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On August 26, 2024, NTIA published draft proposed guidance regarding BEAD alternative broadband technology to “provide Eligible Entities with additional guidance regarding the use of alternative technologies to serve unserved and underserved locations within their jurisdiction.” A notice entitled: Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program: Alternative Broadband Technology Policy Notice was solicited for public comment, with comment closing September 10. The draft guidance can be found here: <https://www.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/publications/bead-alternative-broadband-technology-policy-notice-for-public-comment-final.pdf>

Following subsequent guidance from NTIA to OSIT and given that final guidance will not be published prior to the conclusion of Nevada’s BEAD subgrantee selection process, OSIT has decided to implement the draft guidance as proposed by NTIA. In the draft guidance, “the term “Alternative Technologies” describes any broadband access technology that terminates at the end user’s location or premises and does not qualify as Reliable Broadband Service, including ULFW and LEO, but meets the BEAD Program’s minimum technical requirements of speeds of not less than 100 Mbps for downloads and 20 Mbps for uploads and latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds.” OSIT encourages all interested parties to review the draft guidance from NTIA.

In accordance with the draft guidance, OSIT must determine if an Alternative Technology provider serving locations within Regional Project Areas (RPAs) currently open for application can demonstrate it currently meets BEAD Program requirements. To do so, OSIT will give all Alternative Technology providers the opportunity to demonstrate to OSIT the capability to offer BEAD qualifying services to all locations within each RPA.

On Monday, September 23, 2024, OSIT posted this public notice offering eight days for Alternative Technology providers to indicate interest in qualifying. In addition, OSIT will attempt to contact known providers using Alternative Technology directly. Alternative Technology providers will have until 12:00pm PT on Monday, September 30, 2024 to indicate interest in qualifying. Providers using Alternative Technology that are interested in qualifying should send an email to HighSpeedNV@gov.nv.gov indicating that interest.

Providers that indicate interest in qualifying will then have 30 days to submit necessary documentation and evidence required for OSIT to substantiate that existing service provided by Alternative Technology meets BEAD program requirements. Details of the necessary documentation will be provided to providers that indicate their interest in qualifying prior to the deadline.

If an RPA receives no fundable applications proposing a reliable broadband technology, OSIT will consider whether an existing provider offering service provided by Alternative Technology meets the BEAD program requirements. If one is identified, OSIT will follow the guidance in allocating BEAD funding. If a provider submits the required documentation by the deadline but does not meet the

required criteria, that provider is not precluded from being awarded BEAD funding provided its application meets program requirements and it is deemed the winning application.