February 2024 Newsletter - Indiana Broadband Office

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IBO February Newsletter

The Indiana Broadband Office (IBO) has had an exciting month. Our team had a wonderful time attending the Net Inclusion conference and State Broadband Leaders Network (SBLN) 2024 Summit in Philadelphia. The Net Inclusion conference brought together industry leaders, digital equity advocates, and policymakers to exchange ideas on digital inclusion. The IBO recently posted Indiana's first Digital Equity Plan, so our team left with valuable insight as we prepare to implement our plan this year. At SBLN, we had the opportunity to learn from other state broadband offices and exchange ideas specifically about the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program. Both conferences left our team feeling energized to get back to work serving Hoosiers.

Challenge Process Pre-registration Open Now

Pre-registration for the Indiana BEAD Challenge Process has opened. Permissible challengers are able to register on https://connectingindiana.com/register/bead now. Once you have been approved you will be granted credentials to the platform from which you can add additional users and submit any number of challenges. All of the Indiana Challenge Process resources can be found on our website. This includes recorded webinars, slide decks, flyers, challenge guides, etc. If you have any Challenge Process related questions, please email IBOChallenge@iot.IN.gov.

Indiana BEAD Challenge Portal

Introduction

Welcome to the Indiana Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment (BEAD) Map Challenge Portal. Access to resources related to the map challenge, see the broadband map, and register to submit challenges. Permissible Challengers include internet service providers, units of local government or tribal government, and non-profit organizations, as stipulated by official NTIA guidance requirements. Register your organization in just minutes to participate! Once your organization's identity has been confirmed, you will be granted credentials to the platform from which you can add additional users and submit any number of challenges.

To ensure you are submitting the appropriate challenge types, and evidence for each, review the program overview below to see the different categories and types. Additionally, permissible challengers should note that when more than 6 locations serviced by the same provider and technology are challenged in a given census block group, the entire census block group will be considered challenged.

After the challenge window closes, the rebuttal window will open to afford service providers the opportunity to rebut any challenges they have received with additional evidence requirements. Once the rebuttal window closes, challenges will be adjudicated and the updated map will be used as the basis for allocating BEAD funding across the state.

Register

No Internet? Text 'Internet' to INDY-464699   Resources

English (English)

Challenge Phase Extension Announcement

The IBO is pleased to announce that the Indiana BEAD Challenge Phase will be extended by two weeks from the previously announced end date of **April 3rd**, now moved to **April 17th**! This will allow permissible challengers more time to collect evidence and submit challenges.

IBO Open Office Hours

The IBO is hosting **open office hours** for the duration of the Challenge Phase. These sessions are an open forum for members of the public and permissible challengers to ask the IBO questions about the work our office is doing.

Sessions will be every Tuesday and Thursday from 2 - 3pm EST. There will be one Zoom link that will give access to every session on any day.

All are welcome during any session to speak with our broadband experts! See you all there!

Zoom link for every session: (here)

Thursday - February 29, 2024

Thursday - March 7, 2024

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 pm EST (Calendar invite)

Tuesday - March 12, 2024

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 pm EST (Calendar invite)

Thursday - March 14, 2024

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 pm EST (Calendar invite)

Tuesday - March 19, 2024

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 pm EST (Calendar invite)

Thursday - March 21, 2024

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 pm EST (Calendar invite)

Tuesday - March 26, 2024

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 pm EST (Calendar invite)   Time: 2:00 - 3:00 pm EST (Calendar invite)

Tuesday - March 5, 2024   Please see the IBO website for the rest of the dates.

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 pm EST (Calendar invite)

Where's Steve?

This past month, Infrastructure and Broadband Administrator **Steve Cox** spoke at the Indiana Business Journal's Technology Power Breakfast. Steve joined a panel of other industry experts and spoke about why broadband access is important to Hoosiers.

Steve also updated the Indiana Rural Broadband Association (INRBA) on all things Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD).

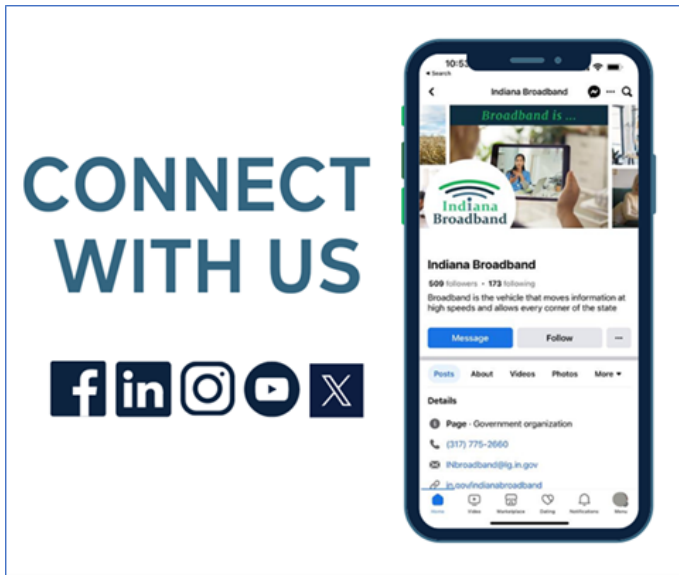Thank you to the IBJ and INRBA for hosting the IBO this month!

New Hires!

Our office is growing again! We have hired **Jessica Combs** as the new **Administrative Assistant**. She is an amazing addition to our office as we balance communicating with every stakeholder.

Torrey Glover has also been brought on as our new **Grants Coordinator**. He comes to us with past State experience and will be an important guide in navigating BEAD and Digital Equity.

Let's Connect!

We want to hear from you. If you have general questions or concerns, email IndianaBroadband@iot.IN.gov. To stay updated on our latest work, follow us on Facebook, Twitter (X), Instagram, LinkedIn and check out our website.

We encourage you to forward this newsletter to anyone who might be interested and urge them to sign up for our newsletter here. See you in March!

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