BPU | CONNECT NJ

NJ Office of Broadband Connectivity

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program in New Jersey

Revised Application Process

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New Jersey Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (NJ BEAD) Program

BEAD Eligible Locations (BSLs and CAIs)

11,888

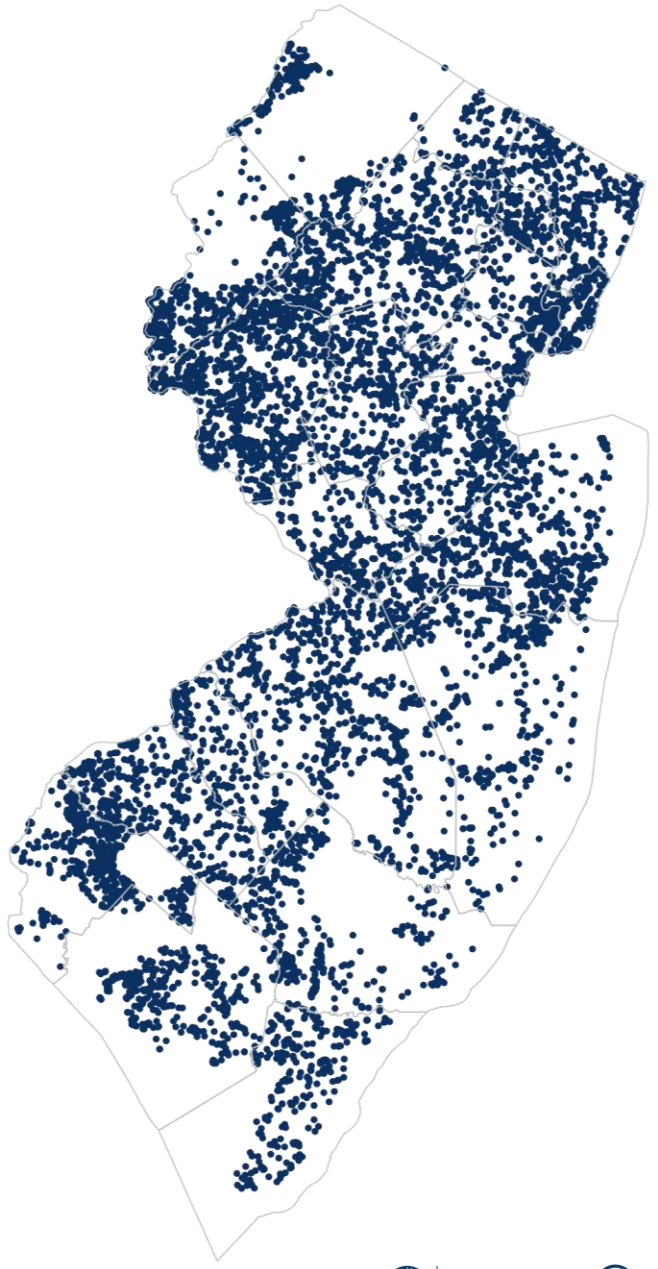
BEAD-eligible Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) (Fabric Version 4 with applicable updates from Version 6; no changes after ensuring alignment with NTIA Policy Notice) [1]

493

BEAD-eligible Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) (Two CAIs were removed in alignment with NTIA Policy Notice)[2]

1. The dataset on the OBC website includes the list of BEAD-eligible Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) with final classifications as unserved or underserved, as determined through the approved challenge process. The data reflects FCC Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric Version 4 (as of 12/31/2023), with applicable updates from Version 6 (as of 12/31/2024). Locations that are part of an existing enforceable commitment in New Jersey have been omitted from the dataset. This includes projects anticipated to be awarded through the New Jersey Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Equity (NJBIDE) Pilot Program.
2. The list of post-challenge Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) on the OBC website has been revised pursuant to NTIA's Restructuring BEAD Policy Notice (06/062025).

Source: https://www.nj.gov/connect/grants/bead/



Summary of key potential revisions to the NJ BEAD NOFA

In alignment with NTIA's Restructuring BEAD Policy Notice (06/06/2025); Pending NTIA approval and BPU finalization as of 06/27/2025

NON-EXHAUSTIVE

Section	Potential changes
Prequalification	• Prequalification window opened on 4/14. Prequalification applications may be submitted until 07/03/2025 at 5pm ET. This is the final extension of the prequalification window • Evaluation of Labor Standards, Workforce Readiness, and M/WBE Requirements (IP Vol 2, Requirements 11-13) in prequalification are removed per NTIA Policy Notice (PN)
Timeline	• Application window will open once NTIA has approved the Initial Proposal Correction Request and will close at 12 pm ET on 07/25/2025
Application preparation	• OBC will use counties as the geographic boundary for PABBs • Applicants may propose to exclude BSLs that it determines are excessively high-cost locations from the project area or would otherwise make the project economically unviable for the technology being used • Applicants may request to have an application treated as a Priority Broadband Project regardless of the technology used; the applicant must provide documentation showing the proposed network meets the statutory requirements (e.g. speed, latency, scalability)
Scoring criteria	• In deciding among competing applications covering the same general project areas, OBC will choose the option with the lowest cost based on minimal BEAD Program outlay; If an application to serve the same general project area proposes a project cost within 15% of the lowest-cost proposal received for that same general project area on a per BSL basis, OBC will evaluate such competing applications based on secondary criteria, giving greater weight to the Speed of Network and Other Technical Capabilities
Reporting requirements	• Select reporting items are removed per PN (e.g. interconnection agreements, number of local hires)

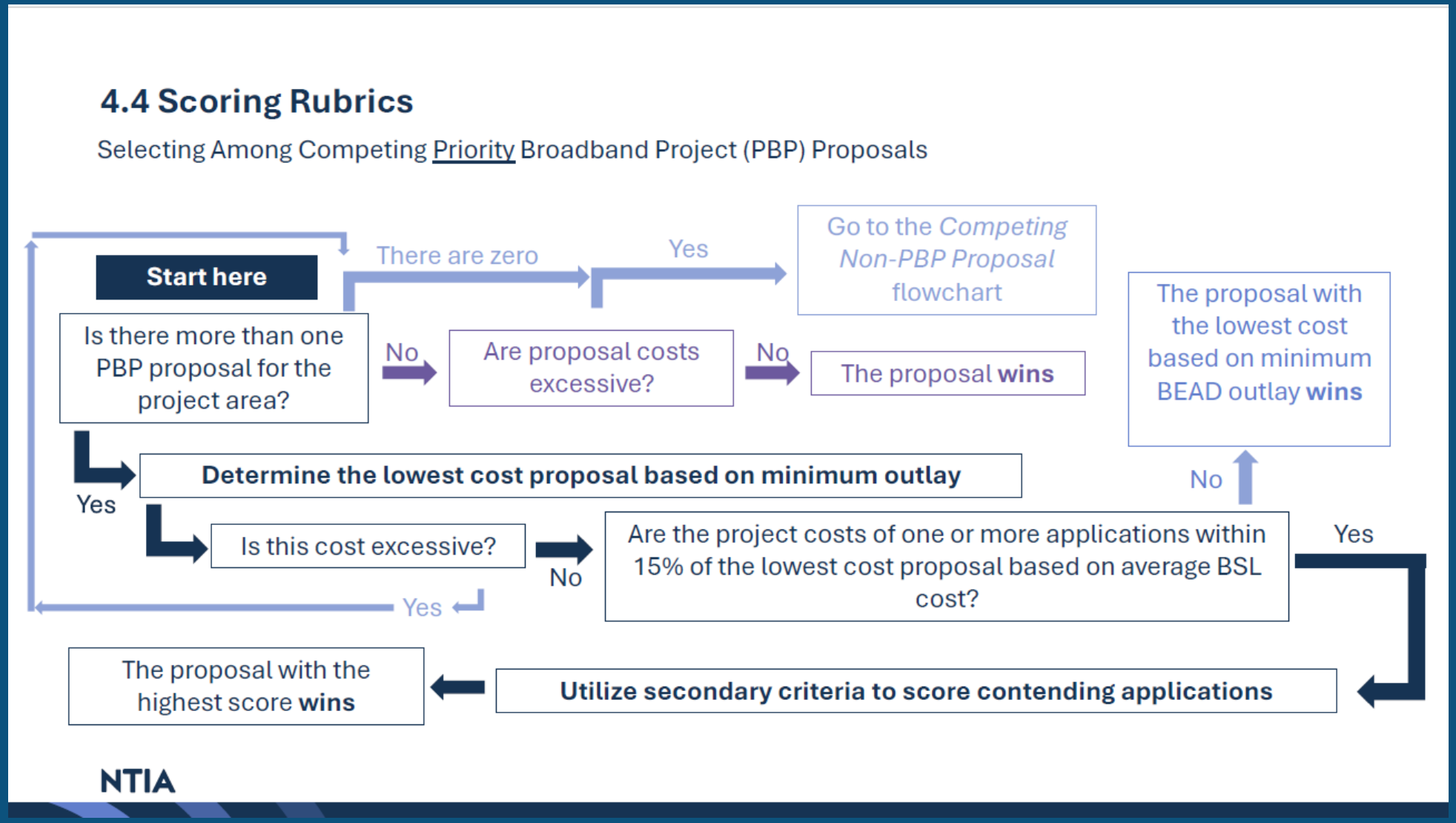
Source: NJ BEAD NOFA (06/26/2025), NTIA's Restructuring BEAD Policy Notice (06/06/2025)

What to submit for the NJ BEAD Application

Required documents | For each application, submit the following:

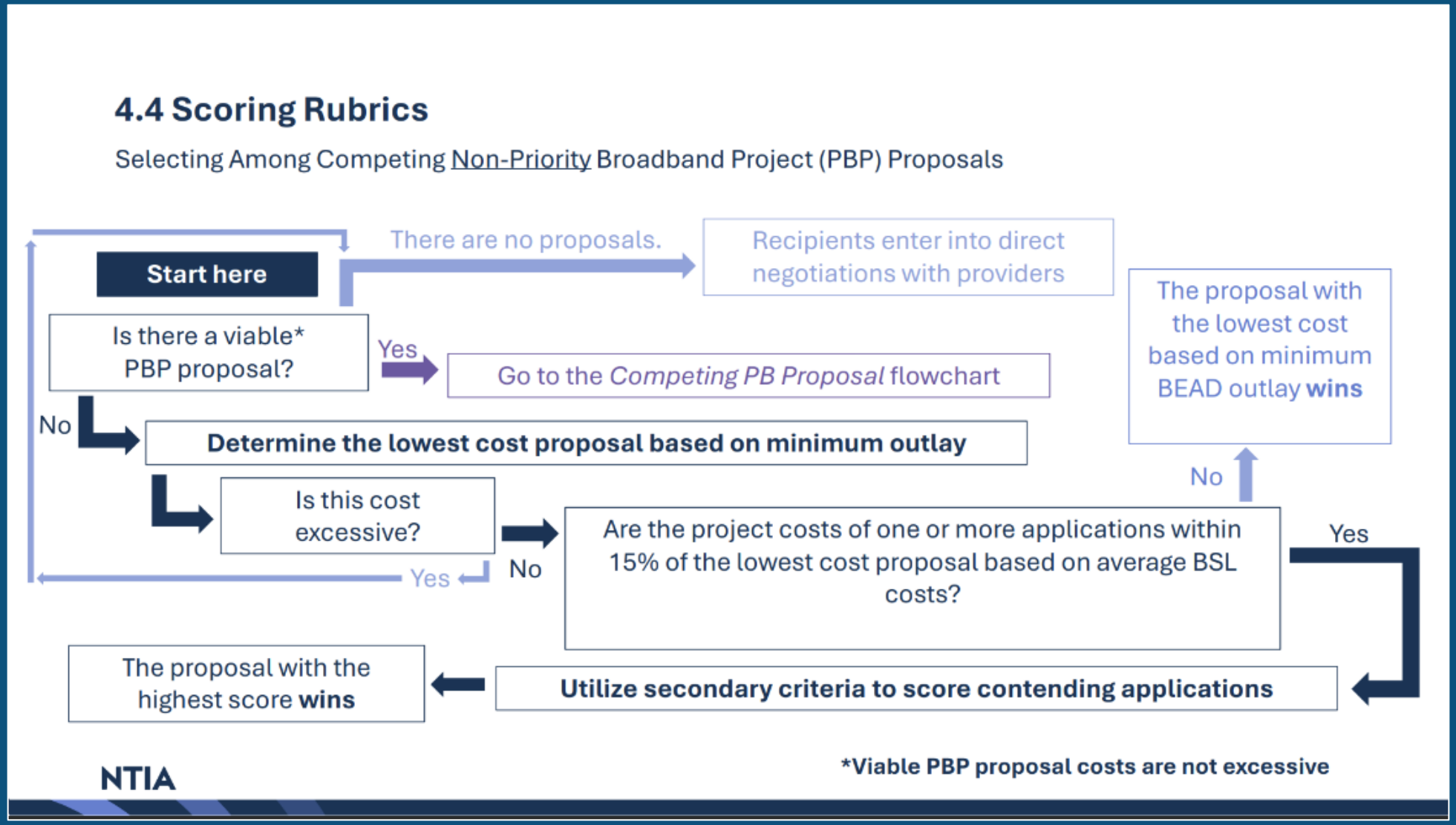
Item (template will be provided)	Naming convention
Application Intake Form	[ApplicantName]_[ProjectName]_NJBEAD_application.xlsx
BSL Shapefiles	[ApplicantName]_[ProjectName]_NJBEAD_BSL.zip
CAI Shapefiles	[ApplicantName]_[ProjectName]_NJBEAD_CAI.zip
Program Conditions Form	[ApplicantName]_[ProjectName]_NJBEAD_ProgramConditions.pdf
High-level Project Plan	[ApplicantName]_[ProjectName]_NJBEAD_ProjectPlan.zip
Letter of Commitment	[ApplicantName]_[ProjectName]_NJBEAD_LoC.pdf

Updated flowchart: Priority Broadband Project Proposals Scoring Rubric



Source: NTIA Webinar for States 06/13/2025

Updated flowchart: Non-Priority Broadband Project Proposals Scoring Rubric



Source: NTIA Webinar for States 06/13/2025

How to submit your application

The process to submit your application has not changed with the updates

1

Complete the Application Intake Form (template will be provided)

2

Complete all other required documents (Listed on the Resources for NJ BEAD Applicants page)

3

Submit all required documents to the BPU e-Filing System (Infoshare) referencing Docket No. **TO25020078**

- Please follow the naming convention described on the Resources for NJ BEAD Applicants page. If updating a document, please add a version suffix (_v2) to the name of the new document
- A walkthrough for how to submit files through the BPU e-Filing System has been posted on the Resources for NJ BEAD Applicants page

Helpful Links

- Resources for NJ BEAD Applicants
- BPU e-Filing System (Infoshare)
- BPU e-Filing System Walkthrough

Questions?

For more information,
email us at broadband@bpu.nj.gov

Please include “**BEAD**” in the subject line of your email