

Q. How long is the application portal open?

A. According to South Dakota's Volume 2, approved by NTIA, we will open the portal for at least 30 days.

Q. Is South Dakota doing a pre-application process?

A. South Dakota is NOT doing a pre-application process.

Q. Who will be on the application advisory board?

A. Members of GOED, the finance department, and others we deemed appropriate have been selected. Once the board makes its selections, the team will make its recommendations to the Commissioner for final approval.

Q. Must all unserved locations be awarded before underserved locations are awarded?

A. No. In accordance with the most recent NTIA information, all locations can be considered regardless of whether they are unserved or underserved when applying.

Q. Can you explain the scoring rubric to me?

A. The total score is composed of different points allocated for various criteria. Pages 20-24 of Volume 2 has the rubric and explains in detail how applications will be scored.

Q. Will there be any accommodations for taking rurality or density into account?

A. South Dakota's goal is to reach 100% connectivity, using the BEAD money allocation as efficiently and effectively as possible. Because of this, South Dakota will be referencing Volume 2, page 17's information on Extremely High Cost Per Location information.

Q. What about waivers for ISPs?

A. Per NTIA and per the administration change, states can step through the process to update/submit waiver requests, but all final determinations are pending until the new NTIA leadership determines how they will approach this.

Q. How do we go about researching to make sure we have the right address based off the location list that looks to be incorrect?

A. To check an address you need to go through the FCC map and then you need to submit some type of challenge. It wouldn't be an availability challenge necessarily, but you would have to essentially message Costquest. But, please let us know if you have an address and if we can do anything to help, we sure will.

Q. In the application, Section 2, for the project name – does it have to be county, or could it be area, such as “XYZ Company Sioux Falls and surrounding?”

A. It does not. You can put whatever you would like in there for the project name.

Q. Do you have to be logged into the portal to see biddable locations or can it all be seen on the website?

A. You can see the dots on just our public website, the land of what is deemed as non-bidable or didable locations and those are the same layers. They are all linked together, so they are going to mirror each other. One is public accessible and the portal side has the ability for people to actually export and pull down all the data.

Q. Has there been a change to the speeds we were hoping for?

A. The speeds are still less than 25/3 for unserved and less than 100/20 for underserved.

Q. What happens if you get applications that do not cover 100% of the state?

A. We will have to reopen the application process until we get 100% coverage.

Q. Will the registered applicants be made public before the application is awarded? If not, will only the winning applicants be public?

A. According to Volume 2, after scoring the final round of proposals, the Broadband Team will make available award determinations and notify all applicants of award decisions via email. South Dakota will also put out a press release announcing awardees after awardees have been formally notified. Award decisions are dependent on NTIA approval as submitted in the state's Final Proposal.

Q. I am confused when it comes to the requirements for a performance bond. As I read it, the letter required for the application, as well as the post award commitment, can be written for the match amount, or as low as 10% of the project, which would be the same amount as the agreement amount?

A. The LOC or Performance Bond is specific to the subaward amount, not the match. ***Prior to signing a subgrantee agreement, the subgrantee must obtain either a:***

- **Letter of Credit** | Subgrantees can obtain a standby letter of credit in the form established by the Eligible Entity valued at no less than 25% of the subaward amount.
- **Performance Bond** | Subgrantees can obtain a performance bond acceptable in all respects to the Eligible Entity in a value of no less than 100% of the subaward amount
- **10% Letter of Credit or Performance Bond**

Q. When is the close date for the application?

A. Our first-round deadline will close at 12 p.m. on Friday, April 4, 2025.

Q. What is the total BEAD funds available for the application(s)?

A. The total amount of funds allocated for BEAD funding to South Dakota is \$207,227,523.92. A portion of this funding has been set aside for grant administration. It is South Dakota's intent based on the approved initial proposal to spend the bulk of these funds on connecting unserved and underserved locations and any potential CAIs to follow if there are funds remaining.