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FCC Mapping & Challenge Process

Why Does Mapping Matter for the BEAD Program?

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The FCC Maps will provide much of the information used to determine appropriate funding allocation per applicant in the BEAD Program. The maps help identify where funding needs to be distributed, along with providing an opportunity for feedback to improve the maps.

Knowing **where to distribute funds** is central to the process of delivering Internet for All

States (*not FCC maps*) **will determine final eligible project areas** based on additional information not in the FCC's map

The new FCC map will provide a comprehensive, standardized, highly granular **location-by-location picture of broadband availability**

Any **deficiencies will be cured** at the state level before awarding deployment grants

The FCC will conduct a "clean up" based on **feedback from stakeholders**

ISPs submitted broadband availability data for the initial Broadband Data Collection filing round by **September 1st, 2022**

NTIA

Components of FCC Broadband Data Collection Program

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The main components of the Broadband Data Collection Program are:

FCC Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric

The Fabric will serve as the common dataset of all locations (or structures) in the U.S. where fixed broadband internet access service can be installed.

The Fabric will serve as the underlying dataset of Broadband Serviceable Locations upon which the fixed availability data will be reported and overlaid to show on the map.

Accepting Provider Data

For the first time ever, the FCC will accept new, granular, location-by-location availability data from approximately 2,500 providers of fixed broadband service and standardized mobile broadband availability data from June 30 – September 1.

Fixed Availability and Mobility Maps

After the inaugural BDC filing window closes on September 1, the FCC will review data and publish the fixed and mobile availability maps later in the Fall.

Challenge Processes

Consumers, state/local/Tribal governmental entities, and other third parties may all submit challenges to (a) the Fabric location data, (b) the fixed availability data, and/or (c) mobile availability data.
- A bulk Fabric challenge process will open in early September for providers and state, local and Tribal governments.

Crowdsource Data

The BDC will also collect crowdsource data – which may be submitted at any time – that will help the FCC to verify the accuracy of provider data and other policy work.
- Crowdsourced data may include a broader range of information (such as test data reflecting actual speeds received) that may bear on broadband service in an area than is considered in a challenge.

FCC Challenge Process to Broadband Data Collection Maps

The challenge processes will give service providers, as well as state, local and Tribal governments and other entities (including individuals) two opportunities to dispute the accuracy of the data in the Broadband Data Collection.

Fabric Challenges

Fabric challenges dispute the accuracy of the location data included in the Fabric.

Availability Challenges – Mobile Services

Challengers may dispute the availability of mobile broadband service using on-the-ground speed test data.

Availability Challenges – Fixed Services

Challengers may dispute the availability of fixed broadband service at a particular location (or set of locations), including the network technology and maximum advertised download/upload speed reported by the fixed broadband service provider.

The FCC will receive challenge data (for both Fabric and availability challenges) in two ways:

Individual Challenges: The broadband maps will include functionality permitting challenges to an individual location. We expect that consumers will use this method to submit challenges for their own residences or small businesses.

Bulk Challenges: The FCC will receive bulk challenge data through the BDC filing interface (not the public map), and the data will be submitted in a .csv file or other format set forth in data specification for bulk Fabric challenges. We expect that broadband service providers and governmental entities that have information for multiple locations will use this bulk method to submit challenges.

Broadband Data Collection Overview Timeline

Below is an overview of key dates related to the FCC's Broadband Data Collection process; a more exhaustive list of dates is located on the next slide:

Component	Timeline	
FCC Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric	Production Fabric made available	June 23rd , 2022
	The first Bulk Fabric Challenge	September 1st – October 30th, 2022
BDC System Milestones	The initial BDC ISP filing window	June 30th – September 1st , 2022
	The second BDC ISP Filing Window	December 31st – March 1st , 2023
	FCC opens Fixed challenge process	**November 18, 2023**
	FCC opens Mobile challenge process	

Challenges to Provider Availability Data

Challenges to Provider Availability Data

On **November 18, 2022**, the FCC will open the availability challenge process, in which state, local and Tribal governments, third parties (such as other ISPs or public interest groups), and consumers may challenge the availability data. **Challenges should be submitted as soon as possible and no later than January 13, 2023** for the best chance of having corrections included in the version of the map that will be used to determine BEAD budget allocations, which NTIA expects to occur by **June 30, 2023**.

For broadband availability challenges, the provider must have claimed to have made service available at the location as of **June 30, 2022**. Requests for service or other availability data that predate June 30, 2022 will not support a challenge to the availability data submitted by providers.

The availability challenge process affords providers an opportunity to review and either concede or rebut a challenge.

- In the case of fixed availability challenges, providers are expected to communicate and work with the challengers directly to resolve the challenges, where possible.

- If a provider concedes the challenge or fails to rebut it, the challenged services will no longer show as available for that location or area on the FCC's maps.

Fixed Availability Challenges

Challengers may dispute the availability of fixed broadband service at a particular location (or set of locations), including the network technology and maximum advertised download and upload speed reported by the fixed broadband service provider.

Service Offering — The reported service is not offered, or the reported speed is not available for purchase;

Provider Service Denial — The provider denied a request for service or demanded connection charges that exceed its standard installation charge;

Installation Issues — The provider failed to schedule an installation within 10 business days of a request for service (or failed to perform the install within 10 business days of a request for service).

Fixed speed test results will not form the basis for an availability challenge.

Fixed Availability Challenges: Individual and Bulk

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Individual consumer challenges must include evidence and details of a request for service, including the:

- Date

- Method

- Content of the request

- Details of the response from the provider or

- Evidence showing no availability at the disputed location (e.g., screen shot, emails)

Bulk challengers must submit:

- Evidence and details about the dispute

- The challenger's methodology

- The basis for determinations underlying the challenge

- Communications with provider, if any, and

- Outcome of communications with provider

Fixed Availability Challenges: Fixed Speed Tests

Because the BDC fixed availability data pertains to availability, filers seeking to provide data about actual speeds not meeting the advertised speeds must submit such information either as a crowdsource data submission or, in the case of speed test data collected by individual consumers, as an informal complaint.

While fixed speed tests can – under the right circumstances – be used to determine whether subscribers are receiving the speeds they purchased from providers and may help indicate a quality-of-service issue in an area, the BDC will collect and depict the maximum speeds offered in an area for a particular fixed network technology.

Fixed speed tests are insufficient for availability challenges because:

- Many customers do not purchase the highest speed tier service available; and

- Fixed speed test results are commonly skewed by factors such as quality/condition of the subscriber's home network equipment (modem, WiFi router) and connected devices, and in-home propagation characteristics.

Challenges to the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric

Challenges to the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric

Fabric challenges dispute the accuracy of the location data included in the Fabric. In general, one or multiple of the following circumstances will form the basis of a challenge to the Fabric:

A location that meets the Commission's definition of a Broadband Serviceable Location is not included in the Fabric

A location's broadband serviceability is incorrectly identified

Information about a location is incorrect in the Fabric (e.g., the address or unit count for the location is incorrect)

The location's placement (i.e., geographic coordinates) is incorrect

The bulk Fabric challenge process for governmental entities and ISPs opened on September 1. Individual challenges to the location fabric – for consumers to submit challenges for their own residences or small businesses – will be accepted directly through the online map after it is made public on November 18.

For Help & More Information:

1   Visit www.fcc.gov/BroadbandData for all FCC orders, public notices, filer support, webinars, and other educational materials for the BDC as they become available.

2   States, localities, Tribes, providers and consumers can also submit requests for help on the BDC website.