



FCC Mapping & Challenge Process

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General

FCC Broadband Data Collection Overview



Context

America runs on high-speed Internet.
High-speed, high-quality broadband is essential for participation in modern American life.

The Solution

The first step to connecting everyone, everywhere is to develop accurate information about where broadband service is and is not available across the country.



The maps created through the FCC’s **Broadband Data Collection (BDC)** will provide a comprehensive, standardized, highly granular location-by-location map of broadband availability nationwide.

The Broadband DATA Act envisions the collection of broadband data to be an **ongoing, iterative process** that will depend on data submitted by providers, data revised by challenges from third parties and the public, and verifications and audits by the FCC.



Timing

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 is now Available	June 23 rd , 2022
	The first Bulk Fabric Challenge	September 1 st – October 30 th , 2022
BDC System Milestones	The initial BDC filing window is now open	June 30 th – September 1 st , 2022
	The second BDC Filing Window	December 31 st – March 1 st , 2023
	FCC opens Fixed challenge process	Fall 2022
	FCC opens Mobile challenge process	



Main Components of the BDC

Components of the Broadband Data Collection Program



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 that is considered in a challenge.



The Challenge Processes – What are They and What Data is Needed?

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.



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

After the filing window closes on September 1, the FCC will open a bulk Fabric challenge process through which governmental entities and other third parties may submit challenges to the information included in the initial production Fabric, helping to identify both missing and miscategorized locations.



How to Prepare for Bulk Challengers to the Fabric



Bulk challengers (such as state, local, and Tribal governmental entities and broadband ISPs) can take several steps to prepare for the Fabric challenge process. These steps include:



Reviewing the Public Notice releasing Fabric challenge data specifications and explaining the FCC's methodology for identifying structures as Broadband Serviceable Locations in the Fabric that will be posted to the [BDC website](#)



Executing a license agreement with CostQuest for access to the Fabric data



Developing a strategy for reviewing and validating the Fabric data for the relevant geographic area (including reviewing the Fabric [tutorial video](#) and related articles the FCC has released as part of its technical assistance to stakeholders)



Aligning their data with the requirements laid out in the Fabric bulk challenge data specification, released on the [FCC website](#)

The FCC will release additional information to provide guidance to bulk Fabric challengers on how to participate in this process. As they are available, resources will be posted on the [BDC website](#), where stakeholders can also submit requests for help. Once the Fabric challenge window opens, challengers should submit bulk Fabric challenge data as early as possible.



Challenges to Provider Availability Data

Challenges to Provider Availability Data



Once the first set of maps are released, the FCC will open the availability challenge process, in which state, local and Tribal governments, third parties (such as other internet service providers or public interest groups), and consumers may challenge the availability data submitted by providers.



For both fixed and mobile 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 June 30 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: 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.



Fixed Availability Challenges: Individual and Bulk



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



Mobile Availability Challenges



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



Speed test data may be submitted using the FCC's Speed Test app (or another third-party speed test app approved by the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology).



Bulk availability challengers may submit speed test data collected using their own hardware and software as long as such information meets the same data specifications as the FCC Speed Test app and other OET-approved apps.



FCC's Progress To-Date



Development of a robust, advanced, secure IT system and platform to collect and render public maps of broadband availability;



The FCC has worked with the vendor (CostQuest) to apply FCC definitions and rules to its location data and enabled the Fabric to be delivered in time for the June 30 window to open;



A rulemaking to establish the technical framework for creating and resolving mobile challenges and a method for the Commission to use crowdsource and other data to verify mobile availability;



Standing up a [BDC Help Center](#)



Releasing a preliminary version of the Fabric to assist BDC fixed service filers in preparing to use the production version of the Fabric once the initial filing window opens;



Release of detailed data specifications and instructional [video tutorials](#) and [help articles](#)



Development of IT systems to accept and process crowdsourcing and challenge data, including challenges to the availability data and to the Fabric.



Mapping and Grant Programs

As part of the Internet for All initiative, the **National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)** is **responsible for awarding the \$48 billion Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program**, which will grant each state \$100 million and allocate the remaining funding based on number of unserved households. The FCC is collecting data from Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and **creating a map to identify these unserved locations**. This map will then be used as an input for states to help them fund projects to achieve universal high-speed internet access.



New FCC Broadband Maps will be utilized



The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will publish **new broadband coverage maps** (Broadband DATA Maps) using data collected from ISPs



The Broadband DATA Maps will be used to **identify unserved locations and determine an Eligible Entity's total funding allocation**



Eligible Entities will develop a **challenge process** for stakeholders to challenge whether a location or CAI is served, unserved, or underserved

Why Does Mapping Matter for the BEAD Program?



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



Any **deficiencies will be cured** at the state level



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



ISPs must submit their availability data for the initial Broadband Data Collection filing round **no later than September 1st, 2022**



ISPs MUST Submit Their Data on Time



It is imperative that Internet Service Providers (ISPs) submit their data on time to the FCC, or multiple repercussions may result.



Ineligible for Subgrants

Companies who don't timely submit their Broadband Data Collection and FCC Form 477 data will be **ineligible for BEAD Program subgrants** in the states in which they operate.



Risk of Overbuilding

If a company's high-speed internet availability data are not accurately reflected in the FCC's map, that company runs the risk of being **overbuilt by BEAD recipients or future federal or state high-speed internet infrastructure funding programs.**



Enforcement

An ISP's failure to timely submit accurate and complete data to the FCC may also result in **FCC enforcement and/or penalties.**



For Help & More Information:

- 1** Visit the dedicated website 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.



[Availability Data](#)

How to Prepare Availability Data for the BDC



[Subscription Data](#)

How to Prepare Subscription Data for the BDC



[The Location Fabric](#)

What the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric is and how to access it



[BDC System](#)

How to use the BDC System

More Resources



[Video Resources](#)

How to use the BDC system.



[Availability Data Specification](#)

Data Specifications for Biannual Submission of Subscription, Availability, and Supporting Data.



[Form 477 Resources](#)

Broadband service providers must submit both the FCC's Form 477 and the Broadband Data Collection filings.



[BDC System User Guide](#)

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Broadband Data Collection (BDC) System User Guide.

