

INTRODUCTION

This glossary provides official definitions for key terms and concepts used throughout the Main Round Application Guide, covering topics such as affordability criteria, application processes, roles and responsibilities, reference pricing, and various broadband technologies. It also includes definitions related to federal programs, compliance requirements, and processes for determining funding eligibility. This document is intended to be periodically updated to ensure accuracy and relevance.

GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
AmpliFund	Application system where the Main Round application is 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.
Benchmark Reference Pricing	A reference price set for each Census Block Group (CBG) for the provision of broadband to all unserved and underserved Broadband Serviceable Locations within the CBG. It is used as an objective reference against which to score applications, incentivizing minimum BEAD outlays per CBG.
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.
Broadband 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 (BSL)	A valid address in the state of Montana representing either a household, business, farm, or community anchor institution.
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.

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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 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, but not limited to, low-income individuals, unemployed individuals, children, the incarcerated, and aged individuals.
ConnectMT Broadband Office	Section of the Montana Department of Administration (DOA) responsible for overseeing and carrying out broadband development and implementation.
Davis-Bacon Act	Act that requires contractors and subcontractors to pay their laborers and mechanics employed under the contract no less than the locally prevailing wages and fringe benefits for corresponding work on similar projects in the area.
End-to-end	The integrated approach of, or the life cycle determined by, examining the research and developmental process from the mining of the raw minerals to its processing into useful materials, its integration into components and devices, the use of such devices in the end-use application to satisfy certain performance metrics, and the recycling or disposal of such devices.
Extremely High Cost Per Location Threshold	The maximum BEAD subsidy cost per location to be utilized during the subgrantee selection process described in the BEAD NOFO p 35 in which an Eligible Entity may decline to select a proposal if use of an alternative technology meeting the BEAD program's technical requirements would be less expensive.
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 uses include licensed spectrum or a hybrid of licensed and unlicensed spectrum.

Term	Definition
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.
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 and Information Administration (NTIA)	Federal government agency principally responsible for advising the administration on telecommunications and information policy issues, 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.
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.
Personal 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 ConnectMT Broadband Office to screen applications for eligibility. A prequalification application is required in order to be eligible to apply for 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.
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 Infrastructure Act, '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

Term	Definition
	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 Mbps.
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 Mbps.