

GA BEAD Application Curing Webinar

February 25, 2025





General

Issue #1:

Some applicants had inconsistent information provided amongst their multiple applications for questions that were regarding entity-specific material. The information provided for these questions should have aligned across all applications. This could have been differing responses, different uploads identified, etc.

How to resolve Issue #1:

Please review the information provided for these questions and make updates as necessary to ensure alignment across applications.

Issue #2:

Some applicants provided a text response to a narrative question, yet did not answer the question.

Example Question: 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.

Example Response: All operations are managed at the parent company level. (This response does not answer the question asked.)

How to resolve Issue #2:

If this was identified for your application, please review the response provided along with the question asked and update your response to ensure you are answering the question thoroughly and completely.



Project Information

Question 13

Total Matching Funds Table (Amount, Match Type)

Issue:

The response provided for this question does not meet the minimum requirement of 25% for matching funds.

How to resolve:

Please review this, along with the match breakdown in Gating Section 1 Question 8, make necessary revisions and resubmit ensuring a minimum match of 25% of total project costs is met. Failure to meet this requirement will result in disqualification from the BEAD Round 1 application process.



Gating Section 1

Question 8

Cash/In-Kind Match Justification (Category, Match Type, Description, Match Amount, Vendor)

Issue:

The response provided for this question does not align to the upload in-kind match document provided under Project Information Question 15.1.

How to resolve:

Applicant must revise the application so that all in-kind match is listed in the Project Information 15.1 upload with the category type, value, valuation method utilized, and ensure it matches the Gating Section 1 Question 8 breakdown.

Applicants should **NOT** combine valuation or match breakdowns for multiple applications. All In-kind match will not qualify for the final submission if not remediated accordingly and will be reflected in the applicant's scoring.

Note: All match, including in-kind must meet the policy requirements of the BEAD program including BABA and Prevailing Wage.



Gating Section 2

Question 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?

Issue:

The applicant responded “No” indicating it does not stand ready to obtain an irrevocable standby letter of credit or performance bond, which is a requirement for GTA’s BEAD program.

How to resolve:

Please review the response and make any updates necessary. Please note that if an applicant is asked to review and update their response to Question 3, that updates may be necessary to the dependent Questions 3.1 and 3.2.



Gating Section 2

Question 3.2

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

GTA's letter of credit requirement will follow NTIA 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.

Issue:

The applicant's listed Performance Bond or Letter of Credit amount did not meet the minimum requirements or may have been an amount that was sufficient, but methodology for reaching the amount was not understood. Please note that the initial requirement for Performance Bonds is 100% of total grant funds requested, and for Letter of Credit is 25% of total grant funds requested.

How to resolve:

Please review your response and make updates as necessary, ensuring that the appropriate requirement is met for your application.

Note

Many applicants listed a Letter of Credit amount at 10%. This is not sufficient for GTA's BEAD program. Reminder that GTA's BEAD program is **not** operating on a reimbursement basis but is utilizing a fixed subaward structure with a performance-based method of repayment.



Gating Section 2

Question 7

Provide a narrative discussion of each key management personnel's expected role in the proposed project.

Issue:

The applicant's response does not provide a narrative explanation of the roles for the team members listed.

How to resolve:

Please review the response provided and make any necessary updates to ensure this information is provided and the question is answered completely. Verify that the identified team members all have complete information to include name, project role, and position title as outlined.



Gating Section 2

Question 10

Describe the entity's experience, resources, and readiness to provide the required service offerings, level of service, and maintenance over the completed network.

Issue:

The applicant's description of the entity's experience, resources, and readiness does not provide sufficient detail to answer the question.

How to resolve:

Please review the response and make updates as necessary to ensure the appropriate level of detail is provided and the question is fully answered to include experience, resources, and readiness.



Gating Section 2

Question 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.

Issue:

The list of certifications and licenses in this response did not include a General Contractor or Professional Engineer license.

How to resolve:

If your entity has one of these licenses, please update the list and provide the license number or ID, issuing entity, and date of issuance.



Gating Section 3

Question 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.

Issue:

The applicant's response does not provide sufficient detail in its descriptions of key management personnel and/or technical teams.

How to resolve:

Please review the response provided and make any updates necessary to ensure that detailed descriptions are provided for both key management personnel and technical teams.



Gating Section 4

Question 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.

Issue:

The applicant does not provide sufficient detail regarding its current compliance with laws regarding grant funding.

How to resolve:

Please review your response and update to provide a detailed description of your entity's compliance with these laws.



Gating Section 4

Question 8

Do you certify that your entity is in compliance with implementing regulations including the FCC's Broadband Data Collection process?

Issue:

The applicant provided a response of "No", indicating it is not in compliance with implementing regulations including the FCC's Broadband Data Collection process.

How to resolve:

Please review the response provided and update, if appropriate.



Gating Section 6

Question 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”)?

Issue:

The applicant responded “No”, indicating it does not intend to certify to Davis Bacon compliance. For projects with total project costs of \$5 million or more, if a certification to compliance with Davis Bacon is not provided, then an alternative Project Employment and Local Impact Report must be completed.

How to resolve:

Please review your response and indicate in the narrative response to Gating Section 6 Question 5 if your entity intends to complete the alternative report (Project Employment and Local Impact Report).



Gating Section 6

Question 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))?

Issue:

The applicant responded “No”, indicating it does not intend to utilize a Project Labor Agreement for the project. For projects with total project costs of \$5 million or more, if certification to a Project Labor Agreement is not provided, then a subrecipient would be required to complete the alternative Project Workforce Continuity Plan.

How to resolve:

Please review your response and indicate in the narrative response to Gating Section 6 Question 5 if your entity intends to complete the alternative report (Project Workforce Continuity Plan).



Gating Section 6

Question 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?

Issue:

The applicant responded "No", indicating its cybersecurity risk management plan does not reflect the latest version of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Framework.

How to resolve:

Please review the response and make any updates as necessary as this certification is required to move forward in application review process as outlined in Georgia's Initial Proposal Volume 2.



Gating Section 6

Question 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?

Issue:

The applicant responded "No", indicating its supply chain risk management plan is not based upon key practices discussed in the NIST publication NISTIR 8276.

How to resolve:

Please review the response provided and make any updates as necessary as this certification is required to move forward in the application review process as outlined in Georgia's Initial Proposal Volume 2.

Thank you

Please direct any questions to broadband@gta.ga.gov.





This document contains general information, may be based on authorities that are subject to change, and is not a substitute for professional advice or services. This document does not constitute assurance, tax, consulting, business, financial, investment, legal or other professional advice, and you should consult a qualified professional advisor before taking any action based on the information herein. RSM US LLP, its affiliates and related entities are not responsible for any loss resulting from or relating to reliance on this document by any person. Internal Revenue Service rules require us to inform you that this communication may be deemed a solicitation to provide tax services. This communication is being sent to individuals who have subscribed to receive it or who we believe would have an interest in the topics discussed.

RSM US LLP is a limited liability partnership and the U.S. member firm of RSM International, a global network of independent assurance, tax and consulting firms. The member firms of RSM International collaborate to provide services to global clients, but are separate and distinct legal entities that cannot obligate each other. Each member firm is responsible only for its own acts and omissions, and not those of any other party. Visit [rsmus.com/aboutus](https://www.rsmus.com/aboutus) for more information regarding RSM US LLP and RSM International.

RSM®, the RSM logo and *the power of being understood* are registered trademarks of RSM International Association.

© 2025 RSM US LLP. All Rights Reserved.