Benefit of the Bargain Round
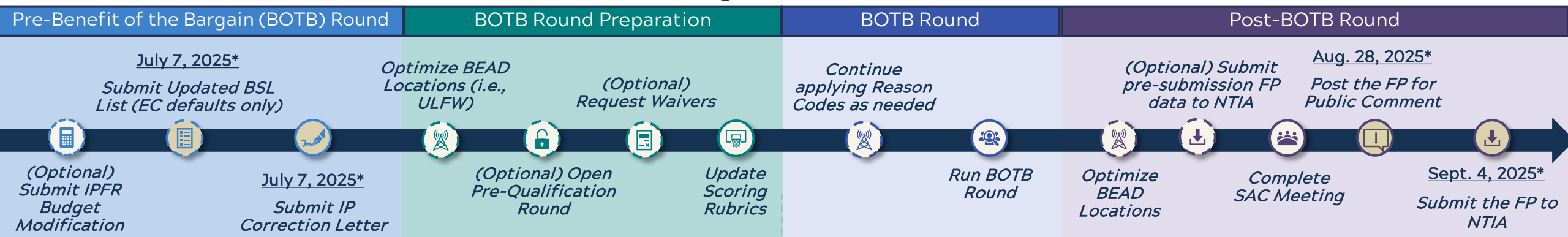
Timeline and Checklist for SBOs

July 2025

Benefit of the Bargain Timeline and Checklist

Pre-Benefit of the Bargain (BOTB) Round | **BOTB Round Preparation** | **BOTB Round** | **Post-BOTB Round**

July 7, 2025*
Submit Updated BSL List (EC defaults only)

Optimize BEAD Locations (i.e., ULFW)

(Optional) Request Waivers

Continue applying Reason Codes as needed

(Optional) Submit pre-submission FP data to NTIA

Aug. 28, 2025*
Post the FP for Public Comment

(Optional) Submit IPFR Budget Modification

July 7, 2025*
Submit IP Correction Letter

(Optional) Open Pre-Qualification Round

Update Scoring Rubrics

Run BOTB Round

Optimize BEAD Locations

Complete SAC Meeting

Sept. 4, 2025*
Submit the FP to NTIA

Pre-BOTB Round Checklist:

- ☐ *(If applicable)* Submit IPFR Budget Modification
- ☐ *(If applicable)* Submit updated BSL list by July 7 (*the* only required BSL list at this stage is locations newly eligible due to federal EC default)
- ☐ Submit IP Correction letter by July 7
- ☐ Rescind preliminary/provisional awards

BOTB Prep Checklist:

- ☐ Remove non-statutory burdens from SGS process
- ☐ Modify the SGS process to score all applicants under the same terms
- ☐ *(If applicable)* Reopen prequalification process (may choose to make part of application)
- ☐ Optimize BEAD Locations (i.e., use Reason Codes 1-6, ULFW Process)
- ☐ *(If applicable)* Request waivers (e.g., EE state laws conflicting with PN requirements)
- ☐ Receive approval of IP Correction letter
- ☐ Post the new eligible BSL list for a reasonable amount of time

BOTB Round Checklist:

- ☐ Review qualifications and score applications
- ☐ Select subgrantees
- ☐ Notify preliminarily selected subgrantees
- ☐ Complete direct negotiations
- ☐ Continue applying Reason Codes as needed
- ☐ **When all items are checked off, move to the Post-BOTB Round phase**

Post-BOTB Round Checklist:

- ☐ Optimize BEAD Locations (i.e., use Reason Code 7)
- ☐ *(Optional)* Submit pre-submission FP data to NTIA for review
- ☐ Complete SAC Meeting
- ☐ Post the FP for public comment no later than August 28
- ☐ Incorporate public comments into the FP, as applicable
- ☐ When all items above this are checked off, then you may submit your FP by Sept 4

When all **Pre-BOTB** and **BOTB Round Preparation** items have been checked off, you may open your BOTB round.

Key:
○ | EE Task
● | EE Deadline

DRAFT | PRE-DECISIONAL

NTIA

*All deadlines are set at 11:59 P.M. of the EE's time zone on a given date.