VPS Memo

# Broadband Map will be available Friday

THE PRE-PRODUCTION DRAFT OF THE NEW BROADBAND MAP WILL BE AVAILABLE ON NOVEMBER 18, 2022.

## Pre-Production Draft Broadband Map

On November 18th, the FCC will be making available the pre-production draft broadband map (Broadband Map) depicting Broadband Serviceable Location (BSL) availability as of June 30, 2022. The availability information will reflect the maximum advertised download and upload speeds available by technology. Internet service providers submitted the BSL availability information in the Broadband Data Collection (BDC) filing that was due September 1, 2022, with data as of June 30, 2022. Generally, providers were instructed to report BSLs where the provider had previously served the location or could serve the location within 10 business days upon request.

The FCC will release the Broadband Map on its website. The website will provide the ability to download the information on the "Data Downloads" page of the Broadband Map webpage.

## Challenges to the Broadband Map

The Broadband Map should be carefully reviewed to determine if there are any inaccuracies (ex. speed or technology) reported by a provider. If there are inaccuracies, filing a challenge to correct them is highly recommended. Challenges can be filed by service providers, consumers, states, and local and tribal entities. Information on the challenge types and how to submit the information is below.

NOTE: The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has advised the best time frame to submit challenges is Friday until January 13, 2023!

# What information should be challenged?

NTIA will utilize the most recent version of the Broadband Maps provided by the FCC as a guide for the BEAD allocations, which NTIA plans to announce by June 30, 2023. Information impacting the BEAD allocations, such as if a location is served with at least a 100 Mbps download speed and 20 Mbps upload speed, is critical and should be challenged if incorrect. Challenging these inaccuracies could prevent another entity from receiving federal funds to over-build an already served area.

**Key Review Item: Max available download and upload speeds by technology**

# Bulk Fixed Availability and Crowd Source Challenge

Providers completing a challenge for multiple fixed broadband locations can complete a Bulk Availability Fixed Challenge or Crowdsource Data Challenge depending on the methodology utilized to determine a challenge is warranted. Data collected and submitted for availability challenges can be submitted based on three methodologies:

A) Knowledge of Infrastructure
B) Information Collected from Individual Consumers
C) Other

All challenges must meet at least one of the FCC's specific reason codes. Listed below is a summary of the various reason codes:

- Installation – Failure to schedule or perform an installation within 10 days of the request
- Connection Charges – Demand for connection charges that exceed the standard installation charges
- Services – Denial of a service request, reported service type not offered or reported speed not offered
- Speed – Speed not available for purchase (eligible as a Crowdsource Data Challenge only)
- Signal not available (satellite/fixed wireless only)
- Provider demand for additional construction (satellite/fixed wireless only)

# Individual Fabric Location Challenges

Individual challenges to a location can be completed directly on the Broadband Map after it is published. These challenges can include:

A) Missing location
B) Serviceability is incorrectly identified
C) Incorrect address or unit count
D) Geographic coordinates

Consumers can utilize this method to submit information about their residences or small businesses.

## What happens after a challenge is submitted?

Providers will have 60 days to respond to a bulk availability fixed challenge. If a provider fails to respond to a challenge, the challenge will be accepted, and the location will be updated based on the challenge information submitted.

Bulk Crowd Source Data is not subject to a 60-day response window. The FCC will review the information and take appropriate actions based on the information provided.

## IMMEDIATE ACTION RECOMMENDED

Vantage Point recommends accessing the Broadband Map as soon as it is available to determine if availability challenges should be filed for your service territory.

## Here To Help

For additional information on the Broadband Map, or assistance with submitting a challenge, please contact the Vantage Point Solutions BDC Team at BDC@vantagepnt.com.