



Questions and Answers (Q&A) - Benefit of the Bargain Round for Community Anchor Institutions Services and Connectivity (CAIs)

- 1. Did the Puerto Rico Broadband Program (PRBP) consider the Uniendo tage 2 fixed initiative in its elaboration of this RFP, and the fact that 100% of locations in Puerto Rico, including the community anchor institutions, are considered already served by a federally funded initiative? If so, how does the PRBP reconcile the allocation of additional federal funding under BEAD to facilitate deployment to these community anchor institutions, with the rule against double funding?**

The PRBP considered all enforceable commitments in the development of BEAD programmatic efforts and subsequent new guidance from the NTIA. The PRBP also considered that “qualifying broadband” to a CAI is Reliable Broadband Service with (i) a speed of not less than 1 Gbps for downloads and uploads alike and (ii) latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds.

- 2. How much overall funding is being made available under this RFP, in total and per project service area?**

Puerto Rico's total BEAD allocation is \$334.6 million. Funding per project area has not been established. Respondents are primarily evaluated on lowest programmatic cost.

- 3. Section 10 states that “Applicants shall be bound by their proposals only for the sixty (60) days specified in this RFP.” But the RFP does not refer to a sixty (60) day timeline anywhere else in the document. Can you please clarify?**

Applicants are bound to their proposals for a period of sixty (60) days following submission.

- 4. Can applicants request an extension of the proposal submission deadline?**

PRBP recognizes the tight timeline for Applicants and has requested an extension from NTIA but has not yet received notice. Please check this website for updates. If no update is posted, applications are due October 15."

- 5. Section 2.3 states that the “preliminary award is made due to provisional subgrantee selection contingent on Final Proposal approval by the NTIA.” Can you please clarify this statement?**



Applicants that the PRBP selects to receive a BEAD subgrant during the subgrantee selection process are preliminarily selected subgrantees, and only become provisionally selected subgrantees when the PRBP publicly announces provisionally selected subgrantees after the NTIA SAC meeting. Provisionally selected subgrantees become final upon NTIA approval of the Final Proposal. See Frequently Asked Questions and Answers Version 15:

https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-09/BEAD_FAQs_version_15.pdf

6. Aside from deployment and installation of the specified service to the community anchor institutions, the RFP also includes the actual provision of broadband services to the CAIs. However, we could not find a term of time in the document during which the service will be provided. How many years is the PRBP expecting that the winning bidder will provide this high-speed internet service to the CAIs?

Winning applicants / subgrantees are to maintain service availability at the required specifications to CAIs in the project area for a period of 10 years after closeout. The CAI may chose to request service if desired. For further guidance, applciants should reference guidance for subgrantees: https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/202508/Subgrantee_Qualification_Evaluation_Guide.pdf

7. Please describe your proposed contract term structure. Can individual services or locations have distinct contract terms (e.g., base period, option years), or must all services be governed by a single master contract term?

Winning applicants / subgrantees are to maintain service availability at the required specifications to CAIs in the project area for a period of 10 years after closeout. The CAI may chose to request service if desired.. For further guidance, applciants should reference guidance for subgrantees: https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-08/Subgrantee_Qualification_Evaluation_Guide.pdf"

8. To ensure full alignment, could you please specify any mandatory cybersecurity frameworks, standards, or regulations (e.g., NIST CSF, ISO/IEC 27001, SOC 2, GDPR, HIPAA, CMMC) to which our proposed solution and internal policies must adhere?



Applicants must comply with all BEAD guidance and requirements, as well as applicable FCC demarcation point security requirements. Performance measures are included in the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program: Performance Measures for BEAD Last-Mile Networks document https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-09/Performance_Measures_Policy_Notice.pdf.

Additional requirements are also provided in the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice (<https://www.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/bead-restructuring-policy-notice.pdf>) and Notice of Funding Opportunity (<https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/BEAD%20NOFO.pdf>)

9. Are there any industry-specific or government-mandated security controls that we must implement as part of this project?

Applicants must comply with all BEAD guidance and requirements. Performance measures are included in the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program: Performance Measures for BEAD Last-Mile Networks document https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-09/Performance_Measures_Policy_Notice.pdf

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10. How can we bid on providing 1gig service to all CAI's if we don't know which ones already have 1 gig access? We are not permitted to build access if it's already being provided, right

The list of BEAD eligible CAIs is provided in the CAIs Data Workbook on the RFP landing page: https://docs.pr.gov/files/Broadband/RFP%20%26%20NOFAs/PRBP-2025-RFP-BEAD-001/SHP_RFP_DATA/fp_cai.csv?d=wc0b1d56539a84ff2b85803653d832156

If an Applicant wants to claim that a CAI is served already served with qualifying 1 Gbps symmetrical broadband service at less than 100 Mbps latency, they can submit the following evidence to PRBP:

- Evidence of Subscription (Service Record): Evidence of subscription must be preserved as a PDF file and must contain a date. Any personally identifiable information should be redacted. The evidence of subscription should indicate the service address, service provider, the technology type, and the speed tier.
- Photographic Evidence: Photographic evidence must be a JPEG file, timestamped and geocoded with two decimal digits resolution for the seconds part of longitude and latitude. The photo should show a terrestrial (street-level) view. Only if the Eligible Entity is restricted from accessing the



location, it may rely on aerial or satellite images but needs to justify why terrestrial photographic evidence could not be collected.

- Network Diagram: A network diagram should include an attestation by an officer of the provider providing qualifying service to the CAI.
- Network Speed Test: The speed test results can be recorded in a PDF or CSV file. Speed tests can use any of the applications named in NTIA Model Challenge Process or the Eligible Entity's Initial Proposal Volume I.
- Attestation from the provisional awardee that it concurs to not accept a BEAD project for the location(s)

11. If middle mile aerial fiber already exists should we bid on moving it to the conduit? Or should we not include the cost of moving to the conduit?

The applicant may leverage the Conduit whenever it seems feasible and aligned with its proposal.

12. "Is there a budget or amount of funds available? An extremely redundant system to one location could cost thousands more than a less redundant system. Without budget parameters it will be guessing what the government wants. For instance a provider could bid fiber with wireless backup for redundancy What's the priority?"

Puerto Rico's total BEAD allocation is \$334.6 million. Funding per project area has not been established. Respondents are primarily evaluated on lowest programmatic cost.

13. Are we being asked to survey all 1,600+ locations and routes and identify terrain obstacles in less than 2 weeks if we want to bid on all? That's not possible.

PRBP recognizes the tight timeline for Applicants and has requested an extension from NTIA but has not yet received notice. Please check this website for updates. If no update is posted, applications are due October 15.

14. Are we being asked to bid on the cost providing a solution to each location on the selected areas by the 15th of this month? That's not a reasonable amount of time for that much work.

The timeline conforms with the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice and subsequent guidance. Eligible Entities receiving BEAD allocations have implemented or are implementing comparable Benefit of the Bargain application windows."



15. If another provider is already serving a location with the ability of 1 gig, do we leave that out of our proposal?

Applicants should propose solutions for each eligible CAI in the respective Project Area. The list of BEAD eligible CAIs is provided in the CAIs Data Workbook on the RFP landing page:

https://docs.pr.gov/files/Broadband/RFP%20%26%20NOFAs/PRBP-2025-RFP-BEAD-001/SHP_RFP_DATA/fp_cai.csv?d=wc0b1d56539a84ff2b85803653d83215

16. How will we know by the 15th of this month what institutions already have the service?

Applicants should propose solutions for each eligible CAI in the respective Project Area. The list of BEAD eligible CAIs is provided in the CAIs Data Workbook on the RFP landing page:

https://docs.pr.gov/files/Broadband/RFP%20%26%20NOFAs/PRBP-2025-RFP-BEAD-001/SHP_RFP_DATA/fp_cai.csv?d=wc0b1d56539a84ff2b85803653d832156

17. Is this a two part RFP? Is part one planning and identification of the which institutions need to be served?

Applicants should propose solutions for each eligible CAI in the respective Project Area. The list of BEAD eligible CAIs is provided in the CAIs Data Workbook on the RFP landing page:

https://docs.pr.gov/files/Broadband/RFP%20%26%20NOFAs/PRBP-2025-RFP-BEAD-001/SHP_RFP_DATA/fp_cai.csv?d=wc0b1d56539a84ff2b85803653d832157

18. What if the institutions are under contract with another provider? Are you forcing them to break their contract? Or is the proposal to bring them the service and they can choose it or not?

Winning applicants / subgrantees are to maintain service availability at the required specifications to CAIs in the project area for a period of 10 years after closeout. The CAI may chose to request service if desired.. For further guidance, applciants should reference guidance for subgrantees:

https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/202508/Subgrantee_Qualification_Evaluation_Guide.pdf

19. What if fiber is built by their current provider while the award winner is pending construction. Will the construction still be reimbursed?

If an Applicant wants to claim that a CAI is already served with qualifying 1 Gpbs symmetrical broadband service at less than 100 Mbps latency, they can submit the following evidence to PRBP:



- Evidence of Subscription (Service Record): Evidence of subscription must be preserved as a PDF file and must contain a date. Any personally identifiable information should be redacted. The evidence of subscription should indicate the service address, service provider, the technology type, and the speed tier.
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20. What if there is contract in place with a multi location institution such as the police department to construct fiber of the next two years by their current provider but they don't have it yet. Will that construction still be paid to the award winner even if it will be redundant?

Applicants must comply with all BEAD guidance and requirements. Performance measures are included in the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program: Performance Measures for

BEAD Last-Mile Networks document https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-09/Performance_Measures_Policy_Notice.pdf . Additional requirements are also provided in the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice (<https://www.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/bead-restructuring-policy-notice.pdf>) and Notice of Funding Opportunity <https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/BEAD%20NOFO.pdf>

21. If another provider has fiber close to an institution are they obligated to lease access to the winner? If not how will the bidder know whether to bid for construction the whole way or from where the other provider has fiber close?

Applicants must comply with all BEAD guidance and requirements. Performance measures are included in the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program: Performance Measures for



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22. NTIA issued a document in September 2025 titled ""Frequently Asked Questions and Answers, Version 15"" (hereinafter the ""FAQ""). The FAQ stated that all Eligible Entities had to submit a letter to NTIA requesting a correction to the Initial Proposal to incorporate the terms of the Policy Notice that NTIA issued in June 2025 (hereinafter the ""June 2025 Policy Notice"").

a. Did the PRBP submit such a letter to NTIA?

b. If such, could a copy be provided along with any response from NTIA?

PRBP submitted the referenced documents to the NTIA.

23. The PRBP repeatedly declared in its Initial Proposal, Volume II, that it would not conduct a subgrantee selection process for last-mile deployment projects and that all BEAD subgrantees in Puerto Rico would be considered ""non-deployment"" subgrantees. The RFP now proposes the opposite: using BEAD funding to conduct a subgrantee selection process for deployment projects.

a. Did the PRBP issue an amended Initial Proposal reflecting this significant change? If so, could a copy be provided?

b. Did NTIA approve this significant change to the Initial Proposal?

The BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice modifies and replaces certain requirements outlined in the BEAD Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). Each Eligible Entity must comply with this Policy Notice to gain approval of its Final Proposal from the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

<https://www.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/bead-restructuring-policy-notice.pdf> . Per the Policy Notice, the PRBP submitted an Initial Proposal Correction Letter in compliance with the requirement.

24. Can the PRBP please identify all the consultants it currently has under contract?

To preserve the integrity, impartiality, and fairness of the evaluation process, the identities of individuals—whether government employees or external consultants—supporting the evaluation process are not disclosed.



25. What does the PRBP mean when it indicates in Section 2.6 of the RFP that applicants must exhibit ""complete loyalty towards the PRBP, including, but not limited to, having no adverse interest to the PRBP""? ""Complete loyalty"" is a heightened obligation usually associated with fiduciary relationships and ethical obligations of attorneys. It is neither practical nor appropriate in the context of providers of goods and services. For instance, compelling an applicant to exhibit ""complete loyalty"" to the PRBP may be interpreted as precluding an applicant from challenging postures that the PRBP takes in other proceedings (including other RFPs). Likewise, pursuing other programs or funds at the federal level could conceivably place an applicant in adversity to the PRBP. Claro urges the PRBP to clarify this matter; otherwise, many if not all the providers of telecommunications and broadband services in Puerto Rico may be unable to comply with the requirements of the RFP.

The PRBP's reference to "complete loyalty" in Section 2.6 of the RFP is intended to emphasize that applicants must act in good faith and collaborate constructively with the program during the performance of their contractual obligations, without engaging in activities that directly conflict with PRBP's goals under the specific initiative. It is not meant to impose fiduciary-level obligations or restrict participation in other programs, funding opportunities, or regulatory proceedings outside the scope of this RFP.

26. The RFP indicates in Section 3 that applicants ""must include installation and activation of equipment capable of handling symmetrical 1 Gbps speeds, as well as costumer [sic] premises gear as it brings connectivity to its location."" There is a critical difference, however, between providing connectivity (i.e., building the physical connection) and offering service through that connectivity.

- a. **What does the PRBP mean by ""activation of equipment""? b. How does the PRBP expect applicants to install equipment in the premises of a CAI when that entity has not contracted with the applicant for service or may not be interested in contracting with the applicant for service?**
- c. **In the case of private entities that qualify as CAIs, under what authority would the applicant (or the PRBP) be able to compel the entity to provide access to its premises and install equipment therein?**
- d. **What would happen if the owner or administrator of the CAI refuses to allow the winning applicant to install equipment within the premises of the CAI?**
- e. **In the case of government entities, how does the requirement to install and activate equipment within the premises relate to the procurement requirements that traditionally apply to government entities in Puerto Rico? Can an applicant compel a government entity to**



allow it to install and activate equipment within its premises when a different provider was adjudicated a contract to offer service?

f. How would a winning applicant be expected to conduct tests if there is no service agreement with the CAI and the applicant thus has not been able to install equipment within the premises of the CAI?

- a. Activation of equipment” refers to ensuring that all installed network and customer-premises equipment (CPE) is fully functional and capable of delivering symmetrical 1 Gbps service at the CAI location, contingent upon the CAI's acceptance of service
- b. PRBP does not require applicants to install equipment at a CAI that has not agreed to receive service. Applicants are expected to design and propose a solution that includes connectivity and equipment installation, but actual deployment at the premises is contingent upon the CAI's consent and interest in receiving service.
- c. Neither the applicant nor the PRBP holds the authority to compel private CAIs to provide access to their premises. Engagement with these entities must be based on mutual agreement. Applicants are encouraged to proactively engage with potential CAIs to assess interest and secure necessary permissions during the planning phase.
- d. If a CAI refuses access or declines the installation of equipment, the applicant will not be penalized, provided they can demonstrate good-faith efforts to engage the CAI and offer service. PRBP acknowledges that certain CAIs may opt out, and these instances should be documented in the application.
- e. For government entities, applicants must comply with applicable procurement laws and procedures in Puerto Rico. PRBP does not override existing contracting requirements. If a government entity has an existing contract with another service provider, applicants cannot compel installation or service delivery without their consent. Coordination with government entities should be part of the applicant's outreach and planning efforts.
- f. In cases where there is no service agreement and the applicant cannot access the CAI premises, testing can be conducted up to the demarcation point (e.g., handoff or external termination). PRBP



requires demonstration of service capability to the CAI location, but does not mandate in-premises testing without a valid agreement from the CAI."

27. Section 3 of the RFP indicates that applicants ""must explicitly acknowledge and integrate with planned middle-mile infrastructure, particularly the conduit and fiber backbone being developed under a separate RFP 'Underground Conduit System.

- a. Does this requirement mean that an applicant needs to incorporate use of the "Underground Conduit System"" even if it currently owns or controls the conduit necessary to deploy connectivity to a CAI?
- b. Does this mean that an applicant that proposes relying on its existing conduit (or its existing middle-mile) would be penalized in the scoring for not relying on the ""Underground Conduit System""?
- c. How does the PRBP envision applicants incorporating the ""Underground Conduit System"" in their proposals when the ""Underground Conduit System"" does not currently exist today, and there is no detailed map showing where it will be built?
 - a. Applicants are encouraged—but not required—to incorporate the use of the planned ""Underground Conduit System"" where feasible.
 - b. No, applicants will not be penalized for proposing the use of their existing conduit or middle-mile infrastructure.
 - c. To support applicants geo-referenced files and preliminary route maps of the proposed conduit system have been made available via links . These materials are intended to support applicants in understanding the timing and scope of planned infrastructure that could be leveraged to support their application. "

28. Section 3 of the RFP indicates that winning applicants will be expected to ""activate service to each CAI."

- a. Does this requirement mean that applicants are expected to execute a service contract with each CAI as part of the project?
- b. If the answer to the immediately preceding question is ""yes,"" how does the PRBP reconcile this provision with the BEAD Program's rules, which merely require that projects result in the ability to provide service, not in the execution of service contracts? c. In contrast with households, CAIS tend to have diverse service needs and often procure telecommunications and broadband services through formal government procurement processes. Is the PRBP's intent to require winning applicants to enter into service contracts with CAIS as a condition to certifying completion of their obligations under the BEAD Program?
- d. As mentioned above, Claro currently provides telecommunications services to schools administered by the Department of Education under a long-term contract subsidized with



funds from the FCC's E-Rate Program. That contract was awarded to Claro after the Department of Education conducted the required procurement process under applicable law in Puerto Rico. If the PRBP awards to another applicant the project to build connectivity to a Department of Education school, would that mean that the school is required to contract with the winning provider notwithstanding Claro's existing contract? Can the school be compelled to allow the winning applicant to build infrastructure and install equipment within its premises when it has a contract with Claro?

- e. As similar question can be asked in the context of the procurement process that the General Services Administration is currently conducting (RFP 26J-02523 Para establecer contrato de selección múltiple para los servicios de telecomunicaciones, equipos y accesorios para todas las entidades gubernamentales, exentas y municipios del Gobierno de Puerto Rico). How would the winner of that procurement process be impacted by the PRBP awarding to a different provider a project or projects involving deploying connectivity to a government office building of the Government of Puerto Rico (for example, Centro de Gobierno Minillas, which is included in the list of CAIs).**
 - a. No, applicants are not required to execute service contracts with each CAI as part of the project. Per the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice, subgrantees must deploy the planned broadband network, regardless of the technology utilized, and be able to perform a standard installation for each CAI customer that desires broadband services within the project area not later than four years after the date on which the subgrantee receives the subgrant from the PRBP. A standard installation is the initiation by a provider of fixed broadband internet access service within 10 business days of a request with no charges or delays attributable to the extension of the network of the provider.
 - b. PRBP aligns with the BEAD Program's guidance, which requires that funded projects result in the capability to offer service per the requirement, not that service contracts be executed.
 - c. PRBP fully recognizes that CAIs—particularly government entities—have diverse operational needs and are often subject to formal procurement procedures under Puerto Rico law. The intent of the RFP is not to obligate providers to secure service contracts as a condition for grant compliance.
 - d. No, the PRBP does not and cannot compel a CAI, such as a public school, to enter into a service contract with a BEAD subawardee.



- e. Similar principles apply in the context of ongoing or future government procurement processes, such as RFP 26J-02523 led by the General Services Administration (GSA). Infrastructure projects funded through PRBP do not override or supersede existing or future contractual relationships established through government procurement.

29. Section 3 of the RFP refers to an initial "Planning/Design Phase." It defines that stage to include the development of "a comprehensive, technically neutral connectivity blueprint to connect all eligible Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) throughout" and "evaluate each CAI's specific geographic and technological context to determine the most feasible lastmile and middle-mile solutions." It further explains that "the outcome of this phase will be a fully documented, data-driven connectivity plan," which would have to be submitted to the PRBP for approval prior to initiating physical deployment.

- a. **How does the PRBP expect applicants to submit proposed total project costs in their proposals before conducting this phase? Wouldn't it be necessary to conduct this planning prior to submitting a proposal with total project costs? Wouldn't the total project costs be contingent to a large degree on the results of this phase?**
- b. **If the PRBP indeed expects applicants to conduct this planning after being awarded the project, what measures will PRBP take to ensure that applicants do not game the system by submitting a low-ball proposal that later requires substantial modifications (and possible amendments)? That would undermine the spirit of a truly competitive procurement process.**
- a. PRBP recognizes that certain aspects of project cost estimation—particularly at the detailed design and engineering level—will be further refined during the Planning/Design Phase. However, applicants are expected to submit proposals that include reasonable, good-faith total project cost estimates based on available data, industry best practices, and their own expertise in similar infrastructure deployments. The RFP requires applicants to perform sufficient preliminary due diligence prior to proposal submission to develop a credible project scope and budget.
- b. The Planning/Design Phase is intended to validate and refine—not define for the first time—the proposed approach. Applicants should account for contingencies, risk factors, and planning assumptions in their initial budgets to ensure that their proposals remain viable even as certain technical and logistical elements are further detailed after award.
- b. Subawardees will be bound by the subawardee agreement executed with the PRBP



30. The RFP contemplates applicants submitting maps, diagrams, and similar documents. Would these documents have to be presented separately for each CAI or would the PRBP require that such documents for all CAIS within the relevant geographic area be submitted together?

Applicants are not required to submit separate maps or diagrams for each individual CAI; however, all submitted documentation must clearly identify and address each CAI within the proposed project area. PRBP encourages applicants to organize these materials by geographic region or logical network segments to facilitate efficient review, while ensuring that the connectivity solution for every CAI is explicitly documented.

31. Section 6 of the RFP indicates that applicants ""must submit a transparent pricing structure that details all one-time installation costs, recurring service fees, equipment charges (if any), and maintenance or support fees."" It further indicates that ""proposed rates must be competitive, sustainable, and in line with rates charged in similar markets."" Claro fears that this requirement is impractical and ignores that many CAIS (particularly hospitals and government entities) operate more like enterprise customers with diverse needs that require individually negotiated solutions. In contrast with household clients, there is no single rate offering and structure that works for all enterprise customers (or all CAIs).

- a. How does the PRBP expect applicants to comply with this requirement a priori before negotiating with individual CAIs?**
- b. How is this requirement consistent with the fact that many CAIS (and particularly those that are government entities), often procure broadband through formal procurement processes? Would a CAI that is also a government entity be allowed to accept the proposed rates without conducting a procurement process?**

a. PRBP recognizes that many CAIs operate like enterprise customers with diverse connectivity requirements that often necessitate individualized service agreements. The requirement to submit a transparent pricing structure is not meant to restrict applicants to a uniform rate for all CAIs, but rather to ensure that the proposal includes a clear and competitive baseline pricing framework. Applicants may present indicative pricing tiers, sample service packages, or typical cost structures to demonstrate market alignment. These rates will serve as a reference point during evaluation, with the understanding that actual pricing may vary following negotiations based on each CAI's specific needs.

b. The requirement to disclose proposed pricing is fully consistent with the procurement obligations applicable to government entities. Inclusion of rates in the proposal does not imply that CAIs—especially public institutions—are authorized to accept them outside of their mandated



procurement processes. If a government CAI is bound by formal procurement rules, it would still be required to conduct its own competitive process before entering into a contract for broadband services. PRBP's intent is to promote transparency and competitiveness in the application process, not to override or replace existing procurement frameworks.

32. **Section 6.1 of the RPF indicates that applicants ""must commit to hiring employees for a full-time role for at least 12 months to be able to provide the funds to those employees."" Can the PRBP explain what it means by this requirement? Does it mean that applicants must separately hire full-time employees and only full-time employees to complete the project?**

PRBP has determined that this requirement will no longer be applicable for applicants responses to this RFP.

33. **The RFP refers to the proposed procurement process as a ""Benefit of the Bargain Round."" That term appears to derive from the June 2025 Policy Notice, which required Eligible Entities to conduct ""at least one additional subgrantee selection round for every BEAD eligible location."" In the case of Puerto Rico, however, no previous round was conducted as it relates to deploying service to CAIs. Why does the PRBP refer to the RFP as a ""Benefit of the Bargain Round"" under these circumstances?**

PRBP refers to this RFP as a ""Benefit of the Bargain Round"" in alignment with the intent and terminology outlined in the Restructuring Policy Notice, which encourages Eligible Entities to maximize value from BEAD funding through competitive selection processes that drive cost-efficiency and public benefit.

34. **Who are the ""Government Entity staff" and ""consultants"" referred to in Section 9 of the RFP who will review and evaluate the proposals?**

To preserve the integrity, impartiality, and fairness of the evaluation process, the identities of individuals—whether government employees or external consultants—supporting the evaluation process are not disclosed. Should any proponent possess information regarding a potentially compromised employee or contractor, it is imperative that they promptly contact the director at heriberto.luna@ogp.pr.gov. This direct line of communication ensures that any sensitive information can be handled with the utmost discretion and urgency, allowing for a swift and appropriate response to mitigate potential risks. Early reporting is crucial for maintaining the integrity of our operations and safeguarding confidential data.



35. Is there a draft project agreement or at least a term sheet that the PRBP can share with prospective applicants? It is hard to gauge the risks involved without that information, which is customarily offered in infrastructure projects of this kind.

At this time, the PRBP does not have a draft project agreement or term sheet available for public distribution. However, all subawardees must comply with all BEAD requirements.

36. The RFP does not identify any restricted parties. Can the PRBP please amend the RFP to identify all consultants that should be considered restricted parties, i.e., parties that cannot be part of any applicant group or consortia and with which applicants may not consult or seek advice?

To preserve the integrity, impartiality, and fairness of the evaluation process, the identities of individuals—whether government employees or external consultants—supporting the evaluation process are not disclosed.

37. The list of CAIS last published by the PRBP includes several public squares. Yet, public squares are not mentioned in the definition of CAIS in the rules of the BEAD Program. What is the legal basis for their classification as CAIs? Did NTIA approve their classification as CAIs.

Per the IJIA, the term “community anchor institution” (CAI) means an entity such as a school, library, health clinic, health center, hospital or other medical provider, public safety entity, institution of higher education, public housing organization, or community support organization that facilitates greater use of broadband service by vulnerable populations, including low-income individuals, unemployed individuals, and aged individuals.

38. Can winning applicants supplement the list of subcontractors included in their responses after the project has been awarded?

Yes, winning applicants may supplement or update the list of subcontractors included in their original proposals after the project award. Any changes to subcontractors must be communicated to and approved by PRBP to ensure compliance with program requirements and to maintain transparency throughout project implementation. Applicants are encouraged to provide justification for any modifications and to demonstrate that any new subcontractors meet the qualifications necessary to fulfill the project’s scope and objectives.



39. Would costs associated with the purchase and installation of network electronics be considered eligible costs?

Please see Eligible Expenses and Reimbursements Fact Sheet:

https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2023-05/CAA_Fact_Sheet_Allowable_Costs.pdf

40. Would the projects awarded by PRBP be classified as ""critical projects"" for purposes of expedited permitting?

While the project is considered as a critical project by the PRBP, this classification cannot be passed through for the applicants permitting packet. As the applicant will be in charge of permitting, they must still go through the applicable procedure for the classification of the project as a critical project for applicability during the permitting process. For further guidance, applicants should refer to established procedures by OGPee, as well as the Puerto Rico Planning Board.

41. What specific documents would need to be presented for a winning applicant to be reimbursed for costs incurred during a particular quarter?

To qualify for reimbursement of costs incurred during a particular quarter, winning applicants must submit a complete and well-documented request to PRBP. This typically includes detailed invoices, receipts, and proof of payment for all eligible expenses incurred during the reporting period. Additionally, applicants must provide progress reports demonstrating that the expenditures align with the approved project scope, timeline, and milestones. Supporting documentation should clearly link costs to specific activities outlined in the project plan and comply with PRBP's financial and programmatic guidelines. All reimbursement requests are subject to review and approval by PRBP, which may require further documentation or clarification to ensure compliance and proper use of funds. Applicants are encouraged to maintain meticulous records throughout project implementation to facilitate timely and accurate reimbursement."

42. Necesito por favor me expliquen a que aplica el 75% de los fondos federales que van a aportar al proyecto. Me explico, tenemos una parte NRC que es la de implementación en la cual existen costos de construcción, compra de materiales y equipos, diseño.... Y Luego esta la del servicio de Broadband de 1Gbs para cada CAI. Esta última parte (MRC) la cual es la que determina el costo del servicio de 1Gb al no tener un término de contrato específico, ¿cómo la incluimos en nuestra propuesta? No es lo mismo un precio de un servicio a 1 año que a 3 o a 10, el precio recurrente va a variar muchísimo. Este coste recurrente ¿quién lo pagaría?, ¿cada CAI?



Cost Sharing and Matching requirements are detailed in the Cost Sharing and Matching section of the BEAD NOFO: <https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/BEAD%20NOFO.pdf> and the BEAD Subgrant Qualifications and Match Evaluation Guide: https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-08/Subgrantee_Qualification_Evaluation_Guide.pdf

43. Por otro lado, ¿sabemos cuál es el presupuesto que hay para este proyecto?

Puerto Rico's total BEAD allocation is \$334.6 million. Funding per project area has not been established. Respondents are primarily evaluated on lowest programmatic cost.

44. El servicio final será 1Gbps Simétrico Broadband o 1Gbps Simétrico dedicado.

(i) a speed of not less than 1 Gbps for downloads and uploads alike and (ii) latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds

45. ¿A qué término debemos brindar dicho servicio?

Winning applicants / subgrantees are to maintain service availability at the required specifications to CAIs in the project area for a period of 10 years after closeout. The CAI may chose to request service if desired. . For further guidance, applicants should reference guidance for subgrantees: https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-08/Subgrantee_Qualification_Evaluation_Guide.pdf"

46. "El 25% del pareaje de nosotros dice que puede ser también "other allowance contributions", ¿qué quiere decir con esto?

Cost Sharing and Matching requirements are detailed in the Cost Sharing and Matching section of the BEAD NOFO: <https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/BEAD%20NOFO.pdf> and the BEAD Subgrant Qualifications and Match Evaluation Guide: https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-08/Subgrantee_Qualification_Evaluation_Guide.pdf"

47. Given Addendum #1, the submission period remains only 12 days (Oct 3–15). Will PRBP consider extending the deadline by 3–4 weeks to allow realistic site assessments, cost validation, and partnerships?



PRBP recognizes the tight timeline for Applicants and has requested an extension from NTIA but has not yet received notice. Please check this website for updates. If no update is posted, applications are due October 15."

48. Will PRBP publish a definitive list of CAIs (addresses, coordinates, current connectivity) and clarify CAI assignments per PSA before submission?

There is a comprehensive list of Community Anchor Institutions that includes detailed information about each entity, along with the specific (PSA) to which they have been assigned. Please revise the Smart Portal for more information

https://docs.pr.gov/files/Broadband/RFP%20%26%20NOFAs/PRBP-2025-RFP-BEAD-001/SHP_RFP_DATA/fp_cai.csv?d=wc0b1d56539a84ff2b85803653d832156

49. The conduit system is “expected to be available within 24 months,” yet CAI connectivity must start immediately. How should proposers plan or price deployments if conduit access is delayed?

Proposers should plan and price their deployments recognizing that while the underground conduit system is expected to be available within 24 months, connectivity to CAIs will begin in areas where they are allowed. Pricing and project plans should account for potential delays in conduit access by incorporating existing infrastructure where feasible. Applicants are encouraged to clearly document their approach and associated costs, ensuring alignment with PRBP’s timelines and program requirements."

50. Will PRBP release detailed conduit maps with GPS routes and access point specs, and define conduit usage terms or fees?

To support applicants, geo-referenced files and conceptual route maps of the proposed conduit system have been made available in the Smart Island Portal.

51. Please clarify the ownership model: will the infrastructure built under this RFP remain PRBP property, contractor property, or be shared?



See Section 2.5 Ownership Section of the BEAD Subgrant Qualifications and Match Evaluation Guide:

https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/202508/Subgrantee_Qualification_Evaluation_Guide.pdf"

52. Should bidders propose (a) infrastructure + service, (b) service-only, or (c) infrastructure that becomes a PRBP asset?

See BEAD Subgrant Qualifications and Match Evaluation Guide:

https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/202508/Subgrantee_Qualification_Evaluation_Guide.pdf

53. Is the 25% match based on the total project cost or eligible capital expenses only? May in-kind assets (existing landings/facilities) count toward the match?

Cost Sharing and Matching requirements are detailed in the Cost Sharing and Matching section of the BEAD NOFO: <https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/BEAD%20NOFO.pdf> and the BEAD Subgrant Qualifications and Match Evaluation Guide:

https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/202508/Subgrantee_Qualification_Evaluation_Guide.pdf

54. Please confirm whether PRBP will provide a template or guidance for documenting and valuing the 25 % match contributions.

Cost Sharing and Matching requirements are detailed in the Cost Sharing and Matching section of the BEAD NOFO: <https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/BEAD%20NOFO.pdf> and the BEAD Subgrant Qualifications and Match Evaluation Guide:

https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/202508/Subgrantee_Qualification_Evaluation_Guide.pdf"

55. Funding will be disbursed on a reimbursable, quarterly basis.” What constitutes “completed work eligible for reimbursement—per CAI, per phase, or per PSA?

See reference guidance for subgrantees: https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-08/Subgrantee_Qualification_Evaluation_Guide.pdf



56. Must contractors finance 100 % of upfront costs until reimbursement, or will PRBP allow partial progress payments?

See reference guidance for subgrantees: https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-08/Subgrantee_Qualification_Evaluation_Guide.pdf

57. What is the required performance bond / letter-of-credit % of contract value, and when must it be posted?

See reference guidance for subgrantees: https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-08/Subgrantee_Qualification_Evaluation_Guide.pdf

58. Who has lead responsibility for ROW and utility permitting across 78 municipalities? Has PRBP executed master MOUs with LUMA, PRHTA, or municipalities?

Identification and solicitation of all necessary permitting will be the responsibility of the applicant, which must ensure compliance with all applicable requirements, including those specific to BEAD.

59. Can one bidder win multiple PSAs? If so, how will conduit capacity and access be prioritized among multiple awardees?

Yes, a single bidder may be awarded multiple Public Service Areas (PSAs), subject to demonstrating the capacity to successfully deliver across all assigned regions. In instances where multiple awardees require access to the same segment of the conduit system, PRBP will ensure that equitable and non-discriminatory access is provided to all qualified subgrantees.

60. Please clarify evaluation: how is the “within 15 % of lowest cost” rule applied, and can PRBP share the detailed scoring breakdown for the 40-point Project Design category?

Applicants should refer to section 8 of the RFP for further guidance on evaluation criteria



61. Is there any preference or scoring advantage for Puerto Rico-based firms or partnerships under this program?

No, the RFP does not provide an explicit scoring advantage or formal preference for Puerto Rico-based firms or partnerships. While not directly scored, meaningful local engagement may strengthen a proposal's overall competitiveness by demonstrating alignment with program goals and PRBP's commitment to maximizing local impact.

62. The RFP references are 2 CFR 200 and the federal Uniform Guidance. Will PRBP issue a standard subaward or grant agreement template before submission so that proposers can align legal and compliance assumptions?

No, PRBP will not issue a standard subaward or grant agreement template prior to proposal submission. Proposers are expected to develop their submissions based on the RFP, applicable federal regulations, and standard industry practices, with the understanding that final agreements will comply with BEAD program requirements and federal grant administration standards.

63. After deployment, how long must awardees maintain service at 1 Gbps? Are there post-award reporting or maintenance obligations beyond the reimbursement phase?

Winning applicants / subgrantees are to maintain service availability at the required specifications to CAIs in the project area for a period of 10 years after closeout. For further guidance, applicants should reference guidance for subgrantees:
https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/202508/Subgrantee_Qualification_Evaluation_Guide.pdf

64. Will PRBP publish a pre-bid Q&A summary or virtual conference recording to ensure all proposers receive identical clarifications?

Yes, Q&A summary, as well as future updates related to this RFP will be published on smartisland.pr.gov portal.

65. Does PRBP expect proposers to include cybersecurity and data protection plans (as per BEAD/NTIA guidance), or will these be provided centrally at a later phase?

Yes, PRBP expects Applicants to include cybersecurity and data protection plans as part of their submissions, in alignment with BEAD and NTIA guidance.



66. Can there be an extension to submit this RFP due to the complexity and the level of detail required to provide a precise RFP response?

PRBP recognizes the tight timeline for Applicants and has requested an extension from NTIA but has not yet received notice. Please check this website for updates. If no update is posted, applications are due October 15.

67. How can we create a proposal when we do not know the eligible CAI's? Institutions that already have capacity for 1 gig are not eligible.

What about accounts that are on schedule for fiber with their current provider but don't have it yet?

There is a comprehensive list of Community Anchor Institutions that includes detailed information about each entity, along with the specific (PSA) to which they have been assigned. Please revise the Smart Portal for more information

https://docs.pr.gov/files/Broadband/RFP%20%26%20NOFAs/PRBP-2025-RFP-BEAD-001/SHP_RFP_DATA/fp_cai.csv?d=wc0b1d56539a84ff2b85803653d832156

68. Is it expected that each participating organization will have performed a survey of all CAI's in the areas for which they are bidding? How can that be performed for 1,600+ in less than 2 weeks?

The timeline conforms with the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice and subsequent guidance. Eligible Entities receiving BEAD allocations have implemented or are implementing comparable Benefit of the Bargain application windows. The list of BEAD eligible CAIs is provided in the CAIs Data Workbook on the RFP landing page:

https://docs.pr.gov/files/Broadband/RFP%20%26%20NOFAs/PRBP-2025-RFP-BEAD-001/SHP_RFP_DATA/fp_cai.csv?d=wc0b1d56539a84ff2b85803653d832156

Applicants are not required to apply for all Project Service Areas. Applicants may choose to apply for as many or as few Project Service Areas as they want.

69. How can a bidder plan to utilize and budget a conduit that is not formally designed, has no clear completion date, and no information about the lease or any other rates or terms to use? In fact, there is no mention of how the conduit will be managed, maintained, and services such as access and repair rendered?



The Puerto Rico Broadband Program (PRBP) recognizes that the Underground Conduit System is still under development and not yet constructed. To support applicants, geo-referenced files and conceptual route maps of the proposed conduit system have been made available. These materials are intended to guide applicants in understanding the planned infrastructure. As the conduit system progresses toward construction, further coordination and validation of specific deployment scopes may be required

70. Reimbursement is dependent on completion of the project, but if a CAI has service and refuses installation of CPI or termination of fiber, or use the service will that still be reimbursed?

See reference guidance for subgrantees: https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-08/Subgrantee_Qualification_Evaluation_Guide.pdf

72. How will the government manage the problem of LUMA continuing to deny all meaningful fiber connection requests to poles. Even with the conduit, external pole attachments or buried fiber will be necessary. Should we build a contingency budget to bury all fiber, or install our own poles if there is no resolution to the pole attachment issue?

PRBP will review all proposed solutions which align with applicable BEAD guidance.

73. Can bidders leverage assets they have built using other government funds? For instance:

if Uniendo funds were used to build fiber can a bidder use the fiber paid for by govt Uniendo funds to provide service more competitively than a provider that did not receive the funds in its bid? Can it even use the fiber? I have the same questions as above replacing local government municipal WiFi funds? Same question for federal middle mile funds received by carrier?

Please see the BEAD Subgrantee Qualifications and Match EVALUATION GUIDE for information on how to use other programs funds as match: https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-08/Subgrantee_Qualification_Evaluation_Guide.pdf

74. Many of the CAI's listed are eligible and/or receiving Federal ERate funds for monthly broadband and onsite equipment. How does this impact eligibility for BEAD CAI funds, or conversely eligibility for Erate if they receive access through BEAD?

If an Applicant claimed that a CAI is already served with qualifying 1 Gbps symmetrical broadband service at less than 100 Mbps latency, they may submit the following evidence to PRBP:



- Evidence of Subscription (Service Record): Evidence of subscription must be preserved as a PDF file and must contain a date. Any personally identifiable information should be redacted. The evidence of subscription should indicate the service address, service provider, the technology type, and the speed tier.
- Photographic Evidence: Photographic evidence must be a JPEG file, timestamped and geocoded with two decimal digits resolution for the seconds part of longitude and latitude. The photo should show a terrestrial (street-level) view. Only if the Eligible Entity is restricted from accessing the location, it may rely on aerial or satellite images but needs to justify why terrestrial photographic evidence could not be collected.
- Network Diagram: A network diagram should include an attestation by an officer of the provider providing qualifying service to the CAI.
- Network Speed Test: The speed test results can be recorded in a PDF or CSV file. Speed tests can use any of the applications named in NTIA Model Challenge Process or the Eligible Entity's Initial Proposal Volume I.
- Attestation from the provisional awardee that it concurs to not accept a BEAD project for the location(s)

75. Page 6: Proponents under this RFP must clearly identify how their proposed network solution will integrate with, leverage, or depend upon de conduit infrastructure where available? Also consider geographic overlap, construction coordination strategies and technical interoperability. How can we provide, with a correct level of detail this information when we don't have the information of where these routes are, don't have and agreement or cost for the use of the conduit system.

The Puerto Rico Broadband Program (PRBP) recognizes that the Underground Conduit System is still under development and not yet constructed. To support applicants, geo-referenced files and conceptual route maps of the proposed conduit system have been made available. These materials are intended to guide applicants in understanding the planned infrastructure. As the conduit system progresses toward construction, further coordination and validation of specific deployment scopes may be required

76. Page 8: Concern: PRBP reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to disaggregate combined PSAs particularly in cases where multiple proposals target the same PSA and such disaggregation would better advance the overarching goals of the BEAD Program. Does this mean that PRBP can break a PSA to divide and award portions of that PSA to separate providers?



A single bidder may be awarded multiple Public Service Areas (PSAs), subject to demonstrating the capacity to successfully deliver across all assigned regions. In instances where multiple awardees require access to the same segment of the conduit system, PRBP will ensure that equitable and non-discriminatory access is provided to all qualified subgrantees.

77. Can we receive a KMZ or equivalent map of the conduit routes?

Applicants should refer to data files included in the RFP publication page (RFP Data - .SHP and CAIs Data Workbook)

78. Page 19 - 4.2: Construction of new network facilities to a CAI where an existing provider already offers ≥ 1 Gbps service and that capacity could be leveraged or leased on reasonable terms” would be ineligible. How can we know if another provider already has infrastructure with the necessary capacity to provide the services?

The list of BEAD eligible CAIs is provided in the CAIs Data Workbook on the RFP landing page:

https://docs.pr.gov/files/Broadband/RFP%20%26%20NOFAs/PRBP-2025-RFP-BEAD-001/SHP_RFP_DATA/fp_cai.csv?d=wc0b1d56539a84ff2b85803653d832157

79. What is the timeline or terms for the Design and Implementation phase

Proposers should plan and price their deployments recognizing that the underground conduit system is expected to be available within 24 months

80. The prospective subgrantee’s binding commitment to provision service by a date certain that is earlier than four years after the date on which the subgrantee will receive the subgrant, subject to contractual penalties. What is the structure of the penalties?

Please reference notice for BEAD Program Performance Measures for BEAD Last-Mile Networks:

https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/202509/Performance_Measures_Policy_Notice.pdf

81. Regarding the project timeline, how can a provider commit to a completion date when some of the requirements are not in the control of the provider?

Proposers should plan and price their deployments recognizing that while the underground conduit system is expected to be available within 24 months, connectivity to CAIs will begin in areas where



they are allowed. Pricing and project plans should account for potential delays in conduit access by incorporating existing infrastructure where feasible. Applicants are encouraged to clearly document their approach and associated costs, ensuring alignment with PRBP's timelines and program requirements.

82. Page 20; 6.1: Connectivity will be dedicated and secure, what are the QoS and Cybersecurity protections required under this RFP? Who pays for these services?

Please see NTIA reference guidance for subgrantees:

https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-08/Subgrantee_Qualification_Evaluation_Guide.pdf, the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice: <https://www.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/bead-restructuring-policy-notice.pdf> , and BEAD NOFO: <https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/BEAD%20NOFO.pdf>

83. Each CAI is an individual customer? The reporting requirement for network services is to be provided to each Customer or PRBP?

Please see NTIA reference guidance for subgrantees:

https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-08/Subgrantee_Qualification_Evaluation_Guide.pdf , the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice: <https://www.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/bead-restructuring-policy-notice.pdf> , and BEAD NOFO: <https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/BEAD%20NOFO.pdf>

84. In light of the extensive engineering work, network modeling, and coordination required to deliver a technically sound and financially consistent proposal, would the PRBP consider extending the submission deadline by at least sixty (60) days to allow all participants to conduct the necessary analyses and submit solutions that truly meet the program's technical and compliance standards?

PRBP recognizes the tight timeline for Applicants and has requested an extension from NTIA but has not yet received notice. Please check this website for updates. If no update is posted, applications are due October 15.



85. How should participants who do not have prior access to information about the existing underground conduit infrastructure perform accurate cost and design estimations within such a short period?

PRBP is committed to a fair and equitable process for all Applicants. All information pertaining to RFP process is published on smartisland.pr.gov. Please refer to RFPs and Q&A as well as NTIA BEAD documents for program and RFP requirements.

86. Is the program confident that this approach will ensure equitable participation and comparable proposal quality among bidders?

PRBP is committed to a fair and equitable process for all Applicants. All information pertaining to RFP process is published on smartisland.pr.gov. Please refer to RFPs and Q&A as well as NTIA BEAD documents for program and RFP requirements.

87. The RFP states that “The selected applicant(s) will be responsible for the end-to-end implementation, including design, deployment, provisioning, customer support, and long-term maintenance, ensuring that all CAIs are fully connected in a timely and compliant manner.”

- **Could the PRBP clarify how “long-term maintenance” is defined in this context and for how long broadband service is expected to be sustained for each CAI once connected?**
- **The absence of a defined service duration introduces uncertainty in both technical and financial planning, as network scalability, redundancy, and maintenance strategies depend on the operational lifecycle of the project.**
- **Understanding whether “long-term” refers to a fixed contractual period or an ongoing service commitment is essential to model realistic operational costs and to ensure compliance with the intended program objectives.**



Winning applicants / subgrantees are to maintain service availability at the required specifications to CAIs in the project area for a period of 10 years after closeout. The CAI may chose to request service if desired. . For further guidance, applciants should reference guidance for subgrantees:

https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/202508/Subgrantee_Qualification_Evaluation_Guidpd
[f , https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-05/Uniform_Guidance_Policy_Notice_Primer_BEAD.pdf](https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-05/Uniform_Guidance_Policy_Notice_Primer_BEAD.pdf)

88. Given the range of technologies available to serve the CAIs — including fiber, Fixed Wireless Access (FWA), and satellite systems, and integration with newly deployed duct infrastructure — how could a provider feasibly design a cohesive, resilient, and technically validated network architecture within such a short timeframe?

- **The engineering effort to model and integrate these technologies demands extensive analysis, simulations, and alignment with physical infrastructure data that cannot reasonably be performed in under two weeks.**
- **Wouldn't such compressed timing risk compromising the technical rigor, interoperability, and long-term reliability that the BEAD program seeks to promote?**

PRBP is following all NTIA rules and guidelines including those contained in the June 6 Restructuring Policy Notice, which prescribes an accelerated timeline for BEAD:

<https://www.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/bead-restructuring-policy-notice.pdf>



89. The RFP states that “Vendors must demonstrate the ability to deliver these services using the most feasible and cost-effective technologies available in each geographic or infrastructural context, whether through fiber-optic networks, fixed wireless, or hybrid models.” • Given this statement, could the PRBP clarify how feasibility and costeffectiveness will be comparatively evaluated across such diverse technological approaches? • Will the evaluation criteria assign equal weighting to fiber, fixed wireless, and hybrid designs, or will certain technologies be inherently favored. • How will the program ensure a fair and consistent scoring methodology when the capital and operational models for each technology differ so significantly? • And finally, how will the evaluators validate that a proposed architecture truly represents the “most feasible” option within each context, particularly when field validation and network modeling require more time than the current schedule allows?

Cost is the primary factor being considered, regardless of technology. For further guidance regarding evaluation criteria, applicants should reference section 8 of the RFP.

90. Could the PRBP clarify how a preliminary award decision will be reached within only two (2) days after submission, when previous processes have required months for proper assessment?

PRBP is following all NTIA rules and guidelines including those contained in the June 6 Restructuring Policy Notice, which prescribes an accelerated timeline for BEAD:

<https://www.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/bead-restructuring-policy-notice.pdf>

91. What measures are being taken to ensure that such a compressed evaluation still allows for fair, transparent, and technically grounded comparison among proposals?

PRBP is following all NTIA rules and guidelines including those contained in the June 6 Restructuring Policy Notice: <https://www.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/bead-restructuring-policy-notice.pdf>

92. The RFP mentions that vendors will be evaluated based on their “readiness to coordinate with relevant public or private entities managing the Underground Conduit System.” Could the PRBP clarify how this readiness will be objectively assessed and



scored during the evaluation process?

- **Will there be predefined criteria or documentation required to demonstrate prior coordination or technical integration with those entities?**
- **How will the program ensure that all participants, regardless of prior relationships or existing access to information, are evaluated under equal conditions?**
- **Given the critical role that the conduit system plays in network design and feasibility, will PRBP facilitate access to relevant technical data or contacts to allow all bidders to develop compliant and technically sound proposals?**

Applicants should refer to section 8 of the RFP for further guidance on evaluation criteria.

For further guidance on referenced technical data, applicants should reference Section 3 of this RFP.

Applicants are also encouraged to review specifications included in the Underground Conduit RFP which has also been made public in the PRBP portal.



93. The RFP indicates that the selected applicant will be responsible for providing customer support and long-term maintenance of the broadband service to each CAI. However, operational expenses (OPEX) appear to be categorized as ineligible costs under the funding framework.

- Could the PRBP clarify how applicants are expected to sustain the required support and maintenance activities if these operational costs cannot be covered or partially subsidized by the program?**
- Does the program anticipate that these costs will be absorbed entirely by the awarded vendor, or will there be a separate funding mechanism to support long-term service continuity and network reliability?**

Please see Eligible Expenses and Reimbursements Fact Sheet:

https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2023-05/CAA_Fact_Sheet_Allowable_Costs.pdf