FCC Broadband Data Collections
Challenge Processes

High-speed, high-quality broadband is essential for participation in modern American life. The first step to connecting everyone, everywhere is to develop accurate information about where broadband service is and is not available across the country. The FCC's Broadband Data Collection (BDC) will provide highly granular maps of fixed broadband service availability on a location-by-location basis nationwide and standardized maps of mobile broadband service availability.

The BDC allows for providers, governments, Tribes, and consumers to continually improve and refine the accuracy of the broadband availability data through two challenge processes: one for the locations represented in the Fabric and another for the availability data submitted by service providers.

Fabric Challenges

The Fabric – a common dataset of all locations (or structures) in the U.S. where fixed broadband internet access service can be installed – makes up the points that will appear on the map. Each point represents a Broadband Serviceable Location.

What Can Be Challenged?
Fabric challenges dispute the accuracy of the location data included in the Fabric. These challenges can assert:

- A location that meets the Commission's definition of a Broadband Serviceable Location is missing in the Fabric.

- A location's broadband serviceability is incorrectly identified.

- Information about a location is incorrect in the Fabric (e.g., the address or unit count for the location is incorrect).

- The location's placement (i.e., geographic coordinates) is incorrect.

Fixed Availability Challenges

Availability Data - granular, location-by-location broadband availability data from approximately 2,500 providers of fixed broadband service and standardized mobile broadband availability data.

What Can Be Challenged?
Challengers may dispute the availability of fixed broadband service at a particular location or set of locations, including the network technology and maximum advertised download and upload speed reported by the provider.

- Is the reported service not offered or is the reported speed not available for purchase?

- Did the provider deny a request for service or demand connection charges that exceed its standard installation charge?

- Did the provider fail to schedule or perform an installation within 10 business days of a request?

Mobile Availability Challenges
Challengers may dispute the availability of mobile broadband service using on-the-ground speed test data. An updated version of the FCC's Speed Test app will collect mobile availability challenge data submitted by users.

Ways to Challenge

Individual – challenges to the availability data or Fabric information for a single location. These will be accepted directly through the map interface after the maps launch in November 2022.

Bulk – challenges to the availability data or Fabric information for multiple locations. These will be filed directly into the BDC system and must meet the format of the applicable data specification. Bulk Fabric challenges will begin in September 2022 and bulk availability challenges will begin after maps are released in November 2022.

FCC Broadband Data Collection:
fcc.gov/BroadbandData