A community’s guide to successfully challenging the FCC’s new broadband maps
Introductions

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Agenda

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

Pct. county population

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

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
• Register a new FRN
  ○ Be sure that the Entity Type matches your government type
Navigating the FCC portal(s) - BDC

- Once FRN is in hand, go to bdc.fcc.gov
  - Log in using CORES login information
- Select the FRN of the entity seeking access
Navigating the FCC portal(s) - BDC

- **Select the Entity Type (Must match FRN)**
  - **Entity Type:**
  - **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
Fabric Challenge Process

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
### Challenge Format

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### Fabric Challenge Process
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 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
- Click on the FRN of the entity filing the challenge
Filing a Challenge (Continue)

- Under “Crowdsourced/Challenge Submissions” click “Bulk Fabric Challenge”
Navigating the FCC portal(s) - Filing a Challenge

Filing a Challenge (Continue)

- Upload your data
Filing a Challenge (Continue)

- Review on the Map
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
Email
Phone Number
Ext. (optional)

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

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!

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

www.broadbandhub.org