

# FCC Map Fixed Availability Challenge Process



Broadband availability data is granular, location-by-location information submitted by Internet service providers. Accurate data will help determine states' BEAD Program funding allocations. As part of the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Broadband Data Collection (BDC), states and other entities can submit challenges to the FCC's Broadband Map.

## TOP 5 WAYS STATES CAN PREPARE

Review the [FCC BDC Bulk Fixed Challenge Data Specifications](#).

Engage all **relevant stakeholders** and collaborate on plans.

Develop a strategy for **reviewing and validating the availability data** for the relevant geographic area.

**Align your data with the requirements** laid out in the bulk challenge data specification.

Watch the **relevant webinars** and read all relevant **FAQs** available on the [FCC's BDC Help Center](#).

## WHAT ARE THE WAYS TO CHALLENGE?

### ***Bulk***

Challenges to availability data for multiple locations. These will be filed directly into the BDC system. Bulk availability challenges will begin after map's release on **November 18, 2022**.

### ***Individual***

Challenges to availability data for a single location. These will be accepted directly through the map interface after the map's release on **November 18, 2022**.

## WHAT STEPS DO I TAKE TO SUBMIT A CHALLENGE?

After the first map is 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.

### ***1. Identify the Reason for the Challenge***

The FCC identifies 9 codes for a bulk fixed availability challenge, such as a provider denying a service request, on page 8 of the [BDC Bulk Fixed Challenge Data Specifications](#).

### ***2. Gather All Materials***

#### **Bulk challengers must submit:**

- Evidence and details about the disagreement
  - The challenger's methodology
- The basis for determinations underlying the challenge
- Communications with provider, if any
- Outcome of communications with provider

#### **Individual consumer challengers must submit:**

- Date, method, content of the request
- Details of the response from the provider, if any
- Evidence showing no availability at the disputed location (e.g., screen shot, emails)

### ***3. Enter Information into the Broadband Data Collection (BDC) System***

All entities submitting bulk fixed availability challenges must first **enter the following information in the BDC system:**

- (1) **Knowledge of Infrastructure** (where network facilities and plant exist),
- (2) **Information Collected from Individual Consumers** regarding broadband services available, and not available, to them, and
- (3) **Other** (all other methodologies used).

**Questions?** Visit the [FCC's BDC Help Center](#).

**Note:** Challenges should be filed as **early as possible**. Those filed **prior to Jan. 13** have the best opportunity to be processed and included in the map used for BEAD allocations.

