

# BEAD Vol. 1 & 2 Curing Process

- **BEAD Initial Proposal has two parts: Vol. 1 and Vol. 2**
- **Vol. 1 includes**
  - List of available funding (state grant funding, Capital Projects Funds, RDOF, ReConnect, HUD, Community Connect, Congressionally Directed Spending, etc.)
  - Spreadsheet of all unserved and underserved locations (initial list, from FCC map)
  - Definition and spreadsheet of all Community Anchor Institutions
  - BEAD Challenge Process (result will be final list of locations eligible for BEAD funding)
- **Vol. 2 includes**
  - Objectives, planning process, local coordination efforts
  - Subgrantee selection process for broadband deployment projects
  - Labor Standards, workforce readiness, minority business enterprises
  - Cost and barrier reduction, climate assessment
  - Low-cost broadband service option, middle class affordability plans

# Curing Process

- OBD submitted Vol. 1 and Vol. 2 by the December 22, 2023 deadline
- Initial review committee notifies OBD of missing, incomplete, or non-compliant information and provides a deadline to submit the required information or corrections. The email indicates that a prompt response “will support us in conducting a full review of your submission in line with the BEAD Grant Program timeline.”
- OBD responds by the deadline.
- Initial review committee sends next round of curing. OBD responds.
- Vol. 1 curing sent 2/20/24, 4/3/24 and due 4/12/24; Vol. 2 curing submitted 3/21/24 and due 4/18/22.
- At some point, curing is complete and the Volume goes to the full review committee. (We have heard of states going ten rounds or more on curing.)
- Full review committee approves Volume (or requests more curing?).
- To date, Louisiana is the only state with both Vol. 1 and Vol. 2 approved.
- Once Vol. 1 is approved, a state can conduct its BEAD Challenge Process; once both Volumes are approved, the 365 day clock to select all subgrantees starts.

# Example of Curing Required

To complete the review, the following information needs to be addressed:

Category	Deficiency	Additional Information
04 Challenge Process Model Adoption and Modifications to Reflect Data Not Present	Include a reasonable justification for each modification that each proposed modification better reflects the locations eligible for BEAD funding, if applicable.	01.04.02.b Of the five pre-challenge modifications proposed by the EE, three are not currently compliant: CFWA In order to adopt the CFWA pre-challenge modification, the Eligible Entity must include the number of locations affected (those deemed served only because of CFWA) using the NBM version used in the Initial Proposal. Currently, OBD has stated: "The broadband office has determined that a yet to be determined number of BSLs are affected by this modification." Non-Cellular Fixed Wireless The EE's pre-challenge modification to change locations served by non-cellular fixed wireless is non-compliant and cannot be approved as written. FCC Area Modifications OBD's proposed pre-challenge modification using FCC challenge data needs to include the dates of the specific FCC challenge data they propose to accept. Currently, OBD lists the date as TBD. OBD must provide an explicit statement of the time window the FCC challenges would be pulled from. Using a sliding scale, such as "one year prior to the challenge process," is acceptable.

# Grantee Selection Process

Selection of the grantee has two scenarios. All grantees eligible for funding must pass the gating criteria. Gating criteria demonstrate that the applicant has the technical, managerial, financial and operational capabilities to execute a BEAD project.

**Scenario #1:** Only one eligible grantee has submitted an application to serve the BEAD eligible locations. If that grantee's cost per location is less than the Extremely High Cost Per Location Threshold (EHCPLT), then that grantee is the presumed BEAD recipient to build broadband to those locations and will be included in the Final Proposal.

**Scenario #2:** If there are two or more eligible grantees that have submitted applications to serve the same BEAD eligible locations (total or significant overlap), then the applications are scored using the approved scoring rubric.

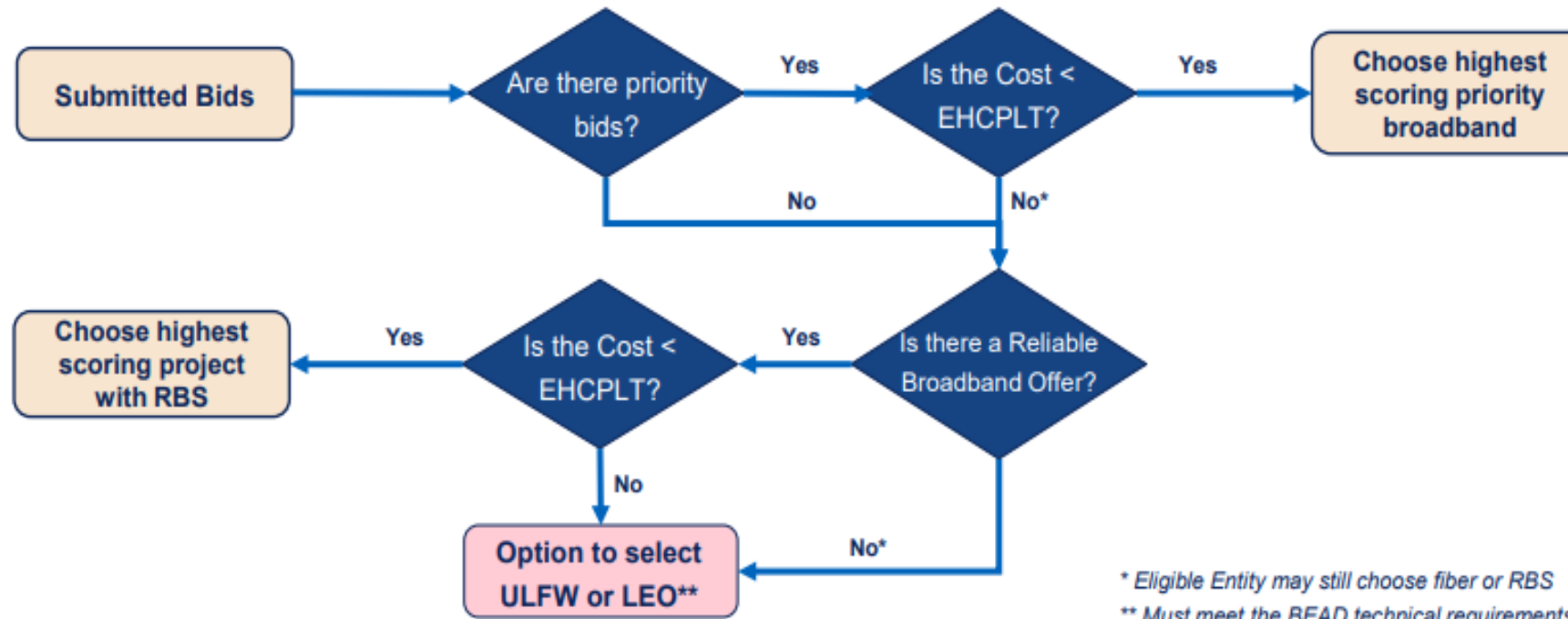
OBD is anticipating three "rounds" to the subgrantee selection process to identify and select grantees to serve all unserved and as many underserved locations as the BEAD funding allows. First round is likely to focus on unserved locations. At the conclusion of the three "rounds", selected grantees will be included in Final Proposal submitted to NTIA for approval.

# BEAD Scoring Rubric

- Separate scoring rubrics for Priority Broadband Projects (fiber) and Non-Priority Broadband Projects
- 75% of Points for Primary Criteria and 25% of Points for Secondary and Additional Criteria
- Minnesota's Scoring Rubric is Still in Curing
- Examples of Scoring Categories from NTIA Guidance for Priority (Fiber) Broadband Projects:
  - Primary Criteria=75%:
    - Minimal BEAD Program Outlay
    - Affordability
    - Fair Labor Practices
  - Secondary/Additional Criteria=25%:
    - Speed to Deployment
    - Open Access
    - Other
    - Equitable Workforce Development and Job Quality
    - Local and Tribal Coordination

# NTIA Flow Chart on Selection Criteria for Priority Broadband Projects

## SELECTION CRITERIA FOR PRIORITY BROADBAND PROJECTS



EHCPLT=Extremely High Cost Per Location Threshold  
LEO=Low Earth Orbiting Satellite  
RBS=Reliable Broadband Service  
ULFW=Unlicensed Fixed Wireless

# Will All Selected BEAD Grantees Deploy Fiber?

- Likely “NO”—Internet for All means something for 1) every unserved location and 2) every remaining underserved location we have funding to reach
- Priority (Fiber) Projects will be funded—but the BEAD funding has to be stretched to get something to everyone—meaning lower cost (non-fiber) projects will likely receive BEAD funding to demonstrate Internet for All

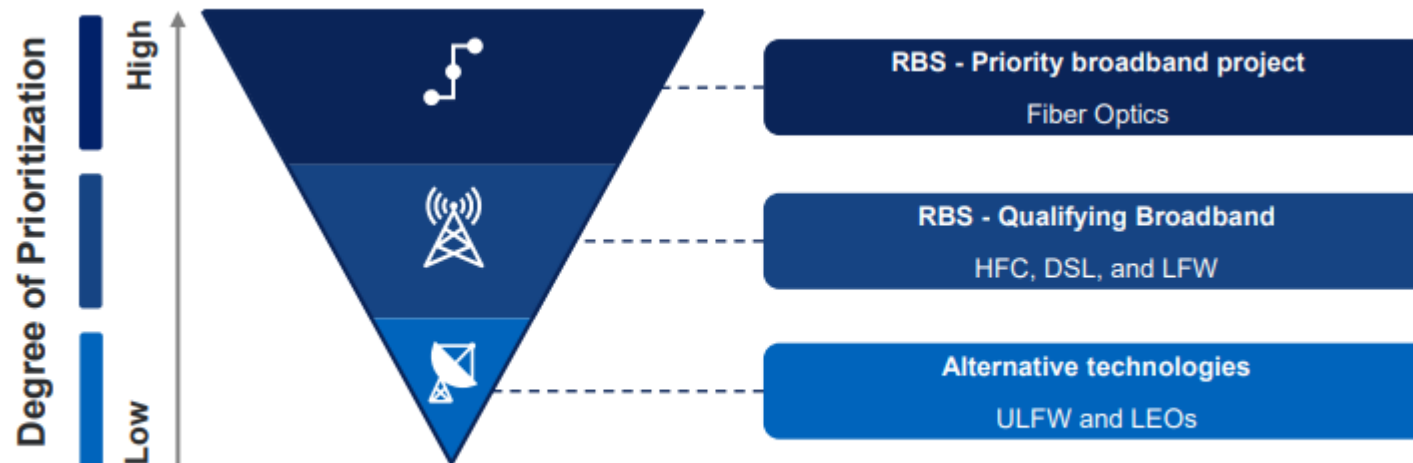


Figure 1 - Broadband Technology Prioritization