



Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD)

BEAD Challenge Process

Overview

The [Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment \(BEAD\) program](#) aims to help everyone in America get affordable, reliable high-speed internet by funding infrastructure deployment programs and adoption programs. In June 2023, Pennsylvania received \$1.16 billion in BEAD funding to assist in the expansion of high-speed broadband infrastructure across the state.

As a recipient of BEAD funds, the [Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority \(PBDA\)](#) is required to conduct a [BEAD Challenge Process](#). This will validate and finalize the Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) and Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) eligible to be served by BEAD funded networks. Any changes made to BSL data during this challenge process will be based on evidence submitted by qualified participants.



Challenge Process Overview

The full challenge process is scheduled to take 90 days. The challenge period was open for 30 days from April 24 to May 23, 2024. After that is the rebuttal period, with a final challenge adjudication period ending with final determinations for the BSL data.

- A. Challenge Submissions:** There was a four-step process for submitting a challenge that required challengers to:
1. Read the step-by-step [Pennsylvania BEAD Challenge Process Resource Guide](#) on how to use the BEAD Challenge Portal.
 2. Register on the [BEAD Challenge Portal](#).
 3. Gather evidence based on the challenge type.
 4. Submit the challenge on the [BEAD Challenge Portal](#). Await a response.
- B. Rebuttal Process:** Organizations that received challenges have an opportunity to issue a rebuttal if they believe the challenge is wrong.
1. Register on the [BEAD Challenge Portal](#).
 2. Review any challenges your organization has received through the [BEAD Challenge Portal](#).
 3. Gather evidence to rebut a challenge received by your organization. Evidence must be specific and compelling to refute the challenge(s).
 4. Submit the rebuttal on the [BEAD Challenge Portal](#) and wait for the final decision from PBDA.
- C. Final Adjudication:** After the challenges and rebuttals are complete, the PBDA will begin to make final determinations on BSL data. These final determinations will ultimately be used to update the National Broadband Map and will be used as the basis for making investments using BEAD funds.

Detailed information about the [BEAD Challenge Process](#) is available on the [PBDA website](#).

Who Can Challenge

- Local government
- Nonprofit organizations
- Internet Service Providers (ISPs)

Benefits

- Identify Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) and Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) that are eligible for BEAD funding.
- Make sure [Pennsylvania's broadband map](#) is correct to help inform decisions about where to invest to increase affordable, reliable high-speed internet.

Contact

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