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

Frequently Asked Questions

August 26, 2024
Version 1.0

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.