



Benefit of the Bargain Round Scoring Rubric for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Grant Program

Version 1.0

In compliance with the NTIA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice

Prioritization of Broadband Projects

The IIJA requires Eligible Entities to prioritize funding for “priority broadband projects”¹. A priority broadband project is defined as “a project that provides broadband service at speeds of no less than 100 megabits per second for downloads and 20 megabits per second for uploads, has a latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds, and can easily scale speeds over time to meet the evolving connectivity needs of households and businesses and support the deployment of 5G, successor wireless technologies, and other advanced services.”²

As required by the IIJA, OBAE will give priority to proposals that meet the definition of a Priority Broadband Project. If OBAE determines that no proposal meets the definition of a Priority Broadband Project, then it may select a non-priority broadband project that meets the speed and latency requirements of the statute and NOFO.

Primary Scoring Criteria

The NTIA’s [Bead Restructuring Policy Notice](#) defines the primary scoring criteria as follows: “In deciding among competing applications covering the same general project areas, Eligible Entities must choose the option with the lowest cost based on minimal BEAD Program outlay” (Policy Notice, p. 12).

Minimal BEAD Program Outlay

In compliance with the Policy Notice, the OBAE will select the combination of project proposals with the lowest overall cost to the Program. This may involve selecting a proposal that is not the lowest-cost option for a given set of BSLs but is part of the combination of selected projects with the lowest overall cost to the Program.

When comparing competing proposals, the OBAE will assess the total BEAD funding that will be required to complete the project (i.e., the total project cost minus the applicant’s proposed match) and the cost to the Program per location (i.e., the total BEAD funding that will be required to complete the project divided by the number of BSLs the project will serve).

¹ 47 U.S.C. §1702(a)(2)(I)

² “[BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice](#),” §3.1

Secondary Scoring Criteria

In compliance with the Policy Notice (pp. 12–13), “[i]f an application to serve the same general project area proposes a project cost within 15% of the lowest-cost proposal received for that same general project area on a per BSL basis,” the OBAE will evaluate the competing applications based on the following secondary criteria:

<u>Secondary Scoring Criteria</u>		<u>Points</u>
<u>Speed to Deployment (maximum 10 points)</u>		
Project complete within 36 months of award		10
<u>Speed of Network (maximum 90 points)</u>		
<i>Download</i>	<i>Upload</i>	
At least 2 Gbps	At least 2 Gbps	90
At least 1 Gbps	At least 1 Gbps	75
At least 500 Mbps	At least 500 Mbps	50
At least 100 Mbps	At least 100 Mbps	25
At least 100 Mbps	At least 50 Mbps	15
At least 100 Mbps	At least 20 Mbps	0