# Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Grant Program

## **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**



### APPLICATION QUESTIONS

#### ENTITY INFORMATION

- 1. Applicant Legal Entity Name (As it appears on the organization's UEI)
- 2. Non-Traditional Broadband Provider The term "non-traditional broadband provider" means an electric cooperative, nonprofit organization, public-private partnership, public or private utility, public utility district, Tribal entity, or local government (including any unit, subdivision, authority, or consortium of local governments) that provides or will provide broadband services.
- **3. Provider Type** Choose one of the following: ILEC Service Provider, Non-ILEC Service, Provider, Cooperative, Municipality, or Tribal
- **4.** Entity Type Dropdown, select one of the following: private companies, cooperatives, nonprofit organizations, public-private partnerships, local governments, public utilities, private utilities, public utility districts, or other.
- 5. Please indicate if your organization is one of the following Checkbox all that apply: Minority Owned Business or Woman Owned Business
- 6. Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN) Provide your organization's 9-digit FEIN
- 7. GA Tax ID Number 9-digit number
- 8. FCC Registration Number (FRN) Provide your organization's 10-digit FRN.
- 9. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) Provide your organization's 12-digit UEI.
- 10. UEI Expiration date
- 11. Mailing Address
- 12. Organization website
- **13. Primary Contact Name** The main point of contact for the applicant entity that is responsible for receiving communications and completing tasks related to the application and any subsequent award; this may be the same as the Authorized Official. This is commonly a project manager, member of the compliance team, or an accounting personnel.
- 14. Primary Contact Title
- **15. Primary Contact Email**
- **16. Primary Contact Phone Number**
- **17. Authorized Official Name** The individual is named by the applicant organization and is authorized to act for the applicant and assume the obligations imposed by Federal laws, regulations, requirements, and conditions that apply to grant applications or grant awards. This is commonly a board member or an executive of the organization.
- 18. Authorized Official Email
- **19. Authorized Official Phone Number**

#### PROJECT INFORMATION

Partnership Application - Please indicate if this application is a partnership application in which one or more providers partnering to serve locations within the same project area.
 1.1 Partner Entity Name - Please enter the partner entity name.

**1.1 Partner Application Number** – Please enter the application number for the entity you are partnering with.

**1.2 Consortium Application** - Please indicate if this application is a consortium application in which two or more providers creating a single legal entity to own the network in the eligible project area - Checkbox.

- 2. Proposed Project Area Dropdown, select one of the following counties.
- **3.** How many unserved and underserved locations are in the County Grant Area? Please input number unserved and underserved locations in the County Grant Area in the table.
- **4.** How many unserved and underserved locations does the project plan to serve? Please input number unserved and underserved locations the project plans to serve in the table.
- **5. Locations Proposed in Application** Use the BEAD Locations in Application Template to fill in proposed project locations Link: (Link)
- **6. Locations Removed from project area** If applicable, Use the BEAD Locations Removed template to fill in any locations that are planned to be removed Link: (Link)
- **7. Estimated Miles of Aerial Fiber** Please provide the number of route miles planned to be installed overhead.
- **8. Estimated Miles of Buried fiber** Please provide the number of route miles planned to be installed underground.
- **9. Proposed Technology Type** Dropdown, select one of the following: Priority or Non-Priority: The NTIA guidance mandates that subrecipient selection prioritize projects delivering end-to-end fiber-optic facilities to end-user premises, specifically Optical Carrier/Fiber to the Premises. These are categorized as Priority Broadband projects. Any proposal that includes non-fiber technology is considered a Non-Priority Broadband project and is not prioritized. Non-fiber technology solutions are ineligible for application under Round 1 of BEAD funding, but applicants should monitor future rounds for potential eligibility.
- **10. Project description** Please provide a project description with a max of 1,000 characters.
- **11. Estimated Number of Jobs Created** Please estimate how many jobs will be created through the implementing this BEAD project.
- 12. Requested BEAD Grant Funds Please complete the budget table including <u>only the</u> <u>requested BEAD grant funding</u> to support the program.
- 13. Total Project Costs Please indicate the <u>total dollar amount to complete the project</u>. This includes the requested amount of BEAD grant funds and total matching funds to support the project.
- **14. Total Matching Funds -** Non-Federal contributions required to complement Federal Grant Award funds.

15. Applicants who are proposing in-kind match must upload thorough documentation to justify the valuation of property, goods, and services contributed toward meeting BEAD's matching requirements. This documentation may be provided by the recipient, subrecipient, or the donor of the item, and must clearly show how the assigned value was determined. Records should include details on the contribution, the valuation method used, and the donation terms to support the amount claimed as matching funds for the project.

Additionally, the recipient must ensure that the contribution is both relevant and necessary for the project. The valuation methodology and supporting documentation should reflect the actual market conditions faced by the recipient. For instance, when valuing equipment rentals, the fair market rates in the locality where the equipment is used should be considered, rather than rates from a different region with unrelated market conditions.

#### GATING SECTION 1: CERTIFICATIONS AND FINANCIAL CAPABILITIES

- 1. Does an Officer or Director level employee certify that the organization has the necessary financial qualifications, capabilities, and resources to comply with all program requirements and successfully participate in the program? This includes that the entity has and will continue to have sufficient financial resources to cover eligible costs for the project until OPB authorizes additional disbursements 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.
- 2. Does an Officer or Director level employee certify that the organization understands the program will use a reimbursement model, requiring subrecipients to commit resources to construct the network and begin service prior to receiving grant award funding as reimbursement for eligible expense based on performance milestones? 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.
- 3. Does the prospective grantee certify that they will have available funds for all project costs that exceed the amount of the grant? 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.
- 4. Does an Officer or Director level employee certify that the organization will have sufficient financial resources to provide the pledged matching funds as required by the program rules? Program rules require a minimum 25% match by the awarded organization unless this requirement is waived by the state due to the high cost of an area or location. Please answer 'Yes' to certify or 'No' if this certification cannot be made.
- 5. Does your organization have financial statements from the prior fiscal year that are audited by an independent certified public accountant? Yes / No
- If you answered 'No' to question 5, please answer the following questions:
  - **5.1 Does your organization commit to providing audited financial statements within 90 days?** If you answered 'No' to question #5, please respond 'Yes' to certify your

commitment to providing financial statements, or 'No' if this certification cannot be made.

- **5.2 Describe the circumstances and reasons for the lack of audited financials** Possible reasons could include being a new business, being in the process of completing audits, exemptions due to size or the nature of the business, a change in audit firms causing delays in the auditing process, or internal restructuring that has postponed financial reporting and auditing.
- 5.3 Provide a year of financial statements that contain substantially the same level of detail and information The uploaded financial documentation should provide information comparable to audited financial statements. This includes a verification confirming the accuracy of the statements, a balance sheet (or statement of financial position) detailing assets, liabilities, and equity, and an income statement (or statement of profit and loss) outlining revenues, expenses, and net income/loss. Additionally, it should include a cash flow statement that covers operating, investing, and financing activities, along with a statement of changes in equity, showing changes in retained earnings or dividends. Detailed notes to the financial statements should explain accounting policies, contingent liabilities, and leases. The documentation may also include a statement of internal controls, related party transactions, and disclosures on compliance and risk.
- 5.4 Upload relevant and applicable financial documentation that provides substantially similar information as audited financial statements that will allow GTA to substantiate the public entity's financial qualifications and capabilities to participate in the program The uploaded financial documentation should provide information comparable to audited financial statements. This includes a verification confirming the accuracy of the statements, a balance sheet (or statement of financial position) detailing assets, liabilities, and equity, and an income statement (or statement of profit and loss) outlining revenues, expenses, and net income/loss. Additionally, it should include a cash flow statement that covers operating, investing, and financing activities, along with a statement of changes in equity, showing changes in retained earnings or dividends. Detailed notes to the financial statements should explain accounting policies, contingent liabilities, and leases. The documentation may also include a statement of internal controls, related party transactions, and disclosures on compliance and risk.
- **5.5 Does the organization certify that the financial documentation provides substantially similar information to audited financial statements?** - 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.
- **5.6 Provide a narrative discussing the financial documentation** Please provide a detailed description of the financial documentation you provided in question #15. The narrative discussing financial documentation should provide a clear overview of the financial statements, including their accuracy, completeness, and adherence to accounting standards. It should highlight key financial metrics, such as assets,

liabilities, revenue, and cash flow, while also addressing any challenges or qualifications. The narrative should emphasize the importance of these documents in demonstrating the organization's financial health and accountability, as well as offer forward-looking insights into future financial sustainability.

#### If you answered 'Yes' to question 5, please answer the following three questions:

- **5.1 Upload your organization's financial statements from the prior fiscal year that are audited by an independent certified public accountant** Upload your organization's financial statements from the most recent fiscal.
- **5.2 What is the opinion of the audit?** Choose one of the following: Unqualified, Qualified, Other
- **5.3 Do the financial statements contain "qualifications" by the auditor?** 'Yes', if they contain qualifications and 'No' if they do not.

#### If you answered 'Yes' to 5.3, please answer the following question:

- **5.3.1** Describe and explain the qualification(s) and measures taken by the company to address the qualification Please list the qualification(s) and provide a detailed description of the measures taken to address them. The answer should provide a clear identification of the relevant qualification(s) and offer a thorough explanation of how these qualifications relate to the project's requirements or goals. It should also detail any corrective measures that have been taken to address gaps or deficiencies, accompanied by a specific time frame for implementation and the progress made so far. The response should evaluate the effectiveness of the corrective actions and demonstrate the organization's accountability in resolving any qualification or compliance issues.
- 6. Does your organization have alternative financial reporting requirements, such as a public entity? If your organization has alternative financial reporting requirements, such as those required for public entities, please answer 'Yes'. If this is not applicable to your organization, answer 'No'.
- 7. 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 - 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.
- 8. Upload the business plans or pro forma for the proposed project A comprehensive business plan or pro forma should include all critical elements. These elements should have detailed financial projections such as take rates, churn rates, revenue per user (RPU), revenue, expenses, cash flow, and profitability. The pro forma should also include a balance sheet equivalent (assets, liabilities, and equity), and a cash flow statement with operating, investing, and financing activities. Additionally, it should provide assumptions for market growth, operating costs, and customer acquisition, along with a break-even

analysis, capital expenditures, and a feasibility analysis that assesses the project's financial viability. The document must clearly outline timelines with key project milestones, include risk analysis and contingencies, and provide any necessary financial ratios and capital requirements. All assumptions, risks, and contingencies should be clearly documented to ensure transparency and realism in the projections.

- 9. Upload a budget narrative that breaks down and describes each charge listed in the uploaded budget, the team, or staff responsible for each budget expense (if known), and how each expenditure relates to the project objectives.
- 10. If your organization will be providing a cash or in-kind match in this cost category, note and explain in the justification to include a break-down of the grant and match share of each proposed cost The justification narrative should provide a clear breakdown of the grant and match share for each proposed cost in the cost category, indicating whether the match is cash or in-kind. The match share meets the required percentage (at least 25% of the total project cost), and any in-kind contributions are properly explained and justified.

#### **11. Describe the following:**

- **11.1** Describe the assumptions for take rates.
- **11.2** Describe the assumptions for churn.
- **11.3** Describe the assumptions for revenue-per-user.
- **11.4** Describe the assumptions for operating expenses.
- **11.5** Describe the assumptions for cash flow.
- 11.6 Describe the assumptions for capital expenditures over the course of the

construction and start-up operations for a 10-year period.

- 12. Upload any additional documentation that complements the budget template information and presents a fuller picture of the applicant's financial capabilities and the proposed project's financial sustainability (optional).
- 13. Does your organization certify that costs proposed for this grant program will be reasonable, allowable, allocable, and necessary to the supported activity, in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.

#### 14. Financials

- 14.1 In the most recent fiscal year, what was the organization's net income?
- 14.2 In the most recent fiscal year, what was the organization's total revenue?
- 14.3 In the most recent fiscal year, what was the organization's total current assets?
- 14.4 In the most recent fiscal year, what was the organization's total current liabilities?
- 14.5 In the most recent fiscal year, what was the organization's total liabilities?

14.6 In the most recent fiscal year, what was the organization's total equity?

15. Demonstrate in the budgets, budget narratives, and pro forma statements that the organization will comply with the requirements for match that are mandated by the language of the statute and NTIA's rules (Section III.B).

#### GATING SECTION 2: LETTER OF CREDIT, MANGERIAL, AND OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES

- Do you certify that your organization is aware of and understands the updated letter of credit or performance bond obligation based on NTIA's programmatic waiver? - 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.
- 2. Does the organization certify that it has the qualifications and resources to obtain the required letter of commitment and letter of credit or performance bond obligation from an eligible financial institution? 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.
- 3. Does the organization stand ready to obtain an irrevocable standby letter of credit for the proposed project in the required amount? (Checkbox) For more information on the letter of credit requirements, please see <u>NOFO-IV.D.2.a.ii</u> and the <u>NTIA's waiver</u>. If you checked the box for question 3 indicating your organization stands ready to obtain an irrevocable standby letter of credit for the proposed project in the required amount, please answer the following:
  - **3.1 Does your organization plan to utilize a performance bond or letter of credit for the proposed project?** - Dropdown question, select either: Performance bond or Letter of Credit
    - **3.1.1** What is the dollar amount of the performance bond or letter of credit the organization will seek? For the letter of credit, it should cover 25% of the total grant funds requested. For the performance bond, it should cover 100% of the total grant funds requested.
- 4. Does the organization certify that key management personnel have demonstrated experience, skills, and authority to successfully fulfill the obligations of the role? 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.
- 5. How many years has your organization, or its parent company been operating?
  - 5.1 Upload resumes of relevant management staff that cumulatively demonstrate a minimum of five years of experience with broadband network design, construction, maintenance, and operations. Applicants must also include resumes of an employed Chief Technology Officer and contractor oversight team with the relevant certifications (both management and non-management) for deployment projects as mandated by State and Federal law The submitted resumes should collectively demonstrate a minimum of five years of experience for each individual in broadband network design, construction, maintenance, and operations. This should include the resumes of an employed Chief Technology Officer and the contractor oversight team, covering both management and non-management roles. Each resume should highlight relevant certifications, ensuring compliance with all State and Federal requirements for deployment projects.
- 6. Provide a narrative discussion of each key management personnel's expected role in the proposed project Please provide a detailed description of each key management role.

- 7. Upload detailed organizational charts of the organization's structure, key management personnel, and relevant operational teams. These charts will also provide information regarding the organization's parent company and affiliates, if any. The organizational chart is expected to correspond to the other elements of the entity's showing of managerial capability, including mapping back to each identified key management personnel and functional teams. Organization charts should identify the key project personnel.
- 8. Describe any recent or expected changes to the organization's structure, processes, and planning that may impact its BEAD project efforts.
- 9. Describe the organization's experience, resources, and readiness to provide the required service offerings, level of service, and maintenance over the completed network.
- **10.** Has your organization provided broadband service? Please answer 'Yes' if your organization has provided broadband service in the past, and 'No' if it has not.
- **11.** Has your organization operated only an electric transmission or distribution service? -Please answer 'Yes' if your organization has operated only an electric transmission or distribution service, and 'No' if it has not.
- **12. Does your organization provide broadband services in other states?** Please answer 'Yes' if your organization has provided broadband service in other states, and 'No' if it has not.
- If you answered 'Yes' in question 12, please answer the following three questions: 12.1 If operations in other states are referenced as part of demonstrating managerial,
  - technical, or operational capabilities, provide a list of licensing and certification identifiers for each State - Examples of certifications that are typically required or beneficial include State Public Utility Commission (PUC) certifications, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) certifications, contractor licenses, and telecommunications contractor certifications. Additionally, an Electrical Contractor License, environmental permits, and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) certifications are crucial for safety and regulatory compliance. Professional Engineer (PE) licenses, ISO/Quality Management certifications, and cybersecurity certifications further ensure that individuals meet the high standards necessary for managing and overseeing complex deployment projects.
  - 12.2 If operations in other states are referenced as part of demonstrating managerial, technical, or operational capabilities, provide the number of years of operating experience in each state.
  - 12.3 If operations in other states are referenced as part of demonstrating managerial, technical, or operational capabilities, provide descriptions of the services provided in each State either by the organization directly or by its affiliates and parent organization Examples of managerial services include program management, strategic planning, and ensuring regulatory compliance in various states. Technical services highlight expertise in network design, system integration, and the implementation of cutting-edge broadband technologies such as fiber optics or 5G. In

terms of operational services, relevant experience includes deploying broadband infrastructure, providing ongoing maintenance, and managing service delivery to customers, ensuring efficient and reliable broadband access across regions.

- 13. Describe any independent contractors, consultants, and subcontractors your organization plans to retain to supplement its managerial capabilities. This description should include the scope of the third-party contractor's role and the expected term of the engagement.
- 14. Upload any supporting documentation regarding any independent contractors, consultants, and subcontractors that the applicant plans to retain to supplement its managerial capabilities.

If your organization has less than 3 years of labor and employment law compliance, please answer 15:

- 15. For new entrants, provide a narrative explaining how your organization will develop its managerial expertise and resources through the recruitment of directly employed key management personnel with the requisite leadership experience of at least five years in prior roles and positions in the communication industry Examples of key management personnel grantees may recruit with leadership experience in roles such as Chief Operations Officer (COO), Director of Network Operations, Project Manager for Telecommunications, and Head of Communications Infrastructure. Additionally, positions like Broadband Deployment Manager, Telecommunications Engineer, Network Architect, and Chief Technology Officer (CTO) provide critical expertise in managing communication projects. Other essential roles include Director of Regulatory Affairs, Head of Fiber Optic Network Deployment, Director of IT and Network Security, Communications Network Planner, Business Development Manager (Communications), Head of Field Operations for Broadband, and Technical Director for Communications.
- 16. Provide additional data and descriptions of management's capabilities to specifically address any unique needs of the proposed project. This project-specific management showing should reflect and correspond to other elements of the application including financial capability, network design, budgeting, and planning - Applicants should have experience in managing large-scale capital budgets specifically related to broadband infrastructure, including the purchase and installation of fiber optic cables, towers, and related equipment. Expertise in controlling costs and maintaining budgets during both the construction and operational phases of broadband networks is essential. This includes the ability to identify cost-saving measures without compromising quality or project scope. Applicants must also demonstrate experience in structuring and managing financial aspects of broadband projects that involve both public and private funding, such as securing government grants or subsidies (like BEAD funding) and blending them with private investment. Familiarity with creating financial models that project long-term revenue streams from broadband services, estimating ROI, and ensuring financial sustainability is critical. Proven experience in managing grants, including compliance with government regulations, reporting, and financial auditing-especially relevant when

dealing with Federal or State programs like BEAD funding—is required. Candidates should also have expertise in negotiating and managing contracts with vendors and subcontractors to ensure cost-effective procurement. Experience in identifying and mitigating financial risks during broadband projects, such as unforeseen delays, regulatory changes, or shifts in market demand, is important. Lastly, applicants should demonstrate the ability to handle operational budgets post-deployment, ensuring the financial sustainability of the network through effective management of maintenance, staffing, and operational costs, while planning for future upgrades and technology advancements.

- 17. Does the organization certify that it is fully and properly licensed in Georgia to conduct funded activities and comply with all post-award obligations or if a new entrant to the state, does the organization certify that it will meet this requirement by the execution of the subgrant agreement? 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.
- 18. Provide a list of the business and technical certifications and licenses held nationally and in Georgia that will be relevant to participation in the BEAD program. This list will include certifications and licenses held by key technical personnel as well as those held by the organization. The list will be required to include unique identifiers and license numbers to allow GTA to validate the reported data - Examples of certifications you can upload include but are not limited to: a Business License (State of Georgia) with the License Number, a Certificate of Existence from the Georgia Secretary of State with the Unique Identifier or Document Number, a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Certification from the Georgia Department of Administrative Services with the Certification Number, or a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Certification at Federal or State levels. Other examples might include a Contractor License issued by the Georgia Board of Contractors, a Professional Engineering (PE) License for the State of Georgia, Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP), Certified Fiber Optic Technician (CFOT), Project Management Professional (PMP), Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), or CompTIA Network+. You may also upload certifications such as Broadband Premises Expert (BPE), General Contractor License (State of Georgia), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Certification, Electrical Contractor License (State of Georgia), or an FCC License for Radio Communication (National).
- 19. Upload a brief narrative or supporting documentation that details the applicant's approach to customer service.

#### GATING SECTION 3: TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES

- 1. Upload a brief narrative or supporting documentation that details how the applicant enacts emergency responses to service interruptions and outages.
- 2. Describe the experience and expertise of the key management personnel and technical teams the organizations will use to design, construct, and operate the proposed project.
- 3. Upload any additional certifications, licenses, or other qualifications that are unique and specific to the proposed project Examples of additional certifications they may upload include but are not limited to: Certified Fiber Optic Specialist (CFOS), FCC License for Radio

Communication, Broadband Technology Certification, Certified Network Infrastructure Design Professional (CNIDP), and Certified Data Centre Professional (CDCP). Other relevant certifications may include Cybersecurity Certifications (e.g., CISSP, CISM), GIS Professional Certification, OSHA Safety Certifications, Electrical Contractor License, and Project Management Professional (PMP). Please ensure that the uploaded document(s) are accurate and complete.

- 4. Upload supporting documentation to demonstrate that the applicant has completed, or is in the process of completing, any additional requirements that are unique and specific to the proposed project to become fully and properly qualified to successfully complete the proposed project Documents that demonstrate the ability to successfully complete the proposed project beyond the specified requirements, including any underlying prerequisites necessary for project success.
- 5. Does the organization certify that it has the processes and resources in place to employ an appropriately skilled and credentialed workforce including contractors and that key technical personnel and technical team members are current on all required training, licensing, and license renewals? - 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.
- 6. Does an Officer or Director level employee certify that your organization is technically qualified to complete and operate a broadband network? - 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.
- 7. Does an Officer or Director level employee certify that your organization is capable of carrying out BEAD funded activities in a competent manner? - 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.

Please upload the following documents, all certified by a professional engineer:

8. Upload a technical narrative as a PDF detailing how the proposed infrastructure will deliver service that reliably meets or exceeds the program-required speeds and latency for all proposed BSLs in the project area as outlined in the BEAD NOFO pp. 64-65 - Please provide a technical narrative detailing how the proposed infrastructure will deliver service that reliably meets or exceeds the program required speeds for all proposed BSLs and CAIs in the project area. The file shall be submitted in PDF format (file name "Technical\_Narrative.PDF").

The technical narrative shall include:

- Please provide a narrative description of the geographic location, characteristics of the local community, anticipated labor requirements, and other related information that will provide GTA with a complete picture of the community to be served.
- Detailed description of the proposed project's technical specifications and design, including:
  - The total proposed miles of fiber;
  - The technology types to be deployed (XGS-PON, G-PON, etc.);
  - The number of proposed BSLs (unserved and underserved); and

- The anticipated speeds and latency of the services to be offered over the completed network.
- A detailed description of how the network will be connected to sufficient backhaul infrastructure to support the program performance requirements, including:
  - If the proposed network leverages backhaul infrastructure from its own existing network, describe that infrastructure and how the proposed network interconnects with it;
  - If the proposed network leverages backhaul infrastructure from another organization's existing network, describe that infrastructure, how the proposed network interconnects with it, and the negotiated terms for which the applicant will have access to the infrastructure for the life of their required service commitment; and,
  - If the proposed network requires construction of new backhaul infrastructure, describe that infrastructure, how construction of the infrastructure will be funded, what steps have been taken to ensure the new infrastructure will be commissioned prior to the applicant's proposed subscriber activation dates, and how the proposed network interconnects with it.
  - An explanation of the projected subscriber take rate, and the anticipated level of oversubscription based on the proposed network capacity.
  - A network scalability plan to meet the program performance requirements if subscriber take rate is higher than anticipated, customers subscribe to higher service level offerings than anticipated, or any other factors that may require additional network capacity.
  - A detailed description of how the proposed network will be deployed using industry best practices, including:
    - A description of what anticipated portions of the network will be built using underground or aerial;
    - If underground construction is proposed, describe the construction methods to be used (e.g., directional drilling, trenching); and

A description of the construction materials and equipment to be used in the network (*e.g., 1.25" HDPE conduit, 144-count fiber-optic cable, Calix E7 platform*) and how the selected materials support a sustainable and scalable network.

- 9. Upload network design and diagrams using shapefiles that display fiber routes, interconnect points, and required right of way usage - Network design shall be submitted in shapefile format. Submission may include fixed wireless design plans for non-priority applications.
- 10. Upload a zipped file folder containing shapefiles illustrating the applicant's proposed network design. The shapefiles will include all BSL to be served by the project, all proposed fiber infrastructure routes to be constructed via the project, and project area boundary polygons encompassing all infrastructure routes and, BSLs Please provide a proposed network design that includes all proposed unserved and underserved BSLs to be served by the project, all proposed fiber infrastructure routes to be constructed via the project area proposed network design that includes all proposed unserved and underserved BSLs to be served by the project, all proposed fiber infrastructure routes to be constructed via the

project, and project area boundary polygons encompassing all infrastructure routes and BSLs.

The preliminary network design shall be submitted in shapefile format with the file name "Network Design." The shapefile format stores and represents geographic features such as points, lines, and polygons, along with attribute information associated with these features. A shapefile is comprised of six separate file extensions (.CPG, .dfb, .prj, .sbn, .spx, and .shp.). Shapefiles containing all six file extensions shall be uploaded in a zipped folder.

The following layers shall be present in the submitted .shp file:

- The applicant's proposed BSL shall be submitted as points features. This layer shall be named "BSL" in the submitted shapefiles. If an applicant is submitting multiple applications, each separate application shall name each submitted file as "BSL" with no additional numbers or characters. The location data shall be sourced from either the program's official map fabric or the officially published BSL .csv files. Applicants can obtain the official program BSL data by [following the steps outlined in program guidance found here: [LINK].
- The applicant's proposed fiber infrastructure routes shall be submitted as line features and the layer shall be named "Network Infrastructure" in the submitted shapefiles. The submitted routes shall be provided as a singular line representative of all fiber infrastructure (conduit, fiber, aerial attachments) to be placed along any individual pathway (e.g., public rights-of-way, private easements). Routes shall be inclusive of all new backhaul, backbone, and distribution infrastructure. Routes that would only be constructed as part of subscriber activations (drops to individual subscriber locations constructed upon customer signup), shall not be included in the submitted file. The project's estimated take rate and associated drop mileage will be captured separately within the application.

The applicant's proposed service area(s) shall be submitted as polygon features. The polygon shall encompass all proposed locations and proposed infrastructure routes submitted as part of the project shapefile and the layer shall be labeled "Project Boundary" in the submitted shapefiles.

11. Upload a logical network design drawing (Network Diagram) as a PDF that illustrates the logical connectivity for the network and conveys the network's capacity to provide each proposed BSL with the required broadband speeds and latency. Please ensure that all information is clearly legible - Please provide a logical network design drawing (network diagram) that illustrates the logical connectivity for the network, depicts the desired architecture of the network in terms of hardware placement and hardware redundancy, and indicates the types of network platforms or technologies to use in each layer of the network. The file shall be submitted in PDF format (file name "Logical\_Design.PDF").

In the diagram, existing infrastructure shall be identified as "existing" and new proposed infrastructure as "proposed." The diagram shall convey the network's capacity to provide each proposed BSL the required broadband speeds. An example of the logical network diagram can be found in here: (Link)

- 12. Provide narrative descriptions of the geographic location, characteristics of the local community, anticipated labor requirements, and other related information that will provide GTA with a complete picture of the community to be served Please provide a narrative description of the geographic location, characteristics of the local community, anticipated labor requirements, and other related information that will provide GTA with a complete picture of the community information that will provide GTA with a complete picture of the served. Character limit: 1,000.
- **13.** Upload documentation supporting project costs, operational costs, and budgets Please provide a project cost estimate that offers sufficient granularity to demonstrate an understanding of the proposed project and associated estimated costs. The cost estimate shall include a detailed itemization of each cost and sufficient description to verify the eligibility of each cost item proposed. For each cost item, the applicant shall indicate the breakdown of costs to be covered by grant funds versus provided by applicant matching funds. The applicant shall only provide eligible costs within its project cost estimate. The file shall be submitted in spreadsheet format (file name

"BEAD\_Project\_Cost\_Estimate.xlsx") using the template provided by GTA, titled "BEAD Project Cost Estimate Template," which can be found here: (Link). The template includes instructions on how to fill out the spreadsheet and provides a description of what is to be included within each cost category.

For further reference, an example spreadsheet with sample costs and supporting narrative entered into the template has also been provided by GTA, titled "BEAD Project Cost Estimate Template Sample," which can be found here: (Link)

- 14. Upload a detailed project timeline demonstrating the applicant's ability to complete the project within the four-year timeframe and identifying the project milestones Please provide a detailed project timeline that articulates the applicant's ability to complete the project within the four-year timeframe. The timeline shall include the key milestones for project implementation:
  - Planning or Engineering;
  - Permitting or Make-Ready;
  - Material and Equipment Procurement;
  - Network Construction;
  - Subscriber Activations; and,
  - Project Closeout Submission.

The file shall be submitted in spreadsheet format (file name

"BEAD\_Project\_Timeline.xlsx") using the **template** provided by GTA, titled "BEAD Project Timeline Template," which can be found here: (Link)

15. Upload a PDF document signed by a currently licensed Professional Engineer that certifies the accuracy and completeness of the materials uploaded in this section and attests that the proposed network can deliver broadband service that meets the requisite performance requirements to all locations served by the project within the required four-year deployment timeline - Please provide certification from a currently licensed professional engineer confirming the accuracy and completeness of the Project

Plan materials and attesting that the proposed network can deliver broadband service that meets the requisite performance requirements to all proposed locations within the required four-year deployment timeline. The professional engineer shall stamp and sign the certification document.

The file shall be submitted in PDF format (file name "Project\_PE\_Certification.PDF") using the **template** provided by GTA, titled "BEAD Professional Engineer Certification Template," which can be found here: (Link)

- 16. 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 - Please upload professional engineer license and supporting documentation to the portal. The file shall be submitted in PDF format (file name "PE Licenses.PDF").
- 17. Describe the following environmental and climate factors specific to the area of implementation:

**17.1 Storm proofing: Describe measures integrated into your design to enhance resilience against regional weather events.** Regional weather events may include damage due to wind, storm, and flooding.

**17.2 Technical Viability: Detail the types of strands of fiber used, and how they demonstrate capacity for future growth and sustainability.** This includes the count of fiber to be used in different sections of the network.

**17.3 Compliance with Local Standard: Explain how your design aligns with local environmental regulations and vulnerable areas** - Please offer a narrative describing how the applicant will mitigate the risk of environmental and climate factors. The narrative shall describe the specific strategies and measures the subgrantee applicant will implement to address and reduce natural hazard risks, including technical measures and compliance with environmental regulations and local permitting standards.

- **18.** Check the boxes to certify that the applicant is technically qualified to meet the minimum BEAD Program requirements For the following questions, check the box to indicate that your organization is technically qualified to meet the minimum BEAD program requirements.
- 19. Applicant certifies that the proposed project will rely entirely on fiber-optic technology to each end-user premises and will ensure that the network built by the project 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. See Infrastructure Act § 60102(a)(2)(I)? 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.
- 20. Applicant certifies that at 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 percent of latency measurements during testing windows falling at or below 100 milliseconds round-trip time? See NOFO pp 64-65 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.

- **21.** Please indicate how many months it will take for project completion from award initiation date Please enter the number of months it will take for project completion inclusive of the planning phase.
- 22. Explain what your organization's efforts will be to mitigate delays, shortages, and constraints in supply chains, workforce development, Federal requirements imposed by the BEAD program, and permitting associated with broadband network construction.
- 23. Applicant certifies that it will obtain all necessary Federal, State, and local governmental permits and required approvals necessary for the proposed work to be completed -'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.

#### GATING SECTION 4: LEGAL CAPABILITIES

- Do you certify that your organization is aware of and will comply with the Federal, State, and local laws applicable to BEAD funded broadband deployment projects. Applicable laws include: Federal procurement laws such as applicable Build America, Buy America requirements, Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C. §1608), state-specific procurement regulations, Federal Uniform Guidance regulations, Department of Commerce Standard Terms and Conditions for grant funding, Federal and State environmental and historic preservation regulations, and any specific award conditions that GTA or NTIA may develop - 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.
- 2. Do you certify that the organization possesses the qualifications and resources to perform BEAD-related commitments in compliance with all applicable Federal and State laws? 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.
- 3. Do you certify that your organization has, or will have, processes in place to monitor and support compliance with specific State and Federal safety regulations applicable to work on BEAD program projects, including Federal Occupational Safety and Health Act and related State and Federal regulations? - 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.
- 4. Describe your organization's current compliance with all relevant Federal and State laws and policies regarding grant funding. Please include a description of the policies and procedures the organization has in place to align with Federal and State grant policies and regulations, including documented procurement practices To be compliant with Federal and State laws for BEAD projects, applicants must adhere to several key regulations. Federal procurement laws require adherence to Build America, Buy America rules, ensuring the exclusion of non-trusted equipment. Additionally, State procurement regulations must be followed to comply with the specific processes of the State where the project is taking place. Applicants must also follow the Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200), which covers the proper management of Federal funds, including cost principles, administrative responsibilities, and audit requirements. Environmental and historic preservation laws must be observed to minimize any negative impacts on the environment or historic sites. Compliance with the Department of Commerce terms is also

necessary to meet the specific conditions tied to BEAD grants. Furthermore, applicants are expected to implement NIST-compliant cybersecurity and supply chain risk management plans. Lastly, health and safety compliance is critical, with adherence to OSHA regulations and worker safety protocols to ensure a safe working environment.

- Describe your organizations plan to provide equipment that is Build America Buy America compliant or to request a project specific waiver. For more information on BABA compliance, please see the <u>NTIA's compliance guide.</u>
- 6. Explain any special circumstances or considerations that may prevent compliance with specific applicable laws. Address specific requirements and discuss plans to mitigate the impact of any noncompliance on participation in the program. This may include specific requirements and strategies to address noncompliance.
- 7. Do you certify that the organization is in compliance with any applicable Federal laws and regulations implemented by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), including submission of required reporting under the FCC's Form 477 regulations for reporting deployment and subscription data and the Broadband DATA Act (Pub. L. No 116-130 (2020))? - 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.
- 8. Do you certify that your organization is in compliance with implementing regulations including the FCC's Broadband Data Collection process? 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.
- If you answered 'No' in question #8, please answering the two following questions:
  - 8.1 If your organization cannot provide the required certification regarding FCC regulations, provide a narrative explanation of any pending or completed enforcement action, litigation, or other action regarding violations or non-compliance with applicable FCC regulations Pending or completed enforcement actions, litigation, or other actions regarding violations or non-compliance with FCC regulations may include items such as FCC enforcement actions, litigation regarding allocation or licensing, fines or penalties, telecommunications fraud or misrepresentation, consumer complaints or investigations, breaches of network neutrality rules, and privacy or data protection violations.
  - 8.2 If your organization cannot provide the required certification regarding FCC regulations, describe efforts by the organization to cure the noncompliance or violations of the applicable regulations Examples of active efforts include initiating compliance audits, developing a corrective action plan, hiring compliance experts, and enhancing training programs. Additional efforts might involve collaborating with the FCC, implementing new compliance systems, filing for retroactive approvals or permits, and pursuing settlement or legal resolutions. Correcting technical issues and making voluntary disclosures to the FCC are also proactive steps to ensure compliance.
- **9.** Does the organization certify that there is no collusion, bias or conflict of interest? 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.
- 10. Does the organization certify that your organization will not engage in prohibited communications as defined in 47 CFR 1.2105(a) starting from the date of submission of

**the application until final award?** - 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.

- 11. Does an Officer/Director-level employee or equivalent certify that the organization and its contractors have complied with Federal labor and employment laws for broadband deployment projects over the last 3 years, including the Occupational Safety and Health Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, or other applicable laws? 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.
  - **11.1** If violations occurred, please describe.

#### GATING SECTION 5: FAIR LABOR PRACTICES

- Has the applicant or its subcontractors for this project been cited for any fair labor violations under the Federal Fair Labor Practices Act or Occupational Safety and Health Act in the three years preceding the date of this application? - Please answer 'Yes' if you have received a violation and otherwise answer 'No'.
- If you answered 'Yes' in question 1, please answer the following two questions:
  - 1.1 How many official violations did you or your contractors incur in the last three years?

    Examples of violations may include OSHA serious or willful violations, such as safety hazards leading to accidents or injuries, and environmental violations, such as failure to comply with the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, or hazardous waste regulations. Significant contractual breaches, like failure to meet contractual obligations resulting in legal actions or penalties, and permit violations, such as operating without proper permits or violating permit terms, are also examples. Other violations may include labor law violations, such as significant breaches of the Fair Labor Standards Act or wage/hour violations, as well as FCC regulatory violations, like failure to comply with Federal communications regulations. Building code violations, such as major non-compliance with building safety regulators, and data security violations, are further examples. Fines or penalties from regulatory agencies, such as those issued by the EPA or FCC, and non-compliance with grant or contract requirements, such as failure to meet key Federal or State funding stipulations, are also considered violations.
  - **1.2 Please provide details of the nature of each official violation including the nature of the violation and remedial action taken in response.** This may include descriptions of each violation and corresponding corrective actions.
- 2. Provide a narrative of your organization's workforce plan, including information on training and safety, job quality, local hire and targeted hire, accountability and subcontracting practices, and ongoing operational workforce. This may include information on development programs, workplace safety, recruitment strategies, employment standards, and vendor management practices.

- **3.** Does the workforce plan include prioritizing local hiring? Please answer 'Yes' if you prioritize local hiring and 'No' otherwise.
- 4. Does your workforce plan include details regarding safety practices, such as proper safety training, workplace safety committees, and other safety procedures? Please answer 'Yes' if you have safety procedures in place and 'No' otherwise.
- **5.** Does your workforce plan include details regarding wages, overtime, benefits, and overall job quality? 'Yes', if your workplan is inclusive of all the above otherwise 'No'.
- 6. Does your workforce plan include details regarding accountability, subcontracting practices, contractor and subcontractor compliance, and the extent to which a directly employed workforce will be used? 'Yes', if your workplan is inclusive of all the above otherwise 'No'.
- **7.** Does your narrative include details regarding hiring practices and training or licensure practices? 'Yes', if your narrative is inclusive of all the above otherwise 'No'.
- 8. Do you certify that your organization and its contractors have labor and employment practices in place, and that the subrecipient will recertify this annually for the duration of the BEAD implementation period? Key practices include wage scales and payment practices, workplace safety committees, and project employment and local impact reports where Davis Bacon certification is not provided 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.

#### GATING SECTION 6: LEGAL COMPLIANCE AND DEPLOYMENT READINESS

- 1. Upload the organization's policies and practices regarding compliance with health and safety laws and regulations.
- 2. Upload documentation of communications with workers and worker-representative organizations regarding the applicable labor laws and fair labor standards.
- **3.** Upload documentation of communications with workers and worker-representative organizations regarding the formation of worker-led health and safety committees.
- 4. Do you intend to certify that all laborers and mechanics employed by contractors and subcontractors in the performance of such project are paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing, as determined by the U.S. Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the "Davis-Bacon Act"), for the corresponding classes of laborers and mechanics employed on projects of a character similar to the contract work in the civil subdivision of the State (or the District of Columbia) in which the work is to be performed, or by the appropriate State entity pursuant to a corollary State prevailing-wage-in-construction law (commonly known as "baby Davis-Bacon Acts")? Answer 'Yes' if you intend certify Davis-Bacon and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.
- 5. Please provide an explanation of how your organization plans to meet prevailing wage requirements If you certify Davis-Bacon, please indicate that. Otherwise, provide a detailed explanation of how your organization plans to comply with prevailing wage requirements.

- 6. Do you intend to certify that the indicated project includes a project labor agreement, meaning a pre-hire collective bargaining agreement consistent with section 8(f) of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 158(f))?' 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.
- 7. Do you certify that your organization has a cybersecurity risk management plan in place that is either: (a) operational, if the applicant is providing service prior to the award of the grant; or (b) ready to be operationalized upon providing service, if the applicant is not yet providing service prior to the grant award? Dropdown, select one of the following: Yes (A), Yes(B), No
- 8. Do you certify that your organization's cybersecurity plan reflects the latest version of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity (currently Version 1.1) and the standards and controls set forth in Executive Order 14028 and specifies the security and privacy controls being implemented? 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.
- **9.** Do you certify that your organization's cybersecurity plan will be reevaluated and updated on an annual basis which is inline within industry best practices? 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.
- 10. Do you certify that your organization's cybersecurity plan will be submitted to GTA following execution of grant agreements, and if the applicant makes any substantive changes to the plan, a new version will be submitted to GTA within 30 days? 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.
- 11. Do you certify that your organization has a supply chain risk management plan in place that is either: (a) operational, if the applicant is already providing service at the time of the grant; or (b) ready to be operationalized, if the applicant is not yet providing service at the time of grant award? Dropdown, select one of the following: Yes (A), Yes (B), No
- 12. Do you certify that your organization's supply chain risk management plan is based upon the key practices discussed in the NIST publication NISTIR 8276, Key Practices in Cyber Supply Chain Risk Management: Observations from Industry and related SCRM guidance from NIST, including NIST 800-161, Cybersecurity Supply Chain Risk Management Practices for Systems and Organizations and specifies the supply chain risk management controls being implemented? - 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.
- 13. Do you certify that your organization's supply chain risk management plan will be reevaluated and updated on an annual basis which is inline within industry best practices? 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.
- 14. Do you certify that your organization's supply chain risk management plan will be submitted to GTA prior to the allocation of funds, and if the applicant makes any substantive changes to the plan, a new version will be submitted within 30 days? 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.

- 15. Does an Officer or Director level employee certify that the organization possesses the operational expertise, capabilities, and resources to successfully complete and operate a BEAD funded project? 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.
- 16. Does an Officer or Director level employee certify that the organization has at least two consecutive years prior to the date of the application of experience providing voice, broadband, or electric transmission or distribution services to end users or is a wholly owned subsidiary of a parent entity that has two years of operational experience in the communications industry? 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.
- 17. For providers without two years of experience offering communications services or new entrants to the communications market who are providing additional operational or financial reports that the provider or new entrant may have originally submitted to a financial institution or applicable regulatory agency, does an Officer or Director level employee certify that the organization's reports are true and correct copies of the reports originally provided to the financial institution or regulatory agency? 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.
- 18. If your organization does not have two years of experience offering communications services or is a new entrant to the communications market, upload additional operational or financial reports that the provider or new entrant may have originally submitted to a financial institution or applicable regulatory agency. The two-year time window begins when the applicant began verifiable operational efforts to build their networks that provide "last mile" service To support their application, applicants should submit comprehensive financial reports that include business plans, balance sheets, profit and loss statements, cash flow statements, and loan agreements or other financial commitments to demonstrate the financial health and viability of their operations. Operational reports should detail network build-out plans, engineering specifications, and vendor contracts, along with timelines, milestones, and resource allocations, to prove their capability to execute the project. Additionally, supporting documentation such as permits, licenses, proof of funding, and third-party assessments should be provided to confirm compliance with regulatory requirements and overall readiness to deploy and maintain the network.
- 19. Upload plans to acquire additional resources to increase the organizations' organizational capabilities, including third-party contractors and partners with relevant operational expertise, to the extent that the organization cannot demonstrate that they have already acquired those capabilities Ensure that the uploaded documents clearly outline plans for acquiring additional resources, including equipment, technology, and personnel, with specific timelines and strategies for addressing any capability gaps. These documents must identify qualified third-party contractors or partners, supported by contracts or letters of intent, and demonstrate the organization's financial capacity to secure these resources.
- 20. Describe the entity's experience designing and constructing broadband infrastructure projects of similar size and scope (such as the timeframes, reimbursement models, and

geographic characteristics) and experience operating the network to offer last mile services. This description should reference the key management personnel referenced in the prior application section as well as the experience and expertise of the technical teams the organizations will use to design, construct, and operate the proposed project. This description should summarize the organization's expertise executing comparable broadband projects and delivering service

If you answered 'Yes' to question 11 in Gating Section 2, please answer the following question:

21. If your organization has not provided broadband service and has operated only an electric transmission or distribution service and other supporting reports to the operational capability of the organization are uploaded, do you certify that the submission is a true and accurate copy of the reports that were provided to the relevant financial institution? - 'Yes', to certify and 'No' if this certification cannot be made.

#### GATING SECTION 7: OWNERSHIP INFORMATION

1. Disclose any foreign interest, if pertinent - Foreign interest means any foreign government, agency of a foreign government, or representative of a foreign government; any form of business enterprise or legal entity organized, chartered, or incorporated under the laws of any country other than the United States or its territories, and any person who is not a citizen or national of the United States.

If you answered 'For Profit' to question 2 in Entity Information, please answer the following seven questions:

2. List the real party or parties in interest in the application, including a complete disclosure of the identity (name, addresses, citizenships) and relationship of those persons or entities directly or indirectly owning or controlling (or both) the applicant - For the following questions (148-154), provide the ownership information consistent with the requirements set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 1.2112(a)(1)-(7).

Party #	Name	Address	Citizenship	Relationship
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				

3. List the name, address, and citizenship of any party holding 10 percent or more of stock in the applicant's organization, whether voting or nonvoting, common or preferred, including the specific amount of the interest or percentage held.

Party #	Name	Address	Citizenship	Interest or Percentage Held
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				

4. List, in the case of a limited partnership, the name, address and citizenship of each limited partner whose interest in the applicant is 10 percent or greater (as calculated

according to the percentage of equity paid in or the percentage of distribution of profits and losses).

Party #	Name	Address	Citizenship
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

5. List, in the case of a general partnership, the name, address and citizenship of each partner, and the share or interest participation in the partnership.

Party #	Name	Address	Citizenship
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

6. List, in the case of a limited liability company, the name, address, and citizenship of each of its members whose interest in the applicant is 10 percent or greater.

Party #	Name	Address	Citizenship
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

7. List all parties holding indirect ownership interests in the applicant organization as determined by successive multiplication of the ownership percentages for each link in the vertical ownership chain, that equals 10 percent or more of the applicant, except that if the ownership percentage for an interest in any link in the chain exceeds 50 percent or represents actual control, it shall be treated and reported as if it were a 100 percent interest.

Party #	Name
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

8. List any FCC-regulated entity or applicant for an FCC license, in which the applicant or any of the parties identified in paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(5) of this section, owns 10 percent or more of stock, whether voting or nonvoting, common or preferred. This list must include a description of each such entity's principal business and a description of each such entity's relationship to the applicant (e.g., Company A owns 10 percent of Company B (the applicant) and 10 percent of Company C, then Companies A and C must be listed on Company B's application, where C is an FCC licensee and/or license applicant).

Entity #	Entity Name	Description of Entity's Principal Business	Description of Entity's Relationship to Applicant
1			
2			
3			

#### GATING SECTION 8: OTHER PUBLIC FUNDING

- Provide a list of applications the applicant submitted or plans to submit related to Federal or State broadband funding in the State of Georgia.
   Provide a list of awarded broadband grants for any state in the last 5 years and provide a list of broadband deployment grant projects that the applicant or its affiliates are undertaking or have committed to undertake in the State of Georgia at the time of the application using public funds - Please complete the template provided with a list of applications the applicant has submitted in the past or plans to submit.
- 2. Provide a narrative detailing the following information about applicant's participation and commitments for publicly funded programs including but not limited to the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Public Law 116-127; 134 Stat. 178), the CARES Act (Public Law 116-136; 134 Stat. 281), the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260; 134 Stat. 1182), the American Rescue Plan of 2021 (Public Law 117-2; 135 Stat. 4), any Federal Universal Service Fund high-cost program (e.g., RDOF, Connect America Fund), and GTA's own broadband grant programs, as well as any State or local universal service or broadband deployment funding program:

If you have other publicly funded projects, please answer the following two questions (3-4):

- 3. Has the applicant ever defaulted or been out of compliance with a Federal, State, or local grant?
- 4. Has the applicant applied for or received a public loan to serve any of the locations contained within the proposed project area?

#### AFFORDABILITY

1. What are the planned and current speed tiers (mbps) and pricing to be offered to BEAD locations? (not scored)

**1.1 Planned Service Offerings** 

Table with columns: Upload Speed, Download Speed, Price

**1.2 Current Service Offerings:** 

Table with columns: Upload Speed, Download Speed, Price

- 2. Will the applicant commit to offer broadband service in the project funded service area at rates that are either (1) consistent with the pricing the applicant is offering in other areas Georgia or (2) not higher than the residential rates provided in the FCC's reasonable comparability benchmark calculated annually in the fixed broadband Urban Rate Survey for gigabit symmetric service?
  - 2.1 What is your organization's proposed pricing including inclusive of all taxes, fees, and charges billed to the customer for gigabit symmetrical service? - Please input the dollar amounts in the table.
- 3. Describe how you plan to offer low-cost service option that is compliant with requirement 16 in <u>Georgia's Volume 2.</u>
- 4. Are you requesting a waiver for the low-cost broadband service option? (Please note that the waiver ceiling is \$75.00).
- 5. Please describe either (i) the special circumstances that require setting the low-cost option at a rate higher than the LCBSO ceiling, or (ii) that such a rate is consistent with the applicant's or subrecipient's service offerings such that the applicant would have to implement different pricing structures for BEAD-funded areas absent the waiver.

#### FAIR LABOR PRACTICES

 Is your organization a new entrant with less than a 3-year record of labor and employment law compliance? - Please respond 'Yes' if you are a new entrant without a lengthy record of labor and employment law compliance; otherwise, respond 'No.'

If you answered 'Yes' to question 1, please answer the following questions:

- 1.1 If the applicant is a new entrant without a lengthy record of labor and employment law compliance, please provide specific, concrete commitments to strong labor and employment standards and protections going forward. Please provide the following:
  - 1.11 The applicant's workforce plan, including information on training and safety, job quality, local hire and targeted hire, accountability and subcontracting practices, and ongoing operational workforce.
  - 1.12 Labor and employment practices including wage scales and overtime payment, workforce safety committees, compliance of contractors and subcontractors, employment, and local impact reports.
  - 1.13 Current and/or planned practices regarding directly employed workforce, robust in-house training, wages and benefits, a locally based workforce, and public disclosure of workforce plans and labor commitments.
  - **1.14** Discussion of job quality, maintaining workforce safety practices, and training or licensure for all workers.
  - 1.15 Compliance with labor laws and workplace protections (including

specific commitments and plans).

- **1.2 Does the applicant commit to future compliance with Federal labor and employment laws?** (Checkbox)
- 1.3 Does the applicant commit to local hiring? (Checkbox)

If you answered 'No' to question 1, please answer the following:

- **1.1** Please demonstrate the applicant's history of compliance with Federal labor laws within the last three years.
- 1.2 Please provide the applicant's workforce plan including information on training and safety, job quality, local hire and targeted hire, accountability and subcontracting practices, and ongoing operational workforce.
- **1.3 Does the applicant commit to future compliance with Federal labor and employment laws?** (Checkbox)
- 1.4 Does the applicant commit to local hiring? (Checkbox)
- 2. Has the applicant had any official violations of Federal labor laws within the three years preceding the date of this application?

#### COMMUNITY/LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

- 1. Does the applicant have evidence of support from the county government in the proposed County Grant Area?
- 2. Please upload supporting documents from the County including letters, board or council resolutions, commitments of funding, and commitments to purchase services if the project is funded Additionally, applicants are encouraged to outline either their past efforts or future plans, if any, for enhancing digital connectivity within their service areas. This could include support for access to devices, digital skills training, enrollment, and awareness for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), workforce development, or any other community-based initiatives or partnerships aimed at addressing digital connectivity challenges.
- 3. Please outline either your organizations past efforts or future plans, if any, for enhancing digital connectivity within their service areas. This could include support for access to devices, digital skills training, enrollment, and awareness for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), workforce development, or any other community-based initiatives or partnerships aimed at addressing digital connectivity challenges.
- 4. Does the applicant have evidence of support from other local governments, elected officials, or other community institutions in the proposed County Grant Area? Please answer 'Yes' if you have evidence of support from the officials listed in the question; otherwise, answer 'No'.

- **5.** How many distinct entities does the applicant have support from? If you answered, 'Yes' to question #4, please provide the number of entities you have support from; otherwise, answer 'N/A.'
- 6. Please upload supporting documents from the local governments, elected officials, or other community institutions in the proposed County Grant Area including letters, board or council resolutions, commitments of funding, and commitments to purchase services if the project is funded.

#### CONNECTING CAIS

- 1. How many CAIs are in the County Grant Area that do not have 1 Gbps symmetrical capable connection and latency less than or equal to 100 ms? Please respond with the number of CAI's in the county project area.
  - 1.1 For priority (fiber) broadband projects, how many unserved CAIs will the applicant provide fiber connectivity to at speeds capable of at least 1 Gbps symmetric and latency less than or equal to 100 ms at no additional cost to the BEAD program?
    - 1.1.1 **CAIs Proposed in Application** Please upload a completed BEAD CAIs in Application template Link: (Link)
  - 1.1 For other non-priority (non-fiber) broadband projects, how many unserved CAIs will the applicant provide fiber connectivity to at speeds capable of at least 1 Gbps symmetric and latency less than or equal to 100 ms at no additional cost to the BEAD program?
- 2. Please provide an explanation for how the applicant will provide this service.

#### OTHER INFORMATION / TRADE SECRET AFFIDAVIT

- 1. Is there any additional information that you would like to share with the State regarding this application that may be helpful if your application advances to the Negotiation Phase as outlined in the State's BEAD Initial Proposal Volume II?
- 2. If any of the responses in this application contain information or data that the submitter deems to be confidential commercial information that should be exempt from disclosure under State open records laws (O.C.G.A. § 50-18-72), that information should be identified by uploading a trade secret affidavit that specifically identifies which information within the submitted information is a trade secret along with an explanation of why it is a trade secret. All exempted information will be securely maintained and accessed by GTA staff or GTA contractors that are required to not publicly disclose the information. If no trade secret affidavit is filed, all responses will be subject to disclosure under State open records laws. Optional, please complete and upload (insert link to Final Trade Secret Affidavit document) to certify that your application contains confidential commercial information.

#### ATTESTATION

1. Attestation to the completeness and accuracy of the application:

I, [Official Name], hereby attest that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information provided in this application is complete and accurate. I understand that this attestation must be completed by a representative of the applicant organization with authority to attest to the accuracy and completeness of the information within this application and that any false statements or misrepresentations may result in penalties under applicable laws.