



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

News Media Information 202-418-0500
Internet: www.fcc.gov
TTY: 888-835-5322

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BROADBAND DATA TASK FORCE ANNOUNCES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCES FOR FILERS OF BULK FIXED AVAILABILITY CHALLENGE DATA

WC Docket Nos. 19-195, 11-10

By this Public Notice, the Broadband Data Task Force (Task Force) announces the availability of technical assistance resources, including an upcoming November 30th workshop, to assist entities in preparing to file bulk challenges to fixed broadband availability data as part of the Broadband Data Collection (BDC).

The BDC is an iterative process for collecting information from multiple sources in order to assure that the new National Broadband Map is an accurate and regularly evolving resource on where broadband service is and is not available throughout the United States. The map will not rely solely on data submitted by internet service providers (ISPs); instead, it will be improved over time through several types of challenge opportunities for third parties to dispute and correct such data. The new map will include interactive, easy-to-use forms that the public can use to submit challenges to the availability and location information shown to help the Commission assure that it is – and remains – as accurate as possible. In addition, state, local, and Tribal governments, broadband service providers, and other entities will be able to file bulk challenges to the availability data through the BDC system.¹

On June 30, 2022, the inaugural BDC filing window opened. Fixed and mobile broadband service providers were required to submit broadband availability data pursuant to the BDC rules by September 1, 2022.² The FCC will render those data on the pre-production draft National Broadband Map to be published on November 18. The initial map will not reflect any challenges to location or availability data, but serves as the starting point for an ongoing and iterative challenge process designed to help the FCC assure the accuracy of the map. State, local, and Tribal governments, ISPs, and other entities will be able to view and download the broadband availability reported by ISPs to identify potential errors and file bulk availability challenges.

¹ We note that state, local, and Tribal governments, broadband service providers, and other entities have been able to submit bulk challenges to the Fabric data since September 12, 2022. *See Broadband Data Task Force, Wireline Competition Bureau, and Office of Economics and Analytics Announce Start of Fabric Bulk Challenge Process*, WC Docket Nos. 19-195, 11-10, Public Notice, DA 22-913 (BDTF, WCB, OEA Sept. 2, 2022).

² Facilities-based broadband service providers were required to file in the BDC system data that reflect where they make mass-market internet access service available as of June 30, 2022, by September 1, 2022. *See Inaugural Filing Window for Broadband Data Collection Has Opened*, WC Docket Nos. 19-195, 11-10, Public Notice, DA 22-696, at 1 (BDTF June 30, 2022) (citing *Establishing the Digital Opportunity Data Collection; Modernizing the FCC Form 477 Data Program*, WC Docket Nos. 19-195, 11-10, Third Report and Order, 36 FCC Rcd 1126, 1130-31, 33-34, paras. 10-11 & n.42, 16-17 (2021) (*Third Report and Order*)).

Bulk Fixed Availability Challenge Process Technical Assistance Tutorial and Workshop

To help state, local, and Tribal governments, ISPs, and other entities compile their data and file fixed availability challenges, the Task Force has released two video tutorials. The first video provides an overview of the fixed bulk availability challenge process, and is available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vKL_p8ieFDo. The second video walks filers through the process of submitting bulk fixed availability challenge data in the BDC system, and is available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XaOlwJN_IRY. The Task Force previously released its *Specifications for Bulk Fixed Availability Challenge and Crowdsourced Data* on September 15, 2022, which provides guidance on the requirements for filing bulk challenges to fixed broadband availability data.³ We encourage parties interested in submitting bulk fixed availability challenges to review this document in conjunction with the tutorial video.

Additionally, the Task Force will hold a virtual technical assistance workshop on November 30, starting at 4:00 p.m. EDT to assist potential bulk filers in submitting their data. To participate in the workshop, interested parties should register to attend at: https://fcc.gov/zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_F37YX5hRQJChrVmLZsnqAg. Questions about bulk fixed availability challenges may be submitted in advance of or during the workshop to BDCWebinar@fcc.gov.

Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Please include a description of the accommodation you will need and tell us how to contact you if we need more information. Make your request as early as possible. Last minute requests will be accepted but may be impossible to fill. Send an e-mail to: FCC504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice).

Additional Resources to Assist Bulk Challenge Filers

In addition to bulk challenges to fixed availability data, the BDC will also accept bulk challenge submissions to mobile availability data.⁴ We previously released procedures for mobile wireless broadband service providers, governmental entities, and other third parties that use their own speed testing hardware and software to submit on-the-ground speed test data as part of the BDC bulk mobile challenge and verification processes.⁵

A variety of other technical assistance resources related to the availability challenge processes are also available at www.fcc.gov/BroadbandData/Help. Requests for technical support may be submitted using the “Get Help” link available on that page. Additional tutorials and other information about submitting individual challenges using the map interface will also be made available on the BDC website.

For More Information

For information about the challenge processes or the Broadband Data Collection, please visit the BDC website at <https://www.fcc.gov/BroadbandData>. For further information regarding the bulk fixed challenge workshop, please contact BDCwebinar@fcc.gov. For media inquiries, please contact Anne Veigle in the Office of Media Relations at anne.veigle@fcc.gov.

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³ *Broadband Data Task Force, Wireline Competition Bureau, and Office of Economics and Analytics Announce Data Specifications for Bulk Fixed Availability Challenge and Crowdsourced Data*, WC Docket Nos. 19-195, 11-10, Public Notice, DA 22-961, at 1 (BDTF, WCB, OEA Sept. 15, 2022).

⁴ 47 U.S.C. § 642(a)(1)(B)(iii), (b)(5); 47 CFR § 1.7006(d); *Third Report and Order*, 36 FCC Rcd at 1155-65, paras. 70-96. Entities will also be able to file challenges to the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric data. *Id.*

⁵ *Broadband Data Task Force Establishes Process for Entities to Use Their Own Software and Hardware to Collect On-the-Ground Test Data as Part of the Mobile Broadband Data Collection*, WC Docket No. 19-195, Public Notice, DA 22-962, at 1 (BDTF, WTB, OEA, OET Sept. 15, 2022).