Are you looking for details about your state's challenge process? Details for each state's challenge process can be located in their BEAD Volume I proposal.

What is a pre-challenge modification? The state may modify the service availability designation of a location to reflect data not present in the FCC National Broadband Map prior to the BEAD state-challenge process.

Locations are missing from the state-challenge portal map - how can I add them? Missing locations can only be added via the FCC Challenge Process and cannot be added to a state’s list of eligible locations during the BEAD challenge process. If missing locations were added to the most recent NBM, the state can choose to update the list of locations before and after the challenge process.

What are all these “challenge processes” and what is the difference?
What are the different challenge processes?
Currently, there are two challenge processes operating - the first is the FCC National Broadband Map Challenge process, and the second type (for which there is one happening in every state) is the BEAD state-challenge process.

What are the different types of challenges?
The FCC NBM Challenge process was designed to improve the accuracy of the national broadband map and permit citizens to have an active role in verifying where Internet access is and is not available. Within the FCC process, there are two types of challenges. Location challenges involve any corrections that are related to: where a point is located within the map; address details; unit count; and adding missing locations.

The second type of challenge that is possible in the FCC map are availability challenges, which involve any corrections related to availability of Internet access at a given location in the map. These challenges can include situations in which a provider does not offer a particular technology at a location (e.g., fiber is not available at this location), or a provider could not provide service within 10 days, or the installation fee was non-standard. Within the BEAD state-challenge process, which is an entirely separate process occurring at the state level. Here, Internet availability, planned service, and infrastructure funded locations are challengeable. Location challenges are not part of the BEAD state-challenge process. So the universe of locations that a state begins with in the challenge process are the only locations for which challenges can be made.

Who can participate?
Within the FCC challenge process, anyone can participate by using the FCC NBM challenge forms to submit individual availability or location challenges. While anyone can submit a location challenge for any location, availability challenges can only be submitted by the location owner/renter, unless the challenger is submitting availability challenges in bulk that include a form of evidence, such as knowledge of infrastructure, which does not require evidence of denial of service from the individual.

Within the BEAD state-challenge process, the entities eligible to participate in the process include non-profits, Internet service providers, Tribal governments, and local governments. Individuals are not eligible to participate in this process unless an eligible entity has set up a platform that enables individual participation.

What do they achieve?
The FCC availability challenge process improves the accuracy of where Internet access could be available, the type of infrastructure present, and can help to ensure a location is eligible for infrastructure funding opportunities.

In situations where locations are missing or location details are incorrect, FCC location challenges improve the universe of locations in the US that could receive an Internet connection.

The BEAD state-challenge process is the opportunity for eligible entities [see above: Who can participate?] to modify the claimed service-level of BSLs within the state, which determines eligibility for BEAD funding.
Do You Need the Fabric?

Click on any of the links below to navigate this guide

- What is the Fabric?
- CQA’s Frequently Asked Q’s About the Fabric
  
  CQA = CostQuest Associates

- What data are included in the Fabric?
  
  Data dictionary for v.4 of CQA Fabric

- You Probably Don’t Need the Fabric
  
  Article about what the Fabric is and what you can do with it

- Which Fabric license do I need?

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Which Fabric License?

An NTIA-specific license agreement with CQA may be needed to participate in a state’s challenge process. Any questions about this license can be directed to ifasupport@costquest.com.

Some states are developing the challenge process in a way that does not necessitate use of the Fabric - reach out to your state’s broadband office to determine if the Fabric will be necessary.

Before you start the process, you will need to know the counties you wish to request and the sponsoring federal programs. Don’t start the process until you have this information.

The **NTIA Tier E License** is intended for (1) units of local government, (2) non-profits, or (3) other organizations that have signed an FCC Tier 4 license that would like to participate in a challenge process organized under a Federal Broadband Granting Agency’s (FBGA) broadband grant program(s). As the person requesting this license, you will be asked to provide evidence and certify that your organization meets the Tier E license requirements.

Although the Tier E license is available, CostQuest will need to coordinate the approval of Tier E licenses with individual State Broadband Offices and NTIA. The intent of this coordination is to ensure that the delivery of the Licensed Materials coincides with the state challenge process.

An NTIA Tier E license request portal is available at NTIA Tier E License Request (costquest.com).
A process overview document is available [here](#).

The **NTIA Tier D License** is intended for qualified or presumptively qualified, prospective direct recipients or indirect subrecipients, and awarded direct recipients or indirect subrecipients to participate in Federal Broadband Granting Agency’s (FBGA) broadband grant programs through either a challenge process, by applying for an award of available funds, or by reporting on an awarded grant/loan (including reporting related to the Broadband Funding Map authorized by IIJA § 60105). As the person requesting this license, you will be asked to provide evidence and certify that your organization meets the Tier D license requirements.

An NTIA Tier D license request portal is available at NTIA Tier D License Request (costquest.com).
A process overview document is available [here](#).
Definitions

BSL = Broadband Serviceable Location
A business or residential location in the United States at which in-home Internet service is, or can be, installed.

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment
Provides $42.45B to expand high-speed Internet access via planning, infrastructure deployment, and adoption programs across the US & territories

NBM = National Broadband Map

The Fabric is a national collection of broadband serviceable locations, essentially an address book of where in-home Internet service could be provided.

BSL service levels are based on maximum advertised speeds of Internet access.

Served BSLs receive at least 100/20 Mbps;
Underserved BSLs receive less than 100/20 Mbps and at least 25/3 Mbps;
Unserved BSLs receive 25/3 Mbps or less

BEAD Volume 1 (of the BEAD Initial Proposal)
Volume 1 outlines existing broadband funding, establishes unserved and underserved locations on the FCC’s National Broadband Map, defines BEAD-eligible Community Anchor Institutions, and describes how the state BEAD challenge process will run.

Where can I see this info for my community?

Volume 1 outlines existing broadband funding, establishes unserved and underserved locations on the FCC’s National Broadband Map, defines BEAD-eligible Community Anchor Institutions, and describes how the state BEAD challenge process will run.

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

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