This document is intended solely to assist recipients in better understanding the BEAD program and the requirements set forth in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for this program. This document does not and is not intended to supersede, modify, or otherwise alter applicable statutory or regulatory requirements, or the specific application requirements set forth in the NOFO. In all cases, statutory and regulatory mandates, and the requirements set forth in the NOFO, shall prevail over any inconsistencies contained in this document.
**KEY DEFINITIONS:**

1. **Reliable broadband service (RBS):** The term “Reliable Broadband Service” means broadband service that is accessible to a location via:
   - fiber-optic technology (*BDC technology code 50*)
   - cable modem/hybrid fiber-coaxial (HFC) technology (*technology code 40*)
   - digital subscriber line (DSL) technology (*technology code 10*)
   - terrestrial fixed wireless technology utilizing entirely licensed spectrum (*includes spectrum licensed by rule*) or using a hybrid of licensed and unlicensed spectrum (*technology codes 71 and 72*).

2. **Priority broadband project:** The term “Priority Broadband Project” means a project that will provision service via end-to-end fiber-optic facilities to each end-user premises.

3. **Qualifying broadband:** To a location that is not a CAI, qualifying broadband is Reliable Broadband Service with (i) a speed of not less than 100 Mbps for downloads; and (ii) a speed of not less than 20 Mbps for uploads; and (iii) latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds; “qualifying broadband” to a CAI is Reliable Broadband Service with a speed of not less than 1 Gbps for downloads and uploads alike and latency less than or equal to 100 milliseconds.

4. **Alternative technology:** Alternative technology is any technology that does not qualify as reliable broadband service; includes unlicensed fixed wireless (ULFW) and low-earth orbit satellites (LEOs). Alternative technologies must still meet the BEAD technical requirements.

5. **BEAD technical requirements:** For the purposes of BEAD, speed must be not less than 100 Mbps for downloads and 20 Mbps for uploads. 95% of latency measurements during testing windows must fall at or below 100 milliseconds round-trip time.

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**Figure 1 - Broadband Technology Prioritization**

- **RBS - Priority broadband project**
  - Fiber Optics

- **RBS - Qualifying Broadband**
  - HFC, DSL, and LFW

- **Alternative technologies**
  - ULFW and LEOs
WHEN CAN ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGIES BE USED?

Default Selection Process:

* Eligible Entity may still choose fiber or RBS

** Must meet the BEAD technical requirements

Competitive Selection Process:

* Must meet the BEAD technical requirements

Option to select ULFW or LEO**

** Must meet the BEAD technical requirements

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SELECTION CRITERIA FOR PRIORITY BROADBAND PROJECTS

1. See BEAD NOFO, Page 42- Footnote 63 - The Eligible Entity need not seek a waiver before rejecting a project whose costs, on average or for a given location, exceed the Eligible Entity’s Extremely High Cost Per Location Threshold.

2. Eligible options that comply with BEAD technical requirements including unlicensed fixed wireless and low-earth orbiting satellites.