



NORTH DAKOTA

Final Proposal

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Final Proposal Overview

The State of North Dakota has drafted the following proposal as is required under the Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD). Following the public comment period, the proposal will be submitted to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), under the U.S. Department of Commerce, for review and approval.

Once approved, the State Broadband Program Office will gain access to the remaining BEAD funds necessary to implement the plan.

Comments on the BEAD Final Proposal are welcome and should be submitted via email to broadband@nd.gov by 11:59pm on August 29, 2025, for review and consideration.

Final Proposal Data Submission (Requirement 0)

[0.1 Attachment (Required): Complete and submit the Subgrantees CSV file (named “fp_subgrantees.csv”) using the NTIA template provided.]

See attachment at <https://www.ndit.nd.gov/about-us/broadband/bead-final-proposal>.

[0.2 Attachment (Required): Complete and submit the Deployment Projects CSV file (named “fp_deployment_projects.csv”) using the NTIA template provided.]

See attachment at <https://www.ndit.nd.gov/about-us/broadband/bead-final-proposal>.

[0.3 Attachment (Required): Complete and submit the Locations CSV file (named “fp_locations.csv”) using the NTIA template provided. This list must match the approved final list from the Eligible Entity’s Challenge Process results.]

See attachment at <https://www.ndit.nd.gov/about-us/broadband/bead-final-proposal>.

[0.4 Attachment (Required): Complete and submit the No BEAD Locations CSV file (named “fp_no_BEAD_locations.csv”) using the NTIA template provided. The Location IDs in this list must match the NTIA-approved final list of eligible locations.

See attachment at <https://www.ndit.nd.gov/about-us/broadband/bead-final-proposal>.

[0.5 Question (Y/N): If the Eligible Entity intends to use BEAD funds to serve CAIs, does the Eligible Entity certify that it ensures coverage of broadband service to all unserved and underserved locations, as identified in the NTIA-approved final list of eligible locations and required under 47 U.S.C. § 1702(h)(2)?

Yes.

[0.6 Attachment (Required – Conditional on a ‘Yes’ Response to Intake Question

0.5): Complete and submit the CAIs CSV file (named “fp_cai.csv”) using the NTIA template provided. Although CAIs are not included under (f)(1) deployment projects, to confirm the Eligible Entity’s compliance with the BEAD prioritization framework and identify BEAD-funded CAIs, the NTIA template is required. The Eligible Entity must only include CAIs funded via BEAD in this list; the Eligible Entity may not propose funding CAIs that were not present

See attachment at <https://www.ndit.nd.gov/about-us/broadband/bead-final-proposal>.

Subgrantee Selection Process Outcomes (Requirement 1)

[1.1: Text Box: Describe how the Eligible Entity’s deployment Subgrantee Selection Process undertaken is consistent with that approved by NTIA in Volume II of the Initial Proposal.

The State of North Dakota’s Subgrantee Selection Process was conducted in alignment with the Initial Proposal approved by the NTIA as amended by the June 6th Restructuring Policy Notice. The process helped to advance the State’s goal of addressing all unserved and underserved

locations and included the new Benefit of the Bargain (BoTB) Round. The State leveraged its existing grants platform (Webgrants) to conduct the BEAD application process.

In response to the Policy Notice, the State rescinded provisional subgrantee award selections and began the BoTB subgrantee selection process. To inform providers of the change, the State Broadband Program Office held a carrier briefing office hours session where the new policy notice, the impact to subgrantee selection, and application process were discussed.

The State conducted an Unlicensed Fixed Wireless (ULFW) round where ULFW providers were encouraged to identify whether they served or could serve eligible unserved / underserved. The round ran from June 17th to July 1st. Additionally, the state assessed BSLs receiving ULFW service against the “Served” threshold based on FCC Availability Data. In instances where BSLs were determined to receive 100/20 Mbps or greater ULFW service, these locations were removed from the Eligible Locations list. No submissions were received by ULFW providers claiming service.

Three providers submitted applications during this period, creating a total of six provider-defined project areas. Following receipt of the initial applications, the State provided curing comments and providers were given the opportunity to revise their applications.

After finalizing project areas and locations, the State opened the BoTB application forms. The Bargain Round ran for 14 days, from July 3 to July 17.

Details such as project plans, technology type, and project costs were collected. After the conclusion of the round, project areas were deconflicted to identify any competing bids. In the case of overlap, applicants were required as part of deconfliction to divide their proposals into separate submissions: one for each area of overlap, and another for the remaining non-overlapping areas. This allowed the State to evaluate the overlapping proposals directly against each other using the updated evaluation criteria as defined in the June 6th Restructuring Policy Notice. The projects were then assessed utilizing both internal and third-party reviewers.

As a result of the BoTB Round, the State of North Dakota was able to secure 100% coverage to all unserved/underserved locations in the state.

[1.2 Text Box: Describe the steps that the Eligible Entity took to ensure a fair, open, and competitive process, including processes in place to ensure training, qualifications, and objectiveness of reviewers.]

The State Broadband Program Office has designed a fair, open, and competitive subgrantee selection process with broad safeguards against collusion, bias, conflicts of interest, and arbitrary conditions.

Fair: During the pre-application and application process, the State promoted fairness by ensuring all prospective subgrantees received the same information prior to and during the application process, including updates on program changes following the June 6th Restructuring Policy Notice. The State conducted held an Office Hours session to answer questions from all providers regarding the changes. To score applications and promote transparency, the State used the published rubric that was independently developed. This gave applicants insight into the process and certified that all applications were being compared against the same standards. After the

applications were submitted, the State then conducted a curing process to give all applicants the opportunity to correct omissions and potential errors.

Open: To promote openness, the State welcomed all providers from all technology types to participate in the BEAD subgrantee selection process. To reach out to providers, the State used publicly available data for key broadband contacts. These points of contact were all included in various communications and updates regarding the subgrantee selection process, including the carrier briefing office hours born in reaction to the June 6th Restructuring Policy Notice. Additionally, throughout the process providers were invited to engage with the State Broadband Program Office to share feedback and questions.

The State also provided relevant resources to potential applicants via the NDIT website. The application was published on the NDIT website prior to the application portal opening to allow for potential subgrantees to adequately prepare. Additional information about the BEAD program, subgrantee selection process, office hours materials, and application guidance were also accessible to all applicants via the NDIT website, which was updated and shared frequently.

Competitive: The State Broadband Program Office designed the subgrantee selection process to maximize competition and avoid monopolistic outcomes. A key feature of this approach was the implementation of a deconfliction process, which required applicants with overlapping proposals to submit separate applications for overlapping and non-overlapping areas. This allowed the State to independently evaluate submissions for the same geographic area using consistent scoring criteria, while preserving applicants' eligibility for non-overlapping areas. By preventing any single provider from preempting others through broad, overlapping claims, the process encouraged multiple applicants to compete for distinct areas, ultimately enhancing the competitiveness of the program.

In alignment with the June 6th Restructuring Policy Notice, the State was open to applications from any type of broadband provider with no bias towards technology type. The State Broadband Program Office received applications from fiber-optic broadband providers, hybrid fiber coaxial broadband providers, and LEO satellite operators. All providers and projects regardless of technology were considered on the same playing field, encouraging competition to receive the best projects for the State.

The State engaged in an application curing process through provider-specific outreach after the initial applications were submitted with the intent of curing applications from all providers towards completion and compliance. This curing period was conducted in a timely manner and gave all providers equal and adequate time to respond to comments. The curing timeline was designed intentionally to not put unnecessary strain on providers while simultaneously keeping pace with the required deadlines.

Processes to ensure training, qualifications, and objectiveness of reviewers: To maintain the fairness, openness, and competition of North Dakota's BEAD efforts, the State was diligent in preparing its application reviewers. The State leveraged a third-party to help score applications to eliminate any potential for bias. Two external scorers and two internal scorers were employed, and all application scores were discussed and selected per the NTIA approved evaluation criteria. To adequately train qualified and objective reviewers, all reviewers attended training sessions for the use of the scoring rubric and the use of the State's application portal, Webgrants.

[1.3 Text Box: Affirm that, when no application was initially received, the Eligible Entity followed a procedure consistent with the process approved in the Initial Proposal.]

North Dakota followed a procedure that was consistent with the process approved in the revised Initial Proposal per the BEAD June 6th Restructuring Policy Notice. The State Broadband Program Office conducted an application cycle that included the initial submission, curing submissions, and communications with adjacent providers to collect required evidence for exclusion when applicable.

To identify these proximal ISPs, the State Broadband Program Office utilized mapping software to organize remaining locations by county. The State used FCC data to identify providers that operated in those counties at served speeds. The State then sent those providers the list of unserved and underserved locations and encouraged them to either apply or flag locations that should be excluded. The State Broadband Office then performed targeted outreach to the identified potential subgrantees.

[1.4 Text Box: If applicable, describe the Eligible Entity's methodology for revising its eligible CAI list to conform with Section 4 of the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice.]

The State Broadband Program Office abided by recommendations by the NTIA as to which CAIs may face challenge under the new CAI definition in the June 6th Restructuring Policy Notice.

[1.5 Question (Y/N): Certify that the Eligible Entity will retain all subgrantee records in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.334 at all times, including retaining subgrantee records for a period of at least 3 years from the date of submission of the subgrant's final expenditure report. This should include all subgrantee network designs, diagrams, project costs, build-out timelines and milestones for project implementation, and capital investment schedules submitted as a part of the application process.]

Yes.

Timeline for Implementation (Requirement 3)

[3.1 Text Box: Has the Eligible Entity taken measures to: (a) ensure that each subgrantee will begin providing services to each customer that desires broadband service within the project area not later than four years after the date on which the subgrantee receives the subgrant; (b) ensure that all BEAD subgrant activities are completed at least 120 days prior to the end of the Eligible Entity's period of performance, in accordance with 2 C.F.R. 200.344; and (c) ensure that all programmatic BEAD grant activities undertaken by the Eligible Entity are completed by the end of the period of performance for its award, in accordance with 2 C.F.R. 200.344.]

As outlined in North Dakota's Initial Proposal Volume II and consistent with BEAD NOFO requirements, the State Broadband Office has taken the following measures to maintain timely project completion:

1. **Service Initiation Within Four Years:** Each subgrantee will be required to begin providing service to every customer in the project area that desires broadband service no later than four years after the date on which the subgrantee receives the subgrant.
2. **Completion of Subgrant Activities Before Period End:** All BEAD-funded subgrant activities must be completed at least 120 days before the end of North Dakota's BEAD period of performance to allow sufficient time for closeout, reconciliation, and reporting. The State's period of performance will conclude no later than June 30, 2032.
3. **Completion of All BEAD Activities:** All programmatic BEAD activities undertaken by the State Broadband Office, including those executed via contract, will be completed by the end of the period of performance for the award, in accordance with 2 C.F.R. 200.344.

During the application process, all prospective subgrantees were required to submit, among other requirements:

- A comprehensive timeline and milestone schedule for project implementation, detailing tasks, staffing, subcontractor responsibilities, procurement, permitting, construction, and service activation.
- A capital investment schedule showing projected expenditures and buildout pacing to full service initiation.
- A network design and engineering certification attesting that the network will meet or exceed BEAD performance requirements for all locations served.

The timeline for completion was included in the scoring rubric under the "Speed to Deployment" criterion. In addition, to support timeliness going forward throughout the duration project implementation, NDIT will monitor progress through the BEAD Program Monitoring Plan, which includes:

- Tracking milestones against the approved subgrantee schedules.
- Providing technical assistance to address delays or deployment barriers promptly.
- Maintaining frequent engagement with subgrantees to identify and resolve issues before they jeopardize timelines.
- Ensuring all subgrant activities are completed no later than 120 days before the period of performance end date, consistent with federal requirements.

This process is designed to help every BEAD-funded project in North Dakota to achieve operational readiness within four years of award and conclude all activities at minimum 120 days before June 30, 2032.

Oversight and Accountability Processes (Requirement 4)

4.1 Question (Y/N): Does the Eligible Entity have a public waste, fraud, and abuse hotline, and a plan to publicize the contact information for this hotline?

Yes.

4.2 Attachments: Upload the following two required documents:

- (1) BEAD program monitoring plan;
- (2) Agency policy documentation which includes the following practices:
 - a. Distribution of funding to subgrantees for, at a minimum, all deployment projects on a reimbursable basis (which would allow the Eligible Entity to withhold funds if the subgrantee fails to take the actions the funds are meant to subsidize) or on a basis determined by the terms and conditions of a fixed amount subaward agreement; and
 - b. Timely subgrantee (to Eligible Entity) reporting mandates.

See attachment at [link](#).

4.3 Question (Y/N): Certify that the subgrant agreements will include, at a minimum, the following conditions:

- a. Compliance with Section VII.E of the BEAD NOFO, as modified by the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice, including timely subgrantee reporting mandates, including at least semiannual reporting, for the duration of the subgrant to track the effectiveness of the use of funds provided;
- b. Compliance with obligations set forth in 2 C.F.R. Part 200 and the Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions;
- c. Compliance with all relevant obligations in the Eligible Entity's approved Initial and Final Proposals, including the BEAD General Terms and Conditions and the Specific Award Conditions incorporated into the Eligible Entity's BEAD award;
- d. Subgrantee accountability practices that include distribution of funding to subgrantees for, at a minimum, all deployment projects on a reimbursable basis;
- e. Subgrantee accountability practices that include the use of clawback provisions between the Eligible Entity and any subgrantee (i.e., provisions allowing recoupment of funds previously disbursed);
- f. Mandate for subgrantees to publicize telephone numbers and email addresses for the Eligible Entity's Office of Inspector General (or comparable entity) and/or subgrantees' internal ethics office (or comparable entity) for the purpose of reporting waste, fraud or abuse in the Program. This includes an acknowledge of the responsibility to produce copies of materials used for such purposes upon request of the Federal Program Officer; and
- g. Mechanisms to provide effective oversight, such as subgrantee accountability procedures and practices in use during subgrantee performance, financial management, compliance, and program performance at regular intervals to ensure that subgrantee performance is consistently assessed and tracked over time.

Yes.

Local Coordination (Requirement 5)

5.1 Text Box: Describe the public comment period and provide a high-level summary of the comments received by the Eligible Entity during the public comment period, including how the Eligible Entity addressed the comments.

The North Dakota State Broadband Program Office held a 7-day public comment period from August 22 to August 29, providing an opportunity for the public to provide feedback on the Final Proposal. The Final Proposal was made available through a public posting on the NDIT website and was announced through multiple communication channels. Comments were received via email up until the stated deadline.

All submitted feedback will be reviewed by the State Broadband Program Office, and relevant input will be incorporated into the Final Proposal as appropriate. A high-level summary of the **x number** of comments received and explanation of how the feedback was addressed will be included in the final submission.

Challenge Process Results (Requirement 6)

[6.1 Question (Y/N): Certify that the Eligible Entity has successfully completed the BEAD Challenge Process and received approval of the results from NTIA.]

Yes.

6.2 Text Box: Provide a link to the website where the Eligible Entity has publicly posted the final location classifications (unserved/underserved/CAIs) and note the date that it was publicly posted.

NDIT posted the final location classifications at <https://www.ndit.nd.gov/about-us/broadband>. The locations were publicly posted on July 3, 2025.

Unserved and Underserved Locations (Requirement 7)

7.1 Question (Y/N): Certify whether the Eligible Entity will ensure coverage of broadband service to all unserved locations within its jurisdiction, as identified upon conclusion of the Challenge Process required under 47 U.S.C. § 1702(h)(2).

Yes.

7.2 Text Box: If the Eligible Entity does not serve an unserved location because it is either financially incapable or has determined that costs to serve the location would be unreasonably excessive, explain and include a strong showing of how the Eligible Entity made that determination.

N/A

7.3 Attachment (Optional): If applicable to support the Eligible Entity's response to Question 7.2, provide relevant files supporting the Eligible Entity's determination.

N/A

7.4 Question (Y/N): Certify whether the Eligible Entity will ensure coverage of broadband service to all underserved locations within its jurisdiction, as identified upon conclusion of the Challenge Process required under 47 U.S.C. § 1702(h)(2).

Yes.

7.5 Text Box (): If the Eligible Entity does not serve an underserved location because it is either financially incapable or has determined that costs to serve the location would be unreasonable excessive, explain and include a strong showing of how the Eligible Entity made that determination.

N/A

7.6 Attachment (Optional): If applicable to support the Eligible Entity's response to Question 7.5, provide relevant files supporting the Eligible Entity's determination.

N/A

7.7 Question (Y/N): Certify that the Eligible Entity has utilized the provided reason codes to investigate and account for locations that do not require BEAD funding, that the Eligible Entity will utilize reason codes 1, 2, and 3 for the entire period of performance, and that the Eligible Entity will maintain documentation, following the guidelines provided by NTIA, to justify its determination if there is a reason to not serve any unserved or underserved location on the NTIA-approved Challenge Process list through a BEAD project. The documentation for each location must be relevant for the specific reason indicated by the Eligible Entity in the *fp_no_BEAD_locations.csv* file. The Eligible Entity shall provide the documentation for any such location for NTIA review, as requested during Final Proposal review or after the Final Proposal has been approved.

Yes.

7.8 Question (Y/N): Certify that the Eligible Entity has accounted for all enforceable commitments after the submission of its challenge results, including state enforceable commitments and federal enforceable commitments that the Eligible Entity was notified of and did not object to, and/or

federally-funded awards for which the Eligible Entity has discretion over where they are spent (e.g., regional commission funding or Capital Projects Fund/State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds), in its list of proposed projects.

Yes.

Implementation Status of Plans for Cost and Barrier Reduction, Compliance with Labor Laws, Low-Cost Plans, and Network Reliability and Resilience (Requirement 11)

11.1 Text Box: Provide the implementation status (Complete, In Progress, or Not Started) of plans described in the approved Initial Proposal Requirement 14 related to reducing costs and barriers to deployment.

In progress.

North Dakota's State Broadband Program Office is committed to reducing costs and barriers to deployment. Since the Initial Proposal's approval, the following measures are in progress:

Promoting the use of existing infrastructure: The State Broadband Program Office recognized the importance of braiding different federal funding sources. In order to maximize the impact of federal funding, the State launched the CPF ExtEND program, which utilized the leftover funds from under-budget CPF projects. The intention of this program was to extend the existing infrastructure to serve locations that were still unserved or underserved, therefore reducing the number of locations needing to be served with BEAD funds. Expanding existing infrastructure through CPF projects reduces the potential costs of building entirely new networks for these locations.

Streamlining permitting processes: Through CPF projects, the State gained insights into some of the permitting challenges providers were encountering, such as lead time for permits. This has prepared the State for mitigating potential delays and challenges as providers begin to deploy.

Streamlining cost-effective access to poles, conduits, and easements: The State also gained insights into promoting cost-effective access to poles, conduits, and easements through CPF projects. These CPF projects gave the State experience with deployment and subgrantee selection, thus preparing the State for any potential delays or challenges that providers may experience through BEAD.

11.2 Question (Y/N): Affirm that the Eligible Entity required subgrantees to certify compliance with existing federal labor and employment laws.

Yes.

11.3 Text Box (Optional – Conditional on a 'No' Response to Intake Question 11.2): If the Eligible Entity does not affirm that subgrantees were required to certify compliance with federal labor and employment laws, explain why the Eligible Entity was unable to do so.

N/A

11.4 Question (Y/N): Certify that all subgrantees selected by the Eligible Entity will be required to offer a low-cost broadband service option for the duration of the 10-year Federal interest period.

Yes.

11.5 Text Box (Optional – Conditional on a 'No' Response to Intake Question 11.4): If the Eligible Entity does not certify that all subgrantees selected by the Eligible Entity will be required to offer a low-cost broadband service option for the duration of the year Federal interest period, explain why the Eligible Entity was unable to do so.

N/A

11.6 Question (Y/N): Certify that all subgrantees have planned for the reliability and resilience of BEAD-funded networks.

Yes.

11.7 Text Box (Optional – Conditional on a 'No' Response to Intake Question 11.6): If the Eligible Entity does not certify that subgrantees have ensured planned for the reliability and resilience of BEAD-funded networks in their network designs, explain why the Eligible Entity was unable to do so.

N/A

Substantiation of Priority Broadband Projects (Requirement 12)

12.1 Text Box: Describe how the Eligible Entity applied the definition of Priority Project as defined in the Infrastructure Act and the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice.

Overview

The North Dakota State Broadband Office applied the Statutory Definition of Priority Broadband Project as identified in the BEAD June 6th Restructuring Policy Notice: "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."

Applications were evaluated based on their ability to meet required broadband speed and latency thresholds, and the capacity to scale to meet future connectivity demands. The State emphasized technology neutrality, cost efficiency, and statutory alignment throughout the subgrantee selection process. Priority Broadband applications provided comprehensive, thorough responses.

As a result of the Benefit of the Bargain Round, North Dakota saw the following benefits:

- 10% reduction in originally anticipated deployment costs
- 100% of North Dakota BSLs served using all available technologies / recommended awards

- Technology-neutral solutions with proven capacity to meet current and future demand

Evaluation Process

The State assessed all aspects of the statute to determine whether a proposed project demonstrated the ability to support current and future connectivity needs of all North Dakotans. The evaluation process focused on the following dimensions: speed, latency, reliability, consistency in service, and scalability. Applications were assessed on the ability to meet current performance standards and support future growth, including the deployment of advanced services. The State conducted a full curing cycle to allow applicants to address any identified deficiencies and demonstrate alignment with Priority Broadband criteria.

Ability to meet **Speed** and **Latency** criteria were identified through the main application questions, attestations, and documentation. Successful applicants provided consistent responses indicating the minimum service level for BSLs of 100/20Mbps and Latency threshold of under 100ms would be met. Where responses to scalability, reliability, and consistency questions affirmed these considerations was also taken into account.

Scalability was assessed through detailed application responses regarding:

- Current and future network capacity
- Simultaneous user support at required and higher speeds
- Year-over-year traffic growth projections
- Infrastructure plans to support long-term demand

Reliability was evaluated based on the applicant's identification of state-specific interfering factors and proposed mitigation protocols. Interfering factors, infrastructure challenges, and local environmental risks (e.g., snow, ice) were a particular focus. Successful applicants provided comprehensive responses and specific mitigation procedures.

Consistency was determined based on data measures provided by applicants. Specific measures included jitter metrics, utilization thresholds, and latency variance – all data points relevant to establishing consistency standards aligned with Statute. Priority applicants successfully demonstrated consistent service quality under varying network loads.

Final Selection

North Dakota's final selection reflects a balanced evaluation of the above factors. In instances where an application was unable to provide clear or complete responses, guidance and recommendations were provided as part of curing. If after curing an application had persisting gaps in key data points or other deficiencies, the application was re-classified as Non-Priority.

North Dakota's application of the Priority Broadband Project definition allowed for the selection of projects that were compliant with federal standards and tailored to the unique geographic, demographic, and infrastructure realities of the State. The process enabled the State to achieve 100% coverage of unserved and underserved BSLs. Recommended award selections can be found at <https://www.ndit.nd.gov/about-us/broadband/bead-final-proposal>.

Subgrantee Selection Certification (Requirement 13)

13.1 Text Box: Provide a narrative summary of how the Eligible Entity applied the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice's scoring criteria to each competitive project application and describe the weight assigned to each Secondary Criteria by the Eligible Entity. Scoring criteria must be applied consistent with the prioritization framework laid out in Section 3.4 of the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice.

The State Broadband Program Office is committed to its goal of providing 100% coverage throughout the state of North Dakota. To promote this, the State aligned its review and selection criteria in accordance with the June 6th Restructuring Policy Notice. It should be noted that secondary criteria was not triggered at any point in the review process.

Priority Criteria:

In the event of competing project area submissions, Minimum BEAD Program Outlay would be used to decide among competing bids. Competing priority project submissions were assessed based on the total project cost per location. This allowed the State Broadband Program Office to prioritize projects that were cost-efficient and effective. In the event competing bids fell within 15% of one another, Secondary Criteria would be considered.

Secondary Criteria:

For applications to the same application project area that fell within 15% or less of one another's proposed outlay the following three criteria would be assessed:

1. Speed to Deployment (100 points available)
 - a. NDIT awarded applicants with the shortest proposed timeline to deploy infrastructure and begin service full points.
 - b. Competing projects with longer timelines received a percentage of points available, reflective of their percent difference from the shortest duration project.
 - c. If the applicant has failed to provide information for this section or the % difference from the shortest timeline resulted in no points being awarded.
2. Speed of Network and Other Technical Capabilities (100 points available)
 - a. Download speeds (35 points)
 - i. NDIT awarded full points to projects with the fastest download speeds for competing projects.
 - ii. Partial points were awarded to projects aligned with the % difference between the fastest speeds and competing speeds.
 - b. Upload speeds (35 points)
 - i. NDIT awarded full points to projects with the fastest upload speeds for competing projects.
 - ii. Partial points were awarded to projects aligned with the % difference between the fastest speeds and competing speeds.
 - c. Latency (30 points)
 - i. NDIT awarded full points to projects with the lowest latency for competing projects.
 - ii. Partial points were awarded to projects aligned with the % difference between the lowest latency and highest latency.

3. Preliminary/Provisional Subgrantees (100 points available)
 - a. For locations where NDIT had already preliminarily selected subgrantees, NDIT awarded full points to the applicant.
 - b. For locations where NDIT had not already preliminarily selected subgrantees, NDIT awarded no points to the applicant.

Environmental and Historic Preservation Documentation (Requirement 14)

14.1 Attachment (Required): Submit a document which includes the following:

- Description of how the Eligible Entity will comply with applicable environmental and historic preservation (EHP) requirements, including a brief description of the methodology used to evaluate the Eligible Entity's subgrantee projects and project activities against NTIA's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) guidance. The methodology must reference how the Eligible Entity will use NTIA's Environmental Screening and Permitting Tracking Tool (ESAPTT) to create NEPA project records, evaluate the applicability of categorical exclusions, consider and document the presence (or absence) of Extraordinary Circumstances, and transmit information and draft NEPA documents to NTIA for review and approval.
- Description of the Eligible Entity's plan to fulfill its obligations as a joint lead agency for NEPA under 42 U.S.C. 4336a, including its obligation to prepare or to supervise the preparation of all required environmental analyses and review documents.
- Evaluation of the sufficiency of the environmental analysis for your state or territory that is contained in the relevant chapter of the FirstNet Regional Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS), available at <https://www.firstnet.gov/network/environmental-compliance/projects/regional-programmatic-environmental-impact-statements>.
- Evaluation of whether all deployment related activities anticipated for projects within your state or territory are covered by the actions described in the relevant FirstNet Regional PEIS.
- Description of the Eligible Entity's plan for applying specific award conditions or other strategies to ensure proper procedures and approvals are in place for disbursement of funds while projects await EHP clearances.

See attachment at <https://www.ndit.nd.gov/about-us/broadband/bead-final-proposal>.

Consent from Tribal Entities (Requirement 15)

15.1 Attachment(s) (Required if any deployment project is on Tribal Lands): Upload a Resolution of Consent from each Tribal Government (in PDF format) from which consent was obtained to deploy broadband on its Tribal Land. The Resolution(s) of Consent submitted by the Eligible Entity

should include appropriate signatories and relevant context on the planned (f)(1) broadband deployment including the timeframe of the agreement. The Eligible Entity must include the name of the Resolution of Consent PDF in the Deployment Projects CSV file.

No BEAD eligible locations exist within federally established tribal lands in North Dakota.

Report of Unsuccessful Application due to Eligible Entity Regulations (Requirement 16)

16.1 Question (Y/N): Does the Eligible Entity certify that it did not exclude cooperatives, nonprofit organizations, public-private partnerships, private companies, public or private utilities, public utility districts, or local governments from eligibility for a BEAD subgrant, consistent with the requirement at 47 U.S.C. § 1702(h)(1)(A)(iii)?

Yes.

Waivers

17.1 Text Box: If any waivers are in process and/or approved as part of the BEAD Initial Proposal or at any point prior to the submission of the Final Proposal, list the applicable requirement(s) addressed by the waiver(s) and date(s) of submission. Changes to conform to the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice should be excluded. If not applicable to the Eligible Entity, note 'Not applicable.'

N/A

17.2 Attachment (Optional): If not already submitted to NTIA, and the Eligible Entity needs to request a waiver for a BEAD program requirement, upload a completed Waiver Request Form here. If documentation is already in process or has been approved by NTIA, the Eligible Entity does NOT have to upload waiver documentation again.

N/A