

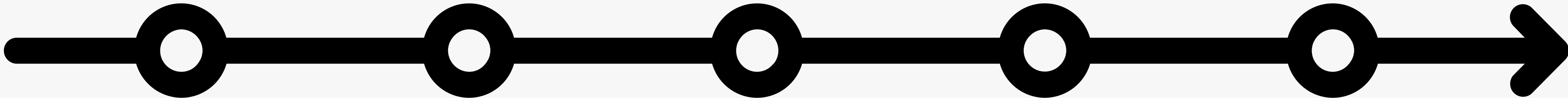
BEAD INITIAL PROPOSAL V2

**BROADBAND EQUITY, ACCESS AND DEPLOYMENT (BEAD) PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII BROADBAND TEAM
SEPTEMBER 27, 2023**

WHAT IS THE INITIAL PROPOSAL?

The Initial Proposal explains how Hawaii will ensure that every resident has access to a reliable, affordable, and high-speed broadband connection, drawing on all funding available to accomplish this goal, including but not limited to BEAD Program funds. The Initial Proposal is a “first draft” of the Final Proposal, which is due in late 2024.

INITIAL PROPOSAL TIMELINE



7/29/23

10/31/23 - 11/30/23

12/27/23

Early 2024

Spring 2024

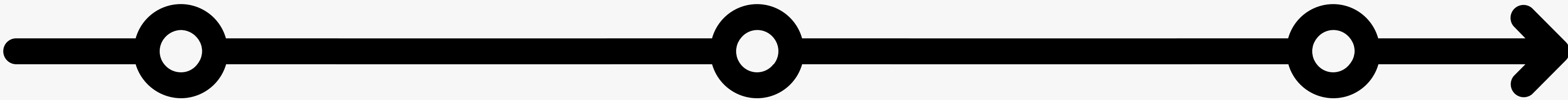
BEAD 5-Year Action
Plan submitted

Initial Proposal
Public Comment
(30 days)

Initial Proposal
due to NTIA

NTIA Acceptance of
Initial proposal

Challenge Process



Summer 2024

Challenge Process
concludes

UH & NTIA validation of
Challenge results

Fall 2024

Final Proposal
is due to NTIA

VOLUME 2

1. Objectives
2. Local, Tribal, and Regional Broadband Planning Coordination
3. Local Coordination
4. Deployment Subgrantee Selection (RFP process)
5. Non-deployment Subgrantee Selection (RFP)
6. Eligible Entity Implementation Activities
7. Labor Standards and Protections
8. Workforce Readiness
9. Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs)/ Women's Business Enterprises (WBEs)/ Labor Surplus Firms Inclusion

VOLUME 2 CONT.

10. Cost and Barrier Reduction
(WBEs)/ Labor Surplus Firms
Inclusion

11. Climate Assessment

12. Low-Cost Broadband Service
Option

13. Middle Class Affordability

14. Use of 20 Percent of Funding

15. Eligible Entity Regulatory
Approach

16. Certification of Compliance
with BEAD Requirements

1.OBJECTIVES

- Previously published in 5YAP
- Outlines long-term objectives for
 - deploying broadband
 - closing the digital divide
 - addressing hurdles to access, affordability, equity, and adoption
 - broadband-enabled economic growth and job creation

2.LOCAL, TRIBAL, & REGIONAL BROADBAND PLANNING COORDINATION

- Previously published in 5YAP
- Identifies and outlines steps to support local, Tribal, and regional broadband planning processes or ongoing efforts to deploy broadband or close the digital divide and describe coordination with local and Tribal Governments, along with local, Tribal, and regional broadband planning processes.

3. LOCAL COORDINATION

- Details how an Eligible Entity has coordinated and will continue to coordinate with all communities within its jurisdiction, including its marginalized and underrepresented populations.
- This is an active ongoing effort, with community outreach events happening in October and November across the counties.

Local Coordination Evaluation Criteria



Figure 1: Broadband Stakeholders



4. DEPLOYMENT SUBGRANTEE SELECTION

- Will be determined via RFP process through RCUH
- Provides a detailed plan to competitively award subgrants. This is a critical Requirement of the Initial Proposal as subgrantees will be primarily responsible for completing eligible deployment activities.

Figure 3: Eligible Uses of Funding Related to Deployment Projects

- Construction, improvement, and/or acquisition of facilities and telecommunications equipment required to provide qualifying broadband service, including infrastructure for backhaul, middle- and last-mile networks, and multi-tenant buildings.
- Long-term leases (for terms greater than one year) of facilities required to provide qualifying broadband service, including indefeasible right-of-use (IRU) agreements.
- Deployment of internet and Wi-Fi infrastructure within an eligible multi-family residential building.
- Engineering design, permitting, and work related to environmental, historical and cultural reviews.
- Personnel costs, including salaries and fringe benefits for staff and consultants providing services directly connected to the implementation of the BEAD Program (such as project managers, program directors, and subject matter experts).
- Network software upgrades, including, but not limited to, cybersecurity solutions.
- Training for cybersecurity professionals who will be working on BEAD-funded networks.
- Workforce development, including Registered Apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships, and community college and/or vocational training for broadband-related occupations to support deployment, maintenance, and upgrades

5. NONDEPLOYMENT SUBGRANTEE SELECTION

- Will be determined via RFP process through RCUH
- Outlines non-deployment eligible activities an Eligible Entity may support using BEAD Program funds.
- Nondeployment activities should help provide the information technology capacity, educational resources, and skills necessary to adopt broadband and advance digital inclusion.

Figure 6: Examples of Eligible Non-Deployment Uses

EXAMPLES OF ELIGIBLE NON-DEPLOYMENT USES

- User training with respect to cybersecurity, privacy, and other digital safety matters.
- Remote learning or telehealth services/facilities.
- Digital literacy/upskilling (from beginner-level to advanced).
- Computer science, coding and cybersecurity education programs.
- Implementation of Eligible Entity digital equity plans (to supplement, but not to duplicate or supplant, Planning Grant funds received by the Eligible Entity in connection with the Digital Equity Act of 2021).
- Broadband sign-up assistance and programs that provide technology support.
- Multi-lingual outreach to support adoption and digital literacy.
- Prisoner education to promote pre-release digital literacy, job skills, online job-acquisition skills, etc.
- Digital navigators.
- Direct subsidies for use toward broadband subscription, where the Eligible Entity shows the subsidies will improve affordability for the end user population (and to supplement, but not to duplicate or supplant, the subsidies provided by the Affordable Connectivity Program).
- Costs associated with stakeholder engagement, including travel, capacity-building, or contract support.
- Other allowable costs necessary to carrying out programmatic activities of an award, not to include ineligible costs described below in Section V.K.2 of this NOFO.

6. ELIGIBLE ENTITY IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

- Partly described in 5YAP
- Describes any initiatives it proposes to implement as the recipient.
- Examples
 - Administrative activities to manage the grant
 - Implementation of the Challenge Process
 - Implementation of the subgrantee selection process
 - Workforce development related to the deployment of broadband, digital equity, or broadband adoption activities (as long as the Eligible Entity has sufficient funding for unserved and underserved areas), and
 - Mapping or data collection

7. LABOR STANDARDS AND PROTECTIONS

- Covered by HRS Chapter 104, Hawaii's Little Davis-Bacon prevailing wage law.
- Ensures jobs created by BEAD investments create good jobs and safe work environments.

8. WORKFORCE READINESS

- Outlines how the Eligible Entity will ensure an available, diverse, and highly skilled workforce.

Includes providing each of the following:



Use of highly trained workforce

Description of how the Eligible Entity will ensure subgrantees support the development of a skilled workforce capable of carrying out BEAD Program work in a manner that is safe and effective



Participation in partnerships

Description of how the Eligible Entity will promote sector-based partnerships that provide skills-based training and wrap-around services to support local workers (e.g., Registered Apprenticeships)



Equitable on-ramps into broadband jobs

Description of how the Eligible Entity will create equitable on-ramps into broadband-related jobs by removing barriers to entry, and by maintaining job quality and worker voice



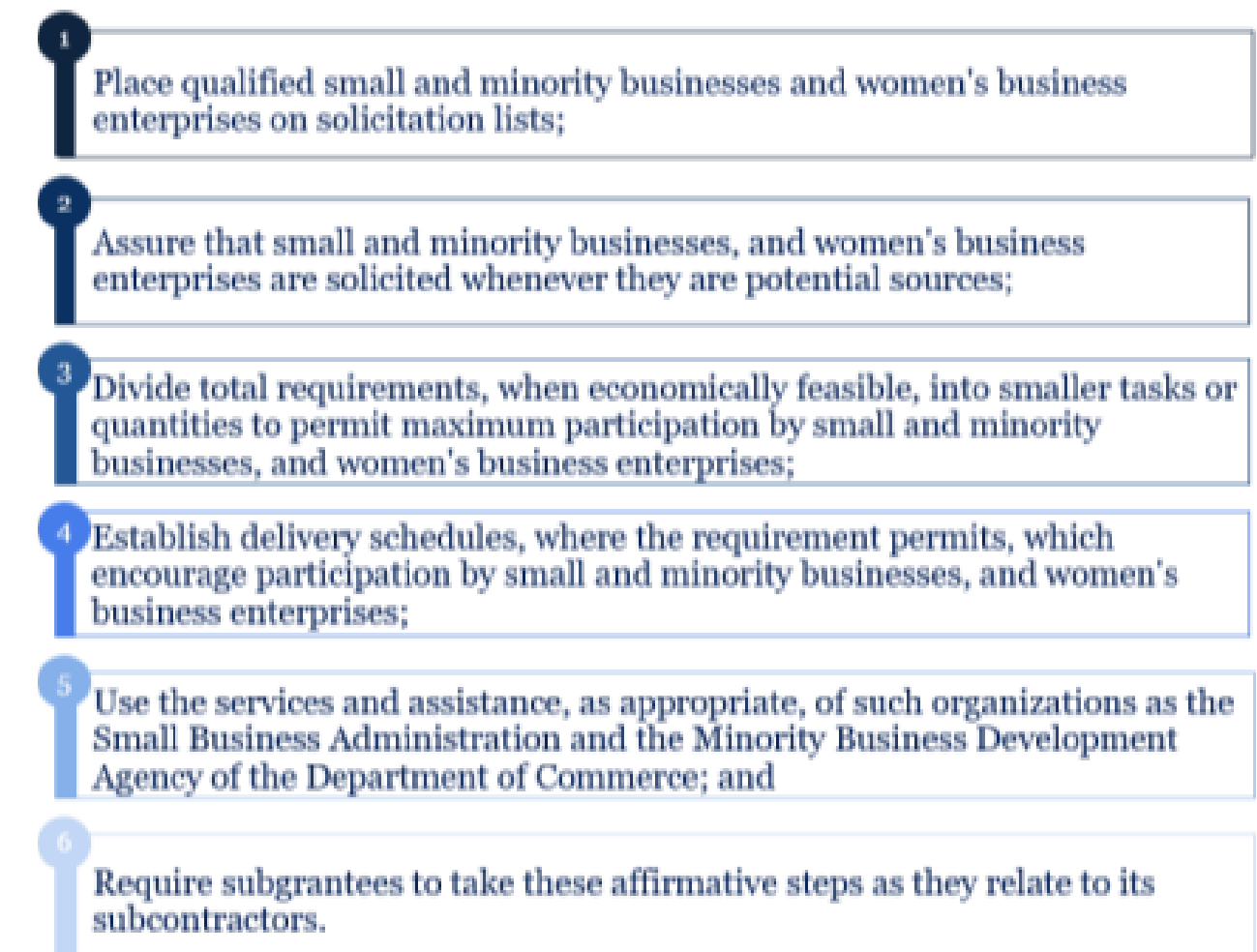
Job availability to diverse worker pool

Description of how the Eligible Entity will ensure job opportunities created by broadband funding programs are available to a diverse pool of workers

9. MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES (MBES)/ WOMEN'S BUSINESS ENTERPRISES (WBES)/ LABOR SURPLUS FIRMS INCLUSION

- Outlines how the Eligible Entity will promote recruiting, utilizing, and retaining minority business enterprises (MBEs), women's business enterprises (WBES), and labor surplus area firms, when possible.

Figure 7: Affirmative Steps Towards Inclusion of MBEs, WBES, and Labor Surplus Area Firms



10.COST AND BARRIER REDUCTION

- Identifies steps that the Eligible Entity will take to reduce costs and barriers to deployment.

Methods

- 1.Promoting the use of existing infrastructure,
- 2.Promoting and adopting dig-once policies,
- 3.Streamlined permitting processes, and cost-effective access to poles, conduits, easements, and
- 4.Streamlined rights of way, including the imposition of reasonable access requirements.

11. CLIMATE ASSESSMENT

- Accounts for and provides an assessment of current and future weather and climate-related risks to new broadband infrastructure.

12. LOW-COST BROADBAND SERVICE OPTION

- Outlines how the Eligible Entity plans to ensure that all residents within its jurisdiction will have access to affordable broadband service options.

Figure 8: NOFO Example - Definition of Low-cost Broadband Service Option

NOFO Example - Definition of Low-cost Broadband Service Option

1. The proposed broadband service option:
 - a. Costs \$30 per month or less, inclusive of all taxes, fees, and charges if the subscriber does not reside on Tribal Lands, or \$75 per month or less, inclusive of all taxes, fees, and charges if the subscriber resides on Tribal Lands, with no additional non-recurring costs or fees to the consumer;
 - b. Allows the end user to apply the Affordable Connectivity Benefit subsidy to the service price;
 - c. Provides the greater of (a) typical download speeds of at least 100 Mbps and typical upload speeds of at least 20 Mbps, or the fastest speeds the infrastructure is capable of if less than 100 Mbps/20 Mbps or (b) the performance benchmark for fixed terrestrial broadband service established by the Federal Communications Commission pursuant to Section 706(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended;
 - d. Provides typical latency measurements of no more than 100 milliseconds;
 - e. Is not subject to data caps, surcharges, or usage-based throttling, and is subject only to the same acceptable use policies to which subscribers to all other broadband internet access service plans offered to home subscribers by the participating subgrantee must adhere;
 - f. In the event the provider later offers a low-cost plan with higher speeds downstream and/or upstream, permits Eligible Subscribers that are subscribed to a low-cost broadband service option to upgrade to the new low-cost offering at no cost.
2. Subgrantees are required to participate in the Affordable Connectivity Program or any successor program, and Eligible Subscribers that are eligible for a broadband service subsidy can apply the subsidy to the proposed service option

13. MIDDLE CLASS AFFORDABILITY

- Outline how the Eligible Entity will adopt strategies as part of a middle-class affordability plan.

This might look like...

- Requiring providers receiving BEAD funds to offer low-cost, high-speed plans to all middle-class households using the BEAD-funded network.
- Providing consumer subsidies to defray subscription costs for households not eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Benefit or other federal subsidies.
- Using our regulatory authority to promote structural competition.
- Assigning especially high weights to selection criteria relating to affordability and/or open access in selecting BEAD subgrantees.

14. USE OF 20 PERCENT OF FUNDING

- The purpose of this section is to identify whether the Eligible Entity intends to access Initial Proposal funding and describe how the Eligible Entity intends to use the funding allocation that is made available upon approval of the Initial Proposal
- If requesting, the Eligible Entity will detail:
 - The amount of funding requested for use upon approval of the Initial Proposal,
 - The intended use of funds, and
 - How the proposed use of funds achieves the statutory objective of serving all unserved and underserved locations.

15. ELIGIBLE ENTITY REGULATORY APPROACH

- Discloses whether the Eligible Entity will waive all laws of the Eligible Entity concerning broadband, utility services, or similar subjects that either:
 - Preclude certain public sector providers from participation in the subgrant process, or
 - impose specific requirements and limitations on public sector entities.

16. CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH BEAD REQUIREMENTS

- Ensures that the Eligible Entity intends to comply with statutory requirements of the BEAD Program, including the reporting requirements and subgrantee accountability procedures.

Stay tuned for an overview of our draft IP in November.

<https://www.hawaii.edu/broadband/documents/>

Pau, thank you!