HSNV Phase III
Nevada Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Subgrantee Selection Program

Frequently Asked Questions

October 9, 2024
Version 8.0

OSIT is committed to conducting a fair, open, and competitive subgrantee selection process. OSIT requests all questions regarding HSNV Phase III be submitted in writing to HighSpeedNV@gov.nv.gov. All questions will be answered in writing and posted to the OSIT website. This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) represents the list of questions asked regarding HSNV Phase III and the answers by OSIT. OSIT will continue to update this FAQ as more questions are asked.

The purpose of this FAQ is to supplement the information provided in the Request for Applications (RFA) and Nevada's approved Initial Proposal Volume II (IPV2). This FAQ does not modify Nevada's approved IPV2.

1. **Question:** Is it still possible to challenge the eligibility for funding of locations on the map?
    a. Prior to commencing a subgrantee selection process, OSIT was required by the NTIA to determine through a challenge process the eligibility of all locations in Nevada for funding. See BEAD NOFO at p.9. Nevada's BEAD challenge process began in February and concluded in May. All broadband service providers, local and Tribal governments, and non-profit organizations were welcomed and encouraged to view the map and location list and make any necessary and appropriate challenges. OSIT provided technical assistance throughout the process. At the conclusion of the challenge process, OSIT submitted a final list of eligible and ineligible locations to the NTIA for approval. The list of locations published on the OSIT website is the final list of locations approved by NTIA and that are eligible for BEAD funds. Following approval, NTIA does not allow for the addition or removal of locations from the approved list for BEAD funding.

2. **Question:** My company already provides service to all locations within an RPA. Can they be removed from the map or what happens now?
    a. The BEAD challenge process has concluded and the list of locations published on the OSIT website has been approved by NTIA. Following its approval, NTIA does not allow for the addition or removal of locations from the approved list for BEAD funding.

       During the BEAD application process, OSIT must make an award for every Regional Project Area (RPA) and every eligible location within them and show NTIA in its Final Proposal that all locations in Nevada on the approved list will be served. OSIT must consider applications for funding in the method and order required by the BEAD NOFO, namely, that Priority Projects (projects that serve all locations in the RFP with end-to-end fiber) are considered prior to considering non-Priority Projects (projects that serve all locations in the RFP with a hybrid fiber/wireless solution or by Licensed Fixed Wireless only). In other words, OSIT must, through an award made during the competitive subgrantee selection process, prove to NTIA that every unserved and underserved location in the approved list will be served.

       All successful Applicants must complete the entire application and provide all required information to OSIT, including cost information. OSIT will award following the procedure as outlined in its IPV2. Even if an Applicant does not require any subsidy to serve all locations in an RPA with end-to-end fiber, that Applicant must still provide all required information to OSIT, including technical information substantiating the capacity to provide service, successfully score higher than all other Applicants on the totality of all scoring criteria, and enter into an agreement with OSIT. In that case, the Applicant would submit a total cost of $1 with $0 in subsidy.

3. **Question:** What version of the FCC Map is OSIT using?
    a. OSIT is using version 2 of FCC Fabric with the final availability data modified by the Nevada BEAD Challenge Process.

4. **Question:** Did or will OSIT 'true-up' to a later version of the FCC map?
    a. As was required by NTIA, OSIT conducted a challenge process based on the latest version of the map at the time OSIT submitted its BEAD Initial Proposal Volume I for

approval. The purpose of the challenge process was, among other things, to determine which locations were eligible for BEAD and correct the map to account for locations showing as unserved that were in fact served by existing infrastructure, locations that should be considered served where a provider planned to provide service in the near future, and locations showing as served that should be classified as unserved or underserved.

All providers in Nevada had the opportunity to challenge the map with updated service information provided to the FCC in subsequent versions of the map and evidence supporting those update or other information not yet submitted to the FCC in official filings as well as rebut challenges submitted by other eligible challengers. To 'true-up' after the challenge process concluded would have served to invalidate the entire challenge process and harm the rights of all challengers. Eligible challengers would not have had the opportunity to challenge locations newly shown by a later version of the FCC map to have been served when no challenge was needed challenge process. Truing up may have also resulted in the reclassification of locations where OSIT had previously accepted or denied a challenge or rebuttal during the challenge process.

5. **Question:** Our proposed network would span multiple RPAs, some contiguous and some non-contiguous. Would this mean that the applicant would need to re-submit the overall project information (the data that stays the same across all RPAs for a single, contiguous project) into the application portal individually for each RPA covered?
    a. OSIT has broken the application into two parts. The first part contains overall information about the Applicant that needs to only be entered once and can be referenced for each and all RPAs bid upon. The second part of the application is technical information specific to the individual RPA and requires the Applicant to provide specific information about how it will serve the individual RPA in question, such as the cost and network design information. This information will need to be provided for each RPA the Applicant bids upon.

6. **Question:** Would the applicant be required to create separate budgets and pro formas for each RPA?
    a. Yes.

7. **Question:** Would the applicant be required to provide a separate Letter of Credit for each RPA?
    a. No. The Applicant will be required to have a single Letter of Credit for all RPAs won.

8. **Question:** How will you expect applicants to account for cross-RPA buildout expenses (e.g, middle mile required to enable the last-mile portion, a wireless tower serving multiple RPAs, the salary of a project manager overseeing a multi-RPA project, etc.)?
    a. Each RPA is a separate project and must be applied for independently, and Applicants must be able to deliver service to all locations within the RPA independently of the award decision to any other RPA. Applicants can note cost savings from winning multiple RPAs in their applications and, if awarded multiple RPAs, OSIT will work with the winning Applicant to adjust budgets accordingly. But

such cost savings will not be factored into the scoring of a given RPA.

9. **Question:** Our Nevada Tax ID does not match the format in the pre-qualification portal. What should we do?
    a. Please use the instructions below if your Tax ID exceeds 11 characters:
    1. Enter 'See 5.3' in the field for question 2.2 State of Nevada Tax ID Number
    2. Locate Section 5. Additional Information in the application
    3. Enter your Tax ID to the narrative field: 5.3 Additional Narrative Field (Use only if instructed by Grant Administrator)

10. **Question:** Can an Applicant pre-select contractors for any RPA we bid on?
    a. Yes. Contractors must be skilled and credentialed in line with Nevada's IPV2 and the BEAD NOFO requirements. Applicants should follow the instructions in IPV2 and the BEAD NOFO regarding making bidding opportunities available to Nevada-based companies, Minority Owned Businesses, Women Owned Businesses, and Labor-Area Surplus Firms.

11. **Question:** Can an Applicant complete construction work in-house?
    a. Yes, as long as its workforce is skilled and credentialed in broadband deployment.

12. **Question:** Are marketing and community outreach expenses eligible to be included in the application budget?
    a. NTIA has outlined eligible grant expenses in the BEAD NOFO p. 33.

13. **Question:** Is customer premise equipment, such as routes, an eligible grant expense?
    a. Yes, NTIA has outlined eligible grant expenses in the BEAD NOFO p. 33.

14. **Question:** How does reference pricing, subsidy, and match work?
    a. As described in Nevada's IPV2, OSIT will provide reference pricing specific to each individual RPA. Specifically, OSIT will provide three numbers for Applicants. The first number is the estimated total cost to serve every location in the RPA, which we'll refer to as the reference price. The reference price was derived from cost modeling data and business case analysis done by CostQuest Associates and subsequent analysis by OSIT. The second number is a target BEAD Subsidy dollar amount. Absent a waiver from NTIA, OSIT can only provide at most 75% of the cost to serve each RPA and applicants must provide the remaining 25% of the cost as match. Third, is a subsidy percentage, which is simply the subsidy amount divided by the reference price.

15. **Question:** Can grant funding be used to build redundant paths back to a data center or internet exchange point?
    a. NTIA has outlined eligible grant expenses in the BEAD NOFO p. 33. Specifically, Deploying and/or upgrading broadband network facilities in connection with an Unserved Service Project or an Underserved Service Project.

16. **Question:** How was the RPA map created?
    a. As described in its Initial Proposal Volume II, OSIT has grouped unserved and

underserved locations and eligible Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) into Regional Project Areas (RPAs). OSIT will conduct a fair, open, and transparent subgrantee selection process to allocate funding to winning applicants to serve all the locations within an RPA. The Nevada Regional Project Area Map is designed to visualize the RPAs across the state. Defined by OSIT, these project areas will guide the distribution of funding to awardees. As described in OSIT's Initial Proposal Volume II, RPAs were generated through an algorithmic process, specifically k-means clustering and the aggregation of BEAD Eligible BSLs as Voronoi polygons. Careful consideration was given to tribal areas and county boundaries. Following an initial review, small adjustments to the boundaries were made. Further modifications have been implemented based on the evaluation of public comments.

17. **Question:** I disagree with how an RPA was designed. It crosses a county line and creates an issue with ILECs and others.
    a. No RPAs cross county lines. All RPAs are wholly within counties. RPAs were created in a carrier-neutral fashion.

18. **Question:** Is the applicant required to submit details of the 'Owners' of the company (i.e., the Parent company details) during the BEAD prequalification process, or will that be required only in the actual BEAD application?
    a. Ownership details are required as a part of the application, not the pre-qualification.

19. **Question:** Given the state hasn't released geo files with coordinates of BSLs, are providers expected to purchase that data to be able to provide the level of planning and design required?
    a. Yes. The coordinates are not released. Only the location IDs are available. Applicants will need a fabric license to see the precise location of BEAD eligible locations. That said, an H3 hex layer at resolution 9 has been released to give applicants an approximation of where BEAD eligible locations are without a license. See also https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/policies/CostQuest-Licensing for information about obtaining a no-cost license.

20. **Question:** Are unlicensed fixed wireless or licensed by rule solutions allowable? Or are licensed solutions the only FWA solution allowed by waiver?
    a. Yes. See Sections 2.4.1 and 2.4.2 of the IPV2 for a discussion on prioritization.

21. **Question:** When does the application period end?
    a. October 10, 2024

22. **Question:** Will each Regional Project Area (RPA) will require a separate application, as the information we have indicates that each RPA will be treated as its own RFA, with applications being scored separately from other RPAs?
    a. Yes.

23. **Question:** What time on October 10th, 2024 are applications due?
    a. All applications are due at 11:59pm PT on October 10th, 2024.

24. **Question:** How were the reference prices for each RPA calculated?
    a. As was described in Section 2.4.2.2 and 2.4.9 of Nevada's IPV2, OSIT will provide reference pricing that is specific to each individual RPA. Specifically, OSIT will provide 3 numbers to Applicants. The first number is the estimated total cost to serve every location in the RPA, referred to as the Reference Price. The Reference Price was derived from cost modeling data and business case analysis done by CostQuest Associates for NTIA and states. The second number is a target BEAD Subsidy dollar amount. Absent a waiver from NTIA, OSIT can only provide at most 75% of the cost to serve each RPA and applicants must provide the remaining 25% of the cost as match. Third, is a subsidy percentage, which is simply the subsidy amount divided by the reference price.

       The Reference Price represents OSIT's assessment of the required total investment to serve every location in the RPA given a number of factors, including capital costs, build complexity, density per square mile, terrain, cost differentials, large area density, distance to central core, and business case data that is specific for the RPA.

       As was explained in detail in OSIT's IPV2 and subsequent webinars on reference pricing and BEAD program design, Reference Pricing is not intended to serve as a cap on the total State funding for an RPA. OSIT is required to score applications based on cost; specifically, on the minimum outlay of public funds for a given project area. Rather than a cap on costs, Reference Pricing is the means of facilitating the comparison and scoring of each application within an RPA using neutral, third-party cost data. Applicants may bid more or less than the reference price and will be scored accordingly.

25. **Question:** Are full low-level designs required for the planning and design portions of the application?
    a. Applicants are required to provide design documentation substantially similar to what is demonstrated in the templates.

26. **Question:** Will (Financial Webinar) slides be posted to the OSIT website?
    a. Yes. They can be found on the BEAD page of the OSIT website: https://osit.nv.gov/Broadband/BEAD/

27. **Question:** Can you explain In-Kind Match more?
    a. Please see the BEAD NOFO page 20-22 for an explanation of in-kind match requirements.

28. **Question:** Will the letter of commitment for a letter of credit or performance bond be required for the pre-qualification or the application phase?
    a. The letter of commitment for a letter of credit or performance bond is required in the application phase.

29. **Question:** If a Service Provider already has infrastructure built out to help get to underserved or unserved locations, could they factor those costs into the 25% match or lower that match commitment?
    a. Per the BEAD NOFO, the match must be consistent with the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards set forth at 2 C.F.R. Part 200. In-kind contributions must be allowable and allocable project expenses which could include use of facilities.

30. **Question:** Will a letter of commitment (or similar) be required at the time of application for ISPs using a performance bond? If so, who provides the letter (surety?)?
    a. Yes. The entity making the commitment to the bond would provide the letter.

31. **Question:** Are there details on the High Cost Threshold? Is the amount identified yet?
    a. Please see Section 2.4.9 of Nevada's Initial Proposal Volume II for more information about the High Cost Threshold.

32. **Question:** If an Applicant chooses the option to provide a letter of credit equal to 10% of the subaward, then is the letter of commitment also for the expected 10% of the subaward?
    a. Yes

33. **Question:** Do the letter of commitment and the eventual letter of credit need to be from the same financial entity?
    a. No. However, if the letter of commitment and letter of credit are not from the same financial entity, the Applicant will have to explain why a different financial entity is providing the letter of credit. In this case, OSIT would reserve the right to re-evaluate the award decision.

34. **Question:** If a letter of commitment is obtained for one type of instrument (letter of credit or performance bond) then can the Applicant later submit the other type of instrument?
    a. Yes. However, if a letter of commitment is obtained for one type of instrument and the Applicant later submits the other type of instrument, the Applicant will have to explain why a different type of financial instrument was chosen. In this case, OSIT would reserve the right to re-evaluate the award decision.

35. **Question:** Will there be marketing help like the ACP offered?
    a. Applicants should include marketing and other costs associated with making the public aware of the project and the opportunity to subscribe to service in the budgets that are submitted to OSIT. If Congress renews ACP or another federally funded subsidy program, Applicants must include information about that program in their marketing efforts.

36. **Question:** Are there any PEAs (Proponents Environmental Assertion) required at the time of application?
    a. PEAs are a requirement imposed by the State of California. Applicants should respond to questions in the RFA regarding how they will comply with NEPA and other required environmental laws and regulations.

37. **Question:** Since there is no longer ACP, are they promoting Lifeline to replace this because some applicants will qualify that way?
    a. Applicants should demonstrate how they will market their service to customers, including the low-cost plan.

38. **Question:** Are there going to be speed tests before, during, and after the project?
    a. Network testing is a required part of demonstrating project completion.

39. **Question:** Will the different document templates being shown be available for use by Applicants? If so, when will those be available?
    a. Yes. application templates are available on the BEAD page of the OSIT website along with the Request for Applications. https://osit.nv.gov/Broadband/BEAD/

40. **Question:** Will each RPA be evaluated and awarded separately?
    a. Yes.

41. **Question:** Do matching funds apply to each RPA individually?
    a. Yes. Applicants must demonstrate that they can meet the matching requirements of each RPA individually.

42. **Question:** Does the letter of credit apply to each RPA?
    a. Applicants will be required to provide a letter of commitment for a letter of credit or performance bond during the application phase. If selected for a provisional award, Applicants would then be required to obtain the letter of credit or performance bond in an amount that corresponds to the total amount of awarded funds across all RPAs, if the Applicant wins more than one RPA.

43. **Question:** If there are ineligible locations within the RPA (ie, served BSLs), does the project need to include them?
    a. No. The application should only detail how the Applicant will provide service to all unserved locations within the RPA.

44. **Question:** If an RPA has no fiber proposals but has reliable broadband proposals, would that RPA be posted for an additional round?
    a. No. There is a single round of applications and evaluations and award decisions will be made based on the applications submitted during the single application period. OSIT will consider applications in the order required by the NTIA in the BEAD NOFO and outlined in Nevada's Initial Proposal Volume II. See the webinar on BEAD Program Design for additional discussion of decision process flow required by NTIA.

45. **Question:** What is the course of action if there are no proposals for an RPA?
    a. Please see Section 2.4.7 in Nevada's Initial Proposal Volume II for the procedure OSIT will follow if there are no proposals for an RPA.

46. **Question:** Will OSIT consider information collected from both Priority and Non-Priority project applications in determining the EHCPLT?
    a. Please see Section 2.4.9 of Nevada's Initial Proposal Volume II for information about how the Extremely High Cost Per Location Threshold (EHCPLT) will be determined.

47. **Question:** Is it correct that no match is required for high-cost areas?
    a. Correct. NTIA does not require match for locations within a high-cost area. If an RPA contains a combination of locations that fall within a high-cost area and locations that fall outside a high-cost area, match will be required for the costs to serve locations that fall outside the high-cost area.

48. **Question:** Are prevailing wages required?
    a. Please see Section 2.7.2 of Nevada's Initial Proposal Volume II.

49. **Question:** Does the $5 million labor reporting requirement apply to the grant value of each individual RPA won by an Applicant or to the total grant value of all RPAs won by an Applicant?
    a. The labor reporting requirement will apply to the total value of funding received by the Applicant across all RPAs.

50. **Question:** Should an organization have only one individual ("administrator") register on behalf of the Applicant?
    a. This is up to the Applicant.

51. **Question:** Is there a PDF available showing the data fields needed to be completed in the pre-qualification form?
    a. A PDF will be posted on the BEAD page of the OSIT website.

52. **Question:** I have been unable to find the median provider in Nevada in the previous year's FCC Urban Rate Study for the monthly price for 1 Gbps symmetrical service that proposed pricing can't be higher than for Priority Application question C2.1. Where can we find this information? Or what is that price?
    a. The results of the previous Urban Rate Surveys can be found here: https://www.fcc.gov/economics-analytics/industry-analysis-division/urban-rate-survey-data-resources#:~:text=Voice%20Survey-,Broadband%20Survey,-2024

53. **Question:** You are asking for prices for 4 years but shouldn't there also be a price proposal for at least 4 more future years?
    a. The opportunity to provide pricing begins upon network completion for five years.

54. **Question:** Is the low cost plan (ACP) subject to the 100/20 Mbps as stated by NTIA?
    a. Yes.

55. **Question:** For the minimum 25% match requirement, does that match need to be all cash or can part of the match be through an in-kind contribution? If in-kind contributions are allowed, are there any restrictions on what can be included in those contributions?
    a. Yes, in-kind match is allowed by NTIA. Please see the BEAD NOFO page 20-22 for an explanation of in-kind match requirements.

56. **Question:** For the pro forma is there an expectation that the Applicant provides a more substantial pro forma than the templated provided by OSIT? Is use of the template mandatory? Is the pro forma a Project Based Business Plan – or – is the pro forma a Total Company Based Business Plan which includes all operations?
    a. Use of the template is required. The Applicant may provide a more substantial pro forma as an additional attachment if it wishes. The pro forma should be specific to the RPA, not the company as a whole.

57. **Question:** Can you please clarify whether a subsidiary entity can submit its parent's audited financial statements and satisfy requirement A3.2?
    a. Yes.

58. **Question:** What is the process for identifying locations that are not serviceable, such as freeway overpasses, rocks, barns, water towers, trees, dumpsters, etc.?
    a. Applicants must serve every broadband serviceable location in the RPA they are applying for to be considered. OSIT acknowledges that the FCC's location fabric may incorrectly identify some objects as locations that cannot receive service. Applicants are permitted to exclude these locations from their network diagrams and cost calculations provided they submit evidence the location is not serviceable. OSIT is clear that this provision should not be used to exclude high-cost locations. The Applicant should submit the following evidence with its application with a request to exclude locations that are not serviceable: 1) the FCC location ID; 2) evidence the Applicant has submitted a location challenge to the FCC; 3) a brief explanation of what the Applicant believes the location is if it is not a broadband serviceable location; 4) a certification that if OSIT disagrees with the Applicant's designation of the location as non-serviceable that it will revise its application to include service to the location within 10 business days.

59. **Question:** Can/should we indicate E-rate projects for past performance documentation?
    a. Yes.

60. **Question:** There are a few high cost areas that "split" an RPA i.e. part of the RPA is High Cost the other part is not. Do these RPA's get separated on RFA submission as it does not require 25% match?
    a. If an RPA contains a combination of locations that fall within a high-cost area and locations that fall outside a high-cost area, match will be required for the costs to serve locations that fall outside the high-cost area.

61. **Question:** Under 4.2.4.3.4 it mentions paying prevailing wage as a manner of ensuring high labor standards. Is this a mandatory requirement or an optional way of meeting this criteria?
    a. Paying prevailing wages is one way for an Applicant to demonstrate that it has high labor standards but, as is outlined in Nevada's Initial Proposal Volume II, OSIT will not require the paying of prevailing wages or Davis Bacon. In cases where the Applicant does not certify that it will pay prevailing wages or Davis Bacon, the Applicant must provide additional information in the application about its workforce and is subject to additional reporting requirements after award. These reporting requirements will be similar to those in Phases I and II of the High Speed Nevada Initiative.

62. **Question:** Some of the locations on the RPA map don't exist.
    a. Applicants must serve every broadband serviceable location in the RPA they are applying for to be considered. OSIT acknowledges that the FCC's location fabric may incorrectly identify some objects as locations that cannot receive service. Applicants are permitted to exclude these locations from their network diagrams and cost calculations provided they submit evidence the location is not serviceable. OSIT is clear that this provision should not be used to exclude high-cost locations. The Applicant should submit the following evidence with its application with a request to exclude locations that are not serviceable: 1) the FCC location ID; 2) evidence the Applicant has submitted a location challenge to the FCC; 3) a brief explanation of what the Applicant believes the location is if it is not a broadband serviceable location; 4) a certification that if OSIT disagrees with the Applicant's designation of the location as non-serviceable that it will revise its Application to include service to the location within 10 business days.

63. **Question:** Other locations within the RPA consist of a single location that is located 3 miles from the main area. Will the application have to provide service to these locations?
    a. Applicants must propose serve every broadband serviceable location in the RPA they are applying to serve to have their applications considered. Applicants should consider how this requirement may adjust the amount of BEAD funding they request.

64. **Question:** We are trying to utilize the middle mile network awarded to Zayo through Nevada. The issue is that Zayo has a projected completion date of 2026/2028. How can we plan and execute designs that are due in 12 months post award if we have no access to the middle mile for the next few years?
    a. BEAD awards have a four year build timeline from award. Applicants have a few options. First, they could complete the networks following the completion of the middle-mile networks they plan to use for backhaul. Second, they could build the network prior to the completion of the middle-mile network and utilize existing backhaul options in the meantime. Applicants so doing could choose to reflect the differences in backhaul pricing in their reported five-year pricing commitments.

65. **Question:** What time of day on October 10 are applications due?
    a. 11:59pm PT

66. **Question:** Can OSIT provide a .docx version of the RFA?
    a. A .docx version of the RFA was uploaded to the Google Drive. https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bFKCZA-Il9akyeMxyVzvkqj_cQTNGUCE

67. **Question:** Can you please clarify whether a subsidiary entity can submit its parent's audited financial statements and satisfy requirement A3.2?
    a. Yes, an applicant may rely upon its parent organization's audited financial statements to meet requirement A3.2.

68. **Question:** Is the bond required for the application?
    a. See Section 2.4.11 starting on page 56 of the Nevada BEAD Initial Proposal Volume II. Letter of Credit, Letter of Credit waivers, and alternatives to Letters of Credit, including performance bonds are discussed. In this, OSIT is following guidance from NTIA, which can be found here: https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/funding-programs/policies-waivers/BEAD-Letter-of-Credit-Waiver. As was discussed in earlier answers, only a letter of commitment to provide a bond or letter of credit is required at the time of application, not proof of the bond or letter of credit itself.

69. **Question:** As we are finalizing our areas of application, we are discovering there are quite a few RPA's that are close to the RPA's we will be applying for. While these close RPA's don't make immediate sense to apply for, is there a process to submit a list of RPA's to the NV Office that we may have future interest in? For example, if one of these close RPA's doesn't receive an application, would it help the NV Office to have a list of RPA's that may work for Beehive if negotiations were on the table (such as changes to the match)? Or what will be NV's process to approach providers in the example where an RPA doesn't receive an application?
    a. OSIT encourages Applicants to submit applications for all RPAs they have interest in during the application phase that concludes on October 10, 2024, including ones there may be future interest in. See section 2.4.7 of Nevada's Initial Proposal Volume II for a detailed description of the process OSIT will undertake if no applications are received for a given RPA, including the notification process to all providers of RPAs with no applications and the negotiation process. Eligible applicants may choose to wait to see if no applications are received but run the risk that another entity that submitted an application would be awarded. If match is the only consideration causing pause in whether to submit an application, Applicants could choose to submit an application with a well justified match waiver. Applicants should take care in submitting match waivers and note that match waivers must be approved by NTIA, that need for a waiver must be substantiated, and that applications with match waivers may be at a scoring disadvantage to those without.

70. **Question:** Regarding the High-Cost Area waiver, can it be fulfilled with a Letter of Credit or a 10% Bond?
    a. High-cost areas as defined by NTIA and visualized in the Nevada RPA map do not require a match waiver as match has already been waived. The total project cost would still be subject to NTIA's Letter of Credit requirements, which include the waivers NTIA has approved.

71. **Question:** If a Sub-Grantee were to spend XX to build fiber (5+ miles for example) to an RPA location, and provide these fibers at our sole cost to install and connect underserved and unserved locations, but not include these cost to be reimbursed by NTIA under the milestone payments, can that cost to build count towards the 25% cost share requirement of the overall proposed amount even though we aren't charging for it?
    a. All match must meet the following criteria:
        1. Verifiable from the non-federal entity's records;
        2. Not included as contributions for any other federal award;
        3. Necessary, reasonable, and allocable to accomplish project or program objectives;
        4. Allowable under subpart E of CFR 200.306;
        5. Not paid by the federal government under another federal award, except where the federal statute authorizing a program specifically provides that federal funds made available for such program can be applied to matching or cost sharing requirements of other federal programs.
        6. Provided for in the approved budget when required by the federal awarding agency; and
        7. Conform to other provisions of 2 CFR 200.306, as applicable.

    Note - federal funds from the FCC's Universal Service Fund programs may not be used as matching funds. IIJA expressly provides that matching funds for BEAD may come from the following sources:
    - The Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020;
    - The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Secure (CARES) Act of 2020;
    - The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 or;
    - The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

    Match from multiple federal sources must comply with the requirements of both programs, as well as regulations regarding in-kind match.
    Facility in-kind match amounts must be verified against current mortgage statements or rental rates. Applicants should also note that whatever facilities or portions of facilities that are included as a part of the match will be subject to BEAD rules and requirements, including federal interest provisions.

72. **Question:** If we already have fiber assets installed to date that leads to an RPA location for an underserved and unserved area, can those assets be broken apart and the costs be considered In-Kind contributions and count towards the 25% Cost Share requirement for that RPA?
    a. Yes. The value of the in-kind match should be necessary, reasonable, and allocable to accomplish the project objectives. See response to Question 71 for additional details.

73. **Question:** Does the $50 maximum price for a 100/20 service only apply to the RPA we are bidding on or does it have to apply company wide?
    a. The NTIA required states in their Initial Proposal Volume II to describe the low-cost broadband service option(s) that must be offered by subgrantees selected by the state. That description was required to include a listing of all recurring charges, the plan's service characteristics, and other information. This low-cost broadband service option is described in Nevada's Initial Proposal Volume II in Section 2.12.1.

The requirement to offer the low-cost broadband service option described in 2.12.1 only applies to locations served with grant funds and not to existing locations served by the provider prior to accepting grant funds, locations served in the future by the provider without grant funds, or any other locations that were not connected with grant funds from High Speed NV Phase III.

74. **Question:** Can we restrict the $50 price to just those who would qualify for a low-income program like Life-Line or an ACP like program that might happen in the future?
    a. According to 2.12.1 of Nevada's Initial Proposal Volume II, providers accepting funding from High Speed NV Phase III, and their successors, are required to offer the low-cost option only to subscribers that meet the qualifications for the Affordable Connectivity Program as it was enacted or the qualifications stipulated by its successor programs, if any, that are identified by the federal funder.

75. **Question:** Like many businesses, our company operates more than one legal entity under our umbrella. Some application questions assume a single entity and expect a response as if we were a single legal entity. The audited financials question is a good example. Half of our entities maintain multi-year audited financials, half do not. Collectively we are a substantial business concern, qualified to apply for BEAD grant funds. May we use a combination of audited and unaudited financials to apply? How would you like us to represent the entirety of our organization?
    a. Applicants may use a parent organization's audited financial statements in their applications.

76. **Question:** We have existing systems where the plant passes 80% of the homes. If we get the grant for the remaining 20% does the low-cost pricing apply to all the plant or just to the grant area?
    a. The low-cost plan requirement only applies to locations served with BEAD funds.

77. **Question:** What does the low-cost requirement of the BEAD Grant mean for us with the new areas we would be able to serve there? Do we have to provide a $30 plan to the whole area, or just the new area?
    a. The low-cost plan requirement only applies to locations served with BEAD funds.

78. **Question:** The application and the BEAD NOFO prohibit collusion and bias; however, this prohibition does not extend to entities that are part of a given joint application or consortium agreement, as disclosed to the State during the Prequalification Submission period. While members of such agreement may communicate with each other both prior to and throughout the BEAD subgrant application process. However, they may not submit independent BEAD subgrant applications separate from those of the joint application entity or consortium, given the requirements of this Certification. Does this limitation prohibit a member of joint application entity prohibit such entity from submitting an individual application for a completely different project area or set of project areas from that joint application?
    a. Given that these applications are not competing for the same project area, this situation does not appear to rise to the level of collusion for which the BEAD rules are intended. The rules against collusion are meant to protect these awards from

price fixing, bid rigging, and allocation agreements. Price fixing occurs when two or more competing companies agree to sell goods or services at an agreed upon set price. Bid rigging is a practice in which competing parties collude to predetermine the winner of a bidding process that includes: bid suppression, complementary bidding, subcontracting arrangements, or bid rotation. Allocation agreements exist when competitors divide markets among themselves, such as by territory or customer. Please be aware that unreported conflicts of interest may also create concerns about collusion with respect to this process. Therefore, the potential for conflict should be clearly disclosed during the application process.

79. **Question:** Section A3 of the RFA requires the submission of audited financial statements. How does NV OSIT ensure the security and confidentiality of these documents? Do these documents need to be specially marked in any way? If so, please provide guidance.
    a. OSIT will treat audited financial statements as confidential in accordance with NRS 333. Applicants may mark these statements as confidential when submitted via mail and email.

80. **Question:** When does OSIT expect to complete the Prequalification assessments? How will applicants be notified of pass/fail? Is there a curing process?
    a. OSIT will complete prequalification on a rolling basis. Applicants will be notified via email of a prequalification decision. Applicants will be given the opportunity to cure applications for prequalification except when a notification of failure is issued.

81. **Question:** Is the BEAD Applicant information the same as the Prequalification?
    a. Yes.

82. **Question:** Is the Applicant information required for each Project Application?
    a. Yes.

83. **Question:** What data is pre-populated for each Project Application?
    a. No data is pre-populated in the application portal.

84. **Question:** Will OSIT maintain a publicly accessible listing of Nevada fiber contractors?
    a. No. OSIT does not maintain a publicly available listing of Nevada fiber contractors. OSIT encourages applicants to ensure that Nevada-based businesses, minority businesses (MBEs), women-owned business enterprises (WBEs), and labor surplus area (LSA) firms are recruited, used, and retained when possible. OSIT has posted resources for applicants to identify and recruit such entities in Section 2.9 of Nevada's Initial Proposal Volume II. The State of Nevada participates in the National Diversity 2000 program and is registered with DiversityBusiness.com. Additionally, OSIT has created a vendor services page on its website wherein any vendor seeking to offer services to applicants may provide contact information and information about its services. See https://osit.nv.gov/Broadband/Vendor_Services_Inquires/. OSIT does not endorse any entity that has submitted its information nor has it vetted the quality of the products or services offered.

85. **Question:** The Letter of Credit appendix states that the L/C should be in the same form as RDOF as outlined in the regulation 47 C.F.R 54.804(C)(2). This reg specifically includes CFC (National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation) as an acceptable issuer. That said, the NV BEAD document also says the L/C must be issued from an eligible bank or credit union that is insured by the FDIC. CFC is not a bank nor are they insured by the FDIC. In this sense, CFC would not be an eligible issuer. Can you give us some clarification on this matter?
    a. For applicants who plan to meet the letter of credit requirements under the BEAD NOFO or the BEAD Letter of Credit Waiver, the eligible financial institution must meet the requirements under 47 C.F.R 54.804(C)(2), meaning a US bank that is FDIC insured and has a bank safety rating issued by Weiss of B- or better; CoBank; the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation or any non-US bank that meets certain requirements. NTIA did not limit the subsections that could be used in the BEAD NOFO. See BEAD NOFO at p. 72. The BEAD Letter of Credit waiver further expanded the eligible financial institutions issuing BEAD letters of credit to include credit unions that are FDIC insured and have a credit union safety rating issued by Weiss of B- or better. See https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/funding-programs/policies-waivers/BEAD-Letter-of-Credit-Waiver. CFC remains eligible as an issuer for BEAD, if an applicant wants to avail itself of the Letter of Credit waiver.

86. **Question:** Are applicants required to competitively select subcontractors?
    a. No. As OSIT is using fixed amount subawards, competitive procurement of subcontractors is not required. See the BEAD Policy Notice: Tailoring the Application of the Uniform Guidance to the BEAD Program. https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/funding-programs/policies-waivers/BEAD-Policy-Notice-Uniform-Guidance-Exceptions-Adjustments-Clarifications

87. **Question:** Are facilities that an applicant is using as in-kind match required to be BABA compliant?
    a. Yes. See 2 CFR 200.306(b). In-kind match contributions must meet all of the following criteria:
        i. Are verifiable from the non-Federal entity's records;
        ii. Are not included as contributions for any other Federal award;
        iii. Are necessary and reasonable for accomplishment of project or program objectives;
        iv. Are allowable under subpart E of this part;
        v. Are not paid by the Federal Government under another Federal award, except where the Federal statute authorizing a program specifically provides that Federal funds made available for such program can be applied to matching or cost sharing requirements of other Federal programs (see BEAD NOFO for exceptions);
        vi. Are provided for in the approved budget when required by the Federal awarding agency; and
        vii. Conform to other provisions of this part, as applicable.

88. **Question:** With regard to facilities used as in-kind match, how should an applicant determine how much of the facility is allocable and reasonable?
    a. Applicants may only count as in-kind match the portions of the facility that are directly necessary to facilitate service to the locations in the RPA. Facilities used as match must be BEAD-compliant, including BABA, and will be subject to BEAD program rules and requirements, such as federal interest. For additional information, see the NTIA match primer found here: https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2024-05/BEAD_Match_Primer.pdf. See also, 2 CFR 200.306(b).

89. **Question:** Does OSIT have a list of professional engineers that are able to provide the services required by NTIA in the BEAD NOFO?
    a. No. OSIT does not maintain a list of professional engineers nor does it endorse or recommend any. OSIT suggests that applicants contact the National Society of Professional Engineers for a listing of members. See https://www.nspe.org/.

90. **Question:** B7.23 states: "OSIT wishes to understand the Applicant's capacity to complete this project within the context of other ongoing and planned projects. Please use the template to provide a list of all current publicly funded broadband infrastructure projects in Nevada or any other state." It appears in the application guide that there is no template. Where can we find this template?
    a. The template can be found in the online template folder posted on OSIT's website. Here is the link to the folder: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bFKCZA-Il9akyeMxyVzvkqj_cQTNGUCE.

91. **Question:** There are a lot of questions in the application about subcontractors and their policies and procedures, etc. How should we respond to questions about subcontractors if we have not selected them yet? Is it enough to say N/A or we have not selected our subcontractors? Or do you want more details/information?
    a. All program requirements flow from the State to its subrecipients and from subrecipients to their subcontractors. For applicants that have not yet selected their subcontractors, please answer the questions regarding the policies and procedures you will require your subcontractors to adopt or have in place, criteria you will use in selecting subcontractors, or how you will ensure subcontractors comply with program requirements as is applicable for the question.

92. **Question:** C4.14 asks us to "Upload a file containing specific evidence that that the $60 per month threshold is prohibitive. Specific evidence must include average revenue per customer estimates and average fixed costs." If it is not prohibitive do we need to still upload something?
    a. No. The file upload is only required for applicants seeking a waiver on the grounds that the $60 per month threshold is prohibitive.

93. **Question:** Is the low-cost $50 mandatory for BEAD or is it an option that if you do not provide the $50 low-income then you do not get the 8-points on the application?
    a. In Section 2.12.1 of Nevada's Initial Proposal Volume II, NTIA requires states to describe the low-cost broadband service option(s) that must be offered by subgrantees as selected by the Eligible Entity (in this case, Nevada). Nevada was required to clearly address charges to the subscriber and the plan's basic service characteristics among other things.

A low-cost plan that meets the characteristics outlined in 2.12.1 of Nevada's Initial Proposal Volume II must be offered by all applicants to be considered for funding. Applicants' certification that they will offer a compliant service offering will be evaluated on a pass/fail basis. Applicants may, on a sliding scale, receive more points by choosing to offer a low-cost plan with a lower price than the minimum required price described in Section 2.12.1. For additional information on how scoring of compliant low-cost broadband service options will be calculated, please see Section 2.4.2.2 of the Initial Proposal Volume II on page 35. The low-cost plan requirement in 2.12.1 is different than Lower Bandwidth Affordability described in 2.4.2.2 on page 33 of the Initial Proposal Volume II. Providers proposing a priority broadband project are to include the price of a lower bandwidth plan greater than 100 Mbps/100 Mbps that meets the other service criteria described in the section and may receive points based on the price offered. Please see 2.4.2.2 for additional details.

94. **Question:** For Affordability the prior year FCC Urban benchmark for Nevada I did locate the FCC 2023 Urban Benchmark data (https://www.fcc.gov/economics-analytics/industry-analysis-division/urban-rate-survey-data-resources) there is not a 1,000Mbps/1,000Mbps for Nevada closest is 940/940Mbps and that rate is $119.99 for Cox and $85 for Lumen – would that mean the Nevada office would deem the median price as $102.49? If not is the OSIT decision that the rate must be at or below the $95 to get the full points for scoring?
    a. Scoring for Affordability is described in Section 2.4.2.2 of Nevada's Initial Proposal Volume II beginning on page 25. OSIT offers three ways to meet this requirement and receive full points. First, Applicants could commit for the first five years following completion of the network to a price for a 1Gbps symmetrical service plan at a price that is no higher than that offered by the median provider in the previous year's FCC Urban Rate Study. Page 25 explains how the previous year's number will be calculated on an annual basis. The key words are "for the first five years following completion of the network." Quoting from IPV2: "Within 30 business days of the release of the results of the FCC's Urban Rate Study, OSIT will publish the price of the median plan for 1Gbps symmetrical service that will be applicable for the following year. Providers choosing to use their 1Gbps/1Gbps service on the last year's FCC Urban Rate Study median plan that complete a network and begin offering service would then base their compliance obligations based on that year's published price. For example, a network that is completed in the year 2027 would use the price OSIT publishes from the FCC's Urban Rate Study in 2026 to determine compliance with the published plan price." Thus, a provider choosing this option would commit to that price, whatever it will be, based on the published results of the survey when the network is completed and that price may change year-to-year based on the results of the Urban Rate Study. Providers looking for certainty could choose to use a historical number that OSIT has already calculated based on the previous three years of FCC Urban Rate Study results, which is $95. Applicants that offer national uniform pricing could choose to offer the same price that they charge in non-BEAD funded areas if it is lower than the first two options.

95. **Question:** Is there a difference in the Proforma document requested in B7.12 and B11.1A? Or can the same document be uploaded for both questions?
    a. The pro forma template can fulfill both requirements. Please note though that a separate pro forma is required for each project area.

96. **Question:** In question B7.12, is the Business Plan a separate document that needs to be uploaded, or does that refer to the questions that follow? If a separate document needs to be uploaded, can you share the requirements for the Business Plan doc?
    a. If an applicant provides completed pro forma templates, including assumptions and project budget templates, they will fulfill the requirement for providing a business plan. See BEAD NOFO at p. 73.

97. **Question:** If an applicant is supplying a performance bond instead of a LOC, what are your requirements for that and how would you like it to be uploaded into the portal?
    a. Similar to the requirement for a Letter of Credit, the Applicant should provide a letter of commitment to provide the bond from the financial institution (e.g., surety, insurance company, bank) that would provide the bond upon award.

98. **Question:** If an applicant began serving some of the homes in an RPA subsequent to the challenge process, how would you like them to prove it? Will speed tests work? Where/how would you like applicants to submit this information (Ex: upload to the portal, narrative description, etc.)?
    a. The Applicant should provide the same technical information for locations it has already served as is required for locations it does not serve (or for an Applicant that does not serve any locations in the RPA). See questions B8.10 - B8.13. This information can be provided together with or separate from the technical plan required by the RFA. The Applicant should take care to ensure that all BSLs within the RPA are accounted for and indicate which BSLs by FCC Location ID it claims are already served and which it is requesting BEAD funding for. In addition, for locations newly served since the conclusion of the Challenge Process in May, 2024, OSIT will require the same evidence of existing service it required during the Challenge Process. See page 25 of the Challenge Process Resource Guide on OSIT's website: https://osit.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/ositnvgov/Content/Broadband/OSIT%20NV%20BEAD%20Challenge%20Process%20Resource%20Guide%20-%20Final.pdf. Information submitted regarding existing service should be clearly labeled as existing service.

99. **Question:** Our bank with only issue a letter of credit for a maximum of 3 years with the option to extend after the three years. Is this acceptable?
    a. With a well-articulated plan for continuation, this would be acceptable.

100. **Question:** Can you please confirm if there is a unique application required for each RPA? Can RPAs be combined into one application.
    a. For RPAs that contain high cost and non-high-cost areas, matching requirements only apply to BSLs located within the non-high-cost areas. Applicants could consider requesting a match waiver that includes a justification based on serving an overlapping high-cost area.

101. **Question:** It appears the RPA boundaries are not coextensive with high cost areas. Was this intentional? If some high cost locations are in a high cost area and others are not, can the applicant submit a 25% match for costs associated with the non-high cost are and no match for costs associated with the high cost area?
    a. For RPAs that contain high cost and non-high-cost areas, matching requirements only apply to BSLs located within the non-high-cost areas.

102. **Question:** Where should applicants note pricing for Community Anchor Institution service plans, if different from residential service plans?
    a. Provision of CAI pricing is not required in the application. The only requirement is that Applicants are able to offer a 1Gbps symmetrical service.

103. **Question:** How long will the contract term be between the State of Nevada and awarded subgrantees?
    a. The BEAD Program allows a maximum of a four-year term from the date the award agreement is signed. Projects funded by CPF or SLFRF funds will have terms ending no later than 12/31/2026.

104. **Question:** Can OSIT please make available downloadable shapefiles for the Nevada Middle Mile Network Map - HSNV Phases 1 & 2? (map shown here: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/339765dfab624307a477b63408dd3724)
    a. A GIS package with downloadable shapefiles is available on the map's splash screen and in the about section of the map.

105. **Question:** Question B8.2 asks for "Documentation of current licensing as applicable." What specific type of licensing are you looking for here? A CostQuest license? Or something else?
    a. This question refers to employee licensure and is intended to ascertain whether the Applicant's workforce is properly skilled and credentialed.

106. **Question:** It is our understanding that the 10% performance bond is an option if we chose to be reimbursed by OSIT in six month increments based upon our expenditures. Is this a correct assumption?
    a. Section 2.4.11.B of the Nevada BEAD Initial Proposal Volume II outlines Letter of Credit Waiver requirements. In summary, under this circumstance, OSIT will provide reimbursement for actual costs for periods of no more than six months and the subgrantee must maintain the performance bond in the amount of 10% until the project is completed.

107. **Question:** If an ISP provides a 100% performance bond or a 25% letter of credit, will OSIT provide the ISP with the full amount of the requested grant minus the 25% in kind matching up front? If the ISP spends less than the requested amount, what happens to the extra funds. Will they need to be returned?
    a. In the case that an ISP provides a 100% performance bond or 25% Letter of Credit, OSIT will provide funds upon successful completion of milestones up to the full award amount of the grant as a part of a fixed amount subaward. According to the NTIA, "A fixed amount subaward is a type of subgrant agreement where payments are based on meeting specific requirements of the federal award (e.g., performance and results), rather than actual costs incurred. This type of award reduces some of the administrative burden for the recipient (the State) and subrecipient (the Provider)." Note that Providers may reduce the value of the Letter of Credit or performance bond upon completion of milestones. See Section 2.4.11.B of the Nevada BEAD Initial Proposal for additional details. For additional information about fixed amount subawards, see: https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2024-06/Fixed_Amount_Subaward_One_pager_2.pdf

108. **Question:** If a company has facilities already deployed such as fiber, splice cases, etc. but some of the materials do not comply with BABA, can they be applied to the in-kind match? This infrastructure is in close proximity to RPA locations and would significantly reduce the cost serve those locations. If we are unable to utilize it, we would essentially need to deploy new fiber along those very same routes.
    a. According to NTIA guidance, all in-kind match must be BABA-compliant. Non-BABA-compliant facilities may be used as a part of a network design that will serve unserved locations within an RPA but cannot be counted as in-kind match. There is no need to deploy new fiber (or any new, BABA-compliant facilities) along existing routes at the Applicant's expense in order to complete a network design.

109. **Question:** Does the engineer need to sign off on the project BEFORE we submit the application?
    a. NTIA requires a Professional Engineer to sign off on the relevant project proposal information as a part of the completed application package submitted to OSIT. See Nevada BEAD Initial Proposal Section 2.4.13.B.

110. **Question:** Original documents are being requested from service providers. Please confirm that copies of SEC filings, which include financial information, that are filed by publicly traded companies pursuant to legal reporting requirements satisfy this requirement?
    a. SEC filings of publicly traded companies will satisfy the requirement for the submission of audited financial statements. Applicants should provide the relevant portion of the filings that supplies the information requested as opposed to providing a link to the filing as a whole.

111. **Question:** Qualified banking institutions are unwilling to commit to issuing a Letter of Credit at a future date. These large financial/lending institutions have shared that they do not provide Letter of Credit commitments for a future date, but rather evaluate the financial capability of an entity seeking a Letter of Credit at the point in time that the Letter of Credit is to be issued. Please confirm that a confirmation from a qualified banking institution that an applicant has the current credit capacity to secure a Letter of Credit in the required amount (i.e. as of the data of the application filing) is sufficient to fulfill this requirement. This same principle applies to performance bonds.
    a. A confirmation from a qualified banking institution that an applicant has the current credit capacity to secure a Letter of Credit in the required amount as of the date of the application filing will fulfill the application requirement. Such confirmation could look similar to the following:

        [BANK] hereby confirms that as of the date hereof it is Revolving Agent pursuant to a credit facility with [Provider] as Borrower, under which letters of credit may be issued for [Provider] or any of its subsidiaries, including [Provider Subsidiary], subject to the terms and conditions precedent of the credit facility applicable to letter of credit issuances. As of the date hereof, up to $XXXX is available for issuance of new letters of credit under such facility.

112. **Question:** If a company already provides broadband over fiber to many of the locations within the RPA, can they request funding to provide wireless backhaul as a redundancy solution for that RPA? Furthermore, if the locations are proposed to be served by end-to-end fiber, will requesting funding for redundant wireless backhaul, prevent us from being able to apply as a Priority Broadband Project?
    a. Federal rules require that only locations that have been determined to be unserved may receive funding for service. Locations that are already served by fiber and are not unserved in the Nevada RPA map are not eligible for funding. The State will not fund a redundant wireless solution for locations already served by fiber or locations to be served by fiber in an application- each unserved location will receive one solution. If a Provider, subsequent to the challenge process, deployed fiber to some or all locations that were determined to be unserved and are a part of an RPA, the Provider should submit a apply to serve the remaining locations with the technology of its choice or submit a zero-dollar bid as is outlined in question 2 of this FAQ if all locations are now served. If the Provider serves only some locations in the RPA with end-to-end fiber and requests to serve the remaining locations with end-to-end fiber, the application will be considered a Priority Broadband Project. Note that the application must provide the requisite evidence that all locations are and will be served with end-to-end fiber. If the application proposes to serve any unserved locations within an RPA with a mix of fiber and wireless, it will not be considered a Priority Broadband Project.

113. **Question:** B3.6 The matching commitment: What is the difference between what should be entered in B3.6 and B4.7?
    a. B3.6 should be the total dollar value of the matching commitment, both cash and in-kind, by the Applicant and any affiliates, such as local or Tribal governments. B4.7 is the dollar value of the match contributed by the Applicant only. If the Applicant has no affiliates that are contributing match, the numbers will be the same.

114. **Question:** B4.6 Enter the Applicant-provided Requested Subsidy Percentage: * Should we divide B4.5 by B4.2 to get this %?
    a. Yes.

115. **Question:** In completing the Project Costs Template, the example lists out a BOM and details that only can be determined once detailed on site engineering has been completed on these RPAs. Given the fact that any engineering costs expended on these areas if they are not awarded to the applicant are unrecoverable expenses and the considering the significant expense of getting that level of design, it does not make financial sense to pursue field level detailed engineering until an award is made. Would an acceptable alternative be to provide blended per foot construction costs that include all the costs of the construction activities including fiber, splice cases, splicing, etc. and the associated labor? This is similar to the level of detail required for RUS ReConnect applications.
    a. OSIT is not requiring a completed engineering design as part of the application submission. Applicants are afforded the flexibility on how they provide their cost details so their project cost submission can align with their own internal cost estimation and procurement processes. Applicants are required to provide enough detail to demonstrate an understanding of the costs associated with their proposed project. Cost items must be provided with sufficient granularity for OSIT to determine if the costs are eligible. The

sample costs provided within the application materials represent an example of what could be provided by the Applicant to satisfy these requirements. A blended rate is acceptable as long as sufficient detail is provided regarded what goes into the rate.

116. **Question:** Question A1.13 - Total Funding Required. Should this be the total amount of grant funding requested across all project RPAs?
    a. Yes.

117. **Question:** Question A1.25 - Number of [Broadband Serviceable] Locations (BSLs) Passed. Is OSIT looking for the total number of BSLs in the project RPAs?
    a. Yes.

118. **Question:** We bank with a credit union and they have favorable rates for a letter of credit but do not have a Weiss rating. Is there a way around the Weiss rating?
    a. The Weiss rating is a requirement from NTIA. There are other options for meeting the Letter of Credit requirement in the waiver that NTIA has posted and OSIT has adopted. See the Nevada BEAD Initial Proposal Volume II Section 2.4.11.B

119. **Question:** Can BEAD applicants communicate and coordinate with local governments so long as they do not engage in price fixing, bid ridding, or allocation agreements?
    a. Yes, BEAD applicants can communicate and coordinate with local or Tribal governments so long as they do not engage in price fixing, bid ridding, allocation agreements, or other forms of collusion and the coordination and support offered by the local government is offered on a fair and equal basis to any interested bidder.

120. **Question:** If an applicant pledges to charge "The same monthly price for a 1 Gbps symmetrical service plan the Applicant offers in non-State-funded areas if the price of a 1 Gbps symmetrical service plan offered in non-State-funded areas is lower than the median price of a 1 Gbps symmetrical fiber service in the previous year's FCC Urban Rate Study or is lower than the 3-year median ($95, as noted above)" in order to receive full points for Affordability, are they able to increase their price during the 5 year commitment so long as it 1) is in line with their pricing in non-funded areas and 2) is lower than the median 1GB/1GB price in the Urban Rate Survey?
    a. Yes.

121. **Question:** Under the Fixed Award framework of BEAD – would it be possible to set metrics/timeline of activities to receive monthly reimbursements? Is the Milestone period template the directive of when the applicant can be reimbursed for activities – and – is an applicant restricted to receiving reimbursement only within the timeframe indicated for that event?
    a. Under a fixed amount subaward, subrecipients will only receive reimbursement upon completion of the specified milestones in the award agreement rather than a set timeline, such as every month. OSIT was cognizant of the desire for sufficient cash flow in the design of the milestones.

122. **Question:** For the Project Timeline, events such as permitting occur throughout the project as construction reaches the next phase – is OSIT allowing applicants to show the permitting process throughout the timeline i.e. beginning in year 1 month 2 and running through year 4 month 4?

a. Applicants should show on their timelines permitting and all other project activities in the most reasonable and efficient manner, keeping in mind that the projects must be completed within the timeframe of the funding source. In addition, applicants should keep in mind that project activities will be funded only after they are completed, whether by milestone completion or reimbursement for actual expenses. In the case of this example, an application that anticipates completing permitting this late in the period of performance would need to demonstrate with a sufficient level of granularity that all aspects of network deployment will be completed and operational within the period of performance.

123. **Question:** If an applicant bids on an RPA and the total project cost is lower, is the Fixed Award amount the total amount distributed or at close-out are invoices/costs provided by the applicant for the final distribution?
    a. According to the NTIA, "A fixed amount subaward is a type of subgrant agreement where payments are based on meeting specific requirements of the federal award (e.g., performance and results), rather than actual costs incurred. This type of award reduces some of the administrative burden for the recipient (the State) and subrecipient (the Provider)." With a fixed amount subaward, the agreed upon payment is made when a milestone is reached, including the final payment when the project has been determined to be completed. NTIA has also made it clear that subgrantees are not permitted to build a profit into the award. In addition, NTIA expects that OSIT, as part of its compliance monitoring, may request an individual invoice to support a milestone payment to confirm that costs are reasonable, allocable and allowable under 2 CFR Part 200.

124. **Question:** If an applicant bids on multiple RPA's and due to proximity of the RPA's there are shared costs (i.e. permitting, mainline/feeder fiber) and the economies of scale for the shared costs allow the applicant to submit a Total lower cost per location, is there a negotiation period if the applicant is not awarded all RPA's in the grouping to recalculate costs based on the awarded areas?
    a. Each RPA will be scored and evaluated independently and Applicants should bid what is necessary to serve the RPA without having to rely on having won an adjacent RPA. Applicants should not include shared costs across RPAs. The Applicant should be able to serve the RPA on its own with what was included in the application.

125. **Question:** One of the locations that we are applying for has RPA of X number of BSLs however we are currently serving in that location and therefore we only need to request funding for Y number of BSLs. Applications that do not propose to serve every location within the RPA will not be considered (IPVII pg. 51). With all the information provided it appears we need to write our proposal for all of the BSLs and CAIs even if we provide service in that RPA.
    a. The Applicant should provide the same technical/network information required in the application as an Applicant with no existing network would submit to substantiate the capability and existence of its existing network for the BSLs it claims to serve. The Applicant should clearly identify the BSLs it already serves with this network. Then the Applicant should clearly indicate which BSLs it will serve with a grant-funded network and provide the required technical/network and cost information. Applicants do not need to apply for funds to over-build their own networks. If awarded, the Applicant would then commit to serving every unserved location in the RPA (both those it already serves and those that it would need to build to) for the award amount and all locations within the RPA would be subject to the program rules (i.e. low-cost plan, etc.).

126. **Question:** Did OSIT obtain/designates itself as a designated authority on behalf of interested tribes for BEAD Projects/RPA? If not, can we apply for an RPA as we attempt to contact the appropriate tribal contact for the RPA we are interested in before the 10/10 deadline.
    a. As is outlined in Nevada's Initial Proposal Volume II, in order to submit its Final Proposal to NTIA, OSIT will need to include a Tribal resolution or authorization for Tribal RPAs. OSIT is not a designated authority that can authorize builds on behalf of Tribes. Each Tribe is a sovereign nation that must make its own decisions. OSIT has conducted significant outreach to Tribes before and during the subgrantee selection process to make Tribes aware of the opportunities through High Speed NV Phase III and BEAD. As a matter of best practice, OSIT strongly encourages Applicants to reach out to Tribes and receive consent and support for an application prior to submission. If the Applicant is unable to contact the Tribe, it may still apply without the Tribal resolution and should describe the steps it took for such outreach. However, the Tribe must submit a Tribal resolution in support of the winning bidder prior to finalization of the award. The winning Applicant should make every effort to meet with the Tribe and secure approval. It is the responsibility of the Applicant to obtain the resolution from the Tribe. OSIT will attempt to assist winning Applicants with introductions to the Tribe if needed.

127. **Question:** What type of network testing will be required upon project completion? Is it similar to CAF testing?
    a. OSIT is awaiting further guidance from NTIA on this subject.

128. **Question:** B4.1 asks Applicants to enter the OSIT-provided Estimated Total Cost. B4.2 asks Applicants to enter the OSIT-provided Targeted Subsidy Amount. For B4.3, the Target Subsidy Percentage, should Applicants enter the number in B4.2 divided by B4.1?
    a. Yes

129. **Question:** If a company or organization is working through the state's process in getting a valid vender ID, can an application still be submitted and by the Oct. 7th deadline and accepted by the State if the company has filled out all required paperwork and is just waiting for the Vender ID number?
    a. All Pre-Qualification applications must be submitted by the deadline, October 7, 2024 at 11:59pm PT. If an Applicant has submitted requested curing changes to their Vendor profile with the State Controller's Office (i.e. an updated address) that are not finalized by the State Controller prior to the Pre-Qualification deadline or has submitted the required paperwork to establish a new Vendor ID to the Controller's Office prior to the Pre-Qualification deadline but has not yet received a Vendor ID number, Applicants will still be permitted to submit the Pre-Qualification application and OSIT will accept it pending final resolution from the State Controller. Applicants must provide proof they began the process to establish a Vendor ID prior to October 7, 2024 at 11:59pm PT upon request of OSIT. Applicants should update OSIT as soon as the Vendor ID has been issued by the Controller's Office. OSIT cannot make an award to an applicant without a State Vendor ID issued by the State Controller.

130. **Question:** Which question does the Past Performance template get uploaded to?
    a. Information in this template can be incorporated into B7.3 Applicants may insert the suggested information in the template into the response field or may upload the template as a response to E5.2.

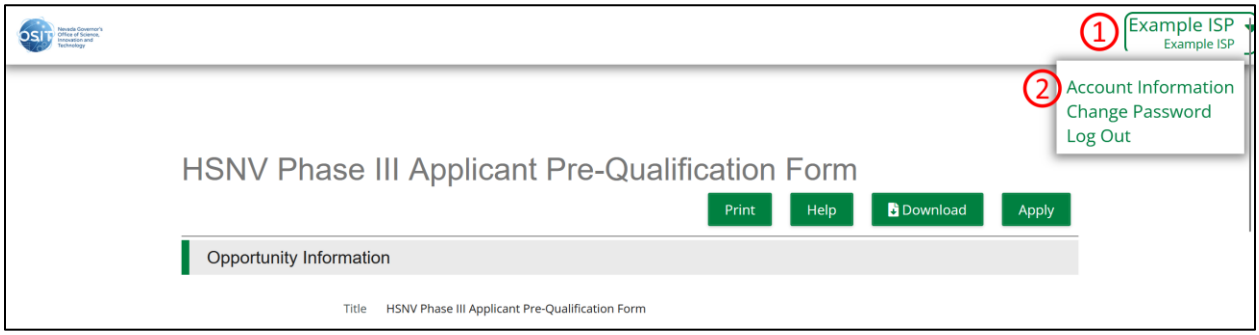
131. **Question:** Question A.12.1 requires the upload of Other Public Funding Template. Is the same template required for Question B7.24.1?
    a. The Other Public Funding Template can be used as a part of answers to both questions, but grantees should note that each question requires additional, different, separate information.

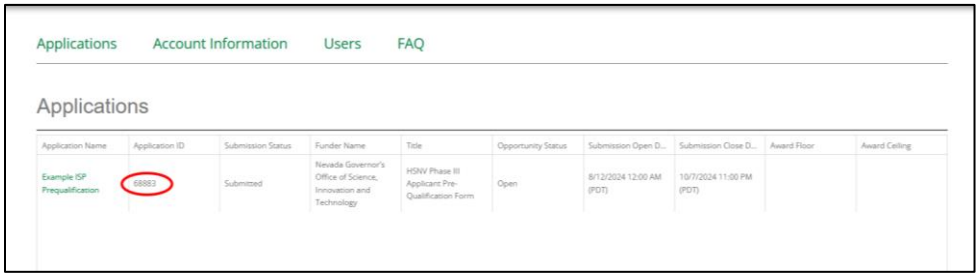
132. **Question:** Is OSIT expecting 1 application per RPA? Or can an Applicant submit one application to serve multiple RPAs?
    a. Yes, a unique application is required for each RPA. Multiple RPAs cannot be combined into a single application. Applicants will only have to submit their Applicant Information once but individual RPA-specific forms, such as BEAD Priority, BEAD Other Qualifying Reliable Broadband Service, BEAD Alternative Technology, are required for each RPA an Applicant wishes to apply for.

133. **Question:** I was wondering if you could provide some insight on how you would like to see the in-kind match reflected on the project cost spreadsheet.
    a. Applicants should calculate their total project cost to equal the amount of grant funds requested plus the proposed match amount. The proposed match amount can be cash, in-kind, or include a combination of both. Match should be reflected in the project cost details accordingly and should generally account for at least 25% of the total project cost. Please see the project cost sample template for more detail.

134. **Question:** Part B, Questions 4.9 through 4.12 ask questions regarding how the applicant match will be sourced. Question 4.9 is self explanatory – OSIT is looking for the amount of the applicant match that the applicant will provide. I am unsure what OSIT is looking for on the remaining three questions. Would you please provide some clarification?
    a. B4.10-B4.12 ask if there are other sources of funding that the Applicant will propose to use as match i.e. eligible federal funds from another grant, funding the Applicant has received from the State in another project, or funding from an outside source (local government, non-profit, private equity, local private corporate, etc.). If an Applicant's only match is its own, the Applicant should enter $0 for these fields.
135. **Question:** Where should we upload the letter of commitment from a financial institution to meet the letter of credit or bond requirement?
    a. Applicants may label and upload the letter as a response to E5.2.

136. **Question:** We have not yet received our HSNV Phase III Applicant ID (assigned by OSIT upon successful pre-qualification) for B3.1 but have submitted pre-qualification. What should we do?
    a. If Applicants have submitted pre-qualification and are still in curing, please use your pre-qualification applicant ID. To find your applicant ID, navigate to the Nevada AmpliFund application portal, click on your organization name in the top right, then click on Account Information. Next, click on **Applications** in the top left. Your Application ID will be in the second column of your prequalification details. See screenshots below.





137. **Question:** I have a handful of non-serviceable locations identified and will follow your instructions to both 1) remove them from their network design and project costs and 2) provide evidence they have challenged them with the FCC. Do you have a recommended location within the Application that you would like the list of challenged locations + evidence of FCC challenge?
    a. Applicants may label and upload the evidence as a response to E5.2.

138. **Question:** I applied to receive my UEI and did not receive it before the pre-qualification deadline on October 7, 2024. Is it possible to still pre-qualify?
    a. OSIT will re-open pre-qualification until the Application deadline of October 10th at 11:59pm PT to allow for all Applicants who have started their pre-applications and were unable to submit due to a missing federal or state identification or licensure to submit their pre-qualification. Applicants should enter 'PENDING' or another set of information to indicate that the information will be forthcoming. Applicants must provide proof they began the process to the required information prior to October 7, 2024 at 11:59pm PT upon request of OSIT. Applicants should update OSIT as soon as the identification or licensure

has been issued by the federal or State authority. OSIT cannot make an award to an applicant without all required pre-qualification information.