



BEAD Project Application Guidance

July 2025

Table of Contents

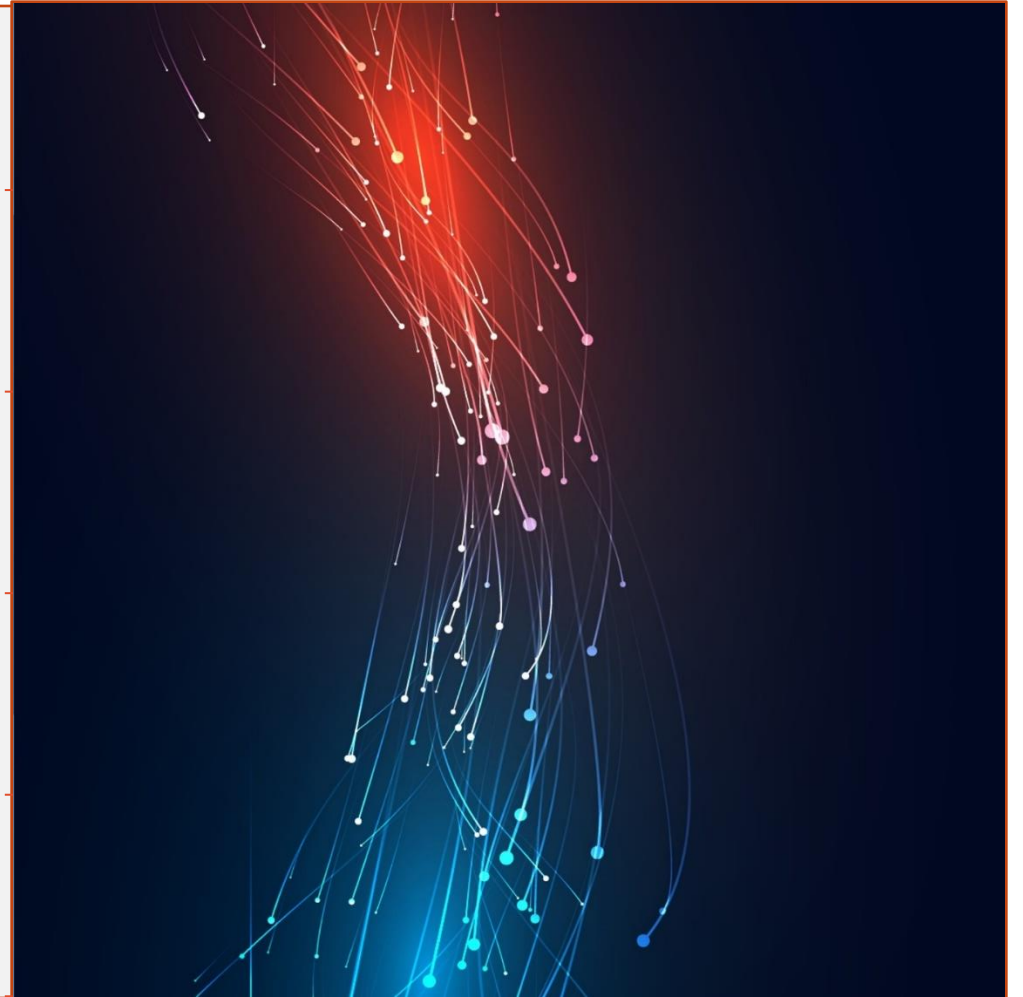
A. BEAD Program Overview and Timeline

B. Project Application Portal Instructions

C. Project Application Overview

D. Project Application Information

E. Q&A



BEAD Program Overview

BEAD Program Overview

To connect all homes and businesses to high-speed internet, Arizona was awarded \$993.1 million in federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program funds by the National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA). This BEAD funding will primarily support the deployment of broadband service to Unserved and Underserved Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) and eligible Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs).

Broadband Deployment

- Aims to expand high-speed internet access to Unserved, Underserved, and Community Anchor Institution (CAI) locations using reliable broadband technologies.
- Unserved Locations lack reliable broadband or have speeds below 25 Mbps download/3 Mbps upload, while Underserved Locations have speeds below 100 Mbps download/20 Mbps upload.
- CAIs include 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.

Eligible Project Areas Criteria

Applicants are required to submit separate Project Applications for each individual Project Area they propose to serve.

Partnerships are encouraged, with a lead Subgrantee responsible for project execution.

An interactive mapping tool and geospatial files will be available on the ACA website for Potential Applicants.

Applicants should include at least 90% of the Unserved and Underserved BSLS in the Project Area in their Application.

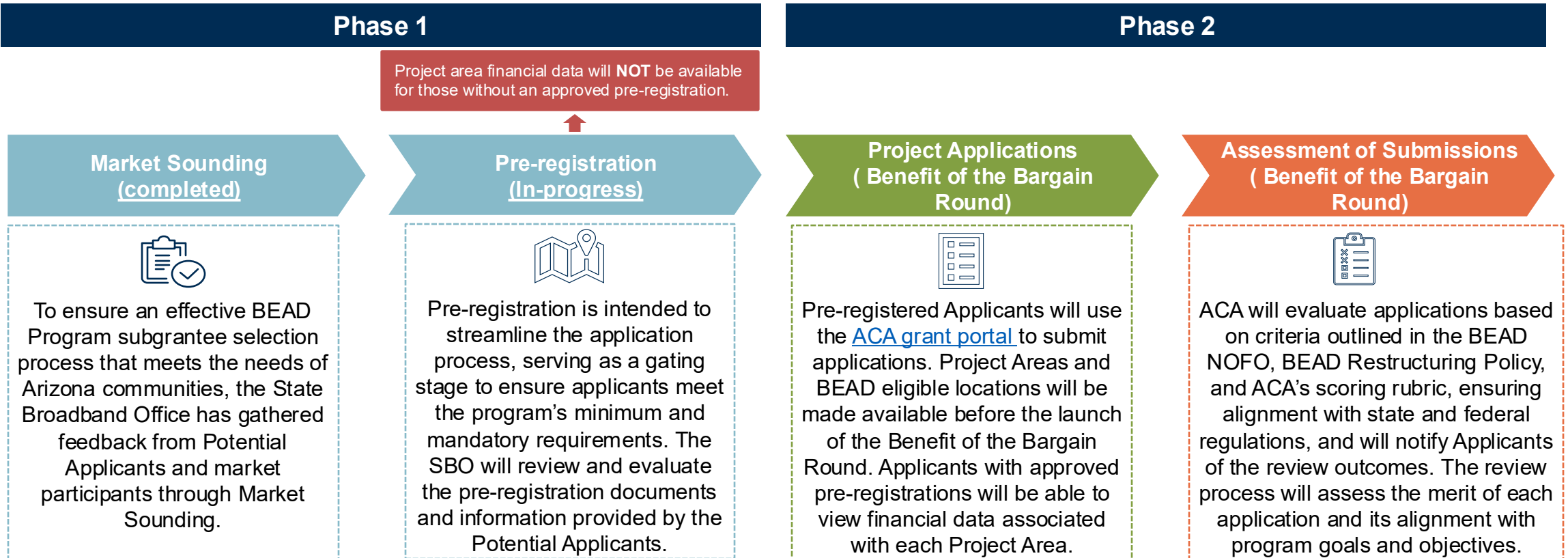
BEAD Subgrantee Selection Process Overview

BEAD Subgrantee Selection Overview

The Arizona Commerce Authority State Broadband Office (ACA SBO) has developed a comprehensive and transparent subgrantee selection process aimed at selecting the most qualified applicants for broadband infrastructure deployment in Arizona.

To promote efficiency and a streamlined subgrantee selection process, the award of deployment subgrants will be completed in phases.

The below section describes the phases of the subgrantee selection process. With a focus on efficiency and timely decision-making, the State Broadband Office is confident that this phased selection process will result in the deployment of effective broadband infrastructure across the State of Arizona to achieve universal coverage.



BEAD Subgrantee Selection Timeline

The Benefit of the Bargain Round will open on July 8, 2025, and close on July 22, 2025. ACA strongly encourages Potential Applicants to preregister ahead of the opening of the Benefit of the Bargain Round to ensure sufficient time for application submission. Please note that Potential Applicants without preregistration approval will not be able to apply for the Benefit of the Bargain Round.

	2024		2025								
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Preregistration											
Launch Pre-registration Portal (11/04/24)	★										
Webinars and Q&A Sessions (11/04/24 – 05/16/25)											
Pre-registration Intake and Review (11/04/24 – 06/30/25)											
Round 1											
Launch Round 1 (01/06/25)			★								
Application Intake (01/06/25 – 03/07/25)											
Application Review and Negotiations (03/08/25 – 05/30/25)											
Benefit of the Bargain Round											
Launch the Benefit of the Bargain Round (07/08/2025)										★	
Application Intake (07/08/2025 – 07/22/25)											
Application Review and Negotiations (07/22/25 – 08/15/25)											

Project Application Portal Demo

ARIZONA
COMMERCE AUTHORITY

[HOME](#)

[APPLY FOR BEAD](#)

[Pre-Registration](#)

[BEAD Applications](#)

[PROFILE SETTINGS](#)

[Accessibility](#)

[Logout](#)

←

Applicant 1

1. Select Locations > 2. Applicant Information > 3. Project Area Information > 4. Network Design And Timeline ...

Search location by Address

Eligibility

☒ Unserved
 ☒ Underserved

Building Type

Unit Count

Community Anchor Institution

Census county

040050015003152

Instructions

Select one census county to define your project area. You can click census counties directly on the map, from a searchable list below.

Selected census counties (0 selected)

Area ID	Eligible Location
No data	

← Applications

→ Review Locations

6

Project Application Overview

Overview

- Applicants are required to have an approved pre-registration in order to submit their BEAD project application.
- Applicants are required to submit an Application separately for each Project Area they propose to serve. Applicants can submit multiple applications.
- Each project area will be evaluated individually and scored accordingly. Tentative selection of applications will be followed by tentative awards.
 - Applicants planning to apply for adjoining project areas are required to apply for these project areas separately in individual Applications.
 - Any efficiencies that the Applicants are expecting to apply for adjoining project areas should be incorporated in the Application separately for each proposed project area. Each Application will be considered valid for each project area, irrespective of their location.
- ACA will assess applications against criteria outlined in the BEAD NOFO, BEAD Restructuring Policy, and ACA's scoring rubric, ensuring alignment with state and federal regulations.

Proposed Technology Type

- Applicants can select from a list of applicable single or mixed technology solution that they plan to deploy for their proposed project areas / application(s) for Priority or Non-Priority Broadband Deployment Projects from the following options:
 - Fiber-optic technology
 - Hybrid Fiber-Coaxial (HFC) Technology
 - Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) Technology
 - Licensed Fixed Wireless
 - Unlicensed Fixed Wireless
 - Low Earth Orbit (LEO) Satellite

Applicants will have the opportunity to propose from the following:

- **Option 1:** Proposing 100% BSLs in the Project Area with a single or a mixed technology solution(s)
- **Option 2:** Proposing select BSLs in the Project Area to serve with a single or a mixed technology solution(s) and excluding select BSLs from the Project Area. Applicants should include at least 90% of the Unserved and Underserved BSLS in the Project Area in their Application.

Project Application Information

Project Application Information

Applicants are required to provide the Project Application information outlined in the 15 Project Application Sections listed below.

For all sections except for “Applicant Information”, Applicants will need to provide **individual Project Area specific information separately under each Application.**

Project Application Section		
1. Applicant Information	6. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)	11. Fair Labor and Employment Laws
2. Project Area	7. Make Ready / Project Preparedness	12. Local Community Collaboration
3. Project Executive Summary	8. Timeline	13. Low-Cost Service Option
4. Project Infrastructure and Technology	9. Barrier and Permitting Requirements	14. Cybersecurity and Supply Chain Risk Management Compliance
5. Network Design	10. Project Financials	15. Certifications

*ACA has developed comprehensive guidelines and documents to assist Applicants. Please refer the application guidelines for further details. All relevant information will be shared on [the ACA's website](#).

1.1 Applicant Information

Application Questionnaire: Sections 2.1 | Application Guide: Sections 5.1

Applicant Information

Applicants are required to provide the following information that includes but not limited to:

- **Applicant Legal Name/Entity Name and Mailing Address**
- **Applicant Contact Details (Signatory Authority – Director/Officer)**
- **Applicant Entity-Level Details** including:
 - Applicant's Unique Entity Identifier; State Tax ID Number
 - Broadband Provider and Service Provider Types
- **Details on consortium/partnership entities** (if applicable)

1.2 Project Area(s)

Application Questionnaire: Section 2.2 | Application Guide: Section 6.1

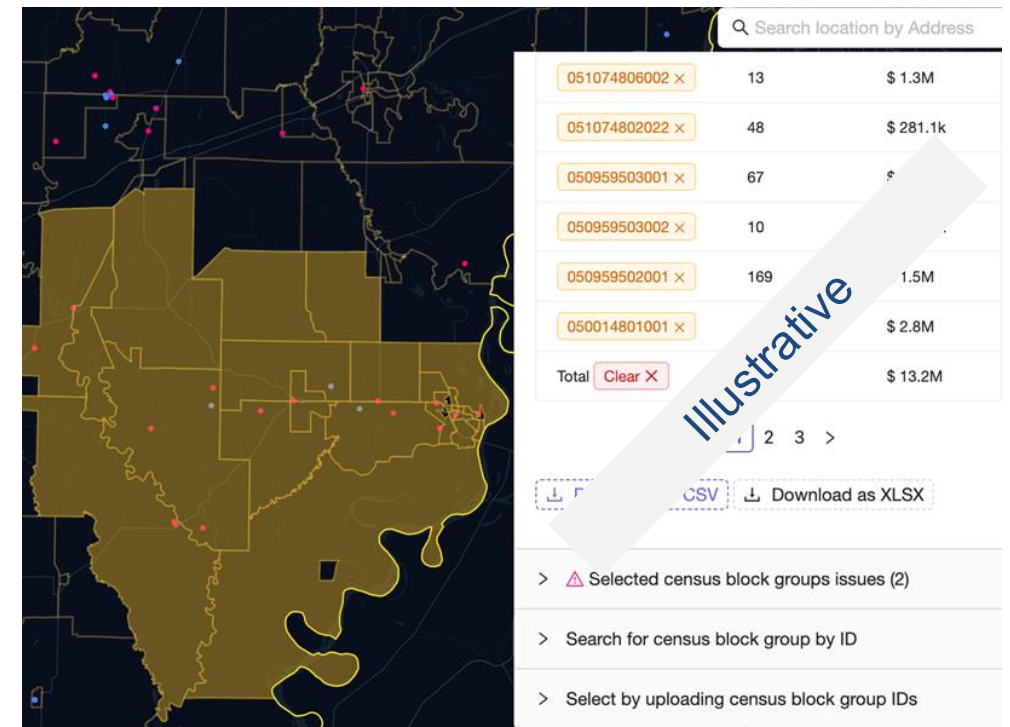
Project Area(s)

- ACA pre-defined draft project areas for Arizona's BEAD program deployment projects throughout the state.
- The application portal provides a list of project areas along with the subsidy available/reference price for each area.
- Based on the Applicants' selection of the project area, the application portal will automatically reflect the following:
 - Total number of BSLs included in the Project Area
 - Total number of Unserved Locations
 - Total number of Underserved Locations
 - Total number of eligible CAIs Locations
- The Project Area file with the list of BSLs and the list of CAIs can be downloaded from the 'Selected Project Area' map.



Based on the proposed technology solutions in the selected Project Area, Applicants will be required to submit the Project Area details in **Attachment 9 – Project Financials Workbook** with the proposed technology breakdown for each BSL and CAI proposed to be served.

If the Applicant is planning to propose both the priority broadband BSLs and non-priority broadband BSLs, Attachment 9 – Project Financials Workbook needs to identify the number of BSLs to be served under each category and with the associated financial data.



1.3 Project Executive Summary

Application Questionnaire: Sections 2.3 | Application Guide: Sections 6.2

Project Executive Summary

Applicants must submit a high-level project summary detailing the BEAD eligible locations within the Project Area, including technology type percentages, delivery approach, timeline, budget, and requested match for either a single or mixed technology solution:

- Fiber-optic technology
- Hybrid Fiber-Coaxial (HFC) Technology
- Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) Technology
- Licensed Fixed Wireless
- Unlicensed Fixed Wireless
- Low Earth Orbit (LEO) Satellite

Applicants will have the opportunity to propose from the following:

- **Option 1:** Proposing 100% BSLs in the Project Area with a single or a mixed technology solution(s)
- **Option 2:** Proposing select BSLs in the Project Area to serve with a single or a mixed technology solution(s) and excluding select BSLs from the Project Area. Applicants should include at least 90% of the Unserved and Underserved BSLs in the Project Area under Option 2.

Project Applications providing the most technically feasible and cost-effective solution for affordable broadband deployment through the BEAD program will be prioritized.

*ACA has developed comprehensive guidelines and documents to assist Applicants. Please refer the application guidelines for further details. All relevant information will be shared on [the ACA's website](#).

1.4 Project Infrastructure (1/3)

Application Questionnaire: Section 2.4.1 -2.4.3 | Application Guide: Section 6.3.1-6.3.2

Applicants can provide the details of the proposed single or mixed- technology solution as applicable for evaluating technologies the most technically feasible and cost-effective option for broadband deployment in the selected project area

1.4.1 Project Type

- **Priority Broadband Projects**: The term “Priority Broadband Project” means a project that provides broadband service at speeds of no less than 100 megabits per second (Mbps) for downloads and 20 Mbps for uploads, has a latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds, and 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.
- **Non-Priority Broadband Projects**: A “Non-priority Broadband Project” means a project that provides broadband service no less than 100 Mbps for downloads and 20 Mbps for uploads, has a latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds, but does not necessarily meet the statutory scalability requirements to 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.

1.4.2 Project Technology and Infrastructure

Priority:

- Fiber-Optic Based Deployment
- Hybrid Fiber-Coaxial Based Deployment
- Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) Based Deployment
- Licensed Fixed Wireless Based Deployment
- Unlicensed Fixed Wireless Based Deployment
- Low Earth Orbit (LEO) Satellite Based Deployment

Non-Priority (Scalability requirements not applicable):

- Hybrid Fiber-Coaxial Based Deployment
- Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) Based Deployment
- Licensed Fixed Wireless Based Deployment
- Unlicensed Fixed Wireless Based Deployment
- Low Earth Orbit (LEO) Satellite Based Deployment

ACA has a strong preference towards Priority Broadband Projects where it is financially feasible.

1.4 Project Infrastructure (2/3)

Application Questionnaire: Section 2.4.4 | Application Guide: Sections 6.3.3

01

Network Performance Roadmap

Applicants will be required to provide more details regarding network performance and upgrade needs.

Applicants must provide their network performance roadmap highlighting their network performance over the next 10 years from 2026 to 2036. The following information should be included in the network performance roadmap:

- Minimum peak time upstream data rate (Mbps)
- Minimum peak time downstream data rate (Mbps)
- Maximum peak time latency (ms)

02

Network Upgrade Needs

Applicants must provide the following narratives and confirmation regarding the network upgrade needs and describe how the proposed network design ensures scalability to meet the connectivity needs of the Project Area throughout the lifespan of the network:

- Details on the supported per subscriber downstream and upstream usage (in Mbps) at 100% take rate at 100% concurrent usage by 2036, without any additional costs that are not included in the proposal for network upgrades.
- Specify the starting per subscriber peak time data rates (in 2016) assumed in your capacity planning:
 - Average per subscriber peak time upstream data rate assumed in 2016 (Mbps)
 - Average per subscriber peak time downstream data rate assumed in 2016 (Mbps)
- Describe how your network will meet the growing subscriber bandwidth demand over the next 10 years.
- Confirm whether the proposed project costs include future upgrades.
- If the proposed project costs do not include the future upgrade costs, provide a detailed explanation of the future upgrade costs along with a detailed cost estimation for the complete project deployment.

1.4 Project Infrastructure (3/3)

Application Questionnaire: Section 2.4.5 | Application Guide: Section 6.3.4

Technology Reliability and Resiliency

- Applicants must provide a description regarding the proposed risk management plans for ensuring the proposed technology infrastructure's reliability and resilience, including from natural disasters (e.g., wildfires, flooding, tornadoes, hurricanes, etc.). as applicable.

Network Reliability

Applicants must provide the following:

- Specify the minimum service availability (%) targeted for your subscribers (% availability).
- Describe how the proposed network can provide reliable service during inclement weather (rain, snow, clouds, etc.) conditions.
- Describe how the proposed network can provide reliable service with other wireless services operating in the area.

Network Outages

- Applicants must confirm that appropriate measures will be taken to ensure that the network's outages do not exceed, on average, 48 hours over any 365-day period except in the case of natural disasters or other force majeure occurrences. In the case that Applicants are unable to meet this requirement, they must provide an explanation.
- Applicants will describe the network design and measures that their organization is planning to take to address the requirement stated above. In the case of climate risks, provide details on the planned speeds of restoring service in case of the planned network outage.
- Provide details of any other network resiliency measures that your organization plans to adopt.

1.5 Network Design

Application Questionnaire: Section 2.5 | Application Guide: Sections 6.4

Applicants must provide a high-level network design, showing a proposed network that will deliver broadband service meeting or exceeding the performance requirements to all locations served by the project.

- **GIS files of the Project Area's initial network design.** After the provisional award of the subgrant, Applicants will also be required to submit GIS files of their final network design.
 - Maps including proposed network path layer in GIS format. The path layer should distinguish between aerial and underground to the extent possible. Acceptable file types include PDF, SHP, KMZ/KML types.
 - Location points, points containing network electronics and splitters, and polygons outlining all proposed service areas at a node-level.
 - Identification of backhaul infrastructure and point(s) of internet connectivity.
- If applicable, Applicants should show their **existing fiber or cable network routes within and close to the Project Area** defined by the applicant. Include any applicable information about these existing assets, such as fiber density, available capacity, year of deployment, etc.
- If the project involves laying fiber-optic cables or conduits underground or along a roadway network, the network design should show the inclusion of **preliminary interspersed conduit access points at regular and short intervals**.
- If the project involves a licensed and unlicensed fixed wireless application, the network design should demonstrate the **planned deployment, capability, and sustainability of the proposed network**. It should include a coverage map showing the **geographical area the network will cover and indicating specific locations of towers and base stations**. Additionally, the network's architecture should be outlined, specifying core components such as the **backhaul, transmission points, antenna and base station types, and connectivity to the main internet infrastructure**.
- Applicants must confirm that the design network design, diagram, project costs, build-out timeline and milestones for project implementation and project plan submitted will be certified by a licensed professional engineer prior to signing the grant agreement.
- Applicants must confirm if the Professional Engineer will be licensed in the State of Arizona. If the Professional Engineer will not be licensed in the State of Arizona, Applicants will explain if they intend to include the BEAD program waiver on PE Certification.

1.6 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA); 1.7 Make Ready; 1.8 Timeline

Application Questionnaire: Sections 2.6 – 2.8 | Application Guide: Sections 6.5 – 6.7

NEPA and NHPA

- Applicants will need to provide a high-level description of the site and the surrounding area and any natural or manmade geographic, physical, or other factors that may pose a risk to the development of the project.
- Applicants will provide detailed plans on how the project will be implemented including outlining their approach to remaining compliant with the State Historical Preservation Act (SHPA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and any other environmental or national historic preservation requirements.
- Additionally, Applicants will recommend feasible plans to minimize adverse environmental and historical preservation impacts.

Make Ready

- Applicants must describe the make-ready activities that their organization has already completed or has planned for the proposed project.

Timeline

- Applicants to provide an overview of the timeline highlighting key milestones, and the number of months needed between the execution of the grant agreement and the delivery of service to the last eligible BSL included in the Project Area.
- For application evaluation purposes, applicants will provide a detailed project schedule with key implementation phases and milestones for 25%, 50%, 75%, and 100% completion for completing the project within the 4-year timeline.
- Applicants are required to confirm that if successful, they will deploy the planned broadband network and begin providing services to each customer that desires broadband service within the project area not later than four (4) years after the date on which the subgrantee receives the subgrant from ACA.

1.9 Barrier and Permitting Requirements

Application Questionnaire: Section 2.9 | Application Guide: Section 6.8

Permits/Critical Crossings

- Applicants will need to identify any known critical crossings/permits related to the project, for each project area included in the Application. Permits/Critical crossings may include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - State of Arizona Managed Lands: Arizona Department of Water Resources; Arizona State Land Department, etc.
 - Federal Government Managed Lands: Railroad Crossings, National Park Service Management Lands, etc.
 - Tribal Nations Managed Lands: Tribal Nations Managed Rights of Way; Bridge Crossings; Drain Crossings and Other Crossings
 - Local Government Managed Lands: Local Government Managed Rights of Way; Bridge Crossings; Drain Crossings, etc.
- Applicants will need to provide a description of the critical crossings/permits related to this project. Additionally, any steps or plans that their organization has undertaken with regards to the permitting processes for the identified critical crossings and/or permits must be described.

Barrier Identification

Applicants will also need to identify potential obstacles and challenges associated with the project. Information includes but not limited to:

- Detailed description of any concerns or issues encountered related to critical crossings or permits for the project.
- Narrative of any supply chain issues and a plan to overcome them.
- Narrative on any workforce related issues that could potentially delay the project deployment and describe plan to overcome them.
- Description of potential concerns/issues related to inclement weather that may impact the timeline of this project.

1.10 Project Financials (1/2)

Application Questionnaire: Section 2.10 | Application Guide: Section 6.9

Letter of Credit (LOC)

- Applicants must confirm that they will obtain and submit a Letter of Credit from a bank on a per project basis in the amount of 25% of the subaward prior to signing of the grant agreement
- If confirmed, Applicants must submit a letter from a bank meeting committing to issue an irrevocable standby letter of credit in a value of no less than 25% of subaward amount
- Applicants must confirm that they will also submit an opinion letter from legal counsel along with the Letter of Credit.

If not opting for a bank LOC, Applicants can choose from the following four options from NTIA's Programmatic Waiver:

- # 1: Subgrantee may obtain the Letter of Credit from a credit union to be provided prior to signing of the grant agreement : If choosing this option, Applicants must submit a commitment letter from a credit union for issuing an LOC no less than 25% of the subaward amount
- # 2: Subgrantee may obtain a qualified performance bond instead of obtaining a Letter of Credit from an acceptable surety for 100% of the subaward amount prior to signing of the grant agreement : If choosing this option, Applicants must submit a letter from an acceptable surety company committing to issue a performance bond equal to the subaward amount
- #3 (LEO Only): Subgrantee may step down the amount of the Letter of Credit or performance bond based on progress toward completion of project milestones
- # 4: Subgrantee may obtain a Letter of Credit or performance bond for only 10% of the subaward amount prior to signing of the grant agreement : If choosing this option, Applicants will have to submit either a commitment letter from a bank issuing for 10% LOC or a surety letter from an acceptable surety company for issuing 10% performance bond

Project Match

- Applicants must provide summary information about project funding sources and details of matching funds based on their selected project type, if applicable on the portal and in the Attachment 9 - Project Financials Workbook

Category	Total
Total Project Cost	\$
Total Grant Amount Requested	\$
Total Match Amount	\$
Total Match Percentage (Must be Min. of 25% w/o waiver)	%

- Applicants must submit evidence of the committed matching funds.

Note: Arizona will regard all cash, loans, federal grants, and state grants as cash match.

Matching Waiver Request (Conditional)

- Applicants should indicate if they plan to propose high-cost locations
- If Applicants are intending to apply for a match waiver they must describe the special circumstances underlying the reason for not providing the minimum match requirement of 25%.
- Additionally, they must document any efforts made to obtain matching fund commitments for the project from capital funding sources and explain how a waiver would serve the public interest and advance the goals of the BEAD Program.

1.10 Project Financials (2/2)

Application Questionnaire: Section 2.10 | Application Guide: Section 6.9

ACA encourages Applicants to provide estimations to evaluate and prioritize all Project Applications for proposing the most technically feasible and cost-effective solution for effective broadband deployment through the BEAD program.

Project Financial Workbook

Applicants will be required to populate and upload the Attachment 9 - Project Financials excel workbook available on ACA's website and will include detailed information including but not limited to:

- High-level project budget information
- Capital costs
- Operating costs
- Capital investment schedule
- Project cost estimation
 - Breakdown of number of BSLs proposed to be served and cost to serve by technology type
 - List of CAIs, proposed technologies, and cost to serve
- Matching funds
- Project pro forma financials & cashflow
- On the Application Portal, Applicants will also provide budget narrative that explains the assumptions used in the pro forma and any expected financial challenges.
- Additionally, Applicants will provide any additional related analyses that establish the sustainability of the proposed project.

1.11 Fair Labor and Employment Laws

Application Questionnaire: Section 2.11 | Application Guide: Section 6.10

Fair Labor and Employment Laws

- Applicants will provide the following information related to fair labor practices. It is important to note that these questions may have already been answered during the preregistration phase. If not answered at the preregistration phase, then these questions are project-specific and must be answered as part of the current application phase.
- If not submitted during the preregistration phase, Applicants must submit a signed attestation of compliance with federal and State labor and employment laws for the past three years by an Officer/Director-level employee of the entity (e.g., President, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer, or equivalent position). It should also certify that the Applicant will plan to comply with applicable federal and state labor and employment laws for BEAD-funded projects.
- If a new provider, the potential Applicant must commit to robust labor and employment standards and protections, including compliance with federal labor and employment laws for BEAD-funded Projects in the future.
- In case of a violation in the last three years, the Applicant must disclose the nature of the violation and the corrective steps taken to avoid similar incidents and ensure future compliance.

1.12 Local Community Collaboration

Application Questionnaire: Section 2.12 | Application Guide: Section 6.11

Local Community Collaboration

- As per the state statute - 41-2702 on “Solicitation and award of grant applications”, Applicants will confirm that if their organization has consulted with Local government entities and Tribal Authorities regarding their qualifications and plans within the Project Area.
- Applicants will confirm if their organization has received a letter of consent/ collaboration from Local and Tribal Governments.
- If yes, Applicants will submit the letter of consent/collaboration.
- If no, the Applicant will confirm that its organization will receive a letter of consent/collaboration from Local and Tribal Governments prior to signing the grant agreement.

1.13 Low-Cost Service Option

Application Questionnaire: Section 2.13 | Application Guide: Sections 6.12

Low-Cost Broadband Service Option

Regarding Low-Cost Broadband Service Option, Applicants must provide details of the option for the 100/20 Mbps service and latency performance of no more than 100 milliseconds in the Project Area for five years after project completion. Additionally, Applicants must confirm the following which is applicable to each Project Area included in the Application:

- Confirm that at least one low-cost broadband service option will be provided for the entire service territory of the proposed project
- Confirm that the applicants that already offer a low-cost plan that meets the mentioned service requirements may propose to offer their existing low-cost plan to eligible subscribers, if applicable
- Confirm that the applicant will ensure that eligible subscribers applying for the low-cost service option are households eligible for the FCC's Lifeline Program (47 C.F.R. Part 54, Subpart E et seq. - Universal Service Support for Low-Income Consumers) .
- Confirm that end users are allowed to apply the Lifeline subsidy to the service price.
- Confirm that prospective consumers will be informed of the existence of the Lifeline program benefits.

The Applicant should also upload details of an existing or proposed low-cost broadband service plan.

Regarding Service Characteristics Requirements, Applicants must confirm the following:

- Confirm that the service will consistently and reliably provide download speeds of at least 100 Mbps and upload speeds of at least 20 Mbps
- Confirm that the service will provide typical latency measurements of no more than 100 milliseconds
- Confirm that the service is not subject to data caps, surcharges, or usage-based throttling, and adheres only to the same acceptable use policies that apply to all other broadband internet access service plans offered to home subscribers.
- Confirm that the service will be installed within 10 calendar days of a service request once the network is operational

For allowing the Ability to Upgrade, Applicants must also confirm and provide details that in the event their organization later offers a low-cost plan with higher downstream and/or upstream speeds, they will allow eligible subscribers who are already subscribed to a low-cost broadband service option to upgrade to the new low-cost offering at no cost.

1.14 Cybersecurity and Supply Chain Risk Mgmt Compliance

Application Questionnaire: Section 2.14 | Application Guide: Section 6.13

Cybersecurity Risk Management Plan

Applicants will be required to submit a cybersecurity management plan that includes the following criteria during the project application stage, if not submitted during pre-registration:

- Operational status: The applicant must have a cybersecurity risk management plan in place before the grant is awarded if the applicant is already providing services at the time of the grant. If not providing services, applicant will be required to demonstrate readiness to operationalize the plan upon providing service after the grant award.
- NIST Framework and Executive Order Compliance: The cybersecurity risk management plan must be based on the latest available version of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Framework.
- Security and Privacy Controls: The plan must also adhere to the standards and controls outlined in Executive Order 14028 and must specify the particular security and privacy controls being implemented.
- Evaluation and Updates: Establish a process for periodic evaluation and assessment of the cybersecurity risk management plan. Ensure that the plan will be regularly reviewed and updated.

Supply Chain Risk Management Compliance

Applicants will be required to submit a Supply Chain Management Plan (SCRM) that includes the following criteria during the project application stage, if not submitted during pre-registration:

- Operational status: The applicant must have a SCRM in place before the grant is awarded if the applicant is already providing services at the time of the grant. If not providing services, applicant will be required to demonstrate readiness to operationalize the plan upon providing service after the grant award.
- Key Practices and Guidance: The SCRM must be based on the key practices described in the NIST publication NISTIR 8276, "Key Practices in Cyber Supply Chain Risk Management: Observations from Industry." The plan must also incorporate relevant supply chain risk management guidance from NIST, including NIST 800-161, "Cybersecurity Supply Chain Risk Management Practices for Systems and Organizations." The plan should clearly specify the supply chain risk management controls that will be implemented.
- Evaluation and Updates: The SCRM must be reevaluated and updated on a periodic basis. The plan should be regularly reviewed and updated as events warrant to address evolving supply chain risks and challenges/significant events.

Please note, if significant changes are made to the plan, a new version should be promptly submitted to ACA within 30 days (applicable until the end of the period of performance).

1.15 Certifications

Application Questionnaire: Section 2.15 | Application Guide: Section 6.14

For each project area included in the Application, Applicants need to confirm compliance with certifications that includes but not limited to:

- ✓ Submitting a grant application to ACA signifies a binding commitment until the BEAD award process ends.
- ✓ Organizations must follow through with their grant application promises or face funding claw-back by ACA.
- ✓ Organizations must adhere to FCC's communications rules until BEAD final awards are announced.
- ✓ Certify that the Applicant is not currently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this program by any Federal, State, or Local department or agency.
- ✓ Applicants must independently determine pricing and certify no collusion in their BEAD application.
- ✓ Organizations must practice fairness and avoid biases and conflicts of interest in their grant application process.
- ✓ Grants operate on a cost reimbursement basis with no more than six-month reimbursement periods, as per NOFO.
- ✓ Organizations must provide quarterly progress reports, adhere to application details, and undergo audits if awarded.
- ✓ The application's certification requests are not exhaustive.
- ✓ Projects must aim to serve all unserved and underserved areas specified in the application.
- ✓ Organizations must follow NEPA and NHPA environmental and historic preservation laws.
- ✓ NEPA analysis is required for all BEAD-funded projects, with detailed project descriptions provided.
- ✓ Projects should minimize environmental and historic preservation impacts.
- ✓ Organizations will coordinate with state offices and subcontractors for environmental assessments.
- ✓ Applicants agree to adhere to ACA's procurement, grant compliance policies, and uniform terms.
- ✓ BEAD funds cannot be used for telecommunications or video surveillance from prohibited companies, aligning with federal regulations and national security concerns.
- ✓ Signing the application confirms it's truthful and acknowledges the legal consequences of fraudulent information.

Q&A





Scoring Criteria for Priority and Non-Priority Broadband Projects

Prioritization and Scoring Process

The Arizona Commerce Authority will use a scoring rubric as per NTIA BEAD Restructuring Policy to assess BEAD projects, with a 500-point maximum split between primary and secondary criteria.

The ACA will prioritize Project Applications with the lowest cost based on minimal BEAD Program outlay for a single Project Application received for a Project Area.

In the event of competing Project Applications for the same Project Area, the ACA may score and prioritize the lowest cost Project Application with the lowest Subsidy Requested per BSL and other competing Project Applications within 15% of the lowest cost Project Application based on both primary and secondary criteria.

Arizona BEAD Deployment Project Scoring

Priority Broadband Projects

- Scoring criteria for Priority Broadband Projects is as follows:
 - Primary Scoring Criteria – (Total 250 points)
 - Minimal BEAD Program Outlay - 250 Maximum Points
 - Assessment of Cost to the Program per Location - 250 Maximum Points
 - Assessment of the Total Overall Lowest Cost to the Program (For prioritization)
 - Secondary Selection Criteria for Priority Projects (Total 250 Points)
 - Speed to Deployment - 50 Maximum Points
 - Speed of Network and Other Capabilities - 150 Maximum Points
 - The Speed of Network and Latency - 75 Maximum Points
 - Evolving Connectivity Capabilities –75 Maximum Points
 - Preliminary/Provisional Subgrantees – 50 Maximum Points

Non - Priority Broadband Projects

- Scoring criteria for Non-Priority Broadband Projects is as follows:
 - Primary Scoring Criteria – (Total 250 points)
 - Minimal BEAD Program Outlay - 250 Maximum Points
 - Assessment of Cost to the Program per Location - 250 Maximum Points
 - Assessment of the Total Overall Lowest Cost to the Program (For prioritization)
 - Secondary Selection Criteria for Non-Priority Projects (Total 250 Points)
 - Speed to Deployment - 50 Maximum Points
 - Speed of Network and Other Capabilities - 150 Maximum Points
 - Preliminary/Provisional Subgrantees – 50 Maximum Points

Application Scoring – Primary Criteria

Minimal BEAD Outlay - 250 points

Two categories will be evaluated for both Priority and Non-Priority Projects based on the following:

A. Assessment of Cost to the Program per Location – 250 Maximum Points

This criterion will evaluate the cost-effectiveness of the selected Project Area by evaluating the Subsidy Requested per BSL against the Subsidy Available per BSL. Each Project Area will be scored separately using a sliding scale system as shown below:

Scoring	Priority/Non-Priority Projects Points
> 15% of the Subsidy Available per BSL	0
> 5% to ≤ 15% of the Subsidy Available per BSL	150
> 0% to ≤ 5% of the Subsidy Available per BSL	175
> -10% to ≤ 0% of the Subsidy Available per BSL	200
> -15% to ≤ -10% of the Subsidy Available per BSL	225
≤ - 15% of the Subsidy Available per BSL	250

B. Assessment of the Total Overall Lowest Cost to the Program – For Prioritization

The ACA will evaluate the combination of Project Applications with the lowest overall cost to the Program against the Subsidy Available for the selected Unserved and Underserved BSLs for the Project Areas. This may involve selecting a proposal that is not the lowest-cost option for a given set of BSLs but is part of the combination of selected projects with the lowest overall cost to the Program, wherever applicable.

Application Scoring – Secondary Criteria

Three categories will be evaluated for both Priority and Non-Priority Projects under the secondary criteria based on the following for competing Project Applications:

Speed of Deployment – Maximum 50 Points

The ACA will assess Project Applications based on their pledged speed of deployment using a sliding scale system as shown below for both Priority and Non-Priority Broadband Projects

Deployment Schedule	Priority/Non-Priority Project Points
< 24 months	50
24 - 36 months	40
36 - 42 months	30
42 – 47 months	20
48 months	0

Speed of Network and Other Capabilities for Priority Broadband Projects – 150 Maximum Points

Speed of Network and Latency Capabilities: The ACA will assess Project Applications based on the speed of network and latency capability using a sliding scale system as shown below for both Priority Projects with a maximum of 75 points and Non-Priority Broadband Projects for a maximum of 150 points

Speed of Network and Latency	Priority Project Points	Non-Priority Project Points
≤ 10 Gbps download and 2.5 Gbps upload or greater, maximum latency of 100ms	75	150
≤ 1 Gbps download and upload, maximum latency of 100ms	50	100
≤ 1 Gbps download and 250 Mbps upload, maximum latency of 100ms	25	75
≤ 250 Mbps download and 100 Mbps upload, maximum latency of 100ms	10	50
< 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload, maximum latency of 100ms	0	0

Application Scoring – Secondary Criteria

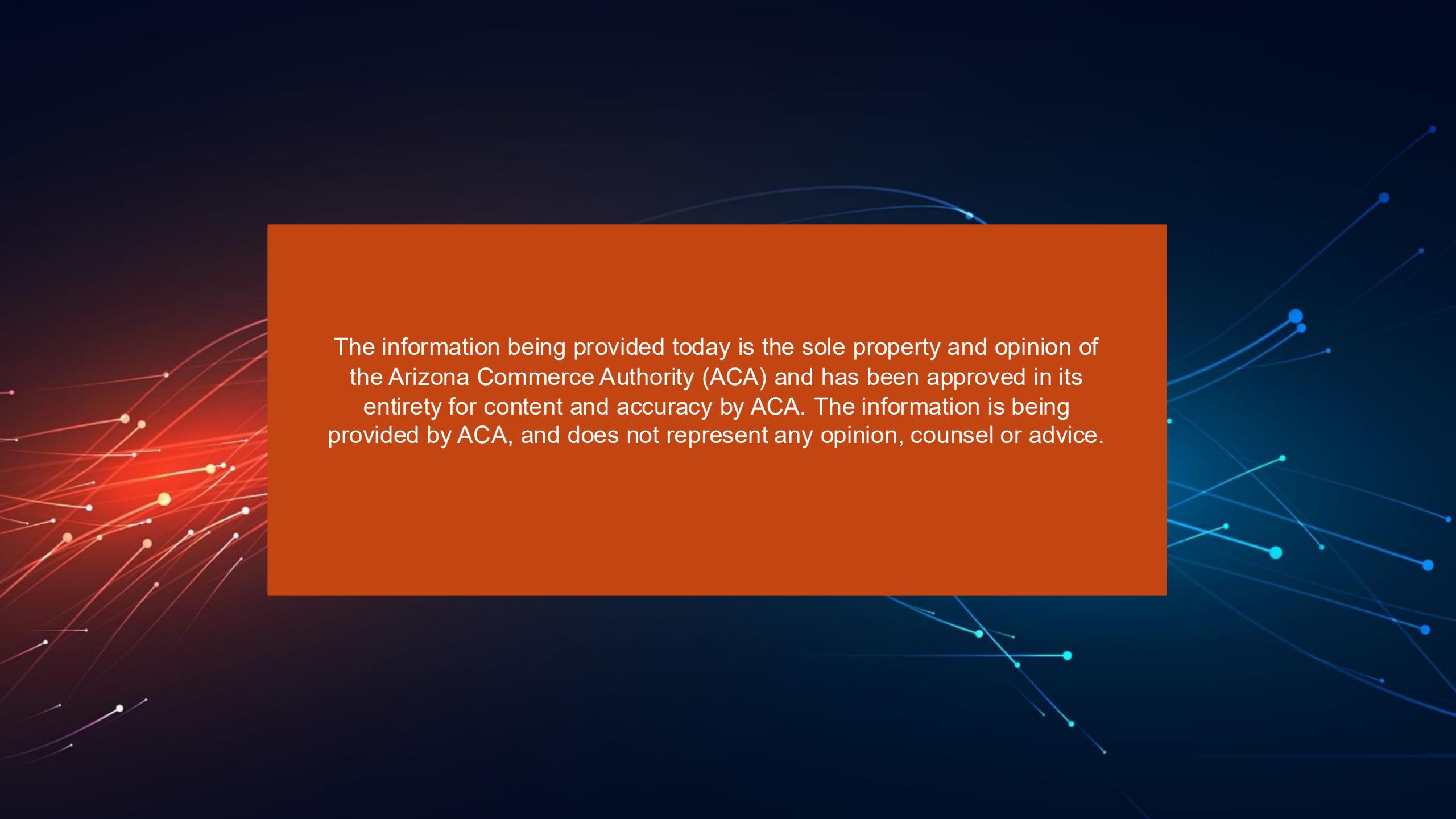
Evolving Connectivity Capabilities – The Priority Broadband Projects will also be evaluated on the ability to meet the evolving connectivity needs for the proposed technological solutions on the minimum simultaneous supported usage capacity.

Minimum simultaneous supported usage	Priority Project Points
≥ 100 Mbps downstream and ≥ 10 Mbps upstream	75
≥ 80 but < 100 Mbps downstream and ≥ 8 but < 10 Mbps upstream	60
≥ 40 but < 80 Mbps downstream and ≥ 4 but < 8 Mbps upstream	45
≥ 20 but < 40 Mbps downstream and ≥ 2 and < 4 Mbps upstream	30
≥ 5 Mbps < 20 Mbps downstream and ≥ 1 but < 2 Mbps upstream	15
< 5 Mbps downstream and 1 Mbps upstream	0

Preliminary/Provisionally Selected Subgrantees – 50 Maximum Points

For the BSLs, where the ACA has already identified preliminary or provisionally selected subgrantees during Round 1, the ACA will give additional weightage to those Project Applications in the Benefit of the Bargain Round by providing 50 additional points.

Scoring Criteria	Priority/Non-Priority Project Points
Preliminary/Provisionally Selected Subgrantees during Round 1	50
Other Applicants	0



The information being provided today is the sole property and opinion of the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA) and has been approved in its entirety for content and accuracy by ACA. The information is being provided by ACA, and does not represent any opinion, counsel or advice.