PBDA BEAD Program Round Two Scoring Criteria

Overview

On June 6, 2025, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) released the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice (Policy Notice).

In accordance with Act 96 of 2021, the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority (PBDA) updates and provides the BEAD scoring system for BEAD Round Two. Round Two will be the only opportunity for existing applicants from PBDA's BEAD Round One or for new applicants to participate in Pennsylvania's BEAD program.

Applicants from PBDA's BEAD Round One are not required to resubmit qualification documentation. Applicants from Round One have the option to update their applications or rely on their existing submissions. All applications, including those from new applicants, will be evaluated using the criteria outlined below. However, please note the list of BEAD eligible Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) and Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) will be revised for Round Two in accordance with the Policy Notice. There was significant competition in Round One and PBDA expects Round Two to be highly competitive as well. New applicants for Round Two must submit qualification documentation required in the application to be considered.

The scoring system in PBDA's BEAD Guidelines (Section VI, pages 12-16) is replaced with the information herein. PBDA reserves the right to make modifications to this scoring system or to take other recourse as may be necessary to comply with applicable law and to implement the Policy Notice.

Round Two Primary Criteria

Primary Criteria: Round Two applications will be evaluated based on the minimal BEAD outlay for each Broadband Serviceable Area (BSA) in the applicant's proposal. The minimal BEAD outlay is based on the lowest subsidy requested for each BSA divided by the number of BSLs proposed to be served in that BSA.

An applicant's proposed project may consist of one or more contiguous BSAs. An applicant with multiple BSAs may vary their subsidy request for each BSA. Per the Policy Notice, PBDA will select the combination of BSAs with the lowest overall cost to the Program. This may involve selecting a BSA that is not the lowest-cost option for a given set of BSLs but is part of the combination of selected BSAs with the lowest overall cost to the Program.

When there are competing applications and subsidy requests are within 15% of the lowest cost application, PBDA will evaluate secondary scoring criteria, as set forth below, to determine the provisionally selected applicant.

Round Two Secondary Criteria

Secondary Scoring: When there are overlapping applications that are within 15% of each other, then these applications will be scored using the secondary criteria below. The application with the most points will be provisionally selected for that BSA or combination of BSAs. Secondary scoring includes:

1) **Speed of Network and Other Technical Capabilities**

Download Speed Range	Download Points	Upload Speed Range	Upload Points
Greater than or equal to 1 Gbps	25	Greater than or equal to 1 Gbps	25
700 Mbps - 999 Mbps	20	250 Mbps - 999 Mbps	20
250 Mbps - 699 Mbps	15	100 Mbps - 249 Mbps	15
100 Mbps - 249 Mbps	10	20 Mbps - 99 Mbps	10

2) **Speed to Deployment**
   Commitment to complete project in 2 years or less – 10 points

3) **Preliminary / Provisional Subgrantee from Round One**
   Not applicable.

Additional guidance and resources, including revised BEAD Guidelines, will be available on PBDA's BEAD Program Page.