MONTANA BEAD PREQUALIFICATION
Q&A Session

February 16, 2024

INTRODUCTIONS

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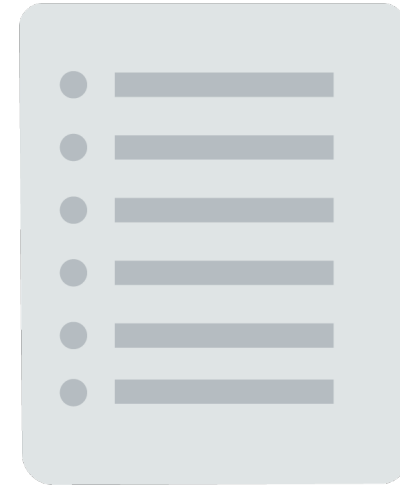- samuel.seong@summitllc.us

BEAD PROGRAM OVERVIEW

➢ 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 was awarded $628 million in BEAD funding to connect all unserved locations in the state with reliable and affordable broadband

BEAD PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Montana Broadband Office (MBO) will execute the subgrantee selection process across three phases:
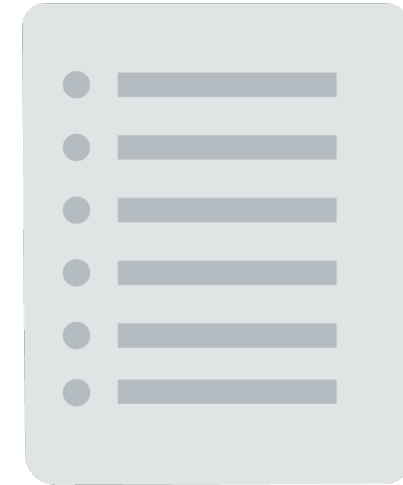
Map Challenge Process:
Nonprofits, ISPs, and local governments can submit challenges to the broadband map.
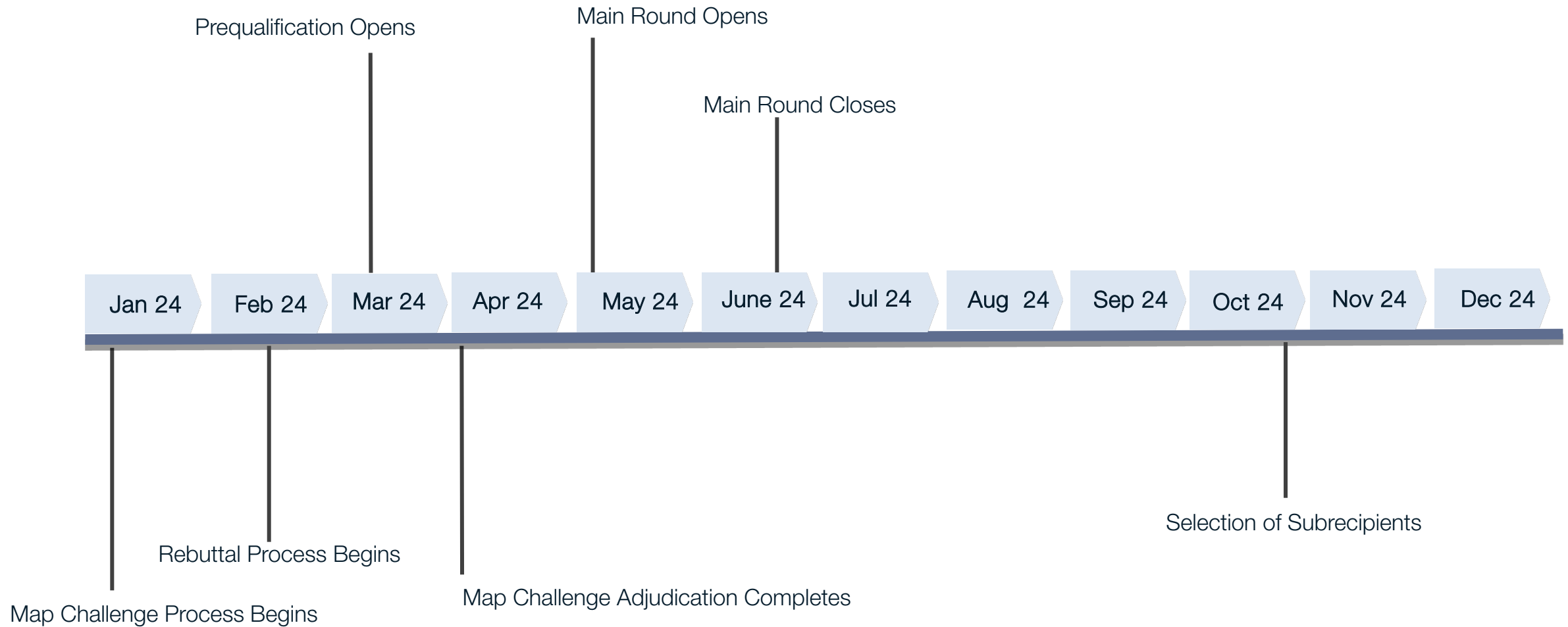
Prequalification:
Applicants will submit materials for prequalification to meet the BEAD minimum eligibility requirements

Main Round Application:
Once applicants are prequalified, they are able to complete the main round application with project specific information.

2024 PROGRAM TIMELINE

Prequalification Opens

Main Round Opens

Main Round Closes

Jan 24	Feb 24	Mar 24	Apr 24	May 24	June 24	Jul 24	Aug 24	Sep 24	Oct 24	Nov 24	Dec 24

Selection of Subrecipients

Rebuttal Process Begins

Map Challenge Adjudication Completes

Map Challenge Process Begins

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

All dates are estimated and subject to change

PREQUALIFICATION OVERVIEW

➢ Purpose
  • Prequalification is the first phase in a multi-phase application process to select subrecipient as part of the BEAD program. The purpose of prequalification is to evaluate whether applicants meet minimum eligibility criteria to receive BEAD funding and make the main round application available only to those entities that meet those criteria.

➢ Timing
  • The prequalification round will open in mid-March. All providers who intend to submit subgrantee applications during the main round will be required to participate. After successfully passing the prequalification process, an applicant can then apply for the main round.

UNDERSTANDING REQUIREMENTS

➤ Subgrantee <u>Eligibility</u> Requirements

    To receive BEAD funding, subgrantees must:

1. Meet mandated financial requirements
2. Have provided broadband service in The State of Montana for at least 1 year
3. Propose a project that will provide 100/20 service to all locations within service area within 4-year timeline
4. Can comply with all requirements mandated by NTIA and the State of Montana

➤ Prequalification <u>Application</u> Requirements

    The BEAD NOFO explicitly outlines the requirements to meet the minimum eligibility criteria for the program:

1. *Financial Capability*: Certifications and documentation, Letter of credit compliance statement, Audited financial statements
2. *Organizational Capability*: Key management resumes, Organizational charts, Certification of operational readiness, Evidence of prior service, Compliance with regulatory filings
3. *Certifications and Compliance*: Adherence to federal, state, and local laws, Compliance with occupational safety regulations

CHECKLIST FOR SUBMISSION

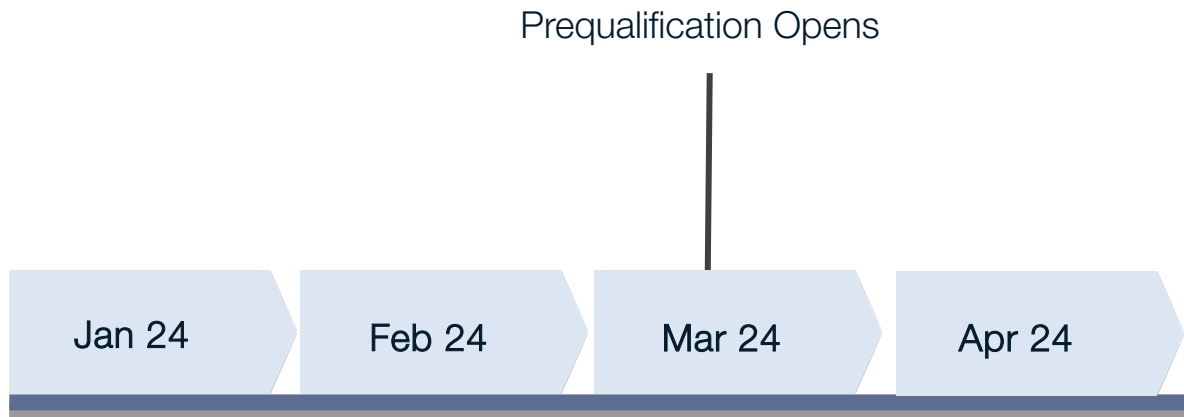Materials to Prepare for Prequalification:

✓ Identify AOR and key application contacts

✓ Company Name, Address, TIN, Contact Information

✓ Gather financial statements and other documentation

✓ Identify key managerial staff, update resumes and organizational charts

✓ Confirm active registrations with SAM.gov and the State of Montana

✓ Identify projects of similar size and/or scope for past performance

✓ Ensure accurate ownership documentation

✓ Review BEAD NOFO, MT Initial Proposal Volume 2, and relevant regulations

PREQUALIFICATION TIMELINE

Prequalification Opens

| Jan 24 | Feb 24 | Mar 24 | Apr 24 |

Comprehensive Technical Assistance Schedule			
Component	Topic	Anticipated Date	Mode
Prequalification	Deep Dive	2/8/2024	Webinar
Prequalification	Q/A	2/16/24*	Webinar
Prequalification	Deep Dive	2/29/2024*	Webinar
Prequalification	Q&A	3/8/2023*	Webinar

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COMMON QUESTIONS

➤ Will the Montana Broadband Office (MBO) be publishing a resource guide for the prequalification process?
  • Yes. A prequalification guide will be available on the MBO website prior to the prequalification application window opening.

➤ What will curing for the prequalification process look like?
  • The prequalification application will include one round of curing.

➤ When are prequalification applications due?
  • Prequalification applications must be submitted and approved before an applicant is able to access the main round application.

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

PREQUALIFICATION OVERVIEW Q&A

Q&A

PROGRAM CONTACTS

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

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