



# Montana BEAD Technical Assistance Programmatic Requirements

September 20, 2024

# BEAD PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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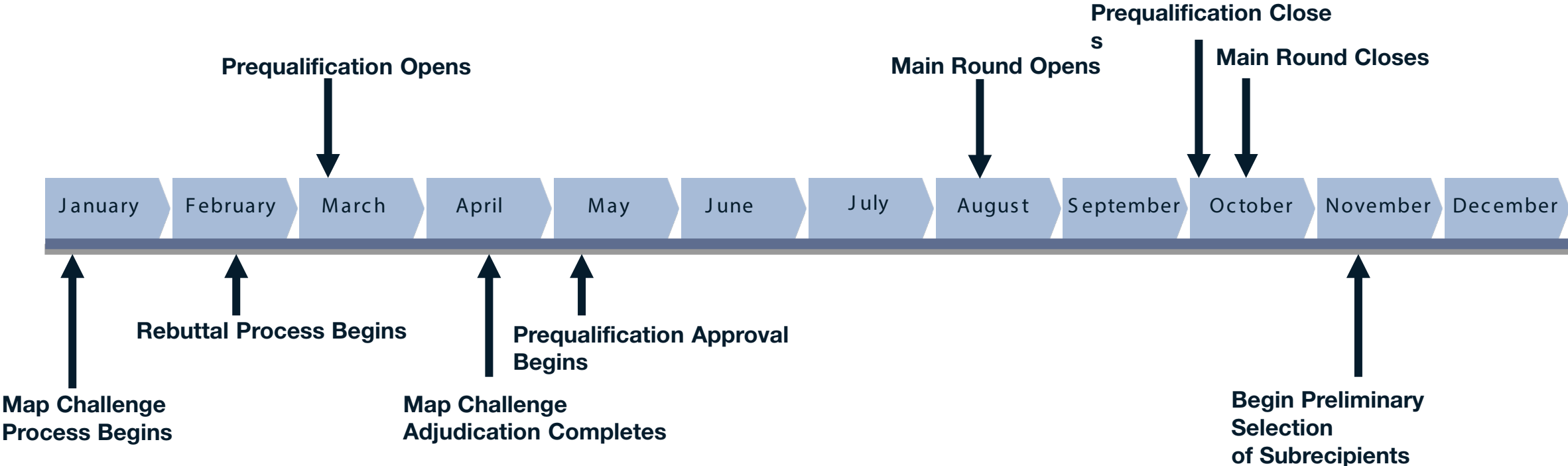
- The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program is designed to expand high-speed internet access by funding planning, infrastructure deployment, and adoption programs across the country.
- The state of Montana (MT) was awarded close to \$629 million in BEAD funding to connect all unserved and underserved locations in the state with reliable and affordable broadband. The ConnectMT Broadband Office will execute the subgrantee selection process across three phases:
  - Map Challenge Process: Nonprofits, ISPs, and local governments can submit challenges to the broadband map.
  - Prequalification: Applicants will submit materials for prequalification to meet the BEAD minimum eligibility requirements.

## BEAD Program Dates:

- BEAD Main Round opened Tuesday, August 13, 2024.
- BEAD Prequalification Application closes Tuesday, October 1, 2024.
- BEAD Main Round Application closes Tuesday, October 15, 2024.



# 2024 BEAD PROGRAM TIMELINE



# MAIN ROUND OVERVIEW

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- The purpose of the Main Round Application is to allow prequalified applicants to submit detailed project proposals for consideration under the BEAD program.
- **Subgrantee Eligibility Requirements:** To receive BEAD funding, subgrantees must:
  - Meet mandated financial requirements;
  - Demonstrate capability to provide broadband service in MT;
  - Propose a project that will provide 100/20 service to all locations within service area within timeline; and
  - Certify ability to comply with all requirements mandated by NTIA and the State of Montana.

## **Please Note:**

- To begin the Main Round application, users must first provide information in the Prequalification section of the application.



# MAIN ROUND REQUIREMENTS

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- 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.
- Eligible Program Areas:
  - The ConnectMT Broadband Office has opted to allow applicants to define their proposed broadband project areas consisting of existing Census Block Groups (CBGs).
- Eligible Program Costs:
  - The BEAD NOFO (Notice of Funding Opportunity) defines eligible uses of funding in connection with last-mile broadband deployment projects.

## **Please Note:**

- Applicants must propose to provide service to all unserved (less than 25 Mbps) and underserved (between 25/3 Mbps and 100/20 Mbps) Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) in any CBGs they offer.



# PRIORITY VS NON-PRIORITY

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- To approach the process holistically, maximize competition, and give the State the most complete view of its service options, priority and non-priority bids will be accepted in tandem in the main round.
- **Priority Application Project:** Applications that will provide service via end-to-end fiber-optic facilities to each end-user premise; these applications will be evaluated first for every project area.
- **Non-Priority Application Project:** Applications that propose a technology solution that does not include a fully fiber solution, which could include HFC, DSL, licensed fixed wireless, or a mix of these technologies.





# Main Round Programmatic Requirements

# ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

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## Organizational Capacity Summary

- Applicants will be asked if they wish to update the following documents that were submitted during the Prequalification Round.
  - Resumes of management, finance and technical key personnel
  - Organizational chart
  - Narrative detailing company's managerial approach
  - Detail of prior experience for recent broadband projects State and federal registrations
  - List of all broadband deployment projects, previous and ongoing awards and planned applications
  - Cybersecurity and Supply Chain Risk Management plans





# ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

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## Organizational Capacity Summary (cont.)

- Each applicant must upload a legal opinion certifying that they possess the operational capability to carry out the funded activities within the timeline and terms set by the subgrant agreement.
- Operating and financial information if the company solely operated as an electric transmission or distribution service (if applicable)



# TRIBAL CONSENT

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- If an Applicant intends to build on tribal lands during the main round application, an applicant must certify that they have already engaged with tribal authorities and commit that if awarded, they will provide a binding tribal resolution prior to receiving the final award.
- An applicant must upload documentation of initiating a tribal consent process or receiving tribal consent from the appropriate tribal authority as required in the BEAD NOFO.
- 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](mailto:misty.kuhl@mt.gov) and cc the [ConnectMTTechAssistance@mt.gov](mailto:ConnectMTTechAssistance@mt.gov) website to facilitate the process of coordinating with tribal leadership.

## Documents and Templates:

- (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.



# ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY: CERTIFICATIONS

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## Certification Summary

- Good legal standing and eligibility for participation in federal covered transactions
- Fraud or criminal offense
- Default
- Workplace safety committees
- Availability of funds
- Minimum financial capability qualifications
- Collusion, bias or conflict of interest



# ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY: RISK

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## Summary of Risk Portfolio Questions

- 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.
- The responses to these questions are only used for informational purposes as Montana develops a risk analysis for its grant portfolio.



# PROJECT STAFFING

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## Staffing Summary

- Approach to project staffing and if the workforce is directly employed, subcontracted, or both, including details on the size of its workforce, the job titles of its workers, and the entity that will employ each portion of the workforce (e.g., the applicant, contractors, subcontractors).
- Assurance of workforce credentials, certification of personnel qualifications, and compliance with workplace safety



# LABOR REQUIREMENTS

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## Labor and Staffing Summary

- All BEAD recipients and sub-recipients must provide a plan to comply with all applicable labor regulations.
- Scoring
  - Details of their past compliance with federal fair labor laws.
  - Commitment to offering Davis-Bacon prevailing wages
- Main Round Application Questions
  - Narratives detailing approaches to staffing, ensuring appropriate credentialing, and applicable subcontracting plans
- Davis Bacon Requirements
  - Prevailing Wages Summary: Although not mandatory, subgrantees are encouraged to provide prevailing wages and benefits to their workers through the scoring process.



# RECRUITMENT AND SUBCONTRACTING

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## Recruitment and Subcontracting Summary

- Applicants will be asked to provide information detailing their staffing and subcontracting policies and procedures.

## Application Components

- Organization's plan to recruit employees that would be appropriate for this project with relevant expertise.
- Organization's subcontracting plan and how they will ensure subcontracting staff meets qualifications.
- Updates to project-specific resumes (if applicable)



# CREDENTIALING

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## Credentiailling Summary

- Applicants will be asked to describe how they will ensure that all employees have the appropriate and required credentials.
- Application Components:
  - Organization plans to ensure all members of workforce have necessary credentials.
  - Certification confirming that organization has employed the appropriate personnel for the proposed project.
  - Certifications required for staff deployment projects as mandated by state and federal law.
  - During the main round, potential subgrantees must provide a narrative that details the steps they will take to ensure that all members of its project workforce have the appropriate credentials.
  - The applicant should also note any on-the-job training programs it offers.





# EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

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## Employee Health and Safety Summary

- During the main round, applicants will also be required to upload any documentation demonstrating that they have communicated these rights to workers.



# OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

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## Build America, Buy America Summary

- All organizations receiving funding from the BEAD program are required to comply with Build America, Buy America (BABA).
- In general, compliance with BABA will be required for all recipients of grant funding; however, the Department of Commerce has published several waivers for certain materials and situations.
- The currently approved BABA waivers for the BEAD program are:
  - Optical line terminals and remote optical line terminals; OLT line cards; Optic pluggable; Standalone optical network terminals and optical network units, where DOC waives the 55% cost of components requirement and provides specific guidance regarding manufacturing processes that must occur in the United States; and passive optical equipment.



# UPCOMING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Upcoming Webinars		
Topic	Date	Time
Negotiation Process	Friday, September 27, 2024	11 am – 12pm MT
Q&A Part One	Friday, October 04, 2024	11 am – 12pm MT
Q&A Part Two	Tuesday, October 08, 2024	11 am – 12pm MT

## Where to find webinar links:

- All webinar dates, times, and links to register can be found at <https://connectmt.mt.gov/Events/Upcoming>.
- All webinars are recorded and posted on the ConnectMT website.

**\*\*All dates are estimated and subject to change, please reference the ConnectMT website for any updates and registration\*\***



# MAIN ROUND PROGRAMMATIC REQUIREMENTS Q&A

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# Q&A



# PROGRAM RESOURCES

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

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

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

Technical Assistance Email: [ConnectMTTechAssistance@mt.gov](mailto:ConnectMTTechAssistance@mt.gov)

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