

Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Grant Program



APPLICATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MANUAL



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OVERVIEW

GEORGIA BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT INITIATIVE

Our vision for a fully connected Georgia is to ensure that every Georgian has reliable and affordable access to the internet along with the necessary tools and skills that unlock opportunities for educational advancement, economic success, job creation, improved health, and strengthened social ties. This will create more connected, resilient, and prosperous communities and cultivate an environment across the state where our citizens and workforce can thrive, our infrastructure can support growth, and our industries can continue to lead the way.

The Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative (GBDI), established in the 2018 Achieving Connectivity Everywhere (ACE) Act,¹ calls for the promotion and deployment of broadband services throughout the state to unserved areas with a minimum of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload speeds.² Per the establishing statute, “the goal of such program shall be to provide broadband services coverage throughout the entire State.”³

With that high-level mission as a guide, as well as the high-level objective of addressing access, affordability, equity, and adoption issues, the Georgia Technology Authority (GTA) has established the following broadband and digital connectivity goals and objectives:

1. Ensure comprehensive high-speed internet accessibility. GTA’s goal is to ensure the availability of robust high-speed internet connections for all Georgians, with a particular focus on the populations most affected by limited-service options. GTA plans to collaborate with internet service providers (ISPs), community anchor institutions (CAIs), local government entities, and other reputable organizations to efficiently build out broadband infrastructure to the remaining unserved/underserved locations, to track the quality of high-speed internet services and the associated costs to subscribe to services, and to help incentivize the availability of affordable connectivity options.

2. Empower workforce advancement and economic growth in unserved and underserved communities and population groups through broadband expansion projects. This will entail deploying funding to improve service in economically distressed areas, incentivizing the

¹ Senate Bill 402, <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/52636>; enacted through Georgia Code Title 50, Chapter 40, <https://broadband.georgia.gov/media/6/download>.

² Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative, DCA, <https://broadband.georgia.gov/sites/default/files/documents/georgia-broadband-deployment-initiative.pdf>.

³ GA Code § 50-40-81 (2021).

participation of small Georgia-based providers in funding programs, and expanding affordable broadband workforce training initiatives across Georgia through a state-led program.

3. Bolster cybersecurity across state networks, foster a cyber-ready workforce, and establish lasting partnerships for collaborative action. This will be achieved through the consistent compliance of each state agency and all BEAD-funded networks with the information security policies and standards issued by GTA. With the assistance of its Office of Information Security, GTA will cultivate an environment of modern cybersecurity education, training, research, and practical application for both private and public sectors. This goal encapsulates our overarching pursuit of a secure, informed, and collaborative digital environment.

4. Reduce obstacles to digital connectivity (equity) and foster an environment conducive to economic growth, academic achievement, and improved healthcare outcomes. This encompasses the identification and mitigation of technological and economic obstacles to internet access, the promotion of digital literacy programs among all age groups to optimize internet usage benefits, and support for CAIs' digital connectivity programming. To effectively serve impacted communities, GTA commits to assisting these institutions toward having 1 Gbps or faster internet connectivity and being equipped to deliver technology-based training and services, thereby maximizing their transformative impact.

BROADBAND EQUITY, ACCESS, AND DEPLOYMENT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program, administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), is a Federal initiative aimed at closing gaps in broadband access across underserved and unserved communities. Its primary objective is to ensure reliable and affordable high-speed internet for all Americans, particularly those in areas that lack sufficient coverage.

The Georgia Technology Authority (GTA) Broadband Office is responsible for implementing Georgia's participation in the BEAD program. The office is focused on expanding broadband availability to support the state's economic growth, workforce development, and access to education and healthcare. Georgia has been allocated \$1.3 billion through BEAD to deploy broadband infrastructure in areas most in need.

This Application Technical Assistance Manual is designed to guide applicants through the process of applying for BEAD funding. The Application submission phase is the key stage where eligible applicants are required to submit their project proposals. These proposals will be evaluated based on their capacity to meet the BEAD program's objectives and address broadband deficiencies within the state. The State of Georgia has established a transparent, fair, and competitive subrecipient selection process based on BEAD program guidelines, ensuring that selected subrecipients carry out activities aligned with the program's objectives.

This document provides applicants with a clear framework for submitting their proposals in compliance with the program's requirements. A glossary of key terms is included to aid in understanding the process and terminology involved. The purpose of this manual is to ensure applicants are fully informed and equipped to complete their submissions effectively.

For any general questions concerning the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program, applicants are invited to reach out via email at broadband@gta.gov. All inquiries,

including those about the program’s goals, policies, and other relevant matters, will be addressed promptly and comprehensively. Please note, this contact should not be used for application-related questions.



BEAD ELIGIBILITY

During its review of the submitted applications, Georgia Technology Authority (GTA) will evaluate each application to verify that prospective subrecipients meet all program eligibility criteria under the BEAD initiative. The evaluation will ensure that each applicant is able to meet the following minimum requirements:

- ✓ Demonstrates a capability to execute the funded activities in accordance with all relevant Federal, State, and local regulations.
- ✓ Possesses the necessary financial and managerial resources to comply with the commitments outlined in the subgrant, as well as the program requirements established by the GTA and the BEAD initiative; and
- ✓ Exhibits the technical and operational proficiency required to deliver broadband services, including achieving the mandated minimum speeds of 100/20 Mbps, as specified by the subgrant.
- ✓ Certifies that their organization is able to comply with all relevant requirements set forth by NTIA, 2 CFR 200 Uniform Guidance, and the State of Georgia.

ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

Consistent with 47 U.S.C. § 1702(h)(1)(A)(iii), as a direct grantee of BEAD funds from NTIA, the State of Georgia may not exclude cooperatives, nonprofit organizations, public-private partnerships, private companies, public or private utilities, public utility districts, or local governments (“potential providers”) from eligibility for broadband network deployment grant funds. Applicants must demonstrate their ability to comply with Federal, State, and local requirements and deliver broadband infrastructure and services effectively.

ELIGIBLE PROGRAM AREAS AND LOCATIONS

The GTA allows applicants to define their proposed broadband project areas at the county level within Georgia. Applicants must ensure that their proposals encompass unserved locations (with speeds below 25/3 Mbps) and underserved locations (with speeds between 25/3 Mbps and 100/20 Mbps) within the designated County Grant Area. Collaborative partnerships are permitted, with each partner required to submit a separate application detailing their specific project areas, ensuring comprehensive coverage of the entire county.

The GTA has provided a comprehensive list of eligible areas, including broadband serviceable locations (BSLs) and community anchor institutions (CAIs). This information is intended to assist applicants in identifying project areas that align with the program’s objectives. There is no requirement for project areas to be contiguous, allowing for strategic selection of areas most in need of broadband expansion. The purpose of this approach is to ensure that unserved and underserved communities throughout Georgia are prioritized in the effort to expand reliable broadband access. You can access this list through the link below,



- [BEAD Challenge Process Supplemental Information | Georgia Broadband Program](#)

Approved Location Files

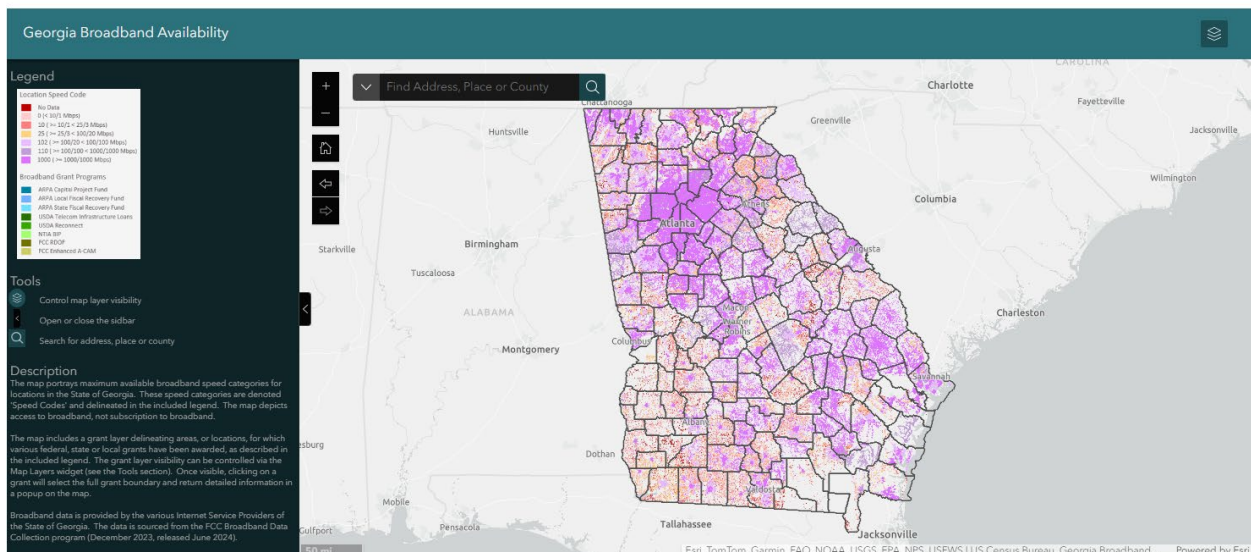
CSV File

- [Approved Served Locations](#)
- [Approved Underserved Locations](#)
- [Approved Unserved Locations](#)

Georgia Technology Authority (GTA) has also published a BEAD eligibility map, outlining the areas across Georgia that are eligible for broadband expansion under the BEAD program. This map identifies unserved and underserved locations, providing applicants with a resource to accurately target eligible regions for their project proposals. Any changes to the eligibility criteria or designated areas will result in a corresponding update to the map. The map can be accessed via the link below,

- [BEAD Map | Georgia Broadband Program](#)

2024 Georgia Broadband Availability Map



ALLOWABLE AND UNALLOWABLE COSTS

The below lists provide clarity on which types of costs are acceptable and which are prohibited under the BEAD guidelines, ensuring that applicants adhere to the appropriate standards for managing Federal funds.

Allowable Costs

- ❖ Construction, improvement, and/or acquisition of facilities and telecommunications equipment required to provide qualifying broadband service, including infrastructure for backhaul, middle-mile and last-mile networks, and multi-tenant buildings.
- ❖ Long-term leases (for terms greater than one year) of facilities required to provide qualifying broadband service, including indefeasible right-of-use (IRU) agreements.
- ❖ Deployment of internet and Wi-Fi infrastructure within an eligible multi-family residential building.
- ❖ Engineering design, permitting, and work related to environmental, historical, and cultural reviews.
- ❖ Personnel costs, including salaries and fringe benefits for staff and consultants providing services directly connected to the implementation of the BEAD Program (such as project managers, program directors, and subject matter experts).
- ❖ Network software upgrades, including, but not limited to, cybersecurity solutions.
- ❖ Training for cybersecurity professionals who will be working on BEAD-funded networks.
- ❖ Workforce development, including Registered Apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships, and community college and/or vocational training for broadband-related occupations to support deployment, maintenance, and upgrades.

Unallowable Costs

- ❖ Grant funds from the BEAD Program cannot be used to purchase or support any communications equipment or service defined as "covered" under the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019.
- ❖ Charging a profit, fee, or any additional cost above the actual incurred expenses is not allowed under this program.
- ❖ Grant funds cannot be used, directly or indirectly, to support or oppose collective bargaining activities.

BEAD APPLICATION

CONFIDENTIALITY

The State has provided information regarding Trade Secret Affidavits within the application.

TIMELINE

The initial application period for Georgia's BEAD program is scheduled to open on December 2nd, 2024. The application window will remain open for a period of 45 days to allow for submissions, closing at 5:00 PM EST on January 15, 2025. All parts of the application must be submitted through the application portal; submissions via email or other methods will not be accepted. No applications will be reviewed after the application deadline.

RESOURCES

This Application Technical Assistance Manual will be made available on the GTA website, ensuring that all applicants have access to the necessary resources. Additionally, FAQs will be hosted on the GTA website to provide comprehensive guidance throughout the application process.

CONTACTING SUPPORT

In the event that any issues arise while using the application, applicants are encouraged to contact the support team for assistance. Support can be reached via email at broadband@gta.gov. It is recommended that users provide a detailed description of the issue, including any relevant error messages or screenshots, to facilitate timely resolution.

APPLICATION REVIEW

Each application will be reviewed based on the specific project area proposed and scored as outlined in [GTA's Initial Proposal Volume II](#). In alignment with BEAD guidelines that prioritize the deployment of fiber-optic infrastructure, applications will be classified as either Priority or Non-Priority. Priority applications will receive initial consideration for each project area. In cases where both Priority and Non-Priority applications are submitted for the same project area, the GTA will first evaluate the Priority application(s). The GTA will also perform a thorough review of the applicant's financial, managerial, technical, operational, and regulatory compliance capabilities to ensure that all program criteria are satisfied, and that the applicant has the capacity to successfully implement the proposed project.



Scoring Criteria for Priority Broadband Projects

Scoring Criteria	Points available
Primary Criteria subtotal (all are mandatory under NTIA rules)	
Total outlay of funds	50
Affordability	15
Compliance with Federal Fair Labor laws	10
Primary Criteria subtotal	75
Secondary Criteria	
Speed to deployment (mandatory under NTIA rules)	5
Community/local government support	9
Community Anchor Institutions	3
Universality of Applications	8
Secondary Criteria subtotal	25
Total	100

The State’s approved Initial Proposal Volume II provides applicants the opportunity to earn up to 3 points in each County Grant Area for attesting to provide gig symmetrical service to CAIs at no additional cost to the State. Following NTIA’s validation of the State’s Challenge Process Data, it was determined that a total of 4 County Grant Areas contain only BEAD eligible CAIs (Bacon, McIntosh, Taliaferro, and Treutlen Counties). Limited to these 4 specific County Grant Areas, the scoring as written must be clarified because there are no BEAD eligible non-CAI BSLs within those counties. In order to ensure a fair, transparent, and open process for these 4 County Grant Areas, the State is hereby clarifying that any and all applications for these 4 specific County Grant Areas will be scored as follows:

Scoring Criteria for CAI Only Project Areas

Scoring Criteria	Points available
Primary Criteria subtotal (all are mandatory under NTIA rules)	
Total outlay of funds	50
Affordability	15
Compliance with Federal Fair Labor laws	10
Primary Criteria subtotal	75
Secondary Criteria	
Speed to deployment (mandatory under NTIA rules)	8
Community/local government support	9
Community Anchor Institutions	8
Secondary Criteria subtotal	25
Total	100



ELEMENTS OF THE APPLICATION

This section provides a detailed breakdown of the questions within the application for GTA's BEAD program, response options, and details of documents the applicant will be required to provide.

ENTITY INFORMATION

SUMMARY

This section of the application includes company details and primary contact information. Applicants should provide the following information about their organization. All fields are mandatory.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. **Applicant Legal Entity Name** (As it appears on the entity's UEI)
2. **Non-Traditional Broadband Provider** - The term "non-traditional broadband provider" means an electric cooperative, nonprofit organization, public-private partnership, public or private utility, public utility district, Tribal entity, or local government (including any unit, subdivision, authority, or consortium of local governments) that provides or will provide broadband services. Applicant to select 'Yes' or 'No' to indicate if their entity is a non-traditional broadband provider.
3. **Provider Type** - Choose one of the following: ILEC Service Provider, Non-ILEC Service, Provider, Cooperative, Municipality, or Tribal
4. **Entity Type** - Dropdown, select one of the following: For Profit, Cooperative, Non-Profit, Public-Private Partnership, Local Government, Public Utility, Private Utility, Public Utility District, Other
If applicant selects 'For Profit', must select an option from secondary list: Sole Proprietorship, General Partnership, Limited Partnership, LLC, C Corporation, or S Corporation.
4.1 Other Entity Type Description – If applicant selects 'Other' for Entity Type above, applicant is required to provide an explanation of their entity type to verify eligibility.
5. **Please indicate if your entity is one of the following** (Check all that apply) - Minority Owned Business, Woman Owned Business, Small Business, Not Applicable
6. **Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN)** - Provide your entity's 9-digit FEIN
7. **GA Tax ID Number** - 9-digit number (Optional)
8. **FCC Registration Number (FRN)** - Provide your entity's 10-digit FRN.
9. **Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)** - Provide your entity's 12-digit UEI from SAM.gov. (Optional)
10. **UEI Expiration date** (Optional)
11. **Mailing Address**
12. **Entity website**
13. **Primary Contact Name** - The main point of contact for the applicant entity that is responsible for receiving communications and completing tasks related to the application and any subsequent award; this may be the same as the Authorized Official. This is



commonly a project manager, member of the compliance team, or an accounting personnel.

14. Primary Contact Title

15. Primary Contact Email

16. Primary Contact Phone Number

17. Authorized Official Name - The individual is named by the applicant entity and is authorized to act for the applicant and assume the obligations imposed by Federal laws, regulations, requirements, and conditions that apply to grant applications or grant awards. This is commonly a board member or an executive of the entity.

18. Authorized Official Email

19. Authorized Official Phone Number

DOCUMENTS TO PREPARE

- None

PROJECT INFORMATION

SUMMARY

This section of the application addresses key components of the proposed broadband project, such as its structure, geographic scope, and the applicant's financial and technological capabilities. It is intended to evaluate the project's feasibility, readiness, and alignment with program priorities, ensuring that applicants fulfill the necessary criteria for participation and funding.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 1. Partnership Application** - Please indicate if this application is a partnership application in which one or more providers are partnering to serve locations within the same project area.
 - 1.1 Partner Entity Name** - Please enter the partner entity name.
 - 1.1 Partner Application Number** – Please provide the Application ID from the Georgia Broadband portal for the partnering entity.
 - 1.2 Consortium Application** - Please indicate if this application is a consortium application in which two or more providers are creating a single legal entity to own the network in the eligible project area - Checkbox.
- 2. Proposed Project Area** - Dropdown, select one of the following Georgia counties.
- 3. How many unserved and underserved locations are in the County Grant Area?** – This will be automatically pre-filled based on the applicant's selection of Proposed Project Area above.
- 4. How many unserved and underserved locations does the project plan to serve?** – Please input number unserved and underserved locations the project plans to serve in the table.
- 5. Locations Proposed in Application** - Use the BEAD Locations in Application Template to fill in proposed project locations. Link to template: [BEAD Locations in Application Template](#)
- 6. Locations Removed from Project Area** - If applicable, Use the BEAD Locations Removed

template to fill in any locations that are planned to be removed. Link to template: [BEAD Locations Removed Template](#)

- 7. Estimated Miles of Aerial Fiber** - Please provide the number of route miles planned to be installed overhead.
- 8. Estimated Miles of Buried Fiber** - Please provide the number of route miles planned to be installed underground.
- 9. Proposed Technology Type** - Dropdown, select one of the following: Priority - Optical Carrier/Fiber to the Premises; Non-Priority - Coaxial Cable/HFC, Geostationary Satellite, Non-geostationary Satellite, Unlicensed Terrestrial Fixed Wireless, Licensed Terrestrial Fixed Wireless, or Licensed-by-Rule Terrestrial Fixed Wireless
The NTIA guidance mandates that subrecipient selection prioritize projects delivering end-to-end fiber-optic facilities to end-user premises, specifically Optical Carrier/Fiber to the Premises. These are categorized as Priority Broadband projects. Any proposal that includes non-fiber technology is considered a Non-Priority Broadband project and is not prioritized. Non-fiber technology solutions are ineligible for application under Round 1 of BEAD funding, but applicants should monitor future rounds for potential eligibility.
- 10. Project description** - Please provide a project description with a max of 1,000 characters.
- 11. Estimated Number of Jobs Created** - Please indicate the estimated number of employment opportunities created by the BEAD project.
- 12. Requested BEAD Grant Funds** - Please complete the budget table including only the requested BEAD grant funding to support the program.
- 13. Total Matching Funds** - Non-Federal contributions required to complement Federal Grant Award funds. Please list the total amount of cash and in-kind matching funds for the project based on the source of the funding.
- 14. Total Project Costs** - Please indicate the total dollar amount to complete the project. This includes the requested amount of BEAD grant funds and total matching funds to support the project.
- 15. Does this project plan on leveraging in-kind match?** – Dropdown, select ‘Yes’ or ‘No’.

If you answer ‘Yes’ to question 15, please answer the following question:

15.1 Applicants who are proposing in-kind match must upload thorough documentation to justify the valuation of property, goods, and services contributed toward meeting BEAD’s matching requirements. This documentation may be provided by the recipient, subrecipient, or the donor of the item, and must clearly show how the assigned value was determined. Records should include details on the contribution, the valuation method used, and the donation terms to support the amount claimed as matching funds for the project. Additionally, the recipient must ensure that the contribution is both relevant and necessary for the project. The valuation methodology and supporting documentation should reflect the actual market conditions faced by the recipient. For instance, when valuing equipment rentals, the fair market rates in the locality where

the equipment is used should be considered, rather than rates from a different region with unrelated market conditions. (Upload)

DOCUMENTS TO PREPARE

- BEAD Locations in Applications template [BEAD Locations in Application Template](#)
- BEAD Locations Removed template - if applicable [BEAD Locations Removed Template](#)
- Justification documentation to support any in-kind match proposed

GATING SECTION 1: CERTIFICATIONS AND FINANCIAL CAPABILITIES

SUMMARY

This section of the application evaluates the financial qualifications and resources of the applicant. It includes questions on the entity's ability to meet program requirements, provide matching funds, and manage project finances. Applicants are asked to submit financial statements or alternative documentation and provide detailed project cost and budget information.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 1. Does an Officer or Director level employee certify that the entity has the necessary financial qualifications, capabilities, and resources to comply with all program requirements and successfully participate in the program? This includes that the entity has and will continue to have sufficient financial resources to cover eligible costs for the project until OPB authorizes additional disbursements - 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.**
- 2. Does an Officer or Director level employee certify that the entity understands the program will use a fixed subaward reimbursement model, requiring subgrantees to commit resources to construct the network and begin service prior to receiving grant award funding as reimbursement for eligible expense based on performance milestones? - 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.**
- 3. Does the prospective grantee certify that they will have available funds for all project costs that exceed the amount of the grant? - 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.**
- 4. Does an Officer or Director level employee certify that the entity will have sufficient financial resources to provide the pledged matching funds as required by the program rules? - Program rules require a minimum 25% match by the awarded entity unless this requirement is waived by the state due to the high cost of an area or location. Please answer 'Yes' to certify or 'No' if this certification cannot be made.**
- 5. Does your entity have financial statements from the prior fiscal year that are audited by an independent certified public accountant? - Yes / No**

If you answered 'No' to question 5, please answer the following questions:

- 5.1 Does your entity commit to providing audited financial statements within 90 days?**
- If you answered 'No' to question #5, please respond 'Yes' to certify your commitment to providing financial statements, or 'No' if this certification cannot be made.



5.2 Describe the circumstances and reasons for the lack of audited financials - Possible reasons could include being a new business, being in the process of completing audits, exemptions due to size or the nature of the business, a change in audit firms causing delays in the auditing process, or internal restructuring that has postponed financial reporting and auditing.

5.3 Provide a year of financial statements that contain substantially the same level of detail and information - The uploaded financial documentation should provide information comparable to audited financial statements. This includes a verification confirming the accuracy of the statements, a balance sheet (or statement of financial position) detailing assets, liabilities, and equity, and an income statement (or statement of profit and loss) outlining revenues, expenses, and net income/loss. Additionally, it should include a cash flow statement that covers operating, investing, and financing activities, along with a statement of changes in equity, showing changes in retained earnings or dividends. Detailed notes to the financial statements should explain accounting policies, contingent liabilities, and leases. The documentation may also include a statement of internal controls, related party transactions, and disclosures on compliance and risk.

5.4 Does the entity certify that the financial documentation provides substantially similar information to audited financial statements? - 'Yes' to certify, 'No' if this certification cannot be made, and 'N/A' if this does not apply.

5.5 Provide a narrative discussing the financial documentation - Please provide a detailed description of the financial documentation you provided in question 15. The narrative discussing financial documentation should provide a clear overview of the financial statements, including their accuracy, completeness, and adherence to accounting standards. It should highlight key financial metrics, such as assets, liabilities, revenue, and cash flow, while also addressing any challenges or qualifications. The narrative should emphasize the importance of these documents in demonstrating the entity's financial health and accountability, as well as offer forward-looking insights into future financial sustainability.

If you answered 'Yes' to question 5, please answer the following three questions:

5.1 Upload your entity's financial statements from the prior fiscal year that are audited by an independent certified public accountant - Upload your entity's financial statements from the most recent fiscal year.

5.2 What is the opinion of the audit? - Choose one of the following: Unqualified, Qualified, Other

5.3 Do the financial statements contain "qualifications" by the auditor? - 'Yes', if they contain qualifications and 'No' if they do not.

If you answered 'Yes' to 5.3, please answer the following question:

5.3.1 Describe and explain the qualification(s) and measures taken by the company to address the qualification - Please list the qualification(s) and



provide a detailed description of the measures taken to address them. The answer should provide a clear identification of the relevant qualification(s) and offer a thorough explanation of how these qualifications relate to the project's requirements or goals. It should also detail any corrective measures that have been taken to address gaps or deficiencies, accompanied by a specific time frame for implementation and the progress made so far. The response should evaluate the effectiveness of the corrective actions and demonstrate the entity's accountability in resolving any qualification or compliance issues.

- 6. Upload the business plans or pro forma for the proposed project** - A comprehensive business plan or pro forma should include all critical elements. These elements should have detailed financial projections such as take rates, churn rates, revenue per user (RPU), revenue, expenses, cash flow, and profitability. The pro forma should also include a balance sheet equivalent (assets, liabilities, and equity), and a cash flow statement with operating, investing, and financing activities. Additionally, it should provide assumptions for market growth, operating costs, and customer acquisition, along with a break-even analysis, capital expenditures, and a feasibility analysis that assesses the project's financial viability. The document must clearly outline timelines with key project milestones, include risk analysis and contingencies, and provide any necessary financial ratios and capital requirements. All assumptions, risks, and contingencies should be clearly documented to ensure transparency and realism in the projections.
- 7. Upload a budget narrative that breaks down and describes each charge listed in the budget, the team, or staff responsible for each budget expense (if known), and how each expenditure relates to the project objectives. The uploaded budget narrative should utilize the template located at the following link.** Link to template: [Budget Narrative Template](#)
- 8. If your entity will be providing a cash or in-kind match in this cost category, note and explain in the justification to include a break-down of the grant and match share of each proposed cost** - The justification narrative should provide a clear breakdown of the grant and match share for each proposed cost in the cost category, indicating whether the match is cash or in-kind. The match share meets the required percentage (at least 25% of the total project cost), and any in-kind contributions are properly explained and justified.
- 9. Describe the following:**
 - 9.1 Describe the assumptions for take rates.** - Take Rates are defined as the percentage of customers with access to the network who choose to subscribe. Take rate can be hard to predict and is a driver of uncertainty for providers due to various barriers to consumer adoption and competitive offerings.
 - 9.2 Describe the assumptions for churn.** - Churn Rates are defined as the percentage of subscribers who unsubscribe over time, often measured monthly. New market entrants,

technologies, or competitive practices can lead to customer switching, increasing a provider's churn rate.

9.3 Describe the assumptions for revenue-per-user. - Revenue-per-user is defined as a measure of the revenue generated by one subscriber per unit time, typically per year or month.

9.4 Describe the assumptions for operating expenses. - Operating Expenses is defined as the day-to-day ongoing cost to run and maintain a network to provide services. Operating expenses can include power, network maintenance, middle mile and/or core Internet transit fees, sales and marketing, customer support, rent, and other business operation expenses.

9.5 Describe the assumptions for cash flow. - Cash flow is defined as a projection of cash flow post-project completion which demonstrates financial stability.

9.6 Describe the assumptions for capital expenditures over the course of the construction and start-up operations for a 10-year period. - Capital Expenditures is defined as the dollar cost to build the network asset which is depreciated over the useful life of the asset for accounting purposes. It can include material, land, labor for construction and connection, engineering, permitting, upgrades and replacements, and construction equipment.

10. Upload any additional documentation that complements the budget information and presents a fuller picture of the applicant's financial capabilities and the proposed project's financial sustainability (optional).

11. Does your entity certify that costs proposed for this grant program will be reasonable, allowable, allocable, and necessary to the supported activity, in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200 - 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.

12. Financials

12.1 In the most recent fiscal year, what was the entity's net income? - Net income is defined as total earnings of a company after subtracting all expenses from revenue, including cost of goods sold, operating expenses, interest, taxes, and other expenses.

12.2 In the most recent fiscal year, what was the entity's total revenue? - Revenue is recognized when a company has satisfied its performance obligations in a contract by transferring promised goods or services to customers.

12.3 In the most recent fiscal year, what was the entity's total current assets? - Current assets is defined as assets expected to be converted into cash, sold, or consumed within one year or one operating cycle of the business.

12.4 In the most recent fiscal year, what was the entity's total current liabilities? - Current liabilities is defined as obligations whose liquidation is expected to require the use of existing resources classified as current assets. These are typically financial obligations that need to be paid within a year of their incurrence.



12.5 In the most recent fiscal year, what was the entity's total liabilities? - Liability is defined as combined debts or obligations that an entity owes to external parties.

12.6 In the most recent fiscal year, what was the entity's total equity? - Equity is defined as residual interest in the assets of an entity that remains after deducting its liabilities.

13. Applicant certifies that it has demonstrated in the budgets, budget narratives, and pro forma statements that the entity will comply with the requirements for match that are mandated by the language of the statute and NTIA's rules (Section III.B). 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.

DOCUMENTS TO PREPARE

- Your entity's updated audited financial statements from the prior fiscal year that are audited by an independent CPA.
- A year of updated financial statements that contain the same level of detail and information as an audited financial statement (if audited financials are not available)
- Project-level pro forma or business plans detailing anticipated Capital Expenditures
- A budget narrative that breaks down and describes each charge listed in the budget, the team, or staff responsible for each budget expense (if known), and how each expenditure relates to the project objectives. The uploaded budget narrative should utilize the template located at the following link: [Budget Narrative Template](#)
- Additional documentation that complements the budget information and presents a fuller picture of the applicant's financial capabilities and the proposed project's financial sustainability.

GATING SECTION 2: LETTER OF CREDIT, MANGERIAL, AND OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES

SUMMARY

This section assesses the entity's financial, managerial, and technical capabilities for the project. It covers securing performance bonds or letters of credit, management experience, organizational structure, certifications, and operational history, including broadband services provided in Georgia and other states. It also evaluates the entity's readiness to meet service, maintenance, and compliance requirements.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 1. Do you certify that your entity is aware of and understands the updated letter of credit or performance bond obligation based on NTIA's programmatic waiver?** - 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.
- 2. Does the entity certify that it has the qualifications and resources to obtain the required letter of commitment and letter of credit or performance bond obligation from an eligible financial institution?** - 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.
- 3. Does the entity stand ready to obtain an irrevocable standby letter of credit or performance bond for the proposed project in the required amount?** – Yes or No; For

more information on the letter of credit requirements, please see [NOFO IV.D.2.a.ii](#) and the [NTIA's waiver](#).

If you answered 'Yes' for question 3 indicating your entity stands ready to obtain an irrevocable standby letter of credit or performance bond for the proposed project in the required amount, please answer the following:

3.1 Does your entity plan to utilize a performance bond or letter of credit for the proposed project? - Please select either: Performance bond or Letter of Credit

3.2 What is the dollar amount of the performance bond or letter of credit the entity will seek?

GTA's letter of credit requirement will follow NTIA's guidance under the [Programmatic Waiver of BEAD Letter of Credit Requirement](#) including Reduction of LOC/Performance Bonds Upon Completion of Milestones and Subgrantee Option for Alternative Initial LOC or Performance Bond Percentage.

- 4. Does the entity certify that key management personnel have demonstrated experience, skills, and authority to successfully fulfill the obligations of the role?** - 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.
- 5. How many years has your entity, or its parent company been operating?**
- 6. Upload resumes of relevant management staff that cumulatively demonstrate a minimum of five years of experience with broadband network design, construction, maintenance, and operations. Applicants must also include resumes of an employed Chief Technology Officer and contractor oversight team with the relevant certifications (both management and non-management) for deployment projects as mandated by State and Federal law** - The submitted resumes should collectively demonstrate a minimum of five years of experience for each individual in broadband network design, construction, maintenance, and operations. This should include the resumes of an employed Chief Technology Officer and the contractor oversight team, covering both management and non-management roles. Each resume should highlight relevant certifications, ensuring compliance with all State and Federal requirements for deployment projects.
- 7. Provide a narrative discussion of each key management personnel's expected role in the proposed project** - Please provide a detailed description of each key management role.
- 8. Upload detailed organizational charts of the entity's structure, key management personnel, and relevant operational teams. These charts will also provide information regarding the entity's parent company and affiliates, if any. The organizational chart is expected to correspond to the other elements of the entity's showing of managerial capability, including mapping back to each identified key management personnel and functional teams. Organization charts should identify the key project personnel.**
- 9. Describe any recent or expected changes to the entity's structure, processes, and planning that may impact its BEAD project efforts.**
- 10. Describe the entity's experience, resources, and readiness to provide the required service offerings, level of service, and maintenance over the completed network.**



- 11. Has your entity provided broadband service?** – Broadband service can be defined as service offerings with download and upload speeds of at least 25 and 3 megabits per second (Mbps) respectively. Please answer 'Yes' if your entity has provided broadband service in the past, and 'No' if it has not.
- 12. Has your entity operated only an electric transmission or distribution service?** - Please answer 'Yes' if your entity has operated only an electric transmission or distribution service, and 'No' if it has not.
- 13. Does your entity provide broadband services in other states?** - Please answer 'Yes' if your entity has provided broadband service in other states, and 'No' if it has not.

If you answered 'Yes' in question 13, please answer the following three questions:

13.1 If operations in other states are referenced as part of demonstrating managerial, technical, or operational capabilities, provide a list of licensing and certification identifiers for each State - Examples of certifications that are typically required or beneficial include State Public Utility Commission (PUC) certifications, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) certifications, contractor licenses, and telecommunications contractor certifications. Additionally, an Electrical Contractor License, environmental permits, and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) certifications are crucial for safety and regulatory compliance. Professional Engineer (PE) licenses, ISO/Quality Management certifications, and cybersecurity certifications further ensure that individuals meet the high standards necessary for managing and overseeing complex deployment projects.

13.2 If operations in other states are referenced as part of demonstrating managerial, technical, or operational capabilities, provide the number of years of operating experience in each state.

13.3 If operations in other states are referenced as part of demonstrating managerial, technical, or operational capabilities, provide descriptions of the services provided in each State either by the entity directly or by its affiliates and parent entity. - Examples of managerial services include program management, strategic planning, and ensuring regulatory compliance in various states. Technical services highlight expertise in network design, system integration, and the implementation of cutting-edge broadband technologies such as fiber optics or 5G. In terms of operational services, relevant experience includes deploying broadband infrastructure, providing ongoing maintenance, and managing service delivery to customers, ensuring efficient and reliable broadband access across regions.

- 14. Describe any independent contractors, consultants, and subcontractors your entity plans to retain to supplement its managerial capabilities. This description should include the scope of the third-party contractor's role and the expected term of the engagement.**
- 15. Upload any supporting documentation regarding any independent contractors, consultants, and subcontractors that the applicant plans to retain to supplement its managerial capabilities.**

If your entity has less than 3 years of labor and employment law compliance, please answer 16:

- 16. For new entrants, provide a narrative explaining how your entity will develop its managerial expertise and resources through the recruitment of directly employed key management personnel with the requisite leadership experience of at least five years in prior roles and positions in the communication industry** - Examples of key management personnel grantees may recruit with leadership experience in roles such as Chief Operations Officer (COO), Director of Network Operations, Project Manager for Telecommunications, and Head of Communications Infrastructure. Additionally, positions like Broadband Deployment Manager, Telecommunications Engineer, Network Architect, and Chief Technology Officer (CTO) provide critical expertise in managing communication projects. Other essential roles include Director of Regulatory Affairs, Head of Fiber Optic Network Deployment, Director of IT and Network Security, Communications Network Planner, Business Development Manager (Communications), Head of Field Operations for Broadband, and Technical Director for Communications.
- 17. Provide additional data and descriptions of management's capabilities to specifically address any unique needs of the proposed project. This project-specific management showing should reflect and correspond to other elements of the application including financial capability, network design, budgeting, and planning** - Applicants should have experience in managing large-scale capital budgets specifically related to broadband infrastructure, including the purchase and installation of fiber optic cables, towers, and related equipment. Expertise in controlling costs and maintaining budgets during both the construction and operational phases of broadband networks is essential. This includes the ability to identify cost-saving measures without compromising quality or project scope. Applicants must also demonstrate experience in structuring and managing financial aspects of broadband projects that involve both public and private funding, such as securing government grants or subsidies (like BEAD funding) and blending them with private investment. Familiarity with creating financial models that project long-term revenue streams from broadband services, estimating ROI, and ensuring financial sustainability is critical. Proven experience in managing grants, including compliance with government regulations, reporting, and financial auditing—especially relevant when dealing with Federal or State programs like BEAD funding—is required. Candidates should also have expertise in negotiating and managing contracts with vendors and subcontractors to ensure cost-effective procurement. Experience in identifying and mitigating financial risks during broadband projects, such as unforeseen delays, regulatory changes, or shifts in market demand, is important. Lastly, applicants should demonstrate the ability to handle operational budgets post-deployment, ensuring the financial sustainability of the network through effective management of maintenance, staffing, and operational costs, while planning for future upgrades and technology advancements.
- 18. Does the entity certify that it is fully and properly licensed in Georgia to conduct funded activities and comply with all post-award obligations or if a new entrant to the state,**

does the entity certify that it will meet this requirement by the execution of the subgrant agreement? - 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.

- 19. Provide a list of the business and technical certifications and licenses held nationally and in Georgia that will be relevant to participation in the BEAD program. This list will include certifications and licenses held by key technical personnel as well as those held by the entity. The list will be required to include unique identifiers and license numbers to allow GTA to validate the reported data** - Examples of certifications you can upload include but are not limited to: a Business License (State of Georgia) with the License Number, a Certificate of Existence from the Georgia Secretary of State with the Unique Identifier or Document Number, a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Certification from the Georgia Department of Administrative Services with the Certification Number, or a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Certification at Federal or State levels. Other examples might include a Contractor License issued by the Georgia Board of Contractors, a Professional Engineering (PE) License for the State of Georgia, Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP), Certified Fiber Optic Technician (CFOT), Project Management Professional (PMP), Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), or CompTIA Network+. You may also upload certifications such as Broadband Premises Expert (BPE), General Contractor License (State of Georgia), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Certification, Electrical Contractor License (State of Georgia), or an FCC License for Radio Communication (National).
- 20. Upload a brief narrative or supporting documentation that details the applicant's approach to customer service.**

DOCUMENTS TO PREPARE

- Updated resumes of relevant management staff that cumulatively demonstrate a minimum of five years of experience with broadband network design, construction, maintenance, and operations.
- Resumes of an employed Chief Technology Officer and contractor oversight team with the relevant certifications (both management and non-management) as mandated by State and Federal law.
- Detailed Organizational charts of the entity's structure, key management personnel, and relevant operational teams. (Include entity's parent companies and affiliates, if any, in the charts/Shows managerial capability and mapping back to each identified key management personnel/ Identify key project personal)
- Supporting documentation regarding any independent contractors, consultants, and subcontractors that it plans to retain to supplement its managerial capabilities.
- Brief narrative or supporting documentation that details applicant's approach to customer service.



GATING SECTION 3: TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES

SUMMARY

This section evaluates the applicant's technical qualifications and project design. It requires certifications, documentation of network plans, engineering reports, and compliance with environmental and regulatory standards. Applicants must demonstrate their ability to meet program requirements, complete the project on time, and deliver the required broadband performance.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 1. Upload a brief narrative or supporting documentation that details how the applicant enacts emergency responses to service interruptions and outages.**
- 2. Describe the experience and expertise of the key management personnel and technical teams the entity will use to design, construct, and operate the proposed project.**
- 3. Upload any additional certifications, licenses, or other qualifications that are unique and specific to the proposed project** - Examples of additional certifications they may upload include but are not limited to: Certified Fiber Optic Specialist (CFOS), FCC License for Radio Communication, Broadband Technology Certification, Certified Network Infrastructure Design Professional (CNIDP), and Certified Data Centre Professional (CDCP). Other relevant certifications may include Cybersecurity Certifications (e.g., CISSP, CISM), GIS Professional Certification, OSHA Safety Certifications, Electrical Contractor License, and Project Management Professional (PMP). Please ensure that the uploaded document(s) are accurate and complete.
- 4. Upload supporting documentation to demonstrate that the applicant has completed, or is in the process of completing, any additional requirements that are unique and specific to the proposed project to become fully and properly qualified to successfully complete the proposed project** - Documents that demonstrate the ability to successfully complete the proposed project beyond the specified requirements, including any underlying prerequisites necessary for project success.
- 5. Does the entity certify that it has the processes and resources in place to employ an appropriately skilled and credentialed workforce including contractors and that key technical personnel and technical team members are current on all required training, licensing, and license renewals?** - 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.
- 6. Does an Officer or Director level employee certify that your entity is technically qualified to complete and operate a broadband network?** - 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.
- 7. Does an Officer or Director level employee certify that your entity is capable of carrying out BEAD funded activities in a competent manner?** - 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.

Please upload the following documents, all certified by a professional engineer:



- 8. Upload a technical narrative as a PDF detailing how the proposed infrastructure will deliver service that reliably meets or exceeds the program-required speeds and latency for all proposed BSLs in the project area as outlined in the BEAD NOFO pp. 64-65 - Please provide a technical narrative detailing how the proposed infrastructure will deliver service that reliably meets or exceeds the program required speeds for all proposed BSLs and CAIs in the project area. The file shall be submitted in PDF format (file name “Technical_Narrative.PDF”).**

The technical narrative shall include:

- Please provide a narrative description of the geographic location, characteristics of the local community, anticipated labor requirements, and other related information that will provide GTA with a complete picture of the community to be served.
- Detailed description of the proposed project’s technical specifications and design, including:
 - The total proposed miles of fiber;
 - The technology types to be deployed (XGS-PON, G-PON, etc.);
 - The number of proposed BSLs (unserved and underserved); and
 - The anticipated speeds and latency of the services to be offered over the completed network.
- A detailed description of how the network will be connected to sufficient backhaul infrastructure to support the program performance requirements, including:
 - If the proposed network leverages backhaul infrastructure from its own existing network, describe that infrastructure and how the proposed network interconnects with it;
 - If the proposed network leverages backhaul infrastructure from another entity’s existing network, describe that infrastructure, how the proposed network interconnects with it, and the negotiated terms for which the applicant will have access to the infrastructure for the life of their required service commitment; and,
 - If the proposed network requires construction of new backhaul infrastructure, describe that infrastructure, how construction of the infrastructure will be funded, what steps have been taken to ensure the new infrastructure will be commissioned prior to the applicant’s proposed subscriber activation dates, and how the proposed network interconnects with it.
- An explanation of the projected subscriber take rate, and the anticipated level of oversubscription based on the proposed network capacity.
- A network scalability plan to meet the program performance requirements if subscriber take rate is higher than anticipated, customers subscribe to higher service level offerings than anticipated, or any other factors that may require additional network capacity.
- A detailed description of how the proposed network will be deployed using industry best practices, including:



- A description of what anticipated portions of the network will be built using underground or aerial;
- If underground construction is proposed, describe the construction methods to be used (e.g., directional drilling, trenching); and

A description of the construction materials and equipment to be used in the network (e.g., 1.25" HDPE conduit, 144-count fiber-optic cable, Calix E7 platform) and how the selected materials support a sustainable and scalable network.

- 9. Upload a zipped file folder containing shapefiles illustrating the applicant's proposed network design. The shapefiles will include all BSLs to be served by the project, all proposed fiber infrastructure routes to be constructed via the project, all proposed interconnect points to be constructed by the project, and the required right of way usage.** - Please provide a proposed network design that includes all proposed unserved and underserved BSLs to be served by the project, all proposed fiber infrastructure routes to be constructed via the project, and project area boundary polygons encompassing all infrastructure routes and BSLs.

The preliminary network design shall be submitted in shapefile format with the file name "Network Design." The shapefile format stores and represents geographic features such as points, lines, and polygons, along with attribute information associated with these features. A shapefile is comprised of six separate file extensions (.CPG, .dxf, .prj, .shp, .shx, and .sbn). Shapefiles containing all six file extensions shall be uploaded in a zipped folder.

The following layers shall be present in the submitted .shp file:

- The applicant's proposed BSL shall be submitted as points features. This layer shall be named "BSL" in the submitted shapefiles. If an applicant is submitting multiple applications, each separate application shall name each submitted file as "BSL" with no additional numbers or characters. The location data shall be sourced from either the program's official map fabric or the officially published BSL .csv files.
- The applicant's proposed fiber infrastructure routes shall be submitted as line features and the layer shall be named "Network Infrastructure" in the submitted shapefiles. The submitted routes shall be provided as a singular line representative of all fiber infrastructure (conduit, fiber, aerial attachments) to be placed along any individual pathway (e.g., public rights-of-way, private easements). Routes shall be inclusive of all new backhaul, backbone, and distribution infrastructure. Routes that would only be constructed as part of subscriber activations (drops to individual subscriber locations constructed upon customer signup), shall not be included in the submitted file. The project's estimated take rate and associated drop mileage will be captured separately within the application.

The applicant's proposed service area(s) shall be submitted as polygon features. The polygon shall encompass all proposed locations and proposed infrastructure routes submitted as part of the project shapefile and the layer shall be labeled "Project Boundary" in the submitted shapefiles.



- 10. Upload a logical network design drawing (Network Diagram) as a PDF that illustrates the logical connectivity for the network and conveys the network’s capacity to provide each proposed BSL with the required broadband speeds and latency. Please ensure that all information is clearly legible.** - Please provide a logical network design drawing (network diagram) that illustrates the logical connectivity for the network, depicts the desired architecture of the network in terms of hardware placement and hardware redundancy, and indicates the types of network platforms or technologies to use in each layer of the network. The file shall be submitted in PDF format (file name “Logical_Design.PDF”). In the diagram, existing infrastructure shall be identified as “existing” and new proposed infrastructure as “proposed.” The diagram shall convey the network’s capacity to provide each proposed BSL the required broadband speeds. An example of the logical network diagram can be found at the following link: [Logical Network Diagram Example](#)
- 11. Provide narrative descriptions of the geographic location, characteristics of the local community, anticipated labor requirements, and other related information that will provide GTA with a complete picture of the community to be served** - Please provide a narrative description of the geographic location, characteristics of the local community, anticipated labor requirements, and other related information that will provide GTA with a complete picture of the community to be served. Character limit: 1,000.
- 12. Upload documentation supporting project costs, operational costs, and budgets** - Please provide a project cost estimate that offers sufficient granularity to demonstrate an understanding of the proposed project and associated estimated costs. The cost estimate shall include a detailed itemization of each cost and sufficient description to verify the eligibility of each cost item proposed. For each cost item, the applicant shall indicate the breakdown of costs to be covered by grant funds versus provided by applicant matching funds. The applicant shall only provide eligible costs within its project cost estimate. The file shall be submitted in spreadsheet format (file name “BEAD_Project_Cost_Estimate.xlsx”) using the **template** provided by GTA, titled “BEAD Project Cost Estimate Template,” which will be available in the application. The template includes instructions on how to fill out the spreadsheet and provides a description of what is to be included within each cost category. Link to template: [BEAD Project Costs Template](#)
- 13. Applicant certifies that its submitted project cost estimate is accurate and encompasses all costs to be incurred by the applicant as part of the proposed project** - ‘Yes’, to certify and ‘No’ if this certification cannot be made.
- 14. Upload a detailed project timeline demonstrating the applicant’s ability to complete the project within the four-year timeframe and identifying the project milestones** - Please provide a detailed project timeline that articulates the applicant’s ability to complete the project within the four-year timeframe. The timeline shall include the key milestones for project implementation:
- Planning or Engineering;
 - Permitting or Make-Ready;



- Material and Equipment Procurement;
- Network Construction;
- Subscriber Activations; and,
- Project Closeout Submission.

The file shall be submitted in spreadsheet format (file name

“BEAD_Project_Timeline.xlsx”) using the **template** provided by GTA, titled “BEAD Project Timeline Template,” which can be found at the following link: [BEAD Project Timeline](#)

- 15. Upload a PDF document signed by a currently licensed Professional Engineer that certifies the accuracy and completeness of the materials uploaded in this section and attests that the proposed network can deliver broadband service that meets the requisite performance requirements to all locations served by the project within the required four-year deployment timeline** - Please provide certification from a currently licensed professional engineer confirming the accuracy and completeness of the Project Plan materials and attesting that the proposed network can deliver broadband service that meets the requisite performance requirements to all proposed locations within the required four-year deployment timeline. The professional engineer shall stamp and sign the certification document.

The file shall be submitted in PDF format (file name “Project_PE_Certification.PDF”) using the **template** provided by GTA, titled “BEAD Professional Engineer Certification Template,” which can be found at the following link: [Professional Engineer Certification](#)

- 16. Upload documentation of the Professional Engineer’s licenses as well as any written reports, letters, or analysis provided by the Professional Engineer regarding the proposed project** - Please upload professional engineer license and supporting documentation to the portal. The file shall be submitted in PDF format (file name “PE_Licenses.PDF”).

- 17. Describe the following environmental and climate factors specific to the area of implementation:**

17.1 Storm proofing: Describe measures integrated into your design to enhance resilience against regional weather events. Regional weather events may include damage due to wind, storm, and flooding.

17.2 Technical Viability: Detail the types of strands of fiber used, and how they demonstrate capacity for future growth and sustainability. This includes the count of fiber to be used in different sections of the network.

17.3 Compliance with Local Standard: Explain how your design aligns with local environmental regulations and vulnerable areas - Please offer a narrative describing how the applicant will mitigate the risk of environmental and climate factors. The narrative shall describe the specific strategies and measures the subgrantee applicant will implement to address and reduce natural hazard risks, including technical measures and compliance with environmental regulations and local permitting standards.

- 18. Does the entity certify that it is technically qualified to meet the minimum BEAD Program requirements?** – ‘Yes’ to certify and ‘No’ if this certification cannot be made.



- 19. Applicant certifies that the proposed project will rely entirely on fiber-optic technology to each end-user premises and will ensure that the network built by the project 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. See Infrastructure Act § 60102(a)(2)(I)? - 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.**
- 20. Applicant certifies that at time of project closeout, all proposed BSLs shall be capable of receiving Reliable Broadband Service with speeds of not less than 100 Mbps for downloads and 20 Mbps for uploads with 95 percent of latency measurements during testing windows falling at or below 100 milliseconds round-trip time? See NOFO pp 64-65. - 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.**
- 21. Please indicate how many months it will take for project completion from award initiation date - Please enter the number of months (up to 48) it will take for project completion inclusive of the planning phase.**
- 22. Explain what your entity's efforts will be to mitigate delays, shortages, and constraints in supply chains, workforce development, Federal requirements imposed by the BEAD program, and permitting associated with broadband network construction.**
- 23. Applicant certifies that it will obtain all necessary Federal, State, and local governmental permits and required approvals necessary for the proposed work to be completed -'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.**

DOCUMENTS TO PREPARE

- A brief narrative or supporting documentation that details how the applicant enacts emergency responses to service interruptions and outages.
- Additional certifications, licenses, or other qualifications that are unique and specific to the proposed project.
- Supporting documentation to demonstrate that the applicant has completed, or is in the process of completing, any additional requirements that are unique and specific to the proposed project to become fully and properly qualified to successfully complete the proposed project.
- A technical narrative as a PDF detailing how the proposed infrastructure will deliver service that reliably meets or exceeds the program-required speeds and latency for all proposed BSLs in the project area as outlined in the BEAD NOFO pp. 64-65.
- A zipped file folder containing shapefiles illustrating the applicant's proposed network design. The shapefiles will include all BSLs to be served by the project, all proposed fiber infrastructure routes to be constructed via the project, all proposed interconnect points to be constructed by the project, and the required right of way usage.
- A logical network design drawing (Network Diagram) as a PDF that illustrates the logical connectivity for the network and conveys the network's capacity to provide each proposed BSL with the required broadband speeds and latency. Please ensure that all

information is clearly legible. An example of such a diagram can be found at the following link: [Logical Network Diagram Example](#)

- Documentation supporting project costs, operational costs, and budgets utilizing the following [BEAD Project Costs Template](#)
- A detailed project timeline demonstrating the applicant's ability to complete the project within the four-year timeframe and identifying the project milestones utilizing the following template: [BEAD Project Timeline](#)
- A PDF document signed by a currently licensed Professional Engineer that certifies the accuracy and completeness of the materials uploaded in this section and attests that the proposed network can deliver broadband service that meets the requisite performance requirements to all locations served by the project within the required four-year deployment timeline. [Professional Engineer Certification Template](#)
- Documentation of the Professional Engineer's licenses as well as any written reports, letters, or analysis provided by the Professional Engineer regarding the proposed project.

GATING SECTION 4: LEGAL CAPABILITIES

SUMMARY

This section ensures the applicant's compliance with all relevant Federal, State, and local laws regarding BEAD-funded projects. It requires certifications of legal compliance, safety regulations, and adherence to procurement laws like Build America, Buy America. Applicants must also detail their entity's compliance practices, plans for managing non-compliance issues, and any specific concerns related to Federal regulations such as FCC reporting.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 1. Do you certify that your entity is aware of and will comply with the Federal, State, and local laws applicable to BEAD funded broadband deployment projects. Applicable laws include: Federal procurement laws such as applicable Build America, Buy America requirements, Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C. §1608), state-specific procurement regulations, Federal Uniform Guidance regulations, Department of Commerce Standard Terms and Conditions for grant funding, Federal and State environmental and historic preservation regulations, and any specific award conditions that GTA or NTIA may develop - 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.**
- 2. Do you certify that the entity possesses the qualifications and resources to perform BEAD-related commitments in compliance with all applicable Federal and State laws? - 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.**
- 3. Do you certify that your entity has, or will have, processes in place to monitor and support compliance with specific State and Federal safety regulations applicable to work on BEAD program projects, including Federal Occupational Safety and Health Act and related State and Federal regulations? - 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.**



4. **Describe your entity's current compliance with all relevant Federal and State laws and policies regarding grant funding. Please include a description of the policies and procedures the entity has in place to align with Federal and State grant policies and regulations, including documented procurement practices** - To be compliant with Federal and State laws for BEAD projects, applicants must adhere to several key regulations. Federal procurement laws require adherence to Build America, Buy America rules, ensuring the exclusion of non-trusted equipment. Additionally, State procurement regulations must be followed to comply with the specific processes of the State where the project is taking place. Applicants must also follow the Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200), which covers the proper management of Federal funds, including cost principles, administrative responsibilities, and audit requirements. Environmental and historic preservation laws must be observed to minimize any negative impacts on the environment or historic sites. Compliance with the Department of Commerce terms is also necessary to meet the specific conditions tied to BEAD grants. Furthermore, applicants are expected to implement NIST-compliant cybersecurity and supply chain risk management plans. Lastly, health and safety compliance is critical, with adherence to OSHA regulations and worker safety protocols to ensure a safe working environment.
5. **Describe your entity's plan to provide equipment that is Build America Buy America compliant or to request a project specific waiver.** For more information on BABA compliance, please see the [NTIA's compliance guide](#).
6. **Explain any special circumstances or considerations that may prevent compliance with specific applicable laws. Address specific requirements and discuss plans to mitigate the impact of any noncompliance on participation in the program.** This may include specific requirements and strategies to address noncompliance.
7. **Do you certify that the entity is in compliance with any applicable Federal laws and regulations implemented by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), including submission of required reporting under the FCC's Form 477 regulations for reporting deployment and subscription data and the Broadband DATA Act (Pub. L. No 116-130 (2020))?** - 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.
8. **Do you certify that your entity is in compliance with implementing regulations including the FCC's Broadband Data Collection process?** - 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.

If you answered 'No' in question 8, please answering the two following questions:

- 8.1 **If your entity cannot provide the required certification regarding FCC regulations, provide a narrative explanation of any pending or completed enforcement action, litigation, or other action regarding violations or non-compliance with applicable FCC regulations** - Pending or completed enforcement actions, litigation, or other actions regarding violations or non-compliance with FCC regulations may include items such as FCC enforcement actions, litigation regarding allocation or licensing, fines or penalties, telecommunications fraud or misrepresentation, consumer

complaints or investigations, breaches of network neutrality rules, and privacy or data protection violations.

8.2 If your entity cannot provide the required certification regarding FCC regulations, describe efforts by the entity to cure the noncompliance or violations of the applicable regulations - Examples of active efforts include initiating compliance audits, developing a corrective action plan, hiring compliance experts, and enhancing training programs. Additional efforts might involve collaborating with the FCC, implementing new compliance systems, filing for retroactive approvals or permits, and pursuing settlement or legal resolutions. Correcting technical issues and making voluntary disclosures to the FCC are also proactive steps to ensure compliance.

- 9. Does the entity certify that there is no collusion, bias or conflict of interest?** - ‘Yes’, to certify and ‘No’ if this certification cannot be made.
- 10. Does the entity certify that your entity will not engage in prohibited communications as defined in 47 CFR 1.2105(a) starting from the date of submission of the application until final award?** - ‘Yes’, to certify and ‘No’ if this certification cannot be made.
- 11. Does an Officer/Director-level employee or equivalent certify that the entity and its contractors have complied with Federal labor and employment laws for broadband deployment projects over the last three years, including the Occupational Safety and Health Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, or other applicable laws?** ‘Yes’, to certify and ‘No’ if this certification cannot be made.

If you answered ‘No’ to question 11, please answer question 11.1.

11.1 If violations occurred, please describe.

DOCUMENTS TO PREPARE

- None

GATING SECTION 5: FAIR LABOR PRACTICES

SUMMARY

This section requires applicants to disclose any recent fair labor violations and provide a detailed workforce plan. Applicants must report violations from the past three years, including the nature of each violation and actions taken in response. Additionally, they must outline their strategies for training, safety, job quality, local hiring, and subcontracting practices. Certification of compliance with labor and employment standards for the duration of the BEAD implementation period is also required.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 1. Has the applicant or its subcontractors for this project been cited for any fair labor violations under the Federal Fair Labor Practices Act or Occupational Safety and Health Act in the three years preceding the date of this application?** - Please answer ‘Yes’ if you have received a violation and otherwise answer ‘No’.



If you answered 'Yes' in question 1, please answer the following two questions:

1.1 How many official violations did you or your contractors incur in the last three years?

- Examples of violations may include OSHA serious or willful violations, such as safety hazards leading to accidents or injuries, and environmental violations, such as failure to comply with the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, or hazardous waste regulations. Significant contractual breaches, like failure to meet contractual obligations resulting in legal actions or penalties, and permit violations, such as operating without proper permits or violating permit terms, are also examples. Other violations may include labor law violations, such as significant breaches of the Fair Labor Standards Act or wage/hour violations, as well as FCC regulatory violations, like failure to comply with Federal communications regulations. Building code violations, such as major non-compliance with building safety regulations, and data security violations, such as breaches of privacy laws or mishandling of sensitive information, are further examples. Fines or penalties from regulatory agencies, such as those issued by the EPA or FCC, and non-compliance with grant or contract requirements, such as failure to meet key Federal or State funding stipulations, are also considered violations.

1.2 Please provide details of the nature of each official violation including the nature of the violation and remedial action taken in response. This may include descriptions of each violation and corresponding corrective actions.

2. Provide a narrative of your entity's workforce plan, including information on training and safety, job quality, local hire and targeted hire, accountability and subcontracting practices, and ongoing operational workforce. This may include information on development programs, workplace safety, recruitment strategies, employment standards, and vendor management practices. The following are the listed workforce requirements per the NTIA:

- Federal labor and employment laws, which are legal requirements that apply to all employers in the United States.
 - Skilled workforce activities, which include how employers hire, pay, and consider skills of workers and subcontractors.
 - Equitable training and workforce development activities, which offer on-the-job and professional skills development for all workers.
- 3. Does the workforce plan include prioritizing local hiring?** - Please answer 'Yes' if you prioritize local hiring and 'No' otherwise.
- 4. Does your workforce plan include details regarding safety practices, such as proper safety training, workplace safety committees, and other safety procedures?** - Please answer 'Yes' if you have safety procedures in place and 'No' otherwise.
- 5. Does your workforce plan include details regarding wages, overtime, benefits, and overall job quality?** - 'Yes', if your workplan is inclusive of all the above otherwise 'No'.
- 6. Does your workforce plan include details regarding accountability, subcontracting practices, contractor and subcontractor compliance, and the extent to which a directly**



employed workforce will be used? - ‘Yes’, if your workplan is inclusive of all the above otherwise ‘No’.

- 7. Does your narrative include details regarding hiring practices and training or licensure practices?** - ‘Yes’, if your narrative is inclusive of all the above otherwise ‘No’.
- 8. Do you certify that your entity and its contractors have labor and employment practices in place, and that the subrecipient will recertify this annually for the duration of the BEAD implementation period? Key practices include wage scales and payment practices, workplace safety committees, and project employment and local impact reports where Davis Bacon certification is not provided** - ‘Yes’, to certify and ‘No’ if this certification cannot be made.

DOCUMENTS TO PREPARE

- None

GATING SECTION 6: LEGAL COMPLIANCE AND DEPLOYMENT READINESS

SUMMARY

This section addresses labor compliance and workforce planning. Applicants must disclose any labor violations in the past three years and provide details if applicable. They are also required to outline their workforce plan, covering safety, hiring, job quality, and subcontracting practices. Lastly, applicants must certify compliance with labor and employment practices and agree to recertify annually during the project.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 1. Upload the entity’s policies and practices regarding compliance with health and safety laws and regulations.**
- 2. Upload documentation of communications with workers and worker-representative entities regarding the applicable labor laws and fair labor standards.**
- 3. Upload documentation of communications with workers and worker-representative entities regarding the formation of worker-led health and safety committees.**
- 4. Do you intend to certify that all laborers and mechanics employed by contractors and subcontractors in the performance of such project are paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing, as determined by the U.S. Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the “Davis-Bacon Act”), for the corresponding classes of laborers and mechanics employed on projects of a character similar to the contract work in the civil subdivision of the State (or the District of Columbia) in which the work is to be performed, or by the appropriate State entity pursuant to a corollary State prevailing-wage-in-construction law (commonly known as “baby Davis-Bacon Acts”)?** - Answer ‘Yes’ if you intend certify Davis-Bacon and ‘No’ if this certification cannot be made.
- 5. Please provide an explanation of how your entity plans to meet prevailing wage requirements** - If you certify Davis-Bacon, please indicate that. Otherwise, provide a



detailed explanation of how your entity plans to comply with prevailing wage requirements.

6. **Do you intend to certify that the indicated project includes a project labor agreement, meaning a pre-hire collective bargaining agreement consistent with section 8(f) of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 158(f))?’ - ‘Yes’, to certify and ‘No’ if this certification cannot be made.**
7. **Do you certify that your entity has a cybersecurity risk management plan in place that is either: (a) operational, if the applicant is providing service prior to the award of the grant; or (b) ready to be operationalized upon providing service, if the applicant is not yet providing service prior to the grant award? - Dropdown, select one of the following: Yes (A), Yes(B), No**
8. **Do you certify that your entity’s cybersecurity risk management plan reflects the latest version of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity (currently Version 1.1) and the standards and controls set forth in Executive Order 14028 and specifies the security and privacy controls being implemented? - ‘Yes’, to certify and ‘No’ if this certification cannot be made.**
9. **Do you certify that your entity’s cybersecurity risk management plan will be reevaluated and updated on an annual basis which is inline within industry best practices? - ‘Yes’, to certify and ‘No’ if this certification cannot be made.**
10. **Do you certify that your entity’s cybersecurity risk management plan will be submitted to GTA following execution of grant agreements, and if the applicant makes any substantive changes to the plan, a new version will be submitted to GTA within 30 days? - ‘Yes’, to certify and ‘No’ if this certification cannot be made.**
11. **Do you certify that your entity has a supply chain risk management plan in place that is either: (a) operational, if the applicant is already providing service at the time of the grant; or (b) ready to be operationalized, if the applicant is not yet providing service at the time of grant award? - Dropdown, select one of the following: Yes (A), Yes (B), No**
12. **Do you certify that your entity’s supply chain risk management plan is based upon the key practices discussed in the NIST publication NISTIR 8276, Key Practices in Cyber Supply Chain Risk Management: Observations from Industry and related SCRM guidance from NIST, including NIST 800-161, Cybersecurity Supply Chain Risk Management Practices for Systems and Organizations and specifies the supply chain risk management controls being implemented? - ‘Yes’, to certify and ‘No’ if this certification cannot be made.**
13. **Do you certify that your entity’s supply chain risk management plan will be reevaluated and updated on an annual basis which is inline within industry best practices? - ‘Yes’, to certify and ‘No’ if this certification cannot be made.**
14. **Do you certify that your entity’s supply chain risk management plan will be submitted to GTA prior to the allocation of funds, and if the applicant makes any substantive**



changes to the plan, a new version will be submitted within 30 days? - 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.

15. Does an Officer or Director level employee certify that the entity possesses the operational expertise, capabilities, and resources to successfully complete and operate a BEAD funded project? 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.

16. Does an Officer or Director level employee certify that the entity has at least two consecutive years prior to the date of the application of experience providing voice, broadband, or electric transmission or distribution services to end users or is a wholly owned subsidiary of a parent entity that has two years of operational experience in the communications industry? 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.

If you answered "No" to question 16, please answer the following two questions:

16.1 For providers without two years of experience offering communications services or new entrants to the communications market who are providing additional operational or financial reports that the provider or new entrant may have originally submitted to a financial institution or applicable regulatory agency, does an Officer or Director level employee certify that the entity's reports are true and correct copies of the reports originally provided to the financial institution or regulatory agency? 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.

16.2 If your entity does not have two years of experience offering communications services or is a new entrant to the communications market, upload additional operational or financial reports that the provider or new entrant may have originally submitted to a financial institution or applicable regulatory agency. The two-year time window begins when the applicant began verifiable operational efforts to build their networks that provide "last mile" service - To support their application, applicants should submit comprehensive financial reports that include business plans, balance sheets, profit and loss statements, cash flow statements, and loan agreements or other financial commitments to demonstrate the financial health and viability of their operations. Operational reports should detail network build-out plans, engineering specifications, and vendor contracts, along with timelines, milestones, and resource allocations, to prove their capability to execute the project. Additionally, supporting documentation such as permits, licenses, proof of funding, and third-party assessments should be provided to confirm compliance with regulatory requirements and overall readiness to deploy and maintain the network.

17. Upload plans to acquire additional resources to increase the entity's organizational capabilities, including third-party contractors and partners with relevant operational expertise, to the extent that the entity cannot demonstrate that they have already acquired those capabilities. - Ensure that the uploaded documents clearly outline plans for acquiring additional resources, including equipment, technology, and personnel, with specific timelines and strategies for addressing any capability gaps. These documents

must identify qualified third-party contractors or partners, supported by contracts or letters of intent, and demonstrate the entity's financial capacity to secure these resources.

- 18. Describe the entity's experience designing and constructing broadband infrastructure projects of similar size and scope (such as the timeframes, reimbursement models, and geographic characteristics) and experience operating the network to offer last mile services. This description should reference the key management personnel referenced in the prior application section as well as the experience and expertise of the technical teams the entity will use to design, construct, and operate the proposed project.** This description should summarize the entity's expertise executing comparable broadband projects and delivering service

If you answered 'Yes' to question 11 in Gating Section 2, please answer the following question:

- 19. If your entity has not provided broadband service and has operated only an electric transmission or distribution service and other supporting reports to the operational capability of the entity are uploaded, do you certify that the submission is a true and accurate copy of the reports that were provided to the relevant financial institution? - 'Yes' to certify; 'No' if this certification cannot be made; 'N/A' if this is not applicable.**

DOCUMENTS TO PREPARE

- Your entity's policies and practices regarding compliance with health and safety laws and regulations.
- Documentation of communications with workers and worker-representative entities regarding the applicable labor laws and fair labor standards.
- Documentation of communications with workers and worker-representative entities regarding the formation of worker-led health and safety committees.
- If applicable, upload additional operational or financial reports that the provider or new entrant may have originally submitted to a financial institution or applicable regulatory agency. The two-year time window begins when the applicant began verifiable operational efforts to build their networks that provide "last mile" service.
- Upload plans to acquire additional resources to increase the entity's organizational capabilities, including third-party contractors and partners with relevant operational expertise, to the extent that the entity cannot demonstrate that they have already acquired those capabilities.

GATING SECTION 7: OWNERSHIP INFORMATION

SUMMARY


This section focuses on disclosing any foreign interests and providing detailed ownership information for for-profit applicants. Applicants must list all parties with direct or indirect ownership of 10 percent or more in the entity, including partnerships, LLCs, or stockholders. Additionally, applicants are required to disclose any connections to FCC-regulated entities.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS


- 1. Disclose any foreign interest, if pertinent** - Foreign interest means any foreign government, agency of a foreign government, or representative of a foreign government; any form of business enterprise or legal entity organized, chartered, or incorporated under the laws of any country other than the United States or its territories, and any person who is not a citizen or national of the United States. If this does not apply to your entity, please type “N/A” indicating this is not applicable to your entity.

If you answered ‘For Profit’ to question 2 in Entity Information, please answer the following questions:

- 2. List the real party or parties in interest in the application, including a complete disclosure of the identity (name, addresses, citizenships) and relationship of those persons or entities directly or indirectly owning or controlling (or both) the applicant** - For the following questions (148-154), provide the ownership information consistent with the requirements set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 1.2112(a)(1)-(7).

Name	Address	Citizenship	Relationship	Action
<input type="text" value="Enter Name"/>	<input type="text" value="Enter Address"/>	<input type="text" value="Enter Citizenship"/>	<input type="text" value="Enter Relationship"/>	


- 3. List the name, address, and citizenship of any party holding 10 percent or more of stock in the applicant's entity, whether voting or nonvoting, common or preferred, including the specific amount of the interest or percentage held.**

Name	Address	Citizenship	Interest or Percentage Held	Action
<input type="text" value="Enter Name"/>	<input type="text" value="Enter Address"/>	<input type="text" value="Enter Citizenship"/>	<input type="text" value="Enter Interest or Percentage"/>	

- 4. Do any parties hold indirect ownership interests in the applicant entity as determined by successive multiplication of the ownership percentages for each link in the vertical ownership chain, that equals 10 percent or more of the applicant, except that if the ownership percentage for an interest in any link in the chain exceeds 50 percent or represents actual control, it shall be treated and reported as if it were a 100 percent interest?** Applicant to select ‘Yes’ or ‘No’.

If you answered ‘Yes’ to question 4, please answer the following 4.1:


4.1 List all parties holding indirect ownership interests in the applicant entity as determined by successive multiplication of the ownership percentages for each link in the vertical ownership chain, that equals 10 percent or more of the applicant, except that if the ownership percentage for an interest in any link in the chain exceeds 50 percent or represents actual control, it shall be treated and reported as if it were a 100 percent interest.

Name	Action
<input type="text" value="Enter Name"/>	

5. Does the applicant or any of their identified parties own 10 percent or more of stock, whether voting or nonvoting, common or preferred, in any FCC regulated entity or in an applicant for an FCC license? Applicant to select 'Yes' or 'No'.


If you answered 'Yes' to question 5, please answer the following 5.1:

5.1 List any FCC-regulated entity or applicant for an FCC license, in which the applicant or any of the parties identified in paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(5) of this section, owns 10 percent or more of stock, whether voting or nonvoting, common or preferred. This list must include a description of each such entity's principal business and a description of each such entity's relationship to the applicant (e.g., Company A owns 10 percent of Company B (the applicant) and 10 percent of Company C, then Companies A and C must be listed on Company B's application, where C is an FCC licensee and/or license applicant).

Entity Name	Description of Entity's Principal Business	Description of Entity's Relationship to Applicant	Action
<input type="text" value="Enter Entity Name"/>	<input type="text" value="Enter Description of Entity's Principal Business"/>	<input type="text" value="Enter Description of Entity's Relationship to Applicant"/>	

If you selected 'For Profit' as Entity Type in Entity Information question 4, the following will populate based on your secondary response for Limited Partnership, General Partnership, and Limited Liability Company:

6. List, in the case of a limited partnership, the name, address and citizenship of each limited partner whose interest in the applicant is 10 percent or greater - as calculated according to the percentage of equity paid in or the percentage of distribution of profits and losses.

Name	Address	Citizenship	Action
<input type="text" value="Enter Name"/>	<input type="text" value="Enter Address"/>	<input type="text" value="Enter Citizenship"/>	

6. List, in the case of a general partnership, the name, address and citizenship of each partner, and the share or interest participation in the partnership.



Name	Address	Citizenship	Share or Interest Participation in the Partnership	Action
<input type="text" value="Enter Name"/>	<input type="text" value="Enter Address"/>	<input type="text" value="Enter Citizenship"/>	<input type="text" value="Enter Share or Interest Participation i"/>	

6. List, in the case of a limited liability company, the name, address, and citizenship of each of its members whose interest in the applicant is 10 percent or greater.

Name	Address	Citizenship	Action
<input type="text" value="Enter Name"/>	<input type="text" value="Enter Address"/>	<input type="text" value="Enter Citizenship"/>	

DOCUMENTS TO PREPARE

- None

GATING SECTION 8: OTHER PUBLIC FUNDING

SUMMARY

This section requires a list of the applicant's broadband funding applications and awarded grants, focusing on Georgia and the past five years. Applicants must detail their involvement in publicly funded programs, including service areas, funding amounts, and matching commitments. Additionally, they must disclose any defaults or compliance issues with previous grants.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Provide a list of applications the applicant submitted or plans to submit related to Federal or State broadband funding in the State of Georgia.
Provide a list of awarded broadband grants for any state in the last 5 years and provide a list of broadband deployment grant projects that the applicant or its affiliates are undertaking or have committed to undertake in the State of Georgia at the time of the application using public funds - Please complete the template with a list of applications the applicant has submitted in the past or plans to submit. Link to template: [Other Public Funding Template](#)
2. Provide a narrative detailing the following information about the entity's participation and commitments for publicly funded programs including but not limited to the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Public Law 116-127; 134 Stat. 178), the CARES Act (Public Law 116-136; 134 Stat. 281), the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260; 134 Stat. 1182), the American Rescue Plan of 2021 (Public Law 117-2; 135 Stat. 4), any Federal Universal Service Fund high-cost program (e.g., RDOF, Connect America Fund), and GTA's own broadband grant programs, as well as any State or local universal service or broadband deployment funding program:
3. Has the applicant ever defaulted or been out of compliance with a Federal, State, or local grant? – Select 'Yes' or 'No'.

4. Has the applicant applied for or received a public loan to serve any of the locations contained within the proposed project area? – Select ‘Yes’ or ‘No’.

DOCUMENTS TO PREPARE

- Template listing all applications the applicant submitted or plans to submit related to Federal or State broadband funding in the State of Georgia, along with a list of awarded broadband grants for any state in the last 5 years and provide a list of broadband deployment grant projects that the applicant or its affiliates are undertaking or have committed to undertake in the State of Georgia at the time of the application using public funds. Link to template: [Other Public Funding Template](#)

AFFORDABILITY

SUMMARY

This section focuses on the applicant’s pricing and service offerings for BEAD locations. It asks for details on current and planned speed tiers and pricing, as well as commitments to offer broadband at rates consistent with those in other Georgia areas. Applicants must also confirm whether their rates will align with FCC benchmarks and provide pricing details for gigabit symmetrical service. Additionally, the section covers low-cost service options, including the option to request a waiver if necessary, and requires a description of any special circumstances for setting higher rates.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. What are the planned and current speed tiers (Mbps) and pricing to be offered to BEAD locations? (not scored)

1.1 Planned Service Offerings

Table with columns: Download Speed, Upload Speed, Price

Download Speed	Upload Speed	Price	Action
<input type="text" value="Enter Download Speed"/>	<input type="text" value="Enter Upload Speed"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="Enter Price"/>	

1.2 Current Service Offerings:

Table with columns: Download Speed, Upload Speed, Price

Download Speed	Upload Speed	Price	Action
<input type="text" value="Enter Download Speed"/>	<input type="text" value="Enter Upload Speed"/>	\$ <input type="text" value="Enter Price"/>	

2. Will the applicant commit to offer broadband service in the project funded service area at rates that are either (1) consistent with the pricing the applicant is offering in other areas Georgia or (2) not higher than the residential rates provided in the FCC’s

reasonable comparability benchmark calculated annually in the fixed broadband Urban Rate Survey for gigabit symmetric service?

If you answered 'Yes' to question 2, please answer question 2.1.

2.1 What is your entity's proposed pricing including inclusive of all taxes, fees, and charges billed to the customer for gigabit symmetrical service? - Please input the dollar amounts in the table.

- 3. Describe how you plan to offer low-cost service option that is compliant with requirement 16 in [Georgia's Volume 2](#).**
- 4. Are you requesting a waiver for the low-cost broadband service option (LCBSO)? (Please note that the waiver ceiling is \$75.00).**

If you answered 'Yes' to question 4, please answer the following question:

4.1 Please describe either (i) the special circumstances that require setting the low cost option at a rate higher than the LCBSO ceiling, or (ii) how restricting prices to the LCBSO ceiling would require the applicant to offer BEAD-specific pricing that is inconsistent with the applicants existing service offerings.

DOCUMENTS TO PREPARE

- None

FAIR LABOR PRACTICES

SUMMARY

This section asks if the entity is a new entrant with less than three years of labor and employment law compliance history.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 1. Is your entity a new entrant with less than a 3-year record of labor and employment law compliance? - Please respond 'Yes' if you are a new entrant without a lengthy record of labor and employment law compliance; otherwise, respond 'No.'**

If you answered 'Yes' to question 1, please answer the following questions:

1.1 If the applicant is a new entrant without a lengthy record of labor and employment law compliance, please provide specific, concrete commitments to strong labor and employment standards and protections going forward. Please provide the following:

- 1.1.1 The applicant's workforce plan, including information on training and safety, job quality, local hire and targeted hire, accountability and subcontracting practices, and ongoing operational workforce.**
- 1.1.2 Labor and employment practices including wage scales and overtime payment, workforce safety committees, compliance of contractors and subcontractors, employment, and local impact reports.**
- 1.1.3 Current and/or planned practices regarding directly employed**



workforce, robust in-house training, wages and benefits, a locally based workforce, and public disclosure of workforce plans and labor commitments.

1.1.4 Discussion of job quality, maintaining workforce safety practices, and training or licensure for all workers.

1.1.5 Compliance with labor laws and workplace protections (including specific commitments and plans).

1.2 Does the applicant commit to future compliance with Federal labor and employment laws? (Yes or No)

1.3 Does the applicant commit to local hiring? (Yes or No)

If you answered 'No' to question 1, please answer the following:

1.1 Please provide the applicant's history of compliance with Federal labor laws within the last three years.

1.2 Please provide the applicant's workforce plan including information on training and safety, job quality, local hire and targeted hire, accountability and subcontracting practices, and ongoing operational workforce.

1.3 Does the applicant commit to future compliance with Federal labor and employment laws? (Yes or No)

1.4 Does the applicant commit to local hiring? (Yes or No)

2. Has the applicant had any official violations of Federal labor laws within the three years preceding the date of this application?

DOCUMENTS TO PREPARE

- None

COMMUNITY/LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

SUMMARY

This section focuses on gathering evidence of support from county and local governments, elected officials, and community institutions in the proposed County Grant Area. Applicants are asked to upload supporting documents such as letters, resolutions, and funding commitments. Additionally, applicants should outline their past or future efforts to enhance digital connectivity in their service areas, including initiatives related to devices, digital skills training, workforce development, and the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP).

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Does the applicant have evidence of support from the county government in the proposed County Grant Area?

If you answered 'Yes' to question 1, please provide the following:



- 1.1 Please upload supporting documents from the County including letters, board or council resolutions, commitments of funding, and commitments to purchase services if the project is funded** - Additionally, applicants are encouraged to outline either their past efforts or future plans, if any, for enhancing digital connectivity within their service areas. This could include support for access to devices, digital skills training, enrollment, and awareness for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), workforce development, or any other community-based initiatives or partnerships aimed at addressing digital connectivity challenges.
- 2. Please outline either your entity's past efforts or future plans, if any, for enhancing digital connectivity within their service areas. This could include support for access to devices, digital skills training, enrollment, awareness of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), workforce development, or any other community-based initiatives or partnerships aimed at addressing digital connectivity challenges.**
- 3. Does the applicant have evidence of support from other local governments, elected officials, or other community institutions in the proposed County Grant Area?** - Please answer 'Yes' if you have evidence of support from the officials listed in the question; otherwise, answer 'No'.

If you answered 'Yes' to question 3, please answer the following:

- 3.1 How many distinct entities does the applicant have support from?** If you answered, 'Yes' to question 3, please provide the number of entities you have support from.
- 3.2 Please upload supporting documents from the local governments, elected officials, or other community institutions in the proposed County Grant Area including letters, board or council resolutions, commitments of funding, and commitments to purchase services if the project is funded.**

DOCUMENTS TO PREPARE

- Supporting documents from the County including letters, board or council resolutions, commitments of funding, and commitments to purchase services if the project is funded. (If applicable)
- Supporting documents from the local governments, elected officials, or other community institutions in the proposed County Grant Area including letters, board or council resolutions, commitments of funding, and commitments to purchase services if the project is funded. (If applicable)

CONNECTING CAIS

SUMMARY

This section focuses on the applicant's plans for connecting Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) within the County Grant Area. Applicants are required to report the number of CAIs without a 1 Gbps symmetrical connection and low latency. For both priority (fiber) and non-priority (non-fiber) projects, applicants must specify how many unserved CAIs will receive fiber connectivity at no additional cost to the BEAD program.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 1. How many CAIs are in the County Grant Area that do not have 1 Gbps symmetrical capable connection and latency less than or equal to 100 ms?** - This will be pre-populated based on the applicant's selection of project area in Project Information question 2.

- 1.1 For priority (fiber) broadband projects, how many unserved CAIs will the applicant provide fiber connectivity to at speeds capable of at least 1 Gbps symmetric and latency less than or equal to 100 ms at no additional cost to the BEAD program?**

- 1.1.1 CAIs Proposed in Application** – Please upload a completed BEAD CAIs in Application template, which is available at the following link: [CAIs in Application Template](#)

- 2. Please provide an explanation for how the applicant will provide this service.**

DOCUMENTS TO PREPARE

- BEAD CAIs in Application template [BEAD CAIs in Application Template](#)

OTHER INFORMATION

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 1. Is there any additional information that you would like to share with the State regarding this application that may be helpful if your application advances to the Negotiation Phase as outlined in the State's BEAD Initial Proposal Volume II?**

DOCUMENTS TO PREPARE

- None

TRADE SECRET AFFIDAVIT

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 1. If any of the responses in this application contain information or data that the submitter deems to be confidential commercial information that should be exempt from disclosure under State open records laws (O.C.G.A. § 50-18-72), that information should be identified by uploading a trade secret affidavit that specifically identifies which information within the submitted information is a trade secret along with an explanation of why it is a trade secret. All exempted information will be securely maintained and accessed by GTA staff or GTA contractors that are required to not publicly disclose the information. If no trade secret affidavit is filed, all responses will be subject to disclosure under State open records laws. – Optional, please complete and upload the Trade Secret Affidavit to certify that your application contains confidential commercial information. Link to template: [Trade Secret Affidavit](#)**

DOCUMENTS TO PREPARE

- Optional completion of the Trade Secret Affidavit template if the application contains any confidential commercial information that the applicant would like to have exempt from disclosure under an open records request. Link to template: [Trade Secret Affidavit](#)

ATTESTATION

SUMMARY

This section is to attest to the applicant's compliance with all relevant federal, state, and program-specific regulations, adherence to project expectations and financial benchmarks, and to certify that the entity is not currently suspended or debarred from participating in federally funded contracts.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Attestation to the completeness and accuracy of the application:

I, [Official Name], hereby attest that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information provided in this application is complete and accurate. I understand that this attestation must be completed by a representative of the applicant entity with authority to attest to the accuracy and completeness of the information within this application and that any false statements or misrepresentations may result in penalties under applicable laws. – Please note that the Authorized Official of the entity is the individual who must sign off and attest on the application for submission.

GLOSSARY

Administrative Cost - Refer to Indirect Cost.

Allowable Cost - A cost deemed reasonable, allocable, and conformable to cost principles while being consistent with policies and procedures applicable to both federal and non-federal activities; recognized under Generally Accepted Accounting Principles; and not charged to any other federal award, unless specifically permitted by law.

Assistant Secretary - The deputy head of the Communications and Information sector at the United States Department of Commerce.

Audit - Financial, Single, or Program Audit conducted according to §200.514 Scope of Audit for non-Federal entities expending \$750,000 or more in Federal awards during their fiscal year, unless opting for a program-specific audit as per §200.501(c).

Authorized Official - The individual is named by the applicant entity and is authorized to act for the applicant and assume the obligations imposed by Federal laws, regulations, requirements, and conditions that apply to grant applications or grant awards. This is commonly a board member or an executive of the entity.

Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program (BEAD) - \$42.45 billion to expand high-speed Internet access by funding planning, infrastructure deployment and adoption programs.

Broadband DATA Maps - Maps developed following the 18 requirements of 47 U.S.C. Section 642.

Broadband Equity - Realized when every individual and community have access to cost-effective, high-speed, and dependable internet that fulfills their ongoing requirements.

Broadband Serviceable Location - A business or residential location in the United States at which fixed broadband Internet access service is, or can be, installed.

Broadband: Broadband Service - The terms 'broadband' or 'broadband service' are defined as 'broadband internet access service' under Section 8.1(b) of Title 47 in the Code of Federal Regulations or any following regulation. This refers to a widespread retail service provided through wire or radio, capable of transmitting data at minimum speeds of one hundred megabits per second for downloads and at least twenty megabits per second for uploads, covering all or most internet endpoints. It includes any features necessary for the operation of the communications service but does not include dial-up internet.

Build America, Buy American (BABAA) - A legislative measure that requires all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in federally funded infrastructure projects to be produced in the United States.

Buy America Preference - The 'domestic content procurement preference' outlined in section 70914 of the Build America, Buy America Act mandates that the leader of each Federal agency must guarantee that all funds allocated for a Federal infrastructure project can only be used if all the iron, steel, manufactured goods, and construction materials used in the project are made in the United States.

Buy American Act (41 U.S.C. § 8301–8305) - Legislation requiring the federal government to prefer U.S.-made products in its purchases.

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) - The codification of the general and permanent rules published in the Federal Register by the executive departments and agencies of the federal government. Title 2 part 200 establishes uniform administrative requirements, cost principles, and audit requirements for Federal awards to non-Federal entities.

Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) - An entity such as a school, library, health clinic, health center, hospital or other medical provider, public safety entity, institution of higher education, public housing organization, or community support organization that facilitates greater use of broadband service by vulnerable populations, including, but not limited to, low-income individuals, unemployed individuals, children, the incarcerated, and aged individuals.

Conflict of Interest - A circumstance where a person or entity is engaged with various interests, which may be financial or of other types, and advocating for one interest might mean acting in opposition to another.

Consultants - Individuals or organizations employed by grant recipients or subrecipients to deliver professional services associated with the BEAD program.

Contract - An enforceable legal agreement between parties where each promise to perform an action in exchange for a benefit, known as consideration. It's established on the basis of several factual elements, which include: a commitment to act, a designated time or situation for fulfilling that commitment, specific conditions that detail the obligations including the execution of said promises, and the actual carrying out of the agreed actions. Specifically, a Grant Agreement is a type of contract awarded to recipients of grant funding. For the context of Federal financial assistance, a contract is a legal document through which a recipient or subrecipient acquires property or services necessary to implement a project or program funded by a federal award.

Contractor - A party engaged through a contract to provide goods or services necessary for carrying out a project or program under a Federal Award.

Cost Sharing (Matching) - An arrangement where the grantee commits to contributing a certain sum or percentage of the project's costs, sometimes through "in-kind" contributions.

Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. 3141–3148) - A federal law that requires contractors and subcontractors working on federal or federally-assisted construction projects to pay their laborers and mechanics at least the prevailing wages and benefits as determined by the Department of Labor. These wages must reflect the rates paid in the local area for similar work.

De Minimis Indirect Cost Rate - Grantees who have not previously established an Indirect Cost Rate can opt to apply a standard 10% De Minimis Rate to their Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC), a decision which can be perpetually utilized. This option excludes grantees mentioned in Appendix VII, Part 200 for States, Local Governments, and Indian Tribes. It's essential to charge costs either as indirect or direct, avoiding any duplication or inconsistent categorization, as per 2 CFR 200.403. Once this approach is adopted, it must be consistently applied across all federal funding until the grantee decides to negotiate a different rate, an action that can be initiated at any time by the non-federal entity.

Debarment - A sanction imposed to exclude a recipient from participating in federal contracts and certain non-procurement transactions.

Department of Commerce - The United States Department of Commerce is an executive department of the U.S. federal government concerned with creating the conditions for economic growth and opportunity.

Digital Equity - Refers to the state where individuals and communities possess the necessary information technology capacity for full engagement in the societal and economic activities of the United States.

Digital Inclusion - Denotes the essential measures needed to make sure every individual and community, particularly those facing the greatest barriers, can access and use Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) (National Digital Inclusion Alliance, n.d.).

Direct Costs - Expenses directly attributable to a project, encompassing only actual cash outlays, not indirect costs.

Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) - A process that ensures compliance with federal laws related to environmental and historic preservation during the planning and implementation of projects, ensuring that environmental and historical resources are protected.

Extremely High Cost Per Location Threshold - The maximum BEAD subsidy cost per location to be utilized during the subrecipient selection process described in the ([BEAD NOFO](#) p 35) in which an Eligible Entity may decline to select a proposal if use of an alternative technology meeting the BEAD program's technical requirements would be less expensive.

Federal Award - Financial support received directly or indirectly from federal agencies, characterized by either financial assistance or cost-reimbursement contracts.

Federal Awarding Agency - A Federal entity providing direct Award funds and specifying the terms of use.

Federal Communications Commission - An independent agency of the U.S. government created to regulate interstate communications by radio, television, wire, satellite, and cable.

Federally Approved Indirect Cost Rate - A sanctioned indirect cost rate that has been officially agreed upon through negotiations between a grantee and the federal government.

Financial Audit - An impartial assessment that verifies the accuracy and completeness of an entity's financial statements for stakeholders like regulators and investors.

Financial Officer - The individual in charge of a Grantee's financial activities, including accounting, funds management, and financial reporting.

Financial Risk Assessment - An evaluation by the Pass-Through Entity of Subrecipients' risk of noncompliance for subrecipient monitoring (2 CFR § 200.332(c)).

Fixed Broadband - Any data transmission to a residence or business, i.e., a fixed location, using a variety of technologies such as cable, DSL, and fiber optics. It does not include cellular and satellite-based internet.

Fixed Wireless - type of communications service that uses radio signals or other wireless links to transmit data between two fixed points. Under BEAD, fixed wireless uses include licensed spectrum or a hybrid of licensed and unlicensed spectrum.

Fraud - The deliberate misrepresentation or hiding of an important fact that misleads others and causes them to take actions to their disadvantage.

Funding Period - The timeframe during which funds are available for obligation by the grantee.

Grant Agreement - A financial assistance contract between a Federal awarding agency or Pass-through Entity and a non-Federal entity.

Grant Amendment - A modification to any aspect of a Grant Award, except for the involved parties.

Grant Award - The complete set of documents and activities pertaining to a funded initiative.

Grant Award End Date - The conclusion of the period during which awarding agency support ceases.

Grant Award Period - The span defined in the award document marking the commencement and termination of agency sponsorship.

Grant Award Start Date - The inception of the period in the award document marking the start of agency sponsorship.

Grantee - An entity or individual awarded a grant.

Grantor - An agency or department dispensing grant funds, either originally or as a pass-through.

Indirect Cost - Expenses for shared purposes benefiting more than one project, not easily attributable to a specific cost objective.

Indirect Cost Rate - A rate negotiated with the Federal government representing the proportion of indirect costs to a grant.

Infrastructure - Current assets such as facilities, equipment, materials, and structures that an internet service provider uses primarily for its business or public enterprise operations. This includes, but is not limited to, items like copper wires, optical cables, loose tube cables, communication huts, conduits, vaults, patch panels, mounting hardware, poles, generators, network nodes, routers, switches, microwave relays, receivers, site routers, outdoor cabinets, towers, easements, rights-of-way, and buildings or structures owned by the entity that are utilized for placement or collocation purposes.

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) - A U.S. law enacted in 2021 that allocates approximately \$1.2 trillion to modernize and improve the nation's infrastructure. This includes investments in transportation, broadband, utilities, and environmental remediation, aimed at enhancing economic growth, creating jobs, and addressing climate change.

Latency - Measures the time it takes for information to travel from one point on a network to another. The BEAD program defines a low latency network as having 95% of its service connections at or below 100 milliseconds of latency (roundtrip), with no individual measurements above 300 milliseconds.

Letter of Intent (LOI) - A letter or application that describes an organization's activities and funding needs is sent to a potential grantor. This initial communication helps to assess if it is suitable to proceed with a detailed grant proposal.

Management Letter - Communication from auditors post-audit, discussing financial and management issues and suggesting improvements.

Manufactured products - Items, substances, or resources that have been transformed into distinct forms and shapes or merged with other items, substances, or resources to produce a new product with characteristics different from the individual components.

Manufacturer's Certification - Documentation issued by a manufacturer confirming that the products supplied comply with the domestic preference standards of the BABAA

Matching Funds - Non-federal contributions required to complement federal Grant Award funds.

Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) - The direct costs for a project, excluding specified items like equipment and exceeding \$25,000 per subaward.

National Environment Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.) - An environmental law that mandates federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of their proposed actions prior to making decisions.

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. § 300101 et seq.) - Legislation intended to preserve historical and archaeological sites in the United States.

National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) - An agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce that advises the President on telecommunications and information policy issues, including broadband deployment, spectrum management, and internet governance.

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) - A non-regulatory US government agency that develops standards and guidelines to promote innovation and technological competitiveness.

Non-Federal Entity (NFE) - An organization involved in a Federal award as either a Recipient or Subrecipient, excluding federal entities.

Nonprofit Organization - Any corporation, trust, association, cooperative, or similar entity (excluding Institutions of Higher Education) that operates mainly for scientific, educational, service, charitable, or similar public interest purposes. It must not be primarily profit-driven and should use its net proceeds to enhance, maintain, or grow its operations.

Non-Traditional Broadband Provider - means an electric cooperative, nonprofit organization, public-private partnership, public or private utility, public utility district, Tribal entity, or local government (including any unit, subdivision, authority, or consortium of local governments) that provides or will provide broadband services.

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) or Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) - Documentation announcing the intent to provide grants, known variably as Grant RFP, Grant Opportunity, etc.

Pass-Through Entity (PTE) - A non-federal entity that distributes federal program funds to a subrecipient to facilitate the execution of a portion of the program.

Primary Contact - The main point of contact for the applicant entity that is responsible for receiving communications and completing tasks related to the application and any subsequent award; this may be the same as the Authorized Official. This is commonly a project manager, member of the compliance team, or an accounting personnel.

Prime Recipient - A non-federal entity known as a recipient is one that directly receives a federal award from a federal awarding agency to implement a specific activity within a federal program. This designation as a recipient does not extend to subrecipients. For further details, refer to 2 CFR 200.69 regarding Non-Federal entities in the OMB Uniform Grants Guidance.

Produced in the United States - Refers to iron or steel products where all steps, from initial melting to coating, took place in the United States. For manufactured products, it means the item was made in the United States and the cost of its components, which were mined, produced, or made in the U.S., exceeds 55 percent of the total cost of all components. For construction materials, it indicates that all manufacturing processes were conducted in the United States.

Recipient - An entity receiving a federal award directly for the implementation of program activities.

Reimbursement - Compensation to a Recipient for incurred costs under a Grant Award.

Retention Period - The specified duration for maintaining records, regardless of format.

Retention Schedule - A catalog of records kept by an entire organization or specific programs, detailing the duration each record should be retained. Record retention schedules cover all forms of records, including paper, photographs, videos, emails, and other digital formats like scanned documents, word processing files, spreadsheets, database entries, and digital photos and videos.

Risk Assessment - Refer to Financial Risk Assessment.

Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA) - The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA) is a required financial report for organizations that spend \$750,000 or more in federal funds during their fiscal year. It details all federal assistance received and spent by the organization and is essential for the Single Audit process under Uniform Guidance.

Section 70917(c) materials - Cement and materials similar to cement; aggregates like stone, sand, or gravel; or binding agents or additives used with aggregates.

Shapefile - A file format used for saving, displaying, and analyzing geospatial data that shows broadband coverage, consisting of multiple component files.

Single Audit - A comprehensive audit for entities spending \$750,000 or more in Federal awards per fiscal year, as per 2 CFR 200.514.

State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO) - A state-level office that manages the preservation of historical sites and buildings, ensuring compliance with federal and state historic preservation laws.

Subaward - Funds given by a Pass-through Entity to a Subrecipient to conduct part of a federal program, not including Contractor payments.

Subcontractor - Third parties engaged by a Grantee to assist with work under an Award.

Subrecipient - A non-federal entity that gets a subaward through an intermediary to execute a part of a federal program is responsible to the granting body for the funds' usage, excluding individuals who benefit from the program. This entity might also directly receive other federal awards from an awarding agency.

Supplanting - Supplanting involves intentionally reducing state or local funding due to the acquisition of federal funds. Federal funds should enhance, not replace, funds already designated for program activities. Reviews to detect supplanting may occur at various stages: during the application, pre-award, post-award, and audit phases. If supplanting is suspected, the applicant or grantee must provide proof that any decrease in non-federal funds was due to reasons unrelated to the acquisition or anticipated acquisition of federal funds.

Supply Chain Risk Management Plan (SCRM) - Document identifying and mitigating risks within a company's supply chain to ensure continuity and minimize disruptions.

System for Award Management (SAM) - An online system where Grantees must register and comply with 2 CFR 25, providing a central location for Federal award information.

Unallowable Costs - Expenses not permitted for reimbursement under a Grant or Cooperative Agreement by law, federal cost principles, or award conditions.

Underserved Location - An underserved location is defined as a broadband-serviceable location that is (a) not an unserved location, and (b) that the Broadband DATA Maps show as lacking access to Reliable Broadband Service offered with - (i) a speed of not less than 100 Mbps for downloads; and (ii) a speed of not less than 20 Mbps for uploads; and (iii) latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds.

Uniform Guidance - A set of regulations consolidating federal guidance on administrative requirements, cost principles, and audit requirements for federal awards.

Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) - A unique identifier required for all entities to systematically register for federal awards.

Unserved Location - An unserved location is defined as a broadband-serviceable location that the Broadband DATA Maps show as (a) having no access to broadband service, or (b) lacking access to Reliable Broadband Service offered with - (i) a speed of not less than 25 Mbps for downloads; and (ii) a speed of not less than 3 Mbps for uploads; and (iii) latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds.

Waste - Mismanagement or insufficient supervision of resources or equipment, resulting in avoidable expenses due to negligence or inefficiency.



APPENDIX

TEMPLATES

BEAD Locations in Application Template

[Link to Template](#)

BEAD Locations in Application					
Location ID	Location Classification (Unserved or Underserved)	Technology Code	Anticipated Upload Speed	Anticipated Download Speed	Latency (Does the committed service meet NTIA's definition of low latency?)

BEAD Locations Removed Template

[Link to Template](#)

BEAD Locations Removed		
Location ID	Location Classification (Unserved or Underserved)	Reason for Removal

BEAD CAIs in Application Template

[Link to Template](#)

BEAD CAIs In Application																
Type	Entity Name	Location ID	USAC Number (if applicable)	CMS Number (if applicable)	FRN	Street Address	City	State	Zip Code	Latitude	Longitude	Location Classification (Unserved or Underserved)	Technology Code	Anticipated Upload Speed	Anticipated Download Speed	Latency (Does the committed service meet NTIA's definition of low latency?)



Project Costs Template

[Link to Template](#)

Georgia - Project Cost Summary							
Category	Grant Funds Requested	Applicant Match Amount	Project Cost	% Match			
Planning/Project Management	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%			
Design Engineering	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%			
Permitting	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%			
Infrastructure Acquisition	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%			
Network Deployment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%			
Network Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%			
Subscriber Activations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%			
Contingencies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%			
Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%			

Budget Narrative Template

[Link to Template](#)



BEAD Budget Narrative

Instructions: To assess the financial sustainability of a proposed project, GTA will require applicants to complete and submit a budget narrative, proposed budget, and pro forma business case analysis. Applicants will be required to use the templates provided for these submissions.

The budget narrative template requires applicants to provide a detailed breakdown of the expected budget for 11 standardized categories. Additionally, the narrative will require a description of each charge, the entity or team responsible for that budget expense (if applicable and if known), and how each category expenditure relates to the project objectives. If the applicant will be providing a cash or in-kind match in this cost category, this must be noted and explained in the justification to include a break-down of the grant and match share of each proposed cost.

Complete the below budget narrative information for each charge listed in the budget for this project.

Expense Category	Match Funds (Place an X in the cell if this is a matching funds expense)	Description of Charge	Team/Staff Responsible for Expense (If known)	Justification: How does the expenditure relate to the project objectives?

Project Timeline template

[Link to Template](#)



[Applicant Name] Project Timeline

Program Milestone	Start (Month)	Duration (Months)	Milestone Period																																																		
			Year 1												Year 2												Year 3												Year 4														
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45						
Planning/Detailed Engineering	1	1																																																			
Permitting/Make Ready	1	1																																																			
Material & Equipment Procurement	1	1																																																			
Network Deployment (Construction)	1	1																																																			
Subscriber Activations	1	1																																																			
Program Closeout Submission	1	1																																																			



Other Public Funding Resources Template

[Link to Template](#)



Other public funding for existing broadband projects Georgia BEAD Program

Instructions: Please submit a list of all broadband deployment projects that the applicant or its affiliates are undertaking or have committed to undertake at the time of the application using public funds (both state and federal). Include projects for which the applicant has applied or intends to apply, are undertaking or have committed to undertake, and publicly funded broadband deployment projects conducted or planned by applicant's parent company or any affiliates. These projects could be, but do not necessarily have to be, associated with programs in the below list of relevant federal and state statutes: Families First Coronavirus Response Act, CARES Act, Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021, American Rescue Plan of 2021, any federal Universal Service Fund high-cost program (e.g., RDOF, CAF), and any State of Georgia broadband grant program.

#	Project name (include URL for project if possible)	Funding agency and funding program	Prior, Current, or Upcoming Application	Date of application submission	Date of funding award (if any)	Minimum speed of service to be provided	Latency of service (provided or expect to be provided)	Geographic area (County and census blocks; if project spans multiple counties, separate each county name by a comma)	Number of unserved or underserved locations to be served (or percentage of locations within area)	Amount of public funding (if multiple sources of public funding, list the total amount)	Maximum cost of service to consumer	Matching commitment provided by applicant or affiliate
1												
2												

Professional Engineer Certification

[Link to Template](#)

Professional Engineer Certification

Certification

I, the undersigned professional engineer, have reviewed and hereby certify that the materials submitted as part of this application's Project Plan are complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and that the proposed network can deliver broadband service that meets the requisite performance requirements to all locations served by the project within the required four-year deployment timeline. I have based my technical evaluation of this project on my expertise and many years of experience working on projects of similar size and scope.

Name of Professional Licensed Engineer	
License Number	
Licensed State	
Expiration Date	

Signature:



Trade Secret Affidavit

[Link to Template](#)

|
TRADE SECRET STATUS AFFIDAVIT
STATE OF GEORGIA
BROADBAND EQUITY, ACCESS, AND DEPLOYMENT (BEAD) GRANT PROGRAM
[INSERT NAME OF APPLYING ENTITY]

Any document, data, letter or otherwise generated information received by the State constitutes a "public record" and are subject to disclosure under the Georgia Open Records Act ("GORA"). O.C.G.A. § 50-18-70 *et seq.* However, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-18-72(a)(34), "[an] entity submitting records containing trade secrets that wishes to keep such records confidential under this paragraph shall submit and attach to the records an affidavit affirmatively declaring that specific information in the records constitute trade secrets pursuant to Article 27 of Chapter 1 of Title 10 [O.C.G.A. § 10-1-760 et seq.]"

O.C.G.A. § 10-1-761(4) defines "Trade secret" as "...information, without regard to form, including, but not limited to, technical or nontechnical data, a formula, a pattern, a compilation, a program, a device, a method, a technique, a drawing, a process, financial data, financial plans, product plans, or a list of actual or potential customers or suppliers which is not commonly known by or available to the public and which information:

- A. Derives economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use; and
- B. Is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy."

Therefore, the records listed below and attached hereto, that were submitted with **[INSERT NAME OF APPLYING ENTITY]**'s application for funding under the BEAD Grant Program are marked confidential pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 10-1-761(4):

(List specific information below that the applicant wishes to withhold with an attached explanation as to how each item of information constitutes a trade secret):

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Under penalty of perjury, acknowledging that O.C.G.A. §16-10-71 provides a penalty of a fine of up to \$1,000 and potential imprisonment of one to five years, I attest that the specific information in the records listed above constitutes trade secrets pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 10-1-761(4), and

request that the State of Georgia not disclose this protected information under the Georgia Open Records Act ("GORA").

Signature:

[Signatory Name in Print]

[Signatory's Title]

[Organization Name]

Date: _____

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN BEFORE
ME ON THIS _____ DAY OF
_____, 202_.

NOTARY PUBLIC
My Commission Expires: _____

EXAMPLES

Logical Network Diagram

[Link to Logical Network Diagram](#)

Attachment 7a: Logical Network Diagram

