



BEAD Volume II Overview

December 1, 2023

DRAFT

**VOLUME 2 IS IN DRAFT FORM AND
SUBJECT TO CHANGE PENDING
COMMISSION & NTIA APPROVAL**

Wisconsin Broadband Office

Vision

- All Wisconsinites will have equitable access to affordable broadband service and the capacity to fully engage in a digital society. High-speed broadband will benefit all residents and communities.

Mission

- Make high performance broadband more accessible, resilient, competitive and affordable for all Wisconsinites.

Broadband Access

What is Broadband Access?

- Wired or fixed wireless connections to homes and businesses that achieve at least 25 Megabits per second (Mbps) download speed and 3 Mbps upload speed.
- **25/3 Basic Broadband:** One to two users, limited bandwidth for high-demand activities (video calls, streaming, file transfer, gaming)
- **100/20 Broadband:** Whole home/business, multiple users of high-demand activities

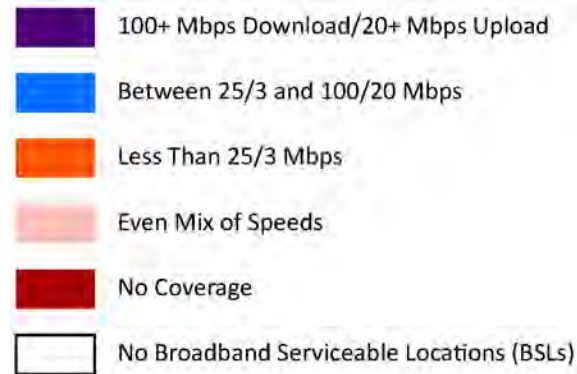
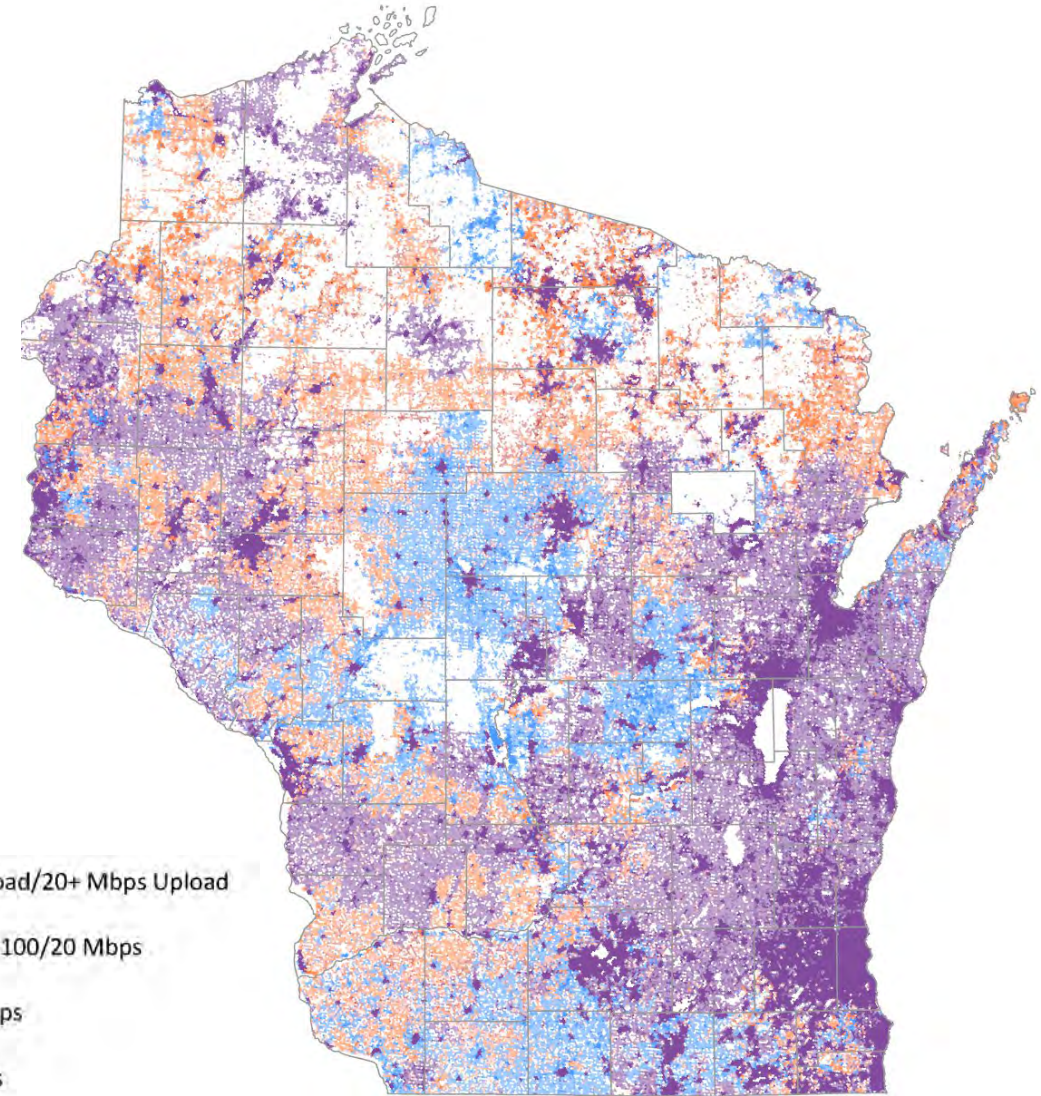
Technologies:

- 1) Fiber (highest speed, wired)
- 2) Cable, DSL, Copper (wired)
- 3) Fixed Wireless (tower to home)
- 4) Satellite (satellite to home)
- 5) Cellular (tower to phone or device)

Availability Status

as of June 30, 2023

- 2,300,000 locations in Wisconsin
- 198,000 underserved (blue)
 - 25/3 to 100/20 from wired or licensed fixed wireless
- 223,000 unserved (orange)
 - Lack 25/3 or no service, or only unlicensed fixed wireless



Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program

What?

Allocate: \$1 billion for broadband infrastructure

Goal: 100/20 for all homes and businesses

Priority: Homes and businesses lacking 25/3

Who?

PSC operates allocation process: reviewing, scoring, and selecting recipients

NTIA oversees to ensure compliance, approves proposals & final allocation

Participants are entities that will construct, own, and operate broadband infrastructure

BEAD Initial Proposal

Volume I: Plan for Challenge Process

Sections of the IP for Volume I are:

- Existing Broadband Funding (3),
- Unserved and Underserved Locations (5);
- Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) (6);
and
- Challenge Process (7).

This includes an overview of the Eligible Entity's evidence-based, transparent, fair, and expeditious challenge process (see Section IV.B.6 for details) and an overview of the process to minimize duplication of funding.

Volume I can be submitted at any time before the deadline, and Eligible Entities are encouraged to submit it as early as possible.

Volume II: Initial Proposal

Sections of the IP for Volume II are:

- Objectives (1)
- Broadband Planning Coordination (2)
- Stakeholder Coordination (4),
- Deployment Subgrantee Selection (8),
- Non-Deployment Subgrantee selection (9),
- Eligible Entity Implementation Activities (10),
- Labor Standards and Protection (11),
- Workforce Readiness (12),
- MBE/WBE/Labor Surplus
Firms Inclusion (13),
- Cost and Barrier Reduction (14),
- Climate Assessment (15),
- Low-Cost Broadband Service Option (16),
- Use of 20 Percent of Funding (17),
- Eligible Entity Regulatory Approach (18),
- Certification of Compliance with BEAD
Requirements (19)
- Middle Class Affordability Plan (📍)

Approval Process

- 1) Public Comment Period ends **December 11 at 1:30 PM**
- 2) Commission review, instruct staff to make certain changes and approval
- 3) Wisconsin Broadband Office submission to NTIA by December 27

**VOLUME 2 IS IN DRAFT FORM AND
SUBJECT TO CHANGE PENDING
COMMISSION & NTIA APPROVAL**

Initial Proposal | Subgrantees must meet general and specific qualification requirements

General qualifications

Eligible Entities shall ensure that any prospective subgrantee is capable of carrying out activities funded by the subgrant in a competent manner and in compliance with all applicable laws



Seven specific qualifications:

Financial capability: Certification of financial qualifications, letter of credit, audited financial Statements, and project pro forma analyses

Managerial capability: Resumes for key personnel, org charts, and narrative describing qualifications

Technical capability: Network design, diagram, project cost, buildout timeline and milestones, and capital investment schedule

Compliance with laws: Permit worker-led health and safety committees that management will meet with upon reasonable request

Operational capability: Certification of operational capability and certification for experience (e.g., for broadband service experience)

Ownership: Provide ownership info, including name address and citizenship of any party with >10% stock in applicant¹

Other public funding: Disclose any applications for broadband service projects using public funds

1. Consistent with requirements set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 1.2112(a)(1)-(7)

BEAD Letter of Credit: Programmatic Waiver

Under the NOFO, prospective subgrantees must provide an irrevocable standby letter of credit (LOC) to the Eligible Entity (i.e., the 50 states, five territories, and the District of Columbia) before entering into a subgrantee agreement. The amount of the LOC must be no less than 25% of the subaward amount. Some stakeholders have noted that the LOC requirement may have an adverse effect on smaller providers and could prevent them from participating in the BEAD program. To address these concerns, the waiver modifies the LOC requirement for subgrantees of all Eligible Entities in the following ways:

- **Allow Credit Unions to Issue LOCs.** The NOFO requires subgrantees to obtain a LOC from a U.S. bank with a safety rating issued by Weiss of B- or better. The waiver permits subgrantees to fulfill the LOC Requirement (or any alternative permitted under the waiver) utilizing any United States credit union that is insured by the National Credit Union Administration and that has a credit union safety rating issued by Weiss of B- or better.
- **Allow Use of Performance Bonds.** The waiver permits a subgrantee to provide a performance bond equal to 100% of the BEAD subaward amount in lieu of a letter of credit, provided that the bond is issued by a company holding a certificate of authority as an acceptable surety on federal bonds as identified in the Department of Treasury Circular 570.
- **Allow Eligible Entities to Reduce the Obligation Upon Completion of Milestones.** The waiver allows an Eligible Entity to reduce the amount of the letter of credit obligation below 25% over time or reduce the amount of the performance bond below 100% over time, upon a subgrantee meeting deployment milestones specified by the Eligible Entity.
- **Allow for an Alternative Initial LOC or Performance Bond Percentage.** The NOFO requires that the initial amount of the letter of credit be 25% of the subaward (or the initial amount of the performance bond be 100% of the subaward under the option described above). The waiver allows the initial amount of the letter of credit or performance bond to be 10% of the subaward amount during the entire period of performance when an Eligible Entity issues funding on a reimbursable basis consistent with Section IV.C.1.b of the NOFO and reimbursement is for periods of no more than six months each.

Service Obligations | Subgrantees must offer at least one low-cost broadband service option for all eligible subscribers

Eligible Entities to propose "low-cost broadband service option" definition for approval

Eligible Entities shall submit a proposed definition to the Assistant Secretary for approval in their Final Proposal

In determining whether to approve a definition, the Assistant Secretary will consider, among other factors:

- 1 Cost to an Eligible Subscriber¹ after subsidies (both monthly and non-recurring charges)
- 2 Plan's basic service characteristics
- 3 Ability to apply Affordable Connectivity Benefit subsidy
- 4 Ability to upgrade to any new low-cost service plans offering with better technical specifications

The "low-cost broadband service option" is in addition to requirement to submit a **middle-class affordability plan** to ensure that all consumers have access to affordable high-speed internet access



Example definition from BEAD NOFO

Speed: $\geq 100/20$ Mbps or FCC performance benchmark²

Upgrades: Permits eligible subscribers with one low-cost broadband service option to upgrade to another low-cost broadband service option with higher speeds at no costs

Latency: ≤ 100 ms

Data caps, surcharges, etc.: Not subject to data caps, surcharges, or usage-based throttling; subject only to the same acceptable use policies as other broadband plans

Subsidies: Subgrantees required to participate in ACP; eligible subscribers that are eligible for a subsidy can apply the subsidy to the option

Cost: $\leq \$30$ incl. taxes and fees for at least one option

1. Any household seeking to subscribe to broadband Internet access service that qualifies for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) or any successor program 2. The performance benchmark for fixed terrestrial broadband service established by the FCC pursuant to Section 706(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended

Subgrantee Selection: Letter of Intent

- Screening for baseline eligibility by entity
 - Approximate **number of locations planned** to compete and counties/Tribes where it will compete
 - Demonstrated **financial, managerial, and operational capacity**
 - Commitment to implement a **low-cost service option**
 - **Documentation of compliance** with labor/nondiscrimination practices
 - Attestation and explanation of intent to comply with: **Environmental and Historic Preservation, Buy America, supply chain risk management, cybersecurity, reporting requirements**

Low-Cost Broadband Service Option (Req. 16)

1. Subscription Cost for first 12 months

- Providers with 100k+ subscribers = \$30/month; Tribal lands \$75/month
- Providers with less than 100k subscribers=\$40/month; Tribal lands \$75/month

*After 12 months - monthly cost may be adjusted once per year up to the Consumer Price Index

* If ACP not reauthorized/no funds, Tribal cost must match non-Tribal

2. ACP or successor program eligible

3. 100/20 Mbps service and 100 ms latency or less

4. Not subject to Data Caps, surcharges, usage-based throttling with similar acceptable use policies as other plans

5. No cost to upgrade to a higher-performing future low-cost plan with no fees

6. Plan is advertised and included in marketing and outreach

7. Must be offered to providers entire service area footprint in WI

Middle Class Affordability Plan (Req. 20)

- Reflects Five-Year Action Plan findings - goals for price equity

Initial Proposal | Eligible Entities must establish fair, open, and competitive processes for selecting subgrantees

Principles for the Eligible Entity's subgrantee selection process:

- May fund an unserved or underserved project area as small as a **single location**
- May include **Middle Mile Infrastructure** in or through any area required to reach interconnection points or otherwise required to serve an unserved location, underserved location, or eligible Community Anchor Institution
- May not fund a project already subject to a **federal or State commitment** for broadband deployment unless Eligible Entity demonstrates to the Assistant Secretary that it is necessary to achieve the goals of the program and receives a waiver
- Must **maximize the public benefits** by maximizing match and reducing costs to consumers
- May seek bids for unserved locations, underserved locations, and CAs **collectively or separately**
- May not exclude **different types of subgrantees** from eligibility (e.g., cooperatives, nonprofits, public-private partnerships, private companies, public or private utilities, public utility districts, or local governments)
- May solicit proposals from prospective subgrantees at the **geographic level of its choosing** (e.g., per-location, per-census block, etc.) or ask prospective subgrantees to define their own proposed project areas
- Must include the **level of BEAD subsidy** required to serve a specific location
- May encourage providers to **expand their existing/proposed service areas** and may consider inducements (e.g., use State funds for match) if the Eligible Entity has **received no proposals** to serve a location that is unserved or underserved
- Must submit proof of the **Tribal Government's consent** to deployment to Unserved Service Projects or Underserved Service Projects that include any locations on Tribal Lands
- May decline to select a proposal that **exceeds the extremely high cost per location threshold**

Further guidance will be provided in subsequent webinars

Initial Proposal | Matching funds $\geq 25\%$ of project costs are required for deploying broadband service projects

Requirement

Matching funds $\geq 25\%$ of project costs provided by subgrantee, an Eligible Entity, local government, a utility, a cooperative, a nonprofit, a for-profit company, regional planning or governmental organization, or any combination thereof

Preference for minimum subsidy

Eligible Entities are required to incentivize matches $> 25\%$ to reduce the federal share of projects and extend the reach of BEAD Program funding

Federal funds

Regarding Federal funds, only funds for deploying broadband service that were provided to eligible entities under four statutes may be used as matching funds¹

In-kind matches

Matching funds may be cash or in-kind contributions consistent with the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards set forth at 2 C.F.R. Part 200

Match waivers

The Assistant Secretary will grant match waivers only in extraordinary circumstances to serve the public interest and effectuate the purposes of the BEAD Program (e.g., projects in designated “high-cost areas”)



1. (1) The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Public Law 116-127; 134 Stat. 178), (2) the CARES Act (Public Law 116-136; 134 Stat. 281), (3) the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260; 134 Stat. 1182), and (4) the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2; 135 Stat. 4)

Subgrantee Selection: Application Submission / Project Units

- Grant applications will provide **project-specific** information:
 - Proposed Area, Budget, Matching Funds, Letter of Endorsement, Climate Design, Pricing/Affordability Offerings, Deployment Timeline, Technical Specifications
- Project Units: Ensure full coverage, simplify application and deconfliction
 - Tradeoffs: larger is easier to administer, harder to participate, less efficient to build
 - Build custom “project units”:
 - Compact and contiguous
 - Grouped by technology
 - Account for geography
 - Align with network deployment
 - Do not traverse county/Tribal boundaries
 - Informed by cost model data

DRAFT – PENDING PSC/NTIA APPROVAL

365 Days

Letter of Intent
By Entity
Eligibility screening and questionnaire

Application Submission
By Project
Proposed project units and funding request

Round 1: Fiber Focus

- Award as many fiber projects as possible and remove from future rounds
- Identify best non-fiber project and place “hold” for subsequent rounds to allow only fiber proposals
- “No decisive winner” projects with close scores forwarded to next round for revision

Round 2: Resolve Bids

- Limited competition: only for non-awarded areas
- Resolve competitive/overlapping project proposals
- Award non-fiber projects

Round 3: Fill in Gaps

- Make direct offers to nearby providers
- Redraw project units
- Require grant awardees to accept nearby units
- Recruit non-reliable technology (satellite, unlicensed wireless) through grant round then direct contact

Round 4: CAIs & Non-Deployment

- As funding remains
- Solicit and evaluate CAI proposals
- Allocate to non-deployment uses

Subgrantee Selection: BEAD Match Threshold

- Core BEAD requirement: minimize public share of funding (MAX 75%)
- “BEAD Match Threshold”: published percentage by project unit of maximum allowable public share of funding
 - Based on cost model data, expected public share of build cost
- Example:
 - More remote, higher cost? High BEAD Match Threshold (e.g. up to 75% of project cost)
 - More compact, lower cost? Low BEAD Match Threshold (e.g. up to 20% of project cost)
- Use in grant rounds:
 - Fail threshold in round 1? Go to round 2, seek more competition
 - Fail threshold in round 2? WBO will consider waiver to NTIA for non-fiber technology

Subgrantee Selection: Extremely High Cost Threshold / Deconfliction

- Extremely high cost per location threshold
 - Goal: maximize fiber deployment, serve all. Limitation: available funding
 - Established **after the fact**: no specific number determined up front
 - Until funding is sufficient: descope highest cost fiber projects to select lower-cost non-fiber projects
 - Be aggressive in fiber proposals – high costs are expected.
- Deconfliction
 - Overlapping proposals? Highest score wins
 - “Separable” and “nonseparable” project units

Subgrantee obligations | Subgrantees must meet three programmatic requirements

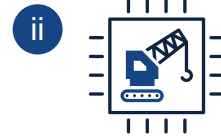


Network capabilities

Speed: $\geq 100/20$ Mbps or 1/1 Gbps for CAIs

Latency: 95% of measurements below 100 ms round-trip time

Outages: <48 hrs over any 365-day period except in the case of natural disasters or force majeure



Deployment requirements

Deadlines: Deploy and begin service not later than four years after subgrant received (with possible one year extension)

Milestones: Meet milestones established by Eligible Entities

Conduit access points: Include interspersed conduit access points at regular and short intervals for interconnection



Service obligations

Low-cost plan: Offer a low-cost option for all eligible subscribers

Consumer protections: Do not impose data usage caps

Access to service: Reasonable and non-discriminatory terms and conditions

Public notice: Conduct awareness campaigns to increase adoption

Interconnection and wholesale access: Permit interconnection for MM infrastructure receiving funding

Cybersecurity and supply chain: Adhere to baseline requirements

Initial Proposal | When selecting among proposals, Eligible Entities must use an approved process with certain criteria

Process must first assess which locations have one or more proposals that meet two criteria:

1. Satisfy subgrantee requirements
2. Priority Broadband Projects

Priority Broadband Projects are projects that will rely entirely on **fiber-optic technology** to reach end-user premises

Except that an Eligible Entity may disqualify any project that *surpasses the Extremely High Cost Per Location Threshold*

Primary criteria must account for **≥75%** of the total selection criteria available in choosing between Priority Broadband proposals

Priority Broadband Projects

If there is **only one** priority project proposal for an area, that proposal is the default winner unless a waiver is granted

If there is **more than one** priority proposal, run competition, affording benefits to the following factors:

- ★ Minimal BEAD Program outlay
- ★ Affordability
- ★ Fair labor practices
- ★ Speed to deployment
- ★ Workforce development
- ★ Open access
- ★ Local and Tribal coordination

Non-priority projects

If there is **only one** project proposal for an area, that proposal is the default winner unless a waiver granted

If there is **more than one** proposal, run competition, affording benefits to the following factors:

- ★ Minimal BEAD Program outlay
- ★ Affordability
- ★ Fair labor practices
- ★ Speed to deployment
- ★ Speed and tech capabilities
- ★ Workforce development
- ★ Open access
- ★ Local and Tribal coordination

Scoring requirement, Priority projects

| Primary Criteria | Points | Description |
|---|--------|---|
| Minimal BEAD Outlay | 40 | Based on % of the reference BEAD match threshold, cost model for the technology and quality of the network for the cost |
| Priority Affordability | 23 | Based on the total non-promotional cost of 1 Gbps / 1 Gbps service. |
| Fair Labor Practices | 12 | Based on prior compliance record and future workforce plans |
| Secondary and Additional Criteria | Points | Description |
| Speed to deployment | 1 | Points for enforceable deployment plans faster than 36 months. |
| Local and Tribal Coordination Support and Engagement | 5 | Points for demonstrated community support and local and/or Tribal coordination |
| Local and Tribal Coordination: Endorsement by local Government and/or Tribe | 7 | Points for formal endorsement of support by County and/or Tribal government through public action. |
| Affordability middle class and low-cost plan | 10 | Based on cost of service to the customers and reach of required low-cost plan |
| Community Anchor Institutions | 2 | Based on inclusion of CAIs without a symmetrical gig of service. |

Scoring requirement, Non-priority projects

| Primary Criteria | Points | Description |
|---|--------|---|
| Minimal BEAD Outlay | 40 | Based on % of the reference BEAD match threshold, cost model for the technology and quality of the network for the cost |
| Priority Affordability | 23 | Based on the total non-promotional cost of 100/20 Mbps service |
| Fair Labor Practices | 12 | Based on past compliance record and future workforce plans |
| Secondary and Additional Criteria | Points | Description |
| Speed to deployment | 1 | Points for enforceable deployment plans faster than 36 months. |
| Local and Tribal Coordination Support and Engagement | 5 | Points for demonstrated community support and local and/or Tribal coordination |
| Local and Tribal Coordination: Endorsement by local Government and/or Tribe | 7 | Points for formal endorsement of support by County and/or Tribal government through public action. |
| Affordability middle class and low-cost plan | 8 | Based on cost of service to the customers and reach of required low-cost plan |
| Speed of Network and other technical capabilities | 4 | Based on the speeds, latency and other technical capability |

Fair labor practices and highly skilled workforce | Entities must also consider fair labor practices and plan for a highly skilled workforce



Fair Labor Practices

Eligible Entities are required to give **preferential weight** to projects based on the strength of the showing in their application on **fair labor practices**

Initial and Final Proposals must have descriptions of how subgrantees will:

- Demonstrate their compliance with **federal labor and employment laws**
- Ensure compliance in **their own labor and employment practices**, as well as those of their contractors and subcontractors



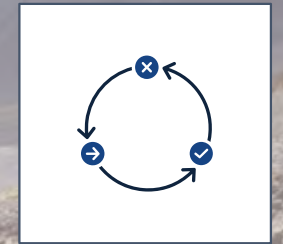
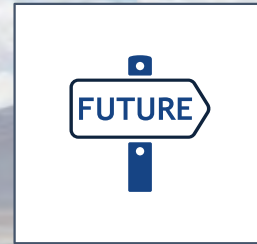
Highly Skilled Workforce

Eligible Entities and subgrantees should invest in developing a highly-skilled, diverse workforce for the new jobs that need to be filled

Initial and Final Proposals must include descriptions of how the EE will:

- Ensure subgrantees use a **highly trained workforce** able to carry out work safely and effectively
- Develop and promote **sector-based partnerships**
- Create **equitable on-ramps** into broadband-related jobs
- Ensure that the new jobs are available to a **diverse pool** of workers

Climate resiliency | Applicants must account for current and future weather- and climate-related risks



Identify **geographic areas** for an initial hazard screening and time scales for such screenings



Identify the most important **weather and climate hazards** in these areas



Characterize **risks to new infrastructure** funded by BEAD for 20 years following deployment



Identify how the proposed plan will **avoid or mitigate the risks** identified



Detail the applicant's plans for periodically **repeating this process** over the life of the project

Existing Laws and Public Sector Participation

Competition among broadband providers has the potential to offer consumers more affordable, high-quality options for broadband service. As required by the Infrastructure Act, in awarding subgrants for the deployment of a broadband network using grant funds, Eligible Entities may not exclude cooperatives, nonprofit organizations, public-private partnerships, private companies, public or private utilities, public utility districts, or local governments (“potential providers”) from eligibility for grant funds. In determining whether to approve an Eligible Entity’s Initial or Final Proposal, NTIA will consider whether the Eligible Entity has, after the enactment of the Infrastructure Act, adopted new laws, regulations, policies, procedures or any other form of rule or restriction that, in the determination of NTIA, seeks to exclude or has the effect of excluding any potential providers from eligibility for its subgrant competition. This could include new laws that have the effect of excluding providers from offering broadband service or rendering them incapable of effectively competing for subgrants.

Some laws of Eligible Entities concerning broadband, utility services, or similar subjects that predate the enactment of the Infrastructure Act may either preclude certain public sector providers from participation in the subgrant competition or may impose specific requirements on public sector entities, such as limitations on the sources of financing, the required imputation of costs not actually incurred by the public sector entity, or restrictions on the service a public sector entity can offer. NTIA strongly encourages Eligible Entities to waive all such laws for purposes of the Program. If an Eligible Entity does not do so, the Eligible Entity must identify all such laws in its Initial Proposal and describe how the laws will be applied in connection with the competition for subgrants. Such Eligible Entity must, in its Final Proposal, disclose each unsuccessful application affected by such laws and describe how those laws impacted the decision to deny the application

Source: (BEAD NOFO)

Non-Deployment, Implementation, Regulatory Requirements

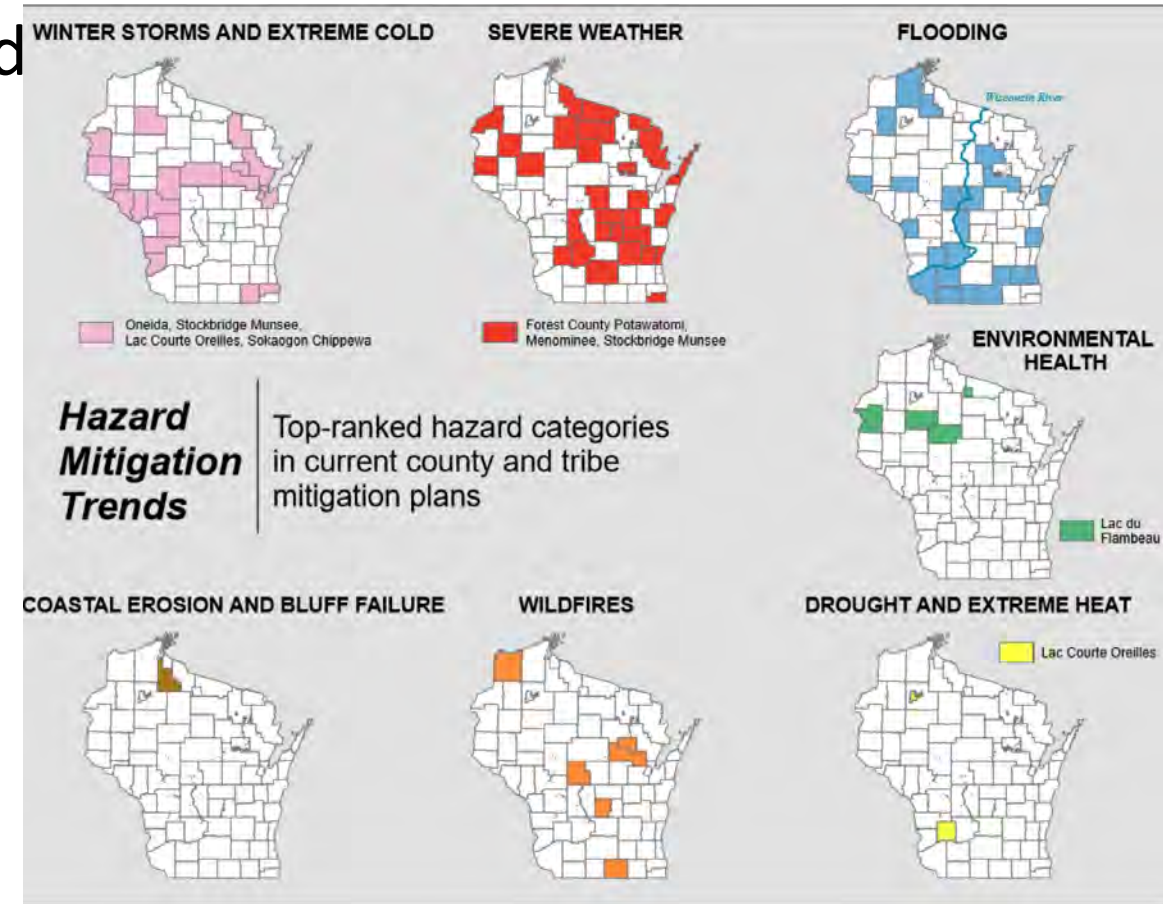
- Non-deployment Subgrantee Selection (Req. 9):
 - Potential funding to address broadband access barriers & digital equity goals
- Implementation Activities (Req. 10):
 - Administration of BEAD and occupational training, credentialing or badging programs supporting broadband
- Regulatory Approach (Req. 18)
 - Describes state statute regulations for broadband provision and telecom services (Wis. Stat. § 66.0422)

Labor and Workforce Requirements

- Labor Standards and Protections (Req. 11)
 - Subgrantee compliance with Federal labor and employment laws and standards
 - Incorporated into Letter of Intent requirement and scoring
- Workforce Readiness (Req. 12)
 - Describes workforce assets and planned alignment, reporting and monitoring
 - Scoring includes metrics for directly employed and locally hired & labor compliance
 - Eligible entity implementation activities for workforce
- Minority and Women Business Enterprises (MBEs and WBEs), Labor Surplus Firms (Req. 13)
 - Outlines firm directories and reporting requirements to ensure they are recruited, used, and retained when possible
 - Incorporated into Letter of Intent requirement

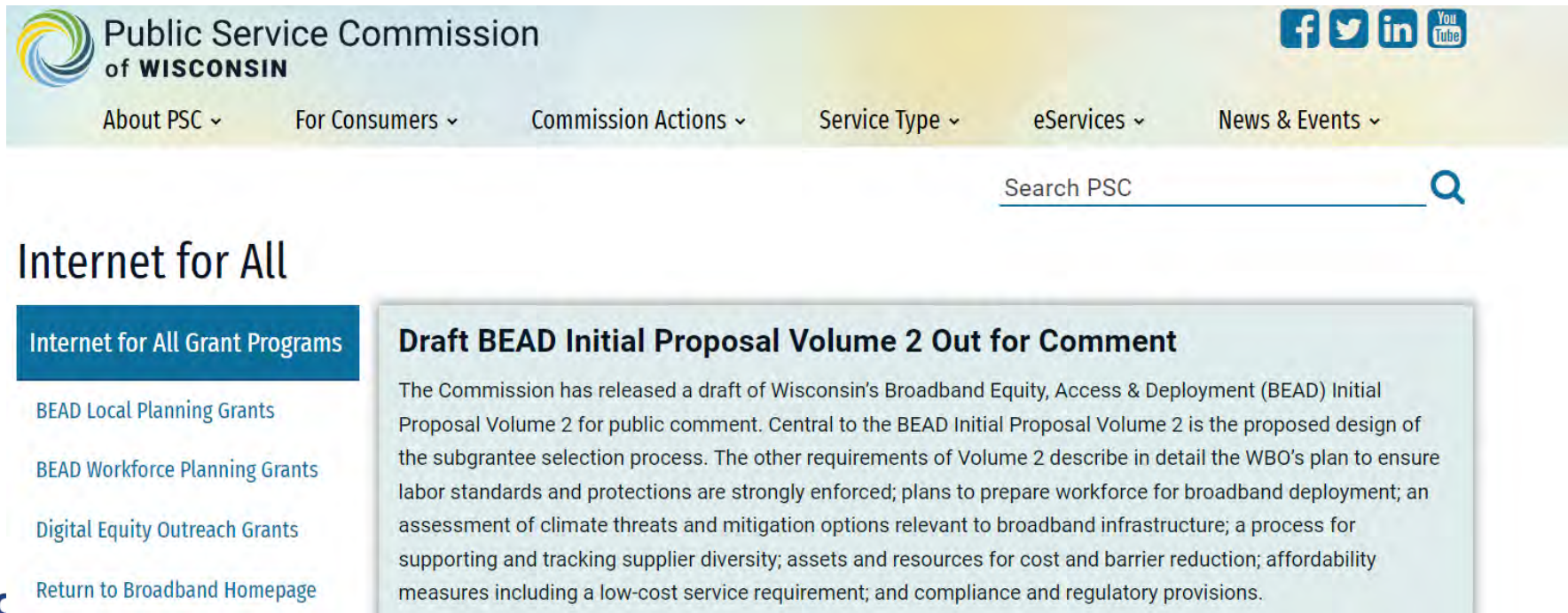
Climate Assessment Requirement 15

- Climate risks pose a threat to broadband infrastructure funded by BEAD
- WBO assessed climate threats and proposed mitigations, using FEMA mapping
- Recognized 9 weather-related natural hazards
- WBO will consider climate and weather risks as it reviews grant applications for BEAD funding



Where can I read and review the draft proposal?

- On Commission website: <https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/ServiceType/Broadband/InternetForAll.aspx>
- Electronic Records Filing System (ERF) in docket **5-BP-2023**
- Direct link: <https://apps.psc.wi.gov/ERF/ERFview/viewdoc.aspx?docid=485024>



Public Service Commission
of WISCONSIN

About PSC ▾ For Consumers ▾ Commission Actions ▾ Service Type ▾ eServices ▾ News & Events ▾

Search PSC

Internet for All

Internet for All Grant Programs

- BEAD Local Planning Grants
- BEAD Workforce Planning Grants
- Digital Equity Outreach Grants
- [Return to Broadband Homepage](#)

Draft BEAD Initial Proposal Volume 2 Out for Comment

The Commission has released a draft of Wisconsin's Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment (BEAD) Initial Proposal Volume 2 for public comment. Central to the BEAD Initial Proposal Volume 2 is the proposed design of the subgrantee selection process. The other requirements of Volume 2 describe in detail the WBO's plan to ensure labor standards and protections are strongly enforced; plans to prepare workforce for broadband deployment; an assessment of climate threats and mitigation options relevant to broadband infrastructure; a process for supporting and tracking supplier diversity; assets and resources for cost and barrier reduction; affordability measures including a low-cost service requirement; and compliance and regulatory provisions.

When and how to comment

- **Comments are due by December 11 at 1:30p.m.**
 - File your comments in docket 5-BP-2023
 - Use Commission's Electronic Records Filing System (ERF):
<https://apps.psc.wi.gov/ERF/ERF/ERFhome.aspx>
- **Two ways to comment:**
 - Upload a PDF to 5-BP-2023: <https://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/ERFupload.htm>
 - File a comment directly to 5-BP-2023:
<https://apps.psc.wi.gov/ERF/ERF/comment/filecomment.aspx?util=5&case=BP&num=2023>

Next Steps

Requires NTIA approval to proceed (uncertain timeline)

- 1) WBO submission to NTIA by December 27
- 2) January: planned start of **State Challenge Process** (webinar and guidance documents forthcoming)
- 3) April or May: likely start of **365 day allocation process**

| Task | Start Date | Duration (Days) | End Date |
|--|------------|-----------------|----------|
| Initial Proposal Development (Volume 1, 2, & Budget) | 6/30/23 | 180 | 12/27/23 |
| State Challenge Process Development (Volume 1) | 6/28/23 | 180 | 11/3/23 |
| Initial Proposal Volume 2 & Budget Development | 8/29/23 | 180 | 12/27/23 |
| NTIA Review of Initial Proposal (Estimate) | 12/28/23 | 125 | 4/1/24 |
| State Challenge Process Implementation | 1/1/24 | 120 | 4/30/24 |
| Primary Subgrantee Selection Process | 5/1/24 | 365 | 5/1/25 |



DRAFT

Wisconsin Broadband Office

Contact Us: PSCStateBroadbandOffice@wisconsin.gov

Website: <https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/ServiceType/Broadband.aspx>

Subscribe to our Newsletter! <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/Uz6GZis>

Alyssa Kenney – Alyssa.Kenney@Wisconsin.gov, 608-267-9138

Carah Koch – CKoch@ntia.gov, (202) 451-1737

Rory Tikalsky, Matt Marcus, Josie Lathrop, Christina Luna, TJ Pyzyk

**VOLUME 2 IS IN DRAFT FORM AND
SUBJECT TO CHANGE PENDING
COMMISSION & NTIA APPROVAL**