IBO CHALLENGE PROCESS

Indiana BEAD Challenge Process Webinar Multi-Dwelling Unit Challenges

Agenda

BEAD Overview

Challenge Process Overview

Who Can Participate?

Timeline

Registration Process

Challenge Types

Multi-Dwelling Unit Challenges

Demos

Wrap Up



THE BROADBAND EQUITY ACCESS AND DEPLOYMENT (BEAD) PROGRAM

FUNDED BY THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE'S NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION





This presentation focuses on BEAD – the largest of the four highspeed Internet programs administered by NTIA¹

SESSION FOCUS

BEAD

\$42.45B

Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment Program

A program to get all Americans online by funding partnerships between states or territories, communities, and stakeholders to build infrastructure where we need it and increase adoption of high-speed internet.

DIGITAL EQUITY

\$2.75B

Digital Equity Act

Three programs that provide funding to promote digital inclusion and advance equity for all. They aim to ensure that all communities can access and use affordable, reliable high-speed internet to meet their needs and improve their lives.

TRIBAL

\$2.00B

Tribal Connectivity Technical Amendments

A program to help tribal communities expand highspeed internet access and adoption on tribal lands. MIDDLE MILE

\$1.00B

Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure

A program to expand middle mile infrastructure, to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas.



1. National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Note: Funding amounts inclusive of all administrative set-asides

Indiana



BEAD Allocation

Minimum Allocation	\$100,000,000
Unserved Allocation	\$762,834,511.06
High-Cost Allocation	\$5,275,418.73

Other Sources of Funding

Capital Projects Fund State and Local Recovery Funds	\$203,000,000.00 \$69,350,287.00
Middle Mile	\$11,684,088.90
The Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan Program	\$4,631,000.00
TOTAL	\$288,665,375.90

\$868,109,929.79

Unserved	202,021
Underserved	106,583
BSLs	2,719,928

Key Considerations

Indiana received a \$4,960,351.60 planning grant on December 20, 2022. This is a part of your total allocation.

The hard work begins now – Indiana can submit its Initial Proposal starting on July 1st outlining how you will deploy high-speed Internet infrastructure throughout the state. Initial Proposals are due no later than December 27, 2023.

Once NTIA approves Indiana's Final Proposal, you will be able to subgrant your funds and begin the process of breaking ground.





This document does not constitute an authorization to start a project and is not a guarantee of funding. With regard to BEAD, this document also does not constitute the Notice of Available Amounts, which shall be issued separately

The BEAD Program helps deliver broadband access, affordability, and adoption



NTERNET



Increases access for unserved and underserved households to ensure that all Americans have access to high-speed Internet

Ensures Americans have access to **high-quality**, **broadband services** to support full participation in the 21st century economy and beyond





Supports **affordability** of broadband services, esp. in low-income households





Fosters a system that promotes long-term, sustainable, affordable solutions

 $\overline{\sim}$ **Adoption and** equity



Enables investment in digital skills training to increase the number of households adopting high-speed Internet and narrow adoption disparities



Makes investments to ensure Americans can participate in economy & society, reducing inequities across sectors, including healthcare, workforce & education



BEAD to prioritize complete coverage of unserved locations and underserved locations (where funding permits)



Complete coverage of **unserved locations** (incl. by deploying Wi-Fi to multi-family buildings)

Unserved = no service or service under 25/3 Mbps



Complete coverage of **underserved locations** (where funding permits)

Underserved = over 25/3, but less than 100/20 Mbps

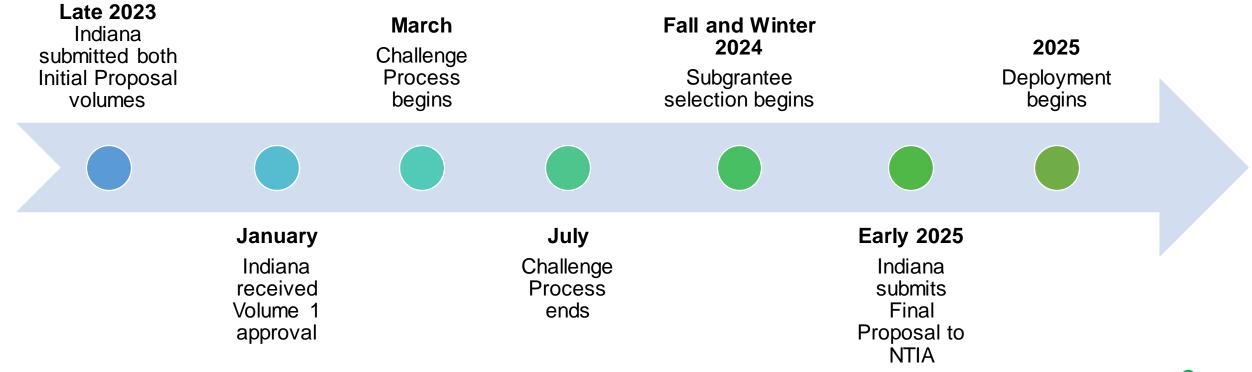


NTIA urges use of remaining funds for **Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs)** before other eligible uses

Note: If an Eligible Entity has a plan to deploy service to all unserved and underserved locations within its jurisdiction, it may pursue non-deployment initiatives before or while deployment projects are underway



BEAD PROGRAM TIMELINE



WHAT IS THE CHALLENGE PROCESS?

The Challenge Process is the Indiana Broadband Office's opportunity to gather the most accurate data possible before awarding BEAD funds to internet service providers.



Crowdsources evidence to ensure the IBO can identify all unserved and underserved locations.



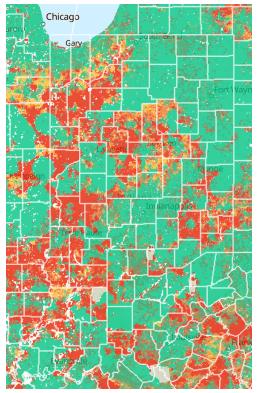
Ensures that those who know their communities best can provide accurate information and help the IBO best allocate its resources.



Provides the IBO with a comprehensive list of eligible locations before beginning subgrantee selection.

WHAT DATA IS BEING CHALLENGED?

The NTIA requires that states begin with FCC Broadband Map.



Indiana is using BDC as of June 2023, released in November 2023.

The IBO must remove state-level "enforceable commitments," locations that have already been awarded state funds for broadband service. This includes:

- NextLevel Connections
- Indiana Connectivity Program



WHO PARTICIPATES IN THE CHALLENGE PROCESS?

PERMISSIBLE CHALLENGERS



THE PUBLIC

Though the public will not directly submit challenges, public participation is a critical piece of the Challenge Process. Members of the public will guide permissible challengers in identifying locations to challenge, determining the right type of challenge, and gathering evidence.

Necessary information will be collected by the public but should be funneled through a permissible challenger.

CHALLENGE PROCESS TIMELINE

March 4 - April 17 Challenge Phase

44 calendar days for permissible challengers to submit challenges

April 18 - May 2 Challenge Review 14-day period for IBO to review challenge evidence

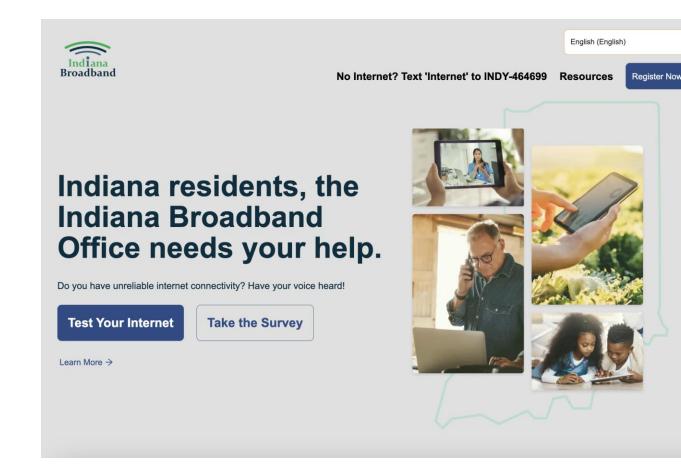
May 3 - June 2 Rebuttal Phase

30 calendar days for internet service providers to provide rebuttal evidence

June 3 - July 2 Final Determination Phase

30 calendar days for the IBO to make final determinations about BEAD eligibility on all challenged and rebutted addresses

CHALLENGE PROCESS REGISTRATION



- Visit ConnectingIndiana.com to register for the Challenge Process
- To register, you'll need your Employer Identification Number. Please use an email address associated with your organization.
- Register your organization first, then add any users.
- All registrations are reviewed by the IBO. Expect less than 24 hours turnaround time.

CHALLENGE TYPES

Challenge Type	Description	
Availability	The broadband service currently identified at the location is not actually offered.	
Speed	The actual speed of the service at the location falls below 100/20 even though service is listed at 100/20 or above.	
Latency	The latency at the location is more than 100 ms.	
Data Cap	The service has a data cap that falls below a monthly capacity allowance of 600 GB.	
Technology	The technology type indicated for the location is incorrect.	

Challenge Type	Description	Evidence
Availability	The broadband service currently identified at the location is not actually offered.	 Screenshot of provider webpage Proof that a service request was refused (letter or email) Proof that provider failed to schedule or offer installation within 10 days of request (letter or email) Proof that a provider requested more than a standard installation fee to connect the location

SPEED CHALLENGES

Challenge Type	Description	Evidence
Speed	The actual speed of the service at the location falls below 100/20 even though service is listed at 100/20 or above.	 Three speed test (from ConnectingIndiana.com) taken on three different calendar days The IP address of the residential gateway conducting the speed test. Proof of the speed tier the customer subscribes to The name and address of the customer conducting the speed tests

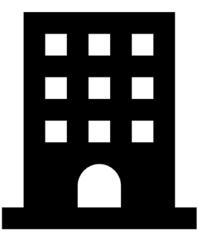
MULTI-DWELLING UNIT CHALLENGES

- The Indiana Broadband Office opted to include multi-dwelling unit (MDU) challenges in its Challenge Process.
- This option **lowers the burden of proof** for challenging an entire multidwelling unit.
- Rather than gathering evidence from every single unit within an MDU to mount a challenge against a specific provider and technology type, permissible challengers must gather evidence from at least 3 units or 10% of the units, whichever is larger.
- This subset of evidence will trigger every unit in the MDU with the same provider and technology type to be challenged.
- MDU challenges can be used with availability, speed, latency, and technology type challenges.

MULTI-DWELLING UNIT CHALLENGES

A provider reports that all locations in this MDU have 100/20 service, but when residents contact the provider, that level of service is not available. Residents want to gather evidence for a permissible challenger to submit availability challenges to cover the whole MDU but gathering evidence for all 9 units is difficult. By using an MDU challenge, a permissible challenger would only need availability challenge evidence for 3 of the units in the MDU.*

*MDU challenges require 3 units or 10% of units, whichever is larger.





MULTI-DWELLING UNIT CHALLENGES

A provider reports that all locations in this MDU have 100/20 service, but when residents contact the provider, that level of service is not available.

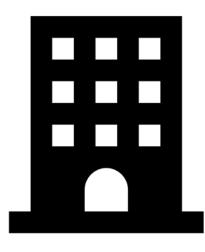


Residents want to gather evidence for a permissible challenger to submit availability challenges to cover the whole MDU but gathering evidence for all 9 units is cumbersome.



By using an MDU challenge, a permissible challenger would only need availability challenge evidence for 3 of the units in the MDU.*

By providing evidence for 3 of the units in this MDU, the permissible challenger triggered a challenge for that same provider and technology type for all units.

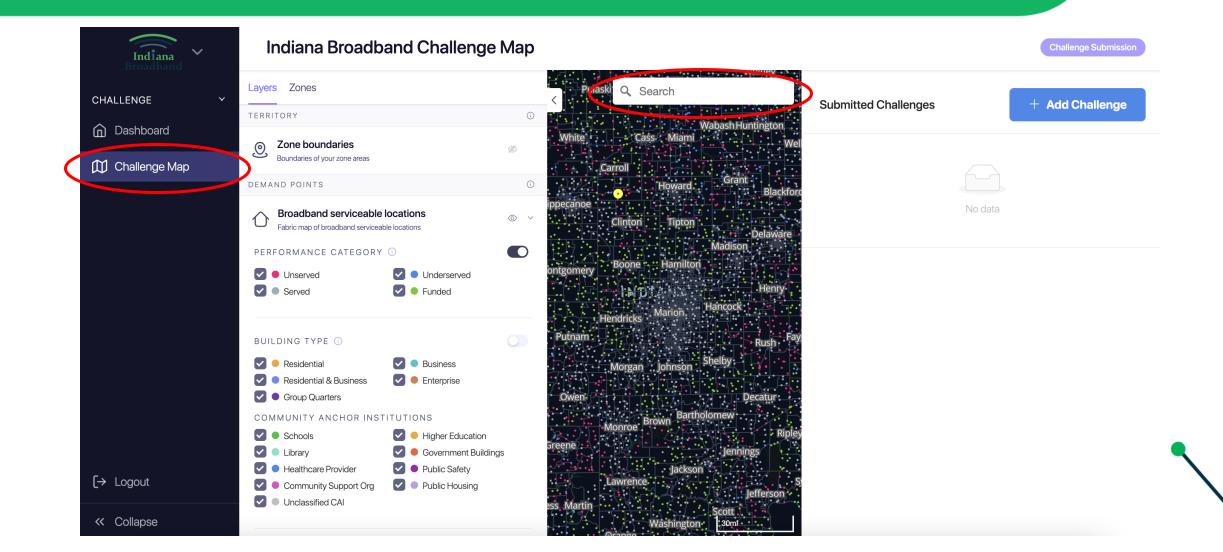




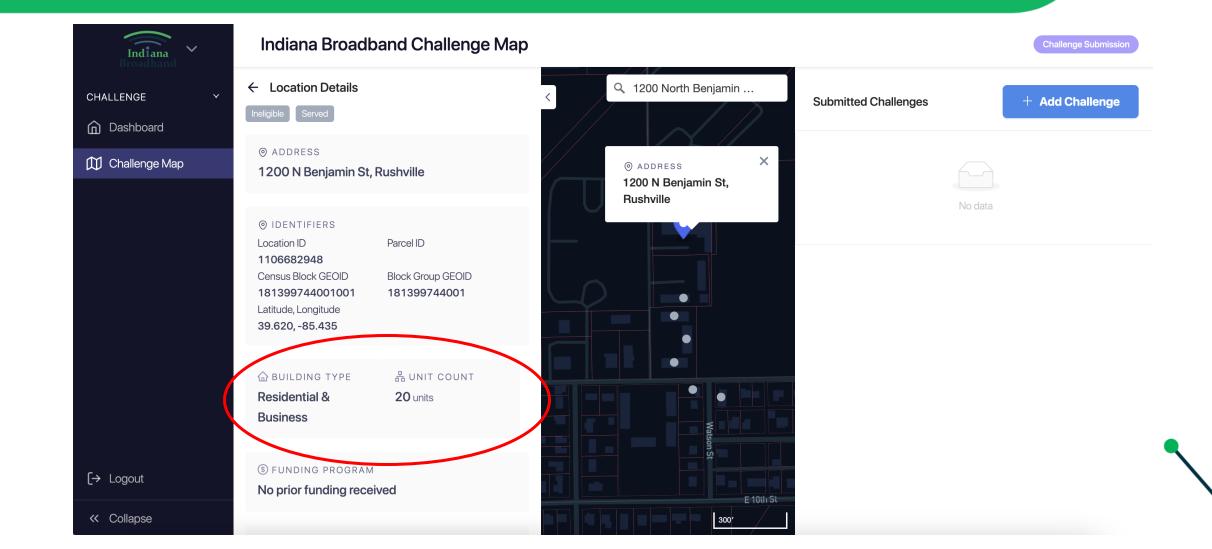
IBO CHALLENGE PROCESS

Checking the Unit Count

UNIT COUNTS



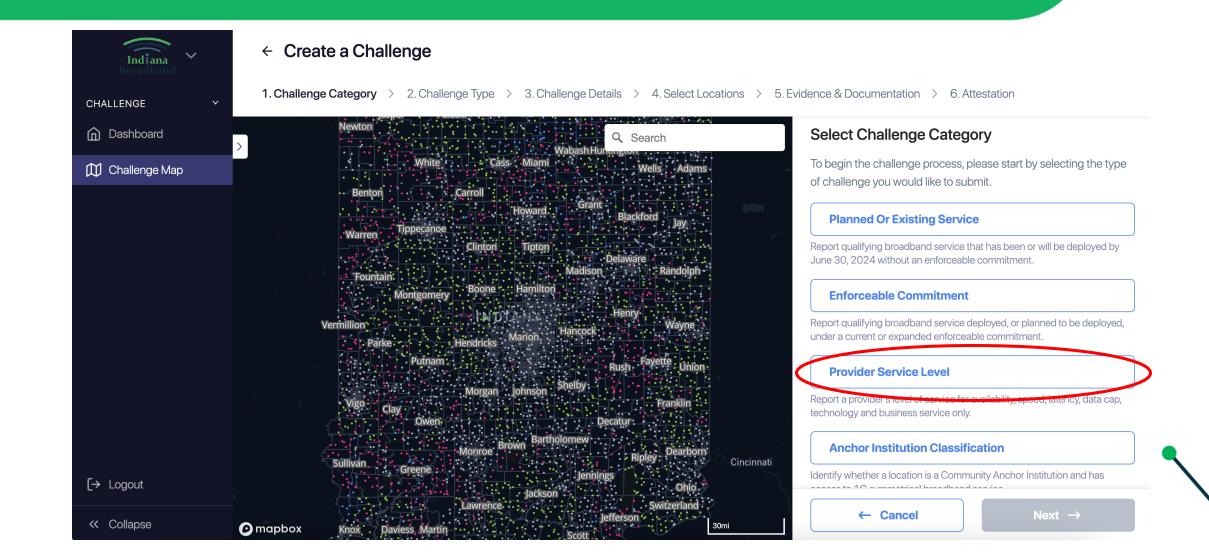
UNIT COUNTS

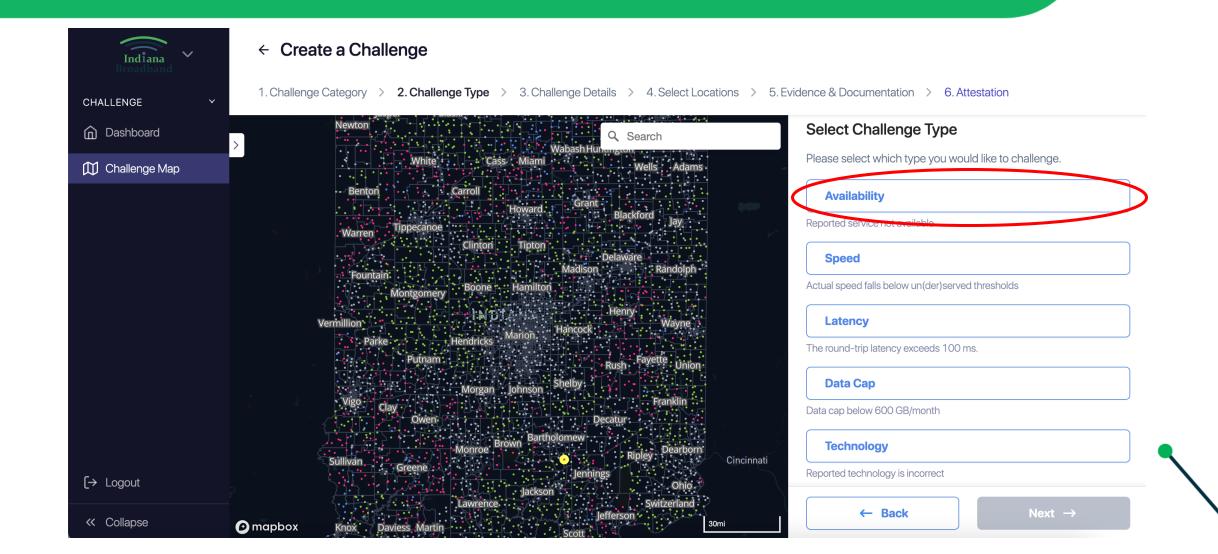


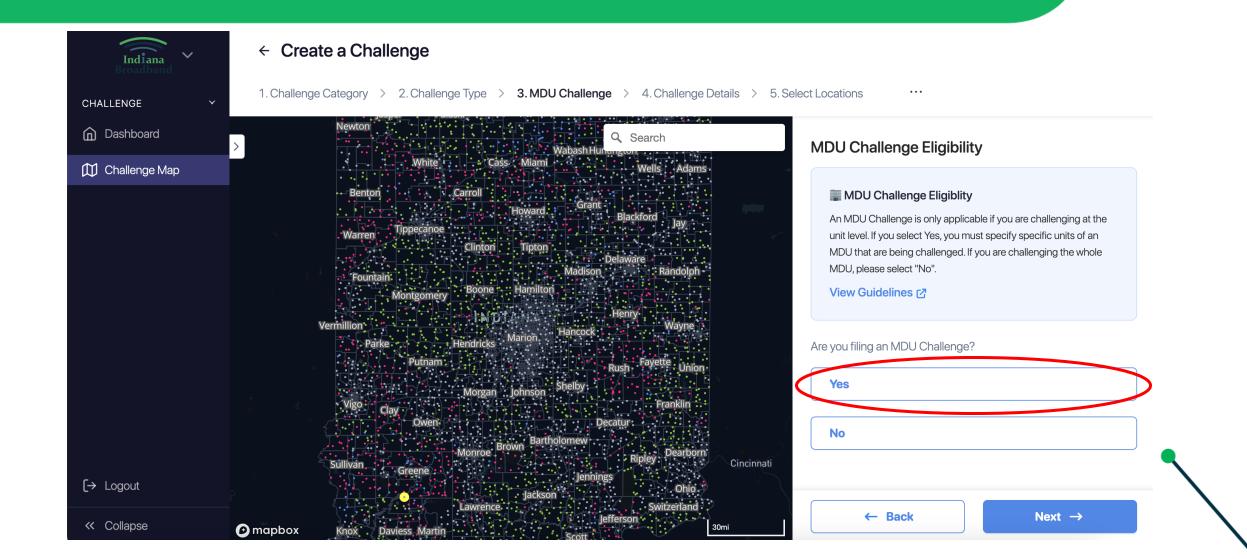
IBO CHALLENGE PROCESS

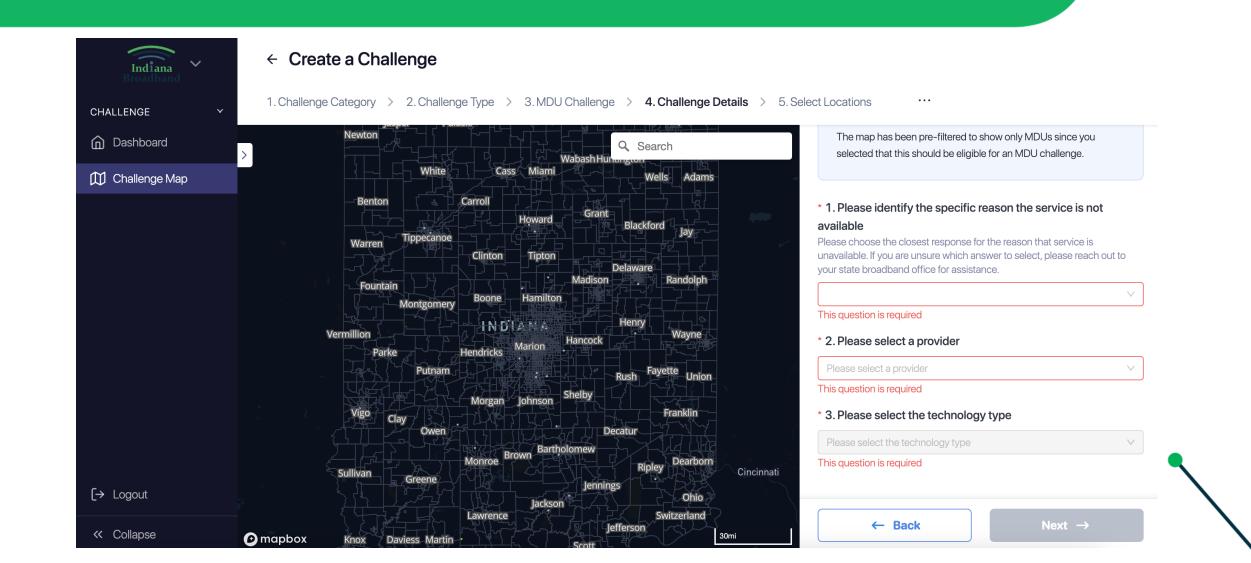
Availability & MDU Challenge Demo

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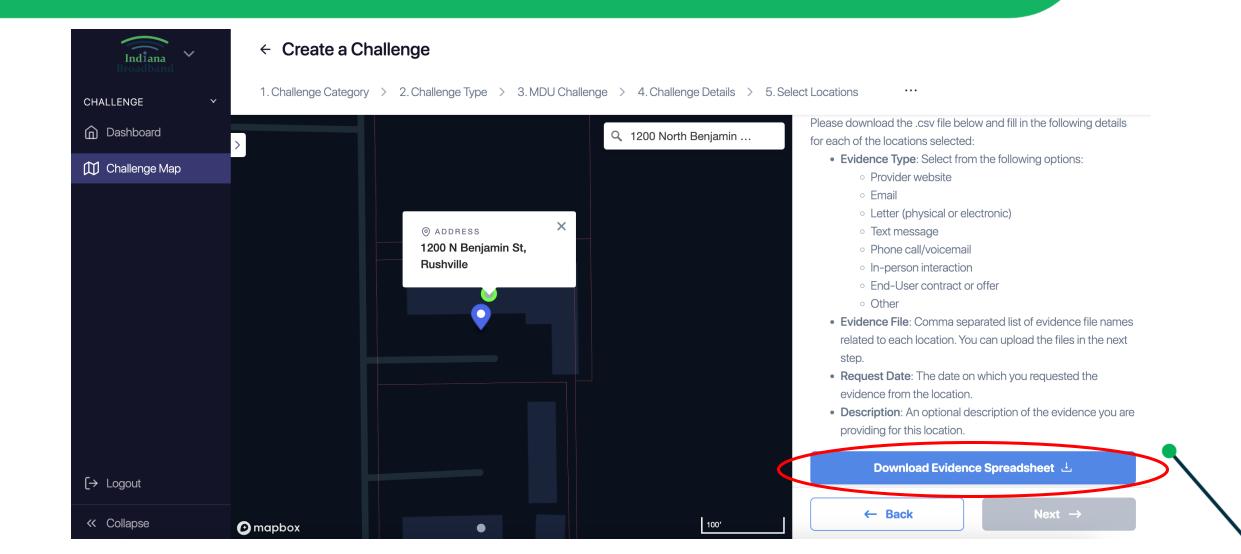


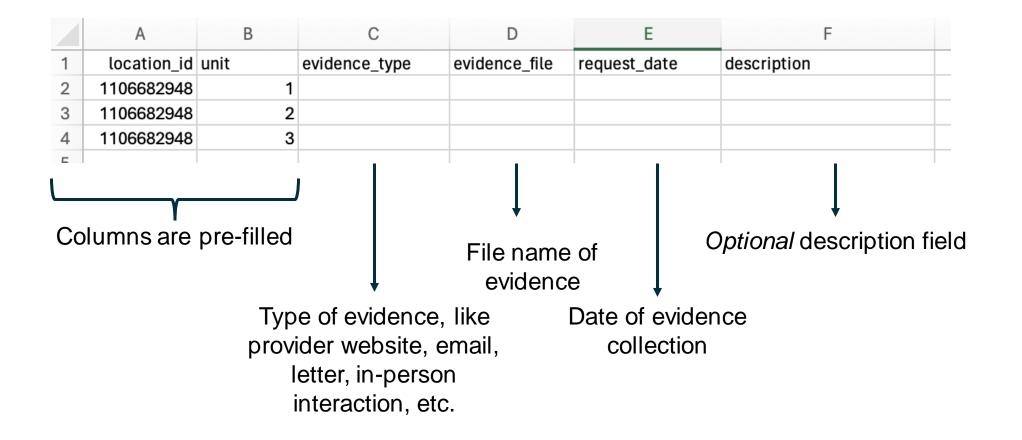


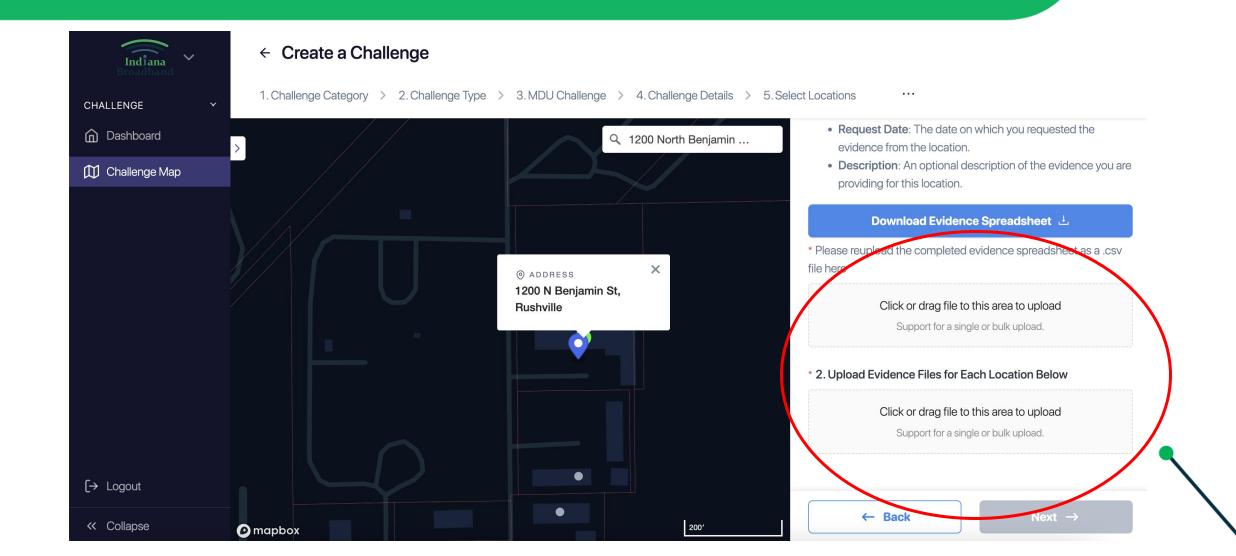


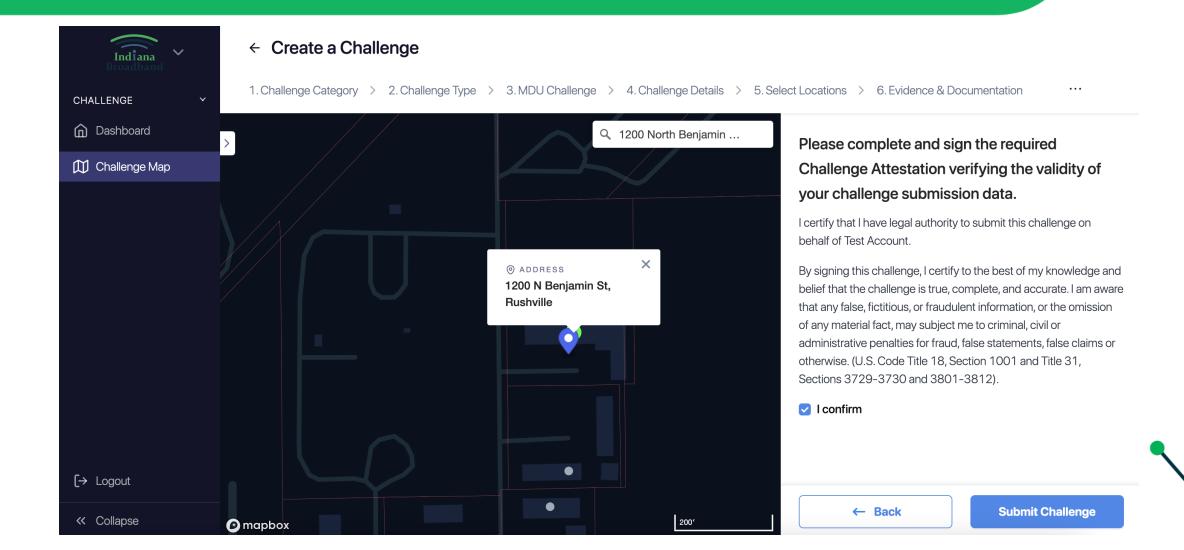


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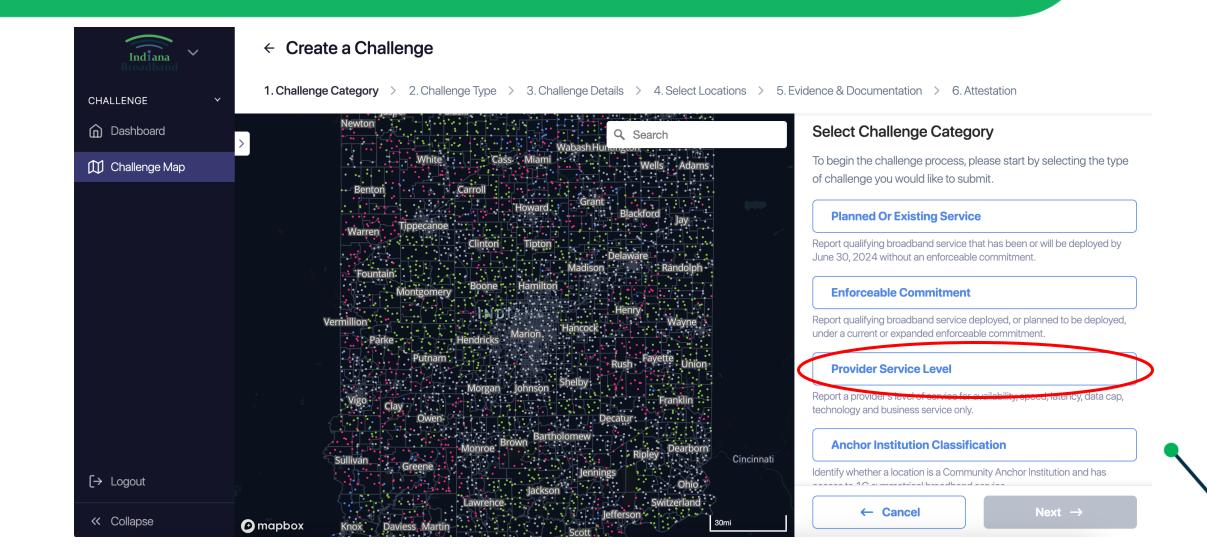
IBO CHALLENGE PROCESS

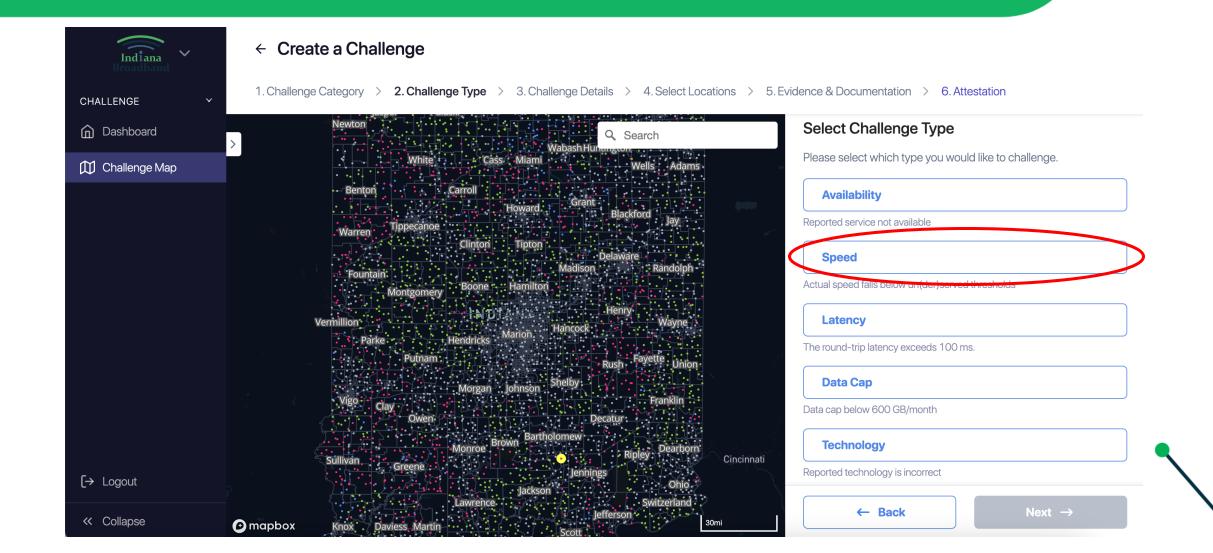
Speed & MDU Challenge Demo

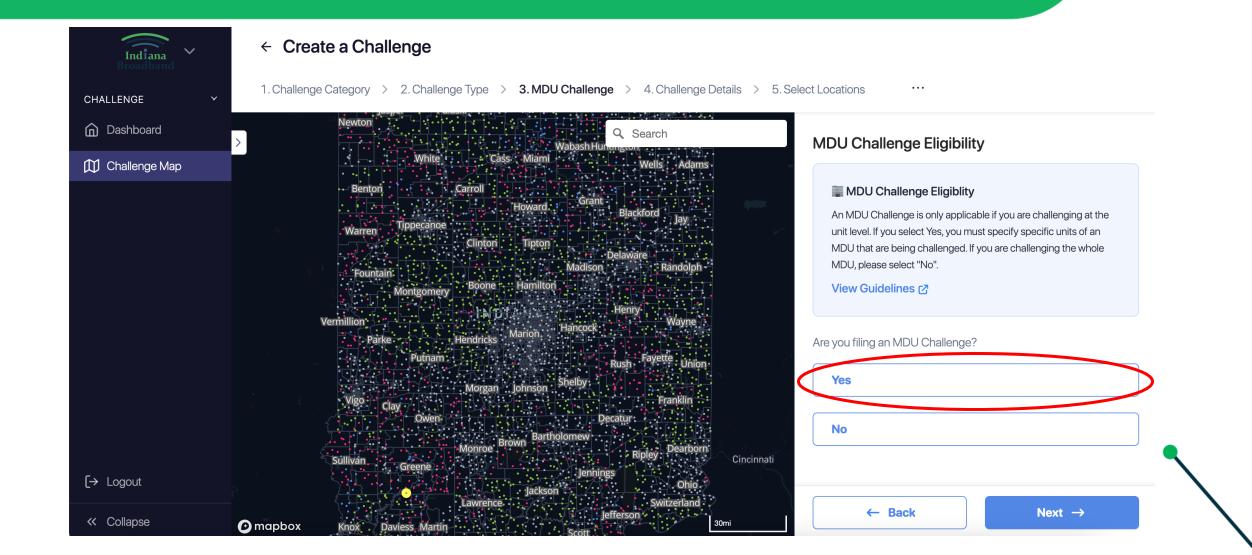
SPEED CHALLENGE

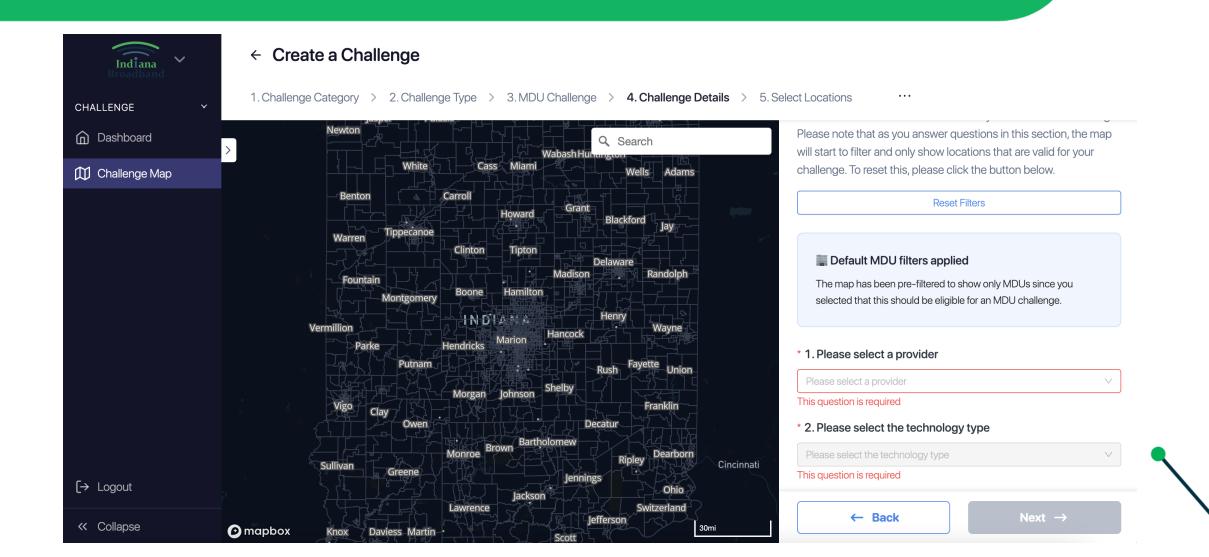
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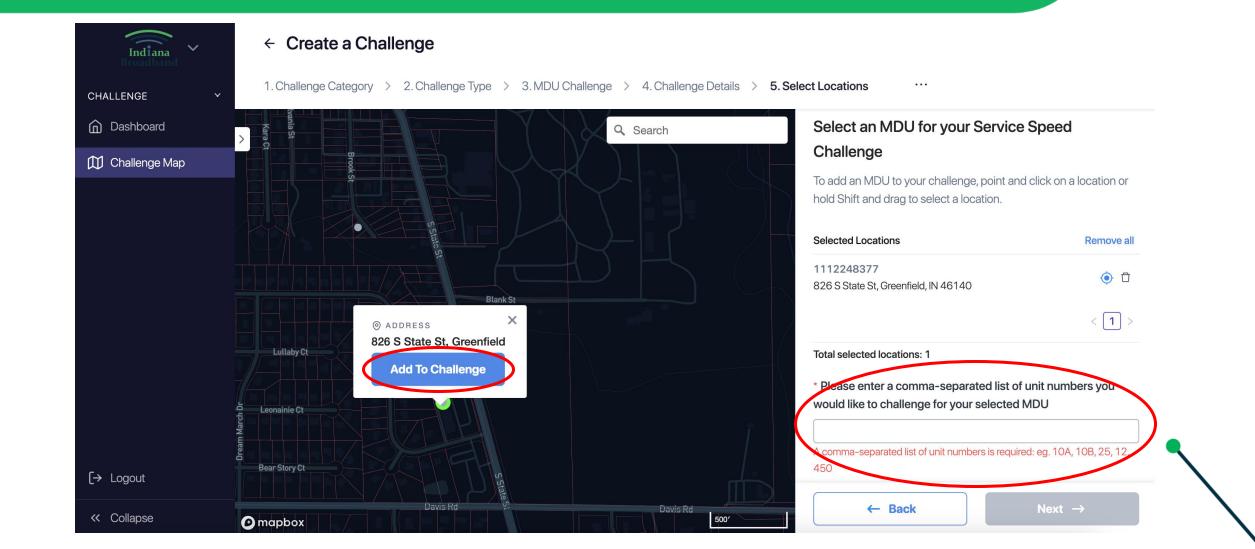
SPEED CHALLENGE

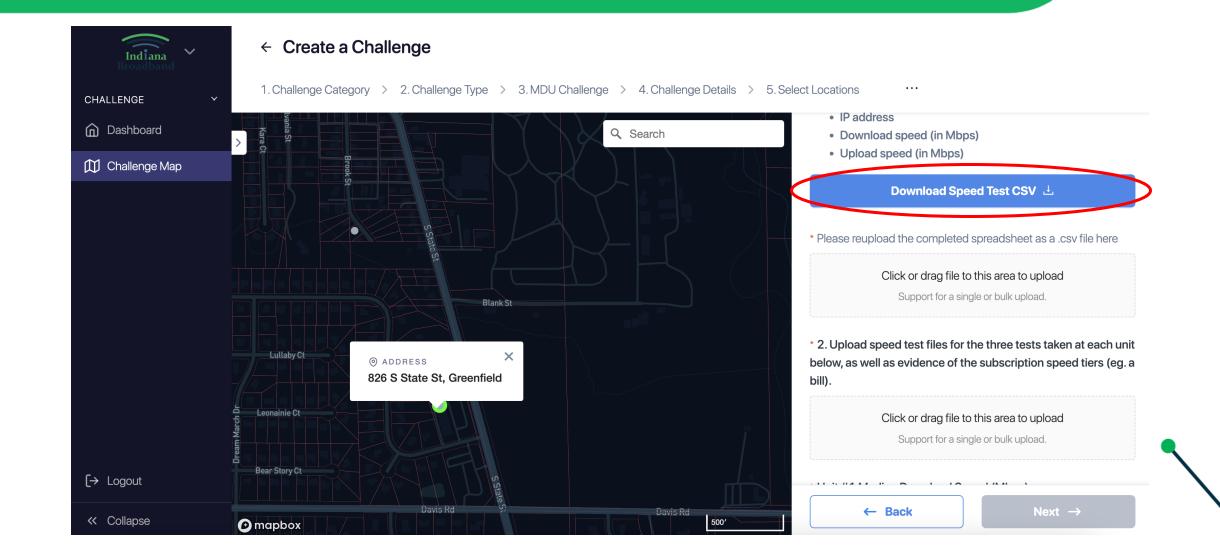




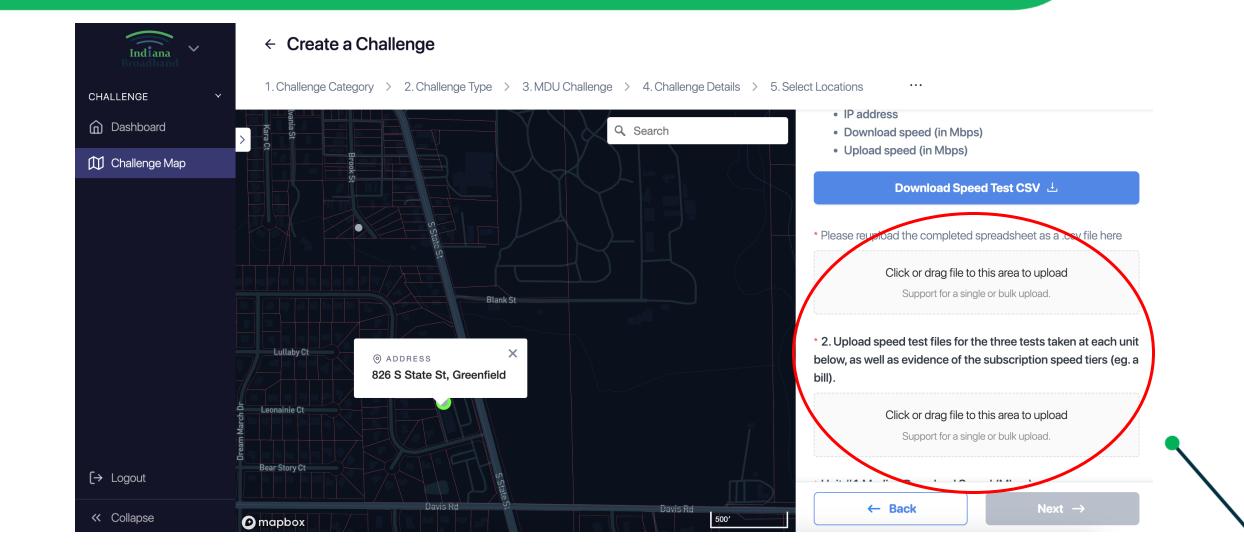


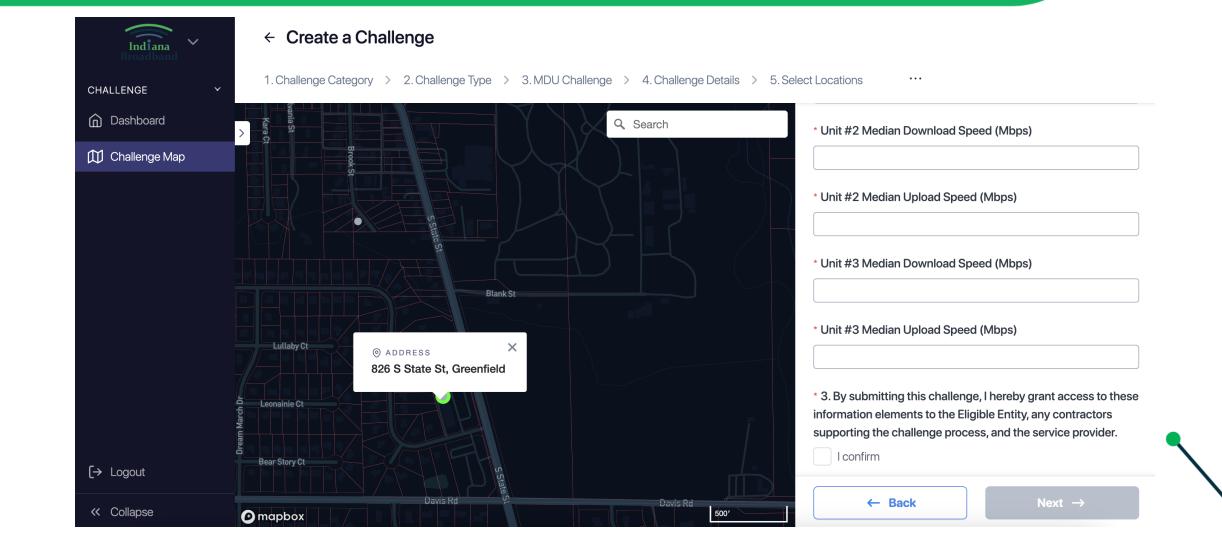


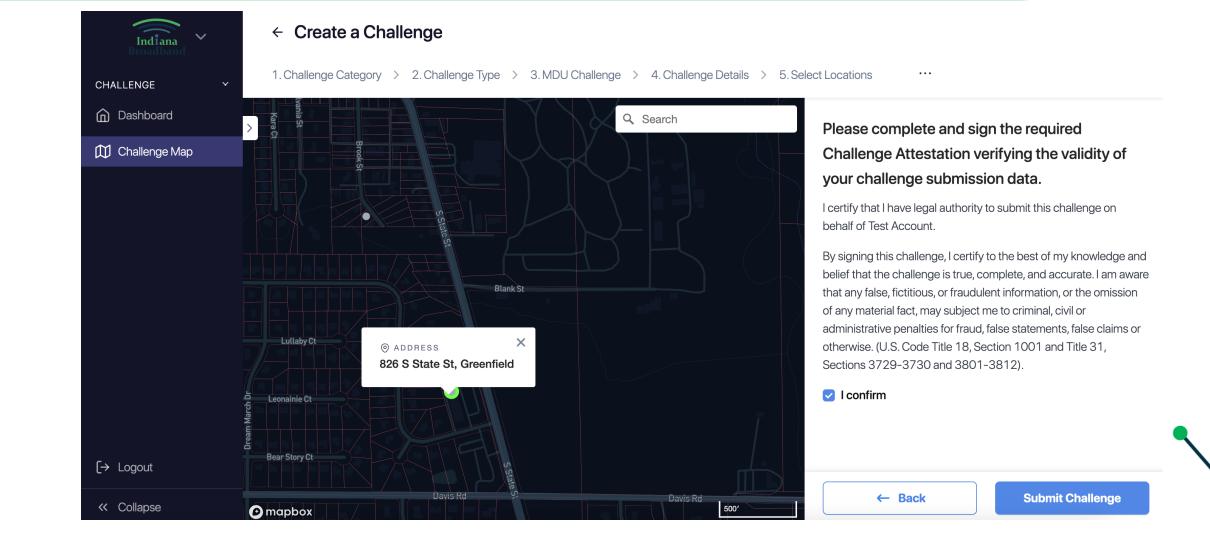




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IBO CHALLENGE PROCESS

Wrap Up

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RESOURCES

Resources to participate in the Challenge Process will be made available through several platforms:

ONLINE RESOURCES

- <u>IBO website</u> to serve as the primary source for all information on the Challenge Process.
- Recorded webinars and slides.
- Written guides to submitting each challenge type.
- Checklist to help community organizations get organized.
- CSV templates for all provider service level challenges.
- A public-facing portal where constituents can submit comment and evidence to respective community organizations for review.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- IBO Office Hours every Tuesday and Thursday from 2-3 PM.
- Technical assistance that can be reached via email and phone once the Challenge Phase commences.
- Step-by-step, real-time guidance for submitting Challenges for those who need it.