

# RFA Training 1-20241115\_130432-Meeting Recording

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● **Sweet, Kristina (she/her)** started transcription



**Sweet, Kristina (she/her)** 0:09

We will get started now.

Welcome, everyone, to the broadband equity access and deployment program.

Request for Applications Workshop for the state of Vermont.

My name is Christina Sweet and I'm the director of regulatory compliance at the Vermont Community Broadband Board.

We're housed in the Vermont Department of Public Service and I'm joined today by Alexi Montserrat, who is our director of Broadband projects, and Lucy Rogers.

As an independent consultant working with the Vermont Community Broadband Board, and in particular, she has helped develop our request for applications over the past several months.

So I will go ahead and share my screen now.

And as we get started today, I will just remind everyone that we are recording this presentation.

So we do ask that you hold questions until the end of the presentation, after which we will stop the recording and open up the floor for questions. At that time. You can either leave a question in the chat or use the raise hand function in Microsoft Teams and.

We will call on you.

So as we proceed today, feel free to visit [ourwebsite@publicservice.vermont.gov/vcbb](mailto:ourwebsite@publicservice.vermont.gov/vcbb).

You'll find a link on that main page to the bead information page.

There you can access the request for applications and a host of other resources about our program.

But we'll provide just a quick overview to the broadband equity access and deployment or bead program to get started.

This program was part of the infrastructure investment in JOBS Act of 2021 and it provides 42.45 billion with AB dollars to expand high speed Internet access across all 50 states.

Washington, DC, and US territories.

The program is administered at the federal level by the National Telecommunications and Information

Administration or NTIA, which is in turn housed in the Department of Commerce and in Vermont?

Our little slice of that 42 plus billion dollar pie is 22.8 million, or 22228 point, \$9 million.

Sorry, I \$228.9 million in the Vermont Community Broadband Board.

Again, within the Department of Public Service will administer the bead program in Vermont.

And we do intend to put the vast majority of that 228.9 million out into broadband deployment project.

So today's workshop is again going to cover the Vermont broadband equity access and deployment program. What we're calling VTB.

And we are going to talk through the program structure objectives, requirements as well as the pre proposal and full proposal processes. And we do require that applicants to the Vermont be program or VTB program submit both pre proposals and full proposals.

And the vast majority of cases to be considered for funding, and we're really going to focus on.

Explaining some of the key concepts in the request for applications document itself, which again you can find on our website at [publicservice.vermont.gov](http://publicservice.vermont.gov).

And I actually encourage folks to bring up that RFA if you don't already have a copy of it and refer as we go through the presentation today to some of those abbreviations, acronyms and definitions that you can find on pages 2 through 6.

So these are some of the terms that we're going to be using today. And as we go, we'll try to use the complete definition or the complete term when possible.

But there are times that we will use an acronym or abbreviation such as Location or BSL for broadband service for location, NTIA, again for the National Telecommunications and Information Administrations, and RFA for request for applications.

Oh, finally. We'll talk a little bit about the overall process of applying to BT Bead.

So cooperatives, non profits, public private partnerships, private companies, utilities, local governments and consortia with a lead applicant are eligible to apply for funding to Vt Bead and the real purpose of this program is to connect unserved and

underserved locations throughout Vermont and reach universal broadband connectivity in a.

Given project area.

And when we get into the details of the program, Lucy will talk about the definition of unserved and underserved locations and what the project areas are.

And finally, we do expect applicants to submit both.

Pre proposals and full proposals and we'll talk a little bit about what that process will look like.

So we will have a pre proposal application period which will be open beginning in December.

We will discuss a timeline in more detail and that will be followed by a pre proposal review period.

There may be some changes to the project areas that.

Are created during that time as a result of project area modifications that applicants may request during the pre proposal period.

Finally.

Folks that have been selected to continue through the process will be invited to submit full proposals and following that period we will have a full proposal review period.

There may be some negotiation with prospective or selected sub recipients at that time and after the full proposal review period, we will be able to submit what we will call a final proposal to.

Ntia.

The agency at the federal level who is administering the program and that final proposal will really be a full package of the projects that we intend to fund here in Vermont.

Pass it off to Alexi Monserrat, our director of broadband projects, to talk a little bit about the timeline before we get into the technical details.

**MA** **Monserrat, Alexei** 6:54

Thanks. So this will probably be familiar to many of you. Hopefully if you have been keeping tabs on the website and the RFA process.

That you will also know that this has shifted a number of times as we've worked our way through the process, but as of now.

We are opening the pre proposal window on December 3rd. I expect no changes to

that.

We allowed a generous amount of time for that, partly because of the holidays, of course.

We will then do a review of any requested changes.

And and make sure that you know our goal there is of course that we know that we have statewide coverage.

And.

Once we've completed that, we'll post what the final project area is.

That you will be able to apply for will be.

We wanted to give folks a couple of weeks with that data, so we will open the full proposal window on March 3rd and leave that open for about 6 weeks.

At which point we will begin that process of evaluating and negotiating that is as far as we are posting right now. Publicly, there are of course a lot of unknowns as far as.

The complexity and the number of proposals that we might receive, so we we opted not to make guesses that that may later turn out to be unfounded.

So again, any questions about that we can take at the end? Thanks.



**Sweet, Kristina (she/her)** 8:41

And now we will have Lucy Rogers get into some of the technical details. Of the application process.



**Lucy Rogers** 8:50

Thank you, Christina. Good afternoon, everyone.

So before we dive into the details of the pre proposal and the final proposal, the full proposal process, I wanted to 1st just level set about.

Zeroing in on a few definitions specifically related to locations. So throughout this presentation throughout the RFA, and really throughout all of the Vermont bead program, when we say location.

We are using that word interchangeable interchangeably with broadband serviceable location, or BSL for short.

Which is federally defined as a business or residential location at which fixed broadband Internet access service is or can be installed.

And then for the Vermont bead program has been adjusted through the challenge process but but, but I just wanted to 0 in on the definition for the purpose of bead.

Is unserved as under 25 / 3 megabits per second, underserved as between 25 / 3 and

100 / 20.

And served as over 100 / 20.

So for those of you who may have participated in past.

Vcbb programs. This may be a bit different and just making sure that we're all on the same page about what is unserved, underserved, and served for the for the purpose of bead.

Under bead, the eligible locations are locations that are unserved or underserved.

There, we'll talk later in this workshop about there's a possibility.

Also including some served locations in a bead project, but they are they are locations that you can include and serve with bead funding that they are not considered eligible locations that are required to be served under bead.

K If you want to go to the next slide, OK.

So I'm going to start with talking about this pre proposal portion of the application process for bead.

And there's really three different components to the pre proposal portion.

And I thought it would be helpful to also kind of.

Explain the goal of each component and and that that also really shows why we have this pre proposal process in the first place.

So the components of the pre proposal process, the 1st is to notify vcbb of your intent to participate in Vt bead through the submission of a pre proposal. The goal of that is to ensure that Vcbb can make sure that each final project area.

Ultimately, receives at least one full proposal.

Ideally, each one would receive at least one full proposal for a priority broadband project or a project that uses end to end fiber to all locations.

So through this pre proposal process, the best case scenario is that each project area does receive at least one priority broadband project pre proposal. But if it does not, it gives the vcbb the opportunity to understand.

What project areas?

Might be at risk of not receiving a full proposal and encourage submissions from from providers in that area.

So the second component of the pre proposal process is to request modifications to initial project areas that will further the goal of universal service in Vermont.

And I'm going to go into a bit more detail on this, but this pre proposal stage is the stage at which.

Entities that intend to submit full proposals have an opportunity.

To ensure that the initial project areas or ensure that the project areas that we're using for bead set us up to most to in the most kind of reasonable and cost efficient way really put us on a track to making sure that every unserved and underserved location in.

Vermont.

Gets served with bead.

So that's that's the goal of that is to make sure that we're setting project areas that best serve our goal of reaching universal service. And then finally confirming the readiness to meet.

Gating criteria.

So there'll be a few high level questions in the pre proposal to make sure that.

That prospective sub recipients understand what they need to have in order to be qualified to participate.

Indeed, you can go ahead to the next slide, OK.

So I this web this link up at the top of this page is to the VC BB arc GIS Hub site.

I encourage if you have not been on this site yet, that everyone goes. This is the site where you can find the list of.

Unserved, underserved and served addresses as they relate to.

Vermont bead program.

There also are training videos on the site that share about how to some how to submit the the bead pre proposal.

And there's a lot more.

Very helpful information on the site. So this will be a useful link to make sure that you have accessible. OK, next slide please.

So I wanted to dive a little bit more into this initial project area modification request.

Component of the bead pre proposal. So on the map. On this slide you can see the initial project areas for the state.

They these should look quite familiar to most folks.

They follow the communications union districts in Vermont and then in the areas of Vermont where they are are not communication union districts.

They follow the town boundaries.

The grey area in the in the southern part of the state.

Is areas that those towns are ready are considered 100% served under B definitions, so there's no initial project areas there because there will not be Beed funding deployed in those towns. So.

These are.

This is our starting point.

This is our our map of initial project areas and when a prospective sub recipient, when you are submitting your pre proposal you have the opportunity to request modifications.

To these project areas that will be considered when we when vccb sets final project areas.

So you can suggest that certain locations should be removed from the project area you're applying for and placed in another project area.

One example of that would be if there's a road in Vermont. We have many roads that kind of dip in and out of certain towns.

So if there's a road that has poles along it that you know dips in to.

To one project area for a few houses.

And dips back into the other project area.

There might be a suggestion that it would make a lot more practical sense to move those addresses to the neighbouring project area.

That's a very that's an example that I expect will occur in a number of these instances.

You can also.

Ask for the creation of a new project area. If there's certain addresses that should stand alone as their own project area or.

Or or you could ask that project areas be comprised be combined. If there's a clear. Kind of reason why it furthers the goal of universal service.

So the other the other component here is that you can remove unserved or underserved locations that do not that are on the map have been marked as broadband serviceable locations on the map, but do not actually meet the FCC definition of broadband service for locations.

And so in that case, an example of this would be like an uninsulated.

Camp that has is clearly not.

Eligible for being.

A.

A.

A habitable dwelling. If that had accidentally gotten on this map, you could provide evidence of that, and vcvv will review that, and we'll consider removing it from the map and asking for a waiver from the NTIA at the end of the process if it should not be consid.

A part of the bid program.

Christina, you can go ahead.

OK.

So in addition to this kind of mapping component, there's also some questions you'll answer in the process of the preprocessal. And these questions provide basic information about your entity and they also indicate your preparedness for passing the bead grading criteria.

So the in depth questions that indicate your ability to pass the big grading criteria happen during the full proposal process further down the road.

But there are some kind of high level questions just to ensure that.

You understand what you will ultimately need to be prepared to demonstrate in the full proposal process and to to for on VCBB side, just to flag any pre proposals that might or any perspective sub recipients that might require a conversation about about getting criteria and.

Ability to pass them, OK.

So you also are going to indicate the type of proposal you intend to submit.

So priority broadband project as mentioned before.

Is end to end fiber to every location and then other last mile broadband deployment projects would be projects that still provide broadband service but do not meet the technology definition of priority broadband project. OK we can next slide please.

So this is the this is an example of the map that you'll see when you go to submit your pre proposal.

And this all again, that website that was shown earlier to the Vcbb Arcgis Hub site is where you're going to be going to look for kind of the demonstration video of how to submit these proposals.

But there will be an opportunity to select the the the points that you would like. The locations that you would like to request a modification for, and then for each set of locations you'll provide a justification for that set. As to why you believe they should be added.

To the initial project area, removed from the initial project area.

Form their own initial project area or why they don't constitute broadband serviceable locations.

Yep, thank you. So so.

Once all, once the pre proposal period has closed, there will be a review period and during this review period VCVV is going to set the final project areas and ultimately



this setting of the final project areas is the the ultimate decision lies in the hands.  
Cans of bcbb.

But the goal will be to support modifications that bring Vermont closer to its goal of achieving universal service, while also maximizing the deployment of fiber and prioritizing. Keeping the community forum CU DS intact where possible.

So those are kind of the the metrics that vcbb will be using when considering modifications to.

Initial project areas.

This process is complete.

VC VB will post the final project areas and those final project areas will be what are used for the full proposal submissions.

OK, so I want to just talk for a minute about the the relationship between entities that submit pre proposals and entities that submit full proposals. Again, the goal here is that each project area receives a full proposal, ideally a full proposal for a priority broadband project. So if.

There is a project area that does that did not receive a pre proposal for a priority broadband project.

Vcbb may actively solicit.

Entities to submit full proposals for priority broadband projects for that area, even if.

There were even if there were pre proposals for other technologies and if an entity submits a full proposal for an area that didn't, a full proposal for a priority broadband project for an area that did not.

Receive any priority broadband project pre proposals.

That entity will be eligible to be fully considered.

For that with with their full proposal, even though they did not submit a pre proposal.

Similarly, if there's a priority broad, if there's a project area that did not receive any pre proposals, then the then any fall proposals will be considered for that for that project area, regardless of the fact that they did not submit a pre proposal.

In all other instances, however, the full proposal will only be considered from entities that submitted that submitted a pre proposal.

So if you are considering submitting a full proposal for a project area, the right move is to submit a pre proposal for that project area because in the the goal is that.

We will have full we will have pre proposals and priority broadband pre proposals for all of the project areas and then if that goal is met then we will be considering full

proposals only from entities that submitted pre proposals.

And then so the other kind of the flip side of that is that it's really important that entities that do submit pre proposals follow through with submitting their full proposal.

In order to to make the pre proposal process as meaningful as possible and make the information gained from it meaningful so.

Entities that file a pre proposal will be required to file a full proposal in order to not disqualify them from receiving bid funding.

Adding on to the next slide.

So that is a bit about.

The pre proposal process and the review process I'm going to move into the full proposal process.

And at the end, of course, we'll be happy to answer questions about the pre proposal stage.

So moving into the full proposal process, the goals of the full proposal process are to provide BCB with the information needed and order to select projects that collectively.

Maximize fiber deployment in the state while also serving as many locations as possible.

Where we the the second goal is to meet the bead requirement to provide every unserved location in the state with one at least 100 / 20 megabits per second and then thirdly, to ensure that selected projects meet all of the bead gating criteria.

Next slide please.

So the full proposal has the first component of the full proposal is kind of project overview questions and then there are components that deal with the gating and the scoring criteria. But for the overview questions, you will identify which final project area you are submitting a full propos.

For and you'll submit one full proposal for each final project area. If you intend to submit for multiple ones.

So in each full proposal, you'll select the final project area and then you'll confirm that the full proposal will serve every unserved and underserved location in the final project area.

And that is a requirement for submitting a full proposal.

So that is not an optional question, it's just a confirmation to ensure that you meet the requirement, you must meet in order to submit that full proposal.

Then you'll answer whether or not you submitted a pre proposal.

And as explained previously.

In many instances.

A pre proposal will be required for your full proposal to be considered, but there are exceptions to that as well.

So this is not this is just information.

It's not necessarily always a requirement.

And then you will you will answer if you are submitting a priority broadband project or a A a different prior proposal that does not use all fiber technology and after that you'll describe your technologies so.

If you submitted a priority broadband project, your answer to the describing your technologies will be 100% end to end fiber and if you submitted a non priority broadband project you will describe which technology your technologies you're using and if you're using a mix, how does that?

Mix work and then you'll answer. If you're submitting as part of a consortium and if you are submitting as part of a consortium, then the.

The lead member of the consortium will be the one to submit the full proposal.

So at the end of these overview questions, you'll also have the option to provide a list of served locations that you're going to include in addition to the unserved and underserved locations. If you choose to include them.

And I I'm again have a little more information later on about that, but this is where you would provide that list.

Next I just zooming out for a second here to talk about terminology again.

Project versus final project area.

So final project area as we spoke about previously.

Would be that that location on a map, that geographical location on a map once.

The modifications to the initial project areas have taken place, so it would be more or less that map of initial project areas that I showed earlier with whatever modifications take place in order to facilitate a a map that.

That leads to universal service in the most efficient way.

A project is a set of locations within the final project area that you commit to providing broadband service to and and that will be funded with bead funding. So.

Within all of the locations of our final project area, the project consists of every unserved location within the final project area. Every underserved location within the final project area.

And then this optional subset of served locations within the final project area.

Overall, the number of served locations that you choose to include.

May not exceed 20% of the total number of locations in the project. So for example, if you have a final project area that is 50% served locations, 25% unserved and 25% underserved, you may not have a you may not include.

All of the locations within that geographical area as your project, because in your project would be 50% served locations and the number of served locations cannot exceed 20%.

So if you wanted to include served locations in a project for that final project area, you would need to include all of the unserved locations.

All the underserved locations and then submit a list of served locations that would be.

Some smaller subset of the total number of served locations that you wanted to.

Include as addresses that would be reached with the bead funding and and you need to make sure that that list is not 20 more.

It does not exceed 20% of the overall number of locations in your project.

This is an. This is a an option that's available and that may make sense to some sub recipients in some instances where they're passing served locations anyway.

And it makes sense to go ahead and search them with the bead money.

And and not to have to kind of separate them out of the project, but it's important to emphasize that there's no additional.

There's there's no additional advantage to including served locations other than if it just helps with the logistics of project deployment.

So there's when you're when you're scored on, you know how much money you're requesting versus how many locations that you're serving.

You're only scored on unserved and underserved locations.

There's no advantage to serving locations that are already served from a bead scoring perspective.

So that's the kind of the the initial questions that you'll be asked during the full proposal. Moving on to the next sections of the full proposal, you'll be asked to answer questions that demonstrate your ability to meet gating criteria and then answer questions that provide information.

For receiving a score from the scoring criteria.

So just to make sure we're clear about the difference between gating and scoring criteria, gating criteria, you do not get credit for, you do not get credit for meeting

them.

It's a it's more or less a pass fail question that if you do not meet the gating criteria, you become ineligible for bid. Absent a situation in which the Vcbb chooses to apply for an NTIA waiver.

But but and and and that waiver is granted. Absent that situation, you are ineligible for bead. If you make cannot satisfy the gating criteria.

Scoring criteria are evaluation criteria, so they though that's the place where you earn points based on how well you score in those criteria.

Next, so the gating criteria.

These are the the gating criteria that you will be asked to respond to managerial and operational capacity is.

Predominantly based around who is who is on your team and this can be either employees or you may choose to. If you're working with contractors or subcontractors, you could also highlight the skills of the contractors or subcontractors to kind of show that you're.

Prepared to excel in this in this area, financial capability is where you are going to be submitting your business plan and also either your letter of credit or or your alternative plan.

And I'll get into that in a minute.

Relevant laws, policies and requirements is the Buy America by build America by America Act and the environment national environmental requirements.

Ownership and other public funding. That is an information disclosure. Technical capability is going to look different depending on what your technology is, but demonstrating that you're you're the service you're providing is ultimately going to meet the need requirements for service low cost broadband option is the requirement to.

Provide.

A lower cost plan for eligible income qualifying households.

This plan is set at.

\$30.00 per month and can go up to as much as \$75 per month.

Insert in situations and then middle class affordability option is different than low cost broadband option.

There is a question about this in the RFA questions.

This is an option that is generally available to any customer in your area, not just to income eligible customers, and it's just demonstrating that you have.

A plan that is.

Lower speed, but certainly lower cost.

That's generally available to support with affordability for all households in your in your area.

Zooming in for a second on the letter of credit, there are two pathways.

One is to acquire, acquire a letter of credit model after VCBBS model letter credit which is in the appendix of the RFA, and then at the time of full proposal, what you would need is a letter of commitment from a bank or credit union.

That they are going to issue you a letter of credit and the actual letter would be issued if you.

Are selected as a bead sub recipient.

The second option is to rely on a performance bond.

And this option is option is also for their outline.

In the RFA and is in, is consistent with the NTI as B letter of credit credit waiver notice.

OK, the scoring criteria here.

I will just go through relatively quickly but, but to make sure that we're on the same page of what actually is scored in the minimal bid program outlay, what is scored is the.

Total bid funds requested relative to the number of unserved and underserved addresses. So, as I said before, including choosing to include served addresses in your in your project does not.

Give you a higher score in the minimal B program.

Outlay. The other note about minimal B program outlay is that there's also a. Component of this that deals with with values.

So it deals with service reliability and redundancy, recognizing that in certain instances there may be a slightly more costly project that that provides a higher quality.

Outcomes. So we want to take that into account.

Affordability is based on the cost of service for A1 Gigabit symmetrical plan for priority broadband projects.

And for 120 for non priority projects, fair Labor Standards is both.

Both past record as well as future plans.

Community input and engagement.

There is a list of seven.

Ways to fulfill this criteria and four of them must be met in order to receive the point. Local coordination. There are six ways to fulfill this criteria, and at least three of them must be met to receive the points.

Speed to deployment is just a couple of points.

It's whether you plan to have if you plan to have the whole network up and running prior to the four year bead deployment window, and then speed of network and other technical capabilities is.

Will only be scored for projects that are not priority broadband projects.

I wanted to zoom in for a second on the matching funds requirements, so bead requires a 25% minimum match for each project to be provided by each prospective sub recipient.

This is a challenging requirement for Vermont specifically based on VCB vs analysis of some of the high cost rural areas of the state.

And so we are asking that each prospective sub recipient carefully analyze the information, the impact on the map requirement.

The impact of the match requirement on their ability to provide service in their specific project area based on the demographics of the area that the geography and other relevant factors and if that if that analysis results in the conclusion that your project area cannot be well served without.

A waiver of the 25% matching requirement.

Then we want to encourage that you still submit a an application, a full proposal.

Because we recognize that there are some project areas that cannot be served with this requirement.

So please still submit a full proposal if that full proposal is selected. The process moving forward from there would be that VCBB in its final proposal to the NTIA, would request a waiver of the 25% match for that project area for that project.

And then the NTIA would would issue a final determination of whether that project can be funded.

So the Beadful proposal submission is going to happen through this amply fund grant management system.

So I'm just flagging that this is going to be a different submission location than the pre proposal which which you can find the pre proposal link.

It will be through the bead arc GIS website.



We are currently developing the AMPLIFUND application so that information will be ready to go when we well before we open the full proposal process and you can find that on our website at that time we'll also provide some additional training and videos on how to use amplifiers.

**LR** **Lucy Rogers** 39:19

Thank you, Christina.

OK, that is really the the the substance of what I wanted to share today.

I want to briefly briefly touch on the review process because.

I think it helps to just put all of this information into the context of what are we, where we ultimately going.

With the information that we're asking during the asking for during the pre proposal and full proposal periods, but I I want to say that there will be a further.

Workshop that dives in deeply onto the into the review process and the scoring process.

So just to flag that that's coming and that this is a very high level overview.

So but the the process of reviewing full proposals is that, first of all, priority broadband projects will get reviewed first for each project area.

So the first question that will be asked is did this project area?

Receive priority broadband projects and do they meet the gating criteria and this includes, you know, which one this includes making sure that they submitted a pre proposal if that is required in that project area.

And then the the eligible priority broadband projects are scored and and negotiations then take place with the prospective winner.

To ensure that the that the project the cost of the project is within what the VCBB can offer under Vermont, beat in order to still serve every location in the state.

So that so if if that whole process takes place and there are no priority broadband projects that can be funded with bead in an area, then the next step is to look at non priority broadband projects.

That provide reliable broadband service.

In a future workshop, we can dive in a lot deeper into reliable broadband service versus not reliable broadband service, which is an NTIA defined term.

And so the same process will be repeated with the non priority projects that provide reliable broadband service. And then if that if that process does not.

Create a winning proposal, then, then, then the review process moves on to non



priority projects that do not provide reliable broadband service.

And so just again, this will be covered in much more detail in the future, but just because it's relevant for the the context of where we're headed.

The extremely high cost for location threshold. There's really a couple things I want to highlight from this, but but the the overall way that this is set is that it is set after all of the full proposals are received.

It's not a number that exists.

At this moment in time, and it can be different from project area to project area, those are kind of the main those I guess the three things I would emphasize is it set after the full proposals are received, it can differ from project area to project area and.

Also, it's set iteratively, so it's. It's what this extremely high cost per location threshold is for each project area.

May go through a few iterations before the final bids are are.

Selected the and so the the process of setting this is to the first step in the process is to take the lowest cost priority broadband project bid for each project area and then an estimate of the cost to deploy fiber for project areas that did not receive a.

Priority broadband project bid.

And then add that all together, subtract any additional available funding. That may basically means.

Like matching funds that have been committed through the bid.

Through the full proposal bid process, that would be the main source of that. And then from those two numbers, establish an extremely high cost threshold with the principle of maximizing fiber deployment, while also ensuring that all unserved and preferably all underserved, but as many as possible are SER.

With that threshold.

Next slide please. So.

A couple considerations are that, as I said, this can be an iterative process.

It's not established until.

Every project area has a winning project because negotiations taking place in one project area could impact the extremely high costs per location threshold in another project area.

And again, this will be covered in greater detail, but I did want to just give the the quick overview of that.

So the review team will go through this selection process.

Select A winning proposal for each project area.

And then the VCB board is going to review and confirm that the process used by the review team is consistent with the process that we have set forward and all of our bid planning.

Materials and ultimately as mentioned previously, ultimately the Vcbb will then submit the final proposal to the NTIA to the federal government for their approval. And that and that is when we will officially have our official beads of recipients for the state of Vermont.

So with that.

I there's a this timeline slide is just put up here one more time because.

Alexi, did you want to say anything on this, or did you want to just? OK, just one more time to, to, to view it. Now that we've talked in more detail about each step of the process.

But then I think we can move on to a question and answer.

Thank you for. Thank you for listening to all that information and thanks for saving all your questions until now.

So I think if you want to raise your hand or.

Just unmute and jump in. We can just also just take a minute to digest.



**Sweet, Kristina (she/her)** 46:05

Thank you, Lucy for that very thorough overview.

I feel like I understand our own program better every time I hear you explain it.



**Lucy Rogers** 46:14

Thanks Christina.

Anyone have any questions?

● **Sweet, Kristina (she/her)** stopped transcription