



NEWS FROM THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

FCC to Streamline Broadband Data Collection Processes

Action Will Also Ensure Accuracy of Data Depicted on the National Broadband Map

WASHINGTON, May 20, 2026—Location-specific broadband availability data is an important tool for consumers, communities, and policymakers. Today, the Federal Communications Commission adopted rules to streamline the processes supporting its Broadband Data Collection. These improvements will help federal agencies; state, local, and Tribal governments; and other interested stakeholders identify and target broadband investment to areas where it is needed most.

Today's actions aim to reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens and costs, while also improving the accuracy of the data collected and shown on the National Broadband Map. The Report and Order aligns reporting requirements for broadband availability and subscription data; streamlines the Fabric challenge process by eliminating the requirement that providers be notified of and allowed to respond to Fabric challenges during the Fabric development cycle; simplifies verification and audit processes; and makes certain administrative changes to the BDC rules to increase clarity.

To ensure the Broadband Data Collection keeps pace with the evolving technologies that are expanding access to high-speed internet services, the Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeks comment on: approaches to simplify and streamline the coverage restoration process; eliminating requirements to submit "grandfathered" data; establishing voluntary best practices for data retention; mobile verification and audit process improvements; and other process improvements.

In March 2020, Congress passed the Broadband DATA Act, requiring a more granular, location-specific collection of broadband availability data. Congress also required the FCC to establish and overlay fixed broadband availability data on the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric and to establish processes for verifying the accuracy of the provider-reported data, including through public challenge processes. To implement these requirements, the FCC created the Broadband Data Collection and launched the National Broadband Map.

Action by the Commission May 20, 2026 by Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 26-33). Chairman Carr, Commissioners Gomez and Trusty approving. Chairman Carr and Commissioner Trusty issuing separate statements.

WC Docket Nos. 11-10, 19-195; GN Docket No. 25-133

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