



National  
Broadband  
Resource Hub

# A community's guide to successfully challenging the FCC's new broadband maps

*The National Broadband Resource Hub is a partnership with...*



THE  
**PEW**  
CHARITABLE TRUSTS



Next  
Century  
Cities



Center  
on Rural  
Innovation



## Introductions



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Mapping Coalition



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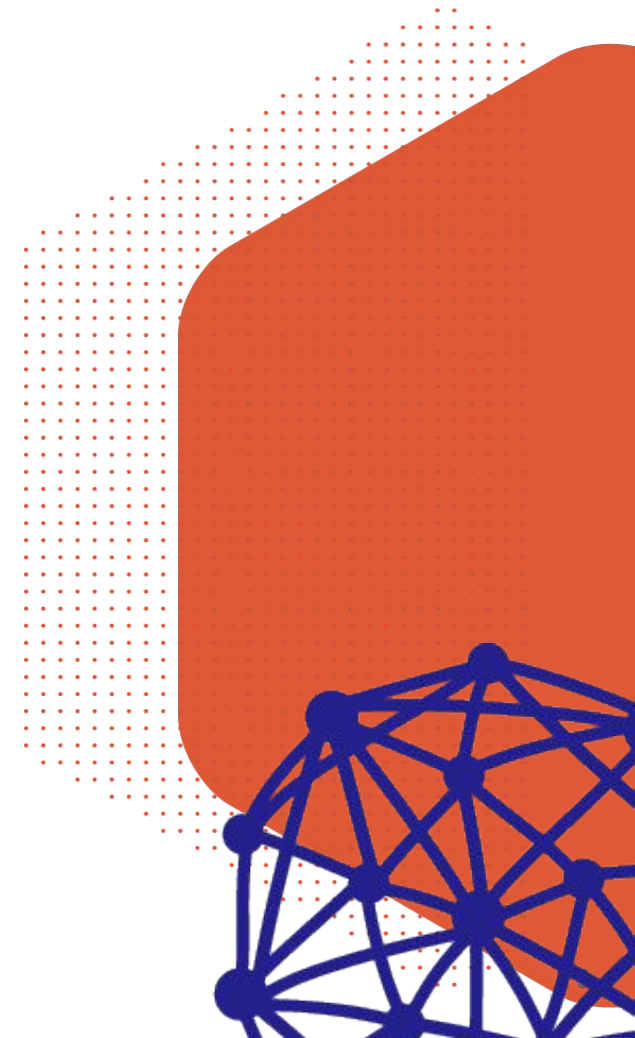
# Agenda

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1. The Hub
2. FCC mapping timeline
3. Why mapping matters
4. Navigating the FCC portal
5. How to act now
6. Q&A



**National  
Broadband  
Resource Hub**



## What is the National Broadband Resource Hub?

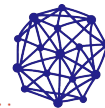


The Hub is an online platform for government leaders, leading nonprofits, and community members who are working to expand broadband in their communities.

The platform includes *three ways* for leaders to learn, explore, and connect.

1. **Resource Library** — a searchable database of vetted broadband program resources including plug and play contracts, case studies, how-to guides, and more.
2. **Community Conversations** — an online community forum where members can ask questions, share their experiences, and have access to educational materials and other relevant content.
3. **Help Desk** — a virtual interface featuring FAQs and the option to book an appointment to speak with broadband experts about the issues in your backyard!

## Why mapping matters



- **Funding**
  - State allocations from BEAD are made based on maps
  - Accuracy of fabric can maximize total community award
- **Accountability**
  - Accurate maps are key to ensuring that deployments meet obligations
- **Community goals**
  - Without accurate fabric, community goals can't be set, measured against, and achieved



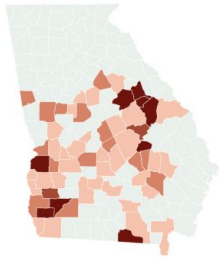
# Why mapping matters



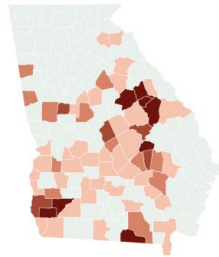
## Estimates of broadband access in Georgia vary across organizations

The state, the FCC and the company BroadbandNow produced sharply different figures for how many people lack access to fast internet (download speeds of at least 25 Mbps):

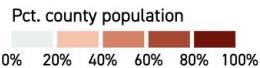
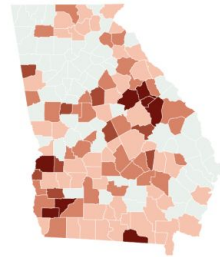
FCC



BroadbandNow



State of Georgia



Graphic by: John Hendel, Politico



## Broadband Mapping Timeline

These dates are estimates based on agency press releases and the BEAD program timeline. Actual dates may differ.



**9/12/2022**

Bulk Fabric challenge process opens for local and state governments.



**NOV. 2022**

Estimated release date for Fabric availability data.



**LATE 2022**

Challenge process opens to the public for individual challenges to the Fabric and availability data.



**EARLY 2023**

NTIA will allocate funding based on the FCC's Fabric



**MID- 2023**

States will release BEAD and Digital Equity plans and open subgrant programs.

## Navigating the FCC portal(s) - CORES



- **Register a User Account in the Commission Registration System (CORES)**
  - Input standard account information (email, password, contact information)
  - Verify Email (Check Spam)
- **Accessing a Federal Registration Number (FRN)**
  - Log in to CORES
  - Check for Existing FRN
    - Ask Internally
    - Search public FRN records
  - If FRN exists, work with listed contact to associate username with FRN
  - If no FRN exists, register new FRN





## Navigating the FCC portal(s) - CORES



- **Register a new FRN**
  - Be sure that the Entity Type matches your government type

ENTITY TYPE:

domestic Ent

- Federal Agency
- Foreign Entity
- Private Sector
- ✓ State or Local Agency
- Tribal Govt Agency

tion has an [Employer Identification Number](#) c

SUBTYPE:

- Public University
- Township
- ✓ County
- State or Local Commission
- State

enter



# Navigating the FCC portal(s) - BDC



- **Once FRN is in hand, go to [bdc.fcc.gov](https://bdc.fcc.gov)**
  - Log in using CORES login information
- **Select the FRN of the entity seeking access**


## Entity Selection

### Welcome to the Broadband Data Collection

- The table below lists the FCC Registration Numbers (FRNs) for entities associated with this user.
- Please select the name of the entity for which you want to submit / view data.

If you do not see a desired entity's FRN, please ensure that it is associated with your username: [How to associate an FRN to your username](#)

Hidden FRNs (0)

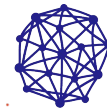
 FRN	↑↓ Entity Name	↑↓ Entity Type	↑↓ Filing Status	Action Required
<input type="checkbox"/> 0032894941	Marconi Society, Inc	Other		

Showing 1 of 1

Form 477 OMB Control Number 3060-0816



## Navigating the FCC portal(s) - BDC



- **Select the Entity Type (Must match FRN)**

Entity Type:

SELECT ENTITY TYPE ⓘ

Select...

Service Provider

Government

Other

Government Type

Government Entity Type

Tribal

Federal

State

Local

- **Indicate Type of Data Entity Plans to Submit**

I want to submit: ⓘ

Broadband Availability Data

Bulk Crowdsourced / Challenge Data

**Potential Snag Alert:**  
You likely don't want to check this box yet, unless you already have a approval from the jurisdictional executive.

- **Data Contact and Certifying Official Contact Info**



## Navigating the FCC + CostQuest portal(s)



- **Review Process**
  - FCC Staff will review
  - If approved, contact information will be forwarded to CostQuest
- **Working with CostQuest**
  - Email from CostQuest should be sent within 3-5 business days
    - **Potential Snag Alert:** This email will go to the Certifying Official, not the Data Contact Official. Make sure the Certifying Official is aware of the expected email and checks spam regularly
  - Create CostQuest Account



## Navigating the FCC + CostQuest portal(s)



- **Working with CostQuest (Cont.)**
  - Prepare authorized signatory to submit License Request form
    - If this is not the person navigating the process, authorized signatory must be added as a Licensee (1-2 days)
    - Note: This is a license with a private company which is required to access the Fabric data. Communicating why this is necessary is important.
  - Submit License Request to CostQuest
  - CostQuest processes request (1-2 days)
  - Sign Agreement - Once signed CostQuest will send a copy of completed agreement (1-3 days)
  - Receive link to access Fabric data





### Types of Challenges

1. **Missing Broadband Serviceable Location**
2. Incorrect Location Primary Address
3. Incorrect Location Unit Count
4. **Incorrect Location Building Type Code**
5. Location is Not Within Footprint of the Correct Building
6. Location is Not Broadband Serviceable
7. Add Supplemental Address



# Fabric Challenge Process



## Challenge Format

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
1	contact_name	contact_email	contact_phone	category_code	location_id	address_primary	city	state	zip_code	zip_cod	unit_count	building_type	non_bsl_code	bsl_lacks_address_flag	latitude	longitude
2	Jane Broadband	jane.broadband@mygovt.gov	888-225-5322	1		45 L ST NE	WASHINGTON	DC	20002			1 R		0	38.903693	-77.009682
3	Jane Broadband	jane.broadband@mygovt.gov	888-225-5322	1			WASHINGTON	DC				1 B		1	38.903693	-77.009682
4	Jane Broadband	jane.broadband@mygovt.gov	888-225-5322	2	1357135307	45 L ST NE	WASHINGTON	DC	20002					0		
5	Jane Broadband	jane.broadband@mygovt.gov	888-225-5322	2	1357135307		WASHINGTON	DC						1		
6	Jane Broadband	jane.broadband@mygovt.gov	888-225-5322	3	1357135307							3				
7	Jane Broadband	jane.broadband@mygovt.gov	888-225-5322	4	1357135307							X				
8	Jane Broadband	jane.broadband@mygovt.gov	888-225-5322	5	1357135307										38.903414	-77.006895
9	Jane Broadband	jane.broadband@mygovt.gov	888-225-5322	6	1357135307								L			
10	Jane Broadband	jane.broadband@mygovt.gov	888-225-5322	7	1357135307	45 L ST NE	WASHINGTON	DC	20002							
11																
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## Fabric Challenge Process + Working with the Data

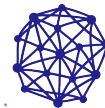


- **Working with the Data**
  - Fabric data is provided as a .csv
  - GIS process is recommended for working with data, especially related to location related challenges
- **Local Data and Knowledge**
  - Compare the Fabric to your local data and knowledge
- **Strategic Approach**
  - Start with the raw numbers
  - Is there are a significant difference between the number BSLs in the Fabric and the expected location count?
  - Narrow down where those differences are spatially
  - Investigate those areas and develop challenges related to missing BSLs or Building Type Codes
  - Focus on preparing the evidence needed for those locations





# Navigating the FCC portal(s) - Filing a Challenge



## Filing a Challenge

- Go to [bdc.fcc.gov](https://bdc.fcc.gov)
- Click on the FRN of the entity filing the challenge

Submissions Dashboard  
FRN: 0032894941 | Other | Marconi Society, Inc

[Create Submission](#)

**Biannual Filing Window**

DATA AS OF DATE	WINDOW OPEN	WINDOW STATUS
Jun 30, 2022	Jun 30, 2022	<b>CLOSED</b>
TODAY'S DATE	WINDOW CLOSE	FILING STATUS
Oct 21, 2022	Sep 1, 2022	

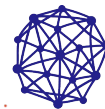
Crowdsourced/Challenge Submissions

Type

Bulk Fabric Challenge



# Navigating the FCC portal(s) - Filing a Challenge



## Filing a Challenge (Continue)

- Under “Crowdsourced/Challenge Submissions” click “Bulk Fabric Challenge”

Submissions Dashboard  
FRN: 0032894941 | Other | Marconi Society, Inc

[Create Submission](#)

**Biannual Filing Window**

DATA AS-OF DATE	WINDOW OPEN	WINDOW STATUS
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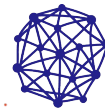
Crowdsourced/Challenge Submissions

Type

Bulk Fabric Challenge



# Navigating the FCC portal(s) - Filing a Challenge



## Filing a Challenge (Continue)

- Upload your data

**Bulk Fabric Challenge**  
FRN: 0032894941 | Other | Marconi Society, Inc

Bulk Challenge Data Upload Steps

**Upload Challenge File**

✓

Valid Data Provided

**Upload Evidence**

✓

Valid Data Provided

**Certify Data**

⚠

Data Not Certified

Bulk Challenge File

Ref. ID d1bebdde-3617-40c1-840a-b7b64efa8a5f

File Name	Date Uploaded	Total Records	Status	Delete
bulk_fabric_challenge_sample.csv	10/21/22, 8:27 AM	1	✓ Valid Data	

File Summary [Download Processed Data](#)

Challenge Type	Total Count
Missing Broadband Serviceable Location	1



# Navigating the FCC portal(s) - Filing a Challenge



## Filing a Challenge (Continue)

- Review on the Map

The screenshot shows the 'Review Map' interface within the FCC Broadband Data Collection System. The top navigation bar includes the FCC logo, the system name, and a user profile for 'Dustin Loup'. The breadcrumb trail indicates the current location: 'Submissions Dashboard / Bulk Fabric Challenge / Certify Data / Review Map'. On the left, a sidebar provides details for the 'Review Map' session, including the EBN (0032894941), submission type (Bulk Fabric Challenge), and record counts (Total: 1, Selected: 1). Under 'Challenge Type', the option 'Missing Broadband Serviceable Location' is selected. The main area is a dark map with a small blue dot indicating a location. The zoom level is 19.75, and the map is powered by Mapbox. A copyright notice for Mapbox is visible at the bottom right of the map area.



# Navigating the FCC portal(s) - Filing a Challenge



## Filing a Challenge (Continue)

- Certify!

### Certify Challenge Data

**CERTIFICATION OF CERTIFYING OFFICIAL**

I hereby certify, under penalty of perjury, that:

1. I have examined the information contained herein for every location in this challenge and, to the best of my actual knowledge, information, and belief, all statements of fact contained in it are true and correct.
2. I acknowledge that the information provided in this form may be shared with the provider(s) serving the location for the sole purpose of reviewing and resolving the challenge.

Automatically populate the fields below using the information from the Entity Information Page.

Name	Title	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Email	Phone Number	Ext. (optional)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

This certification must be signed by an authorized officer or signatory of the entity (e.g., corporate officer, managing partner, sole proprietor, or government official) who has reason to be aware of the truth and correctness of the information submitted herein.

The entry of my name above constitutes my electronic signature to this certification. Persons making willful false statements in this form can be punished by fine or imprisonment under 18 U.S.C. § 1001.



## State and local governments: What can you do NOW?



### Local Governments

- Access the FCC portal if you haven't already!
- Submit bulk location fabric challenges by the **end of October**
- **Contact** your state broadband office on plans to aggregate bulk challenges
- Prepare to mobilize community around public service-level challenges in alignment with state processes

### State Governments

- Empower local officials to verify state-level data and/or collect local submissions
- Create process for the public service-level challenge process coming in November



# Questions and discussion

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## Starting off with some questions from the audience

- 1) How will state broadband maps being created now (e.g., TN, TX, and others) factor into the FCC's mapping process?
- 2) Are consultants able to view the maps on behalf of a public sector client?
- 3) How can one prove a location, or lack of service, when the map says there is service?



# Thank you!

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Keep the conversation going and check for updates on the Community Conversations Page:

[www.broadbandhub.org](http://www.broadbandhub.org)



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