

Idaho Office of Broadband Challenge Process

What is the BEAD Program?

WHAT: Idaho has been awarded \$583 million of federal funding through the Idaho BEAD Program, for broadband infrastructure to get reliable, high-speed internet access to every single home and business. This money will be sub-granted to internet service providers, cities, counties and tribal governments who will coordinate infrastructure projects over the next several years.

WHO: The Idaho Office of Broadband (IOB) is administering this grant program. The next step of the grant is called the Challenge Process, which will open soon.

WHY: The Challenge Process helps the IOB get the best information about internet service availability before allocating BEAD grant funds. There are only 4 eligible entities that can submit challenges regarding internet availability:

- Local governments
- Internet Service Providers
- Tribal governments
- Non-profit organizations

Goals of the Process

- Strengthen the internet availability layer on Idaho's BEAD Map to ensure we have the most accurate internet availability displayed on Idaho's BEAD map.
- Listen to what Idaho stakeholders have to say about their internet service experiences.
- Remove non-Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSL's) (i.e. storage units, silos, hay bales, etc.)
- Gather information to assist the state with effectively allocating funds.

Role of Residents

While NTIA requirements don't allow individuals to submit challenges directly, residents of Idaho play an important role in the challenge process by identifying inaccuracies and working with local governments or non-profits to challenge the availability displayed on the BEAD map.

CostQuest License

If you plan to submit challenges, the eligible entity should obtain a CostQuest license. A CostQuest license will enable the permissible challenger to download the full FCC National Broadband Map Fabric for Idaho. The NTIA has allocated funds for permissible challengers to obtain these licenses for free. The license tiers for BEAD eligible entities are D and E, depending on the entity type and project objectives.

There is an approval process to receive a license. As many other states are beginning their BEAD Challenge Processes simultaneously, the IOB anticipates this approval process to take multiple weeks. Therefore, request a license as soon as possible if you intend to participate in Idaho's Challenge Process.

Learn more and how to request a license at LinkUp. Idaho.gov/beadchallenge.

IOB Challenge Process Timeline

More details on Idaho's Challenge Process will be posted soon. The IOB will conduct pre-registration for the Challenge Process as well. Below is a general timeline.

COSTQUEST LICENSE

IOB recommends permissible challengers to obtain a license as soon as possible.

CHALLENGE PROCESS PREVIEW

The IOB will hold a two-week preview of the challenge portal prior to opening the challenge process. Additionally, there will be open office hours during this period.

CHALLENGE PROCESS BEGINS

The Challenge Process will begin. Permissible challengers will have 28 days to submit challenges.

REBUTTAL PHASE

Rebuttal Phase will then open for 28 days. More information will be provided soon.

ADJUDICATION PHASE

The IOB will have approximately 60 days to work through adjudications.

We are here.

To learn more visit our website at LinkUp.Idaho.gov/beadchallenge or scan this QR code.

