

Project Application Guide

BROADBAND EQUITY, ACCESS, AND DEPLOYMENT (BEAD) PROGRAM

Version 3 | Revised July 17, 2025

In Compliance with the NTIA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice



California Public
Utilities Commission

This document was prepared by the CPUC using federal funds from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), U.S. Department of Commerce. The contents are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of NTIA or the U.S. Department of Commerce.

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Introduction

This Project Application Guide provides applicants with instructions for California's Project Application for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program and the online portal where applicants will complete the application.

In compliance with the [BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice](#) issued by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) on June 6, 2025, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is reopening its BEAD Program Scoring Phase and eliminating, amending, and adding certain questions in the Project Application as required by the Policy Notice.

About the CPUC's BEAD Subgrantee Program

The BEAD Program, which is administered by NTIA, allocated approximately \$1.86 billion to the State of California. The CPUC is implementing the state's BEAD subgrantee program to award that funding.

The CPUC is planning a multi-step process for selecting subgrantees:

1. **Prequalification Phase**, during which the CPUC will establish the qualifications of prospective applicants
2. **Application Phase**, during which the CPUC will receive, review, and score grant applications
3. **Negotiation Phase (time permitting)**, a potential phase during which the CPUC may engage with applicants

The CPUC will include a list of its provisional awards in its BEAD Final Proposal, which the CPUC will make available for public comment before submitting to NTIA for approval. NTIA must approve California's Final Proposal before the CPUC can finalize any BEAD grant awards.

About the Application Phase

All applicants must first submit a prequalification application before moving on to the Application Phase and submitting one or more project-specific applications.

The CPUC will begin its evaluation of project proposals by ensuring that the applicants have submitted all required materials. Following a determination of completeness, the CPUC will review and evaluate the proposals based on scoring criteria in compliance with NTIA's BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice.

The CPUC reserves the right to reject any proposal from an applicant that was deemed qualified in the Prequalification Phase if, for example, the size and scope of the project proposal are found not to be commensurate with the applicant's qualifications.

Priority and Non-Priority Projects

In compliance with NTIA's [BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice](#), the CPUC will give priority to proposals that meet the definition of a Priority Broadband Project. If no proposal meets the definition of a Priority Broadband Project, the CPUC may select a non-Priority broadband project that meets the speed and latency requirements defined in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the BEAD NOFO.

Priority Broadband Projects are defined as follows:

“The term ‘Priority Broadband Project’ means a project that provides broadband service at speeds of no less than 100 megabits per second for downloads and 20 megabits per second for uploads, has a latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds, and can easily scale speeds over time to meet the evolving connectivity needs of households and businesses and support the deployment of 5G, successor wireless technologies, and other advanced services.” (Policy Notice, p. 9).

The Policy Notice further states:

“Any applicant may seek to have the Eligible Entity treat its application as a Priority Broadband Project regardless of the technology used. The applicant’s project, however, must still meet the required speed and latency standards set forth in the statute and the NOFO and demonstrate that it meets the additional statutory criteria, including that the project can easily scale speeds over time to support evolving connectivity needs and the deployment of 5G and successor wireless technologies. Applicants must provide supporting documentation sufficient for the Eligible Entity to assess the network application and determine that the proposed network architecture for each specific project area meets this standard. Eligible Entities may not categorically exclude any given technology and may only reject treatment of an application as a Priority Broadband Project if the project could not meet the statutory definition for a specific project area” (Policy Notice, p. 9).

To comply with this technology-neutral guidance, the CPUC is requiring applicants to complete evidence templates documenting each technology type included in their proposed projects’ technical specifications (see questions 11.1 to 11.6A). The CPUC will evaluate the information provided in the templates to determine whether the proposed network architecture for that specific project area meets the standard.

Application Resources

California's Initial Proposal Volume 2 describes the state's grant program design, proposed subgrantee selection process, grant application scoring criteria, plans for workforce development and affordability strategies, and other critical information. That document and other details about the BEAD Program—including [FAQs](#), technical assistance resources, and announcements regarding [events](#), [timelines](#), deadlines, and program milestones—are available on the CPUC's [California BEAD Program website](#).

(The BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice updated several aspects of the BEAD Program that modify or replace certain elements of the Initial Proposal Volume 2. In compliance with the Policy Notice, the Initial Proposal Volume 2 will not be updated to reflect those changes.)

Downloads of unserved, underserved, served, Community Anchor Institution (CAI), and PAU datasets are available on the [BEAD Grant Data Downloads](#) page.

Participants who have procedural or technical questions should email the following dedicated address: beadgrant@cpuc.ca.gov.

The CPUC will regularly update its [BEAD FAQ Page](#) with the questions and answers generated by email inquiries and in-person meetings. Applicants who wish to view recordings of the webinars hosted by CPUC explaining the pre-application and project application processes can find them on the CPUC's [BEAD Events Page](#).

Additional resources are identified in Appendix A.

Application Requirements

The project application comprises 13 sections:

1. **Administrative:** Applicants can update basic background information, such as contact details, submitted in the prequalification application.
2. **Select Locations:** Applicants will create a Project Area by selecting PAUs on an interactive map. Applicants can exclude select broadband serviceable locations (BSL) from the project area. Applications must include a minimum of 60 percent of eligible broadband serviceable locations in the project area. Community Anchor Institutions (CAI) can optionally be added to the proposal.
3. **Project Snapshot:** Applicants will provide the total project cost and total funding request. The NTIA match requirement will be calculated based on the applicant proposed funding values.
4. **Scoring Criteria:** As scoring criteria have been updated, new questions relating to scoring are now located in the addendum section (Section 11).
5. **Project Plan:** Applicants will submit narratives, technical design files, build timeline, and cost information for the proposed project. Applicants will respond to environmental questions covering topics such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
6. **Organizational and Managerial Capacity:** Applicants will update organizational information submitted during the prequalification application if any information has changed.
7. **Financial Capability:** Applicants will submit updated financial information (if any information has changed).
8. **Project Staffing and Labor Requirements:** This section is no longer required.
9. **Ownership Information:** Applicants will update ownership information submitted during the prequalification application if any information has changed.
10. **Compliance:** Applicants must certify compliance with BEAD Program requirements; with all applicable federal, state, local, and Tribal laws; and complete certifications of capability, experience, comprehension, and commitment.
11. **Addendum:** This section comprises all questions that have been added or modified to comply with the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice. In some cases, there are questions that have been moved from other sections in the Project Application to the Addendum without modification. In this section, applicants will indicate their project

type (Priority or Non-Priority). This section includes the technical specifications evidence templates, the Locations List and CAI List Templates, questions relevant for scoring criteria, new or updated financial templates, new or updated certifications, and the Letter of Credit or Performance Bond requirement.

12. Confidentiality and Certification:

Confidentiality: Applicants can request confidentiality protection for certain responses in their project application. Please note that information required in the NTIA Final Proposal cannot be marked confidential.

Certification: At the end of the application, applicants will be required to print the provided BEAD Project Application Certification document relevant to the applicant's organization; review, sign, and notarize the document; and upload a scanned copy of the document to the application portal.

13. Review and Submit: Applicants can review and download a copy of their responses before submitting to the CPUC.

Portal Navigation

Account Registration

Applicants must register for an account and be approved by the CPUC before beginning the prequalification or project application. Applicants may register at register.bead.cpuc.ca.gov. Upon receiving approval, applicants can log in at bead.grant.cpuc.ca.gov and begin the application. If the applicant encounters any technical issues around registration, login, or account administration, please contact the Ready.net support team by email at cahelpdesk@ready.net.

Application Navigation

This section covers general information about the application portal, including button functionalities. The preferred browser to access the application portal is Google Chrome. The numbered Application section titles appear at the top of the page, as in the following sample screenshot. The project application will feature the same format of section titles and application flow as the prequalification application.

Navigate among sections by clicking the titles. Subsection titles will appear on the right sidebar. Navigate among the different subsections by clicking the subsection title. The application will save each time you navigate to a different section or subsection and when you click either the blue ‘Save Application’ or ‘Next’ button at the bottom right of each page. Per [Open Worldwide Application Security Project guidelines](#), after 15 minutes of inactivity and once every 24 hours applicants will be automatically logged out.

Subsequent questions may be presented based on the information provided in prior responses. For example, within the Financial Capability section, selecting “Unqualified Audited Financials” will prompt the applicant to upload unqualified statements, while selecting “Qualified Audited Financials” will prompt a different set of questions. Applicants can review the different question trees in the portal or later in this guide (see “Application Questions and Instructions”).


Templates and Uploads

Some questions require you to upload a completed template. File names should be descriptive and reference the template file name if possible. Please review these file name guidelines and examples:

- [Applicant Organization] – [Template Title].[file extension]
 - For example: HometownInternet - Past performance and experience.xlsx
- [Applicant Organization] – [Question].[file extension]

- For example: HometownInternet - 3-2 Org Charts.pdf

Submitting the Application

Applicants can track their progress by reviewing the numbered project application section titles at the top of the portal pages. A green circle with a white checkmark in the center  indicates that all required fields have been submitted in that section. (See the screenshot above.) Note that even if a section has a green checkmark, the applicant must still save the application (for example, by selecting “Save Application” or selecting “Next”) to ensure the information in the completed section is saved.

When all sections show a green circle with a white checkmark, navigate to the final section titled “Review and Submit.” Applicants should review their entire application before submitting to the CPUC. Applicants who have an application-specific question after they have submitted their application through the portal should email: beadgrant@cpuc.ca.gov.

Revising the Application

Due to time constraints, there may not be any opportunities for application revisions after submission. If application revision requests are issued, the application portal will automatically notify you via email with a specified deadline for submitting revisions (up to three business days) and will re-open the application portal for the updated responses/documentation to be submitted, if applicable.

Note: Applicants should submit revisions or additions requested by the CPUC through the application portal. Do not send replies/submission updates via email.

Application Questions and Instructions

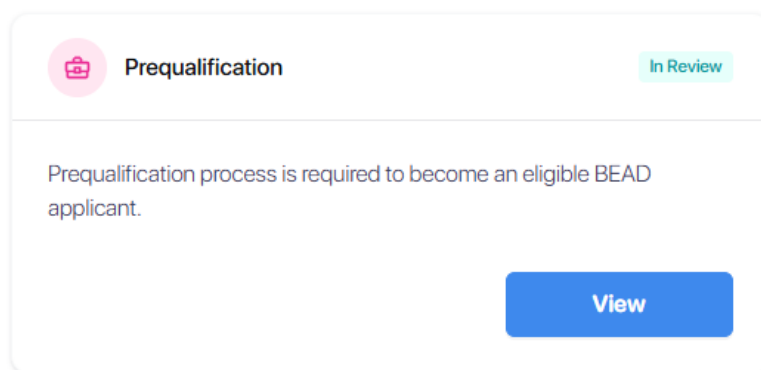
This section has been updated to comply with the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice. You may not need to answer every question listed in this document. Responses to certain questions in the application portal will determine whether you need to answer subsequent questions. The portal will display the questions you should answer. See the instructions for each question for additional clarification. Required or conditionally required questions are noted with a red asterisk* throughout the application in the portal and in this application guide.

Relevant [BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice](#), [Initial Proposal Volume 2 \(IPv2\)](#), and [BEAD Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) sections are cited under certain questions for the applicant's reference.

Section 1: Administrative

1.1* Please review your prequalification contact information. Are changes required?

To view information submitted in the prequalification application, select “Save Application” at the bottom of the page, then select “Home” in the left-side menu pane. Select “View” under the Prequalification menu. Review the information submitted in Section 1, “Administrative.”



Select “Yes” or “No.” If “Yes,” proceed to questions 1.1A through 1.1P. If “No,” proceed to question 1.2. Applicants should only submit information that has changed since the prequalification application was submitted.

- **1.1A Organization name**
- **1.1B Organization UEI**
- **1.1C Organization CPCN**
- **1.1D Organization address**
- **1.1E Primary contact first name**

- **1.1F Primary contact last name**
- **1.1G Primary contact title**
- **1.1H Primary contact email**
- **1.1I Primary contact phone**
- **1.1J Alternative contact email**
- **1.1K Alternative contact phone**
- **1.1L Authorized Certifying Official first name (if different than primary contact)**
- **1.1M Authorized Certifying Official first name (if different than primary contact)**
- **1.1N Authorized Certifying Official title**
- **1.1O Authorized Certifying Official email**
- **1.1P Authorized Certifying Official phone**

1.2* Please provide contact information in the following fields:

- **1.2A* Technical Design contact first name, last name**
- **1.2B* Technical Design contact email**
- **1.2C* Technical Design contact phone**
- **1.2D* Operational (Construction) contact first name, last name**
- **1.2E* Operational (Construction) contact email**
- **1.2F* Operational (Construction) contact phone**

Provide name, email, and phone number for the Technical Design point of contact and Operational (Construction) point of contact.

1.3* Is the applicant submitting this application with any partners?

Select “Yes” or “No.” If “Yes,” proceed to questions 1.3A and 1.3B. Otherwise proceed to question 1.4.

Source: IPv2 5.12.2.3 (p. 65); 9.5 (p. 143).

1.3A* Confirm that you are the lead applicant for your BEAD application partnership, and that no member of the BEAD application partnership participates in more than one partnership in the same Project Area Unit (PAU) or participates in both a partnership and as an individual applicant in the same PAU.

Select the checkbox. A response to this question is required from applicants who responded “Yes” to question 1.3.

1.3B* Using the Partners Template, provide a list of the BEAD application partners. For each partner, please list the organization name, organization type, the services provided in its partnership role, and the name, phone, physical address, and email of the organizational representative.

Upload the completed “Partners Template” in PDF format. A response to this question is required from applicants who selected the checkbox in question 1.3A.

1.4* Provide the lead applicant’s 10-digit FCC Registration Number (FRN), with leading zeros.

Enter the response in the number field.

1.5* This question is no longer required.

1.5A* This question is no longer required.

1.5B* This question is no longer required.

1.6 The Project ID will automatically populate.

The application portal will automatically populate a response to this question based on a formula required for the final proposal.

Section 2: Select Locations

In this section applicants will create a Project Area for each application by selecting one or more contiguous (sharing a vertex) Project Area Unit(s) (PAU) on the interactive map or via CSV upload within the application portal. There is a portal limit of 850 PAUs per application.

An applicant cannot submit more than one competing application for a given PAU or location; for example, if an applicant is submitting multiple Priority applications, the proposals must be for completely different PAUs and locations.

All applicants, including returning applicants, must complete this section. Returning applicants' PAU and location selections will be cleared from their previously submitted application to allow applicants to review potentially updated eligible locations and reselect PAUs and locations. In addition, questions in other sections of the Project Application that are dependent on location selection will be cleared for returning applicants and must be completed (a list of these questions that will be cleared is found in the Change Log). As such, returning applicants should review all sections as they proceed through the application to ensure every field is complete.

Note that PAUs without eligible locations can be added to your Project Area without affecting your score. Selecting these “non-scoring” PAUs may be required to achieve contiguity and connect all of the PAUs the applicant wishes to serve in a single proposal. California's PAUs are based on Census Block Groups and Tribal lands.

The following sections explain the Project Area creation process. Along with this written guidance, the CPUC recommends navigating to the [CPUC BEAD homepage](#) and the BEAD Events page for a video walkthrough of the same process.

Map Overview

Pan and zoom by clicking and dragging the map. Search an address or location_id using the search bar in the top right. Accessibility options are available by selecting “Accessibility” on the left-side menu. Also on the left-side menu, the following options are available to control what data appear on the map:

Eligibility

- **Unserved:** Select this checkbox to view eligible unserved BSLs or CAIs on the map.
- **Underserved:** Select this checkbox to view eligible underserved BSLs on the map.

Community Anchor Institution

- **CAIs:** Select this checkbox to view CAI locations on the map.

- **Non-CAIs:** Select this checkbox to view eligible unserved and underserved BSLs on the map.

Project Area Unit Legend

- **Tribal Lands:** PAUs that contain an eligible unserved or underserved BSL that falls within Tribal lands.
- **Non-Scoring:** PAUs that do not contain an eligible unserved or underserved BSL. Non-scoring PAUs can be added to the Project Area.
- **Scoring:** PAUs that contain an unserved or underserved BSL.

Map Layers

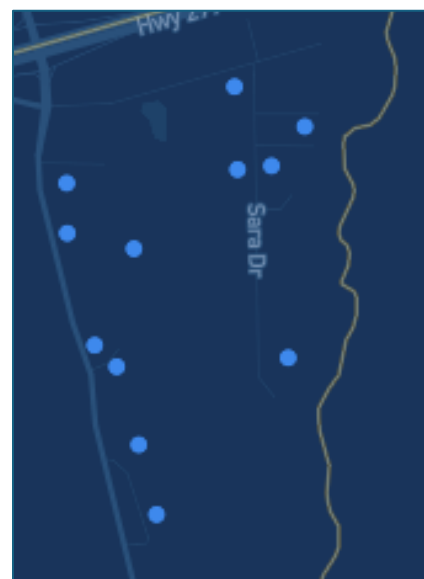
The following overlay layers are to be used for applicant reference:

- **High Cost Area:** NTIA defined “high-cost areas”
- **California Middle-Mile Broadband Network**
- **State Highways**

The zoom level will determine how BSL and CAI locations are visualized on the map. At lower levels (farther from the earth) you will see fewer locations, and the exact geolocation may be summarized or ‘sampled.’ When reviewing a PAU for map selection or when optionally selecting CAIs, a higher zoom level (closer to the earth) is recommended. Certain CAIs and BSLs may have the same geolocation.



High zoom level



Low zoom level

Clicking “Collapse” at the bottom of the left-side menu closes the menu. The extra mapping room may be helpful for lower-resolution monitors.

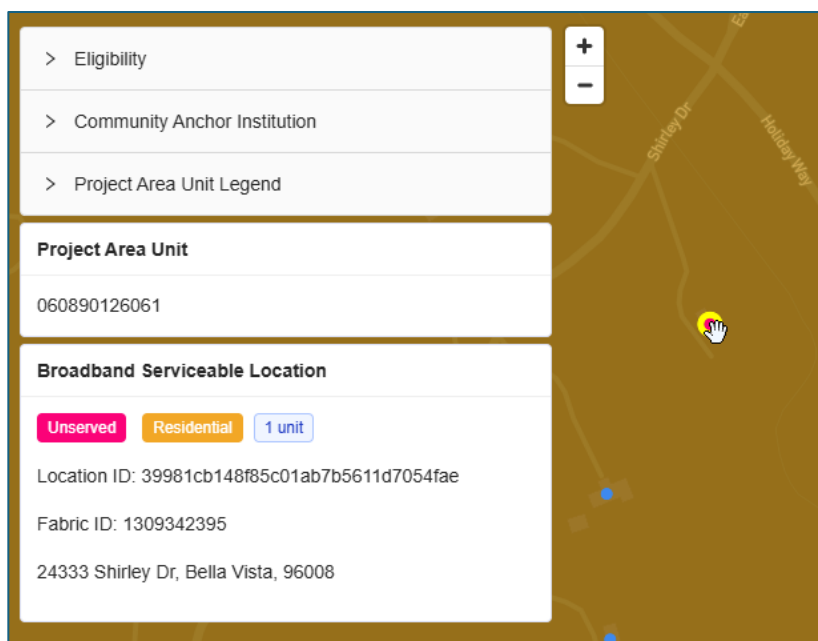
Hover Information Pane

While hovering your mouse over a PAU, BSL, or CAI location, information panes will appear under the Project Area Unit Legend.

Step One: Create Project Area

Create the Project Area for this application by selecting contiguous (sharing a vertex) PAUs you wish to serve. There is a portal limit of 850 PAUs per application.

Applications have a limit of 850 PAUs per Project Application. If applicants wish to apply for more than 850 PAUs, they will need to submit more than one application.



PAU and BSL information pane visible after the mouse hovers over the BSL location and intersecting PAU.

When uploading 350 or more PAUs to a Project Application, users may experience a delay of up to five (5) minutes. This is also dependent on users' internet connection and may take longer for some connections.

There are three methods to select PAUs:

1. Click on the PAU directly on the map.
2. Search for a PAU by ID. This method is available under the menu titled "Search for Project Area Unit by ID or Name."
3. Upload a CSV or XLSX file of PAU IDs. Sample CSV and XLSX files are available in the application portal. This method is available under the menu titled "Select by uploading Project Area Unit IDs."

Note that PAUs without eligible locations can be added to your Project Area without affecting your score. Due to the nature of Tribal lands, certain Tribal land PAUs may be non-contiguous. This is an expected outcome of the Project Area creation process. Applicants creating a Project Area with these non-contiguous PAUs may not have a fully contiguous Project Area, but this is acceptable for the application.

Regardless of your selection method, the following Project Area creation rules will be enforced by the application portal:

- **Minimum Selection Not Met** – Please select at least one PAU.
- **No Eligible Locations Selected** – Please select PAUs that cover at least one eligible unserved or underserved location.
- **Multiple Contiguous Areas Selected** – You have selected PAUs that form two contiguous areas. Please adjust your selection to form a single contiguous area.

After selecting one or more PAUs, a summary of the intersecting Unserved BSLs, Underserved BSLs, Unserved CAIs, and “Indicated” locations will appear under the right-side menu titled **Selected Project Area Units**.

In this step, the selection will automatically include all unserved and underserved BSLs and all eligible CAIs. Applicants can remove locations, including removing the CAIs the applicant is not proposing to serve, in Step Two.

Selected project area units (2 selected)	
Area Name	Eligible Locations
060890108052 x	4
060890108051 x	141
Total Clear X	145
10 Unserved BSLs 10 Unserved CAI	125 Underserved 0 Indicated

Selected Project Area Units information pane

The “Eligible Locations” value is a sum of the Unserved, Underserved, and CAI locations. Certain eligible locations may be funded by other enforceable commitments, such as the [Last Mile Federal Funding Account](#) (FFA) or the [California Advanced Services Fund](#) (CASF), and are referred to as “Indicated” locations. “Indicated” eligible locations with pending enforceable commitments are represented on the map with a yellow triangular symbol. Locations that will be served by FFA, CASF, or another enforceable commitment are not eligible for BEAD funding and will be removed from your BEAD project in accordance with NTIA rules.

After creating your Project Area click the blue “Review Locations” button on the bottom right to proceed to the next step. If this button is greyed out, that means certain Project Area creation rules were not met. Check the menu titled **Selected Project Area Unit issues** on the right-side menu pane for more information.



Two Indicated locations with the ⚠ symbol

Step Two: Review Locations

In this step applicants can review information on each eligible unserved and underserved location that falls within the Project Area. Applicants are required to serve at least 60 percent of all eligible locations within the Project Area; the total number of eligible locations is identified on the menu titled “Required locations (*n* selected)” where *n* is the total number of required locations based on the total locations in the selected project area. Please note that the 60 percent is comprised of eligible BEAD fundable locations. Any locations that are marked as “indicated” may be included in the application but will not count towards the calculation of the required 60 percent of locations and will likely not be funded due to pending enforceable commitment contract negotiations. Applicants may export a CSV or XLSX file of the eligible locations in the Project Area within the same menu. The export will contain the fabric ID, address information, service level (unserved or underserved), latitude, longitude, and “id”.

Deselecting Locations

Applicants may remove any of the locations in the selected project area. Locations may be manually removed by clicking 'X' on the location from the list of locations in the selected project area. Locations that are selected will appear as a pink dot with a green circle around them. Deselected locations will remove the green circle from the location point on the map. Applicants may click 'Select All' or 'Clear' to select or deselect all locations from the project area at once. Optionally, applicants may upload a CSV or XLSX file with the locations the applicant proposes to serve in the selected project area.

Note that an applicant cannot propose to serve less than 60 percent of eligible and fundable BSLs. The calculation of the coverage percentage does not include any indicated locations.

This process of deselecting locations is also used for deselecting CAIs. The portal will automatically include all CAIs in the selected project area. If an applicant is not proposing to serve any CAIs, the applicant must deselect all CAIs from the selected project area.

After reviewing and completing location selection and/or deselection, click the blue “Save Selections” to save the location selection.

Editing the Map Selection

It is possible to navigate back to Section 2 and modify the Project Area and selected locations at any time before submitting the project application. After navigating to Section 2, click the white “Edit Project Area” button in the bottom right to modify the selected PAUs and CAIs.

Section 3: Project Snapshot

3.1* Provide the dollar amount of the applicant's proposed Total Project Cost (i.e., the total cost to serve the unserved and underserved locations in the Project Area Units (PAU) selected, including matching funds) rounded to the nearest cent.

Enter the response in the currency field. Applicants should not include costs associated with serving CAI locations in the Total Project Cost.

3.2* Provide the dollar amount of the applicant's proposed Total Funding Request (i.e., how much grant funding the applicant is seeking with this application to serve the unserved and underserved locations in the Project Area Units (PAU) selected, not including matching funds) rounded to the nearest cent.

Enter the response in the currency field. Include all BEAD funding requested. In the case that the applicant is requesting a match waiver, include any BEAD funding requested to meet the 25% match requirement.

3.3 This question is no longer required.

3.3Ai* This question is no longer required.

3.3B* This question is no longer required.

3.3Bi This question is no longer required.

3.3Bii* This question is no longer required.

3.3Biii This question is no longer required.

3.3Biv* This question is no longer required.

3.3Bv* This question is no longer required.

3.3Bvi* This question is no longer required.

3.3Bvii* This question is no longer required.

3.3Bviii* This question is no longer required.

3.3Bix* This question is no longer required.

3.3Bx* This question is no longer required.

3.3Bxi* This question is no longer required.

3.3Bxii* This question is no longer required.

3.3Bxiii* This question is no longer required.

3.3Bxiv This question is no longer required.

3.3Bxv This question is no longer required.

3.3Bxvi* This question is no longer required.

3.3Bxvii* This question is no longer required.

3.3Bxviii* This question is no longer required.

3.3C The total number of unserved and underserved broadband serviceable locations (BSL) in the Project Area will be automatically calculated.

The application portal will automatically calculate a response to this question based on the Project Area created in Section 2.

3.3Ci The total number of unserved BSLs this project proposes to serve will be automatically calculated.

The application portal will automatically calculate a response to this question based on the Project Area created in Section 2.

3.3Cii The total number of underserved BSLs this project proposes to serve will be automatically calculated.

The application portal will automatically calculate a response to this question based on the Project Area created in Section 2.

3.3Ciii The total number of CAIs this project proposes to serve will be automatically calculated.

The application portal will automatically calculate a response to this question based on the applicant's selection in Section 2.

3.3Civ The total number of unserved, underserved, and CAI locations this project proposes to serve will be automatically calculated.

The application portal will automatically calculate a response to this question by summing the responses to questions 3.3Ci, 3.3Cii and 3.3Ciii.

3.3Cv The percentage of selected unserved and underserved BSLs in the proposed Project Area that fall within an NTIA-defined High-Cost Area (HCA) will be automatically calculated.

The application portal will automatically calculate a response to this question based on the Project Area created in Section 2.

3.3D* This question is no longer required.

3.3Di* This question is no longer required.

3.3Dii* This question is no longer required.

3.3Diii* This question is no longer required.

3.3Div* This question is no longer required.

3.3E* This question is no longer required.

3.3Ei* This question is no longer required.

3.3Eii* This question is no longer required.

3.4* Provide the total amount of cash and in-kind matching funds for the project to be provided by the applicant itself.

Enter the response in the currency field. For more information on in-kind matching funds applicants should reference the NOFO pages 21-22.

3.4A* Provide the total dollar amount of cash and in-kind matching funds for the project to be provided by match-eligible, non-BEAD federal sources. If there are no match-eligible, non-BEAD federal sources, please respond with “0.”

Enter the response in the currency field.

3.4Ai* Using the Match-Eligible Federal Sources Template, provide a breakdown of the funding dollar amount per federal source.

Upload the “Match-Eligible Federal Sources Template” in XLSX format. A response to this question is required only to applicants who entered a response greater than \$0 in question 3.4A.

3.4B* Provide the total dollar amount of cash and in-kind matching funds for the project to be provided by non-BEAD state sources. If there are no non-BEAD state sources, please respond with “0.”

Enter the response in the currency field.

3.4C* Provide the total amount of cash and in-kind matching funds for the project to be provided by other sources such as non-profit organizations. If there are no other sources, please respond with “0.”

Enter the response in the currency field.

If the dollar amount of matching funds provided by non-BEAD sources (the sum of the answers to 3.4 to 3.4C) *plus* the Total Funding Request entered in question 3.2 does not equal the Total Project Cost entered in question 3.1, the applicant will be forced to revise the relevant question responses.

3.4D* Are you requesting a matching fund waiver? Please note that project proposals that commit to meeting at least minimum matching requirements will be processed first. If provisionally awarded, projects that seek match waivers will be submitted to NTIA along with the waiver justifications. Final award will be subject to NTIA approval.

Select “Yes” or “No.” If “Yes,” proceed to questions 3.4Di and 3.4Dii. Otherwise proceed to question 3.4E.

Source: IPv2 5.7 (p. 51).

3.4Di* Provide the total dollar amount of the match waiver requested.

Enter the response in the currency field. A response to this question is only required from applicants who answered “Yes” to question 3.4D. As a reminder, the Total Funding Request (question 3.2) must include the total dollar amount requested in the match waiver.

3.4Dii* Upload waiver support documentation.

Upload a single file in XLSX or PDF format. Documentation must describe the special circumstances underlying the request and explain how a waiver would serve the public interest and effectuate the purposes of the BEAD Program (see the BEAD NOFO, Section III.B.5). A response to this question is only required from applicants who answered “Yes” to question 3.4D.

3.4E The total dollar amount of matching funds from all sources will be automatically calculated.

The total dollar amount of matching funds will be automatically calculated by the application portal by summing the responses to the following five questions:

- 3.4 – Total amount of cash and in-kind matching funds for the project to be provided by the applicant itself,
- 3.4A – Total dollar amount of cash and in-kind matching funds for the project to be provided by match-eligible, non-BEAD federal sources,

- 3.4B – Total dollar amount of cash and in-kind matching funds for the project to be provided by non-BEAD state sources, and
- 3.4C – Total amount of cash and in-kind matching funds for the project to be provided by other sources such as non-profit organizations.
- 3.3Di – Total dollar amount of the match waiver requested (if applicable).

3.4F NTIA 25% Match Requirement.

The application portal will automatically calculate a response to this question. If the percentage of matching funds for eligible locations outside NTIA High-Cost Areas is less than 25%, the applicant must apply for a matching fund waiver in question 3.4D.

Source: NOFO (p.20).

3.4G* Do any of the matching funds included in this response qualify as in-kind?

Select “Yes” or “No.” If “Yes,” proceed to questions 3.4Gi and 3.4Gii. Otherwise proceed to question 3.5. Please reference the NOFO pages 21-22 for more information about qualified in-kind contributions.

3.4Gi* Using the In-Kind Matching Funds Template, provide the dollar amount and source for all in-kind matching funds for the project.

Upload the “In-Kind Matching Funds Template” in XLSX format. A response to this question is only required from applicants who answered “Yes” to question 3.4G.

3.4Gii* Upload financial justification for the valuation of in-kind matching funds. Financial justification must break out costs for each line item for the in-kind match.

Upload a single file in XLSX or PDF format. A response to this question is only required from applicants who answered “Yes” to question 3.4G.

3.5* Provide the estimated number of total route miles for the new project build. For wireless technologies, include only route miles to the tower/antennae or ground station.

Enter the response in the number field.

3.6* Provide the estimated miles of aerial fiber for the new project build. If no aerial fiber will be used, please enter “0.”

Enter the response in the number field.

3.7* Provide the estimated miles of underground fiber for the new project build. If no underground fiber will be used, please enter “0.”

Enter the response in the number field.

3.8 The dollar amount of the average BEAD funding cost per unserved and underserved BSL that the applicant proposes to serve will be automatically calculated.

The application portal will automatically calculate a response to this question by dividing the Total Funding Request (question 3.2) by the count of BSLs in the proposed Project Area (question 3.3C).

Source: BEAD NOFO (p. 43).

3.8A This question is no longer required.

3.9* Select the category that best describes the lead applicant's service provider type.

Select a single option: ILEC, Non-ILEC Service Provider, Cooperative, Tribal Government, Municipality or Local Government, Nonprofit Organization, Public-Private Partnership, Public or Private Utility, Public Utility District.

3.10* This question is no longer required.

3.10A* This question is no longer required.

3.10B* This question is no longer required.

3.11* Provide a website address (URL) for the lead applicant.

Enter the response in the textbox.

3.12* Provide the estimated number of employment opportunities (full-time equivalent) created by the project.

Enter the response in the number field.

3.13* This question is no longer required.

3.13A* This question is no longer required.

3.13B* This question is no longer required.

3.13C* This question is no longer required.

3.13D* This question is no longer required.

3.13E* This question is no longer required.

3.13F* This question is no longer required.

3.14* This question is no longer required.

3.14A* This question is no longer required.

3.14B* This question is no longer required.

Section 4: Scoring Criteria

This section is no longer required.

4.1* This question is no longer required.

4.1A* This question is no longer required.

4.1B* This question is no longer required.

4.1C* This question is no longer required.

4.2* This question is no longer required.

4.2A* This question is no longer required.

4.2Ai* This question is no longer required.

4.2B* This question is no longer required.

4.2Bi* This question is no longer required.

4.2C This question is no longer required.

4.2D* This question is no longer required.

4.2Di This question is no longer required.

4.2Dii This question is no longer required.

4.2Diii This question is no longer required.

4.2Div This question is no longer required.

4.2Dv This question is no longer required.

4.2Dvi This question is no longer required.

4.2Dvii This question is no longer required.

4.2Dviii This question is no longer required.

4.2Dix* This question is no longer required.

4.3 This question is no longer required.

4.4* This question is no longer required.

4.5 This question is no longer required.

4.6* This question is no longer required.

- 4.6A* This question is no longer required.
- 4.6B This question is no longer required.
- 4.7* This question is no longer required.
- 4.7A* This question is no longer required.
- 4.7B* This question is no longer required.
- 4.7C* This question is no longer required.
- 4.7D* This question is no longer required.
- 4.7Di* This question is no longer required.

Section 5: Project Plan

Applicants are encouraged to review Section 5.3 of California’s Initial Proposal Volume 2 to ensure the project will satisfy program requirements.

5.1* This question is no longer required.

5.2* This question is no longer required.

5.3* Upload a zipped file folder containing shapefiles illustrating the applicant’s proposed network design. The design shall include:

1. All BSL and CAI locations to be served by the project,
2. All proposed fiber infrastructure routes to be constructed by the project,
3. Project Area boundary polygons encompassing all infrastructure routes, interconnection points, and required right-of-way usage,
4. Any interconnection points or middle-mile infrastructure used to support the Project Area that are outside the polygon,
5. Supporting infrastructure such as poles, conduit, manholes/handholes, towers, ground stations, and antennae, and,
6. The location of electronics including routers, lasers, and power supplies.

A legend must be supplied for all design elements.

Upload a single ZIP file containing the shapefiles required for the response.

Source: IPv2 5.12.3.5 (pp. 67-68).

5.3A* This question is no longer required.

5.3B* This question is no longer required.

5.3C* Does the design utilize backup power and redundant routes to be able to respond to damage from a wildfire?

Select “Yes” or “No.”

Source: IPv2 12.2.3 (pp. 180-184).

5.3D* This question is no longer required.

5.4* Using the Technical Specifications Template provided, upload descriptions of the proposed project’s technical specifications and design. Include project elements such as the proposed miles of fiber, number of interconnection points, technology types to be deployed, number of passings, and anticipated speeds and latency of the services to be offered over the completed network.

Upload the “Technical Specification Template” in XLSX format.

Source: IPv2 5.12.3.5 (p. 67).

5.5* This question is no longer required.

5.6* This question is no longer required.

5.7* Using the Project Timeline Template provided, upload a detailed project timeline demonstrating deployment timelines and milestones that reflect a construction and installation process of no longer than four years, including planning, design, procurement, construction, installation, network turn-up and testing, and service initiation. The proposed deployment timelines and milestones must account for the need to obtain necessary permits and complete all compliance requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as well as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Applicants that demonstrate a faster speed to deployment will receive a higher score.

Upload the “Project Timeline” template in XLSX format.

Source: IPv2 5.12.3.5 (p. 70).

5.8* Using the Project Costs Template provided, upload documentation of project costs, operational costs, and budgets that connect these showings to other sections of the application to create a comprehensive description of the proposed project and a showing of technical and financial feasibility.

Upload the “Project Costs” template in XLSX format.

Source: IPv2 5.12.3.5 (p. 70).

5.9 Using the Professional Engineer Certification Template provided, upload a PDF document signed by a currently licensed Professional Engineer that certifies that the engineer has reviewed all necessary elements of the proposed project, including descriptions and documentation of the network design, build-out timelines, business case, and budgets.

The engineer must certify that the proposed project meets all applicable program requirements and is designed to be successfully completed and capable of meeting all performance commitments and requirements to all locations served by the project within the proposed timeline.

The certifying engineer must hold all required professional licenses with a “clear” status from any state or other eligible entity. Signed original document must be retained in accordance with program rules.

The CPUC will allow applicants that are otherwise technically qualified applicants and have submitted technically sufficient responses to submit the PE certification

after the application submission window. The absence of the PE certification in the application will be treated as a waiver request. If the applicant otherwise fulfills the technical requirements, the CPUC will allow the applicant to submit before award. Because time allotted for the subgrantee selection process is very short, it is of the utmost importance that the applicant provide the certification as soon as possible to be considered for award.

Upload the “Professional Engineer Certification” template in PDF format. Both digital and wet signatures are acceptable.

Source: IPv2 5.12.3.6 (pp. 68-69).

5.10* Upload documentation of the Professional Engineer’s licenses as well as any written reports, letters, or analysis provided by the Professional Engineer regarding the proposed project.

Upload files in PDF format.

Source: IPv2 5.12.3.6 (pp. 68-69).

5.11* This question is no longer required.

5.12* This question is no longer required.

5.12A* This question is no longer required.

5.13* Does the proposed project include any locations on Tribal lands?

This field will autofill “Yes” or “No” based on the PAUs and locations in the proposed project. If “Yes,” proceed to questions 5.13A through 5.13E. Otherwise proceed to question 5.14.

Source: IPv2 5.9 (p. 52).

5.13A* On which Tribal lands does the proposed project include locations?

Enter the response in the textbox (1,200-character limit). A response is only required from applicants with “Yes” in question 5.13. Applicants should reference the Tribal lands layer in Section 2 of this application.

5.13B* Does the applicant have a written formal Resolution of Consent or other formal form of consent consistent with the applicable Tribe’s governing structure? If the applicant does not have the appropriate form of consent from the applicable Tribal government, the applicant will be required to provide such documents before preliminary award. A formal Resolution of Consent (or equivalent formal form of consent consistent with the Tribe’s governing structure) must be submitted to the CPUC before funds may be formally committed.

Select “Yes” or “No.” A response is only required from applicants with “Yes” in question 5.13. If “Yes,” proceed to question 5.13C. Otherwise proceed to question 5.13D. Applicants who do not submit a formal Resolution of Consent during the application process will be required to respond to an additional revision request within the application portal before funds are formally committed. Resources: [Native American Heritage Commission \(NAHC\)](#), [Local Government Tribal Consultation List Request](#); [NAHC, Sacred Lands File & Native American Contacts List Request](#).

Source: IPv2 5.9 (p. 52).

5.13C* Upload a formal Resolution of Consent or other formal form of consent consistent with the applicable Tribe’s governing structure from the applicable Tribal government.

Upload files in PDF format. A response is only required from applicants who responded “Yes” to questions 5.13 and 5.13B.

Source: IPv2 5.9 (p. 52).

5.13D* Does the applicant have substantial evidence of meaningful and sustained consultation with the Tribal government?

Select “Yes” or “No.” If “Yes,” proceed to question 5.13E. Otherwise proceed to question 5.14.

Source: IPv2 5.9 (p. 52).

5.13E* Upload the substantial evidence of meaningful and sustained consultation with the Tribal government, which may include a fully executed Letter of Intent, as one file. Note that a formal Resolution of Consent (or equivalent formal form of consent consistent with the Tribe’s governing structure) is a required element of the review to be determined to be a presumptive awardee and must be submitted to the CPUC before funds may be formally committed.

Upload a single file in PDF format.

Source: IPv2 5.9 (p. 52).

5.14* Provide a brief project description (maximum of 1,000 characters). This project description will be included in the Final Proposal posted for public comment.

Enter the response in the textbox (1,000-character limit).

Source: Final Proposal Guidance Version 1.2 (p. 13).

5.15* Upload a zipped file folder containing a map of the Project Area (in KMZ or shapefile format) indicating all proposed project elements, including staging areas

and access routes; existing infrastructure, buildings, and roads; locations and dimensions of ground disturbance; and Federal, State, and local jurisdictional lands.

Upload a single ZIP file containing the KMZ and/or shapefiles required for the response.

Resource: [NTIA, Permitting and Environmental Information Application](#).

Questions 5.15 through 5.29 are from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Questionnaire. Some of these questions have been amended and moved to Section 11, the “Addendum” section of the Project Application. Projects in California funded under BEAD Program are subject to both the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and CEQA. The NTIA is the NEPA lead agency, and the CPUC is the CEQA lead agency (collectively, “lead agencies”). As part of compliance with NEPA and CEQA, all BEAD funding applicants are required to complete the following Environmental Questionnaire (“Questionnaire”) for review and approval by the lead agencies; it is recommended that the applicant retain or plan to retain an environmental consultant to assist in completing this Questionnaire and to support with any additional environmental requirements found to be necessary. It is the responsibility of the lead agencies to determine whether a proposed project qualifies for an exclusion or exemption under NEPA and CEQA, respectively, based on the information provided. The applicant’s submittal of this Questionnaire is required to initiate and support environmental review under NEPA and CEQA but does not in itself satisfy the requirements of CEQA and NEPA. The CPUC must finalize their review of this Questionnaire for the project application to be deemed complete.

For the purposes of this Questionnaire, the project “area” or “site” shall include the footprint(s) of the proposed facilities and infrastructure as well as any staging areas, temporary access routes, and other areas which will be temporarily or permanently used or otherwise disturbed as a result of the project. Responses must take into account the whole of the action involved, including off-site and on-site elements and impacts from both project construction and operation. If there are still undecided design elements, the applicant shall submit information relevant to and reflective of all possible design options, to allow the lead agencies to evaluate the maximum project footprint and the full range of potential environmental effects.

Source: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Questionnaire.

5.15A* Provide a physical description of the project site and surrounding areas, including existing development such as roads, utilities, or buildings; existing terrain and land use; and Federal, State, and local jurisdictional lands.

Enter the response in the textbox (3,000-character limit).

Source: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Questionnaire.

5.15B* This question is no longer required.

5.15C* This question is no longer required.

5.16* Provide ground level and aerial photos of the Project Area and Key Observation Points (KOPs).

Upload files in an image format: JPG, JPEG, PNG, GIF, or BMP.

Source: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Questionnaire.

5.17* Is the Project Area located within a designated State Scenic Highway?

Select “Yes” or “No.” If “Yes,” proceed to question 5.17A. Otherwise proceed to question 5.18. Resource: [California Department of Transportation, State Scenic Highway Program](#).

Source: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Questionnaire.

5.17A* Describe what segments of which designated Scenic Highway(s) are located within the Project Area.

Enter the response in the textbox (3,000-character limit). A response is only required from applicants who responded “Yes” to question 5.17.

Source: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Questionnaire.

5.18* List the best management practices (BMPs) that the applicant intends to implement to minimize or avoid potential environmental effects from the project.

Enter the response in the textbox (3,000-character limit).

Source: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Questionnaire.

5.19* Are there historic properties, as defined in the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), within or immediately adjacent to the Project Area?

Select “Yes” or “No.” If “Yes,” proceed to questions 5.19A. Otherwise proceed to question 5.19B. Resource: [California Office of Historic Preservation, California Historical Resources Information System \(CHRIS\)](#).

Source: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Questionnaire.

5.19A* Describe how the applicant plans to evaluate and/or avoid effects to historic properties in accordance with applicable Federal and State regulations, including Section 106 of the NHPA and CEQA.

Enter the response in the textbox (3,000-character limit). A response is only required from applicants who responded “Yes” to question 5.19.

Source: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Questionnaire.

5.19B* Describe the efforts the applicant has taken to substantiate the indicated response (e.g., environmental studies, field surveys, consultation with agencies, literature review or desktop research, etc.). List the agencies, parties, or databases consulted.

Enter the response in the textbox (3,000-character limit). A response is only required from applicants who responded “No” to question 5.19.

Source: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Questionnaire.

5.20* This question is no longer required.

5.20A* This question is no longer required.

5.20B* This question is no longer required.

5.20C* Upload a wetlands map from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory with the Project Area overlain (to show if and where the project falls within a wetland or waterway).

Upload a single file in PDF format. Resource: [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service \(USFWS\), Information for Planning and Consultation \(IPaC\)](#).

Source: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Questionnaire.

5.21* Is there a potential for threatened or endangered species listed as sensitive, special status, threatened, or endangered, or for their critical habitat, as identified by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), USFWS, or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries, within or adjacent to the Project Area?

Select “Yes” or “No.” If “Yes,” proceed to question 5.21A. Otherwise proceed to question 5.21B. Resources: [California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Natural Diversity Database \(CNDDB\)](#); [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\) Fisheries, Species Directory](#).

Source: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Questionnaire.

5.21A* Describe how the applicant plans to evaluate and/or avoid effects to listed species and habitats in accordance with applicable Federal and State regulations, including the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) and California Endangered Species Act (CESA).

Enter the response in the textbox (3,000-character limit). A response is only required from applicants who responded “Yes” to question 5.21. Resources: [Endangered Species Act | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#); [Threatened and Endangered Species](#).

Source: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Questionnaire.

5.21B* Describe the efforts the applicant has taken to substantiate the indicated response (e.g., environmental studies, field surveys, consultation with agencies, literature review or desktop research, etc.). List the agencies, parties, or databases consulted.

Enter the response in the textbox (3,000-character limit). A response is only required from applicants who responded “No” to question 5.21.

Source: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Questionnaire.

5.21C* Upload a Federal Threatened and Endangered Species List for the Project Area from the USFWS’ Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) tool.

Upload files in any format. Resource: [IPaC: Getting Started - Draw on Map](#).

Source: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Questionnaire.

5.21D* Upload a records search from the CDFW’s California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB).

Upload files in any format. Resource: [California Natural Diversity Database](#).

Source: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Questionnaire.

5.22* Does the project have the potential to directly or indirectly affect migratory birds, including their nests, eggs, or habitat, such as from vegetation removal, tree trimming, or noise and vibration?

Select “Yes” or “No.” If “Yes,” proceed to question 5.22A. Otherwise proceed to question 5.22B.

Source: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Questionnaire.

5.22A* Describe how the applicant plans to comply with applicable Federal and State regulations, including the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the California Fish and Game Code.

Enter the response in the textbox (3,000-character limit). A response is only required from applicants who responded “Yes” to question 5.22. Resources: [Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#); [California Codes: Codes Tree - Fish and Game Code - FGC](#).

Source: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Questionnaire.

5.22B* Describe the applicant’s justification for the indicated response.

Enter the response in the textbox (3,000-character limit). A response is only required from applicants who responded “No” to question 5.22.

Source: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Questionnaire.

5.23* Identify any Federal, State, or local environmental permits, agreements, or approvals required for the project.

Select one or more of the following options:

1. Section 106 Consultation/Report, State Historic Preservation Office
2. Tribal notification/consultation
3. Section 404 Permit, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
4. Section 401 Water Quality Certification, Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)
5. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit, RWQCB
6. Coastal Development Permit, California Coastal Commission
7. Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement, CDFW
8. Incidental Take Permit, CDFW
9. Section 7 Consultation/Biological Opinion, USFWS
10. Encroachment Permit, California Department of Transportation
11. Coordination with federal agency or jurisdictional authority (Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, etc.)
12. Other
13. None

Source: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Questionnaire.

5.23A* Specify the federal agency or jurisdictional authority (e.g., Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs) with which the applicant is coordinating.

Enter the response in the textbox (300-character limit). A response is only required from applicants who selected “Coordination with federal agency or jurisdictional authority (Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, etc.)” in question 5.23.

Source: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Questionnaire.

5.23B* If an applicable permit, agreement, or approval is not listed in question 5.21, indicate them in this response.

Enter the response in the textbox (300-character limit). A response is only required from applicants who selected “Other” in question 5.23.

Source: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Questionnaire.

5.24* Upload a floodplain map from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Map Service Center with the Project Area overlain (to show if and where the project falls within a floodplain).

Upload files in any format. Resource: [Federal Emergency Management Agency, Flood Map Service Center](#).

Source: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Questionnaire.

5.25* Upload a GeoTracker map from the State Water Resources Control Board with the Project Area overlain (to show if and where the project falls within or near sites that require cleanup, such as Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) sites, Military sites, or Cleanup Program Sites).

Upload files in any format. Resource: [GeoTracker](#).

Source: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Questionnaire.

5.26* The applicant understands that if there is a change to the project scope such that the submitted responses are no longer accurate, it is their responsibility to notify the CPUC to determine whether additional or updated environmental review is required.

Select the checkbox.

Source: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Questionnaire.

5.27* The applicant understands that submittal of this project plan does not in itself satisfy the requirements of CEQA and NEPA and that the CPUC must finalize their review of this Questionnaire for the project application to be deemed complete.

Select the checkbox.

Source: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Questionnaire.

5.28* Does the applicant believe that the project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption (CE) under CEQA?

Select “Yes” or “No.” If “Yes,” proceed to question 5.28A. Otherwise proceed to question 5.28B.

Source: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Questionnaire.

5.28A* Provide citations to the applicable CEQA section(s)/exemption(s) and explain why the cited CE(s) is appropriate (note that only the CPUC can determine whether a proposed project qualifies for a CE).

Enter the response in the textbox (3,000-character limit). A response is only required from applicants who responded “Yes” to question 5.28.

Source: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Questionnaire.

5.28B* Explain why the project does not qualify for a CE.

Enter the response in the textbox (3,000-character limit). A response is only required from applicants who responded “No” to question 5.28.

Source: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Questionnaire.

5.29* This question is no longer required.

5.29A* This question is no longer required.

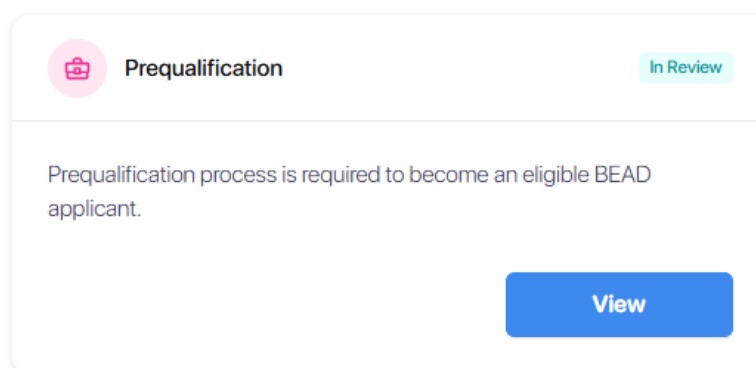
5.29B* This question is no longer required.

Section 6: Organizational and Managerial Capacity

6.1* Does the applicant have any updates to the organizational and managerial materials or responses submitted as part of its prequalification application? This includes:

- Key Personnel
- Management Organizational Charts
- Experience designing and constructing broadband infrastructure projects
- Broadband deployment projects that have received or are expected to receive public funding
- Supply chain or cybersecurity risk management plans
- Organizational and managerial materials previously submitted should not be resubmitted if there are no updates.

To view information submitted in the prequalification application, select “Save Application” at the bottom of the page then select “Home” on the left side menu pane. Select “View” in the Prequalification box on the home page. Review the information submitted in Section 3 of the prequalification application, “Management and Organizational Capability.”



Select “Yes” or “No.” If “Yes,” proceed to question 6.1A. Otherwise proceed to question 6.2. Applicants should not resubmit the same information if the organization and contact information has not changed since the prequalification was submitted.

6.1A* Upload the updated organizational and managerial materials, using the appropriate templates, if applicable. Submit all updates as one PDF file with responses clearly labeled with the appropriate section number.

Upload a single file in PDF format. A response is only required from applicants who responded “Yes” to question 6.1.

6.2* Provide additional data and descriptions of the applicant’s management capabilities to specifically address any unique needs of the proposed project. This project-specific management showing should reflect and correspond to other application elements including financial capability, network design, budgeting, and planning.

For example, if a proposed project will primarily serve a rural area, applicants should include specific references to key management personnel, organizational teams, and the entity’s general experience with projects in rural areas. Similarly, if an applicant proposes a project that will serve significant numbers of multi-dwelling-unit buildings or utilize an innovative construction technique, applicants should highlight the experience of the entity or its management personnel in those areas.

Upload files in PDF format.

Source: IPv2 5.12.2.4 (p. 65).

6.3* This question is no longer required.

6.3A* This question is no longer required.

Section 7: Financial Capability

7.1* Does the applicant have any updates to the financial information files uploaded as part of its prequalification application? Financial materials previously submitted should not be resubmitted if there are no updates.

Select “Yes” or “No.” If “Yes,” proceed to question 7.1A. Otherwise proceed to the following question. Applicants should not resubmit the same information if the organization and contact information has not changed since the prequalification was submitted.

7.1A* Upload the updated financial information. Submit all updates as one PDF file with responses clearly labeled with the appropriate section number.

Upload a single file in PDF format. A response is only required from applicants who responded “Yes” to question 7.1.

7.2* This question is no longer required.

7.2A* This question is no longer required.

7.2B* This question is no longer required.

7.2C* This question is no longer required.

7.3* This question is no longer required.

7.3A* This question is no longer required.

7.3B* This question is no longer required.

7.3C Upload any additional documentation that the applicant believes will complement the template information and will present a fuller picture of the applicant’s financial capabilities and the proposed project’s financial sustainability. If no additional documentation is necessary, upload a file stating, “No additional documentation is necessary.”

This response is optional. Upload files in PDF format.

Source: IPv2 5.12.1.4 (pp. 62-63).

7.4* Has the applicant or one of its affiliates ever been involved in bankruptcy or a creditor(s) rights or receivership proceeding, or sought protection from creditors?

Select “Yes” or “No.”

Section 8: Project Staffing and Labor Requirements

8.1* This question is no longer required.

8.2* This question is no longer required.

8.2A* This question is no longer required.

8.3* This question is no longer required.

8.4* This question is no longer required.

8.4A* This question is no longer required.

8.5* This question is no longer required.

8.5A* This question is no longer required.

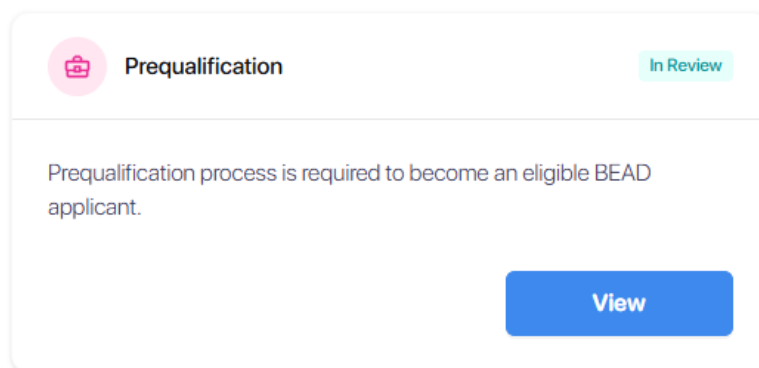
8.6* This question is no longer required.

8.7* This question is no longer required.

Section 9: Ownership Information

9.1* Does the applicant have any updates to the ownership information submitted as part of its prequalification application using the Ownership Information Template? Ownership information materials previously submitted should not be resubmitted if there are no updates.

To view information submitted in the prequalification application, select “Save Application” at the bottom of the page then select “Home” on the left-side menu pane. Select “View” under the Prequalification menu. Review the information submitted in Section 4, “Compliance with Applicable Laws,” question 4.6.



Select “Yes” or “No.” If “Yes,” proceed to question 9.1A. Otherwise proceed to Section 10. Applicants should not resubmit the same information if the organization and contact information has not changed since the prequalification was submitted.

9.1A* Using the Ownership Information Template, provide updated ownership information.

Upload the “Ownership Information” template in PDF format. A response is only required from applications who responded “Yes” to question 9.1.

Section 10: Compliance

10.1* The applicant certifies that it is eligible to apply for this subgrant under federal, State, and local law.

Select the checkbox.

10.2* The applicant certifies that it understands the BEAD NOFO requirement to begin providing broadband service to each customer that desires broadband service not later than 48 months after the date on which the applicant receives the subgrant for the applicable network.

Select the checkbox.

Source: “Speed to Deployment,” NOFO, IV.B.7.b.i (p. 43).

10.3* This question is no longer required.

10.4* This question is no longer required.

10.5* This question is no longer required.

10.6* This question is no longer required.

10.7* This question is no longer required.

10.8* This question is no longer required.

10.9* If BEAD funds are available to serve Eligible Community Anchor Institutions (CAI) across the State, the applicant certifies that during the BEAD Period of Performance, BEAD grant-funded connections to proposed Eligible CAIs shall be capable of delivering service at speeds not less than 1 Gigabit per second for downloads and 1 Gigabit per second for uploads with 95% of latency measurements during testing windows falling at or below 100 milliseconds round-trip time. Additionally, the applicant certifies that these grant-funded connections can be used to provide business data services, which refers to the dedicated point-to-point transmission of data at certain guaranteed speeds and service levels using high-capacity connections. See BEAD NOFO, p. 65.

Select the checkbox.

Source: NOFO IV.C.2.a.i (p. 65).

10.10* Certify, to the best of the applicant’s knowledge and belief, that the applicant understands the BEAD NOFO requirement that outages should not exceed, on

average, 48 hours over any 365-day period except in the case of natural disasters or other force majeure occurrence.

Select the checkbox.

Source: NOFO IV.C.2.a.ii (p. 65).

10.11* The applicant certifies that its submitted project cost estimate is accurate and encompasses all costs to be incurred by the applicant as part of the proposed project.

Select the checkbox.

10.12* The applicant certifies that its submitted project timeline is accurate and that it will be capable of providing broadband service to each proposed BSL and CAI that desires service within the committed timeframe.

Select the checkbox.

10.13* The applicant certifies that it will obtain all necessary federal, state, and local/Tribal governmental permits and required approvals necessary for the proposed work to be completed.

Select the checkbox.

Source: NOFO VII.D (p. 86).

10.14* The applicant certifies that it possesses the operational capability to complete and operate the project within the timeline and terms set by the subgrant and in compliance with all applicable federal, state, Tribal, and local laws.

Select the checkbox.

Source: IPv2 5.12.3.1 (pp. 65-66), 5.12.4 (pp. 69-70).

10.15* The applicant certifies that it will have sufficient financial resources to successfully complete its proposed project.

Select the checkbox.

Source: IPv2 5.12.1.1 (p. 57).

10.16* The applicant certifies that it understands that BEAD funding will use a reimbursement model, requiring subgrantees to commit resources to construct the network and begin service prior to receiving grant award funding as reimbursement for eligible expenses. The applicant certifies that it has and will continue to have

sufficient financial resources to cover its eligible costs for the project until such time as the CPUC authorizes additional disbursements.

Select the checkbox. It is the applicant's responsibility to provide invoices to obtain reimbursement for project costs. Please reference IPv2 17.2.4 (pp. 218-220), "Distribution of funds on a reimbursement basis," and the NOFO page 81, "Eligible Uses of BEAD Program Funds."

Source: IPv2 5.12.1.1 (p. 57).

10.17* The applicant certifies that it will have sufficient financial resources to provide the pledged matching funding as required by the BEAD Program rules.

Source: IPv2 5.12.1.1 (p. 57).

10.18* The applicant certifies that it will have the financial resources to support all project costs necessary to complete the project, even if those costs exceed the amount of grant award and pledged matching funds.

Select the checkbox.

Source: IPv2 5.12.1.1 (p. 57).

10.19* This question is no longer required.

10.20* This question is no longer required.

10.21* This question is no longer required.

10.22* This question is no longer required.

10.23* This question is no longer required.

10.24* This question is no longer required.

10.25* This question is no longer required.

10.26* The applicant certifies that it will comply with the prohibition set forth in the BEAD NOFO and federal law on subgrantees using BEAD funding to purchase or support fiber optic cable and optical transmission equipment manufactured in the People's Republic of China, subject to any applicable NTIA waivers of such prohibitions, as well as the prohibition on the use of certain telecommunications and video surveillance equipment or services set forth in 2 C.F.R. § 200.216.

Select the checkbox.

Source: NOFO VII.D.6 (p. 88).

10.27* The applicant certifies that it will comply with all program requirements, including service milestones.

Select the checkbox.

Source: NOFO IV.D.2.a.i (p. 72).

10.28* This question is no longer required.

10.29* This question is no longer required.

10.30* The applicant certifies that it will comply with the requirements listed in the General Terms and Conditions for the BEAD Program Funds issued by NTIA, as applicable.

Select the checkbox.

Source: NOFO (p. 95).

10.31* The applicant certifies that it will comply with the requirements listed in the Department of Commerce Financial Assistance General Terms and Conditions, as applicable.

Select the checkbox.

Source: NOFO IX.B (p. 95).

10.32* The applicant certifies that it will follow all Instructions for Lower Tier Participant Certification and will comply with the Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion - Lower Tier Covered Transactions detailed in the BEAD NOFO, V.D.3-4, p. 78-80.

If the applicant can certify, select “I certify” and proceed to question 10.34. Otherwise select “I do not certify” and proceed to question 10.33.

Source: NOFO V.D.3-4 (pp. 78-80).

10.33* If the applicant is unable to certify any of the statements in the certification in question 10.32, provide an explanation.

Applicants unable to certify 10.32 are requested to enter a response in the textbox (3,000 character limit).

Source: NOFO V.D.3-4 (pp. 78-80).

10.34* This question is no longer required.

10.35* The applicant certifies that it will provide access to broadband service to each customer served by the project that desires broadband service on terms and conditions that are reasonable and non-discriminatory in accordance with the BEAD NOFO.

Select the checkbox.

Source: NOFO IV.C.2.c.iii (p. 68).

10.36* The applicant certifies that it will promptly disclose whenever, in connection with the federal award (including any activities or subawards thereunder), it has credible evidence of the commission of a violation of federal criminal law involving fraud, conflict of interest, bribery, or gratuity violations found in Title 18 of the United States Code or a violation of the civil False Claims Act (31 U.S.C. §§ 3729–3733). The disclosure must be made in writing to the federal agency, the agency’s Office of Inspector General, and the CPUC (if applicable) in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.113. The applicant further certifies that it will comply with all applicable provisions of 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix XII, should it receive a BEAD subgrant.

Select the checkbox.

Source: NOFO VII.F (p. 92) and VII.G.1 (pp. 95-96).

10.37* The applicant certifies that it will comply with all applicable provisions of 2 C.F.R. Part 25, including the award term set forth in Appendix A to 2 C.F.R. Part 25, should it receive a BEAD subgrant.

Select the checkbox.

Source: NOFO IV.E (p. 80).

10.38* The applicant certifies that it will comply with all applicable provisions of 2 C.F.R. Part 170, including the award term set forth in Appendix A to 2 C.F.R. Part 170, should it receive a BEAD subgrant.

Select the checkbox.

Source: NOFO VII.H (p. 93).

10.39* The applicant certifies that its organization understands that, in addition to complying with the requirements of CEQA (see section 11.7), applicants seeking California BEAD funding may need to provide additional information during the review process for NTIA to fulfill the necessary National Environmental Policy Act

(NEPA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requirements. Additional NEPA guidance is forthcoming from NTIA. The CPUC will follow up for additional information or clarification, as needed, to complete the NEPA and NHPA reviews. Please refer to NTIA's BEAD NEPA Resource page for general information about these requirements (<https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/technical-assistance/NEPA-EHP-Compliance>).

Select the checkbox.

Source: NOFO VII.D.4 (pp. 86-87).

10.40* The applicant certifies that it understands that Deployment projects and activities funded as administrative expenses cannot include Human Subjects Research and that BEAD award grantees must comply with Department of Commerce (DOC) regulations relating to the protection of human subjects for all research conducted or supported pursuant to an NTIA award. The DOC regulations related to the protection of human subjects are found in 15 C.F.R. Part 27.

Select the checkbox.

Source: NTIA Guidance for Human Subjects Research Protection.

10.41* This question is no longer required.

10.41A* This question is no longer required.

10.42* The applicant certifies that it understands and will comply with the BEAD NOFO Audit Requirements, which state: 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart F, adopted by the Department of Commerce through 2 C.F.R. § 1327.101 requires any non-federal entity that expends federal awards of \$750,000 or more in the recipient's fiscal year to conduct a single or program-specific audit in accordance with the requirements set out in the Subpart. Additionally, unless otherwise specified in the terms and conditions of the award, entities that are not subject to Subpart F of 2 C.F.R. Part 200 (e.g., commercial entities) that expend \$750,000 or more in grant funds during their fiscal year must submit to the Grants Officer either: (i) a financial related audit of each DOC award or subaward in accordance with Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards; or (ii) a program specific audit for each award or subaward in accordance with the requirements contained in 2 C.F.R. § 200.507. Eligible Entities and its subgrantees are reminded that NTIA, the Department of Commerce Office of Inspector General, or another authorized federal agency may conduct an audit of an award at any time.

Select the checkbox.

Source: NOFO VII.G (p. 93).

10.43* The applicant certifies that it understands that the CPUC shall require that if a subgrantee, at any time, is no longer able to provide broadband service to the end user locations covered by the subgrant at any time on a retail basis remedial action be taken to ensure continuity of service. In consultation with NTIA, the CPUC shall require the subgrantee to sell the network capacity at a reasonable, wholesale rate on a nondiscriminatory basis to one or more other broadband service providers or public-sector entities or sell the network in its entirety to a new provider who commits to providing services under the terms of the BEAD Program.

Select the checkbox.

Source: NOFO IV.C.2.c.v (p. 69).

Section 11: Addendum

All new or modified questions have been added to this Project Application as Section 11, the "Addendum" section, in compliance with the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice issued by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) on June 6, 2025. In some cases, questions have been moved from other sections in the Project Application to the Addendum without modification to maintain question branching and logic flow within the application portal. All applicants must complete this section.

11.1* Indicate the project type:

- **Priority Broadband Project:** A project that provides broadband service at speeds of no less than 100 megabits per second for downloads and 20 megabits per second for uploads, has a latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds, and can easily scale speeds over time to meet the evolving connectivity needs of households and businesses and support the deployment of 5G, successor wireless technologies, and other advanced services.
- **Non-Priority Project:** A project that does not meet the definition of a Priority Broadband Project. A Non-Priority Project must still meet the speed and latency requirements of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO); in other words, a Non-Priority Project must offer service at or above 100/20 Mbps and latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds

Priority projects must employ technologies in the project proposal that meet the technical performance requirements in the NOFO, as redefined by NTIA's BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice (June 6, 2025) to align with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Applicants who select "Priority" must complete and upload evidence templates for each technology type they propose to deploy.

Select one of the following options: Priority or Non-Priority. Applicants can optionally add Community Anchor Institutions (CAI) to their proposed project in the next section of the application. CAI locations are considered served with a speed of not less than 1 Gbps for downloads and uploads alike and latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds.

Source: IPv2 5.1.3 (p. 28); IPv2 5.11 (pp. 54-56); NOFO (p. 37); NTIA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice 3.1 (pp. 8-10)

11.2* Does the proposed project utilize LEO satellite technology?

Select "Yes" or "No." If "Yes" in 11.2 and "Priority" in 11.1, proceed to question 11.2A. Otherwise proceed to question 11.3.

11.2A* Using the LEO Evidence Submission Template and instructions, upload descriptions of the proposed project’s technical specifications and design.

Download the attached template, complete it fully, and upload the completed file in response to this question. Refer to the attached instructions for how to complete the template. This question is only required for applicants answering “Yes” to Question 11.2 and “Priority” in 11.1.

11.3* Does the proposed project utilize Unlicensed Fixed Wireless (ULFW) technology?

Select “Yes” or “No.” If “Yes” in 11.13 and “Priority” in 11.1, proceed to question 11.3A. Otherwise proceed to question 11.4.

11.3A* Using the ULFW Evidence Submission Template and instructions, upload descriptions of the proposed project’s technical specifications and design.

Download the attached template, complete it fully, and upload the completed file in response to this question. Refer to the attached instructions for how to complete the template. This question is only required for applicants answering “Yes” to Question 11.3 and “Priority” in 11.1.

11.4* Does the proposed project utilize Licensed Fixed Wireless (LFW) technology?

Select “Yes” or “No.” If “Yes” in 11.4 and “Priority” in 11.1, proceed to question 11.4A. Otherwise proceed to question 11.5.

11.4A* Using the LFW evidence template and instructions, upload descriptions of the proposed project’s technical specifications and design.

Download the attached template, complete it fully, and upload the completed file in response to this question. Refer to the attached instructions for how to complete the template. This question is only required for applicants answering “Yes” to Question 11.4 and “Priority” in 11.1.

11.5* Does the proposed project utilize Hybrid Fiber-Coaxial (HFC) technology?

Select “Yes” or “No.” If “Yes” in 11.5 and “Priority” in 11.1, proceed to question 11.5A. Otherwise proceed to question 11.6.

11.5A* Using the Hybrid Fiber-Coaxial (HFC) Evidence Submission Template and instructions, upload descriptions of the proposed project’s technical specifications and design.

Download the attached template, complete it fully, and upload the completed file in response to this question. Refer to the attached instructions for how to complete the template. This question is only required for applicants answering “Yes” to Question 11.5 and “Priority” in 11.1.

11.6* Does the proposed project utilize fiber-to-the-premises technology?

Select “Yes” or “No.” If “Yes” in 11.6 and “Priority” in 11.1, proceed to question 11.6A. Otherwise proceed to question 11.7.

11.6A* Using the Fiber-to-the-Premises Evidence Submission Template and instructions, upload descriptions of the proposed project’s technical specifications and design.

Download the attached template, complete it fully, and upload the completed file in response to this question. Refer to the attached instructions for how to complete the template. This question is only required for applicants answering “Yes” to Question 11.6 and “Priority” in 11.1.

11.7* Using the Locations List Template and CAI Locations List Template provided, submit information on each BSL and CAI the project intends to serve, including the proposed technology type, anticipated upload and download speeds, whether or not the proposed service meets the definition of low latency, and, if applicable, information on the eligibility of the location for BEAD funding. This template has been updated in compliance with the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice. All applicants must submit a new Locations List Template and a new CAI List Template.

The application portal will automatically generate a “Locations List Template” and a “CAI List Template” based on the proposed Project Area and selected CAI locations. Upload files in XLSX or CSV format.

Refer to the instructions in the template for the data requirements for each column.

Source: IPv2 (pp. 43-44).

11.8* Has the applicant identified any locations that are ineligible for BEAD funding or any non-BSLs in the proposed Project Area?

Select “Yes” or “No.” If “Yes,” proceed to question 11.8A.

11.8A* How many locations are ineligible for BEAD funding or are non-BSLs in the proposed Project Area, as identified by the applicant?

Enter the response into the number field. A response to this question is only required from applicants who answered “Yes” to question 11.8. The total locations identified in this question must match the number of locations identified in the Locations List Template, “zeroFundingReason” column.

11.9* Upload one zipped file containing evidence for each location the applicant has identified as ineligible for BEAD funding or as a non-BSL, using templates as required. See the Application Guide and the “Instructions for Submitting No BEAD Location Evidence” for more information on acceptable forms of evidence and the use of templates.

A file titled “Instructions for Submitting No BEAD Location Evidence” is attached to this question in the portal with instructions for how to submit evidence. In addition, the “Network Diagram Officer Attestation Template” for reason code 5 is attached to this question in the portal; applicants should download and complete the template, and include the completed file in the zipped evidence file as applicable.

Upload one zipped file with evidence in PDF, CSV, or JPEG format. File names should follow the requirement listed in the “Instructions for Submitting No BEAD Location Evidence” file. A response to this question is only required from applicants who answered “Yes” to question 11.8. For “Location ID” please include the NTIA fabric ID, otherwise referenced by “fabricId”.

11.10* The applicant certifies that it commits to providing a low-cost service option (LCSO) that offers speeds of at least 100/20 Mbps and latency performance of no more than 100 milliseconds and that is available to any household seeking to subscribe to broadband internet access service that is eligible for the FCC’s Lifeline Program, for the duration of the 10-year federal interest period. Applicants that already offer a low-cost plan that meets these service requirements may satisfy the LCSO requirement by proposing to offer their existing low-cost plan to eligible subscribers.

Select the checkbox to certify.

Source: NTLA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice (pp. 6-8)

11.10A* What monthly service charge does the applicant expect to charge for its low-cost service option (LCSO)?

Enter the value in the textbox.

11.10B* Please estimate any one-time service charges that will apply to the applicant’s low-cost service option (LCSO).

Enter the value in the textbox.

11.10C* Does the applicant seek flexibility to change the monthly service charge for the low-cost service option (LCSO) during the 10-year federal interest period?

Select “Yes” or “No.”

11.10D* If the applicant expects to change the price for the low-cost service option (LCSO) over the 10-year federal interest period, explain the methodology for the potential changes.

“Enter the response in the textbox

11.11* Minimal BEAD Outlay: The funding request cost per location for the proposed project will be auto-calculated. This value, along with the dollar amount of the total funding request, will be used to evaluate the “Minimal BEAD Outlay” scoring criterion.

This field will auto-calculate.

Source: NTLA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice 3.4 (pp. 11-13)

11.12* Speed to Deployment: How many months does the applicant require to complete the project, starting upon receipt of funds and authorization to start the project upon fulfilling federal and state environmental requirements (such as excluding time to comply with State environmental laws)? This commitment is binding and subject to technical evaluation of network and project materials. Up to 10 points will be awarded if the applicant demonstrates that it will complete deployment in 36 months or less.

This criterion is part of the BEAD Program’s secondary scoring criteria. The CPUC will consider these criteria “if an application to serve the same general project area proposes a project cost within 15% of the lowest-cost proposal received for that same general project area on a per BSL basis” (Policy Notice, p. 12). These secondary criteria help differentiate between similarly priced proposals as required by the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice.

Enter the value in the textbox.

Source: NTLA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice 3.4 (pp. 11-13)

11.13* Speed of Network: What is the maximum speeds the proposed network will deliver? Up to 90 points.

- ≥ 2 Gbps download over ≥ 2 Gbps upload will receive 90 points.

- ≥ 1 Gbps and < 2 Gbps download over ≥ 1 Gbps and < 2 Gbps upload will receive 75 points.
- ≥ 500 Mbps and < 1 Gbps download over ≥ 500 Mbps and < 1 Gbps upload will receive 50 points.
- ≥ 100 Mbps and < 500 Mbps download over ≥ 100 Mbps and < 500 Mbps upload will receive 25 points.
- ≥ 100 Mbps download over ≥ 50 Mbps and < 100 Mbps upload will receive 15 points.
- ≥ 100 Mbps download over < 50 Mbps upload will receive 0 points.

This criterion is part of the BEAD Program’s secondary scoring criteria. The CPUC will consider these criteria “if an application to serve the same general project area proposes a project cost within 15% of the lowest-cost proposal received for that same general project area on a per BSL basis” (Policy Notice, p. 12). These secondary criteria help differentiate between similarly priced proposals as required by the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice.

Select one of the following options: “ ≥ 2 Gbps / ≥ 2 Gbps,” “ ≥ 1 Gbps and < 2 Gbps / ≥ 1 Gbps and < 2 Gbps,” “ ≥ 500 Mbps and < 1 Gbps / ≥ 500 Mbps and < 1 Gbps,” “ ≥ 100 Mbps and < 500 Mbps / ≥ 100 Mbps and < 500 Mbps,” “ ≥ 100 Mbps / ≥ 50 Mbps and < 100 Mbps.”

Source: NTLA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice 3.4 (pp. 11-13)

11.14* Upload a technical narrative as a PDF detailing how the proposed infrastructure will deliver service that reliably meets or exceeds the Program’s required speeds and latency for all proposed BSLs as defined in the Scoring Rubric and all CAIs in the project area as outlined in the BEAD NOFO (pp. 64-65).

Upload a single file in PDF format.

Source: NOFO (pp. 64-65)

11.15* Does the proposed project involve laying fiber-optic cables or conduit underground or along a roadway?

Select “Yes” or “No.” If “Yes,” proceed to question 11.16. Otherwise proceed to question 11.17.

11.16* The applicant certifies that for any project that involves laying fiber optic cables or conduit underground or along a roadway, it shall include interspersed conduit access points at regular and short intervals.

Select the checkbox to certify. This question is only required for applicants answering “Yes” to question 11.15.

11.17* Upload a risk management plan that accounts for technology infrastructure reliability and resilience, including from natural disasters (e.g., wildfires, flooding, tornadoes, hurricanes, etc.), as applicable.

Upload files in PDF format.

11.18* Using the Pro Forma Business Plan Template, provide a cash flow for the buildout period and at least 3 years past buildout. If you are revising an application that was previously submitted or in progress before the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice, please note that this document has been simplified. This template has been updated since the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice. All applicants must download and submit a new Pro Forma Business Plan Template.

Complete and upload the Pro Forma Business Plan Template in XLSX format.

Source: IPv2 5.12.1.4 (pp. 62-63).

11.19* Using the Budget Narrative Template, provide a detailed breakdown of the expected budget for the pro forma cost categories. This template has been updated since the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice. All applicants must download and submit a new Budget Narrative Template.

Complete and upload the Budget Narrative Template in XLSX format.

Source: IPv2 5.12.1.4 (pp. 62-63).

11.20* Provide documentation on the expected growth of the project and ongoing benefits to the community beyond completion of the build and disbursement of grant funding. Include in the documentation an explanation of the Pro Forma Business Plan assumptions regarding take-rates, churn, revenue per user, operating expenses, cash flow, and capital expenditures, and detail any anticipated financial challenges.

Upload a single file in PDF format.

Source: IPv2 5.12.1.4 (pp. 62-63).

11.21* The applicant certifies that it is in compliance with federal labor and employment laws.

Select the checkbox to certify.

11.22* The applicant certifies that it will comply with all reporting requirements for subgrantees set forth in the BEAD NOFO and the “BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice.” The applicant should review all reporting requirements for subgrantees for the BEAD Program.

Select the checkbox.

Source: NOFO VII.E.2 (pp. 90-92).

11.23* The applicant certifies that it will comply with the laws and regulations listed in the BEAD NOFO and the “BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice.”

Select the checkbox.

11.24* Will the applicant supply a letter of credit (LOC) or a performance bond to fulfill the requirements in California’s Initial Proposal Volume 2 and the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice? Note: Low-Earth orbit (LEO) satellite applicants should review the revised requirements for LOC and performance bonds in Appendix B of the NTIA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice.

Select one of the following options: “Letter of Credit” or “Performance Bond.” If “Letter of Credit,” proceed to questions 11.24A. If “Performance Bond,” proceed to question 11.24C.

Source: IPv2 5.12.1.2 (pp. 57-61).

11.24A* Using the Letter of Commitment Template, provide a letter from a qualified financial institution that confirms the commitment to issue an irrevocable standby letter of credit (LOC). This letter of commitment must describe the type of financial institution that is making the commitment using the categories in 47 C.F.R. § 54.804(c)(2) or confirm that the institution is a qualifying credit union that is (a) is insured by the National Credit Union Administration; and (b) has a credit union safety rating issued by Weiss of B– or better. The letter of commitment must also state that the financial institution stands ready to issue an irrevocable standby LOC for the proposed project in the required amount and must specify the expected amount. The financial institution must also state that it has reviewed the model LOC and is prepared to comply with all terms and conditions for the LOC under this program. Upon completion of the Application Phase, successful subgrantees with

awarded projects will be required to obtain their irrevocable standby LOCs from the previously committed financial institutions.

Complete and upload the “Letter of Commitment Template” in PDF format. A response is only required from applicants who responded “Letter of Credit” to question 11.24.

Source: IPv2 5.12.1.2 (pp. 57-61).

11.24B* Submit a signed bankruptcy opinion letter from legal counsel licensed in California that states the letter of credit (LOC) is drafted in such a way that under a Title 11 bankruptcy proceeding the bankruptcy court will not treat the LOC or proceeds from the LOC as “property” of the subgrantee’s bankruptcy estate under Section 541 of the United States Bankruptcy Code.

Upload a single file in PDF format. A response is only required from applicants who responded “Letter of Credit” to question 11.24.

In the application, a signed bankruptcy opinion letter from legal counsel licensed in California that states the letter of credit (LOC) is drafted in such a way that, under a Title 11 bankruptcy proceeding, the bankruptcy court will not treat the LOC or proceeds from the LOC as “property” of the subgrantee’s bankruptcy estate under Section 541 of the United States Bankruptcy Code (Title 11) is required in question 11.24B for entities that selected “Letter of Credit” in question 11.24. If the financial institution has a standard letter of credit it uses and/or follows the template, legal counsel can be from the financial institution or from applicant and qualify that the opinion is based on a review of the standard/template provided and attach it to the opinion.

Otherwise, the applicant can upload a PDF that explains that the financial institution declines to make a legal opinion available in the absence of the actual letter of credit, but the applicant commits to securing a legal opinion of the executed letter of credit and providing it with its submission of the LOC. A bankruptcy opinion letter is not required for applicants that opt to submit a performance bond. See IPv2 pp. 59-60 for more details. The letter of commitment is still required for applicants that will be supplying a letter of credit, as described in questions 11.24 and 11.24A in the Project Application.

Source: IPv2 5.12.1.2 (pp. 57-61).

11.24C* Using the Surety Bond Template, submit a letter from a company holding a certificate of authority as an “acceptable surety on federal bonds” as identified in the Department of Treasury Circular 570. The surety’s letter must commit to issuing a performance bond to the applicant and shall, at a minimum, provide the dollar amount of the performance bond. Upon completion of the Application Phase,

successful subgrantees with awarded projects will be required to obtain the performance bond from the previously committed companies providing sureties.

Complete and upload the Surety Bond Template in PDF format. A response is only required from applicants who responded “Performance Bond” to question 11.24.

Source: IPv2 5.12.1.2 (pp. 57-61).

11.25* The applicant certifies that the proposed project will deliver at least 5 Mbps of capacity (or 2 TB of usage per month) to each BSL in the Project Area where a subscriber requests and is provisioned service.

Select the checkbox.

11.26* The applicant certifies that, at time of project closeout, all proposed BSLs shall be capable of receiving speeds of not less than 100 Mbps for downloads and 20 Mbps for uploads with 95% of latency measurements during testing windows falling at or below 100 milliseconds round-trip time.

Select the checkbox.

Source: NOFO IV.C.2.a.i (pp. 64-65).

11.27* To demonstrate you have the required resources to successfully execute your project, provide a list of the employment categories, job titles, and job descriptions that will be necessary to successfully complete the proposed project.

Upload a single file in PDF format.

Source: IPv2 5.12.3.4 (p. 67).

11.28* To demonstrate you have the required resources to successfully execute your project, using the Certification and Licenses Template provided, upload a list of any additional certifications, licenses, or other qualifications that are unique and specific to the proposed project, which will supplement the information provided as part of the prequalification application.

Upload the “Certification and Licenses Template” in XLSX format.

Source: IPv2 5.12.3.4 (p. 67).

11.28A* To demonstrate you have the required resources to successfully execute your project, provide supporting documentation to demonstrate that the applicant has completed, or is in the process of completing, any additional requirements to become fully and properly qualified to successfully complete the proposed project.

Upload files in PDF format.

Source: IPv2 5.12.3.4 (p. 67).

11.29* To demonstrate you have the required resources to successfully execute your project, provide a description of the processes that are or will be in place to track and maintain required certifications, licenses, and training programs for construction and post-construction activities to ensure that the organization will maintain a highly skilled workforce throughout the federal interest period of the project.

Enter the response in the textbox (3,000-character limit). Applicants are encouraged to review guidance on how to describe their highly skilled workforce plan from the NOFO, page 58.

Source: IPv2 5.12.3.4 (p. 67).

11.30* To demonstrate you have the required resources to successfully execute your project, will the applicant’s workforce be directly employed, subcontracted, or a combination of both approaches?

Select one of the following options: “Directly employed,” “Subcontracted,” or “Combination of both.” If “Subcontracted” or “Combination of both,” proceed to question 11.30A. Otherwise, proceed to question 11.31.

Source: IPv2 5.3.1 (pp. 34-39), 8.1 (pp. 77-79), 9.5 (pp. 141-143).

11.30A* To demonstrate you have the required resources to successfully execute your project, provide a narrative identifying the entities the proposed subgrantee plans to contract or subcontract to carry out the proposed work, historical use of contracting and subcontracting arrangements, including staffing plans, and at least one example of each contractor and subcontractor’s past performance in the context of a similar project.²⁶

Upload files in PDF format. A response is only required from applicants who responded “Subcontracted” or “Combination of both” to question 11.30.

Source: IPv2 9.5 (pp. 141-143); NOFO (p. 56).

11.31* The applicant certifies that it will comply with relevant aspects of California Labor Code § 1770 et seq., “Prevailing wage determination,” and California Labor Code, Section 1720.

Select the checkbox.

Source: IPv2 8.2 (pp. 79-81), 9.2 (pp. 127-131), 9.5 (pp. 141-143).

11.32* To demonstrate you have the required resources to successfully execute your project, will the applicant retain any independent contractors, consultants, and/or subcontractors to supplement its managerial capabilities?

Select “Yes” or “No.” If “Yes,” proceed to question 11.32A.

Source: IPv2 5.12.2.3 (pp. 64-65).

11.32A* To demonstrate you have the required resources to successfully execute your project, provide a description of any independent contractors, consultants, and subcontractors the applicant plans to retain to supplement its managerial capabilities. This description should include the scope of the third party’s role and the expected term of the engagement.

Enter the response in the textbox (3,000-character limit). A response is only required from applicants who responded “Yes” to question 11.32.

Source: IPv2 5.12.2.3 (pp. 64-65).

11.33* Provide a description of construction methods and activities to be employed and where in the Project Area they will be conducted, particularly for excavation or ground disturbance (e.g., directional boring, plowing, horizontal directional drilling, trenching, tunneling, grading, soil compaction etc.). Provide dimensions (depth, width, and length) of ground disturbance.

Enter the response in the textbox (3,000-character limit).

Source: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Questionnaire

11.34* Provide descriptions and dimensions of infrastructure elements included in the project scope (i.e., cables, towers, poles, or related facilities), including whether they will be above or belowground; where they will be located relative to existing facilities and features in the Project Area and/or whether they will replace existing facilities; and whether they will be similar in appearance and scale to existing facilities and features in the Project Area.

Enter the response in the textbox (3,000-character limit).

Source: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Questionnaire

11.35* Is the Project Area located within or adjacent to a wetland, waterway, coastal zone, sole source aquifer, or public water supply?

Select “Yes” or “No.” If “Yes,” proceed to question 11.35A. Otherwise proceed to question 11.35B. Resources: [California Coastal Commission, Coastal Zone Boundary Maps; USFWS,](#)

[National Wetlands Inventory Wetlands Mapper; State Water Resources Control Board, GeoTracker.](#)

Source: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Questionnaire

11.35A* Describe how the applicant plans to evaluate and/or avoid effects to waterways or wetlands in accordance with applicable Federal and State regulations, including the Clean Water Act (CWA), Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, California Coastal Act, and Safe Drinking Water Act.

A response is only required from applicants who responded “Yes” to question 11.35

11.35B* Describe the efforts the applicant has taken to substantiate the indicated response (e.g., environmental studies, field surveys, consultation with agencies, literature review or desktop research, etc.). List the agencies, parties, or databases consulted.

A response is only required from applicants who responded “No” to question 11.35.

Source: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Questionnaire

11.36* Does the applicant believe that the project qualifies for a Categorical Exclusion (CX) under NEPA?

Select “Yes” or “No.” If “Yes,” proceed to question 11.36A. Resource: [NTIA, NEPA Resources; NTIA, NEPA for BEAD: Milestone Schedule & NEPA Timeline.](#)

Source: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Questionnaire

11.36A* Provide citations to the applicable NEPA CX(s) listed in Appendix C of NTIA’s Guidance on NTIA National Environmental Policy Act Compliance and explain why the cited CX(s) is appropriate. (Note that only the NTIA can determine whether a proposed project qualifies for a CX.)

Enter the response in the textbox (3,000-character limit). A response is only required from applicants who responded “Yes” to question 11.36A.

Source: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Questionnaire

11.36B* Explain why the project does not qualify for a CX.

Enter the response in the textbox (3,000-character limit). A response is only required from applicants who responded “No” to question 11.36.

Source: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Questionnaire

Section 12: Confidentiality and Certification

Confidentiality

Confidentiality 1: Does your application contain information for which you are requesting confidentiality protection pursuant to [CPUC General Order 66-D](#)?*

Select “Yes,” or “No.” If Yes, proceed to the confidentiality declarations. If “No,” proceed to the application certification questions.

Confidentiality 2: Any person or entity wishing to submit or file materials with a claim of confidentiality should follow the procedures set forth in CPUC General Order 66-D. Casual claims of confidentiality are not accepted. The CPUC looks with disfavor on claims of confidentiality for entire documents. When a claim of confidentiality is made, a public, redacted version of the document must also be submitted or filed.

Applicants cannot claim confidentiality for information required in the NTIA Final Proposal (see Application Confidentiality template).

Using the provided template, upload your General Order 66-D confidentiality declarations and other documents supporting your confidentiality claims.*

A response to this question is required only from applicants who answered “Yes” to Confidentiality 1. To request confidentiality on specific questions, download the “Application Confidentiality” template and check off the corresponding checkbox in the “Request for Confidentiality” column or enter “TRUE.” Provide a clear and concise reason for the confidentiality request in the next column. If attaching supporting evidence, include the file name in the “Relevant Attachment” column.

Confidentiality 3: Unredacted files must be uploaded in response to the relevant question in the application. Redacted versions of the same file may optionally be uploaded in response to this question. The redacted file name should begin with “redacted_”, followed by the same file name as the original upload.

A response to this question is required only from applicants who answered “Yes” to Confidentiality 1. Upload any relevant files, making sure the file name contains “redacted_”.

Confidentiality 4: Applicants may optionally download a copy of their application, redact relevant answers or portions of answers in the copy, and upload the redacted copy in response to this question.

A response to this question is required only from applicants who answered “Yes” to Confidentiality 1. Upload the redacted copy in PDF format, making sure the file name contains “redacted_”.

Certification

Certification 1: Do you attest, under penalty of perjury, that to the best of your knowledge all the information submitted, and statements and representations made in the application are true and correct?*

A response to this question is required from all applicants. Select the checkbox.

Certification 2: Is the applicant a telephone corporation or non-telephone corporation as defined by the California Public Utilities code?*

A response to this question is required from all applicants. Choose “Telephone Corporation” or “Non-Telephone Corporation.” If you selected “Telephone Corporation,” proceed to Certification 3. If you selected “Non-Telephone Corporation,” proceed to Certification 4.

Certification 3: The affidavit must be signed and notarized. Using the provided template, complete the telephone corporation affidavit and upload with your application.*

A response to this question is required only from applicants who responded “Telephone Corporation.” Upload the signed and notarized “CPUC Application Notarized Affidavit for Telephone Corporation” document PDF format.

Certification 4: The affidavit must be signed and notarized. Using the provided template, complete the non-telephone corporation affidavit and upload with your application.*

A response to this question is required only from applicants who answered “Non-Telephone Corporation.” Upload the signed and notarized “CPUC Application Notarized Affidavit for Non-Telephone Corporation” document PDF format.

Certification 5: The applicant understands there may not be an opportunity to correct or revise this application as initially submitted, and if the opportunity is provided, the applicant must respond promptly within the timeframe afforded, without extension. The applicant acknowledges that failure to provide an application that is complete

and responsive (e.g., placeholder language, partially completed templates) upon submission may result in this application being disqualified from further review.*

A response to this question is required from all applicants. Select the checkbox.

Section 13: Review and Submit

Applicants can review and download a copy of their responses before submitting to the CPUC.

Appendix A: Resource Links

Resource Name	URL
NTIA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice	NTIA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice
CPUC Decision Approving Volume II of the BEAD Program Rules	https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M542/K040/542040659.PDF
California BEAD Initial Proposal Volume I and Volume II	https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/beamprogram
BEAD NOFO	https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/BEAD%20NOFO.pdf
2 C.F.R §25.300	https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-I/part-25/subpart-C/section-25.300
47 C.F.R. § 1.2105	https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-47/chapter-I/subchapter-A/part-1/subpart-Q
Final BEAD Alternative Broadband Technology Policy Notice	https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/policies-waivers/BEAD_Alternative_Broadband_Technology_Policy_Notice
BEAD Letter of Credit Waiver	https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/funding-programs/policies-waivers/BEAD-Letter-of-Credit-Waiver
2024 BEAD Program General Terms and Conditions	https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/funding-programs/policies-waivers/BEAD_IPFR_GTC_April_2024
Final BABA Waiver	https://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/2024-02/BABA%20Waiver%20Signed.pdf
Guidance for Human Subjects Research Protection	https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2022-08/BEAD-Planning-Grant-HSR-Guidance-Final-9-29-2022.pdf
Secure Networks Act, List of Equipment & Services	https://www.fcc.gov/supplychain/coveredlist
California Department of General Services (DGS) Office of Small Business	https://www.dgs.ca.gov/PD-OSDS

Resource Name	URL
and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Services (OSDS)	
Supplier Clearinghouse Database	https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/about-cpuc/divisions/news-and-public-information-office/business-and-community-outreach/supplier-diversity-program/supplier-database
Guidance on NTIA National Environmental Policy Act Compliance	https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/2024-04/Guidance on NTIA NEPA Compliance April 2024.pdf
California Statewide Middle-Mile Network Map	https://middle-mile-broadband-initiative.cdt.ca.gov/pages/statewide-middle-mile-network-map
NTIA Permitting and Environmental Information Application	https://nbam.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/portfolio/index.html?appid=c7906b72e14045bf9fa6fe9add469a0

Project Application Guide Version History

Version One

First version published March 20, 2025.

Version Two

Second version published April 1, 2025. Notable changes:

- Section 2 fully updated with detailed instructions and screenshots from the interactive map. Information on Project Area Units and valid Project Areas moved to this section.
- Questions 3.3D (Locations List Template) and 3.3Bii (90 Percent Proposal Locations Template) field titles and instructions updated.
- Calculation for question 4.3 (Minimum BEAD Outlay) modified and additional instructions added.
- Additional resources added to Section 5, Environmental Questionnaire.
- Added additional certification question (Certification 5).

Version Three

Third version published July 17, 2025. Notable changes described below.

- “Introduction,” “Application Resources,” and “Application Requirements” sections revised to reflect the CPUC’s compliance with the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice.
- “Priority and Non-Priority Projects” section added.
- Section 11 added with questions and templates in compliance with the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice (and subsequent sections renumbered).
- Change Log section added for a complete set of changes.

Change Log for the BEAD Project Application

This Change Log summarizes the changes made to the CPUC’s Project Application to comply with the NTIA’s BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice.¹

The questions listed in bold represent the questions in the previous version of the Project Application and Application Guide. In some cases, questions are eliminated, while in others, questions have been amended to update wording or applicability, and some remain

unchanged and were moved to the Addendum to maintain question branching within the application portal.

Questions Eliminated from the Application

The following questions have been removed from the Project Application.

Section 1: Administrative

The following questions have been removed from Section 1:

1.5* Indicate the project type:

- **Priority Broadband Project:** A project that will provision service via end-to-end fiber-optic facilities to each end-user premises.
- **Non-Priority Project:** A project that will provision service via Reliable Broadband Service technology that is not end-to-end fiber such as non-end-to-end fiber, coaxial cable, or licensed fixed wireless with (i) a speed of not less than 100 Mbps for downloads, (ii) a speed of not less than 20 Mbps for uploads, and (iii) latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds.
- **Alternative Technology Project:** A project that will provision service via any technology that does not qualify as Reliable Broadband Service, such as unlicensed fixed wireless (ULFW) or low-Earth-orbit satellite (LEO). Alternative Technologies must still meet the BEAD technical requirements and provide (i) a speed of not less than 100 Mbps for downloads, (ii) a speed of not less than 20 Mbps for uploads, and (iii) latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds.

If any part of a proposed project uses a technology that fits into a lower-tier project type, the project is categorized as that type. For example, a project using both fiber and coaxial cable would be categorized as a Non-Priority Project, and a project that uses both fiber and unlicensed fixed wireless would be categorized as an Alternative Technology Project.

1.5A* Select the technology type(s) for this Non-Priority project. Select all that apply.

1.5B* Select the technology type(s) for this Alternative Technology project. Select all that apply.

Section 3: Project Snapshot

The following questions have been removed from Section 3:

3.3 Percentage of PAUs in the proposed Project Area that qualify as high-need areas.
This field will auto-fill.

If the percentage is below 50%, the applicant must add PAUs that are immediately contiguous to non-high-need PAUs in the proposed Project Area from those available until it has reached at least 50% or until it has reached the maximum number available. The applicant is not required to include a high-need PAU that is adjacent only to another high-need PAU in its Project Area (for example, one that was added to fulfill this requirement). For Project Areas that include Tribal lands, the applicant may submit the application without meeting the minimum threshold or maximum available inclusion requirements for high-need PAUs.

If those available high-need PAUs do not add up to 50%, the applicant must apply for an automatic waiver of the minimum high-need area threshold requirement in the following question.

The application portal will automatically calculate a response to this question based on the PAUs selected in Section 2.

Low-Income Area (LIA) or Disadvantaged Community (DAC) “high-need areas” are different than the NTIA-defined “High-Cost Areas.” The PAU is considered a high-need area if it meets any of the following criteria:

- Census tracts receiving the highest 25% of overall scores in CalEnviroScreen 4.0.
- Census tracts lacking overall scores in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 due to data gaps but receiving the highest 5% of CalEnviroScreen 4.0 cumulative pollution burden scores.
- Census tracts identified in the 2017 DAC designation as disadvantaged, regardless of their scores in CalEnviroScreen 4.0.
- Census tracts where aggregated household incomes are less than 80% of area or state median income, utilizing whichever of the two aggregated household incomes data points is higher.
- Lands under the control of federally recognized Tribes.

3.3Ai* The applicant must check the box to apply for an automatic waiver of the minimum high-need area (LIA/DAC, including Tribal lands) threshold requirement. In order to receive this waiver, the applicant must have included all immediately contiguous high-need areas to non-high-need PAUs in their proposed Project Area. If a Project Area has less than 50% LIA/DAC PAUs, the applicant must either

1. Select contiguous high-need PAUs until the 50% threshold is met, or,
2. Submit a waiver if no remaining contiguous high-need PAUs remain

3.3B* Each applicant must submit a proposal for a project serving 100% of unserved and underserved locations in a Project Area. Will the applicant also submit a proposal to serve that same Project Area at a coverage rate of 90% of unserved and underserved locations?

The 90% proposal will not be scored separately; it will receive the same score as the 100% proposal. The 90% proposal may be considered for award if 100% applications are not selected.

3.3Bi The total number of unserved and underserved BSLs to be served by a 90% application will be automatically calculated.

3.3Bii* Using the provided “90 Percent Proposal Locations List” template, identify the unserved and underserved BSLs the applicant proposes to serve in the 90% proposal.

The application portal will validate that the total locations in this proposal must match the value automatically calculated by the application portal in question 3.3Bi.

3.3Biii The percentage of selected unserved and underserved locations in the proposed 90% Project Area that fall within an NTIA-defined High-Cost Area (HCA) will be automatically calculated.

3.3Biv* Provide the dollar amount of the applicant’s proposed Total Project Cost for the 90% proposal (i.e., the total cost to serve 90% of the unserved and underserved locations in the Project Area Units (PAU) selected, including matching funds) rounded to the nearest cent.

3.3Bv* Provide the dollar amount of the applicant’s proposed Total Funding Request for the 90% proposal (i.e., how much grant funding the applicant is seeking with this application to serve the unserved and underserved locations in the Project Area Units (PAU) selected, not including matching funds) rounded to the nearest cent.

3.3Bvi* For the 90% proposal, provide the total amount of cash and in-kind matching funds for the project to be provided by the applicant itself.

3.3Bvii* For the 90% proposal, provide the total dollar amount of cash and in-kind matching funds for the project to be provided by match-eligible, non-BEAD federal sources. If there are no match-eligible, non-BEAD federal sources, please respond with “0.”

3.3Bviii* Using the Match-Eligible Federal Sources Template, provide a breakdown of the funding dollar amount per federal source.

3.3Bix* For the 90% proposal, provide the total dollar amount of cash and in-kind matching funds for the project to be provided by non-BEAD state sources. If there are no non-BEAD state sources, please respond with “0.”

3.3Bx* For the 90% proposal, provide the total amount of cash and in-kind matching funds for the project to be provided by other sources such as non-profit organizations. If there are no other sources, please respond with “0.”

3.3Bxi* For the 90% proposal, are you requesting a minimal percentage matching fund waiver? Please note your match level is part of the validation and project proposals that commit to meeting at least minimum matching requirements will be processed first. If provisionally awarded, projects that seek match waivers will be submitted to NTIA along with the waiver justifications. Final award will be subject to NTIA approval.

3.3Bxii* Provide the total dollar amount of the match waiver requested.

3.3Bxiii* Upload waiver support documentation.

3.3Bxiv The total dollar amount of matching funds from all sources for the 90% proposal will be automatically calculated.

The total dollar amount of matching funds for the 90% proposal will be automatically calculated by the application portal by summing the responses of the following five questions:

- 3.3Bvi - Total amount of cash and in-kind matching funds for the project to be provided by the applicant itself,
- 3.3Bvii - Total dollar amount of cash and in-kind matching funds for the project to be provided by match-eligible, non-BEAD federal sources,
- 3.3Bix - Total dollar amount of cash and in-kind matching funds for the project to be provided by non-BEAD state sources,
- 3.3Bx - Total amount of cash and in-kind matching funds for the project to be provided by other sources such as non-profit organizations, and
- 3.3Bxii - Total dollar amount of the match waiver requested (if applicable).

3.3Bxv NTIA 25% Match Requirement. This will be automatically calculated.

3.3Bxvi* Do any of the matching funds included in this response qualify as in-kind?

3.3Bxvii* Using the In-Kind Matching Funds Template, provide the dollar amount and source for all in-kind matching funds for the project.

3.3Bxviii* Upload financial justification for the valuation of in-kind matching funds. Financial justification must break out costs for each line item for the in-kind match.

3.3D* Using the Locations List Template provided, submit information on each BSL and CAI the project intends to serve, including the proposed technology type, anticipated upload and download speeds, whether or not the proposed service meets the definition of low latency, and, if applicable, information on the eligibility of the location for BEAD funding.

Applicants should identify the locations in the proposed Project Area for which the applicant commits to build infrastructure to meet the requirements for Resilient Infrastructure established in California's Initial Proposal Volume 2.

For locations outside Tier 2 or Tier 3 High-Fire Threat Districts, the location will be considered to be served by resilient infrastructure if the applicant proposes to ensure that 72-hour backup power will be supplied to all facilities necessary to maintain its service to that location.

For locations within Tier 2 or Tier 3 High-Fire Threat Districts, for which 72-hour backup power is already required, the location will be considered to be served by resilient infrastructure if the applicant includes reasonable plans to deploy infrastructure serving that location utilizing appropriate risk mitigation and infrastructure hardening practices.

One point will be awarded for proposing a Project Area consisting of at least 10% of locations meeting the relevant criteria, with an additional one point awarded for every additional 10 percentage points (rounded down) meeting the relevant criteria for a total of 10 points possible.

3.3Di* The total number of selected locations within Tier 2 or Tier 3 High-Fire Threat Districts will be automatically calculated.

3.3Dii* The total number of selected locations outside Tier 2 or Tier 3 High-Fire Threat Districts will be automatically calculated.

3.3Diii* The total number of locations within Tier 2 or Tier 3 High-Fire Threat Districts the applicant will serve with resilient infrastructure will be automatically calculated.

3.3Div* The total number of locations outside Tier 2 or Tier 3 High-Fire Threat Districts the applicant will serve with resilient infrastructure will be automatically calculated.

3.3E* Has the applicant identified any locations that are ineligible for BEAD funding or any non-BSLs in the proposed Project Area?

3.3Ei* How many locations are ineligible for BEAD funding or any non-BSLs in the proposed Project Area, as identified by the applicant?

3.3Eii* Upload evidence for each location the applicant has identified as ineligible for BEAD funding or to be a non-BSL. The evidence type must adhere to one of the options in the column titled “evidence_type” of the Locations List Template in question 3.3D. The file must be named as follows: “[Location ID]-[Type of Evidence Code]-ineligible-or-non-BSL”.

3.8A The dollar amount of the average BEAD funding cost per unserved and underserved BSL that the applicant proposes to serve in the proposed project to serve 90% of unserved and underserved locations will be automatically calculated.

3.10* Indicate whether the lead applicant is a Woman-Owned Business Enterprise (WBE).

3.10A* Indicate whether the lead applicant is a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE).

3.10B* Indicate whether the lead applicant qualifies as a small business.

3.13* Does the applicant commit to providing a low-cost broadband service option for the life of the infrastructure that meets, at a minimum, all of the following criteria specified in California’s Initial Proposal Volume 2:

- Will be available to all households that meet the eligibility requirements of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) (e.g., available to households with an income equal to or below 200% of the federal poverty line) and all other eligible subscribers as defined in the BEAD NOFO
- Costs \$30 per month or less (\$75 per month or less on Tribal lands), inclusive of all government taxes and fees. Subgrantees may apply increases in price after at least 12 months not to exceed the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) 12-month percentage point change for the “All Items” category, published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Existing customers must be informed via mail, billing announcement, or email no later than 30 days before a price increase.
- Allows the end user to apply the ACP subsidy to the cost of service and encourages ISPs to ensure that prospective customers are aware of their participation in the ACP

- Meets performance requirements as established by the BEAD Program, with download speeds of at least 100 Mbps and upload speeds of at least 20 Mbps
- Delivers typical latency of no more than 100 milliseconds
- 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
- Allows subscribers to upgrade at no cost in the event the provider later offers a low-cost plan with higher speeds (downstream and/or upstream)
- Does not charge a fee for installation or set-up
- Provides a free modem or router
- Does not require a minimum term of service

3.13A* Does the applicant seek a modification to the low-cost broadband service option requirement as set forth in California’s Initial Proposal Volume 2, specifically for the price charged? You will be asked to provide a justification if you select “yes.”

3.13B* Provide the dollar amount of the applicant’s proposed alternative monthly rate for the low-cost broadband service option, which must not exceed \$50 per month inclusive of all taxes and fees.

3.13C* Provide the following evidence supporting the applicant’s proposed rate:

- Per-subscriber costs in an area indicating that the State’s target rate (\$30 or less) would be financially unsustainable; and/or
- The impact on average revenue per user (ARPU) and total project revenue of the target rate (\$30 or less) would be financially unsustainable given actual or projected subscriber adoption and subscription patterns.

3.13D* Confirm that if a modification request is granted, the modified price shall remain for the lifetime of the asset (as defined by NTIA).

3.13E* Upload a document that provides a justification as to why this proposed price will ensure affordability for low-income customers, an explanation of why it would be infeasible for the applicant to meet the low-cost service option requirement, and why this would imperil core objectives of the BEAD program, and any supporting documentation, such as business plans or a pro forma.

3.13F* Confirm that the applicant will participate in any successor program to the ACP at the State or federal level. If there is no such successor program, the applicant

must agree to participate in other low-income connectivity programs, as applicable, such as Lifeline, California LifeLine, and/or any similar low-income connectivity program or subsidy offered federally or by the State.

3.14* Does the applicant commit to providing a Middle-Class Affordable Service Option (MCASO) that meets, at minimum, all of the following criteria specified in California’s Initial Proposal Volume 2:

- Proposes a monthly non-promotional price not to exceed \$84, including all taxes, fees, and charges billed to the customer or subscribers, and justification for the price.
- Provides consistent and reliable download speeds of at least 100 Mbps and typical upload speeds of at least 20 Mbps.
- Provides typical latency measurements of no more than 100 milliseconds.
- 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.
- Only allows prices charged to end users to increase after 12 months has passed and at a rate that does not exceed the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) 12-month percentage point change for the “All Items” category, published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Existing customers must be informed via mail, billing announcement, or email no later than 30 days before a price increase.

3.14A* Does the applicant seek a waiver to modify the MCASO?

3.14B* Provide the following information:

- The proposed price to be charged to customers for a plan meeting the technical requirements of the MCASO and justification of why this proposed price will ensure affordability for middle-class customers.
- The length of time for which the MCASO will be available.
- An explanation of why it would be infeasible for the prospective subgrantee to meet the MCASO requirement and why this would imperil core objectives of the BEAD program.
- Supporting documentation, such as business plans or a pro forma.

The proposed price justification shall consider the median income for counties included in the proposed service area and the share of monthly income accounted for

by the proposed price for households at the top (double the Area Median Income) and bottom (two-thirds of Area Median Income) of the middle-class range, and shall explain how the proposed price will ensure that high-quality broadband services are available to all middle-class families in the BEAD-funded network's service area at a reasonable price. In evaluating a prospective subgrantee's MCASO, the CPUC will also consider the price required for providers to achieve economic viability for projects.

Section 4: Scoring Criteria

All questions in this section have been eliminated from the Project Application in compliance with the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice.

See pp. 11-13 of the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice.

Section 5: Project Plan

The following questions have been removed from Section 5:

5.1* Upload a technical narrative, in PDF format, detailing how the proposed infrastructure will deliver service that reliably meets or beats the required speeds and latency for all proposed BSLs and CAIs in the Project Area as outlined in the BEAD NOFO (pp. 64-65).

5.2* Enter in the textbox a narrative description of the geographic location, characteristics of the local community, anticipated labor requirements, and other related information to provide a complete picture of the community to be served.

5.3A* Does the applicant's proposed project involve laying fiber-optic cables or conduit underground or along a roadway?

5.3B* All proposed projects that involve laying fiber-optic cables or conduit underground or along a roadway must include interspersed conduit access points at regular and short intervals for interconnection by unaffiliated entities. Certify the applicant's design proposal includes a reasonable amount of excess conduit capacity and conduit access points for the project. In certifying, you attest that your Professional Engineer (PE) has reviewed the excess conduit capacity and conduit access points for the project and deemed them to be reasonable and in compliance with the BEAD NOFO (IV.C.2.b.ii, p. 66, "Conduit Access Points").

5.3D* Upload a logical network design drawing (Network Diagram) that illustrates the logical connectivity for the network and conveys the network's capacity to provide each BSL and CAI to be served by the project with the required broadband

speeds and latency. Ensure that all information is clearly legible. See the Logical Network Diagram Sample as an example.

5.5* Using the Fixed Wireless Design Submission Template provided, describe the proposed project's fixed wireless design.

5.6* Using the Alternative Technology Design Submission Template provided, describe the proposed project's Alternative Technology design.

5.11* Upload a narrative description of the applicant's business continuity plan, which includes its natural hazard risk mitigation strategy, which may include:

- Favoring underground or buried fiber compared to aerial
- Retrofitting and hardening existing network assets that are deemed critical to BEAD expansion projects
- Favoring redundancy in network designs to reduce single points of failure
- Considering average down time and emergency response time
- Encouraging the use of backup generator power systems where applicable

5.12* Is the proposed Project Area located within a county or counties designated by FEMA as relatively high or very high risk (in accordance with FEMA's Natural Hazard Risk Rating map provided in Section 12.1 of California's Initial Proposal Volume 2)?

5.12A* Provide a narrative description that explains how mitigation measures are incorporated into deployment planning.

Section 8: Project Staffing and Labor Requirements

The following questions have been removed from Section 8:

8.5* Is all of the project workforce of the subgrantee and/or any contractors and/or subcontractors unionized?

8.5A* With respect to the non-union workforce, provide the job titles and size of the workforce (full-time-equivalent (FTE) positions, including contractors and subcontractors) required to carry out the proposed work over the course of the project and the entity that will employ each portion of the workforce.

For each job title required to carry out the proposed work (including contractors and subcontractors), provide a description of:

- Safety training, certification, and/or licensure requirements (e.g., OSHA 10, OSHA 30, confined space, traffic control, or other training as relevant depending on title and work), including whether there is a robust in-house

training program with established requirements tied to certifications and titles, and

- Information on the professional certifications and/or in-house training in place to ensure that deployment is done at a high standard.

8.6* Enter in the textbox a description of the actions the applicant has taken or plans to take specific to recruiting a diverse workforce and/or its plans to conduct outreach to diverse groups. This answer may include a description of specific outreach or materials intended to be welcoming to women, people of color, or other groups not typically represented in most telecommunications construction workforces.

8.7* Provide documentation of communications with workers and worker representative organizations regarding the applicable labor laws and fair labor standards, as well as the ability to form and willingness to meet with worker-led health and safety committees. Documentation of an applicant's outreach to workers on these topics may include sample emails, copies of posters, worker surveys, worker meetings, phone call and social media scripts, as well as organizing activities by worker-led organizations.

Section 10: Compliance

The following questions have been removed from Section 10.

10.3* The applicant certifies its willingness to operate its BEAD-funded middle mile elements on an open access basis as consistent with the requirements of California Senate Bill 156 (SB 156).

10.7* The applicant certifies that, at the time of project closeout, all proposed BSLs shall be capable of receiving Reliable Broadband Service with speeds of not less than 100 Mbps for downloads and 20 Mbps for uploads with 95% of latency measurements during testing windows falling at or below 100 milliseconds round-trip time.

10.20* The applicant certifies that it will comply with Parts II and III of Executive Order 11246, Equal Employment Opportunity (30 Fed. Reg. 12319), which requires that federally assisted construction contracts incorporate and fulfill the nondiscrimination provisions of §§ 202 and 203 of E.O. 11246 and Department of Labor regulations implementing E.O. 11246 (41 C.F.R. § 60-1.4(b)).

10.21* The applicant certifies that it will participate in the Affordable Connectivity Program or any successor program as identified by NTIA.

10.22* The applicant certifies that it will carry out public awareness campaigns in its service areas that are designed to highlight the value and benefits of broadband service in order to increase the adoption of broadband service by consumers.

Awareness campaigns must include information about low-cost service plans and any federal subsidies for low-income households such as the Lifeline Program, the Affordable Connectivity Program, and any successor programs. Further, awareness campaigns must be conducted in an equitable and nondiscriminatory manner.

Subgrantees must utilize a variety of communications media (e.g., online, print, radio) and provide information in languages other than English when warranted based on the demographics of the community.

10.23* The applicant certifies that once a Funded Network has been deployed, it shall provide public notice, online and through other means, of that fact to individuals residing in the locations to which broadband service has been provided.

10.24* Provide an explanation that details how the applicant intends to notify relevant populations of the new or newly upgraded offerings available in each area. The explanation should include information that reflects any unique needs of the specific demographics of the area. That may include information in different languages or communicated through particular mechanisms (e.g., online, print, radio).

10.25* The applicant certifies that it agrees to abide by the civil rights and non-discrimination requirements set forth in the BEAD NOFO, to the extent applicable, including but not limited to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d et seq.) and the Department of Commerce's implementing regulations at 15 C.F.R. Part 8; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. §§ 1681 et seq.) and the Department of Commerce's implementing regulations at 15 C.F.R. Part 8a; the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 et seq.); Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. § 794) and the Department of Commerce's implementing regulations at 15 C.F.R. Part 8b; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 6101 et seq.) and the Department of Commerce's implementing regulations at 15 C.F.R. Part 20; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e et seq.; and any other applicable non-discrimination law(s) and executive orders. The applicant acknowledges that failure to comply with relevant civil rights and non-discrimination requirements may result in cancellation of any award and/or recoupment of funds already disbursed.

10.28* The applicant certifies that it will comply with all reporting requirements for subgrantees set forth in the BEAD NOFO. The applicant should review all reporting requirements for subgrantees for the BEAD Program.

10.29* The applicant certifies that it will comply with the laws and regulations listed in the BEAD NOFO.

10.34* The applicant certifies that it will not impose data usage caps on any plans offered over a Funded Network or impose unjust or unreasonable network management practices and shall certify through the semiannual reporting requirements described in the BEAD NOFO that the plans offered over Funded Networks do not contain data usage caps for subscribers.

10.41* Does the applicant plan to employ contractors or subcontractors for the proposed project?

10.41A* The applicant certifies that as it relates to its contractors or subcontractors, it will take these affirmative steps to include qualified MBEs, WBEs, and Labor Surplus Area Firms whenever possible: (1) Place qualified small and minority businesses and women’s business enterprises on solicitation lists; (2) Assure that small and minority businesses, and women’s business enterprises are solicited whenever they are potential sources; (3) Divide total requirements, when economically feasible, into smaller tasks or quantities to permit maximum participation by small and minority businesses, and women’s business enterprises; (4) Establish delivery schedules, where the requirements permit, which encourages participation by small and minority businesses, and women’s business enterprises; (5) Use the services and assistance, as appropriate, of such organizations as the Small Business Administration and the Minority Business Development Agency of the Department of Commerce.

Questions Added to the Project Application

The following questions have been added to the Project Application in Section 11, the “Addendum” section.

11.1* Indicate the project type:

- **Priority Broadband Project:** A project that provides broadband service at speeds of no less than 100 megabits per second for downloads and 20 megabits per second for uploads, has a latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds, and can easily scale speeds over time to meet the evolving connectivity needs

of households and businesses and support the deployment of 5G, successor wireless technologies, and other advanced services.

- **Non-Priority Project:** A project that does not meet the definition of a Priority Broadband Project. A Non-Priority Project must still meet the speed and latency requirements of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO); in other words, a Non-Priority Project must offer service at or above 100/20 Mbps and latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds

Priority projects must employ technologies in the project proposal that meet the technical performance requirements in the NOFO, as redefined by NTIA's BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice (June 6, 2025) to align with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Applicants who select "Priority" must complete and upload evidence templates for each technology type they propose to deploy.

11.2* Does the proposed project utilize LEO satellite technology?

11.2A* Using the LEO Evidence Submission Template and instructions, upload descriptions of the proposed project's technical specifications and design.

11.3* Does the proposed project utilize Unlicensed Fixed Wireless (ULFW) technology?

11.3A* Using the ULFW Evidence Submission Template and instructions, upload descriptions of the proposed project's technical specifications and design.

11.4* Does the proposed project utilize Licensed Fixed Wireless (LFW) technology?

11.4A* Using the LFW evidence template and instructions, upload descriptions of the proposed project's technical specifications and design.

11.5* Does the proposed project utilize Hybrid Fiber-Coaxial (HFC) technology?

11.5A* Using the Hybrid Fiber-Coaxial (HFC) Evidence Submission Template and instructions, upload descriptions of the proposed project's technical specifications and design.

11.6* Does the proposed project utilize fiber-to-the-premises technology?

11.6A* Using the Fiber-to-the-Premises Evidence Submission Template and instructions, upload descriptions of the proposed project's technical specifications and design.

11.7* Using the Locations List Template and CAI Locations List Template provided, submit information on each BSL and CAI the project intends to serve, including the proposed technology type, anticipated upload and download speeds, whether or not the proposed service meets the definition of low latency, and, if applicable, information on the eligibility of the location for BEAD funding. This template has been updated in compliance with the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice. All applicants must submit a new Locations List Template and a new CAI List Template.

11.8* Has the applicant identified any locations that are ineligible for BEAD funding or any non-BSLs in the proposed Project Area?

11.8A* How many locations are ineligible for BEAD funding or are non-BSLs in the proposed Project Area, as identified by the applicant?

11.9* Upload one zipped file containing evidence for each location the applicant has identified as ineligible for BEAD funding or as a non-BSL, using templates as required. See the Application Guide and the “Instructions for Submitting No BEAD Location Evidence” for more information on acceptable forms of evidence and the use of templates.

11.10* The applicant certifies that it commits to providing a low-cost service option (LCSO) that offers speeds of at least 100/20 Mbps and latency performance of no more than 100 milliseconds and that is available to any household seeking to subscribe to broadband internet access service that is eligible for the FCC’s Lifeline Program, for the duration of the 10-year federal interest period. Applicants that already offer a low-cost plan that meets these service requirements may satisfy the LCSO requirement by proposing to offer their existing low-cost plan to eligible subscribers.

11.10A* What monthly service charge does the applicant expect to charge for its low-cost service option (LCSO)?

11.10B* Please estimate any one-time service charges that will apply to the applicant’s low-cost service option (LCSO).

11.10C* Does the applicant seek flexibility to change the monthly service charge for the low-cost service option (LCSO) during the 10-year federal interest period?

11.10D* If the applicant expects to change the price for the low-cost service option (LCSO) over the 10-year federal interest period, explain the methodology for the potential changes.

11.11* Minimal BEAD Outlay: The funding request cost per location for the proposed project will be auto-calculated. This value, along with the dollar amount of the total funding request, will be used to evaluate the “Minimal BEAD Outlay” scoring criterion.

11.12* Speed to Deployment: How many months does the applicant require to complete the project, starting upon receipt of funds and authorization to start the project upon fulfilling federal and state environmental requirements (such as excluding time to comply with State environmental laws)? This commitment is binding and subject to technical evaluation of network and project materials. Up to 10 points will be awarded if the applicant demonstrates that it will complete deployment in 36 months or less.

This criterion is part of the BEAD Program’s secondary scoring criteria. The CPUC will consider these criteria “if an application to serve the same general project area proposes a project cost within 15% of the lowest-cost proposal received for that same general project area on a per BSL basis” (Policy Notice, p. 12). These secondary criteria help differentiate between similarly priced proposals as required by the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice.

11.13* Speed of Network: What is the maximum speeds the proposed network will deliver? Up to 90 points.

- ≥ 2 Gbps download over ≥ 2 Gbps upload will receive 90 points.
- ≥ 1 Gbps and < 2 Gbps download over ≥ 1 Gbps and < 2 Gbps upload will receive 75 points.
- ≥ 500 Mbps and < 1 Gbps download over ≥ 500 Mbps and < 1 Gbps upload will receive 50 points.
- ≥ 100 Mbps and < 500 Mbps download over ≥ 100 Mbps and < 500 Mbps upload will receive 25 points.
- ≥ 100 Mbps download over ≥ 50 Mbps and < 100 Mbps upload will receive 15 points.
- ≥ 100 Mbps download over < 50 Mbps upload will receive 0 points.

This criterion is part of the BEAD Program’s secondary scoring criteria. The CPUC will consider these criteria “if an application to serve the same general project area proposes a project cost within 15% of the lowest-cost proposal received for that same general project area on a per BSL basis” (Policy Notice, p. 12). These secondary criteria help differentiate between similarly priced proposals as required by the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice.

11.14* Upload a technical narrative as a PDF detailing how the proposed infrastructure will deliver service that reliably meets or exceeds the Program’s required speeds and latency for all proposed BSLs as defined in the Scoring Rubric and all CAIs in the project area as outlined in the BEAD NOFO (pp. 64-65).

11.15* Does the proposed project involve laying fiber-optic cables or conduit underground or along a roadway?

11.16* The applicant certifies that for any project that involves laying fiber optic cables or conduit underground or along a roadway, it shall include interspersed conduit access points at regular and short intervals.

11.17* Upload a risk management plan that accounts for technology infrastructure reliability and resilience, including from natural disasters (e.g., wildfires, flooding, tornadoes, hurricanes, etc.), as applicable.

11.18* Using the Pro Forma Business Plan Template, provide a cash flow for the buildout period and at least 3 years past buildout. If you are revising an application that was previously submitted or in progress before the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice, please note that this document has been simplified. This template has been updated since the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice. All applicants must download and submit a new Pro Forma Business Plan Template.

11.19* Using the Budget Narrative Template, provide a detailed breakdown of the expected budget for the pro forma cost categories. This template has been updated since the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice. All applicants must download and submit a new Budget Narrative Template.

11.20* Provide documentation on the expected growth of the project and ongoing benefits to the community beyond completion of the build and disbursement of grant funding. Include in the documentation an explanation of the Pro Forma Business Plan assumptions regarding take-rates, churn, revenue per user, operating expenses, cash flow, and capital expenditures, and detail any anticipated financial challenges.

11.21* The applicant certifies that it is in compliance with federal labor and employment laws.

11.22* The applicant certifies that it will comply with all reporting requirements for subgrantees set forth in the BEAD NOFO and the “BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice.” The applicant should review all reporting requirements for subgrantees for the BEAD Program.

11.23* The applicant certifies that it will comply with the laws and regulations listed in the BEAD NOFO and the “BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice.”

Questions Updated in the Application

The following questions have been amended from existing questions and moved to Section 11, the “Addendum” section.

Section 5: Project Plan

5.15B* Provide a description of construction methods to be employed and where, particularly for excavation or ground-disturbing activities (e.g., directional boring, plowing, horizontal directional drilling, trenching, tunneling, grading, etc.).

This question has been amended and added to Section 11, the “Addendum” section, as question 11.33. It now reads:

“Provide a description of construction methods and activities to be employed and where in the Project Area they will be conducted, particularly for excavation or ground disturbance (e.g., directional boring, plowing, horizontal directional drilling, trenching, tunneling, grading, soil compaction, etc.). Provide dimensions (depth, width, and length) of ground disturbance.”

5.15C* Provide dimensions of both aboveground and belowground components associated with the project, included a detailed description (depth, length, etc.) of areas where there will be excavation or ground-disturbing activities, including grading or soil compaction.

This question has been amended and added to Section 11, the “Addendum” section, as question 11.34. It now reads:

“Provide descriptions and dimensions of infrastructure elements included in the project scope (i.e., cables, towers, poles, or related facilities), including where they will be located relative to existing facilities and features in the Project Area and/or whether they will replace existing facilities; and whether they will be similar in appearance and scale to existing facilities and features in the Project Area.”

5.20* Is the Project Area located within or adjacent to a wetland, waterway, or coastal zone?

This question has been amended and added to Section 11, the “Addendum” section, as question 11.35. It now reads:

“Is the Project Area located within or adjacent to a wetland, waterway, coastal zone, sole source aquifer, or public water supply?”

5.20A* Describe how the applicant plans to evaluate and/or avoid effects to waterways or wetlands in accordance with applicable Federal and State regulations, including the Clean Water Act (CWA), Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, and California Coastal Act.

This question has been amended and added to Section 11, the “Addendum” section, as question 11.35A. It now reads:

“Describe how the applicant to evaluate and/or avoid effects to waterways or wetlands in accordance with applicable Federal and State regulations, including the Clean Water Act (CWA), Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, California Coastal Act, and Safe Drinking Water Act.”

5.29A* Provide citations to the applicable NEPA CX(s) and explain why the cited CX(s) is appropriate. (Note that only the NTIA can determine whether a proposed project qualifies for a CX.)

This question has been amended and added to Section 11, the “Addendum” section, as question 11.36A. It now reads:

“Provide citations to the applicable NEPA CX(s) listed in Appendix C of [NTIA’s Guidance on NTIA National Environmental Policy Act Compliance](#) and explain why the cited CX(s) is appropriate. (Note that only the NTIA can determine whether a proposed project qualifies for a CX.)”

Section 6: Organizational and Managerial Capacity

6.3* Will the applicant retain any independent contractors, consultants, and/or subcontractors to supplement its managerial capabilities?

This question has been amended and added to Section 11, the “Addendum” section, as question 11.32. It now reads:

“To demonstrate you have the required resources to successfully execute your project, will the applicant retain any independent contractors, consultants, and/or subcontractors to supplement its managerial capabilities?”

6.3A* Provide a description of any independent contractors, consultants, and subcontractors the applicant plans to retain to supplement its managerial capabilities. This description should include the scope of the third party’s role and the expected term of the engagement.

This question has been amended and added to Section 11, the “Addendum” section, as question 11.32A. It now reads:

“To demonstrate you have the required resources to successfully execute your project, provide a description of any independent contractors, consultants, and subcontractors the applicant plans to retain to supplement its managerial capabilities. This description should include the scope of the third party’s role and the expected term of the engagement.”

Section 7: Financial Capability

7.2* Will the applicant supply a letter of credit (LOC) or a performance bond to fulfill the requirements in California’s Initial Proposal Volume 2?

This question has been amended and added to Section 11, the “Addendum” section, as question 11.24. It now reads:

“Will the applicant supply a letter of credit (LOC) or a performance bond to fulfill the requirements in California’s Initial Proposal Volume 2 and the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice? Note: Low-Earth orbit (LEO) satellite applicants should review the revised requirements for LOC and performance bonds in Appendix B of the NTIA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice.”

7.3* Using the Pro Forma Template, provide a pro forma business case analysis for a 10-year period, including assumptions regarding take-rates, churn, revenue-per-user, operating expenses, cash flow, and capital expenditures over the course of the construction and start-up operations, in accordance with the applicable administrative requirements and cost principles in 2 C.F.R. Part 200. The template requests a proposed project budget with standard categories that correspond with the cost categories in the Budget Narrative Template below.

This question has been amended and added to Section 11, the “Addendum” section, as question 11.18. It now reads:

“Using the Pro Forma Business Plan Template, provide a cash flow for the buildout period and at least 3 years past buildout. If you are revising an application that was previously submitted or in progress before the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice, please note that this document has been simplified. This template has been updated since the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice. All applicants must download and submit a new Pro Forma Business Plan Template.”

7.3A* Using the Budget Narrative Template, provide a detailed breakdown of the expected budget for the pro forma cost categories.

This question has been amended and added to Section 11, the “Addendum” section, as question 11.19. It now reads:

“Using the Budget Narrative Template, provide a detailed breakdown of the expected budget for the pro forma cost categories. This template has been updated since the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice. All applicants must download and submit a new Budget Narrative Template.”

7.3B* Provide documentation on the expected growth of the project and ongoing benefits to the community beyond completion of the build and disbursement of grant funding.

This question has been amended and added to Section 11, the “Addendum” section, as question 11.20. It now reads:

“Provide documentation on the expected growth of the project and ongoing benefits to the community beyond completion of the build and disbursement of grant funding. Include in the documentation an explanation of the Pro Forma Business Plan assumptions regarding take-rates, churn, revenue per user, operating expenses, cash flow, and capital expenditures, and detail any anticipated financial challenges.”

Section 8: Project Staffing and Labor Requirements

8.1* Provide a list of the employment categories, job titles, and job descriptions that will be necessary to successfully complete the proposed project.

This question has been amended and added to Section 11, the “Addendum” section, as question 11.27. It now reads:

“To demonstrate you have the required resources to successfully execute your project, provide a list of the employment categories, job titles, and job descriptions that will be necessary to successfully complete the proposed project.”

8.2* Using the Certification and Licenses Template provided, upload a list of any additional certifications, licenses, or other qualifications that are unique and specific to the proposed project, which will supplement the information provided as part of the prequalification application.

This question has been amended and added to Section 11, the “Addendum” section, as question 11.28. It now reads:

“To demonstrate you have the required resources to successfully execute your project, using the Certification and Licenses Template provided, upload a list of any additional certifications, licenses, or other qualifications that are unique and specific to the proposed project, which will supplement the information provided as part of the prequalification application.”

8.2A* Provide supporting documentation to demonstrate that the applicant has completed, or is in the process of completing, any additional requirements to become fully and properly qualified to successfully complete the proposed project.

This question has been amended and added to Section 11, the “Addendum” section, as question 11.28A. It now reads:

“To demonstrate you have the required resources to successfully execute your project, provide supporting documentation to demonstrate that the applicant has completed, or is in the process of completing, any additional requirements to become fully and properly qualified to successfully complete the proposed project.”

8.3* Provide a description of the processes that are or will be in place to track and maintain required certifications, licenses, and training programs for construction and post-construction activities to ensure that the organization will maintain a highly skilled workforce throughout the federal interest period of the project.

This question has been amended and added to Section 11, the “Addendum” section, as question 11.29. It now reads:

“To demonstrate you have the required resources to successfully execute your project, provide a description of the processes that are or will be in place to track and maintain required certifications, licenses, and training programs for construction and post-construction activities to ensure that the organization will maintain a highly skilled workforce throughout the federal interest period of the project.

8.4* Will the applicant’s workforce be directly employed, subcontracted, or a combination of both approaches?

This question has been amended and added to Section 11, the “Addendum” section, as question 11.30. It now reads:

“To demonstrate you have the required resources to successfully execute your project, will the applicant’s workforce be directly employed, subcontracted, or a combination of both approaches?”

8.4A* Provide a narrative identifying the entities the proposed subgrantee plans to contract or subcontract to carry out the proposed work, historical use of contracting and subcontracting arrangements, including staffing plans, and at least one example of each contractor and subcontractor’s past performance in the context of a similar project.

This question has been amended and added to Section 11, the “Addendum” section, as question 11.30A. It now reads:

“To demonstrate you have the required resources to successfully execute your project, provide a narrative identifying the entities the proposed subgrantee plans to contract or subcontract to carry out the proposed work, historical use of contracting and subcontracting arrangements, including staffing plans, and at least one example of each contractor and subcontractor’s past performance in the context of a similar project.”

Section 10: Compliance

10.19* The applicant certifies that it will comply with Davis-Bacon prevailing wages, and that it will comply with relevant aspects of California Labor Code § 1770 et seq., “Prevailing wage determination,” and California Labor Code, Section 1720. For projects located on Tribal lands, this requirement will not apply, but applicants must comply with any related Tribal or federal labor law.

This question has been amended and added to Section 11, the “Addendum” section, as question 11.31. It now reads:

“The applicant certifies that it will comply with relevant aspects of California Labor Code § 1770 et seq., “Prevailing wage determination,” and California Labor Code, Section 1720.”

Questions Moved to Section 11: Addendum

The following questions have not changed in the Project Application and have been moved to Section 11, the “Addendum” section, to maintain question branching within the application portal.

Section 5: Project Plan

5.20B* Describe the efforts the applicant has taken to substantiate the indicated response (e.g., environmental studies, field surveys, consultation with agencies, literature review or desktop research, etc.). List the agencies, parties, or databases consulted.

This question has been moved to Section 11, the “Addendum” section, as question 11.35B.

5.29* Does the applicant believe that the project qualifies for a Categorical Exclusion (CX) under NEPA?

This question has been moved to Section 11, the “Addendum” section, as question 11.36.

5.29B* Explain why the project does not qualify for a CX.

This question has been moved to Section 11, the “Addendum” section, as question 11.36B.

Section 7: Financial Capability

7.2A* Using the Letter of Commitment Template, provide a letter from a qualified financial institution that confirms the commitment to issue an irrevocable standby letter of credit (LOC). This letter of commitment must describe the type of financial institution that is making the commitment using the categories in 47 C.F.R. § 54.804(c)(2) or confirm that the institution is a qualifying credit union that is (a) is insured by the National Credit Union Administration; and (b) has a credit union safety rating issued by Weiss of B– or better. The letter of commitment must also state that the financial institution stands ready to issue an irrevocable standby LOC for the proposed project in the required amount and must specify the expected amount. The financial institution must also state that it has reviewed the model LOC and is prepared to comply with all terms and conditions for the LOC under this program. Upon completion of the Application Phase, successful subgrantees with awarded projects will be required to obtain their irrevocable standby LOCs from the previously committed financial institutions.

This question has been moved to Section 11, the “Addendum” section, as question 11.24A. The Letter of Commitment Template has been updated to be in compliance with the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice.

7.2B* Submit a signed bankruptcy opinion letter from legal counsel licensed in California that states the letter of credit (LOC) is drafted in such a way that under a Title 11 bankruptcy proceeding the bankruptcy court will not treat the LOC or proceeds from the LOC as “property” of the subgrantee’s bankruptcy estate under Section 541 of the United States Bankruptcy Code.

This question has been moved to Section 11, the “Addendum” section, as question 11.24B.

7.2C* Using the Surety Bond Template, submit a letter from a company holding a certificate of authority as an “acceptable surety on federal bonds” as identified in the Department of Treasury Circular 570. The surety’s letter must commit to issuing a performance bond to the applicant and shall, at a minimum, provide the dollar amount of the performance bond. Upon completion of the Application Phase, successful subgrantees with awarded projects will be required to obtain the performance bond from the previously committed companies providing sureties.

This question has been moved to Section 11, the “Addendum” section, as question 11.24C.

Section 10: Compliance

10.6* The applicant certifies that the proposed project will deliver at least 5 Mbps of capacity (or 2 TB of usage per month) to each BSL in the Project Area where a subscriber requests and is provisioned service.

This question has been moved to Section 11, the “Addendum” section, as question 11.25.

10.8* The applicant certifies that, at time of project closeout, all proposed BSLs shall be capable of receiving speeds of not less than 100 Mbps for downloads and 20 Mbps for uploads with 95% of latency measurements during testing windows falling at or below 100 milliseconds round-trip time.

This question has been moved to Section 11, the “Addendum” section, as question 11.26.

Questions Returning Applicants Must Resubmit

The following section and questions must be resubmitted by returning applicants. The questions listed below are required and dependent on returning applicants selecting locations in Section 2 of the Project Application.

Section 2: Select Locations

All returning applicants are required to select and resubmit locations to serve in their proposed projects in Section 2.

Section 3: Project Snapshot

3.3C The total number of unserved and underserved broadband serviceable locations (BSL) in the Project Area will be automatically calculated.

3.3Ci The total number of unserved BSLs this project proposes to serve will be automatically calculated.

3.3Cii The total number of underserved BSLs this project proposes to serve will be automatically calculated.

3.3Ciii The total number of CAIs this project proposes to serve will be automatically calculated.

3.3Civ The total number of unserved, underserved, and CAI locations this project proposes to serve will be automatically calculated.

3.3Cv The percentage of selected unserved and underserved BSLs in the proposed Project Area that fall within an NTIA-defined High-Cost Area (HCA) will be automatically calculated.

3.5* Provide the estimated number of total route miles for the new project build. For wireless technologies, include only route miles to the tower/antennae or ground station.

3.6* Provide the estimated miles of aerial fiber for the new project build. If no aerial fiber will be used, please enter “0.”

3.7* Provide the estimated miles of underground fiber for the new project build. If no underground fiber will be used, please enter “0.”

3.8 The dollar amount of the average BEAD funding cost per unserved and underserved BSL that the applicant proposes to serve will be automatically calculated.

Section 5: Project Plan

5.3* Upload a zipped file folder containing shapefiles illustrating the applicant’s proposed network design. The design shall include:

1. All BSL and CAI locations to be served by the project,
2. All proposed fiber infrastructure routes to be constructed by the project,
3. Project Area boundary polygons encompassing all infrastructure routes, interconnection points, and required right-of-way usage,
4. Any interconnection points or middle-mile infrastructure used to support the Project Area that are outside the polygon,
5. Supporting infrastructure such as poles, conduit, manholes/handholes, towers, ground stations, and antennae, and,
6. The location of electronics including routers, lasers, and power supplies.

A legend must be supplied for all design elements.

5.4* Using the Technical Specifications Template provided, upload descriptions of the proposed project’s technical specifications and design. Include project elements such as the proposed miles of fiber, number of interconnection points, technology types to be deployed, number of passings, and anticipated speeds and latency of the services to be offered over the completed network.

5.9 Using the Professional Engineer Certification Template provided, upload a PDF document signed by a currently licensed Professional Engineer that certifies that the engineer has reviewed all necessary elements of the proposed project, including descriptions and documentation of the network design, build-out timelines, business case, and budgets.

The engineer must certify that the proposed project meets all applicable program requirements and is designed to be successfully completed and capable of meeting all performance commitments and requirements to all locations served by the project within the proposed timeline.

The certifying engineer must hold all required professional licenses with a “clear” status from any state or other eligible entity. Signed original document must be retained in accordance with program rules.

The CPUC will allow applicants that are otherwise technically qualified applicants and have submitted technically sufficient responses to submit the PE certification after the application submission window. The absence of the PE certification in the application will be treated as a waiver request. If the applicant otherwise fulfills the technical requirements, the CPUC will allow the applicant to submit before award. Because time allotted for the subgrantee selection process is very short, it is of the utmost importance that the applicant provide the certification as soon as possible to be considered for award.

5.13* Does the proposed project include any locations on Tribal lands?

5.13A* On which Tribal lands does the proposed project include locations?

5.13B* Does the applicant have a written formal Resolution of Consent or other formal form of consent consistent with the applicable Tribe’s governing structure? If the applicant does not have the appropriate form of consent from the applicable Tribal government, the applicant will be required to provide such documents before preliminary award. A formal Resolution of Consent (or equivalent formal form of consent consistent with the Tribe’s governing structure) must be submitted to the CPUC before funds may be formally committed.

5.13C* Upload a formal Resolution of Consent or other formal form of consent consistent with the applicable Tribe’s governing structure from the applicable Tribal government.

5.13D* Does the applicant have substantial evidence of meaningful and sustained consultation with the Tribal government?

5.13E* Upload the substantial evidence of meaningful and sustained consultation with the Tribal government, which may include a fully executed Letter of Intent, as one file. Note that a formal Resolution of Consent (or equivalent formal form of consent consistent with the Tribe’s governing structure) is a required element of the review to be determined to be a presumptive awardee and must be submitted to the CPUC before funds may be formally committed.

5.15* Upload a zipped file folder containing a map of the Project Area (in KMZ or shapefile format) indicating all proposed project elements, including staging areas and access routes; existing infrastructure, buildings, and roads; locations and dimensions of ground disturbance; and Federal, State, and local jurisdictional lands.