

# BEAD PROJECT SCORING AUGUST 2024



# HIGH SPEED NV



# TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

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- **BEAD Financial Requirements:**
  - Date: 08/21/2024
  - Time: 9:00 am PT
- **BEAD Grant Requirements:**
  - Date: 08/23/2024
  - Time: 11:00 am PT
- **BEAD Technical Requirements:**
  - Date: 08/23/2024
  - Time: 1:00 pm PT
- **BEAD Program Design:**
  - Date: 08/26/2024
  - Time: 12:00 pm PT
- **BEAD Scoring Rubric Overview**
  - **Date: 08/28/2024**
  - **Time: 11:00 am PT**

# AGENDA

1. Scoring (IPvII page 21)
2. Questions?



# SCORING

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# SCORING CRITERIA OVERVIEW

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## Priority projects

- a. *Primary criteria*
- b. *Secondary criteria*

## Non-Priority projects

- a. *Primary criteria*
- b. *Secondary criteria*

**Reliable broadband service (RBS):** The term “Reliable Broadband Service” means broadband service that is accessible to a location via:

- fiber-optic technology (*BDC technology code 50*)
- cable modem/hybrid fiber-coaxial (HFC) technology (*technology code 40*)
- digital subscriber line (DSL) technology (*technology code 10*)
- terrestrial fixed wireless technology utilizing entirely licensed spectrum (*includes spectrum licensed by rule*) or using a hybrid of licensed and unlicensed spectrum (*technology codes 71 and 72*).

**Priority broadband project:** The term “Priority Broadband Project” means a project that will provision service via end-to-end fiber-optic facilities to each end-user premises.

**Qualifying broadband:** To a location that is not a CAI, qualifying broadband is Reliable Broadband Service with (i) a speed of not less than 100 Mbps for downloads; and (ii) a speed of not less than 20 Mbps for uploads; and (iii) latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds; “qualifying broadband” to a CAI is Reliable Broadband Service with a speed of not less than 1 Gbps for downloads and uploads alike and latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds.

**Alternative technology:** Alternative technology is any technology that does not qualify as reliable broadband service; includes unlicensed fixed wireless (ULFW) and low-earth orbit satellites (LEOs). Alternative technologies must still meet the BEAD technical requirements.

Source: NTIA, Reliable Broadband Service and Alternative Technologies Guidance. January, 2024



# KEY TERMS

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**RPA – Regional Project Area:** All areas with eligible locations are organized into non-overlapping RPA. A proposed project area must be for one of these RPAs. Applicants may apply for multiple RPAs as separate project proposals

**Eligible BSL – Broadband Serviceable Location:** Location that is eligible for BEAD funding, usually unserved, underserved, or slated for deployment per the [Nevada Regional Project Area Map](#).

- Each BSL has a unique FCC ID. An RPA will have at least one eligible BSL, but all such BSLs must be included in the applicant's project proposal.

# PRIORITY PROJECTS SCORING RUBRIC

Primary criteria	Maximum Points Possible
<b>Minimal BEAD Outlay:</b> Total BEAD funding that will be required to complete the project	25
<b>Affordability:</b> Commitment to provide an affordable total price for 1 Gbps/1 Gbps service	30
<b>Fair Labor Practices:</b> Demonstrated record of and plans to be compliant with federal labor and employment laws	20
<b>Secondary criteria</b>	
<b>Speed to Deployment (&lt;=4 years)</b>	1
<b>Capacity Review:</b> Capacity of applicants to successfully complete their proposed project	8
<b>Technical Review:</b> Measurement of the relative capability of multiple applicants which all meet the minimum gating technical criteria	8
<b>Lower Bandwidth Affordability:</b> Commitment to provide the most affordable total price to the customer for 100 Mbps/100 Mbps service	5
<b>Low-Cost Broadband Service Option:</b> Commitment to provide the most affordable total price to low-income customers that are eligible for ACP	3
<b>Total</b>	100

# PRIORITY PROJECTS – PRIMARY CRITERIA

## Minimal BEAD Outlay (25 points maximum)

- Scoring is designed to incentivize lower outlay of federal funds
- For each RPA, OSIT will provide:
  - A benchmark model-derived total cost to reach each BEAD-eligible location in each Regional Project Area (RPA)
  - Target BEAD Subsidy level and percentage for the RPA based on the cost modeling.
- The score is calculated by a formula that compares the Applicant's proposed BEAD Subsidy request with the Target BEAD Subsidy.
- It is calculated by dividing the ratio of the requested BEAD Subsidy with the Target BEAD Subsidy and dividing by 2, resulting in the Subsidy Score
- The resulting Subsidy Score decimal is multiplied by the total points available to determine a Reduction Score.
- The Reduction Score would then be subtracted from the total points available, resulting in the Final Score for this Criterion

$$\text{Subsidy Score} = \frac{\text{Requested Subsidy}}{2 \times \text{Target Subsidy}}$$

$$\text{Reduction Score} = 25 \times \text{Subsidy Score}$$

$$\text{Final Outlay Score} = 25 - \text{Reduction Score}$$

Applicants proposing the Target BEAD Subsidy amount would therefore receive half of the available points while Applicants that propose a lower BEAD subsidy amount will receive a higher score and applicants that propose a higher BEAD subsidy amount will receive a lower score



# PRIORITY PROJECTS – PRIMARY CRITERIA

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## Minimal BEAD Outlay – minimal match requirement

- Applicants may not request greater than a 75% subsidy without submitting a waiver request to OSIT as a part of the application process – unless the RPA includes High Cost areas
- OSIT is required to prioritize proposals that are able to meet match requirements without need for an NTIA waiver and waiver-dependent proposals may not be considered until other proposals have been processed
- If an application is selected for funding, OSIT would then request a waiver from NTIA, which must be granted prior to award
  - NTIA will not grant waivers without justification

[See NTIA, July 2024, Understanding the Policy Notice: Selecting Technology](#)

# PRIORITY PROJECTS – PRIMARY CRITERIA

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## Affordability (30 points maximum)

- Points for the affordability criterion will be awarded based on disclosing the price for the prospective subgrantee's proposed 1 Gbps/1 Gbps service offering. OSIT does not prescribe a set dollar amount, nor does it require a given rate to receive BEAD funding. Instead, OSIT asks potential subgrantees to share their proposed pricing for the purposes of scoring applications in compliance with the BEAD NOFO
- Applicants will be asked to certify that, for the first five years following completion of the network, they will either:
  - Offer a price for a 1Gbps symmetrical service plan at a price that is no higher than the total charge of a 1Gbps symmetrical fiber service offered by the median provider in Nevada in the previous year's FCC Urban Rate Study; or
  - Offer a price for a 1Gbps symmetrical service plan at a price that is no higher than the total charge of a 1Gbps symmetrical fiber service offered by the median provider in Nevada over the three years of the FCC Urban Rate Study prior to the release of the RFA. The monthly total charge of a 1Gbps symmetrical fiber service by the median provider over the last three years in Nevada is \$95; or
  - Offer the same price for a 1 Gbps symmetrical service plan the applicant offers in non-BEAD-funded areas if the price of a 1 Gbps symmetrical service plan offered in non-BEAD-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
- The price offered will be a binding commitment for the first five years
- Applicants that voluntarily list the price for their 1 Gbps symmetrical plan service offering and certify that it will meet the outlined criteria will receive 30 points. Applicants that are unable or choose not to certify that their 1 Gbps symmetrical plan offerings will meet the criteria outlined in this section will receive 0 points

# PRIORITY PROJECTS – PRIMARY CRITERIA

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## Fair labor practices (20 points maximum)

- *Scoring will be evaluated based on the following criteria for non-new providers*
  1. Evidence of past compliance with applicable labor laws (10 points); and
  2. Plans for ensuring future compliance with federal labor laws (10 points)
- *Evidence of Past Compliance (non-new providers)*
  - Any applicant that certifies full compliance in the past with all applicable labor laws will receive 10 points
  - Applicants unable to certify past full compliance with applicable labor laws will be required to provide details of the past violations, remediation steps taken and the results, and a specific, future-focused plan to ensure full compliance, and will be scored on a 0-9 point scale
    - A single violation will deduct one point from the 10 points available if the Applicant can outline the remediation steps taken and the results, and a specific, future-focused plan to ensure full compliance. Otherwise, 3 points are deducted
    - Two violations will deduct 5 point from the 10 points available. as long as the Applicant can outline the remediation steps taken and the results, and a specific, future-focused plan to ensure full compliance, otherwise, 8 points are deducted
    - More than two violations will result in zero points out of the 10 available



# PRIORITY PROJECTS – PRIMARY CRITERIA

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## Fair labor practices – new applicants

- *New applicants with equivalent operational experience*
  - Applicants that have less than three years of operation, may complete the questions as an existing (non-new) provider if they provide evidence for an equivalent track record:
    - Prior to operations, the chief executive responsible for compliance with labor laws and standards on this project occupied an equivalent position for a previous internet service provider
  - The answers to the questions would then encompass the labor records of the Applicant during the period of operations and subcontracting partners for the full three-year period
- *Applicants without evidence of past compliance will not receive points*

# PRIORITY PROJECTS – PRIMARY CRITERIA

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## Fair labor practices

- *Plans for Future Compliance with Federal Labor Laws*
  - Applicants will describe in detail well-designed plans for ensuring future compliance with federal labor laws during the project period
  - OSIT will evaluate the completeness of and effectiveness of these plans on a 0-10 scale
  - A complete and effective plan would include how the Applicant will:
    - Communicate labor laws, safety regulations, and ensuring a trained, skilled, and appropriately certified workforce for Applicant and subcontractor staffs working on the project
    - Monitor compliance with this plan, including for subcontractors
    - Have process for addressing and resolving violations of the plan, including for subcontractors
    - Commit to other protections and workforce standards (required for new entrants)

# PRIORITY PROJECTS – SECONDARY CRITERIA

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## Speed to deployment (1 point maximum)

- All subgrantees that receive BEAD Program funds for network deployment must deploy the planned broadband network and begin providing services to each customer that desires broadband services within the project area not later than four years after the date on which the subgrantee receives the subgrant
- The applicant that provides the earliest buildout completion commitment to provide service to all locations with the RPA will receive the point for this criterion
- Such a commitment will be binding and subject to contractual penalties
- A technical review will confirm the viability of the deployment schedule submitted by the Applicant



# PRIORITY PROJECTS – SECONDARY CRITERIA

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## Capacity Review (8 points maximum)

- Applications that meet the minimum Technical Review requirements will undergo a Capacity Review and have their applications scored and that score added to the Mandatory and Secondary Criteria
- OSIT will ask questions related to the capacity of applicants to successfully complete their proposed project in the following areas:
  1. Financial capacity (as outlined in Section 2.4.11 of Nevada’s IPvII)
  2. Managerial capacity (as outlined in Section 2.4.12 of Nevada’s IPvII)
  3. Operational capacity and feasibility and reasonableness of operational proposal (as outlined in Section 2.4.15 of Nevada’s IPvII)
- Applicants will be scored on an 8-point scale with applicants providing the most comprehensive evidence and explanation of their capacity and experience in the three categories receiving the highest scores
- Applicants should consult the draft application form and scoring rubric in addition to IPvII for details on how the project will be evaluated

# PRIORITY PROJECTS – SECONDARY CRITERIA

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## Capacity Review – key scoring factors

- **Financial Capacity**
  - Reviews pro forma, project budget and business plans that evaluates
    - Ability to complete project buildout
    - Long-term sustainability of project
  - Includes sources of funding for project
  - Reviews similar projects successfully completed in scope
- **Managerial capacity**
  - Quality and expertise of management team, review resumes
  - Evidence of past projects successful management
  - Capacity to scale and train buildout workforce
- **Operational capacity**
  - Experience operating a network
  - Ability to scale to BEAD areas

# PRIORITY PROJECTS – SECONDARY CRITERIA

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## Technical review (8 points maximum)

- Applications that meet the minimum Technical Review requirements will be evaluated for scoring for their technical solution
- OSIT will ask questions related to the capability of applicants to successfully deploy and operate the network facilities needed to offer affordable, reliable high-speed internet service
- Applicants will be scored on an 8-point scale with applicants providing the most comprehensive and technically sound application receiving the highest scores in the following areas:
  1. Technical capacity (as outlined in Section 2.4.13 of Nevada's IPVII)
  2. Feasibility and Reasonableness of technical proposal, including cost and reporting (as outlined in Section 2.4.13 of Nevada's IPVII)
- Applicants should consult the draft application form and scoring rubric in addition to IPVII for details on how the project will be evaluated



# PRIORITY PROJECTS – SECONDARY CRITERIA

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## Technical review – key scoring factors

- Technical Capacity
  - Reviews qualifications of key technical personnel involved in buildout
  - Review prior buildout experience
- Feasibility and Reasonableness of technical proposal
  - Technical plan for constructing within timeframe and budget, including comprehensive timeline
  - Capacity and availability of construction workforce
  - Skills, licenses, safety training, and any standards for each job title
  - Network drawings and shapefiles

# PRIORITY PROJECTS – SECONDARY CRITERIA

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## Lower bandwidth affordability (5 points maximum)

- Points will be awarded based on the applicant's commitment to provide the most affordable total price to the customer for 100 Mbps/100 Mbps service plan
- Applicants must share their specific proposed pricing, which OSIT will score by comparing to a reference plan
  - For example, applicants that use national or uniform pricing may submit the pricing they offer in non-BEAD areas, applicants may propose specific or unique pricing for this RFA, or applicants may reference specific dollar amounts found in the FCC's Urban Rate Study they will use
  - Applicants are not required to keep the price flat or constant over the five years and may detail built-in increases, year-by-year prices, or specify a specific inflationary number in their applications. In the event applicants submit pricing that changes year-to-year, OSIT will use the average price across the five years to calculate a score for this section
- Applicants are not required to modify their existing or planned service plan offerings if they do not intend to offer a 100 Mbps symmetrical plan. These applicants should submit the pricing of their lowest speed tier that offers a minimum of both 100 Mbps download and upload

# PRIORITY PROJECTS – SECONDARY CRITERIA

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## Lower bandwidth affordability continued

- OSIT will provide a breakdown in the Request for Applications (RFA) that applicants will use to detail their pricing over the five years. OSIT will compare the potential subgrantee's submitted price in comparison to the reference plan to generate a score for this section
- The maximum number of points in this Criterion is 5. Applicants that offer a price equal to the model plan will receive 2.5 points. Applicants that propose a price at \$40 or lower will receive the maximum 5 points. Applicants that propose a price of \$60 or higher will receive 0 points. Applicants that propose a price lower than that of the model plan will receive more than 2.5 points and up to 5 points. Applicants that propose a price higher than that of the model plan will receive fewer than 2.5 points
- In other words, plans between \$40 and \$60 will receive decreasing points, with plans above \$60 receiving no points. Scores will be calculated on an exact mathematical scale with each \$1 increase or decrease in the price reducing or increasing the score by .25 points



# PRIORITY PROJECTS – SECONDARY CRITERIA

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## Lower bandwidth affordability reference model

- Reference plan/model pricing: \$50 per month
- **Reference model requirements:**
  - Consistently and reliably provides at least 100 Mbps symmetrical service
  - The offered pricing is inclusive of all taxes, fees, and charges;
  - No activation, installation, or security deposit fees;
  - Provides typical latency measurements of no more than 100 milliseconds; and
  - Is not subject to data caps, surcharges, or usage-based throttling, and is subject only to the same acceptable use policies to which subscribers to all other broadband internet access service plans offered to home subscribers by the participating subgrantee must adhere
- Applicants that will not offer a plan that meets all the requirements will receive no points. For example, if all plans have data caps or cannot meet latency requirements, etc., the applicant will receive 0 points
- Applicants proposing to serve locations located more than 30 miles from Interstate 80, Interstate 580, Interstate 15, or US Highway 93 may seek a waiver to raise the \$60 per month maximum threshold for points up to \$70 per month

# PRIORITY PROJECTS – SECONDARY CRITERIA

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## Low-cost broadband service option (3 points maximum)

- Points will be awarded based on the applicant's commitment to provide the most affordable total price to low-income customers that are eligible for ACP
- **The scoring for this criteria will be as follows:**
  - A low-cost plan that meets the criteria (as outlined in Section 2.12 of Nevada's IPVII) at \$30 per month will receive **3 points**
  - A low-cost plan that meets the criteria (as outlined in Section 2.12 of Nevada's IPVII) at \$50 per month will receive **0 points**
  - Points will be awarded on a mathematical scale between \$30 and \$50 with .15 points awarded for every \$1 lower than \$50

# NON-PRIORITY PROJECTS SCORING RUBRIC

<b><i>Primary criteria (must be ≥ 75%)</i></b>	<b>Maximum Points Possible</b>
<b>Minimal BEAD Outlay:</b> Total BEAD funding that will be required to complete the project	25
<b>Affordability:</b> Commitment to provide an affordable total price for 100 Mbps/20 Mbps service	30
<b>Fair Labor Practices:</b> Demonstrated record of and plans to be compliant with federal labor and employment laws	20
<b><i>Secondary criteria</i></b>	
<b>Speed to Deployment (&lt;4 years)</b>	1
<b>Capacity Review:</b> Capacity of applicants to successfully complete their proposed project	12
<b>Technical Review:</b> Measurement of the relative capability of multiple applicants which all meet the minimum gating technical criteria	12
<b>Total</b>	100

# NON-PRIORITY PROJECTS – CRITERIA

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- **For primary criteria**, Non-priority projects will be scored in the same manner as Priority projects
- **For secondary criteria**, Speed to Deployment will be scored in the same manner as Priority projects
- **Capacity Review and Technical Review** will be evaluated in the same manner, but the point total is higher (12 points rather than 8 points)





# QUESTIONS?

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Nevada Governor's  
Office of Science,  
Innovation and  
Technology

**Questions and Feedback:  
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