

Montana BEAD Program

Benefit of the Bargain Guide

July 2025

Version History

Version	Date	Update
1.0	07/2025	Initial draft created.
2.0	7/15/2025	Updated the Benefit of the Bargain application link
3.0	7/22/2025	Revised guidance on Questions 6.2D, 6.2E and 6.9 response uploads.



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INTRODUCTION

The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD) is designed to expand high-speed internet access by funding planning, infrastructure deployment, and broadband adoption programs across the country. BEAD is administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). The state of Montana (MT) was allocated close to \$629 million in BEAD funding to connect all unserved and underserved locations in the state with reliable and affordable broadband.

The ConnectMT Broadband Office's vision is to close the digital divide in support of Montana's economic, workforce, health, and educational goals by ensuring reliable, affordable internet access for everyone in the state.

The BEAD program directs Eligible Entities (in this case, the state of Montana) to create and implement an open, fair, and competitive subgrantee selection process. Working in partnership with the state, subgrantees will be responsible for completing eligible activities that promote the goals and objectives of the BEAD program.

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

All new entry applicants are required to submit a Benefit of the Bargain Round application. Existing applicants can revise their current application or submit a new application.

The purpose of this document is to provide applicants with clear and comprehensive guidance on the Montana BEAD Benefit of the Bargain 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.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Prior to entering into any subgrantee agreements, the ConnectMT Broadband Office will verify that the prospective subgrantee:

- 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 APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants for a BEAD subgrant 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 Benefit of the Bargain Round application, users must first provide information in the Prequalification application. Applicants will have a chance to update this information if needed.

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 CAls 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 CAls 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](#).

GRANT-ELIGIBLE SUBGRANTEE COSTS

Table 1 lays out eligible and ineligible program costs according to and in conjunction with Montana State policy.

Table 1: Eligible and ineligible program costs

Eligible	Ineligible
Construction, improvement, and/or acquisition of facilities and telecommunications equipment required to	Any costs incurred prior to issuance of NTIA's NOFO

Eligible	Ineligible
provide qualifying broadband service, including infrastructure for backhaul, middle- and last-mile networks, and multi-tenant buildings. Existing inventory may be used for an approved project but will be subject to review and approval by MBO. Awardees must submit sufficient documentation to justify costs.	
Long-term leases (for terms greater than one year) of facilities required to provide qualifying broadband service, including indefeasible right-of-use (IRU) agreements. IRU costs will be limited to the upfront cost for the IRU and three years of the annual maintenance costs.	Profit, fee, or other incremental charge above actual cost incurred by a subgrantee
Deployment of internet and Wi-Fi infrastructure within an eligible multifamily residential building	Telecommunication equipment from foreign companies as specified under the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019
Engineering design, permitting, and work related to environmental, historical, and cultural reviews	<i>Interim or bridge financing costs</i>
Personnel costs, including salaries and fringe benefits for staff (<i>note exceptions per MT DOA's Pre-Award Policy Memo</i>) and consultants, providing services directly connected with the execution and deployment of the BEAD subgrant	Any activities supporting or opposing collective bargaining.
Network software upgrades, including, but not limited to, cybersecurity solutions	Personal expenses of employees, executives, board members, and contractors, and family members thereof, or any other individuals affiliated with the Subgrantee, including but not limited to personal expenses for housing, such as rent or mortgages, vehicles for personal use and personal travel, including transportation, lodging, and meals
Training for cybersecurity professionals who will be working on BEAD-funded networks	Gifts to employees; housing allowances or other forms of mortgage or rent assistance for employees except that a reasonable amount of assistance shall be allowed for work-related temporary or seasonal lodging; cafeterias and dining facilities; food and beverage except that a

Eligible	Ineligible
	reasonable amount shall be allowed for work-related travel; entertainment
<i>Reasonable pre-award costs incurred before the period of performance</i>	Expenses associated with: tangible property not logically related or necessary to the broadband infrastructure project or authorized non-deployment use; corporate aircraft, watercraft, and other motor vehicles designed for off-road use except insofar as necessary or reasonable to access portions of the project area not readily accessible by motor vehicles travelling on roads; tangible property used for entertainment purposes; consumer electronics used for personal use; kitchen appliances except as part of work-related temporary or seasonal lodging assistance; artwork and other objects which possess aesthetic value
<i>Legal and Administrative Services (including legal and appraisal services)</i>	Political contributions; charitable donations; scholarships; membership fees and dues in clubs and organizations; sponsorships or conferences not logically related or necessary for the intended use of the subgrant; nonproduct-related corporate image advertising
<i>Easements and land purchases (may be subject to an appraisal and reimbursement limited to an appraised value)</i>	Penalties or fines for statutory or regulatory violations; penalties or fees for any late payments on debt, loans, or other payments

*Italicized items are ones not specified directly in the BEAD NOFO

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

APPLICATION TIMING

The Benefit of the Bargain Round Application for the BEAD program will open July 7, 2025. Dependent on NTIA's approval of the Initial Proposal Correction Letter submitted by the ConnectMT Broadband Office, the Benefit of the Bargain round will remain open until July 25, 2025.

APPLICATION PORTAL

To access the Benefit of the Bargain Round application portal in AmpliFund, Montana's grants management site, users must first provide information in the Prequalification phase. More information about the Prequalification process and application is available on the [ConnectMT website](#).

NAVIGATING THE APPLICATION PORTAL

Users can access their existing Prequalification application at this [link](#) and the upcoming Benefit of the Bargain Round application at this [link](#).

ASSIGNING USERS

If necessary, Administrators can add or remove users from their account. As a reminder, there are two user roles:

- An **Administrator** can initiate, modify, and submit an application. A user with an Administrator role must be the [Authorized Organizational Representative \(AOR\)](#)—the person who is legally able to make financial decisions, sign contracts on the applicant's behalf, and submit your application.
- An **Editor** can modify an application or collaborate but cannot submit. An Editor can be any user who is authorized to edit your application.

HOW TO START AN APPLICATION

Applications may be started from previously saved opportunities or may be started directly from the opportunity link after registering.

1. Use the opportunity link from the funder: the opportunity details page, click Apply.



Figure 1: Image of the header of the Opportunity Details page.

--OR--

1. Open the Applicant Portal.
2. Click the AmpliFund logo in the top-left corner of any page.



Figure 2: Screenshot of AmpliFund logo.

3. Select Applications.

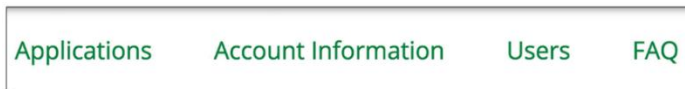


Figure 3: Screenshot of the banner found at the top of the Applicant Portal.

4. Click an opportunity name.
5. Click Apply.



Figure 4: Image of the header of the Opportunity Details page.

Generally, functionality at the bottom of each section will include the option to:

- **Save.** Save progress and remain on the current page.
- **Mark as Complete.** Indicate the form has been completed.
- **Save & Continue.** Save progress on the page and move on to the next section or form.



Figure 5: Buttons on the bottom of each section of the application.

Each section of the application has a separate form. Forms do not need to be completed in order, but each form must be marked as Complete prior to submission.

The Navigation toolbar at the top center of the application window provides quick overview of progress and easy access to all sections of the application. Once a section of the application is marked as Complete (at the bottom of each application section), a checkmark will appear on the section header.

Once all sections have been completed and the checkmark displays in the navigation timeline (Figure 1), a user with the Administrator role can click the Submit button. Once Submitted, applications cannot be modified.

NOTE: You must mark each section Complete to submit your application.

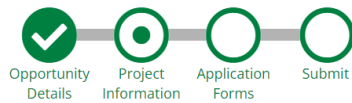


Figure 6 6: Application navigation timeline.

HOW TO VIEW THE APPLICATIONS LIST

Saved and submitted applications can be viewed on the Applications list:

1. Click the AmpliFund or Montana logo in the top-left corner of any page.



Figure 7: AmpliFund logo (button) and Montana logo (button)

2. Click Applications to view a list of active applications.



Figure 8: Banner at the top of the Applicant Portal.

HOW TO DELETE AN APPLICATION

Once deleted, applications will no longer be accessible.

Prerequisite: Must be an Administrator, and the application cannot already have been submitted.

1. Click the AmpliFund logo in the top-left corner of any page.



Figure 9: AmpliFund logo (button)

2. Click Applications.

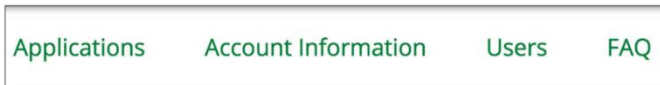


Figure 10: Banner at the top of the Applicant Portal.

AMPLIFUND SUPPORT SITE

If you are having technical difficulties with the AmpliFund system, please use the AmpliFund support site to resolve any issues. If you have questions about application content or requirements, please email ConnectMT Broadband Office BEAD Technical Assistance at connectmttechassistance@mt.gov.

- **Submit a support ticket:** support@amplifund.zendesk.com
- **Visit the support portal:** <https://amplifund.zendesk.com>
- **Supported browsers:** Google Chrome (current supported releases), Mozilla Firefox (current supported releases), Microsoft Edge (current supported releases), Microsoft IE 11 +, and Apple Safari 10+

APPLICATION RESOURCES

The ConnectMT Broadband Office will post this application guide, templates, updated FAQ documents, and relevant application portal links to the [ConnectMT website](#). All templates referenced in this guide are found in the Appendices and also on the Internet Service Provider Information page of the [ConnectMT website](#) under BEAD Application Materials. Any changes to the documents will be noted in the version history.

CONFIDENTIALITY

It is not the intention of the ConnectMT Broadband Office to collect [trade secret](#), [confidential](#) or [personal](#) information, as defined by Montana law, and applicant should refer to Montana law when determining if information is trade secret, confidential or personal. If an applicant is going to provide information in the grants management system that applicant believes contains trade secret, confidential or personal information, applicant should redact (only) the portions that contain that information, while being careful to still satisfy the purpose for which ConnectMT is requesting the information. The grants management system has the capability to receive and separately save files which applicants deem “confidential.” Files submitted by applicants as “confidential” will be maintained as “confidential” by ConnectMT Broadband Office throughout the BEAD application process. However, in the event the DOA receives a public records request for BEAD application information, DOA must review all of the application materials - including the confidential files – to determine whether any information is truly confidential and exempt from the public records request under Montana law. ([§ 2-6-1002, MCA](#)). In general, all records received and held by the DOA are “public information” and “public records” are

subject to public disclosure, unless exempted from public disclosure as “confidential information.”

APPLICANT INSTRUCTIONS FOR UPLOADING CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

To keep all confidential information separate from the main application records, please follow the instructions below.

Any documents deemed by the applicant to include confidential information, trade secrets, or personal information **MUST** be uploaded separately into the “Confidential Documents” field located in Section 8. These documents must be updated as a single PDF and the file name must include the applicant’s name and the words CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION in the file name.

It is also the applicant’s responsibility to reference pertinent information that may be included in the confidential documents file in response to each question that fits the criteria, or the applicant could be deemed non-responsive.

Please note that if a file that is required in another part of the Application is marked as confidential and uploaded in AmpliFund in Section 8, applicants should reference that their response is considered confidential and is located in the Confidential Documents section of the application.

APPLICATION REVIEW PROCEDURES

Proposals for “Priority Broadband” projects will be prioritized¹ for funding ahead of other proposals. 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. If a proposed cost is within 15% applications will be scored according to the revised criteria in the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice.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.

BENEFIT OF THE BARGAIN ROUND

The following sections provide a detailed explanation of each component of the Benefit of the Bargain Round application. Prequalification applicants found not to meet the BEAD minimum eligibility requirements will not be eligible to submit a Benefit of the Bargain Round application.

BENEFIT OF THE BARGAIN ROUND APPLICATION SECTIONS

PROJECT INFORMATION

SUMMARY

After reviewing the Opportunity Details at the start of the application, applicants should proceed to the Project Information section using the "Save & Continue" button located at the bottom of the screen, or the Navigation toolbar.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Application Name: In the Project Information section, Applicants will need to provide a project name. The project naming convention should be as follows to distinguish between projects in the same county:

- Applicant Name - Primary County of Project – Number (if necessary).

For example, if an ISP called Magic Fiber submitted three projects, two in Carbon County and one in Valley County, the project names would be: MagicFiber – Carbon – 1, MagicFiber – Carbon – 2, and MagicFiber – Valley. If your project area covers multiple counties, list only the primary county.

Limit names to 50 characters. No special characters with the exception of whitespace (spacebar), underscore (_), or hyphen (-) are allowed.

How much are you requesting from the funder?: Provide the number rounded up to the nearest cent.

How much are you planning to contribute to the budget:

- **Cash Match Requirement:** Provide the number rounded up to the nearest cent.
- **In-Kind Match Requirement:** Provide the number rounded up to the nearest cent.
- **Total Award Budget:** This amount is automatically calculated.

Primary Contact Information: The required fields in the primary contact information section should auto-fill based on the applicant's registration information, but please take a moment to ensure that all fields are correct and include a phone number if available.

Name: This field will automatically include your name.

Email Address: Please enter the primary contact information for the application.

Address, City, State/Province, Postal Code: Please enter the Company's address information.

Phone Number: Please enter the phone number for the primary contact

Once all fields are completed, applicants can mark the form as complete using the green "Mark as Complete" button located at the bottom of the screen and then proceed to the next screen using the "Save & Continue" button. It is also possible to proceed without marking the form complete, but applicants will need to return to the page and mark it complete in order to submit.

TEMPLATES AND DOCUMENTS TO PREPARE

- None

SECTION 1: ADMINISTRATIVE

SUMMARY

This section of the application includes company details and primary and secondary contact information. Applicants can provide updated information from the Prequalification application if necessary.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1.1—Applicants will need to provide a project name. The project naming convention should be as follows to distinguish between projects in the same county:

- Applicant Name - Primary County of Project – Number (if necessary).

For example, if an ISP called Magic Fiber submitted three projects, two in Carbon County and one in Valley County, the project names would be: MagicFiber – Carbon – 1, MagicFiber – Carbon – 2, and MagicFiber – Valley. If your project area covers multiple counties, list only the primary county.

Limit names to 50 characters. No special characters with the exception of whitespace (spacebar), underscore (_), or hyphen (-) are allowed.

1.2—Applicants will need to confirm their contact information. Please use the appropriate fields prompted by AmpliFund to update your contact information.

TEMPLATES AND DOCUMENTS TO PREPARE

- None

SECTION 2: METRICS

SUMMARY

This section of the application requests key metrics for the proposed broadband project, including the total project cost, the amount that will be requested as a grant, and the amount the applicant will provide as a match. You will be asked for more granular cost information later in the application, but your grant request and proposed match should add up to the total cost. The match can be cash or in-kind or a mix thereof but must be compliant with eligible expenses, as summarized in the Grant-Eligible Subgrantee Costs subsection above.

Disclaimer: *Information submitted in this section will only be used for informational purposes. Application scores and evaluation will be conducted using materials and information submitted in the other sections of the application.*

You will also be asked to provide key project metrics, such as total number of serviceable locations, route miles, and funding requests, along with a project description.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

2.1—Please provide your proposed Total Funding Request (how much grant funding you are seeking with this application) ([IPVII Section 2.14.2](#)). Provide the number rounded up to the nearest cent.

2.2—Please provide your proposed Total Match amount. Provide the number rounded up to the nearest cent.

P For Applicant Awareness: Generally, the minimum match requirement is 25% of the project's total cost, but it may be lower if your project includes High-Cost Areas (HCAs) because there is no match requirement for CBGs that are HCAs.

2.3—Please provide the proposed total project cost, which should be the total of your funding request and your match. Provide the number rounded up to the nearest cent.

2.4—Please provide a brief description of your project that will be used for public announcements. Include description of area, number served, and expected outcomes. You may also include the type of facilities and service offerings ([IPVII Section 2.9.1](#)) This description should summarize your project in non-technical, easy-to-understand language.

Sample Public Project Description: General Telco Company broadband expansion project is set to bring high-speed internet to [insert area name]. Serving [insert number] households and [insert number] businesses, our goal is to bridge the digital divide and spur economic growth. With improved connectivity, residents can expect enhanced educational

opportunities, streamlined access to services, and increased economic development. Join us as we empower our community with the tools for a brighter future.

2.5 – Please provide the anticipated number of aerial miles of fiber to provide service to the locations within your proposed project. Please round these numbers to the nearest whole mile. If this is not applicable leave this question blank.

2.6 – Please provide the anticipated number of buried miles of fiber to provide service to the locations within your proposed project. Please round these numbers to the nearest whole mile. If this is not applicable leave this question blank.

2.7 – Please provide the estimated number of employment opportunities created by your proposed project. Please provide the estimated number of employment opportunities created by the project;

TEMPLATES AND DOCUMENTS TO PREPARE

- None

SECTION 3: SCORING CRITERIA

This section of the application reflects the revised scoring criteria outlined in the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice to focus on cost minimization. As the section title indicates, the answers you provide will be central to the scoring of your application. Scoring is based on the rubric approved on June 25, 2025, by the Montana Communication Advisory Commission.

3.1 — Please indicate the maximum speeds 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

Please provide evidence of network capability here. You may also upload a document indicating where this information can be found in other sections of the application.

3.2— Please confirm if your organization has participated in MBO’s BEAD program by submitting a Main Round application in the previous phase. (Yes/No)

Applicants who previously participated by submitting a Main Round application will receive 50 points if they are proposing a fundamentally similar project.

TEMPLATES AND DOCUMENTS TO PREPARE

- None

SECTION 4: FINANCIAL CAPABILITY

SUMMARY

This section of the application allows for updates from the Prequalification application and submissions related to financial documentation. Applicants must articulate any financial changes since their Prequalification application. If needed, they can provide updated financial statements, including audited statements, interim financial statements, and updates to the Statement of Executive Authority. Additionally, applicants are required to submit pro forma, business plans, ILOC letters, and documentation certifying their access to the available funds for all project costs that exceed the requested grant amount.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

4.1—Would you like to update the financial documents (audited financial statements, interim financial statements, and Statement of Executive Authority) you submitted as part of your Prequalification application?

4.1A—If yes, please upload the new documents and provide a brief statement detailing why new documents are being provided.

Please note: If you are a LEO provider, you may upload a financial certification letter from NTIA in lieu of the financial statements.

4.2—Please upload documentation from a third-party financial institution, if appropriate, certifying access to the available funds for all project costs that exceed the requested grant amount. A third-party financial institution could include a bank, Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) or any other financial institution as designated by the company with whom the Participant shall execute a grant or loan agreement. If additional funds will be internally generated funds, please identify that funds will be designated for construction purposes. The documentation should include:

- Financial institution's name and address;
- Official financial institution statement;
- Balance of funds in the financial institution's checking and savings accounts;
- Balance of total funds; and
- Signature of authorized financial institution personnel.

4.3—Please provide a letter from a bank confirming the commitment to issuing an Irrevocable Standby Letter of Credit (ILOC). If electing to submit an ILOC, the bank must meet the requirements listed in 47 C.F.R. § 54.804(c)(2) or comply with NTIA guidance with regards to credit unions outlined in the BEAD Letter of Credit Waiver. If you are electing to have a performance bond, please upload the surety company commitment and terms of conditions. This letter should state the dollar amount (minimum 25% of the subaward for

ILOCs and 100% for performance bonds). Applicants may reference the model letter of credit provided when working with a banking institution or surety company. The requirement that the initial letter of credit be for 25% of the subaward amount, or in the case where a subgrantee chooses to utilize a performance bond 100% of the subaward, allows the initial percentages to be lower, where:

- 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.
- The Eligible Entity issues funding on a reimbursable basis consistent with ([BEAD NOFO](#) p 50);
- Reimbursement is for periods of no more than six months; and
- The subgrantee commits to maintain a letter of credit or performance bond in the amount of 10% of the subaward until it has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Eligible Entity that it has completed the build-out of 100% of locations to be served by the project or until the period of performance of the subaward has ended, whichever occurs first.

P For Applicant Awareness: The ConnectMT Broadband Office has created a model Irrevocable Standby Letter of Credit for applicants to reference (see [Appendix E](#)).

P For Applicant Awareness: Before award, an applicant will be required to submit a legal opinion letter with its ILOC stating that “subject only to customary assumptions, limitations, and qualifications, that in a proceeding under Title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C. § 101 et seq. (the “Bankruptcy Code”), the bankruptcy court would not treat the letter of credit or proceeds of the letter of credit as property of the winning subgrantee’s bankruptcy estate under Section 541 of the Bankruptcy Code.” See ([BEAD NOFO](#) p 73).

4.4—Please use the narrative outline below to build a business plan and related analyses supporting the long-term viability of the proposed broadband project.

This plan should encompass not only the project specific activities but also any additional company-wide analysis or information that could bolster or threaten the ability for the company to support the project.

Sections should include:

- *Introduction and Executive Summary.* Company overview, business model, market opportunities, and financial standing;

- *Project Description.* Scope, service area, coverage, service plan pricing, and broadband speeds or latency; summary of technical solutions;
- *Market Analysis.* Demand for expanded broadband services, market trends, and potential new subscribers;
- *Financial Assumptions and Financial Feasibility.* Analyzing costs, rate structure, strategy and implementation, funding sources, potential returns, schedule of ratios, financial forecast assumptions, and growth predictions;
- *Risk Analysis.* Strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities while also identifying and mitigating potential risks and uncertainties; and
- *Conclusion and Recommendations.* Summary of project's strengths and why it will succeed with BEAD funding.

P For Applicant Awareness: The business plan is a company-wide document with a focus not only on the project but also a projected outlook of the overall business, encompassing growth opportunities, and assumptions driving the project's financial forecasts in the pro forma, such as market trends, pricing strategies, operational efficiencies, and potential risks.

4.5—Please use the template in [Appendix D](#) to provide a project-level pro forma detailing anticipated Capital Expenditures (CapEx), Operational Expenditures (OpEx), projected subscriber numbers (inclusive of unserved, underserved BSLs and potential subscribers), and service pricing. This projection is mandatory and must cover five years of projected financial data. If the project pro forma shows that the project is not cash flow positive within five years, then the applicant must demonstrate losses can be absorbed company wide. Please footnote all key assumptions from the business plan to forecast future financial performance, such as revenue and expenses, in support of the pro forma.

P For Applicant Awareness: A project pro forma will be used to assess the project's financial feasibility and evaluate its impact on the overall financial health of the applicant. Essentially, the pro forma will reveal if the project makes fiscal sense to pursue. If a company's audited financial statements or project-level pro forma do not demonstrate cashflow positivity, it may be deemed necessary to submit a company-wide pro forma.

P For Applicant Awareness: If the applicant opts to not use the recommended template, it is critical that the applicant ensures that the submitted pro forma includes all the necessary components outlined above.

Special Instructions: If submitting multiple applications. applicants should use a standard companywide pro forma across all projects. Additionally, if the applicant opts to use the same pro forma for multiple applications, detailed assumptions for each project should be included.

4.6—Please confirm whether your organization or its affiliates has ever been involved in bankruptcy, a creditor(s) rights or receivership proceeding, or sought protection from creditors.

4.7—Please confirm whether your organization has ever settled a debt with a lending institution for less than the full amount outstanding.

4.8—Please confirm whether your organization has any outstanding judgements or liens pending against them other than liens in the normal course of business.

4.9—Please check the box certifying that you will comply with all program requirements, including service milestones.

☐ By checking this box, I certify on behalf of my organization that I will comply with all program requirements, including service milestones.

TEMPLATES AND DOCUMENTS TO PREPARE

- Updated audited financial statements (if opting to update or if the FY24 audit was not submitted as part of the Prequalification application);
- Interim financial statements for the current fiscal year (if opting to update);
- Financial certification letter from NTIA – LEO providers only
- Statement of Executive Authority (if opting to update);
- Documentation from a third-party financial institution certifying access to funds;
- Letter from a bank, credit union, or surety company confirming the commitment to issuing an Irrevocable Standby Letter of Credit (ILOC) or performance bond;
- Business plans and related analyses supporting the long-term viability of the project; and
- Project-level (or companywide) pro forma detailing anticipated Capital Expenditures (CapEx), Operational Expenditures (OpEx), projected subscriber numbers, and service pricing, along with all key assumptions from the business plan.(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.)

SECTION 5: ORGANIZATIONAL AND MANAGERIAL CAPACITY

SUMMARY

This section allows applicants to make updates (from the Prequalification application), submit essential organizational documentation and certifications for their broadband project proposals, and address tribal land considerations. Key areas for updates include personnel resumes, managerial approach narratives, organizational charts, evidence of prior experience, legal opinions, SAM.gov registration, state business registration, and disclosures of other applications or awards. Applicants must certify operational capability to complete and operate the project. This section also contains additional compliance questions which are not used as part of the application review.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

5.1—Would you like to update any of the essential organizational documentation and certifications that you submitted as part of your Prequalification application?

NOTE: *Personal Identifiable Information should be removed from documentation before submission.*

5.2—If you did not submit a cybersecurity risk management plan in the Prequalification application, you must upload one for the Benefit of the Bargain Round. Please upload your cybersecurity risk management plan. Uploads should be in Word or PDF format.

The plan must reflect the latest version of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity and the standards and controls set forth in Executive Order 14028 and specify the security and privacy controls being implemented.

5.3 —If you did not submit a Supply Chain Risk Management Plan (SCRM) in the Prequalification application, you must upload one for the Benefit of the Bargain Round. Please upload your SCRM. Uploads should be Word or PDF format.

The plan should be based upon the key practices discussed in the NIST publication, [NISTIR 8276, Key Practices in Cyber Supply Chain Risk Management: Observations from Industry](#), and related SCRM guidance from NIST, including [NIST 800-161, Cybersecurity Supply Chain Risk Management Practices for Systems and Organizations](#), and specifies the supply chain risk management controls being implemented.

5.4—Please upload a legal opinion that demonstrates the capability to carry out funded activities competently and in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws. The opinion must also detail any past violations or pending court proceedings. This document must be a Word or PDF file. ([See Appendix L](#))

5.5—Has your company solely operated as an electric transmission or distribution service and not yet as broadband service?

5.5A—Please upload qualified operating or financial reports that have been filed with the relevant financial institution for the past year. Uploads should be Word, Excel, or PDF files.

5.5B—Please certify that the submission is a true and accurate copy of the reports that were provided to the relevant financial institution.

☐ By checking this box, I certify on behalf of my organization that the submitted files are a true and accurate copy of the reports that were provided to the relevant financial institution.

5.6—Please check the box below certifying that your organization possesses the operational capability to complete and operate the project within the timeline and terms set by the subgrant.

☐ By checking this box, I certify on behalf of my organization that the applicant possesses the operational capability to complete and operate the Project within the timeline and terms set by the subgrant and in compliance with all applicable Federal, State, Territorial, and local laws.

5.7—Please indicate if your application includes construction or operations on tribal lands.

5.7A—Please certify that you have already engaged with tribal authorities and commit that if awarded, you will provide a binding tribal resolution prior to receiving the final award.

☐ I certify the applicant has already engaged with tribal authorities and commits that if awarded, it will provide a binding tribal resolution prior to receiving the final award.

5.7B—Please upload documentation of initiating a tribal consent process or receiving tribal consent from the appropriate tribal authority as required in the [BEAD NOFO](#) and Montana's Initial Proposal Volume II ([IPVII Section 2.4.8](#)).

NOTE: *If proposing a project on tribal lands, please contact the tribe directly or reach out to Director Misty Kuhl, Department of Indian Affairs, State of Montana at misty.kuhl@mt.gov and cc the ConnectMTTechAssistance@mt.gov website to facilitate the process of coordinating with Tribal leadership.*

Certifications

The following questions are certifications required by NTIA. Please respond “Yes” or “No”, and if No, please provide additional information.

5.8 —Does the applicant certify that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, its organization and its principals are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participating in covered transactions by any federal department or agency?

5.9 —Does the applicant certify that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, its organization and its principals have not, within a three-year period preceding this proposal, been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, Eligible Entity, or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of federal or Eligible Entity antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property?

5.10—Does the applicant certify that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, its organization and its principals are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (federal, Eligible Entity or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in question 5.16?

5.11—Does the applicant certify that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, its organization and its principals have not within a three-year period preceding this application/proposal had one or more public transactions (federal, Eligible Entity, or local) terminated for cause or default?

5.12—Does the applicant certify it has access to the available funds for all project costs that exceed the project funding request (e.g., matching funds, initial expenses prior to reimbursement)?

5.13—Please upload a statement signed by an executive with the authority to bind the company, which certifies and guarantees the subgrantee’s minimum qualifications for financial capability (i.e. the applicant organization is qualified to meet the obligations associated with its proposed Project(s), and the prospective subgrantee will have available funds for all project costs that exceed the amount of the grant.

5.14—Does the applicant certify that the applicant, including any partnerships and consortia members, has not participated and will not participate in any collusion, bias or conflict of interest, pursuant to the [BEAD NOFO, Section 18-4-141 of the Montana Code Annotated 2023](#) and 47 CFR 1.2105 as part of this application process?

5.15 — Does the applicant certify 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.

5.16 — Does the applicant certify that it complies with federal labor and employment laws?**5.17 — Does the proposed project involve laying fiber-optic cables or conduit underground or along a roadway?****5.17A — Does the applicant certify 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?****5.18 — Does the applicant certify 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.****5.19 — Does the applicant certify that it will comply with 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.).****5.20 — Does the applicant certify 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?****Additional Compliance Questions**

5.21—As the primary grant recipient for BEAD, Montana has oversight responsibility for its subgrantees. To support its initial risk assessment of the BEAD portfolio, the ConnectMT Broadband Office will review applications for operational, technical, and financial experience, including previous experience with state and federal funding. Please respond “Yes”, “No”, or “N/A” for the following compliance questions.

P For Applicant Awareness: The responses to these questions are only used for informational purposes as Montana develops a risk analysis for its grant portfolio.

5.21A—Has the applicant previously received state funds (for state-supported programs) or federal funds (for federal-supported programs)?

5.21B—Has the applicant provided broadband internet access services for more than two years?

5.21C—Does the applicant receive 25% or more of its total funding through federal or state awards?

5.21D—If the applicant previously received funds from the ConnectMT Broadband Office, did the applicant return more than 10% of its grant allocation to ConnectMT Broadband Office at the completion of the project?

5.21E—Has the applicant ever been subject to recoupment of payments under any federal or state grant?

5.21F—Does the applicant have a financial management system in place to track and record expenditures for the program?

5.21G—Does the applicant have a records management and retention system that allows for the preparation of required reports and tracking of funds to each program?

5.21H—Does the applicant have a property management system to track and record the acquisition and use of real property, equipment, and supplies?

5.21I—Does the applicant have policies and procedures in place to obtain insurance for real property and equipment it acquires, including through self-insurance?

5.21J—Does the applicant have policies and procedures in place to prevent the procurement and use of prohibited covered telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment?

5.21K—Does the applicant have policies and procedures in place to obtain required permits and comply with environmental, historic preservation, and other land use requirements?

5.21L—Does the applicant have established effective procedures and internal controls that provide safeguards and reasonable assurances that the award will be managed in compliance with applicable laws and the terms and conditions of the award?

5.21M—Does the applicant have a time and accounting system to identify time and expenses associated with the project? If yes, please note that each project must be able to be tracked separately.

5.21N—Is the applicant required to provide a Budget to Actual financial report to an appropriate oversight group (e.g., committee, board members, stockholders)?

5.21O—Does the applicant owe any money to any division of ConnectMT Broadband Office or to the federal government under any program where it has not arranged a repayment plan?

5.21P—Has a petition been filed with respect to the applicant or its affiliates under the Bankruptcy Code in the past five years?

5.21Q—Does the applicant have policies and procedures in place to allow employees to report potential noncompliance or waste, fraud, and abuse potentially affecting the federal award?

5.21R—Does the applicant plan to assign staff to the project that have worked with the business for less than one year?

5.21S—Has the applicant received oversight monitoring for any federal or state dollars awarded?

5.21T—If so, were there any findings cited during monitoring activities?

5.21U—Is the applicant on a corrective action plan from monitoring?

5.21V—Does the applicant have any unresolved questioned costs or finding of fiscal inadequacy as a result of project monitoring?

5.21W—Has the applicant currently or previously been suspended or debarred by any federal or state agency?

5.21X—Is the applicant presently the subject of any litigation, or if any litigation is threatened, which would have a material adverse effect on the Applicant's financial condition?

5.21Y—Has the applicant ever been involved in bankruptcy, a creditor/s rights or receivership proceeding, or sought protection from creditors?

5.21Z—Has the applicant ever settled a debt with a lending institution for less than the full amount outstanding?

5.21AA—Has the applicant ever had a senior manager or principal convicted of any felony or misdemeanor, other than a minor traffic violation, or whether there are any such charges pending?

5.21BB — Does the applicant have any outstanding judgments or liens pending against them other than liens in the normal course of business?

TEMPLATES AND DOCUMENTS TO PREPARE

- If applicable, updated resumes for essential financial, technical, and managerial personnel (in PDF format);
- If applicable, updated organizational chart including all relevant personnel (in Word, PDF, or Excel format);
- Updated evidence detailing prior experience for recent broadband projects (in Word, PDF, or Excel format);
- 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);
- If applicable, updated PDF screenshot of active SAM.gov registration;
- If applicable, updated documentation of state business registration (in PDF format);
- If applicable, updated list of previous awards, planned applications for state or federal funding, and ongoing awarded projects, along with project information template (in Word, PDF, or Excel format);
- If applicable, qualified operating or financial reports filed with the relevant financial institution for the past year (in Word, Excel, or PDF format);
- If applicable, updated SCRM and Cyber Security plans (in PDF or Word format); and
- If applicable, legally binding tribal resolution certifying consent and approval to build on tribal land (in Word or PDF) or evidence of beginning process of obtaining such documentation.

SECTION 6: PROJECT PLAN

SUMMARY

This section of the application centers on the technical aspects and financial planning of the proposed broadband project. Applicants are required to submit a Project Plan to demonstrate technical capability with respect to the proposed project. The detailed design plan submission shall be certified and stamped by a currently licensed professional engineer. The Project Plan submission must include the components listed below.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

6.1— Please complete the provided Locations List Template for your proposed project.

This template should include every BLS and CAI that the project intends to serve along with any identified ineligible or non-BLS locations. The template is included in Appendix B. The file name should be Applicant Name - Primary County of Project – Location List.

6.1A— Please confirm if there are any locations in the Locations List Template that are ineligible for BEAD funding or are non-BLSs included on the Location List Template.

(Yes/No)

This question is optional, however, 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.) they have the option to provide this information to the ConnectMT Broadband Office.

6.1B— If yes, please identify how many locations that are ineligible for BEAD funding and/or are non-BLSs that the applicant has identified.

6.1C— If yes, 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.

Applicants can review the Appendix M for more information on acceptable forms of evidence and the use of the template; FCC Location Challenge ID Template, Officer Attestation Template.

6.1 D- For 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.

6.2— Please select the project type (Priority/Non-Priority). 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 will be asked to provide evidence to validate the claim that the project considered priority broadband according to the definition outlined in the Restructuring BEAD Policy Notice.

If applicants select yes, they will be prompted to upload the applicable technology-based evidence templates.

6.2A— Does your project utilize LEO? If yes, (LEO Evidence Template) please upload descriptions of the proposed project’s technical specifications and design. If the proposed project utilizes LEO technology, use the LEO evidence template and instructions.

6.2B— Does your project utilize ULFW? If yes, (ULFW Evidence Template) please upload descriptions of the proposed project’s technical specifications and design. If the proposed project utilizes ULFW technology, use the ULFW evidence template and instructions.

6.2C— Does your project utilize LFW? If yes, (LFW Evidence Template) please upload descriptions of the proposed project’s technical specifications and design. If the proposed project utilizes LFW evidence, use the LFW evidence template and instructions.

6.2D— Does your project utilize Fiber? If yes, (Fiber Evidence Template) please upload descriptions of the proposed project's technical specifications and design. If the proposed project utilizes Fiber technology, use the fiber evidence template and instructions.

Question 6.2D is currently not available in AmpliFund. Please upload your Fiber Evidence Template (if applicable) to Section 8.

6.2E— Does your project utilize HFC? If yes, (HFC Evidence Template) please upload descriptions of the proposed project’s technical specifications and design. If the proposed project utilizes HFC technology, use the HFC evidence template and instructions.

6.3— Upload a technical narrative as a PDF detailing how the proposed infrastructure will deliver service that reliably meets or exceeds the program required speeds and latency for all proposed BSLs as defined in the Scoring Rubric and all CAIs in the project area as outlined in the BEAD NOFO pp. 64-65. The narrative must include a discussion that comprises customer take rate assumptions, anticipated oversubscription ratios, network capacity, and construction methodology best practices. Critical details to be submitted within the narrative include:

- A detailed description of how the network will be connected to sufficient backhaul infrastructure to support the program performance requirements. Please include:

- If the proposed network leverages backhaul infrastructure from its own existing network, describe that infrastructure and how the proposed network interconnects with it.
- If the proposed network leverages backhaul infrastructure from another organization's existing network, describe that infrastructure, how the proposed network interconnects with it, and the negotiated terms for which the applicant will have access to the infrastructure for the life of their required service commitment.
- If the proposed network requires construction of new backhaul infrastructure, describe that infrastructure, how construction of the infrastructure will be funded, what steps have been taken to ensure the new infrastructure will be commissioned prior to the applicant's proposed subscriber activation dates, and how the proposed network interconnects with it.
- An explanation of the projected subscriber take rate and the anticipated level of oversubscription based on the proposed network capacity.
- A network scalability plan to meet the program performance requirements if subscriber take rate is higher than anticipated, customers subscribe to higher service level offerings than anticipated, or any other factors that may require additional network capacity.
- A detailed description of how the proposed network will be deployed using industry best practices.
 - Describe what anticipated portions of the network will be built using underground or aerial.
 - If underground construction is proposed, describe the construction methods to be used (e.g., directional drilling, trenching).
 - Describe the construction materials and equipment to be used in the network (e.g., 1.25" HDPE conduit, 144-count fiber-optic cable, Calix E7 platform) and how the selected materials support a sustainable and scalable network.

P For Applicant Awareness: The network description details should align with the information presented in the network design shapefiles and detailed project cost estimates.

6.4—Please provide a proposed network design that includes all proposed BSL and CAI served by the project, all proposed fiber infrastructure routes to be constructed via the project, and project area boundary polygons encompassing all infrastructure routes, BSLs, and CAIs. The preliminary network design will be uploaded in shapefile format.

The shapefile format is designed to store and represent various types of geographic features, such as points, lines, and polygons, along with attribute information associated with these features. A shapefile is comprised of six separate file extensions (.CPG, .dfb, .prj, .sbn, .spx, and .shp.). Shapefiles containing all six file extensions should be uploaded in a zipped folder.

The following layers shall be present in the submitted .shp file:

- The applicant's proposed BSL shall be submitted as point feature. This layer must be named "BSL." If an applicant is submitting multiple applications, each separate application must still name each submitted file as "BSL" with no additional numbers or characters. The location data must be sourced from either the program's official map fabric or the officially published BSL .csv files. Applicants can obtain the official program BSL data by accessing the [ConnectMT website](#) and looking under "Benefit of the Bargain Location List _July 2025."
- The applicant's proposed CAI locations shall be submitted as point feature. This layer must be named "CAI." If an applicant is submitting multiple applications, each separate application must still name each submitted file as "CAI" with no additional numbers or characters. The location data must be sourced from either the program's official map fabric or the officially published CAI .csv files. Applicants can obtain the official program CAI data by accessing the [ConnectMT website](#) and looking under "Benefit of the Bargain Location List _July 2025."
- The applicant's proposed infrastructure (e.g. wireline routes, towers) shall be submitted as line and point features and the layer should be named "Network_Infrastructure" in the submitted shapefiles. The submitted routes shall be provided as a singular line representative of all fiber infrastructure (conduit, fiber, aerial attachments, etc.) to be placed along any individual pathway (e.g., public rights-of-way, private easements). Routes shall be inclusive of all new backhaul, backbone, and distribution infrastructure. Routes that would only be constructed as part of subscriber activations (drops to individual subscriber locations constructed upon customer signup), shall not be included in the submitted file. The project's estimated take rate and drop mileage will be captured separately within the application.
- The applicant's proposed service area(s) shall be submitted as polygon features. The polygon must encompass all proposed locations and proposed infrastructure routes submitted as part of the project shapefile and the layer should be labeled "Project_Boundary" in the submitted shapefiles.

6.5—Please provide a logical network design drawing (network diagram) that illustrates the logical connectivity for the network, depicts the desired architecture of the network in terms of hardware placement, hardware redundancy, and indicates the types of network platforms or technologies to use in each layer of the network. Existing infrastructure present on the diagram should be identified as existing to clearly identify new proposed infrastructure. The diagram should convey the network's capacity to provide each

proposed BSL and CAI with required broadband speeds. This document shall be submitted in PDF format. An example of the logical network diagram can be found in [Appendix F](#).

Applicant note: This is only required if not previously uploaded as part of the priority justification.

6.6— If not previously provided as part of the priority justification and utilizing fixed wireless technology please utilize the Fixed Wireless Design Template (Appendix K) to provide project design details. Please upload the descriptions of the proposed project’s technical specifications and design. If the proposed project utilizes Fixed Wireless technology, use the fixed wireless design and submission template.

6.7— If not previously provided as part of the priority justification and utilizing Low Earth Orbit Satellite technology, please utilize the LEO Satellite Design Template (Appendix N) to provide project design details. Please upload descriptions of the proposed project’s technical specifications and design. If the proposed project utilizes LEO satellite technology, use the LEO satellite design and submission template.

6.8—Applicants must provide a project cost estimate that offers sufficient granularity to demonstrate an understanding of the proposed project and associated estimated costs. The cost estimate must include a detailed itemization of each cost and sufficient description to verify the eligibility of each cost item proposed. For each cost item, the applicant must indicate the breakdown of costs to be covered by grant funds versus those provided by applicant matching funds. The applicant shall only provide eligible costs within its project cost estimate. The project cost estimate shall be submitted in spreadsheet format using the template (see Appendix G).

P For Applicant Awareness: Please note, in building up a project cost summary, a contingency of 5% of construction costs is allowable.

6.9—The applicant must provide a project timeline that articulates its ability to complete the project within the four-year timeframe. The timeline shall include the key milestones for project implementation:

- Planning or Engineering;
- Permitting or Make Ready;
- Material and Equipment Procurement;
- Network Construction;
- Subscriber Activations; and
- Project Closeout Submission.

The timeline document shall be submitted in spreadsheet format using the template provided on the [ConnectMT website](#), titled “MT BEAD Main Round Project Timeline” (See [Appendix I](#)).

Question 6.9 does not allow the option to upload a project timeline document. Please upload your project timeline document to Question 6.8, along with your project cost estimate document. Please still refer to Question 6.9 for directions and guidelines regarding the project timeline document.

6.10—The applicant must obtain certification from a currently licensed professional engineer confirming the accuracy and completeness of the Project Plan materials and attesting that the proposed network can deliver broadband service that meets the requisite performance requirements to all proposed locations within the required four-year deployment timeline. The professional engineer must stamp and sign the certification document. The certification shall be submitted in PDF format using the template provided on the [ConnectMT site](#), titled “MT BEAD Main Round Professional Engineer Certification” (See [Appendix J](#)).

6.11—In addition to obtaining technical certification from a currently licensed professional engineer, the applicant’s [Authorized Organizational Representative \(AOR\)](#) must certify that the organization will comply with the following program requirements:

6.11A—Applicant certifies that at time of project closeout, all proposed BSLs shall be capable of receiving service with speeds of not less than 100 Mbps for downloads and 20 Mbps for uploads with 95% of latency measurements during testing windows falling at or below 100 milliseconds round-trip time. See ([BEAD NOFO](#) pp 64–65).

6.11B—Applicant certifies that at time of project closeout, grant funded connections to proposed Eligible CAIs shall be capable of delivering service at speeds not less than 1 Gigabit per second for downloads and 1 Gigabit per second for uploads with 95% of latency measurements during testing windows falling at or below 100 milliseconds round-trip time. Additionally, the applicant certifies that these grant funded connections can be used to provide business data services, which refers to the dedicated point-to-point transmission of data at certain guaranteed speeds and service levels using high-capacity connections. See ([BEAD NOFO](#) p 65).

6.11C—Applicant certifies that its submitted project cost estimate is accurate and encompasses all costs to be incurred by the applicant as part of the proposed broadband project.

6.11D—Applicant certifies that its submitted project timeline is accurate and that it will be capable of providing broadband service to each proposed BSL and CAI that desires service within the committed timeframe.

6.11E—Applicant certifies that it will obtain all necessary federal, state, and local governmental permits and required approvals necessary for the proposed work to be completed.

TEMPLATES AND DOCUMENTS TO PREPARE

- Excel template that includes detailed information on each BSL and CAI that the project intends to serve and locations within the proposed project area that are not eligible for BEAD funding or are non-BLSs (haybales, outcrops, etc.);
- Evidence excel template based on priority type selection;
- Zipped files of shapefiles illustrating current infrastructure relative to the proposed network design;
- PDF file illustrating the network's major components and specifications;
- Excel document detailing project costs, including itemized expenses;
- Excel template outlining the project's planning and completion schedule;
- PDF file certification demonstrating the network's capability to meet performance standards; and
- Excel template detailing the additional fixed wireless design details, if applicable;
- Word or PDF certification demonstrating the network's capability to meet performance standards; and
- Relevant documents certifying technical and financial qualifications as required

SECTION 7: OWNERSHIP INFORMATION

SUMMARY

This section provides applicants with the option to update organizational ownership information provided during the Prequalification application. If opting for an update, detailed disclosure is mandated for various ownership aspects, including real parties of interest, stockholders, limited and general partnership members, limited liability company members, indirect ownership interests, and FCC-regulated entities in which the applicant or related parties hold significant stock. Each disclosure must include comprehensive details such as names, addresses, citizenship, relationship to the company, and percentage of interest held.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

7.1—Would you like to update the ownership information you submitted in the Prequalification application?

7.1A—See the ownership information below.

Each applicant must fully disclose ownership disclosure requirements. Please provide any updates when prompted in AmpliFund to fulfill this requirement set forth in [47 C.F.R. § 1.2112\(a\)\(1\)-\(7\)](#). The ownership information includes:

1. List the real party or parties in interest in the applicant or application, including a complete disclosure of the identity and relationship of those persons or entities directly or indirectly owning or controlling (or both) the applicant.
2. List the name, address, and citizenship of any party holding 10% or more of stock in the applicant, whether voting or nonvoting, common, or preferred, including the specific amount of the interest or percentage held.
3. List, in the case of a limited partnership, the name, address, and citizenship of each limited partner whose interest in the applicant is 10% or greater (as calculated according to the percentage of equity paid in or the percentage of distribution of profits and losses).
4. List, in the case of a general partnership, the name, address, and citizenship of each partner, and the share or interest participation in the partnership.
5. List, in the case of a limited liability company, the name, address, and citizenship of each of its members whose interest in the applicant is 10% or greater.
6. List all parties holding indirect ownership interests in the applicant as determined by successive multiplication of the ownership percentages for each link in the vertical

ownership chain, that equals 10% or more of the applicant, except that if the ownership percentage for an interest in any link in the chain exceeds 50% or represents actual control, it shall be treated and reported as if it were a 100% interest.

7. List any FCC-regulated entity or applicant for an FCC license, in which the applicant or any of the parties identified in paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(5) of this section, owns 10% or more of stock, whether voting or nonvoting, common, or preferred. This list must include a description of each such entity's principal business and a description of each such entity's relationship to the applicant (e.g., Company A owns 10% of Company B (the applicant) and 10% of Company C, then Companies A and C must be listed on Company B's application, where C is an FCC licensee or license applicant).

TEMPLATES AND DOCUMENTS TO PREPARE

- Updated ownership documentation, if necessary.

SECTION 8: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND CURING

SUMMARY

This section provides applicants with the option to submit additional information as part of their applications. This section is optional.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Additional Information

8.1—If you would like to provide a letter of support to the ConnectMT Broadband Office, please include that here but note that this information will not be used to evaluate you/scored.

Confidential Documents

Applicant Instructions for Uploading Confidential Information

To keep all confidential information, separate from the main application records, please follow the instructions below.

Any documents deemed by the applicant to include confidential information, trade secrets, or personal information **MUST** be uploaded separately into the “Confidential Documents” field located at the end of the application. These documents must be updated as a single PDF and the file name must include the Applicant’s name and the words **CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION** in the file name.

It is also the applicant’s responsibility to reference pertinent information that may be included in the confidential documents file in response to each question that fits the criteria, or the applicant could be deemed non-responsive.

8.2—Do you have confidential documents? (Y/N)

8.2A—If Yes, please upload a single PDF containing all documents considered confidential.

Curing Request

This section should only be completed if you have been asked to provide additional or updated information as part of a curing request. **LEAVE THIS SECTION BLANK AS PART OF THE INITIAL APPLICATION.**

8.3—Have you been asked to provide updated information as part of a curing request? (Y/N)

8.3A—If Yes,

- Which curing request are you addressing?
- Please provide a narrative description of any changes or additional information provided.
- Please upload the requested file, if applicable.

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

Term	Definition
	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,

Term	Definition
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.

APPENDIX A: LIST OF SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

Section 4

- Updated audited financial statements from both FY22 and 23 (if opting to update or if the FY23 audit was not submitted as part of the Prequalification application);
- Financial certification letter from NTIA (LEO providers only)
- Interim financial statements for the current fiscal year (if opting to update);
- Statement of Executive Authority (if opting to update);
- Documentation from a third-party financial institution certifying access to funds;
- Letter from a bank, credit union, or surety company confirming the commitment to issuing an Irrevocable Standby Letter of Credit (ILOC) or performance bond;
- Business plans and related analyses supporting the long-term viability of the project; and
- Project-level (or companywide) pro forma detailing anticipated Capital Expenditures (CapEx), Operational Expenditures (OpEx), projected subscriber numbers, and service pricing, along with all key assumptions from the business plan.
- 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.

Section 5

- If applicable, updated resumes for essential financial, technical, and managerial personnel (PDF);
- If applicable, an updated organizational chart including all relevant personnel (Word, Excel, or PDF);
- Updated evidence detailing prior experience for recent broadband projects (Word, PDF, or Excel);
- 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 (Word or PDF);
- If applicable, updated PDF screenshot of active SAM.gov registration;
- If applicable, updated documentation of state business registration (PDF);
- If applicable, updated list of previous awards, planned applications for state or federal funding, and ongoing awarded projects, along with project information template (Word, PDF, or Excel);
- If applicable, qualified operating or financial reports filed with the relevant financial institution for the past year;
- If applicable, updated SCRM plan; and Cyber Security plans (Word or PDF); and

- If applicable, legally binding tribal resolution certifying consent and approval to build on tribal land (Word or PDF) or evidence of beginning process of obtaining such documentation.

Section 6

- Excel template that includes detailed information on each BSL and CAI that the project intends to serve; and
- If applicable, list locations within the proposed project area that are not eligible for BEAD funding or are non-BLSs (haybales, outcrops, etc.);
- As applicable, excel template that includes descriptions of the proposed project's technical specifications and design;
- Technical narrative PDF detailing how the proposed infrastructure will deliver service that reliably meets or exceeds the program required speeds and latency for all proposed BSLs as defined in the Scoring Rubric and all CAIs in the project area as outlined in the BEAD NOFO pp. 64-65.
- Zipped files of shapefiles illustrating current infrastructure relative to the proposed network design;
- PDF file illustrating the network's major components and specifications;
- Excel document detailing project costs, including itemized expenses;
- Excel template outlining the project's planning and completion schedule;
- PDF file certification demonstrating the network's capability to meet performance standards; and
- Excel template detailing the additional fixed wireless design details, if applicable;
- Word or PDF certification demonstrating the network's capability to meet performance standards; and
- Relevant documents certifying technical and financial qualifications as required.

Section 7

- If applicable, updated ownership documentation, if necessary.

APPENDIX B: 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 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)	The BEAD eligibility status of each BSL in the BEAD fabric. Applicants may not make any changes to this column. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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 descoping these locations should NTIA reject these locations.
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)	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. 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) Otherwise leave blank
Technology Code	Populated by Applicant (Required)	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 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.
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 11: Screenshot of the Locations List template.

APPENDIX C: 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 12: Screenshot of the Scoring Rubric overview.

APPENDIX D: PRO FORMA

Tab Name	Tab Instructions
Project-Level Income Statement	This sheet lists the revenues and expenses specific to the MT BEAD project. There are also other metrics listed below row 29. The applicant should fill out any white cells which are editable. Gray cells are formulaic and automatically calculated from the figures put into the white cells.
Capital Investment Workbook (CIW)	This sheet lists all the project costs and sources of funds for such costs. Below these tables are two requirements that should be met: (1) the total sources of funds must be equal to the total project costs, and (2) at least 25% of the total project costs must be funding by sources outside of MT BEAD. The applicant may disregard the second requirement if the CBG (Census Block Group) is waived. The information in this sheet will ultimately come from: Project Plan (or technical document) > Project Cost Details Subtab > Category Cost Totals. The applicant should fill out any white cells which are editable.
Capital Investment Schedule (CIS)	This sheet lists a timeline that shows when the project costs are incurred within the next five years. The applicant should fill out any white cells that are editable.
Debt Summary	This sheet lists all current and likely future sources of debt for the applicant.

Feature	Feature Instructions
Tooltips	Many line items have associated tooltips that the applicant may look at for guidance on what encompasses a certain line item. These are visible when the cursor is on the cell that contains the name of the line item. If these don't show up, please contact the DOA and a detailed list will be provided.
Business Plan and Project Plan (technical document) Footnotes	These are the right-most columns in each sheet. The applicant may use the format "see page X, paragraph Y of the business plan" to show how the projected figures in this pro forma connect with written assumptions in the Business Plan and Project Plan (technical document). The recommendation is that the applicant should footnote any financial and technical line items that are tied to assumptions in both plans.

Project Level Income Statement						DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION	
						MONTANA BEAD PROGRAM: MAIN ROUND	
	Future Projections					Footnotes Connected to Business Plan	
	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028		
Local Network Services Revenue Access						Footnote Highly Recommended	
Network Access Services Revenue						Footnote Highly Recommended	
Long Distance Network Services Revenue						Footnote Highly Recommended	
Carrier Billing and Collection Revenue						Footnote Highly Recommended	
Other Operating Revenue						Footnote Highly Recommended	
Net Operating Revenues	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
Plant Specific Operations Expense							
Plant Nonspecific Operations Expense (excluding depreciation & amortization)							
Depreciation Expense							
Amortization Expense							
Customer Operations and Corporate Operations Expenses (overhead)							
Other Operating Expense							
Total Operating Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
Operating Income or Margins	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
Interest on Project Funded Debt							
Total Fixed Charges	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
Taxes							
Extraordinary Items							
Total Net Income or Margins	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
Principal Payments on Long-Term Debt and Capital Leases (only for funded project)							
Subscriber Projections							
Existing Subscribers Beginning of Year (network wide)						Footnote Highly Recommended	
New Subscribers (off of existing network or other future CapEx)		0	0	0	0	Footnote Highly Recommended	
Served BSLs						Footnote Highly Recommended	
Unserved BSLs						Footnote Highly Recommended	
Underserved BSLs						Footnote Highly Recommended	
New Subscribers (BEAD Project specific)	0	0	0	0	0	Footnote Highly Recommended	
Served BSLs						Footnote Highly Recommended	
Unserved BSLs						Footnote Highly Recommended	
Underserved BSLs						Footnote Highly Recommended	
Cancellations (network wide)						Footnote Highly Recommended	
Total Subscribers End of Year	0	0	0	0	0	Footnote Highly Recommended	
Average Revenue per User (BEAD Project specific)	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!		
Average Revenue per User (network wide)						Footnote Highly Recommended	

Figure 13: Screenshot of Project Level Income Statement.

Project Costs and Sources

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
MONTANA BEAD PROGRAM: MAIN ROUND



Uses	Project Cost
Total Project Cost	\$600,000

Footnotes Connected to Business Plan
Footnote Highly Recommended

Sources	Funds
MT Connect	
a.	\$300,000
Other Grant Sources	
b. Grant Source 1	\$300,000
c. Grant Source 2	\$0
Loan Sources	
d. Loan Source 1	\$0
e. Loan Source 2	\$0
Applicant Contribution	
f. Contribution Type 1	\$0
g. Contribution Type 2	\$0

Footnotes Connected to Business Plan
Footnote Highly Recommended
Footnote Highly Recommended
Footnote Highly Recommended
Footnote Highly Recommended
Footnote Highly Recommended
Footnote Highly Recommended

Sum of Sources (MUST Equal Sum of Total Project Cost)	\$600,000
---	-----------

Requirement (unless Census Block Group is waived)	Check	% of Other Sources
At least 25% of the Total Project Costs have to come from Other Sources besides MT Connect	Requirement Met	50%

Figure 14: Screenshot of Pro Forma Project Costs and Sources.

Footnotes Connected to Business Plan
Footnote Highly Recommended

Figure 15: Screenshot of Pro Forma Capital Investment Schedule.

[illegible]

Figure 16: Screenshot of Existing and New Debt Summary (company-wide).

APPENDIX E: IRREVOCABLE STANDBY LETTER OF CREDIT

ILLUSTRATIVE FORM OF LETTER OF CREDIT

[Issuing Bank Letterhead]

IRREVOCABLE STANDBY LETTER OF CREDIT No. [____]

[Subject to Issuing Bank Requirements]

[Name and Address of Issuing Bank]

[Date of Issuance]

[AMOUNT]

[EXPIRATION DATE]

BENEFICIARY

Montana Department of Administration (DOA)

Attn: Montana Broadband Office

125 N. Roberts Street

P.O. Box 200101

Helena, MT 59620-0101

LETTER OF CREDIT PROVIDER

[Formal Name of Applicant]

[Address]

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We hereby establish, at the request and for the account of [Formal Name of Applicant], in your favor, as required under the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program's Notice of Funding Opportunity, issued by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) on May 13, 2022, and the State of Montana's Initial Proposal Volume 2 approved by NTIA, our Irrevocable Standby Letter of Credit No. _____, in the amount of [State amount of Letter of Credit in words and figures], expiring at the close of banking business at our office described in the following paragraph, on [the date which is ____ years from the date of issuance or such earlier date as the Letter of Credit is terminated by the Montana Department of Administration (the "Expiration Date")].

Funds under this Letter of Credit are available to you against your draft in the form attached hereto as Annex A, drawn on our office described below, and referring thereon to the number of this Letter of Credit, accompanied by your written and completed certificate signed by you substantially in the form of Annex B attached hereto. Such draft and certificates shall be dated the date of presentation or an earlier date, which presentation shall be made at our office located at [ISSUING BANK ADDRESS] and shall be effected either by personal delivery or delivery by a nationally recognized overnight delivery service. We hereby commit and agree to accept such presentation at such office, and if such presentation of documents appears on its face to comply with the terms and conditions of this Letter of Credit, on or prior to the Expiration Date, we will honor the same not later than the first banking day after presentation thereof in accordance with your payment instructions. Payment under this Letter of Credit shall be made by [check/wire transfer of funds] to the payee and for the account you designate, in accordance with the instructions set forth in a draft presented in connection with a draw under this Letter of Credit.

Partial drawings are not permitted under this Letter of Credit, except as provided for by NTIA guidance. This Letter of Credit is not transferable or assignable in whole or in part.

This Letter of Credit shall be canceled and terminated upon receipt by us of the Montana DOA's certificate purportedly signed by two authorized representatives of Montana DOA in the form attached as Annex C.

This Letter of Credit sets forth in full the undertaking of the Issuer, and such undertaking shall not in any way be modified, amended, amplified, or limited by reference to any document, instrument, or agreement referred to herein, except only the certificates and the drafts referred to herein and the Internet Service Provider (ISP) (as defined below); and any such reference shall not be deemed to incorporate herein by reference any document, instrument, or agreement except for such certificates and such drafts and the ISP.

This Letter of Credit shall be subject to, governed by, and construed in accordance with, the International Standby Practices 1998, International Chamber of Commerce Publication No. 590 (the ISP), which is incorporated into the text of this Letter of Credit by this reference, and, to the extent not inconsistent therewith, the laws of the State of Montana, including the Uniform Commercial Code Letters of Credit, in Title 30, Chapter 5, MCA. Communications with respect to this Letter of Credit shall be addressed to us at our address set forth below, specifically referring to the number of this Letter of Credit.

[NAME OF ISSUING BANK OR CREDIT UNION]

[BANK OR CREDIT UNION SIGNATURE]

ANNEX A: FORM OF DRAFT

To: [Issuing Bank or Credit Union]

DRAWN ON LETTER OF CREDIT No: _____

AT SIGHT

PAY TO THE ORDER OF MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION BY
[CHECK/WIRE TRANSFER]

FUNDS TO: _____

Account (_____)

AS MONTANA BEAD REPAYMENT

[AMOUNT IN WORDS] DOLLARS AND NO/CENTS

\$(AMOUNT IN NUMBERS)

Montana Department of Administration

By:_____

Name:

Title:

ANNEX B: DRAW CERTIFICATE

The undersigned hereby certifies to [Name of Issuing Bank or Credit Union] (the Bank), with reference to (a) Irrevocable Standby Letter of Credit No. [Number] (the Letter of Credit) issued by the Bank in favor of the Montana Department of Administration (MT DOA) and (b) Section IV.D.2.a.ii of the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program Notice of Funding Opportunity, issued by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) on May 12, 2022, and the State of Montana's Initial Proposal Volume 2 approved by NTIA (the BEAD Program Requirements), pursuant to which [Name of Selected Subawardee] (the Provider) has provided the Letter of Credit (all capitalized terms used herein but not defined herein having the meaning stated in the BEAD Program Requirements), that:

[The [Name of Selected Subawardee] has [describe the event that triggers the draw], and is evidenced by a letter signed by the Director of the Montana Department of Administration or her designee, dated __, 20__, a true copy of which is attached hereto. Accordingly, a draw of the entire amount of the Letter of Credit No. _____ is authorized.

OR

Montana DOA certifies that given notice of non-renewal of Letter of Credit No. _____ and failure of the account party to obtain a satisfactory replacement thereof, pursuant to the BEAD Program Requirements, MT DOA is entitled to receive payment of \$_____ representing the entire amount of Letter of Credit No. _____.]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has executed this certificate as of [specify time of day] on the ____ day of _____, 20__.

Montana Department of Administration

By: _____

Name:

Title:

ANNEX C: CERTIFICATE REGARDING TERMINATION OF LETTER OF CREDIT

The undersigned hereby certifies to [Name of Issuing Bank or Credit Union] (Bank), with reference to (a) Irrevocable Standby Letter of Credit No. [Number] (Letter of Credit) issued by the Bank in favor of the Montana Department of Administration (MT DOA), and (b) the requirements established in the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program's (BEAD) Notice of Funding Opportunity, issued by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) on May 12, 2022, (the BEAD Program Requirements) and the State of Montana's Initial Proposal Volume 2 approved by NTIA, (all capitalized terms used herein but not defined herein having the meaning stated or described in the BEAD Program Requirements), that:

(1) [include one of the following clauses, as applicable]

(a) The BEAD Program Requirements have been fulfilled in accordance with the provisions thereof; or

(b) [Provider/Selected Subgrantee] has provided a replacement letter of credit satisfactory to the Montana DOA.

(2) By reason of the event or circumstance described in paragraph (1) of this certificate and effective upon receipt by the Bank of this certificate (countersigned as set forth below), the Letter of Credit is terminated.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has executed this certificate as of the ____ day of _____, 20__.

Montana Department of Administration

By: _____

Name:

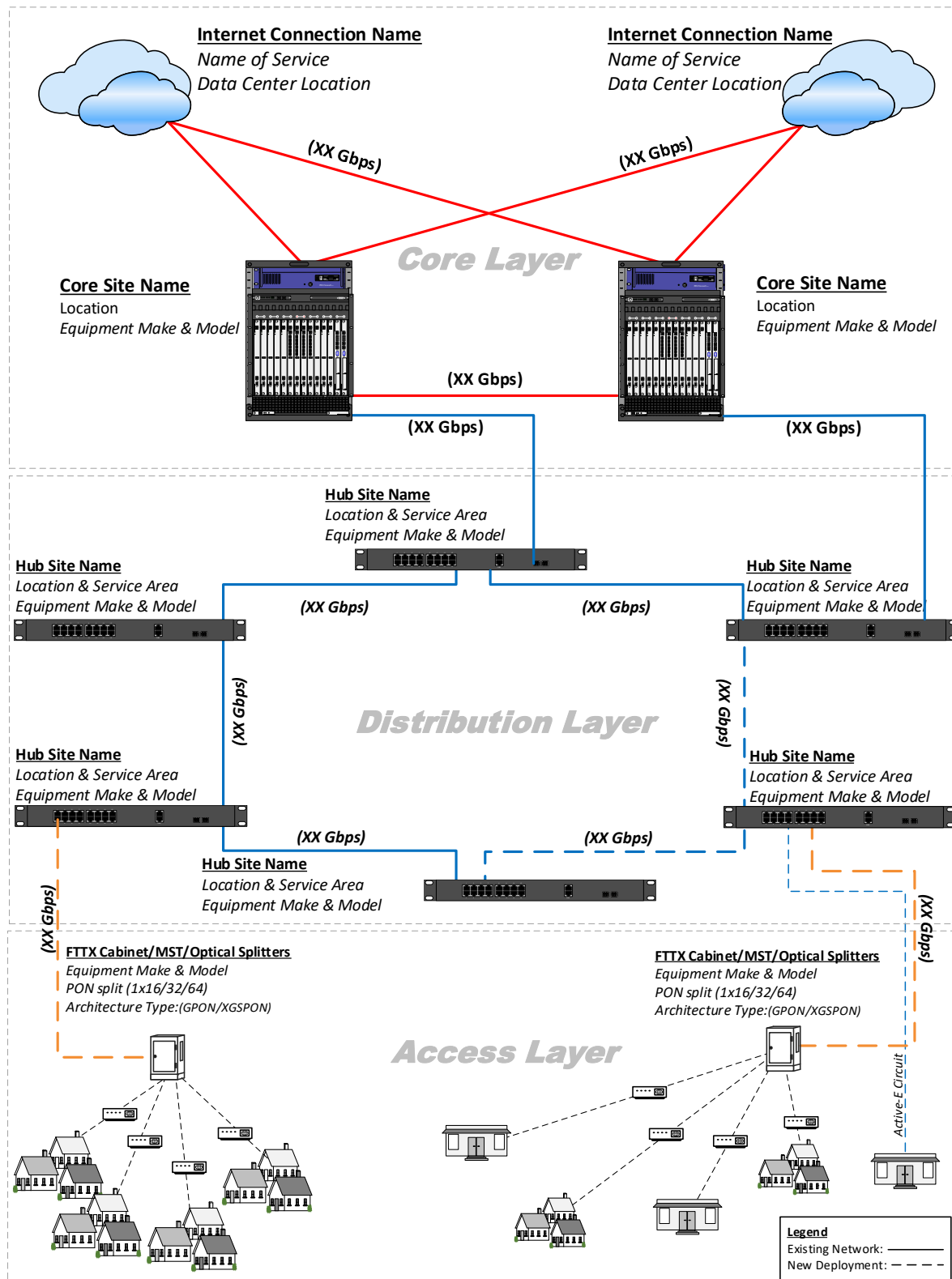
Title:

By: _____

Name:

Title:

APPENDIX F: LOGICAL NETWORK DIAGRAM



APPENDIX G: PROJECT COSTS SUBMISSION TEMPLATE

To allow the ConnectMT Broadband Office to assess your proposed broadband project costs 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 **Project Info** and **Project Cost Details** tabs must be completed by the applicant. For further reference, an example spreadsheet with sample costs and supporting narrative entered into the template has also been provided on the ConnectMT [website](#), titled “MT BEAD Main Round Project Cost Submission Sample Template (Filled)”.

Tab Name	Fillable by Applicant?	Tab Instructions
1. Project Info	Yes	Applicants shall fill out their project and applicant information in the designated fields, this should be entered with the exact information as entered into the identical fields in the application.
2. Cost Categories	No	This tab provides a description of the cost categories and is not editable by the applicant.
3. Project Cost Details	Yes	Applicants must enter individual cost items into the “Detailed Cost” tab. The “Project Cost Summary” tab will be automatically populated via the information entered directly into the “Detailed Cost” tab. Applicants shall provide cost details with sufficient granularity to demonstrate an understanding of the project and associated costs. The provided cost details must include sufficient descriptiveness to verify the eligibility of each cost item proposed. For each proposed cost item, the applicant must fill out the following information fields:
		Cost Description: A simple description of the cost item. (i.e., Labor – Directional Drilling 2x2” conduits, Material - 24”x26”x26” handhole, Contractor Fees - OSP design engineering).
		Cost Category: This is a drop-down field for each of the program cost categories, applicant to select the field that is appropriate for the proposed cost item. Descriptions of the cost categories can be found in the “Cost Categories” tab. The “Cost Categories” tab also provides the applicable SF424C cost categories each program category is associated with.
		Unit Type: The unit of measurement for each cost item quantity (e.g., Feet, Each, Hours).

Figure 17: Screenshot of Logical Network Diagram.

Tab Name	Fillable by Applicant?	Tab Instructions
		Unit Quantity: The Applicant's estimated quantity of each cost item that will be required to complete the project.
		Unit Cost: The Applicant's estimated cost per unit for each cost item.
		Cost Details and Justification: Where the Applicant provides sufficient narrative supporting their estimated unit quantities and cost. The Applicant can use this field to provide additional details such as proposed construction methodologies and materials specifications.
4. Project Cost Summary	No	This tab is automatically populated via the information submitted in the Detailed Cost tab and is not editable by the applicant. Refer to this tab to ensure your proposed broadband project costs category totals and applicant match totals are accurately reflected.

PROJECT COST CATEGORIES			DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION MONTANA BEAD PROGRAM: MAIN ROUND
Applicable From SF424 C Category	Program Budget Category	Description	
Administration and legal expenses	Planning/Project Management	To include items pertaining to the management of the Applicant's internal staff or third-party contractors. Items could include but are not limited to: internal project management hours, legal counsel obtained by the applicant for purposes of the proposed project, and administrative staff hours associated with grant compliance.	
Architectural and engineering fees	Design Engineering	To include items pertaining to the design of the Applicant's proposed project. Items could include but are not limited to: OSP engineering contractor costs, in-house field surveys and CAD designs, the preparation of permit application documentation, or civil engineering costs for structural attachments.	
Permitting	Permitting	To include all costs and fees associated with permitting. Items could include but are not limited to: fees associated with right-of-way permits, environmental permits, special crossings permits, and pole application permits.	
Land, structures, rights-of-way, appraisals, etc.	Infrastructure Acquisition	To include the purchase of any land or infrastructure to facilitate the network deployment. Items could include but are not limited to: the purchase of land or private easements, make-ready fees for aerial attachments, purchasing of dark fiber/existing conduit space, and the purchasing of colocation space for network equipment.	
Construction	Network Deployment	To include all costs associated with the deployment of the proposed network, excluding components exclusive to subscriber activations (i.e. network drop construction, customer premises equipment). Items could include but are not limited to: directional drilling labor, conduit material, fiber optic cable material, placement of vault, messenger stand, PON equipment, etc.	
Equipment	Network Equipment	To include all costs associated with the purchase of network electronics and active equipment. Items could include but are not limited to: network switches, network routers, and Optical Line terminals. The Applicant should indicate the proposed make and model of the equipment being purchased.	
Construction	Subscriber Activations	To include all costs associated with the connection of subscribers. Items could include but are not limited to: subscriber drop construction, subscriber drop materials, and customer premises equipment.	
Contingencies	Contingencies	To include any contingency costs the applicant anticipates along with a narrative description of why the costs are anticipated. <i>Please note, in building up a project cost summary, a contingency of 5% of construction costs is allowable.</i>	
Miscellaneous	Miscellaneous	To include any costs not captured by the other categories. The Applicant must provide sufficient narrative describing each item listed under this category.	

Figure 18: Screenshot of Project Cost Categories.

PROJECT COST DETAILS							DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION MONTANA BEAD PROGRAM: MAIN ROUND
Cost Item	Category	Unit Type	Unit Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Cost (Auto-Calculated)	Cost Details and Justification	
	Planning/Project Management		100	\$ 200.00	\$ 20,000.00		
	Planning/Project Management		100	\$ 100.00	\$ 10,000.00		
					\$ -		
					\$ -		
					\$ -		
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Figure 19: Screenshot of Project Cost Details.

PROJECT COST SUMMARY DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION MONTANA BEAD PROGRAM: MAIN ROUND 	
Category	Grant Funds Requested
Planning/Project Management	\$ 30,000.00
Design Engineering	\$ -
Permitting	\$ -
Infrastructure Acquisition	\$ -
Network Deployment	\$ -
Network Equipment	\$ -
Subscriber Activations	\$ -
Contingencies	\$ -
Miscellaneous	
Total	\$ 30,000.00

Figure 20: Screenshot of Project Cost Summary.

APPENDIX H: 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) shown in the following example (Figure 22). 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 I: PROJECT TIMELINE

To allow the ConnectMT Broadband Office to assess your proposed broadband project timeline in a consistent and concise manner, it must be submitted via this standard program template. For each program milestone, enter in the starting month (Cells C8 to C13) and milestone duration (Cells D8 to D13). The project start (the beginning of Month 1) occurs when an awarded applicant receives its subgrantee award from ConnectMT Broadband Office, the start of each individual milestone must be provided in relation to the project start. Milestone durations must be provided in units of months and are not to be tied to specific calendar dates. Per program requirements, the project milestones may not extend beyond the four-year timeframe (48 months). The Program Closeout Submission milestone represents the month in which the applicant proposes to complete the project by submitting the required closeout materials. The milestones must only encompass BEAD-funded deployment activities. Items such as ongoing subscriber activations (post program) and ongoing maintenance should not be included in the timeline.

[Applicant Name] Project Timeline

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
MONTANA BEAD PROGRAM: MAIN ROUND

Milestone Period

Program Milestone	Start (Month)	Duration (Months)	Year 1												Year 2											
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Planning/Detailed Engineering	1	1																								
Permitting/Make Ready	1	1																								
Material & Equipment Procurement	1	1																								
Network Deployment (Construction)	1	1																								
Subscriber Activations	1	1																								
Program Closeout Submission	1	1																								

Directions:
 To allow the MBO to assess your proposed project timeline in a consistent and concise manner, it must be submitted via this standard program template.
 For each program milestone, enter in the starting month (Cells C8 to C13) and milestone duration (Cells D8 to D13).
 The project start (the beginning of Month 1) occurs when an awarded applicant receives its subgrantee award from MBO, the start of each individual milestone must be provided in relation to the project start.
 Milestone durations must be provided in units of months and are not to be tied to specific calendar dates.
 Per program requirements, the project milestones may not extend beyond the four year timeframe (48 months).
 The Program Closeout Submission milestone represents the month in which the applicant proposes to complete the project by submitting the required closeout materials.
 The milestones must only encompass BEAD-funded deployment activities. Items such as ongoing subscriber activations (post program) and ongoing maintenance should not be included in the timeline.

Figure 21: Screenshot of Project Timeline.

APPENDIX J: PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER CERTIFICATION

Certification

I, the undersigned professional engineer, have reviewed and hereby certify that the materials submitted as part of this application's Project Plan are complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and that the proposed network can deliver broadband service that meets the requisite performance requirements to all locations served by the project within the required four-year deployment timeline. I have based my technical evaluation of this project on my expertise and many years of experience working on projects of similar size and scope.

Name of Professional Licensed Engineer	
License Number	
Licensed State	
Expiration Date	

Signature: _____

APPENDIX K: 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 22: 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 23: Screenshot of Fixed Wireless Tower Sites tab.

SECTORS										
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION MONTANA BEAD PROGRAM: MAIN ROUND										
Sector ID (to match ID in the Data file)	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 24: 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 L: MODEL LEGAL OPINION⁴

[Date]

Authorized Attorney

Attorney Address

Re: Legal Opinion for Applicant (Name), BEAD Program Application No XXX

Attention Montana Broadband Program:

We are counsel for _____, (the "Applicant."). We are lawyers in good standing and licensed to practice law in the State of Montana. In such capacity, we act as counsel to the Applicant in connection with a legal review of the Applicant's ability to demonstrate the capability to carry out the funded activities competently and in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws. This legal review is required by the Department and is supported by Montana's Initial Proposal Volume 2, 2.4.14, p.76-77. *(If legal counsel wishes to require from client)*, attached to this letter is the Applicant's Certificate of Past and Present Legal Proceedings).

We are of the opinion that:

- A. Applicant has the authorization to do business in the state of Montana, either as a governmental unit or as a nongovernmental entity which is duly registered to do business in the state of Montana with the Montana Secretary of State, as required by section 90-1-602(a), MCA.
- B. To the best of our knowledge and based on reliance of the Applicant's attestation to me:
 1. Applicant represents that no legal proceedings have occurred in the past or are currently pending, and as such no legal opinion is offered regarding the legal effect of (no) past legal proceedings, OR
 2. The legal proceedings which Applicant has identified do not adversely affect Applicant's ability to do business in the state of Montana, by section 90-1-602(a),

⁴ This represents an updated model legal opinion. Use of this model is optional, and if an applicant has previously submitted a legal opinion there is no requirement to update.

MCA, do not disqualify Applicant for BEAD funding or prevent Applicant from performing the duties under the Grant Agreement.

Each legal proceeding is addressed particularly as follows:

- a. Legal proceeding No. (X), does not adversely affect Applicant's ability to qualify do business in the state of Montana, or to perform the duties under the Grant Agreement, because . . .
- b. Etc.

[Attorney will include here any customary exceptions, assumptions and exclusions related to the Applicant's ability to apply for an award under the Montana BEAD Program and to perform under the BEAD Grant Agreement].

Signature of Attorney

MT State Bar License No. _____

The Department does not require the following certificate from applicants. This certificate is offered to attorneys as an example if they choose to require this from their client/applicant.

APPLICANT'S CERTIFICATE OF PAST AND PRESENT LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

[Date]

Applicant Representative
Applicant Name and address

Re: Certificate of Past and Present Legal Proceedings, BEAD Program Application No XXX

I, (full legal name) _____, certify that I am an authorized representative of (Applicant) _____. The Applicant is providing the certification set out below and agrees to comply with the requirements of the Department and is supported by Montana's Initial Proposal Volume 2, 2.4.14, p.76-77.

1. Applicant certifies that neither Applicant nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participating in covered transactions by any federal department or agency or otherwise ineligible to participate in the BEAD grant funding opportunity. (The terms transaction, civil judgment, debarment, suspension, ineligible, participant, person, principal, and voluntarily excluded, as used in this clause, are defined in 2 C.F.R. Parts 180, 1200 and 1326).
2. Applicant certifies that to its knowledge there are no legal proceedings which have occurred in the past or are currently pending; OR
3. Applicant discloses the following violations or other adverse legal proceedings against Applicant in the past or which are currently pending:
 - a. Legal proceeding No. 1,
 - b. Legal proceeding No. 2, etc.

Applicant understands that if it is later determined that the prospective Applicant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, which omitted violations or other adverse legal proceedings against Applicant, in addition to other remedies available to the federal government, the State of Montana or the Department of Administration, any of the entities may pursue available remedies against Applicant, including suspension or debarment.

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

APPENDIX M: NO BEAD LOCATIONS

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING NO BEAD LOCATION EVIDENCE

If applicants respond “yes” to question 6.1A, they must submit evidence for each location that has been identified 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 6.1A 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 the template in response to question 6.1C.

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 in response to question 6.1C.

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 to question 6.1A 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 the template in response to question 6.1C.

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 in response to question 6.1C.

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 submitted to question 6.1A 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 in the BEAD application portal in response to question 6.1C.

REASON CODE 5

If you indicated in the Locations List Template submitted to question 6.1A 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 in the BEAD application portal in response to question 6.1C.

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 in the BEAD application portal in response to question 6.1C.

APPENDIX N: 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:

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.