidth is the total bandwidth in use at the given sector antenna. The duplexing is described as either Time Division Duplexing (TDD) or Frequency Division Duplexing (FDD).
BLS Locations	Each BSL in the network must be designated by an individual row in the table. The location name, which is specifically a unique name for a given site, its location described by latitude and longitude in decimal coordinates projected to NAD83 datum. Also, the location, either indoor or outdoor, of the CPE should be provided. The information should also include the address. That BSL must belong to a parent sector ("Serving Sector ID") in the previous sheet (typically the strongest sector). The CPE antenna parameters are described in decibels referenced to a milliwatt (dBmW). Antenna gain is reference to an isotropic antenna. The signal intensity is typically known as the received power or reference symbol received power and shall be calculated based upon RF predictions and referenced to dBmW. Signal quality can be referenced as Signal to Noise and Interference Ratio (SINR), Reference Symbol Received Quality (RSRQ), etc. The Maximum Downlink and Uplink throughputs shall be reference to maximum throughput the given BSL can receive given the signal quality and signal intensity calculated. A lookup table is typically provided by the manufacturer. <u>Do not provide provisioned throughput.</u>
Uplink and Downlink MCS tables	Uplink and Downlink MCS Tables are typically provided by the manufacturer. They relate throughput to signal quality and intensity. Each modulation type is provided as an individual row in the sheet.
Network Assumptions	Network assumptions are details of typical global parameters used in the network design as should be specified.

Figure 3: Screenshot of Fixed Wireless Design Submission Template Instructions.



TOWER SITES										DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION MONTANA BEAD PROGRAM: MAIN ROUND		
Site Name	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation (feet)	Address Line1	Address Line2	Address Line3	Backhaul Type	Backhaul Capacity (Mbps)	Structure type	Call Signs for FCC licenses required	Existing or New Tower	

Figure 4: Screenshot of Fixed Wireless Tower Sites tab.

SECTORS										
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION MONTANA BEAD PROGRAM: MAIN ROUND										
Sector ID (to match ID in the Tower Site Tab)	Name Of Parent Site (the site name as referenced in the Tower Site Tab)	Transmit Antenna Gain (dBi)	Transmit Antenna Height (feet)	Antenna down tilt (electrical or mechanical in degrees)	Transmit Antenna Pattern (Please provide pattern file)	Transmit Max Transmitter Power Per Channel (dBmW)	Total Transmit Transmission Line Loss (dB)	ERP (effective isotropic radiated power) (dBm)	Operating frequency bands	Duplexing Scheme TDD (Time Division Duplex) and/or FDD (Frequency Division Duplex)

Figure 5: Screenshot of Fixed Wireless Sectors tab.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

FIXED WIRELESS DESIGN - NETWORK ASSUMPTIONS		DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION MONTANA BEAD PROGRAM - MAIN ROUND	
Maximum Downlink user throughput (Mbps)			
Maximum Uplink user throughput (Mbps)			
Maximum latency of the network (milliseconds)			
Average Outage time per user (Seconds)			
Network availability/per month (%)			
Take Rate for the network design. (%)			
Oversubscription rate			
For TDD channels: DL to UL channel ratio.			
Number of transmit and receive antenna ports for each antenna used.			
Maximum number of MIMO layers supported.			
Beamforming mechanism/technique and expected capacity gains used to improve throughput and capacity.			
Carrier aggregation techniques to improve throughput and capacity.			
Description of Element Management System (EMS)			
Description of security to prevent authorized devices and users from having access to the network.			
Description of user prioritization.			
Description of system redundancy			
Statement guaranteeing that the network is constructed according to industry standards.			

APPENDIX H: LEO SATELLITE DESIGN SUBMISSION TEMPLATE

Reminder: This section should only be filled out by Applicants submitting projects using LEO satellite service. The Applicant must complete this section for each satellite project it is submitting.

Section E1: Network Performance Requirements

E1.1 Applicant certifies it will meet the network performance requirements set forth by WBO in the table below:

Network Performance Criterion	Requirement
Minimum speed available to subscriber	100/20 Mbps
Latency	≤ 100 ms
Average outage time per subscriber	Less than 48 hours over any 365-day period
Network availability	99.5% of the time over a one-month period
Other criteria	No data caps or usage-based throttling
Area Take Rate at Minimum Design Performance	40%

☐ Applicant certifies it will meet the network performance requirements set forth by WBO.

If the applicant can check the box to certify, proceed to question E2. If unable to certify, proceed to question E1.1a.

If the Applicant's network will not meet the performance requirements set forth in Table 1, please indicate the proposed network's performance capabilities.

E1.1a Indicate the minimum speed (download/upload) available to each proposed location.

A response to this question is required from Applicants that answered "No" to E1.1. Use the textbox to provide the information.

Insert response here.

E1.1b Indicate the maximum latency for each proposed location.

A response to this question is required from Applicants that answered "No" to E1.1. Use the textbox to provide the information.

Insert response here.

E1.1c Provide the average outage time per subscriber (hours) over any given 365-day period. Include any assumptions about obstructions.

A response to this question is required from Applicants that answered "No" to E1.1. Use the textbox to provide the information.

Insert response here.

E1.1d Provide the network availability (percent) of the proposed service over a one-month period.

A response to this question is required from Applicants that answered "No" to E1.1. Use the textbox to provide the information.

Insert response here.

E1.1e Indicate if the service will include any data caps or usage-based throttling.

A response to this question is required from Applicants that answered “No” to E1.1. Answer “Yes” or “No” using the checkboxes.

☐Yes ☐No

E1.1f Provide the assumed take rate within a project area for the network to achieve minimum design performance.

A response to this question is required from Applicants that answered “No” to E1.1. Use the textbox to provide the information.

Insert response here.

Section E2: Customer Premises Equipment

Respond to the requirements below and, where applicable, confirm that the proposed solution complies and explain how.

E2.1 Describe the proposed CPE configuration(s).

- Describe the antenna, the indoor equipment, and the connection between them.
- Provide specifications for wind loading, temperature, ice and moisture.
- Describe typical home router features available in the CPE such as supported 802.11 bands, Wi-Fi security, number of ethernet ports, supported 802.3 network types, maximum number of clients supported, number of SSIDs, MAC address filtering, security, Network Address Translation (NAT), VPN client support, bandwidth management, availability of static IP address, and event logging.
- Describe RF link reporting provided to the customer such as satellites serving the CPE, signal intensity/quality, information about obstructions and uptime, and RF frequency bands in use by CPE. How can these diagnostics be accessed by the customer?
- Can the customer obtain a static IP?
- Describe any location-based services provided by the network.

A response to this question is required from all Applicants.

Insert response here.

Section E3: Provisioning, Installation and Operations

E3.1 Detail the provisioning and installation processes. Describe how the proposed solution handles the following:

- **safe and stable physical installation of the antenna and any other necessary equipment,**
- **connecting the antenna to an indoor router and other steps in premises installation, and**
- **activating service to the customer**

A response to this question is required from all Applicants. Upload the requested documentation to the portal.

Insert response here.

E3.2 Describe your proposed average and maximum time to install—the time from receiving a customer installation request to completing installation.

A response to this question is required from all Applicants. Use the textbox to provide the information.

Insert response here.

E3.3 Describe the conditions, if any, in which the proposed solution may be unable to provide internet service of the proposed performance level to an eligible location. Discuss if there is any possibility of capacity limitations that may limit new installations.

A response to this question is required from all Applicants. Use the textbox to provide the information.

Insert response here.

E3.4 Describe the impact to performance and reliability of the antenna having a partial view of the sky due to building and foliage obstructions. Does having a partial view of the sky limit the performance or availability, and if so, to what degree? What options are available to address limitations caused by obstructions?

A response to this question is required from all Applicants. Use the textbox to provide the information.

Insert response here.

E3.5 Describe how you propose to provide customer service. Describe how you propose to repair or replace customer premises equipment, including equipment installed on rooftops.

A response to this question is required from all Applicants. Use the textbox to provide the information.

Insert response here.