MONTANA BEAD PREQUALIFICATION OVERVIEW

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INTRODUCTIONS

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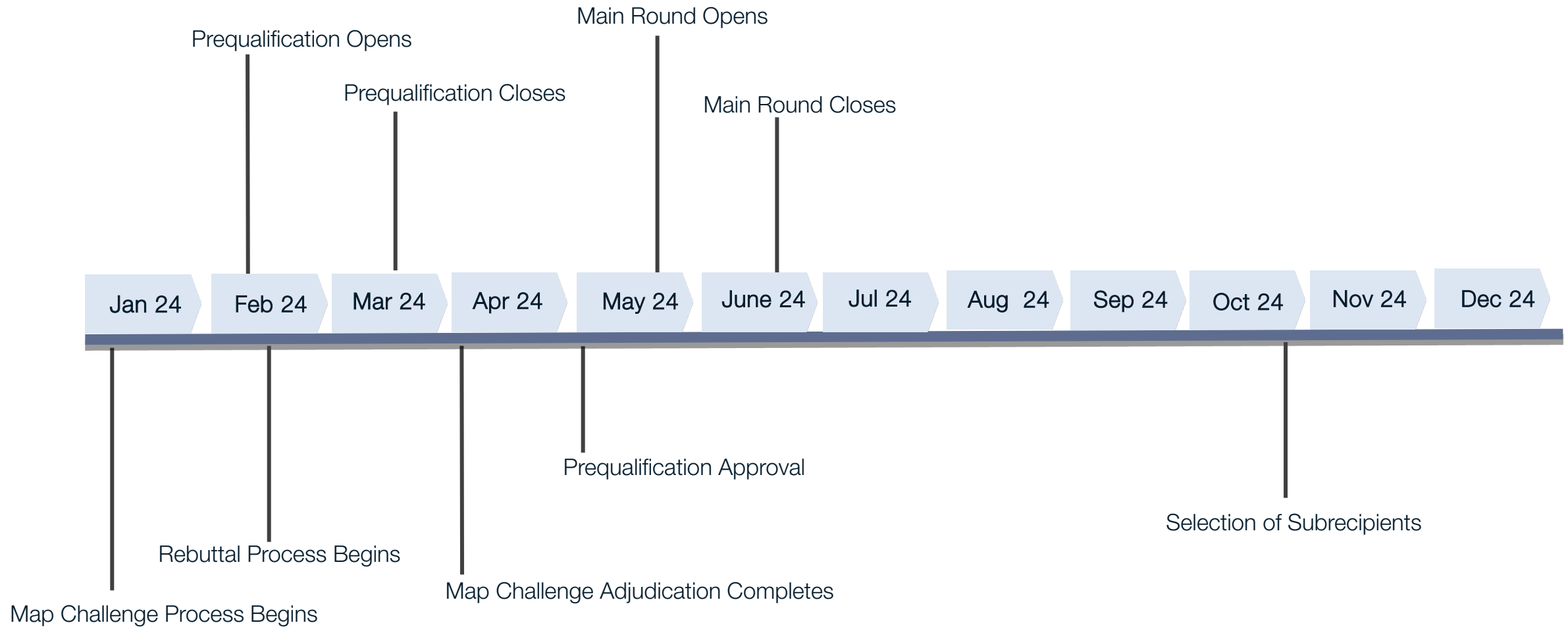- Moderating Today's Presentation
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BEAD PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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

- 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: Prequalified applicants may submit proposals for projects as part of the main round

2024 PROGRAM TIMELINE

Prequalification Opens

Main Round Opens

Prequalification Closes

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 |

Prequalification Approval

Selection of Subrecipients

Rebuttal Process Begins

Map Challenge Adjudication Completes

Map Challenge Process Begins

*All dates are estimated and subject to change*

PREQUALIFICATION OVERVIEW

Purpose
- To prequalify and evaluate applicants to apply for subawards through BEAD main round application
- Enables applicants to have a smooth main round application process

Timing
- Application portal open for 30 days
- Providers who intend to apply during the main round should submit a prequalification application
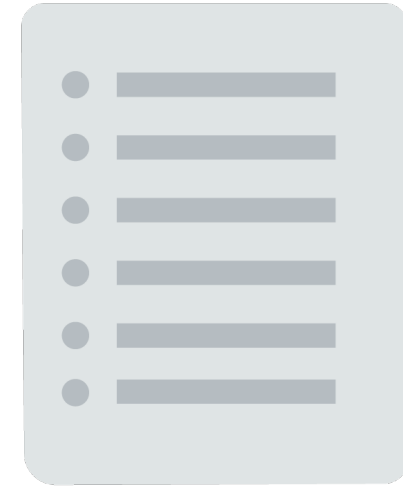
UNDERSTANDING REQUIREMENTS

▶ Subgrantee <u>Eligibility</u> Requirements

To receive BEAD funding, subgrantees must:

1. Meet mandated financial requirements

2. Have provided broadband service in MT 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

FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

- *Financial Statements*: Submission of unqualified* audited financial statements from the prior year.
  - If the organization only has qualified** audited financial statements from the prior year, be prepared to provide those along with any documentation addressing the findings.
  - If neither is available, provide a justification if those statements are unavailable.
  - NOTE: Audited financial statements will be required prior to award.

*Unqualified audited financial statements: audited financial statements that have no noted issues from the preparer

**Qualified audited financial statements: audited financial statements that have noted issues from the preparer

FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

- *Letter of Credit*: Be prepared to provide a statement of how the organization plans to meet the requirements for a letter of credit in alignment with the instructions published by NTIA in the [waiver](#).

- *Executive Authority for Financial Capability*: Be prepared to provide a statement signed by an executive certifying the organization meets the minimum financial qualifications of the BEAD program.
    - A template will be available for use.

ORGANIZATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- *Key Personnel Resumes and Roles*: Prepare one-page resumes for essential financial, technical, and managerial personnel, showcasing at least five years of relevant experience
    - Resumes should reflect key organizational managerial staff

- *Management Organizational Chart*: Prepare an organizational chart including all pertinent management personnel
    - All key personnel should be included on the organizational chart with names and titles

- *Past Performance*: Be prepared to provide detailed past performance itemizing projects of similar size and/or scope
    - A template will provided/required

- *List of Existing Projects*: Prepare a comprehensive list of existing and planned federally and state-funded broadband projects

CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- *Workforce Certifications*: Provide a list of required certifications or licensing requirements for key personnel of both in-house and contracted resources

- *Business Certifications*: Provide documentation of business registrations with Sam.gov UEI and the State of Montana

- *Compliance*: Applicants will certify understanding of Environmental and Historical Preservation (EHP), Build America, Buy America (BABA), Broadband DATA Act, FCC filing requirements, and NTIA Safety and Health requirements

- *Legal Opinion*: Applicants must upload a legal opinion demonstrating compliance with laws and any past violations
  - A template will be available

- *Ownership Information*: Submit relevant ownership information as required by regulations, including beginning to prepare real property

PREQUALIFICATION TIMELINE

Prequalification Approval

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Prequalification Closes

| Jan 24 | Feb 24 | Mar 24 | Apr 24 |
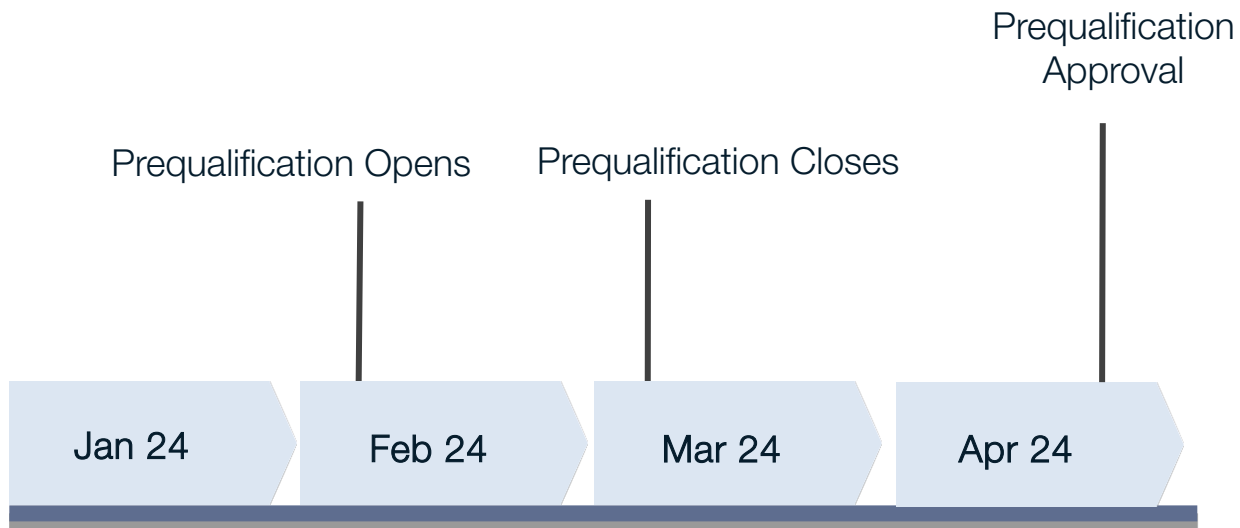
Comprehensive Technical Assistance Schedule			
Component	Topic	Anticipated Date	Mode
Prequalification	Overview	1/17/2024	Webinar
Prequalification	Deep Dive	2/8/2024	Webinar
Prequalification	Q/A	2/16/24*	Webinar
Prequalification	Deep Dive	2/20/2024*	Webinar
Prequalification	Q&A	3/1/2024*	Webinar
Prequalification	Q&A	3/8/2023*	Webinar

All dates are estimated and subject to change

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

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: connectmttechassist@mt.gov

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Q&A