

Oklahoma BEAD Grant Program Challenge Process

Questions and Responses

This FAQ is an evolving document. Information might be modified or eliminated in later iterations. The latest version should be used exclusively.

This FAQ was developed as a broad public resource and is intended to be strictly informational. The answers contained in this FAQ will not include complete information as the questions posed do not provide complete information. This document may be consulted as a reference but should not be relied on for a complete assessment. The OBO encourages potential applicants to consult their legal counsel in finding answers to these questions.

Updated: 12:00 pm CT, October 17, 2024

1. Will there be a registration phase?

Yes. The OBO will release more specific information including the documentation needed to confirm entity legitimacy in the coming weeks.

2. When will the BEAD Challenge Process begin?

The OBO will release details, including timeline, in the coming weeks. Challenge process participants will have ample time to prepare challenges, in addition to office hours hosted by the OBO to answer specific questions related to the BEAD Challenge Process.

3. What type of evidence is the OBO looking for regarding existing or planned service?

The OBO is flexible in the types of evidence that entities should provide during the challenge process. Examples include but are not limited to promotional materials, FCC reporting documents, planning designs, permits acquired, etc. Participants are welcome to submit any documentation that supports their challenge or rebuttal.

4. Where can an eligible entity find the location data being used for the challenge process?

Prior to opening the challenge window, the OBO will publish on its website the list of unserved, underserved and served locations within the state. This will become available in the coming weeks.

5. What version of the FCC map will be used for the BEAD Challenge Process?

Version 4.

6. Can an ISP use their submitted data for the upcoming Version 5 to challenge locations?

Yes, that information can be used for evidence. But the evidence needs to prove that the FCC has accepted and approved the submission.

7. Is 100/20 Mbps copper service considered served?

As noted in “1.4.2 Modifications to the National Broadband Map,” the OBO will treat locations that the National Broadband Map shows to have available qualifying broadband service (i.e., a location that is “served”) delivered via DSL as “underserved.” This modification will better reflect the locations eligible for BEAD funding because it will facilitate the phase-out of legacy copper facilities and ensure the delivery of “future-proof” broadband service. This designation cannot be challenged or rebutted by the provider.”

8. Will the BEAD Challenge Map be updated to reflect all ARPA SLFRF awards?

Please challenge any SLFRF locations that appear on the BEAD Challenge Map.

9. Are state government agencies eligible to participate in the challenge process?

Yes, please select the non-profit as the entity.

10. Is the list of Community Anchor Institutions from the Initial Proposal Volume I the list that is in the BEAD Challenge Map, or is there an updated list?

Under the section titled, “[BEAD Challenge Process Guide](#)” entities can find the list of CAIs and the latest list of unserved, underserved, and served locations.

11. If the BEAD Challenge Portal shows a location as “funded,” does an entity still need to submit a challenge to confirm it is an enforceable commitment?

Entities only need to submit challenges if they wish to change the status of a location.

12. What does an ISP need to do if the BEAD Challenge Map says locations within its service area are “Eligible” and “Unserved?”

If this location is currently being served or will be with an enforceable commitment or planned service, please submit one of the following challenges: availability, enforceable commitment, or planned service.

13. Will the BEAD Challenge Map be updated to reflect the tentatively awarded CPF locations?

Unfortunately, since the BEAD Challenge Map was already published, the CPF locations will not be included.

14. How are the list of locations broken down on the BEAD webpage?

They have been updated as of Oct. 3 and are deduplicated among unserved/underserved and funded locations.

15. What time does the challenge process close on Wednesday 10/23?

The challenge submission period will close at 11:59pm on 10/23.

16. We will be challenging our CPF wins as an enforceable commitment, as requested by the FAQ. This challenge type requires us to upload a legally binding agreement with the relevant Tribal Government. Does the OBO expect providers to have completed an agreement with a Tribal Government at this early-stage post-award?

If you have a legally binding agreement with the associated Tribal Government, please submit this to the portal.

17. As evidence for an existing service challenge, can an ISP provide EITHER screenshots from their customer-facing buy flow that show served speeds available for purchase OR its FCC filing from June 2024?

Please submit as much evidence as possible. In this case, it would be recommended to submit both screenshots of the service offerings as well as the FCC filing.

18. We are constantly making updates to our network for our customers and sometimes our filing doesn't reflect the most current speeds available/technology upgrades. (Our filing would still show minimum served 100/20 speeds). Would that be a problem for this BEAD Challenge process?

If speeds of 100/20Mbps are being shown on the FCC map, this would be considered served for the purposes of the BEAD program.

19. Can tribes make a challenge through their partner ISPs?

ISPs may submit a challenge in partnership with a tribal entity.

20. Some of the CAIs lack Location IDs. How do we report/contest these CAIs?

CAIs are not considered BSLs in the same way that a home or business would be. As such many do not have an associated location ID as they are not considered a Broadband Serviceable Location.

21. How long will it take NTIA to approve Oklahoma awards?

There is no way of knowing how long it will take NTIA to approve each states proposed/ tentative awards.

22. The BEAD challenge process guide says "Planned Service or Existing Service' will require an agreement between the provider and the Office." What type of agreement is required to file the challenges? Is this something that is required prior to the close of the challenge process, or will an agreement only be required if the challenge is accepted?

The Office will need contractual documentation authorizing the build on the locations in question at the time of the submission of the challenge. To meet the burden of proof, providers must submit to the office the obligation in which they are operating.