IBO CHALLENGE PROCESS

Indiana Broadband — CONNECT INDIANA

Non-profit Organizations

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 NON-PROFITS

- 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; non-profits are highly encouraged to facilitate public participation on behalf of their communities.
  - Members of the public will help guide the organization in identifying locations to challenge, determining the right type of challenge, and gathering appropriate evidence.
- Organizations can direct members of their community 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 organization 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 advocate for community members within your service areas as a permissible challenger.
- **Submit** challenges to ensure a fair and equitable Challenge Process.

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 organization 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**