

Washington's Internet for All

Washington State Broadband Office
(WSBO)

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Washington State
Department of
Commerce

v1.5

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We strengthen communities



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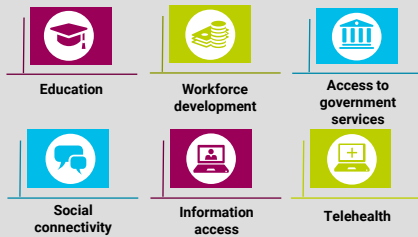
Internet for All Goals

The **“digital divide”** refers to the gap between those who have access to high-speed Internet and its benefits, and those who have limited or no access, driven by three key barriers.



Federal funding that states have received will help close the digital divide focusing on “unserved” (<25/3 Mbps) and “underserved” (<100/20 Mbps)* locations.

Benefits of high-speed Internet can include:



Washington’s Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD) Overview

- **\$1.23 Billion Funding Allocation from NTIA**
 - WA stepped up to the plate! State Broadband Office and other efforts (QR code, social media, press releases, crowdsourcing) added 71,000 unserved locations to FCC map through Jan 13th on a base of 167,000; 42% increase is top 10 in the nation
 - Fabric location challenges added 20,000 locations

Washington's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD) Activities

- **Initial Proposal Volume 1 – State Challenge Process**

- *NTIA-required State Challenge process*
- *State challenge process is required to enhance the accuracy of served and unserved locations to improve map*
- *State modifications to NTIA model process*
- *Speed tests*
- *Tribal consent*
- *Expansion of Community Anchor Institutions (CAI): to include Youth Centers, Job Training Centers, and Senior Centers. Complete list is available in Draft Volume I.*
- *The challenge process needs to be completed before the Fall 2024 applications*
- *[Draft Volume 1](#) was submitted to NTIA at the end of December 2023.*

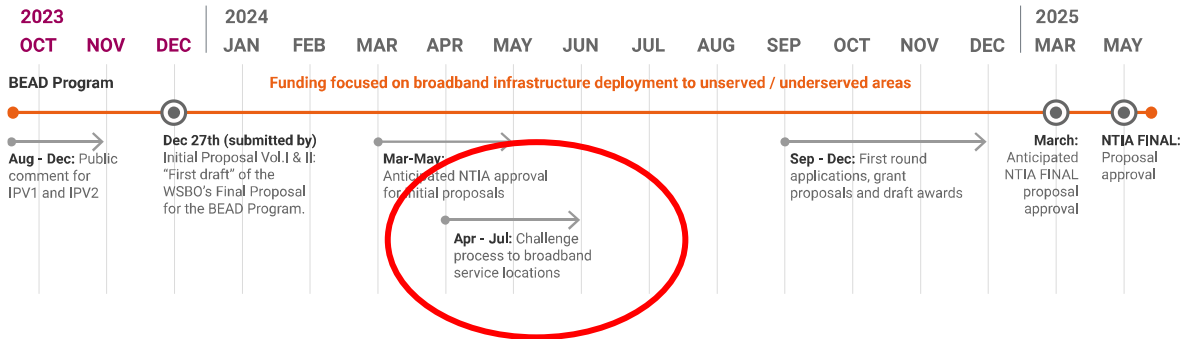
Washington's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD) Activities

- **Initial Proposal Volume 2**

- *Project area definition*
- *Affordability (beyond ACP)*
- *Application scoring criteria*
- *Fair labor practices*
- *Workforce development*
- *Cyber security*
- *Draft Volume 2 published Nov. 1 with a 30-day comment period, ended Nov 30.*
- *[Draft Volume 1](#) and [Volume 2](#) both approved by NTIA*
- *WSBO expects the application process to open in the Fall of 2024.*

State challenge process highlighted

Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program



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State Challenge Process Overview

- **Challenge portal opened in April**
- *Challenge Process Timeline*
- *Step 1: Challenge process – April 15 to May 14, 2024*
- *Step 2: Rebuttal phase – April 15 to June 23, 2024*
- *Step 3: Final determination – Aug. 3, 2024*
- **Who was eligible to challenge?**
 - *Local governments*
 - *Non-profit organizations*
 - *Tribal governments*
 - *Internet service providers*

**dates subject to change*

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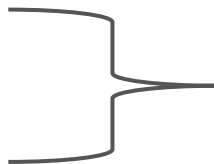
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State Challenge Process Overview

- **What types of challenges were permitted?**

- *Service availability*
- *Speed*
- *Latency*
- *Data cap*
- *Technology*
- *Business service only*
- *Enforceable commitment*
- *Planned service*
- *Not part of the enforceable commitment*
- *Location is a community anchor institution (CAI)*
- *Location is not a CAI*



Initiated by end-user

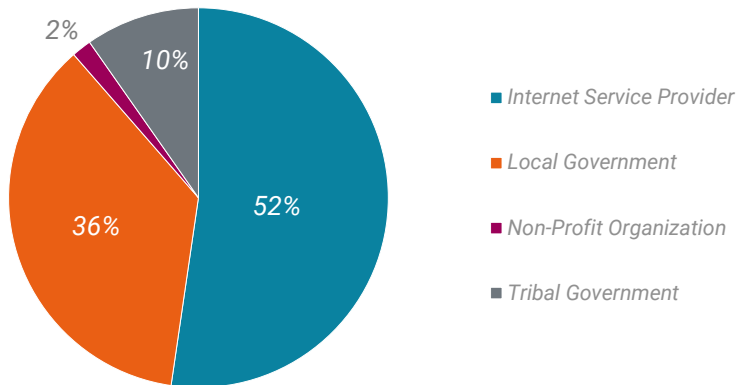
State Challenge Process Overview

- **How many participated in the Challenge Process?**

- **As of June 11**
 - **Challenges submitted 73,320**
 - **Awaiting rebuttal 51,195**
 - **Completed challenges 22,120**

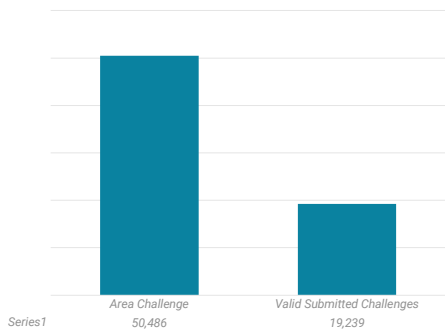
Challenge Period Results

Valid Submitted Challenges by Challenging Organization Type

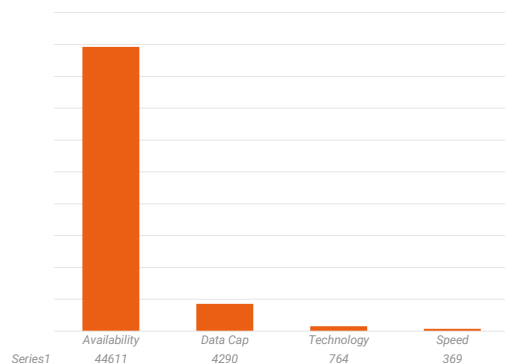


Challenge Period Results

Total Valid Submitted and Generated Area Challenges

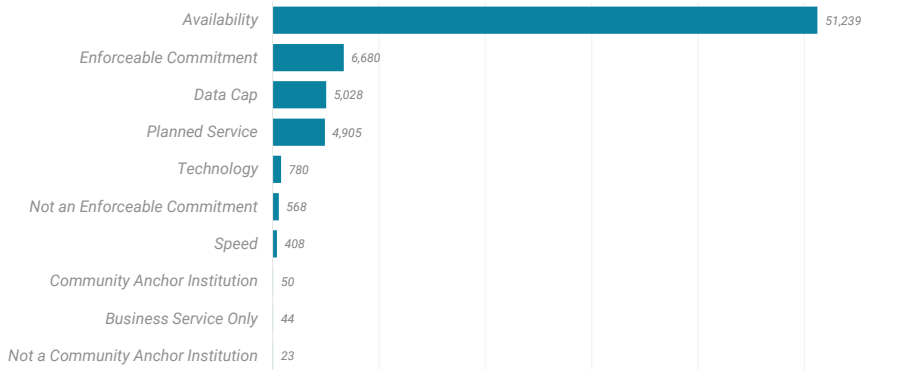


Generated Area Challenges by Type



Challenge Period Results

Valid Submitted and Area Challenges By Challenge Type

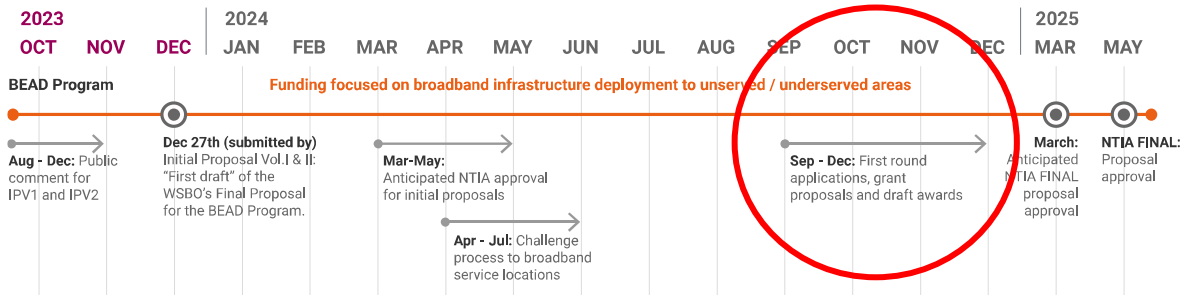


State Challenge Process Overview

- **What will be the outcome of the BEAD Challenge Process?**
 - The BEAD challenge process will determine the locations and community anchor institutions that are eligible for BEAD funding.
 - The purpose of the BEAD Challenge Process is to allow local government, nonprofits, and service providers to supply their input on whether a location lacks high-speed internet access and is eligible for BEAD funding.
 - Our maps of served, unserved and underserved locations will be more accurate following the challenge process.

Subgrantee Selection Process Fall 2024

Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program



Subgrantee Selection Process - Do not wait!!!

- **We expect application period to begin in Fall 2024**
- **Being prepared to apply for funds takes time and a great deal of effort**
- **Consider establishing partnerships today: tribes, associations, ISPs, PUDs, ports, schools, economic development staff, healthcare, etc**
- **Understand relationships with pole owners – early and frequent communication helps**
- **Start talks with permitting organizations to discuss timelines, costs and potential areas of concern**

Subgrantee Selection Process Preview

- **Looking ahead - How can communities prepare to apply for BEAD funding?**
 - *Engineer certified design to be submitted with application*
 - *Network design*
 - *Diagram*
 - *Project costs*
 - *Build-out timeline*
 - *Milestones*
 - *Capital investment schedule*

Subgrantee Selection Process Preview

- **Looking ahead - How can communities prepare to apply for BEAD funding?**
 - *Pro forma*
 - *Business plans and analysis*
 - *Cash flow and balance sheet projections covering three years of operating costs*
 - *Cash flow projections post project completion*

Subgrantee Selection Process Preview

- **Looking ahead - How can communities prepare to apply for BEAD funding?**
 - **Letter of Credit or Performance Bond**
 - *Letter of Credit*
 - *A letter from a bank or allowable credit union committing to issue an irrevocable standby letter of credit in the value of no less than 25% of the award amount*
 - *Provide an opinion letter from legal counsel stating that in a bankruptcy proceeding the court would not treat the letter of credit as property*
 - *Some groups are currently advocating to have NTIA allow the state match to meet this requirement.*
 - *Performance Bond*
 - *A letter from a company holding a certificate of authority as an acceptable surety on federal bonds*
 - *Must be no less than 100% the award amount*
 - *Either may be replaced with a new, reduced letter upon completion of project milestones*

Subgrantee Selection Process Preview

- **Looking ahead - How can communities prepare to apply for BEAD funding?**
 - **Certifications**
 - *Available funds for all project costs that exceed the amount of the grant*
 - *Adequate financial resources to cover eligible costs until reimbursement can be made*
 - **Disclosure of other public funding for self and affiliates**
 - *Applications submitted or planned*
 - *Awards received*

Subgrantee Selection Process Preview

- **Looking ahead - How can communities prepare to apply for BEAD funding?**
 - **Audited financial statements**
 - *Financial statements for the previous year audited by an independent certified public accountant*
 - *Unaudited financial statements from the prior fiscal year with a certification that audited statements will be received prior to award*
 - *No award can be made to an applicant without independently audited financial statements*

Subgrantee Selection Process Preview

- **Looking ahead - How can communities prepare to apply for BEAD funding?**
 - **Managerial, technical and operational capability**
 - *Resumes for all key management personnel and an organizational chart*
 - *Description of the experience and qualifications of key management including previous project management for projects of similar size and scope*
 - *Certification of technical qualifications to complete and operate the project*
 - *Certification of providing voice, broadband and/or electric transmission or distribution service for the previous two consecutive years*
 - *New entrants into broadband must provide relevant evidence to ensure operational capacity*

Legislative Update

- **Budget Requests**

- Digital Navigation – estimated request for \$50 million to continue program at current levels
- Federal Spending Authority – BEAD and Broadband Digital Equity Grants
- State Match Funding - \$257 million in addition to \$50 million already secured. Total state investment of \$307 million in broadband infrastructure
- [Digital Equity Dashboard Phase Three](#) - \$2 million

- **Agency Request Legislation**

- Program update including movement of Digital Equity Forum to Office of Equity and Broadband Office Speed Goals Update

Thank you!

Questions?

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