Questions for Un/Underserved RFPs

1. **I'm having trouble correlating the Location ID from the Appendix D unserved locations doc to the FCC National Broadband map. Please see example screenshots below. Would you be able to provide some guidance on how to search the locations on the map? Ideally, I'd like to take the location ID's and mass import them into the map so I can see all of them at the same time on the map rather than searching for them one by one. Would you be able to help? Any help you can provide is appreciated.**

   We point out that you are attempting to input a location ID into an address text field which won't work on the FCC National Broadband Map. Due to licensing restrictions, we are unable to provide Location ID to address correlation information. Potential offerors can request a free license to get address level information at https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/policies/CostQuest-Licensing. Location IDs are based on the December 31, 2023 version of the FCC National Broadband Map. Alternatively, our post-challenge results have been visualized at https://register.challenge.connectkakou.org/register/bead/map.

2. **We are unable to find the location IDs listed on the RFP on the FCC National Broadband Map. [screenshot below]**

location_id	fabric_version	project_id
123456789	12/31/2023	CM61-BEAD-HI-UNDER-KAUAI
123456790	12/31/2023	CM61-BEAD-HI-UNDER-KAUAI
123456791	12/31/2023	CM61-BEAD-HI-UNDER-KAUAI
123456792	12/31/2023	CM61-BEAD-HI-UNDER-KAUAI

   Answer: The screenshot provided is from the sheet titled "CM61-BEAD-HI-UNDER_EXAMPLE". That sheet is just an example of how the columns should be filled out. All Location IDs provided in the "CM61-BEAD-HI-UNDER_EXAMPLE" sheet are just examples. All valid Location IDs part of the RFP are in the "RFP Locations" sheet.

3. **Regarding questions on the scope, one thing I need to know is where I can find the following plans:**

   Architectural plans
   Site plans
   Electrical plans
   Civil site plans

Answer: https://www.kauai.gov/Residents/Permits-Land-Use

What is the name of the property?

We are unable to provide the property name of unserved and underserved locations. CAI RFPs have the CAI property name under the "entity_name" column.

Are these multiple communities throughout the county of Kauai?

Yes.

What is the address of the property or properties?

Due to licensing restrictions, we are unable to provide Location ID to address correlation information of unserved and underserved locations. CAI RFPs have the CAI property address under the "address_primary", "city", "state", and "zip_code" columns. Offerors must work with FCC/CostQuest to request their own license for the full FCC datasets.

How many doors(units) are at the property or properties?

The unit count is provided with FCC fabric data. Potential offerors can request a free license to get fabric data access with the unit count at https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/policies/CostQuest-Licensing.

How many buildings are at the property? Answers vary per property.
How many stories per building? Answers vary per property.
Are there any common areas? Answers vary per property.

4. **I am inquiring about the BEAD RFQs and the questions are as follows:**
   Who is the exact customer - their name?

   We cannot provide this information. That information is not available.

   What are the exact service addresses?

   Due to licensing restrictions, we are unable to provide Location ID to address correlation information of unserved and underserved locations. CAI RFPs have the CAI property address under the "address_primary", "city", "state", and "zip_code" columns.

   Who is the POC:
        Name
        email
        Phone number

All questions by Offerors should be submitted in writing via email to Chris Zane czane@hawaii.edu.

What is the brief description of what type of service that you are requesting?

See RFP Section 2 - Statement of Work.

It seems as though there is contradictory information:
> There is a minimum 1 GBPS symmetrical speeds with less than 100 milliseconds, but there are multiple addresses.

All unserved and underserved locations must be able to receive a minimum of 100 Mbps download speeds and 20 Mbps upload speeds with less than 100 milliseconds latency. Offerors are requested to provide a price for a 1 Gbps symmetrical speed plan to evaluate affordability of the proposed broadband service.

All CAI locations must be able to receive a minimum of 1 Gbps symmetrical speeds with less than 100 milliseconds latency. Offerors are requested to provide a price for a 1 Gbps symmetrical speed plan to evaluate affordability of the proposed broadband service.

5. **There is some information needed on our end that we need. Keep in mind I will also need to get site plans:**
   Architectural plans
   Site plans
   Electrical plans
   Civil site plans

   What is the name of the property?

   Are these multiple communities throughout the county of Kuai?
   What is the address of the property or properties?

   How many doors(units) are at the property or properties?

   How many buildings at the property?

   How many stories per building?

   Are there any common areas?

   Refer to answers in Question #3

6. **Does the match have to be cash? Or can it be in-kind?**

   Matching funds may be provided in the form of either cash or in-kind contributions, so long as such contributions are made consistent with the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards set forth at 2 C.F.R. Part 200. https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200/subpart-D

   See BEAD NOFO pages 21-22 for more details.

7. **Where are the Hawaiian BEAD designated High Cost areas?**
   Per the NTIA, Hawaii's BEAD high-cost areas are the census block groups:

   - 150010211011
   - 150030089311
   - 150039806001

   A map of the BEAD high-cost areas census block groups can be found here: https://geoportal.hawaii.gov/datasets/357161de58744cd8854c46692b2ba93d_26/explore?filters=eyJnZW9pZDIwIjpbIjE1MDAxMDIxMTAxMSIsIjE1MDAzMDA4OTMxMSIsIjE1MDAzOTgwNjAwMSJdfQ%3D%3D&location=20.419199%2C-157.140166%2C8.07&style=geoid20

8. **Can we have the list divided to specify what each address is for?**
   - MDU
   - Small Business
   - Government
   - School

   The CAI RFPs have the CAI address categorized in Appendix D under column "type". The corresponding description for the type code can be found on the "Column Definition" sheet of Appendix D or Appendix E. For example, type "S" means the address is a K-12 school, junior college, community college, university, or other educational institution.

9. **For the addresses that are MDU each address needs to specify:**
   - Property Type (Apartment building, Condo/Townhomes/ Senior Living/ Single Family Home community/ RV Parks/Marina.)
   - # of doors(# of residential units)

   The unit count is provided with FCC fabric data. Potential offerors can request a free license to get fabric data access with the unit count at https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/policies/CostQuest-Licensing. We are unable to provide the requested level of detail on the property types for unserved and underserved locations.

10. **We also need for each property:**
    - Architectural Plans
    - Electrical plans
    - Civil site plans

    Refer to answers in Question #3

11. **I'm reaching out to see if there is a tentative date for when the BEAD prequalification application for the subgrantee process (Volume II) will open or if the application window has already passed.**

    Hawaiʻi does not have a prequalification application for the subgrantee process. Please see https://www.hawaii.edu/broadband/beaddeploymentrfp/ for more information on RFP timelines.

12. **Section 1.15. Is an Offeror (including Affiliates) who is under default or has previously defaulted on other federal broadband programs, including, but not limited to RDOF, CAF, RUS, eConnect eligible to apply?**

    An Offeror (including Affiliates) who is under default or has previously defaulted on other federal broadband programs, including, but not limited to RDOF, CAF, RUS, eConnect is eligible to apply to all RFPs. Offerors (including Affiliates) who are under default or have previously defaulted on other federal broadband programs may not be awarded the grant if found unable to meet the minimum qualifications.

13. **Section 2.1.1.1. Please describe how and how soon after the submitted exclusions will be sent to all Offerors.**

    NTIA requires the State to serve all unserved and underserved locations approved in the post-challenge results. Any unserved and underserved location not receiving BEAD funding must be explainable to NTIA and evidence must be provided upon NTIA's request. Therefore, to determine exclusions within a project area, UHBO will review the documentation provided by Offerors and determine if the evidence shows the unserved or underserved location is unbuildable because of reasons such as, but not limited to, incorrect geographical coordinates, funding duplication, or is not a broadband serviceable location. Offerors should not submit exclusions because they do not want to serve the locations or would be considered a high cost location. UHBO will provide the set of Location IDs to be excluded for each project area as an amendment to the RFP to all Offerors during the Issuance of Best and Final Offer Locations. This amendment will be no earlier than Feb 14, 2025.

14. **Section 2.1.1.1 and 4.2. How will submitted exclusions, which UH chooses to then accept, be incorporated into the scoring totals? For example, say a "Priority**

Broadband Project", which requires 100% fiber, be given to location that requires a subsea cable and UH decides to exclude this because it exceeds the EHCPLT (in 4.2).

Locations UHBO deems to be excluded will be provided as an amendment to the RFP for the best and final offer round. Therefore, in the best and final offer round, proposals should not include excluded locations as they will not be scored.

A location exceeding the State's Extreme High Cost Per Location Threshold (EHCPLT) does not automatically exclude the location from the RFP project area. Offerors will still be required to serve the location although alternative technologies may then be considered as part of the Offeror's proposal.

15. **Section 2.1.1.4. How should the Offerors navigate the fact that access to execute a deployment as described is subject to prompt approval by the private property owner**

UHBO recognizes the challenges with obtaining access and approval to private properties for deployment at this stage of the BEAD timeline. Therefore, for the purposes of scoring the RFPs, Offerors should respond to the RFPs under the assumption private property owners would allow access to execute deployment on their property and factor in any additional costs to achieve deployment (e.g. easements, poles for long driveways, etc.). See question 35 for more details on post-award expectations.

16. **Section 2.1.1.9. 1Gbps symmetrical speed is a requirement for affordability. This contradicts sections 2.1.1.2, 2.1.2.3, and 2.1.2 of a minimum 100Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload. Does this mean technically that all Offerors need to provide a minimum of 1Gbps symmetrical to qualify?**

All unserved and underserved locations must be able to receive a minimum of 100 Mbps download speeds and 20 Mbps upload speeds with less than 100 milliseconds latency. Offerors are requested to provide a price for a 1 Gbps symmetrical speed plan to evaluate affordability of the proposed broadband service.

All CAI locations must be able to receive a minimum of 1 Gbps symmetrical speeds with less than 100 milliseconds latency. Offerors are requested to provide a price for a 1 Gbps symmetrical speed plan to evaluate affordability of the proposed broadband service.

17. **Section 2.1.4.1. Please clarify if reporting from IPV2 Section 2.16 supersedes any federal requirement and is not in addition to.**

Reporting described in IPV2 Section 2.16 would be in addition to any federal requirements. UHBO will work to minimize duplicative reporting as requirements are

finalized by NTIA. Note the State will have a forthcoming subgrantee monitoring plan as part of the Final Proposal which will describe in detail more on the reporting requirements from the selected Offeror.

18. **Section 2.2.1. If an Offeror bids on more than one BEAD-related RFP, would a single standby letter of credit which encompasses the entire amount of all Offeror's RFPs suffice or does RCUH require a unique standby letter of credit for each RFP the Offeror submits?**

    Per the NTIA, a subgrantee must obtain a letter of credit for each project area. Therefore, if an Offeror bids on more than one BEAD-related RFP, they must obtain a letter of credit for each RFP the Offeror submits.

19. **Section 2.2.7. Would these include projects which were awarded but the Offeror is under default?**

    Yes, the Offeror should include projects which were awarded with public funds, but the Offeror is under default as part of their proposal for Financial Capability qualification.

20. **Section 2.2.7. How far back do the disclosures and details need to be for broadband deployment on the use of public funds?**

    Offerors must disclose as far back as necessary any application the Offeror or its affiliates[1] have submitted or plan to submit, and every broadband deployment project that the subgrantee or its affiliates are undertaking or have committed to undertake at the time of the application using public funds. Offerors do <u>not</u> need to disclose closed out and completed broadband deployment projects using public funds. See IPV2 Section 2.4.17 for details needed in disclosure.

21. **Section 2.2.7. During the challenge process, prior funding only shows Connect America Fund Auction, Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, and HI Connect. It is assumed these are "public funds". Please advise if this is not the case. Recent RCUH RFP #107255 looked like it utilized CPF dollars. Would this be considered "public funds"? What other federal, state, or county programs fall within "public funds"?**

    Correct, Connect America Fund Phase II Auction (CAF II), Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF), and HI Connect are considered "public funds".

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[1] The term "affiliate" shall be defined consistent with 47 U.S.C. § 153(2) ("The term 'affiliate' means a person that (directly or indirectly) owns or controls, is owned or controlled by, or is under common ownership or control with, another person. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "own" means to own an equity interest (or the equivalent thereof) of more than 10 percent.")

RCUH RFP #107255 is to provide installation, set-up, and access to high-speed Internet access for all Hawaiʻi Public Housing Authority (HPHA) residents for the HPHA owned facilities using US Treasury Capital Project Funds (CPF). CPF is considered "public funds" and therefore BEAD un/underserved locations overlapping with CPF locations are subject to an enforceable commitment and will be removed from the project area.

Other federal, state, or county programs that fall within "public funds" include those listed in the Hawaii Initial Proposal Volume 1 Section 1.4.5. Also any USDA ReConnect grants as an example.

22. **Section 4.2 and 4.3. How will RCUH conduct scoring as part of an EHCPLT in a RFP submitted which is a Priority broadband Project? Will the entire RFP by an Offeror then be moved to "Other Last-Mile Broadband Deployment Projects"**
If the project area contains no Location IDs above the Extreme High Cost Per Location Threshold (EHCPLT) and the proposal is a Priority Broadband Project, the RFP will be scored as a Priority Broadband Project. If the project area contains Location IDs above the EHCPLT and the proposal utilizes alternative technologies (i.e., includes other technologies in addition to end-to-end fiber), the RFP will be scored as an Other Last-Mile Broadband Deployment Project. Scoring will be based on the proposals submitted during the best and final offer round.
Note: Per the BEAD NOFO Page 38-39, UHBO may decline to select a proposal that requires a BEAD subsidy that exceeds the Extremely High Cost Per Location Threshold for any location to be served in the proposal if use of an alternative Reliable Broadband Service technology meeting the BEAD Program's technical requirements would be less expensive.

23. **Attachment B, 5. The work involved in this RFP may or will require the use of subcontractors to perform environmental work, civil work, traffic control, waste management, travel expenses, or other activities. Please clarify the intent of needing to approve subcontractors given the expectation Offers need to provide a portion of matching funds.**
The project intends to replace "approve" with "notify". Terms will be revised as needed during contract negotiations.

24. **Attachment B, 9.e. and 10.a. This section states all finished and unfinished material prepared by the Contractor may become property of RCUH. Is the intent of this RFP for RCUH or any State agency to own any of the infrastructure put in place as a part of this RFP, including, but not limited to poles, cables, splice closures, terminals, service drops, equipment? If yes, what is RCUH's intent in owning such materials?**

RCUH, the University of Hawaii, or the State has no desire for ownership of any infrastructure required to provide the requested services. Offeror will own, maintain and be responsible for any infrastructure installed. Terms will be revised as needed during contract negotiations.

25. **Attachment B, 10.a. Please specify within the BEAD NOFO, IPV1, IPV2, or other federal guidelines where a termination for convenience may be done with BEAD funds once awarded.**

    The RCUH termination for convenience clause is still applicable, however any Federal funds spent are still subject to the Federal interest in BEAD-funded real property for 10 (ten) years after the year in which the funding was closed out. Refer to the BEAD general terms and conditions (https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/sites/default/files/2024-05/BEAD_IPFR_GTC_04_2024.pdf), Section 48.

26. **Attachment B, 15. This section states UH shall have complete ownership of all physical material. Is the intent of this RFP for RCUH or any State agency to own any of the infrastructure put in place as a part of this RFP, including, but not limited to poles, cables, splice closures, terminals, service drops, equipment? If yes, what is RCUH's intent in owning such materials?**

    RCUH, the University of Hawaii, or the State has no desire for ownership of any infrastructure required to provide the requested services. Offeror will own, maintain and be responsible for any infrastructure installed. Terms will be revised as needed during contract negotiations.

27. **Attachment B, 15.b and 15.c. Please specify within the BEAD NOFO, IPV1, IPV2, or other federal guidelines where RCUH has the right to any patentable inventions and copyrights. It appears this section does not apply to the scope of the RFP. What is RCUH's intent in owning patentable inventions and copyrights?**

    For this RFP, RCUH, the University, or the State has no desire for any patentable inventions or copyrights. Terms will be revised as needed during contract negotiations.

28. **Attachment B, 16. Prior broadband grant awards with federal funds have public notifications issued by federal agencies (FCC and NTIA to name a few). What is RCUH's intent in prohibiting publicity of funding awarded as part of such a large scale project?**

    The project will plan to allow publicity by the Offeror through the UH Broadband Office and the Connect Kakou initiative. Terms will be revised as needed during contract negotiations.

29. Attachment B, 17. Please provide templates for Attachments 1, 2, and 3.

This is included in Attachment 8a, which is linked under Terms & Conditions at the top of the CommercePoint bid document.

30. Attachment B, 17. What is the reimbursement timeline once (a) and (b) are met?

With regards to the timeline as referenced in Attachment B, 17, this is determined by the project. The IPv2 section 2.4.1 provides the details to the disbursement of funding.

31. Attachment C. Which of the 4 types of federal provisions are applicable for this RFP?

#1 applies to this RFP.

32. Attachment C. Should there be a conflict between federal provisions in Attachment C and BEAD, which one will take precedence?

Federal award terms/BEAD would take precedence.

33. Attachment E. Is self-insurance allowed?

No

34. During the challenge process, UH mentioned all locations on federal lands, specifically owned or operated by the Department of Defense, would be excluded. There are a few locations provided in the RFP which are on these federal lands. How should Offerors treat these locations in the RFP process?

Offerors can provide evidence for exclusion if the locations are on Department of Defense or other federal lands and therefore should not be considered a broadband serviceable location (reason_no_project = 2). Otherwise, Offerors should provide a proposal to serve the locations as other unserved/underserved locations.

35. Appendix D. Some locations are well within private property with existing infrastructure. Post-award, what is the expectation if the property owner does not allow the Offeror access to the property within the period of performance?

UHBO recognizes the challenges with obtaining access and approval to private properties for deployment at this stage of the BEAD timeline. UHBO expects the awarded subgrantee to put a good-faith best effort to obtain private property access for deployment post-award to serve all un/underserved locations in the project area. UHBO

recognizes achieving this will require approval from the property owner and will work with NTIA to understand how to approach un/underserved locations if the property owner does not allow the Offeror access to the property within the period of performance.

36. **Appendix D. In the list of locations, there is a Column Definitions tab. The reason_no_project has a 4 – Location is already served by a non-enforceable commitment. How is this different than 5 – Location is already served by non-subsidized service (privately funded network)? There is program which lists enforceable commitment program and references column reason_no_project = 4.**

    This is a typo in the Column Definition tab of Appendix D. "reason_no_project" = 4 should be "location is already served by an enforceable commitment". Appendix E reflects the correct description of "reason_no_project" = 4.

37. **Appendix D. What will UH do with the information provided for columns estimated_miles_aerial_fiber and estimated_miles_buried_fiber?**

    Information provided for columns "estimated_miles_aerial_fiber" and "estimated_miles_buried_fiber" will be used in the required data submission to NTIA for the Final Proposal.

38. **Appendix D. estimated_miles_buried_fiber. What is the definition of buried (e.g., underground in a conduit, microtrenched, direct buried)?**

    The definition of buried would typically be considered being underground and in a conduit. Offerors may elect to differentiate between the different types of "burial" and notate the specific type in the "notes" column.

39. **Appendix D and Section 2.1.2. An Offeror desires to submit a proposal under a "Priority Broadband Project" and has existing non-FTTP technology (something other than code 50) which can meet the minimum speed requirement as well as the speeds listed in pricing requirement. Will this location still qualify for funding? How will these locations be treated in the bid process?**

    Offerors can provide evidence the locations have existing non-FTTP technology to meet the minimum speed requirements and latency requirement for exclusion consideration ("reason_no_project" = 5). After reviewing the evidence, UHBO would exclude the locations from the project area if it is determined the locations are already served. The excluded locations will not qualify for BEAD funding and will not be scored. UHBO may still treat the proposal as a "Priority Broadband Project". Otherwise, Offerors should provide a proposal to serve the locations as other unserved/underserved locations.

40. **Appendix D and Section 2.1.2. An Offeror now serves a location ID with fiber or is served with fiber by another provider based upon the latest FCC data. How will these locations be treated in the bid process?**

Offerors can provide evidence the locations meet the minimum speed requirements and latency requirement for exclusion consideration ("reason_no_project" = 5). After reviewing the evidence, UHBO would exclude the locations from scoring if it is determined the locations are already served. Otherwise, Offerors should provide a proposal to serve the locations as other unserved/underserved locations.

41. **Appendix D and Section 2.1.1.1. We identified locations which are under a CAF or RDOF area but are not the service provider. How will these locations be treated in the bid process?**

UHBO interprets the question as the Offeror is asking how to handle unserved and underserved locations within CAF or RDOF areas, but the Offeror is not the service provider responsible for deployment under CAF or RDOF. Unserved and underserved locations within CAF or RDOF areas are an enforceable commitment and therefore not BEAD eligible. Offerors can provide evidence the location is within an enforceable commitment and indicate as such with "reason_no_project" = 4. Otherwise, Offerors should provide a proposal to serve the locations as other unserved/underserved locations.

42. **Appendix D and Section 2.1.1.7. Which, if any, BABA requirements will apply should any locations not be removed from the RFP and which are deemed to be served by any Offeror (regardless of which Offeror wins)? Additionally, if an Offeror does not win but provides served_techonology is not null, is that Offeror required to comply with any BABA requirements? Subsequently, if an Offeror does win and provides served_technology is not null such that the specific cost for that location is $0, is that Offeror required to comply with any BABA requirements?**

Build America Buy America (BABA) requires that all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in covered infrastructure projects are produced in the United States. Therefore, all BABA requirements will apply to any unserved and underserved locations not removed from the RFP project area for broadband infrastructure deployment. BABA requirements would not apply to an Offeror who did not win the RFP to build broadband infrastructure using BEAD funds. See https://www.commerce.gov/oam/build-america-buy-america for more information on BABA, waivers, and frequently asked questions.

43. **Appendix D. Is deployment_cost equivalent to the Proposed BEAD Funding Amount – Line C and subgrantee_match equivalent to the Proposed Matching Amount – Line B used for scoring? Example: location 12345 has deployment_cost**

= 1 and subgrantee_match = 2. The total cost is 1+2 = 3 The Offeror will spend $2 of its own money and is requesting $1 of BEAD funds.

"deployment_cost" is equivalent to Pricing Response Line A and is the total cost to deploy to the Location ID. "subgrantee_match" is equivalent to Pricing Response Line B and is the proposed match the Offeror is providing. In the example given, for location 12345, deployment_cost is equal to $3 (Pricing Response Line A), subgrantee match would be equal to $2 (Pricing Response Line B), and requested bead funding amount would be equal to $1 ($3 - $2 = $1).

44. **Appendix D. There are overlapping structures with other BEAD RFPs for Community Anchor Institution locations. How will these locations be treated in the bid process for all Offerors?**

    All RFPs are independent of each other and should be given separate pricing responses for each Location ID. Therefore, proposals should treat deployment cost for CAI and un/underserved RFPs separately.

45. **Appendix D. There are locations listed on a university campus. How will these locations be treated in the bid process for all Offerors?**

    Offerors can provide evidence for exclusion if the locations are not considered a broadband serviceable location (reason_no_project = 2). Otherwise, Offerors should provide a proposal to serve the locations as other unserved/underserved locations.