ACA BEAD Pre-Registration Office Hours Q&A Roll-Up

BEAD Pre-Registration and Application Timeline

1. What is the deadline for the pre-registration submission?

The pre-registration phase will conclude three days (72 hours) before the termination of the Round 2 project application period, set to be May 2, 2025. As such, the deadline for pre-registration submissions is April 29, 2025.

ACA highly recommends that all Potential Applicants complete pre-registration prior to the launch of Round 1 project application, regardless of whether their project application involves mixed or alternative technologies.

2. What is the timeline for Round 1 and Round 2 project applications?

The Round 1 project application period will commence on January 6, 2025, and will extend over a duration of 30 days, concluding on February 5, 2025.

The Round 2 project application period will commence on April 12, 2025, and will extend over a duration of 20 days, concluding on May 2, 2025.

3. Is it possible for ACA to extend the deadline for Round 1 project applications?

Unfortunately, ACA cannot extend the deadline due to a strict schedule outlined by the NTIA. Consequently, we encourage all Potential Applicants to finalize their pre-registration process and submit all required documents during the pre-registration period. This ensures that the Potential Applicants can devote their efforts to preparing the necessary documentation for the projects they are interested in during the project application phase.

4. When is the release date for the Round 1 project application portal?

Owing to the holiday season in late December, the opening of the Round 1 project application window has been deferred to January 6, 2025, from the initial date of December 20, 2024. As a result, the Round 1 project application portal will become available on January 6, 2025.

5. **When is the release date for the project application questionnaire, guidance, and other related documents?**

ACA plans to release all necessary materials related to project application on the ACA website by late December 2024.

6. **When will the final project areas be released?**

The final project areas will be available within the portal before opening of Round 1 project applications on January 6, 2025.

7. **Will pre-registration applications be reviewed on a rolling basis?**

Yes, pre-registration applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, in the order they are received. Please also note that pre-registration will remain open until three days before the ACA closes Round 2. Applicants can submit their pre-registration applications at any time up until that deadline. However, please note that all pre-registration applications must be completed before an applicant can submit either a Round 1 or Round 2 application.

Pre-Registration

8. **Is it possible to grant other individuals within the same organization access to the pre-registration application via the portal?**

Absolutely, the portal features an option enabling you to share access with fellow team members within the same organization. For any technical difficulties associated with the portal, please direct your inquiries to Ready.Net, the portal developer, at azhelpdesk@ready.net.

9. **Is it mandatory for the CEO of the Internet Service Provider (ISP) to submit the pre-registration application, or can other members in relation to the team apply on behalf of the provider?**

The pre-registration application can be submitted by any member(s) of the application team on behalf of the Potential Applicant. While certain certifications within the application require completion or signatures by an officer or director-level employee of the organization, overall, the submission of the pre-registration application is not strictly limited to the CEO of the Potential Applicant.

10. How many years of audited financials are required during pre-registration? Are these financials required at the time of project application or upon award?

Per the pre-registration guidance section 4.2.1.2., "If the Potential Applicant is not a publicly traded company, they must submit audited financial statements for the three most recent fiscal years including Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Changes in Financial Position or Statement of Cash Flows, and footnotes to the financial statements. The BEAD program requires audited financial statements. As such, tax returns such as Form 1040 Schedule C, Form 1120 (all variants), Form 1165, or a partnership statement (Form K-1) will not be accepted in lieu of Financial Statements.

If the Potential Applicant has not been audited during the ordinary course of business, they should submit unaudited financial statements for the prior three fiscal years. In addition, they must certify that audited financial statements prepared by an independent certified public accountant from the prior fiscal year will be provided prior to receiving any subgrants. This requirement applies to all Potential Applicants that are not publicly held, including those that have solely operated an electric transmission or distribution service.

If Potential Applicant's financial history is less than three years, include quarterly or semi-annual statements for partial years including the current year.

If the Potential Applicant is publicly held, provide direct links to 10-K statements for the three most recent fiscal years."

11. For cooperatives that are not publicly traded, owned 100% by all their cooperative electric broadband members, and therefore do not have a list of owners, what information should be provided in the ownership section?

If the cooperative has more than 25 members, they can list board members, officers, and/or executive committee members in place of its members. Additionally, the Potential Applicant should also include as attachment(s) a description of its composition and nature as a cooperative and any supporting organizational documents and materials that demonstrate this as part of the organizational structure requirements under the managerial capability section of the preregistration application. This information should include, at a minimum, information on the structure of the cooperative, number of members, role of the board members, officers, and/or executive committee and governance structure.

12. When will ACA require the ISPs to provide the Letter of Credit (LOC)?

At the pre-registration stage, Potential Applicants are required to certify that they understand an executed performance security will be required after final award and prior to signing of the grant agreement. ACA intends to provide additional guidance regarding performance security submission requirements as part of the project application stage.

13. **Will letters of support be required from county leadership for each project area?**

According to the [Arizona BEAD Volume II](#), "as part of the requirements for the BEAD Program, applicants must consult with local and tribal authorities regarding their qualifications and plans within the project area." Additionally, "Local and Tribal Governments may provide support for one or more applicants within the BEAD Program with letters of support that will factor into the scoring criteria."

The letters of support will be factored into the scoring criteria and will be evaluated based on any financial commitments from the relevant Local or Tribal Government, diversity, any commitments made by the relevant Local or Tribal Government(s) (including direct or in-kind commitments like right of way access or permitting assistance), and recognition of the potential subgrantee's coordination efforts in the community through the letter(s) of support.

The ACA encourages Potential Applicants to secure these letters during the pre-registration phase. Should there be any modifications in project areas prior to their final release, ACA pledges to assist applicants to provide sufficient time to obtain updated letters of support.

14. **In the Ownership section of the pre-registration application, is it necessary for a member-owned cooperative to fill out each question? Does this requirement apply to the entire pre-registration application?**

No, it is not necessary to fill out each question if the field is not marked as required with a red asterisk. If any clarification is needed, ACA will reach out directly.

15. **In the Certifications and Licensures Section, how much detail is needed concerning the Applicant's relevant experience? For instance, what if the Applicant has relevant broadband deployment experience but no employees with applicable licenses or certifications?**

A description of relevant past experiences in deploying broadband projects is sufficient. Specific licenses and certifications are not required.

16. **In the Operational Capability Section, the Other Public Funding template is specific to past broadband projects. Are new entrants to manipulate the Other Public Funding template to document past projects, or do new entrants only use the New Entrant Operational Evidence template to list past projects?**

For the Operational Capability Section, there is a section where new entrants can provide important details about their operational capabilities. There are four categories under that

section, which are: completed projects, active deployment projects, projects awaiting award, and planned future projects.

17. **Can a new entrant use experience from large grants received for projects similar in size and scope to BEAD funding, such as SMART Grid or other energy-related programs, as documentation of past experience? If they lack past broadband deployment experience, can other energy-related deployment projects demonstrate their technical, managerial, and financial competence?**

Yes, other energy-related deployment projects can be used to demonstrate technical, managerial, and financial competence. Applicants are required to provide evidence that they have sufficient operational capabilities to deploy broadband-specific infrastructure projects. Even if an applicant lacks previous broadband infrastructure project experience, they can submit relevant resumes of key personnel or descriptions of projects completed by contractors or subcontractors they plan to partner with for BEAD deployment.

Project Application

18. **Is it expected that there will be a lesser emphasis on narrative and more focus on technical aspects such as engineering, design, and financials in the Round 1 and Round 2 project applications?**

The structure of the Round 1 and Round 2 applications will incorporate narrative responses along with both technical and financial aspects. Therefore, applicants will be required to provide a balanced combination of narrative, financial, and technical responses during the project applications.

19. **Does Round 1 solely focus on fiber applications or are project applications for all technologies accepted by the ACA?**

Round 1 will accept project applications for all technologies. While the NTIA BEAD NOFO and ACA prioritize feasible and affordable fiber applications, Potential Applicants will have the opportunity to also propose alternative or mixed technology solutions in their project applications. ACA encourages Potential Applicants to propose to most technically feasible and cost-effective solution for broadband deployment through the BEAD program. More information on the submission requirements will be provided with the project application questionnaire and guidance during the project application phase.

20. **Are there any word or character limits for narrative sections in the pre-registration application?**

No, there are no word of character limits for the narrative sections. If you are experiencing any technical issues, please reach out to Ready.NET at azhelpdesk@ready.net.

BEAD Eligible BSLs and Project Areas

21. **To what extent were the initial project areas adjusted? Should Potential Applicants anticipate devoting a considerable amount of time and effort to update cost modeling following the release of final project areas?**

Upon the release of the final project areas during Round 1, Potential Applicants will have a 30-day window to make any necessary adjustments to their cost modeling in response to changes in applicable project areas.

22. **When are post-challenge locations expected to be posted?**

The challenge results, including any post-challenge data adjustments, are currently under review by NTIA. While the exact timeline for approval is not guaranteed, ACA expects to receive approval in December 2024, before the opening of the Round 1 project application.

23. **Could delays in NTIA approval for post-challenge BSL locations influence application timelines?**

The updated schedule for Round 1 opening has been designed to incorporate possible delays in the approval of post-challenge results by the NTIA.

24. **Considering that several states, including Virginia, have experienced significant shifts in the post-challenge BSL lists following NTIA approval, with adjustments concerning the number of locations and the distribution per project area, can similar changes be expected in Arizona potentially altering Potential Applicants' approach?**

Based on the current data available, the ACA does not foresee any drastic alterations to the BSL list post-challenge following complete NTIA approval.

![Arizona Commerce Authority logo]

Contact Info

25. How can Potential Applicants seek clarification and/or assistance should they have further questions throughout the pre-registration process?

- Email ACA at broadband@azcommerce.com. For technical issues in the portal, please direct your questions to azhelpdesk@ready.net.

- Office hours: Attend BEAD Office Hours every Tuesday from November 19 to December 17 for support with the pre-registration process. Participate in Q&A sessions or schedule a 1:1 session (limited time slots available) to receive personalized guidance.

- ACA Pre-Registration webpage