

# IBO CHALLENGE PROCESS



## Local Government Units

### OVERVIEW

The Indiana Broadband Office is preparing to launch the next phase of the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program: **the Challenge Process** - to begin on **March 4, 2024**. This process will allow the IBO to gather the most accurate broadband service data possible before awarding BEAD funds to grant sub-recipients. This process will be representative of all state constituents, but only three permissible challenger types will be eligible to submit official challenges related to broadband services:

- **Non-profit organizations**
- **Units of local or tribal government**
- **Internet service providers**

### CHALLENGE PROCESS FOR LOCAL GOVTS.

- The IBO has partnered with Ready.net to provide the Indiana Challenge Process Portal.
  - Pre-registration for permissible challengers will be available in late February, linked [here](#).
- Challenges must be submitted within the provided window
  - From **March 4 - April 17, 2024**.
- The general public will not be directly submitting challenges, however; municipalities are highly encouraged to facilitate public participation on behalf of their communities.
  - Members of the public will help guide the government unit in identifying locations to challenge, determining the right type of challenge, and gathering appropriate evidence.
- Local governments can direct members of their communities to a **public-facing website** that works alongside the Challenge Portal.
  - Residents can submit service “comments” through the site that will assist in the collection of evidence pieces to support a challenge, as well as notify the appropriate municipal jurisdiction for follow-up actions in the official portal.
- The IBO will be offering **technical assistance** during the entire Challenge Process. All resources can be found on the [IBO website](#).

### COSTQUEST LICENSURE

The most effective way to participate in the Challenge Process is to obtain a [CostQuest](#) License. Permissible challengers who are able are encouraged to sign up for a license.

- A CostQuest license will enable the permissible challenger to download the full FCC National Broadband Map Fabric for Indiana addresses. This software is helpful for those who may want to submit a large number of challenges.
- The NTIA has allocated funds for permissible challengers to obtain licenses for free.
- Non-profits interested should sign up for [License Tier E](#).

### FAST FACTS

#### OBJECTIVES

- **Identify** unresolved broadband service issues for locations classified as “served” by the FCC/State Broadband Map.
- **Serve** as the advocates for community members within your jurisdiction, as a permissible challenger.
- **Submit** challenges to ensure a fair and equitable Challenge Process for businesses and constituents alike.

#### PARTICIPATION

- **Become familiar** with the Indiana Challenge Process through the IBO educational documents.
- **Register** as a challenger in the challenge portal and;
- **Apply** for a CostQuest license if your unit has the ability.
- **Reach out** to the IBO for all technical assistance needs.

#### TIMELINE

- Registration Opens
  - **Mid-February**
- Challenge Process Begins
  - **March 4, 2024**
- Final Day to Submit Challenges
  - **April 17th, 2024**