



# MONTANA BEAD MAIN ROUND TRIBAL PRESENTATION

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# INTRODUCTIONS

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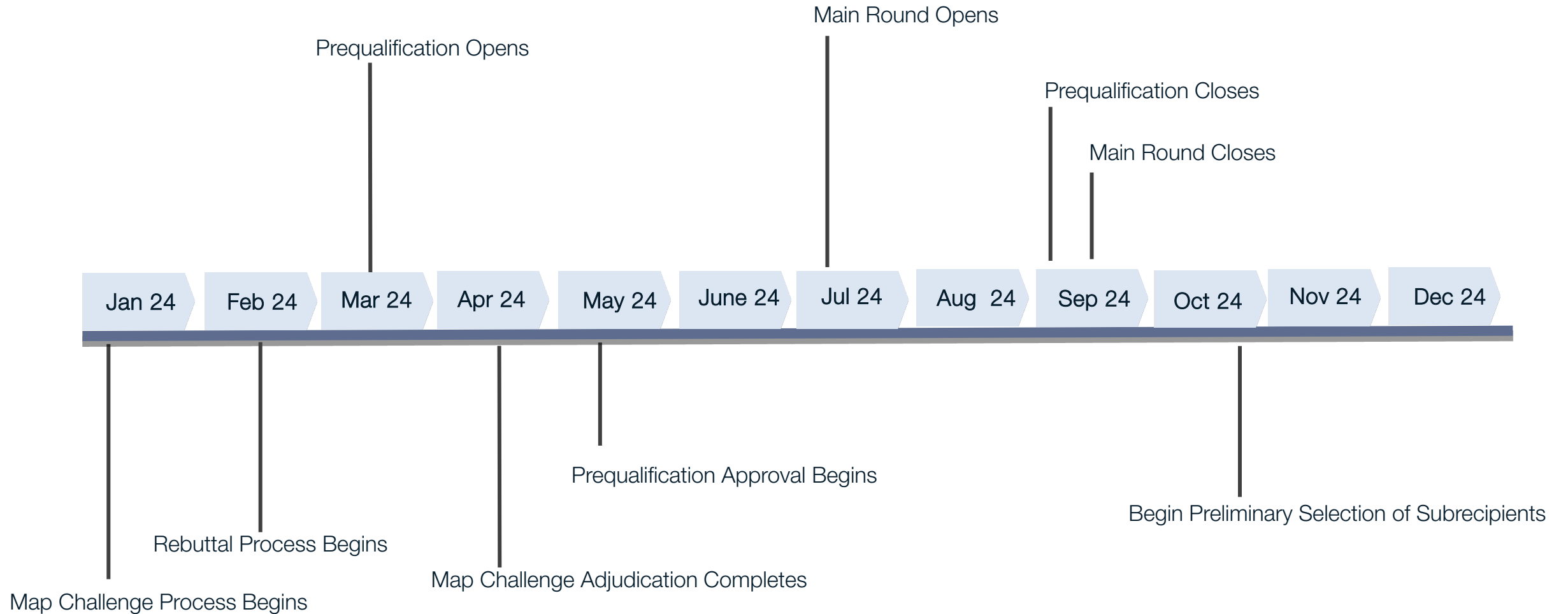
# BEAD PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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- The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program is designed to expand high-speed internet access by funding planning, infrastructure deployment, and adoption programs across the country.
- The State of Montana was awarded \$628 million in BEAD funding to connect all unserved 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
  - Main Round Application: Once prequalification is completed, applicants will be invited to submit proposals for projects as part of the main round



# ESTIMATED 2024 PROGRAM TIMELINE



# MAIN ROUND OVERVIEW

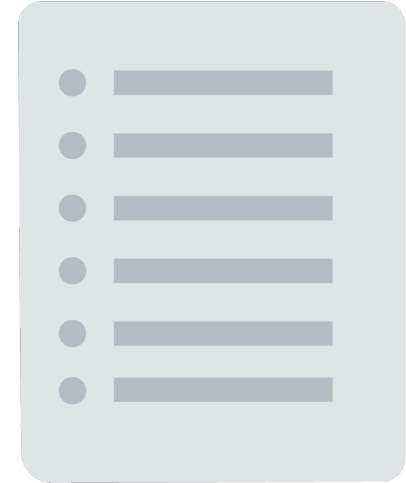
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## Purpose

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

## Subgrantee Eligibility Requirements

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



# UNDERSTANDING REQUIREMENTS

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## Eligible Applicants

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

## Eligible Program Areas

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

## Eligible Program Costs

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



# PRIORITY vs. NON-PRIORITY

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## Overview

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

## Priority Application

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

## Non-Priority Application

- Any project that is not a priority project



# OPPORTUNITIES FOR UPDATES

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## Updates to the submitted Prequalification application

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

## Sections that include updates

- Administrative
- Financial
- Organizational
- Ownership Information





# APPLICATION METRICS

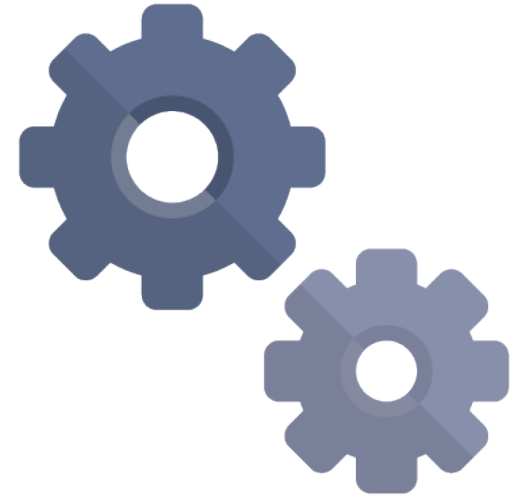
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## Application Metrics

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

## Application Metrics Include

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



# SCORING CRITERIA

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## Scoring Criteria Summary

- Initial Proposal Volume 2 requirements
- BEAD Outlay
- Affordability
- Fair labor practices
- Speed to deployment
- Unserved areas
- Existing infrastructure
- High-cost areas
- Length of service
- Locations served

## Templates

- Sample scoring worksheet
- Proposed CBGs in a csv file



# FINANCIAL CAPABILITY

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## Financial Capability Summary

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



## Templates

- Pro forma
- Model letter of credit



# ORGANIZATIONAL AND MANAGERIAL CAPACITY

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## Summary of Organizational and Managerial Capacity

- This section allows applicants to update and submit essential organizational documentation and certifications for their broadband project proposals as well as provide additional programmatic information
- Legal opinion demonstrating capability to carry out funded activities competently and in compliance with applicable laws, including disclosure of any violations or pending court proceedings (in Word or PDF format)
- Organizational risk and readiness

## Templates

- Legal Opinion



# PROJECT STAFFING AND LABOR REQUIREMENTS

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## Summary of Project Staffing

- Focuses on project staffing and subcontracting plans, ensuring workforce qualifications, and addressing tribal land considerations. Some sections offer updates from prequalification.
  - Staffing approach
  - Project-specific resumes
  - Recruitment plans
  - Workforce training and certifications
  - Subcontracting plans
  - Tribal consent

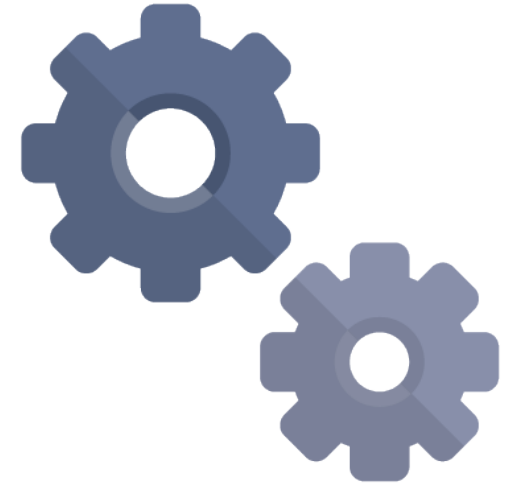


# PROJECT PLAN

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## Summary of Project Plan

- Centers on the technical aspects and financial planning of the proposed broadband infrastructure project.
- Requires the submission of crucial documents and certifications, including
  - Existing infrastructure relative to proposed network
  - Network design drawing
  - Project cost estimate
  - Project timeline
  - Certification of network capability
  - Technical and financial qualification certifications



## Templates

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



# COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS

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## Summary of compliance

- Ensures that applicants meet the legal requirements mandated by federal, state, and local regulations including
- This section requires certification of compliance and documentation of any outstanding judgments or proceedings



# ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMPLIANCE

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## Summary of Environmental and Historical Compliance

- Focuses on the environmental and historical preservation requirements of the project, Including
  - Right of way
  - Categorical exclusions





# TRIBAL CONSENT

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Per the NTIA's BEAD Notice of Funding Opportunity: "To the extent an Eligible Entity's Final Proposal includes plans to deploy broadband to Unserved Service Projects or Underserved Service Projects on Tribal Lands, the Eligible Entity must submit a Resolution of Consent from each Tribal Government, from the Tribal Council or other governing body, upon whose Tribal Lands the infrastructure will be deployed".

- Obtaining permission from Tribal Governments does not exempt applicants from either the prequalification or main round application process
- Applicants must meet all financial, organizational, and managerial eligibility requirements
- Applicants must demonstrate their ability and competency to build broadband network infrastructure, including past project experience and firm-wide capabilities



# APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

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## Building 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.



## Templates and Documents

- Legally binding tribal resolution certifying consent and approval to build on tribal land or evidence of beginning the process of obtaining such documentation



# GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS

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## Building on Tribal Lands

- If you are proposing a project on Tribal lands, please 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)
- This will help facilitate the process of coordinating with Tribal leadership.



# MAIN ROUND TRIBAL Q&A

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# Q&A



# PROGRAM CONTACTS

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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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