



# Initial Proposal

November 2023

# IP Vol 1 Overview

## What is the Initial Proposal (IP)?



The IP is a detailed plan for implementing New Jersey’s BEAD allocation (\$263.7M)

Once approved, OBC will run its challenge and subgrantee selection process in alignment with its Initial Proposal



NTIA separated the Initial Proposal into two volumes:

**Vol 1:** A plan for identifying locations eligible for BEAD funding

**Vol 2:** A plan for subgrantee selection process

## What is IP Vol 1?

*Volume 1 focuses on identifying the set of locations that will be eligible for BEAD funding*

**IP Vol. 1  
Element**



**1.1**

**Existing funding**



**1.2**

**Eligible BSLs**



**1.3**

**CAIs**



**1.4**

**Challenge Process**

**Summary of requirements**

1.1.1: Identify existing efforts funded by federal, state or local government to deploy broadband

*May import from Five-Year Action Plan*

1.2.1, 1.2.3: Provide current list of unserved and underserved locations from the most recent version of the National Broadband Map (NBM)

*May export from the NBM*

1.3.1: Define and identify Community Anchor Institutions (CAI) and provide broadband availability information for each CAI

1.4.3 – 1.4.5: Describe process to identify and remove locations subject to enforceable commitments

1.4.1, 1.4.2, 1.4.6, 1.4.7: Describe the challenge process OBC will use to determine the final list of all locations (unserved, underserved, CAIs) eligible for BEAD funding

## 1.3 Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) context

*New Jersey must define and identify all CAIs within New Jersey and determine current broadband availability for each*

### What is a CAI?

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The Infrastructure Investment Act (IIJA) includes schools, libraries, healthcare orgs, public safety entities, higher education institutions, public housing agencies, and select community support orgs as CAIs. For the purpose of the BEAD program, CAIs should support broadband use by vulnerable populations, typically through providing device loans, computer access, or training

Providers are eligible to receive subsidy to connect CAIs to 1 Gbps symmetrical service through the BEAD program

### Key considerations for NJ

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To be eligible for BEAD funding, CAIs must also lack access to 1Gbps symmetrical connectivity

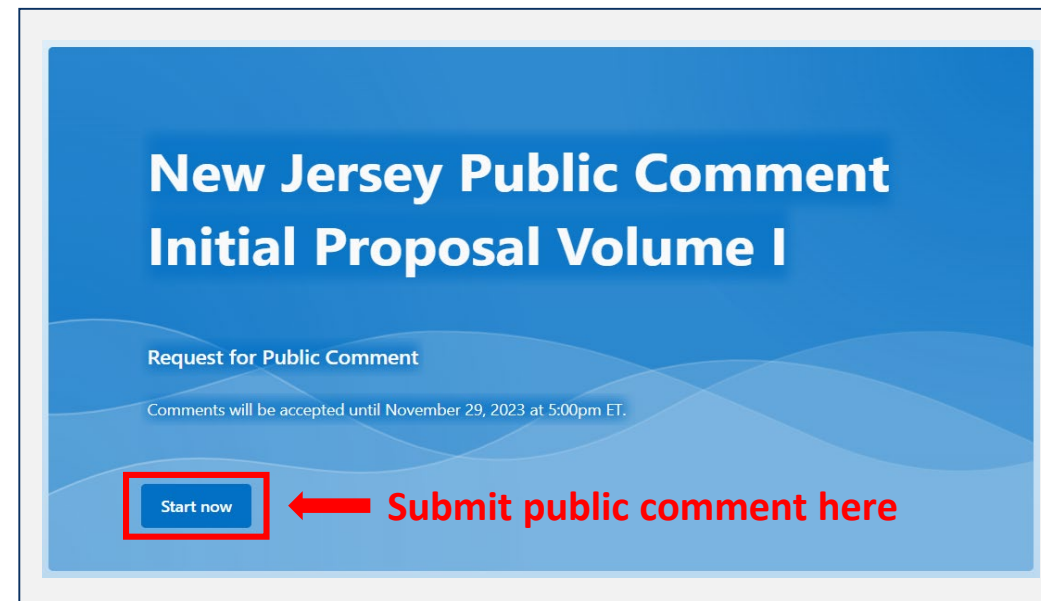
OBC has provided a preliminary list of CAIs in New Jersey in its Initial Proposal Volume 1, available now for public comment

**Note:** Within the BEAD program, funding for un and underserved locations is prioritized, followed by CAI coverage. States must present a “strong rationale” for prioritizing non-deployment activities ahead of some or all CAIs that have access to less than 1Gbps symmetrical

## 1.3 Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) data

**New Jersey used an outside-in approach to compile an initial list of institutions identified as CAIs that do not have 1 Gbps symmetrical service (see initial dataset on OBC's website)**

**To refine this dataset, New Jersey is asking stakeholders to submit their organizational information through public comment if they facilitate use of broadband for vulnerable populations and do not have access to 1 Gbps broadband service**



**Please note:** Large institutions (e.g., colleges, universities, healthcare centers) may likely have different services than New Jersey's outside-in data analysis indicates. For this reason, OBC strongly encourages all stakeholders to provide feedback through public comment

## 1.4 Challenge Process context and decisions

### What is it

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The process the state will use to determine the final list of all locations (unserved, underserved, CAIs) eligible for BEAD funding

Only local or tribal governments, nonprofit organizations or broadband providers may participate

Unlike the FCC challenge process, individuals may not submit challenges to the state

Individuals may submit challenges through an eligible challenger

States must complete the challenge process within 120 days

### Overview of New Jersey's approach

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OBC has adopted NTIA's model challenge process:

- 1 **Publication of Eligible Locations** (tentatively published in March 2024, assuming OBC receives NTIA approval)
- 2 **Challenge Phase:** (Tentative date: April 1st– May 1st 24')
- 3 **Rebuttal Phase:** (Tentative date: May 1<sup>st</sup> – June 1st 24')
- 4 **Final Determination Phase:** (Tentative date: June 1<sup>st</sup> – July 1st 24', but OBC will reserve an additional 30 days if needed)

Additionally, OBC is adopting NTIA's option to reclassify all locations that currently receive broadband through a DSL connection only as underserved locations

# Summary overview of Initial Proposal Vol 2 (1/2)

Vol. 2 of the BEAD Initial Proposal focuses on the subgrantee selection process for BEAD funding and follows NTIA guidance<sup>1</sup>

	<b>Section summary</b>	<b>New Jersey response overview</b>
<b>2.1</b>	<b>Long-term objectives</b>	OBC aims to build broadband infrastructure to connect 100% of NJ's un- and underserved locations, offer affordable service, and advance digital literacy and equity. <i>Based on OBC's 5 Year Action Plan</i>
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Coordination with other broadband plans</b>	OBC has identified 4 local broadband plans and will continue to coordinate with the associated municipalities.
<b>2.3</b>	<b>Local coordination process</b>	OBC's broadband strategy has been centered on collaboration with stakeholders, including local and regional entities, mostly through stakeholder meetings, working groups, publications and communications, and public surveys.
<b>2.4</b>	<b>Subgrantee deployment, scoring, and minimum qual.</b>	OBC will hold a multi-round subgrantee process that maximizes competition in order to minimize cost to NJ, while also incorporating other priorities (e.g., climate, workforce, affordability).
<b>2.5</b>	<b>Non-deployment subgrantee Selection</b>	OBC will prioritize non-deployment funds to drive digital equity priorities, including for economic development purposes
<b>2.6</b>	<b>Activities NJ will drive as direct recipient</b>	OBC ~\$30M prior for non-deployment priorities that would be provisionally awarded at the same time as the deployment awards
<b>2.7</b>	<b>Labor Standards and Protections</b>	OBC will require prevailing wage (where applicable), use of local workforce, commitment to union neutrality, and use of appropriately skilled and credentialed workforce. OBC will also demonstrate how it has been and will continue to take actions to prevent the misclassification of workers.

1. [https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/2023-10/BEAD\\_Initial\\_Proposal\\_Guidance\\_Volumes\\_I\\_II\\_10-2023.pdf](https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/2023-10/BEAD_Initial_Proposal_Guidance_Volumes_I_II_10-2023.pdf)

# Summary overview of IP Vol 2 (2/2)

	<b>Section Summary</b>	<b>New Jersey response overview</b>
<b>2.8</b>	<b>Workforce readiness</b>	OBC will prioritize apprenticeship and career development programs (including leveraging existing programs). OBC will also incentivize project labor agreements and labor peace agreements through the scoring process.
<b>2.9</b>	<b>Minority &amp; women's business &amp; labor surplus areas</b>	OBC will coordinate with other NJ agencies to increase awareness of BEAD and other opportunities for minority- and women-owned businesses.
<b>2.1</b>	<b>Cost and barrier Reduction</b>	OBC will promote the use of existing infrastructure, the adoption of dig -once policies, and the streamlining of permitting processes.
<b>2.11</b>	<b>Climate assessment and mitigation strategy</b>	NJ faces a high threat of wind- and water-related climate hazards. Subgrantees will be required to bury 90% of fiber in the highest risk coastal counties, and the scoring process will strongly incentivize them to do the same throughout the rest of the state.
<b>2.12</b>	<b>Low-cost broadband service option</b>	OBC will adopt the NTIA-provided example low-cost service option, which costs a maximum of \$30 per month, inclusive of all taxes, fees, and charges.
<b>2.13</b>	<b>Middle class affordability plan</b>	OBC will incentivize affordability through the scoring process. Providers will be required to commit to a monthly price for 5 years that can be no greater than 10% more than their lowest non-promotional price.
<b>2.14</b>	<b>Funding allocation request</b>	OBC is requesting 100% of the allocated ~\$264M upfront and may request to use a portion of the funds to support non-deployment activities at the same time as BEAD selection is taking place.
<b>2.15</b>	<b>Regulatory approach</b>	NJ will not modify any existing statutes.
<b>2.16</b>	<b>Certification of compliance with requirements</b>	OBC will employ various strategies to ensure project benchmarks are being met, including withholding funds, clawback procedures, risk assessments, and subgrantee-tailored monitoring plans.