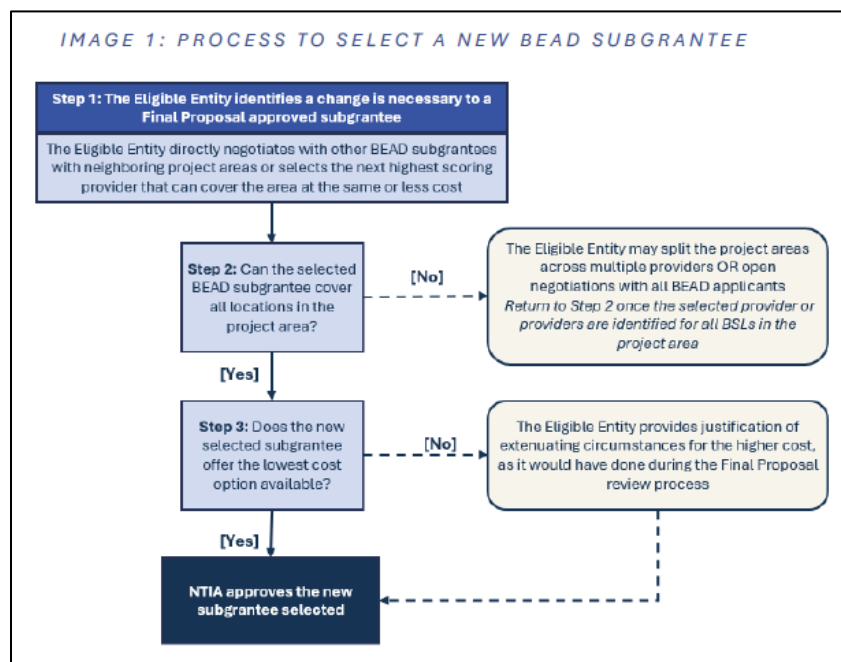


Process For Selecting a New Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (“BEAD”) Subrecipient

Background:

After federal approval of the Kansas Office of Broadband Development’s (“KOBD’s”) BEAD “Benefit of the Bargain” round applications and results, KOBD may subsequently need to select a new awardee due to circumstances such as a provisional awardee declining its BEAD award(s) or an event of default. In these instances, and any others which would necessitate a subrecipient change, KOBD developed the processes and procedures outlined below¹ to identify, negotiate with, and select replacement subrecipients for each Reopened Project Area (“RPA”), to ensure timely deployment of qualifying broadband service to the broadband serviceable locations (“BSLs”) in each RPA.

- Specific areas of assistance within the NTIA guidance document were Table 1, Table 2, and Image 1- Process to Select a New BEAD Subgrantee (reproduced below):



¹ KOBD’s processes and procedures are based on NTIA’s “Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program: Scope Change and Budget Modification Guidance for Eligible Entities” (https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2026-05/NTIA_Eligible_Entity_Guidance_Scope_Change_and_Budget_Modification_05_26.pdf) and accompanying primer (https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2026-04/BEAD_Scope_Change_and_Budget_Modification_Primer.pdf), and are consistent with section 02.04.07 of Kansas’ approved Initial Proposal Volume 2 (https://www.kansascommerce.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/FINAL.KS-VOL.II_.REVISED.7.31.2025.pdf).

KOBD Process:

1. KOBD identifies the neighboring project area(s) to the RPAs.
 - a. Using geospatial analysis, KOBD will identify the BSL within an existing project area that is closest in distance to a BSL within the RPA.
 - b. Any existing project area with a BSL that is within **10 miles** of any BSL within the RPA will also be considered a “neighboring” project area to the RPA.
2. KOBD contacts the subrecipient(s) for the neighboring project area(s) (“Category A Providers”) to determine their willingness to make broadband service available to all of the BSLs within the RPA.
 - a. If only one Category A Provider is identified using the methodology described in step 1 above, and that subrecipient agrees to make service available to all of the BSLs within the RPA, then KOBD will begin direct negotiations with that subrecipient for the RPA, and proceed to Step 4.
 - b. If more than one Category A Provider is identified using the methodology described in Step 1 above, and only one of the subrecipients identified agrees to make service available to all of the BSLs within the RPA, then KOBD will begin direct negotiations with the subrecipient that agrees to make service available to all of the BSLs within the RPA, and proceed to Step 4.
 - c. If no Category A Provider is willing to agree to make service available to all of the BSLs within the RPA, then KOBD would contact all Kansas BEAD subrecipients (“Category B Providers”) to determine their willingness to make broadband service available to all of the BSLs within the RPA.
 - If no Category B Provider is willing to agree to make service available to all of the BSLs within the RPA, then KOBD would allow Category B Providers to identify the BSLs to which they would be willing to make service available; KOBD would negotiate in good faith with the Category B Providers with the goal that, combined, the providers commit to making service available to all of the BSLs in the RPA.
 - If certain BSLs remain, KOBD would contact all BEAD applicants that did not win an award (“Category C Providers”) as a last resort to determine their willingness to make service available to the remaining BSLs in the RPA.
 - d. If more than one subrecipient is willing to make service available to all of the BSLs in the RPA, then KOBD shall proceed to Step 3.
3. When multiple providers show interest in an RPA, KOBD will select the new provisional awardee(s) for the RPA(s) based on the following criteria (not necessarily listed in order of priority):

- a. Identification of locations in the RPA that (i) are no longer designated as BSLs in the latest version of the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric and/or (ii) for which the potential new subrecipient has claimed to have made qualifying broadband service available in its most recent FCC Broadband Data Collection submission;
- b. Total project cost;
- c. Confirmation that the project period of performance is less than four (4) years duration;
- d. Priority broadband deployment; and
- e. Risk assessment results (if applicable).

Once KOBD identifies a subrecipient using the criteria above, KOBD will begin direct negotiations with the prospective subrecipient(s) for the RPA(s).

4. Once negotiations are complete after Steps 2 and 3, KOBD provisionally selects new subrecipient(s) for the RPA(s).
5. KOBD submits evaluation outcome to NTIA and/or NIST for approval, including the documented selection process.
 - i. Note: If the cost to serve the RPA is higher than the previously awarded subrecipient for the RPA, a justification of extenuating circumstances will be submitted to NTIA for approval.