



# Virginia BEAD Challenge Portal How-To Presentation

Office of Broadband



**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING  
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**  
*Partners for Better Communities*



# Office of Broadband

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# Agenda

- Office of Broadband  
BEAD & Volume 1 Approval Update  
Challenge Process Overview/Challenge Types
- Center for Geospatial Information Technology(CGIT)  
Challenge Portal Overview
- Ready.Net  
BEAD Speed Test Tool/Public Dashboard





# BEAD Process Overview

## ***5-Year Plan***

- Submitted, Not Yet Approved

## ***Initial Proposal Volume 1***

- Submitted, NTIA Feedback Incorporated

## ***Initial Proposal Volume 2***

- Submitted, Not Yet Approved, No Feedback Yet from NTIA

## ***Challenge Process***

- October 2023 – January 2024

## ***Application Process***

- Early 2024 – Summer 2024



# BEAD Challenge Process Timeline

- Start: 7 days after NTIA Approval of Volume 1 (TBA)
  - As required by NTIA's model transparency plan outlined in Volume 1
- Challenge Window: 30 Calendar Days
- Rebuttal Window: 30 Business Days
- DHCD Determination Window: 30 Calendar Days

# ❏ Key Differences from VATI Challenge Process

- BEAD Challenge Process occurs before the application window
- BEAD challenges can be submitted by Local Governments, Non-Profits, and Broadband Providers
- BEAD challenges can be submitted in 'either' direction
  - Location can be challenged as served
  - Location can be challenged as unserved/underserved
- BEAD Challenge Process used to identify Community Anchor Institutions
- BEAD Challenge Process has multiple, defined challenge types with required challenge and rebuttal evidence.



# Types of Challenges

- (A) Availability
- (S) Speed
- (P) Planned service
- (E) Enforceable Commitment
- (C) Location is a CAI
- (N) Not part of enforceable commitment
- (L) Latency
- (D) Data cap
- (T) Technology
- (B) Business service only
- (R) Location is not a CAI



# Types of Challenges

Code	Challenge Type	Description	Specific Examples	Permissible rebuttals
A	Availability	The broadband service identified is not offered at the location, including a unit of a multiple dwelling unit (MDU).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Screenshot of provider webpage.</li><li>• A service request was refused within the last 180 days (e.g., an email or letter from provider).</li><li>• Lack of suitable infrastructure (e.g., no fiber on pole).</li><li>• A letter or email dated within the last 365 days that a provider failed to schedule a service installation or offer an installation date within 10 business days of a request.<sup>11</sup></li><li>• A letter or email dated within the last 365 days indicating that a provider requested more than the standard installation fee to connect this location or that a Provider quoted an amount in excess of the provider's standard installation charge in order to connect service at the location.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provider shows that the location subscribes or has subscribed within the last 12 months, e.g., with a copy of a customer bill.</li><li>• If the evidence was a screenshot and believed to be in error, a screenshot that shows service availability.</li><li>• The provider submits evidence that service is now available as a standard installation, e.g., via a copy of an offer sent to the location.</li></ul>





# Types of Challenges

Code	Challenge Type	Description	Specific Examples	Permissible rebuttals
S	Speed	The actual speed of the service tier falls below the unserved or underserved thresholds.	Speed test by subscriber, showing the insufficient speed and meeting the requirements for speed tests	Provider has countervailing speed test evidence showing sufficient speed, e.g., from their own network management system. <sup>2</sup>



# Types of Challenges

Code	Challenge Type	Description	Specific Examples	Permissible rebuttals
P	Planned Service	The challenger has knowledge that broadband will be deployed at this location by June 30, 2024, without an enforceable commitment or a provider is building out broadband offering performance beyond the requirements of an enforceable commitment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Construction contracts or similar evidence of on-going deployment, along with evidence that all necessary permits have been applied for or obtained.</li><li>• Contracts or a similar binding agreement between the Eligible Entity and the provider committing that planned service will meet the BEAD definition and requirements of reliable and qualifying broadband even if not required by its funding source (<i>i.e.</i>, a separate federal grant program), including the expected date deployment will be completed, which must be on or before June 30, 2024.</li></ul>	Documentation showing that the provider is no longer able to meet the commitment (e.g., is no longer a going concern) or that the planned deployment does not meet the required technology or performance requirements.
E	Enforceable Commitment	The challenger has knowledge that broadband will be deployed at this location by the date established in the deployment obligation.	Enforceable commitment by service provider (e.g., authorization letter). In the case of Tribal Lands, the challenger must submit the requisite legally binding agreement between the relevant Tribal Government and the service provider for the location(s) at issue (see Section 6.2 above).	Documentation that the provider has defaulted on the commitment or is otherwise unable to meet the commitment (e.g., is no longer a going concern).



# Types of Challenges

Code	Challenge Type	Description	Specific Examples	Permissible rebuttals
C	Location is a CAI	The location should be classified as a CAI.	Evidence that the location falls within the definitions of CAIs set by the Eligible Entity. <sup>5</sup>	Evidence that the location does not fall within the definitions of CAIs set by the Eligible Entity or is no longer in operation.

# ☐ How to Use & Understand FCC Fabric

- On the Virginia Open Data Portal, there are 4 important files:
  - Unserved BEAD Eligible Locations (Fabric ID Numbers Only)
  - Underserved BEAD Eligible Locations (Fabric ID Numbers Only)
  - Unserved Communication Anchor Institutions (Fabric ID Numbers Only)
  - Community Anchor Institutions (Addresses without Fabric ID Numbers)

*~These 4 files above are pre-challenge only and only serve as a starting point to the challenge process.~*
- A Fabric license must be secured from CostQuest to download Fabric ID Numbers and associated addresses.
  - Tier D License for Broadband Providers
  - Tier E License for Local Governments and Non-Profits
- **FCC Fabric Version 2 must be used throughout the BEAD Challenge and Application Processes. Versions 1 or 3 have different/varying locations and Fabric IDs.**



# Center for Geospatial Information Technology



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# Center for Geospatial Information Technology

Virginia Broadband Challenge Portal Overview

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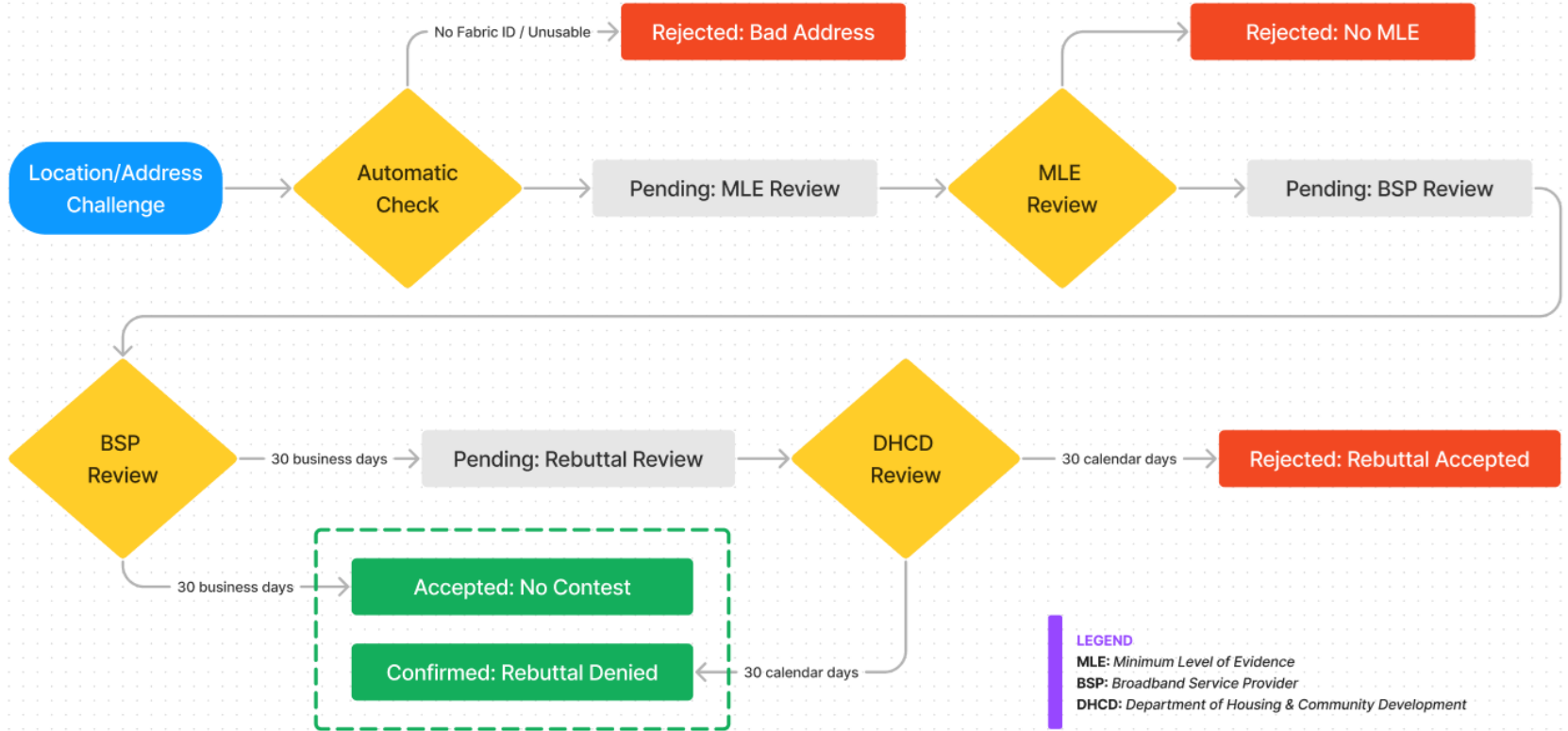




# Challenge Portal Timeline

- Sep 25, 2023: Publication of Eligible Locations ([Unserved](#) / [Underserved](#))
- Oct 2, 2023: [Challenge Portal](#) open for account creation
- Oct XX - Nov XX (30 calendar days TBD), 2023: Challenge Portal open for submissions
- [Initial BEAD Proposal](#) “Challenge Process Overview” contains further details
  - Portal open for 30 calendar days
  - Broadband Service Providers (BSPs) have 30 business days to rebut verified challenges
  - The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Office of Broadband have 30 calendar days to respond to BSP rebuttals

# Challenge Process Overview





# Eligible Entity Registration

- Challenges can only be filed by an “Eligible Entity” (EE) to include: units of local and tribal government, non-profit organizations, broadband service providers (BSP), and community anchor institutions
- A Community Anchor Institution is defined as: schools, libraries, medical and health care providers, public safety entities, community colleges and other institutions of higher education, and other community support organizations and agencies that provide outreach, access, equipment, and support services to facilitate greater use of broadband service by vulnerable populations, including low income, unemployed, and the aged.
- For non-BSP entities, the FEIN tax ID is suggested (not required) for faster account approval
- Accounts will be verified by DHCD after creation before an EE can submit a challenge. EE’s will be notified via email once their account has been verified.

# Submitting a Challenge (EE's)

- Step-by-step instructions located in several places on portal ([FAQ: Eligible Entity](#)).
- Single or Bulk (up to ~10K locations at a time) challenges can be submitted.
- FCC Location ID is preferred when identifying a location. Addresses can be used but may not resolve or pass initial check depending on how it is entered and if there is a Location ID associated with it.
- Per NTIA, “speed” type challenges must contain outputs from three speed tests taken on different days. Details on this type and others, with examples, can be found in the [Initial Proposal](#).
- After a challenge is submitted it will be verified by DHCD. After verification the BSP will be notified of the challenge and will have 30 calendar days to rebut it.
- The status of submitted challenges can be seen on the portal and a public summary of all challenges can be seen at [connectingvirginia.com](https://connectingvirginia.com).

## Submitting a Rebuttal (BSP's only)

- Step-by-step instructions located in several places on portal ([FAQ: Eligible Entity](#)).
- A “challenge” can consist of one or more locations (depending on the single or bulk entry).
- Bulk challenges that contain multiple providers are split up into new ones for each BSP identified in the bulk challenge. This means that all BSPs will be able to see what is attached to the initial bulk challenge submission even if some of the information does not pertain to them. However, only the responding BSP will be able to see what they upload in response, as the response is a subset of the initial challenge.
- Only after all locations within a challenge have been rebutted/accepted can the challenge be finalized by the BSP for DHCD review.
- Only locations that have a rebuttal will be reviewed by DHCD, locations where a BSP “accepts without dispute” will be finalized immediately.
- DHCD rebuttal review can take up to 30 business days.



# What To Do Now?

- Create an account on [Challenge Portal](#)
- Review step-by-step instructions on portal ([FAQ: Eligible Entity](#)).
- Start collecting speed tests via [connectingvirginia.com](http://connectingvirginia.com) and view challenge submissions to date
- Start collecting any additional submission documents and .csv's (bulk submissions) based on [Initial Proposal instructions](#) (starting on pg. 9) and [csv guidelines](#)
- Check for DHCD updates on when Challenge Portal opens for submissions (NTIA dependent)



# Ready.Net



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# Questions & Answers

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