

VPS Memo

Broadband Data Collection Preliminary Serviceable Location Fabric Available

PUBLIC NOTICE RELEASED APRIL 14, 2022.

Summary

VPS released a Memo on March 15, 2022, providing information on the new Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Broadband Data Collection (BDC) that will be due semi-annually September 1 and March 1. All facilities-based providers of fixed and mobile broadband internet access service must submit their first BDC filing by September 1, 2022. The filing window for the September 1, 2022 deadline will open on June 30, 2022.

On April 14, 2022, the FCC issued a [Public Notice](#) announcing the release of the Preliminary Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric (Fabric).

What is the Fabric?

The FCC awarded the contract for Fabric development to CostQuest. The Fabric is a “common dataset of all locations in the United States where fixed broadband internet access service can be installed, as determined by the Commission.” The preliminary version of the Fabric will include the following data for each broadband serviceable location (1) a Commission-issued unique Location ID, (2) the location’s latitude/longitude coordinates (that falls within the boundaries of the structure) and (3) address data.

Note that the Location IDs in the preliminary version of the Fabric will not be the same as the Location IDs in the production version of the Fabric. Therefore, the preliminary version of the Fabric should only be used to gain an understanding of the format of the data and the elements that are or will be included and to develop processes for conforming internal data with the Fabric.

Providers will need to run any processes developed using the preliminary data with the production data when it becomes available (no later than June 30). Once the production data is available, providers will be able to challenge any broadband serviceable location data that they believe is in error, and the FCC will provide details for the challenge process in a later Public Notice.

Who may access the Preliminary Fabric?

The initial Fabric data will be available for service providers that have previously filed FCC Form 477 (477) Fixed Broadband Deployment data and will only contain locations for the counties that overlap census blocks in which the filer has reported 477 Fixed Broadband Deployment data.

How to access the Preliminary Fabric?

CostQuest is in the process of notifying each 477 filer with data as of June 30, 2021 of the steps that need to take place to obtain access to the Fabric. The notice will be sent via email to the 477 certifying individuals email address. If there are multiple 477 certifying individuals, CostQuest will send a separate email to each. The email will come from support@costquest.zendesk.com so please ensure this is added as an approved sender and check your spam. All email notices should be complete by April 21, 2022, so if you are a 477 certifying individual and have not received an email from CostQuest by April 21, 2022, please email NBFsupport@costquest.com to request an invitation.

The email from CostQuest will provide a link for the service provider to (1) create user credentials, (2) submit a license request form, and (3) execute the licensing agreement. If the certifying Individual who received the email from CostQuest is not the authorized individual to complete the license request form, please email NBFsupport@costquest.com to request that a different individual and email address receive the invitation.

Once CostQuest has validated the information and the requestor has signed the agreement, a link to a secure website containing the service providers preliminary data file, will be emailed to the license requestor.

When should we start preparing?

The FCC urges providers of fixed broadband service to access the preliminary dataset as soon as possible and to start working through the process of aligning their internal served location data with the Fabric. By starting early, providers should be able to make any necessary corrections in advance of the September 1 deadline to ensure their filings are submitted timely. The FCC has made it clear that any requests for waivers or extensions of the filing deadline will face a high hurdle.

Additional Information

For additional information or guidance with the BDC availability data, preparing the mapping, and with the filing process, please contact these members of the Vantage Point Solutions BDC Filing team:

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