

**Internet for All Mapping Challenge**  
**—Congressional Event in a Box—**  
**National Telecommunication & Information Administration**  
**U.S. Department of Commerce**

---

**Purpose** – To educate your constituents about the importance of universal high-speed Internet service; encourage participation in the FCC’s process for challenging their DATA maps; and gather feedback and datapoints on your district’s broadband accessibility needs.

**Suggested Run of Show (one-hour event):**

- :00-:05 – MOC welcomes participants, speakers, gives opening remarks
- :05-:10 – FCC explains the mapping process, how the initial maps were created
- :10-:15 – NTIA explains how the maps fit into BEAD and other broadband programs
- :15-:25 – FCC projects the congressional district, talks through areas that are considered served, unserved, and underserved and what may lead to those conclusions (audience saves questions/comments for later), explains challenge process
- :25-:30 – State Broadband Office talks through their own data collection procedures, how they will be building out their BEAD plan, welcomes comments
- :30-:35 – MOC summarizes the information given so far, invites Q&A
- :35-:50 – Q&A and comments
- :50-:55 – MOC concludes, issues call to action to participate in challenge process

POST EVENT – MOC office sends out email summary with key links to FCC challenge process websites; regularly posts to social media encouraging participation in challenge process

**Suggested Locations:**

- Consider community infrastructure sites that particularly rely on high-speed Internet service: hospitals (telehealth), schools (remote learning), business association/Chambers of Commerce, workforce development offices
- Consider neighborhoods and multi-unit housing complexes known to be underserved and/or from which your office receives complaints of poor service

**Suggested Speakers:**

- Representative from the National Telecommunications & Information Administration (contact NTIA Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs Roddy Flynn, [rflynn@ntia.gov](mailto:rflynn@ntia.gov)) – To explain available high-speed internet grant programs and how important the FCC maps are to this process
- Representative from the Federal Communications Commission (contact FCC Director of Congressional Affairs, Brian Moulton, [brian.moulton@fcc.gov](mailto:brian.moulton@fcc.gov)) – To explain the FCC challenge process
- Representative from your state’s broadband office (contact your Governor’s office or the broadband office directly)– To explain your state’s approach to data collection and using its BEAD allocation



## BEAD Program Background

- The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law includes a historic \$65 billion investment to expand affordable and reliable high-speed Internet access in communities across the U.S. NTIA recently launched a series of new high-speed Internet grant programs funded by the law that will build high-speed Internet infrastructure across the country, create more low-cost high-speed Internet service options, and address the digital equity and inclusion needs in our communities.
- Additionally, the Federal Communications Commission's Affordable Connectivity Program provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward high-speed Internet service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Visit [getinternet.gov](https://www.getinternet.gov) for more information.
- The Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program, administered by NTIA, supports high-speed internet planning, infrastructure, and adoption.
  - Planning: Data collection, mapping, and feasibility studies to help develop internet expansion projects.
  - Infrastructure: Infrastructure for high-speed internet deployment.
  - Adoption: Activities that ensure users can access and meaningfully use high-speed internet. Includes subsidies, equipment, public access, digital literacy, skills training, workforce development, telehealth, and remote learning.
- The centerpiece of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's strategy to close the digital divide is the [Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment \(BEAD\) program](#). This \$42.45 billion grant program, administered by NTIA, will distribute enough funds to each state to finally bring high-speed internet to all Americans. The BEAD program supports high-speed Internet planning, infrastructure, and adoption.
  - Planning: Data collection, mapping, and feasibility studies to help develop internet expansion projects.
  - Infrastructure: Infrastructure for high-speed Internet deployment.
  - Adoption: Activities that ensure users can access and meaningfully use high-speed internet. Includes subsidies, equipment, public access, digital literacy, skills training, workforce development, telehealth, and remote learning.
- The BIL also funds three other programs NTIA administers, all of which are vital to closing the digital divide: the [Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program](#), [Digital Equity Act Programs](#), [Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program](#). Contact NTIA for more information about these programs.

## FCC DATA Maps Background

- NTIA is required by law to allocate BEAD funds according to a formula derived from the map data. NTIA is coordinating closely with the FCC to ensure that this data is accurate and reliable. On November 18, 2022, the FCC released an initial version of this map. This version is the first release of the map required by the Broadband DATA Act and will begin an ongoing, iterative process that will improve the data submitted by providers by incorporating challenges from individuals and other stakeholders.
- Broadband availability will be based on data submitted by providers during the initial Broadband Data Collection filing window and will reflect services available as of June 30, 2022.



- The FCC will also accept bulk challenges to the reported availability data from state and Tribal governments and other entities. As a result, this map will continually improve and refine the broadband availability data relied upon by the FCC, other government agencies, and the public. The pre-production draft map release is an important first step forward in building more accurate, more granular broadband maps, which are long overdue and mandated by Congress. Historically, the FCC's maps have been based on broadband availability data collected at just the census block level rather than the location level, which kept unserved locations hidden if they were in partially served census blocks.
- Challenges submitted by January 13, 2023 have the best chance to be adjudicated in time for the announcement of BEAD allocations on June 30, 2023.

### **Other Ideas for High-Speed Internet Events**

- Visit an anchor institution (school, hospital) with a representative from your state broadband office for a roundtable discussion/press conference on how high-speed internet would improve their ability to offer vital services.
- Attend a community event in a community that you know has insufficient access to high-speed internet and talk with residents and businesses about the ways the lack of access prevents people from accessing the digital society/economy. Be sure to invite a representative from your state broadband office.
- Do a driving tour of unserved/underserved areas of your district with a representative from your state broadband office, showing where high-speed internet service drops off and talking with residents whose lives have been impacted by lack of high-speed internet. Consider inviting a local reporter to embed on the tour.