California's BEAD Program: Prequalification Application Guide and Questions

March 2025

California Public Utilities Commission

Introduction

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Overview of the BEAD application
3. Introduction to BEAD application materials
4. Walk-through

Overview of the BEAD application

Two parts of the BEAD application process

1. **Prequalification Application**

2. **Project Application**

An applicant must submit both parts of the application to be considered for a BEAD subgrant.

Prequalification Application

- Designed to evaluate the applicant's **capabilities, qualifications, and capacity to meet minimum BEAD requirements**.

- Each applicant only needs to **fill out the Prequalification Application once**, before submitting one or more Project Applications.

- Evaluated on a **pass/fail basis**.

- The CPUC may contact applicants after submission to **request missing information or application revisions**. Applicants will have a **limited period of time** to respond to these requests.

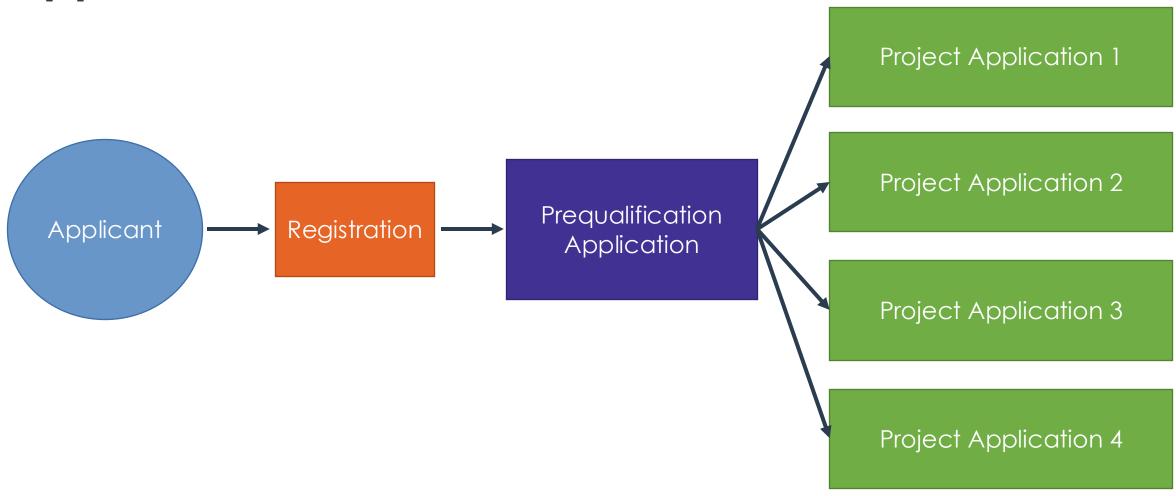- The Prequalification Application Guide has been published.

Project Application

- The Project Application includes project-specific descriptions, mapping, technical design, and financial information to enable the CPUC to **evaluate and score each project**.

- An applicant must submit one Project Application for each of their proposed project areas.

- Project Applications will be **scored and ranked** based on technology type and on the procedures and scoring rubrics outlined in the Initial Proposal Volume II.

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Application flow

Application guides

Application Guides

The **Prequalification Application Guide** has been published. The **Project Application Guide** will be published in the coming weeks.

- Each contains background information, portal navigation guidance, and instructions for each question.

- The content of the questions and information requested will be the same as it will be in in the portal. As the portal is finalized, the presentation, order, and style of some questions may be adjusted.

- The Application Guides may also be updated with more information and guidance on portal displays and navigation as details become available.

Templates

- The CPUC has published several [templates](#) that will be required submissions as part of the Prequalification Application. They include:
  - Past Performance and Experience
  - Other Public Funding
  - Service Pricing in Non-Grant Funded Areas
  - Ownership Information

- The published templates are preliminary versions; the final versions will be linked in the portal. Applicants should be sure to complete the final version of the templates when submitting to the portal.

- Templates will also be released for the Project Application.

- A future technical assistance video will walk through how to fill out these templates.

Walk-through

Questions?

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

For more information visit:

[California Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program](#)

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