

# BEAD Program Changes

## Complying with NTIA's BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice

July 11, 2025



California Public  
Utilities Commission

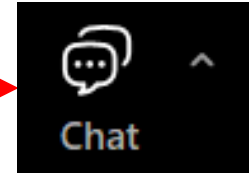
# Agenda

1. Overview of federal changes to BEAD rules
2. Timeline
3. Unlicensed fixed wireless (ULFW) data updates
4. Prequalification Application
5. Benefit of the Bargain Round Application

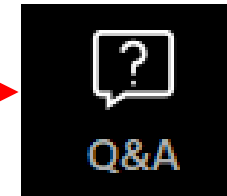
# Housekeeping

## Tips for getting the most out of this webinar

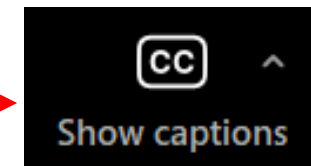
**Chat:** Keep an eye on the chat because we will use it to share useful links



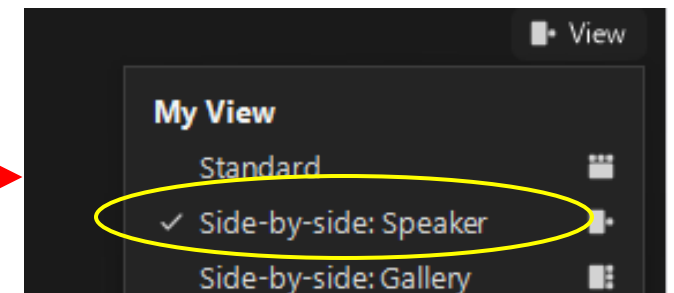
**Q&A:** Type your questions in the Q&A



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



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



# **1. Overview of federal changes to BEAD rules**

# Policy Notice

NTIA issued the “[BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice](#)” on June 6, 2025

The Policy Notice institutes significant reforms to the BEAD Program

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Telecommunications and Information Administration

#### Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program: BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice

#### ACTION: Notice

#### SUMMARY:

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provides funding for robust investment in American infrastructure projects. IIJA established the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, which provides \$42.45 billion of funding to achieve high-speed broadband access throughout the United States. *See* Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, Division F, Title I, Section 60101, Public Law 117-58, 135 Stat. 429 (November 15, 2021) (codified at 47 U.S.C. § 1701 *et seq.*).

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), as the agency responsible for administering the BEAD Program, provides herein guidance for Eligible Entities (States, Territories, and the District of Columbia) to ensure American taxpayers obtain the greatest value for their broadband investment or “Benefit of the Bargain” under the BEAD Program.

**This Policy Notice modifies and replaces certain requirements outlined in the BEAD Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).**<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

# Notable changes in the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice

- **Elimination of non-statutory requirements:** NTIA eliminated previous requirements including labor/workforce development requirements, climate change requirements, open access/net neutrality provisions, and middle-class affordability plans (and simplified the low-cost service option)
- **Technology neutrality:** All broadband technologies that meet the performance requirements of IIJA and the NOFO can be proposed and will be considered on a technology-neutral basis; proposals will be evaluated as “Priority” if they meet performance requirements in the statute and the Policy Notice
- **Reopening of Prequalification:** States must reopen Prequalification to allow for new applicants or those previously rejected or undetermined
- **Benefit of the Bargain Round:** States must conduct at least one subgrantee selection round for every BEAD-eligible location
- **New scoring rubric and selection process:** NTIA eliminated the prior scoring rubric guidance and implemented a new scoring rubric structure that relies primarily on Minimum BEAD Outlay (cost) with some secondary scoring criteria options possible where applicable
- **90-day timeline:** States have a new, 90-day deadline for complying with all requirements and submitting a Final Proposal

## 2. Timeline

# Critical applicant timelines

Event	Date
<b>Prequalification</b>	
Application reopens	July 11, 2025
Application closes	July 17, 2025, 6:00p.m. Pacific
<b>Benefit of the Bargain Round (Subgrantee Selection)</b>	
Application reopens	July 19, 2025
Application closes	August 2, 2025, 6:00p.m. Pacific
<b>Comments on draft Resolution and Final Proposal</b>	Shortened Comment Period*

*\*The CPUC issued a proposed decision to address changes to the CPUC's BEAD Program Rules and Final Proposal adoption: [Proposed Decision Modifying Decisions 24-05-029 and 24-09-050](#)*



# Critical program timeline element

The BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice requires the CPUC to meet new timeline obligations that replace previous timelines

California must submit a Final Proposal reflecting the results of the Benefit of the Bargain Round

**The Policy Notice sets the deadline as September 4, 2025 (i.e., 90 days after NTIA's release of the Policy Notice on June 6)**

The potential for timeline extensions is unclear

### **3. Unlicensed fixed wireless (ULFW) data updates**

# ULFW data updates

- In compliance with the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice, the CPUC publicly posted a notice on June 18<sup>th</sup> requesting evidence from all ULFW providers reporting service to BEAD-eligible locations in California in the FCC's Broadband Data Collection system with technology code 70
- Consistent with the NTIA's rules, ULFW providers had seven calendar days from June 18 to notify the CPUC via email that they intended to participate in the ULFW Claim Process and register in the BEAD Application Portal. Providers then had seven more days to submit evidence of their service in the BEAD portal.
- If a ULFW service provider demonstrates that it provides service to an otherwise-eligible location that meets the requirements specified in the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice (Appendix A), these locations will be considered served and will be removed from the fundable BSLs list

## BEAD 2.0

### Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program: Unlicensed Fixed Wireless Claim Process Service Evidence Requirements

#### Background

As required in the [BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice](#), the CPUC is requesting Unlicensed Fixed Wireless (ULFW) companies provide evidence that will enable the CPUC to demonstrate that the Internet service provided by using ULFW technology has taken the steps necessary to resolve potential interference and capacity constraints associated with such technology, have addressed the problem of interference from 47 CFR Part 15<sup>1</sup> users competing for the same spectrum, and meets the technical specifications within Appendix A of the Policy Notice<sup>2</sup>.

#### Step One: Declare Intent to Submit ULFW Claim Process Evidence

ULFW providers must notify the CPUC in writing of their intent to submit evidence that BEAD funding is not required for the locations they serve. Providers must send an email to [BEADgrant@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:BEADgrant@cpuc.ca.gov) stating that they wish to participate in the Claim Process. The CPUC will confirm that providers are registered in the BEAD Application Portal, and if not, providers will be asked to submit a registration request.

Providers will have seven (7) calendar days to submit their notice of intent and if necessary, submit a registration request for the BEAD Application Portal. Late submissions will not be considered.

**Window opens:** June 18, 2025

**Window closes:** June 25, 2025, 6:00 p.m. PST

#### Step Two: Submit Evidence

All evidence must be submitted through the ULFW Claims node in the BEAD Application Portal. Emailed responses will not be accepted. Providers who have indicated intent during the initial seven-day window will have the ULFW Claims node activated for their account on June 26, 2025. Once in the Portal, providers will be able to download the Unlicensed Fixed Wireless Evidence (ULFW) template to submit their claims, along with an attestation. Instructions will be provided prior to the opening of the submission window.

Providers will have seven (7) calendar days to submit their evidence. Late submissions will not be considered.

**Window opens:** June 26, 2025

**Window closes:** July 3, 2025, 6:00 p.m. PST

# 4. Prequalification Application

# Prequalification



- The Prequalification Application was revised in compliance with NTIA's BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice
- The Prequalification Application Phase opens on **July 11, 2025**, and will close on **July 17, 2025**, at 6:00p.m. Pacific.
- All applicants whose application status is “Qualified” from the previous Prequalification Application process remain prequalified and **do not** need to submit another Prequalification Application

# Changes to the Prequalification Application

## The BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice mandated changes to specific elements of the Prequalification Application

- The CPUC has identified questions in the Prequalification Application that are not allowed under the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice
  - These questions have been eliminated from the Prequalification Application for new applicants
  - Responses to these questions received by previously approved applicants will be disregarded and any commitments implied by these responses will no longer apply
- The CPUC is still required to establish the financial, technical, managerial, and operational capabilities of prospective BEAD applicants
- Due to the compressed timeline mandated by the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice, instructions for all changes will be noted as an update to the Prequalification Application Guide (shown in redline and in a change log)

# **5. Benefit of the Bargain Round**

# Benefit of the Bargain Round Application

1

Providers that previously submitted Project Applications will be allowed to update their applications, if desired

All applicants will need to provide additional information and submit an updated Project Application in the portal

2

More information will be published to the CPUC BEAD website prior to the Benefit of the Bargain Round opening on July 19, 2025

3

The CPUC is working as quickly as possible to comply with the new NTIA requirements and to help applicants succeed in the available timeframe



# Preparing for the Benefit of the Bargain Round



- **Returning applicants:** Applications submitted in the previous round will be reopened for revisions
  - Returning applicants will have the opportunity to edit their Project Applications in the BEAD portal before resubmitting
  - A new application or resubmission of an existing application is required for applications to be considered for funding
  - All returning applicants will need to submit supplemental information
- **New applicants:** Applicants that did not previously participate **must** first submit prequalification application prior to submitting a Benefit of the Bargain Round Project Application; the Prequalification Application is now open and will close on July 17, 2025

# Data updates for eligible locations



- NTIA required states to update their BEAD-eligible locations datasets
- The CPUC will update the list of eligible locations in the BEAD Application Portal prior to the Benefit of the Bargain Round, as required

# No time for application revisions

Applicants are advised to carefully review their submissions to avoid rejection of applications



- Due to the timeline established in the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice, there will not be an opportunity for revisions to correct deficiencies, supplement missing information, or modify pricing after application submission
- The CPUC urges applicants to make sure their applications are **complete, accurate, and compliant at the time of submission**

**Send questions about the BEAD  
program to:**

[BEADgrant@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:BEADgrant@cpuc.ca.gov)

Please note that due to NTIA rules, we will not be able to respond to project-specific questions or requests for individual consultations. Questions will be compiled as they come in and responses published in our Frequently Asked Questions.



## Resources:

- [NTIA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice](#)
- [CPUC BEAD Subgrantee Selection](#)





# California Public Utilities Commission