



# The federal BEAD Challenge process is beginning

## What is the BEAD Challenge?

Through BEAD, Minnesota will be allocated \$652 million in funding to achieve Internet for All as defined by National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

Minnesota's NTIA BEAD Challenge provides an opportunity to finalize the funding eligibility and status of Minnesota's broadband serviceable locations and community anchor institutions.

Locations eligible for BEAD funding include:

- **Unserved locations:** Having broadband Service\* with speeds of less than 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload.
- **Underserved locations:** Having broadband service with speeds less than 100/20 Mbps, but above 25/3 Mbps.

Locations ineligible for BEAD funding are:

- **Served locations:** Having "Reliable Broadband\*" Service with a speed of at least 100/20 Mbps.

\*For federal funding, "Reliable Broadband" includes broadband delivered over licensed fixed wireless.

## Why should we participate?

The BEAD Challenge process will be the **only opportunity for local governments, nonprofits and providers to "challenge" the status of a location as eligible or ineligible for federal BEAD funding.**

What can be challenged?

- Availability
- Speed
- Latency
- Data Cap
- Business Service Only
- Enforceable Commitments
- Planned Service
- Community Anchor Institution Classification

Following the completion of the BEAD Challenge Process, only locations classified as unserved and underserved will be eligible for BEAD grant funding.

## Who can participate in the BEAD Challenge process?

Eligible entities that can participate in the BEAD Challenge Process are:

- Local and Tribal Governments
- Nonprofits
- Broadband Service Providers

NTIA requirements do not allow the public to submit challenges independently. However, the public CAN submit information about their location such as speed tests or documentation of lack of service.

## BEAD Challenge expected timeline

End of June- mid July	OBD will host in-person and online information sessions
7 days before start of Challenge Process [estimated 7/15/2024]	Challenge registration portal opens
<b>First day of Challenge Process, estimated July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024</b>	
Day 0-30 [estimated 7/22/2024- 8/21/2024]	Challenge Window
Day 31-60 [estimated 8/22/2024- 9/20/2024]	Rebuttal Window
Day 61-90 [estimated 9/21/2024- 10/21/2024]	Adjudication by OBD

## BEAD Challenge informational sessions:

OBD will be hosting informational sessions before the BEAD Challenge window opens to share resources with eligible challengers and the public interested in participating in the BEAD Challenge Process.

Events include:

- **June 25 from 1:30- 3:30 p.m. in Detroit Lakes**  
at the CareerForce Center, 803 Roosevelt Ave.
- **June 26 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. in Chisholm**  
State of MN Office Building on the Minnesota Discovery Center campus, 1003 Discovery Drive
- **July 10 from, 3:30- 5:30 p.m. in Rochester**  
at the Wood Lake Meeting Center,  
210 Wood Lake Drive SE
- **July 11 from 1:30- 3:30 p.m. in New Ulm**  
at the New Ulm Civic Center,  
1212 N Franklin St., in room 203
- **July 15, VIRTUAL EVENT, 10am**  
Register here: [tiny.cc/BEADMNwebinar](https://tiny.cc/BEADMNwebinar)

## For more information contact:

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Online webinars and recurring office hours will be scheduled soon and posted to the OBD website when confirmed:

[mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband](https://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband)

The Office of Broadband Development connects communities, policymakers, providers, regional support organizations, and state and federal programs with each other and the resources they need to improve broadband access and use in Minnesota.