California's BEAD Subgrantee Selection Process

December 3, 2024

California Public
Utilities Commission

Welcome

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Program Manager

BEAD Program

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. BEAD Overview
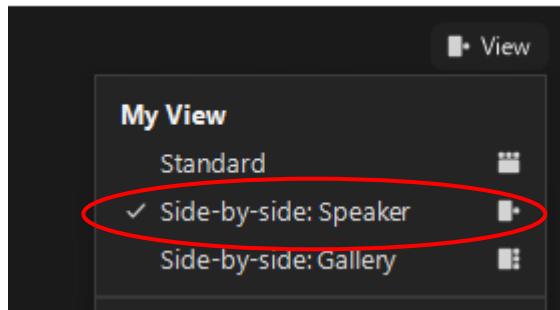3. Application Overview
4. Next steps

Housekeeping

Tips for getting the most out of this webinar

Closed Captions: English closed captions are available. Select "Show captions" on your toolbar. (Click the small arrow on the 'Show captions' button for more settings or to see a full transcript)

Q&A: Type your questions in the Q&A

Chat: Keep an eye on the chat because we will use it to send useful links to you

Select Side-by-Side: Speaker Mode for the best viewing experience when slides are shared

BEAD overview

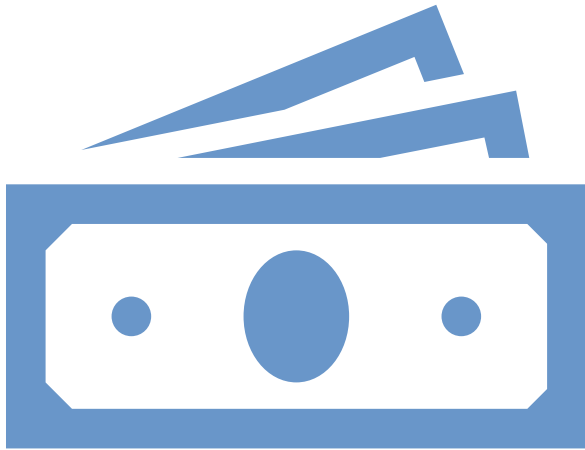**Aimee Meacham**

CTC Energy and Technology

BEAD overview

What is the BEAD Program?

- The **Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment** (BEAD) **Program** was created by the **bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)** in 2021

- Allocates **$42.45 billion of federal funding** to all 50 states, Washington D.C., and territories

- Administered by the **National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)**

- Goal of **expanding high-speed internet access** through infrastructure deployment

Funding priority

How will BEAD funding be prioritized?

1. **Top priority: Unserved locations** (locations with internet speeds below 25/3 Mbps)

2. **Second priority: Underserved locations** (locations with speeds between 25/3 and 100/20 Mbps)

3. **Third priority: Community anchor institutions** (those with internet service under 1 Gbps symmetric)

The BEAD Program in California

California was allocated $1.86 billion in BEAD funds that will become available following completion of the federal planning and approval cycle.

The CPUC has submitted to the federal government required planning documents, and NTIA has approved the Initial Proposal Volumes I & II.
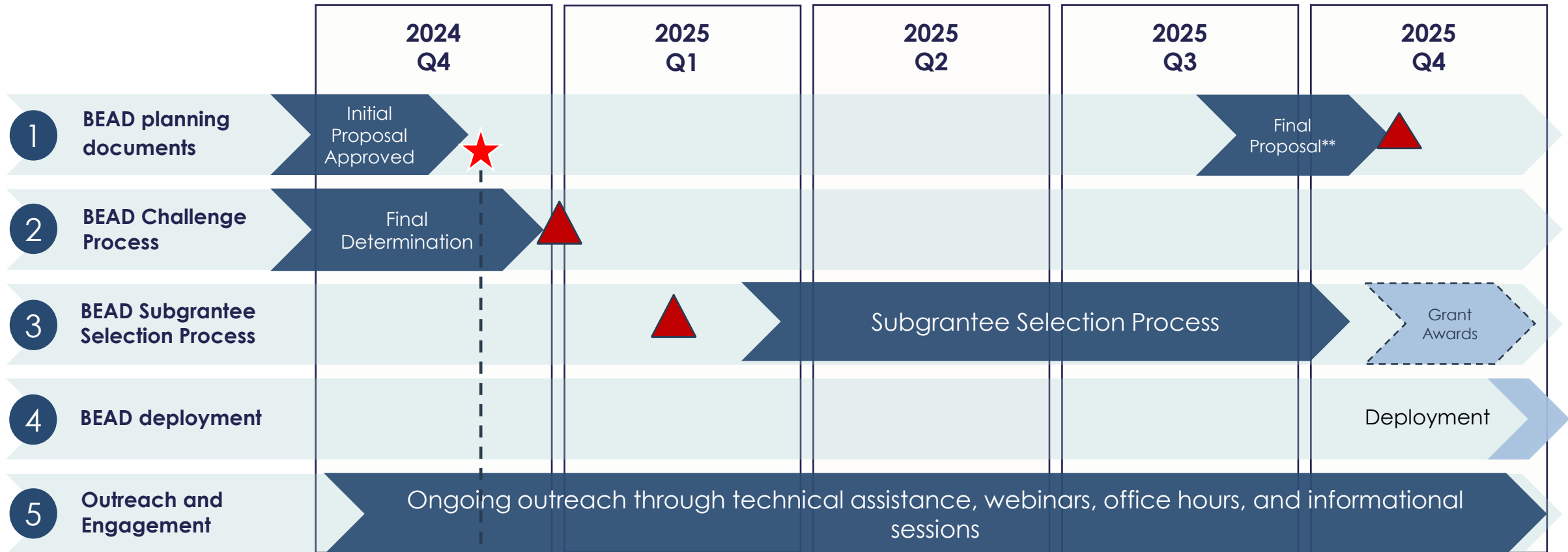
BEAD Planning

Challenge Process

Subgrantee selection & Deployment

2023   **2024**   **2025**

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Timeline*

Specific dates and timelines will be published and communicated as soon as they have been determined

		2024 Q4	2025 Q1	2025 Q2	2025 Q3	2025 Q4
1	BEAD planning documents	Initial Proposal Approved ★			Final Proposal** ▲	
2	BEAD Challenge Process	Final Determination ▲				
3	BEAD Subgrantee Selection Process		▲	Subgrantee Selection Process		Grant Awards
4	BEAD deployment					Deployment
5	Outreach and Engagement	Ongoing outreach through technical assistance, webinars, office hours, and informational sessions				

Subgrantee Selection rules approved Final Determination submitted to NTIA

▲ Indicates requirement for NTIA approval in advance of further steps
*Timeline approximate. Exact timeline dependent on NTIA approval.
**Final Proposal must be approved by NTIA before grants can be awarded.

Timeline constraints

- The BEAD timeline is **extremely short** due to federal requirements

- Unlike other grant programs, the BEAD program will have very strict timelines, with **very little opportunity for CPUC-initiated curing**

- Pay attention to CPUC emails and resources and **please prepare in advance to ensure effective participation;** there are many items that can be gathered prior to the opening of the application window

Who can participate?

- Potential applicants may include:
  - Private or public internet service providers
  - Local governments
  - Tribal governments and other Tribal entities
  - Electric cooperatives
  - Public or private utilities
  - Public utility districts
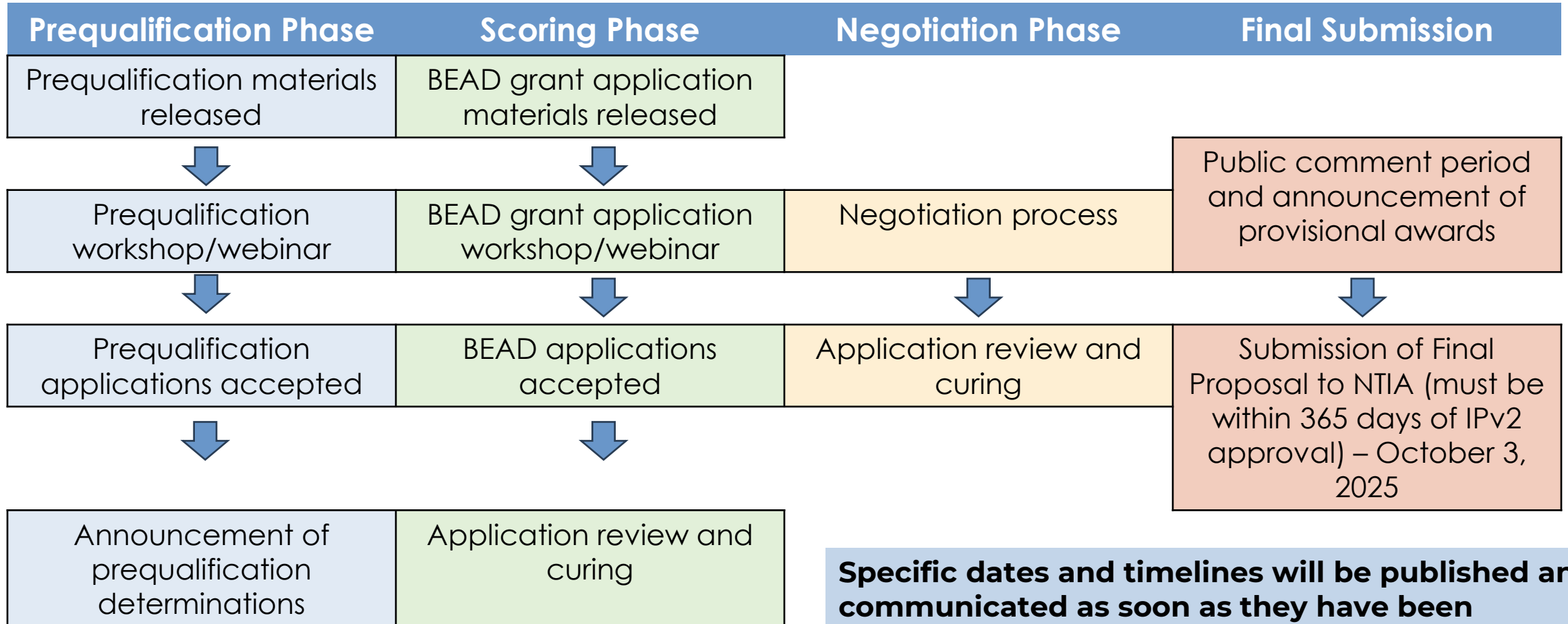 - Public-private partnerships
  - Nonprofits

All applicants must be **prepared and qualified to build broadband infrastructure**

Elements of subgrantee selection

There are three elements of NTIA's requirements for the subgrantee selection process:

- **Qualifications** that applicants must meet (requested in **Prequalification** Phase and **Scoring** Phase)

- **Project details** that applicants must submit (requested in **Scoring** Phase)

- **Scoring criteria** developed by the CPUC that will be used to evaluate applications

BEAD Grant Application Process Timeline

Prequalification Phase	Scoring Phase	Negotiation Phase	Final Submission
Prequalification materials released	BEAD grant application materials released		
Prequalification workshop/webinar	BEAD grant application workshop/webinar	Negotiation process	Public comment period and announcement of provisional awards
Prequalification applications accepted	BEAD applications accepted	Application review and curing	Submission of Final Proposal to NTIA (must be within 365 days of IPv2 approval) – October 3, 2025
Announcement of prequalification determinations	Application review and curing		

Specific dates and timelines will be published and communicated as soon as they have been determined

Application overview

Prequalification application

- The CPUC will run an **initial prequalification application round**

- For prequalification, prospective applicants will provide **basic organizational and administrative information** to demonstrate they are qualified to be a BEAD subgrantee

  - Information needed may include SAM.gov registration, resumes, an organizational chart, contact information, financial documentation, and past performance in broadband projects

- More information about specific questions will be released when the Prequalification Application is made public

Main application components

The main subgrantee application consists of 9 sections:

Section 1: Administrative

Section 2: Project Snapshot

Section 3: Scoring Criteria

Section 4: Project Plan Information

Section 5: Organizational and Managerial Capacity

Section 6: Financial Capability

Section 7: Project Staffing and Labor Requirements

Section 8: Ownership Information

Section 9: Compliance

Project snapshot

The Project Snapshot section aims to quickly capture project information to allow for interim reporting. Requested information and materials include:

1

Estimated number of aerial and buried fiber miles

2

Match amounts and sources

Scoring criteria requirements

- NTIA mandates some scoring criteria that the CPUC must include as part of application evaluation:
  - Primary criteria that must amount to at least 75 percent of total points
  - Some secondary criteria that must be considered in scoring
- Other scoring criteria were customized by the CPUC in the Initial Proposal Volume II
- More in-depth information is available in California's IPv2 (pp. 39-45) and will be presented in a future webinar

Scoring criteria for Priority Broadband Projects (end-to-end fiber)

Scoring Criterion	Points available
Primary Criteria (required under NTIA Rules)	
Affordability	35
Fair Labor Practices	20
Minimum BEAD outlay	20
Primary Criteria subtotal	75
Secondary Criterion (required under NTIA Rules)	
Speed to Deployment	5
Secondary Criteria subtotal	5
Additional Prioritization Factors	
Equity	10
Resilience	10
Additional Prioritization Factors subtotal	20
Total	100

Scoring criteria for Other Last-Mile Broadband Deployment Projects

Scoring Criterion	Points available
Primary Criteria (required under NTIA Rules)	
Affordability	35
Fair Labor Practices	20
Minimum BEAD outlay	20
Primary Criteria subtotal	75
Secondary Criteria (required under NTIA rules)	
Technical Capability	4
Speed to Deployment	1
Secondary Criteria subtotal	5
Additional Prioritization Factors	
Equity	10
Resilience	10
Additional Prioritization Factors subtotal	20
Total	100

Project plan

The Project Plan section will require materials to capture the technical components of the proposed project including:

- Technical narrative
- Network design
- Logical network diagram
- Project cost*
- Project timeline*
- PE certification
- Additional certifications for program compliance
- Fixed wireless or satellite design (non-priority only)*

The CPUC will publish templates for applicants to upload this information
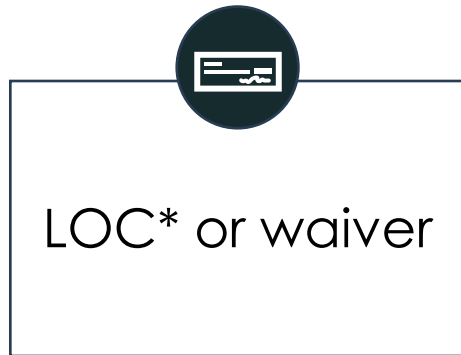
Organizational and managerial capacity

The Organizational & Managerial Capacity section allows subgrantee applicants to update materials submitted during Prequalification (e.g., resumes). New information requested will include:

Additional certifications
for program compliance

Financial capability

The Financial Capability section will capture project-specific financial information

| LOC* or waiver | Pro forma* | Certifications for program compliance |

The CPUC will publish templates for applicants to upload this information

Project staffing and labor

The Project Staffing & Labor Requirements section will capture additional information on the subgrantee applicant's workforce plans and structure.

Narratives on staffing, contract/subcontract plans, and licenses/certifications relevant to broadband deployment

Project-specific resumes

Certifications for program compliance

Ownership information

The Ownership Information section will require subgrantee applicants to enter ownership information for their company.

- If applicable, subgrantee applicants may submit updated ownership information materials later in the process.

The CPUC will publish a template for applicants to upload this information

Compliance

The Compliance section allows subgrantee applicants to demonstrate awareness and understanding of program requirements. Certifications may include:

1
Commitment to providing a low-cost plan

2
Commitment to participating in any ACP-successor program as identified by NTIA

3
Commitment to provide a binding Resolution of Consent (if constructing on Tribal lands)

4
Understanding of various federal and state program requirements

Project selection

How will projects be selected?

- Projects will be ranked according to **technology and highest score**
  - The program is required to prioritize the highest-scoring end-to-end **fiber applications** first
- To be selected, a project must also **fit within the CPUC's anticipated budget** given the amount of funding available for the state to reach 100 percent of unserved and underserved locations

Next steps

Initial checklist

This is a preliminary list; the full list will be published with the application

Available for download on the CPUC's BEAD Resources page

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
INFORMATION SHEET

BEAD APPLICATION PROCESS INITIAL CHECKLIST

During the BEAD application process, applicants will need to gather and submit information to support BEAD eligibility requirements regarding qualifications. This checklist documents some of the items that may take time to complete and could be initiated in advance of the application window. *Note: This is not a comprehensive list; additional information will be required when the application is released.*

Organizational information

☐ **SAM.gov** registration unique entity identifier (UEI) *Note: Please register today as the process may take several weeks.*

☐ **Organizational chart** indicating key personnel, teams, and company structure.

☐ **Ownership information** (consistent with 47 C.F.R. § 1.2112(a)(1)-(7)), including entities with 10% or greater ownership interest. *Note: The CPUC will provide a template for this in the application materials.*

☐ **Certifications and licenses** held by the business and by individual employees, organized by role.

☐ **Resumes** of key personnel, including managerial, technical, financial, and operational positions.

Financial information

☐ **Letter of credit or performance bond** or letter from a bank confirming the commitment to issuing an irrevocable standby letter of credit (ILOC) or bond. Alternatively, a conditional programmatic waiver if the applicant does not obtain an ILOC.

☐ **Audited financial statements** from the prior year **or alternative equivalent financial information** (or a justification as to why such statements may not be available).

Initial checklist

- This is a preliminary list; the full list will be published with the application
- Available for download on the CPUC's BEAD Resources page

Experience and other projects

☐ **Information on past performance** on broadband projects (especially those similar in size and scope to the anticipated BEAD project). *Note: The CPUC will provide a template for this in the application materials.*

☐ **Other public funding** your organization or its affiliates have received, applied for, or intend to apply for (including federal and state funding) for broadband deployment projects—as well as project details for those public-funded projects. *Note: The CPUC will provide a template for this in the application materials.*

Legal and compliance

☐ **Cybersecurity and supply chain plans** in alignment with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity.

☐ **Employment and labor** certifications and narratives, including plan to ensure skilled and credentialed workforce, history of compliance and plans for contracted resources.

☐ **Certification of compliance with legal and program requirements** including Build America, Buy America (BABA), environmental and historic preservation, and FCC regulations.

☐ **New entrants** will be asked to provide documentation of developing its resources and expertise for BEAD.

Note: Resources will be available on the CPUC website.

Important reminders

- You must check your application for **completeness, quality, and accuracy**

  There will be very little time for curing compared to past programs

- Begin **preparing elements now** that you know you'll need to provide; see checklist (some items may take several weeks to process)

- Seek **clarifications from CPUC staff and Caseworkers** if needed
  - CPUC will provide webinars, office hours, FAQs
  - Outreach and assistance will be based on strict NTIA rules to keep assistance opportunities open to all

Upcoming webinars

Webinars are open to all who wish to attend, and registration links will be posted on the [BEAD events page](#).

DATE/TIME	TOPIC
Tuesday, December 10, 1:00-2:00 pm PST	BEAD Program Design
Tuesday, December 17, 1:00-2:00 pm PST	BEAD Program Evaluation
Thursdays, January 9 to February 27 1:00-2:00 pm PST	Office Hours

Resources for reference

While the CPUC cannot provide an exclusive or exhaustive list of applicable federal or State laws, it urges applicants to review and consider laws such as:

- California Public Utilities Commission, California Joint Use Association, California Department of Administrative Services, and California Department of Transportation rules and regulations, including rules regarding utilities, access to pole attachments, and rights-of-way

- State statutes and regulations related to broadband infrastructure deployment such as California Administrative Rules, and other regulations that govern telecommunications infrastructure, conduit, pole attachments, and rights-of-way

- Federal and State procurement laws including Buy American requirements, trade law obligations, foreign ownership ,disclosures and State contracting rules

- State and local permitting laws, rules, obligations, and authority

- Applicable federal Uniform Guidance regulations (2 C.F.R. Part 200)

- Department of Commerce Standard Terms and Conditions for grant funding

- Federal and State environmental and historic preservation regulations

- Federal and State labor, worker safety, and wage laws, regulations, and executive orders, including the Occupational Safety and Health Act, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Civil Rights Act of 1964, Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §3702, 3704), and xxxx (State prevailing wage rate law)

Questions?

Please contact us at:
BEADgrant@cpuc.ca.gov

For more information visit:

California Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program

California Public Utilities Commission