ConnectLA Louisiana Office of Broadband Development & Connectivity

BEAD Supplemental Deployment Challenge Process

CHALLENGE PROCESS GUIDE

RELEASE DATE: NOVEMBER 18, 2026

Introduction

As part of the BEAD Supplemental Deployment process, ConnectLA is conducting a challenge process to determine which Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) remain eligible for deployment funding. The full list of potentially eligible location can be located in the Resource Library on the ConnectLA website.

A challenger may request removal of a listed BSL by demonstrating that it already receives BEAD-qualifying service or will receive such service by September 3, 2027. Challenges cannot add locations, reclassify other locations as unserved, resolve general mapping disputes, or request BEAD funding.

Because there is no rebuttal round, the initial submission must provide a complete, location-specific evidentiary record. ConnectLA will evaluate that record and make a final determination for each challenged BSL.

Challenge timeline and support

Louisiana's Supplemental BEAD challenge window will open on **November 18, 2026, and close on January 2, 2027**. All challenges and supporting documentation must be submitted electronically through the Supplemental BEAD Challenge Portal before the published deadline.

For questions regarding challenge eligibility, policy requirements, or acceptable supporting documentation, please contact ConnectLA at **connect@info.la.gov**. For technical assistance with account registration, portal access, document uploads, or other platform-related issues, please contact CostQuest Support at spdn-challenge@costquest.com.

Challenge Eligibility Checklist

Before submitting a challenge, review the following requirements to confirm that your organization, the location being challenged, and the supporting documentation meet the eligibility criteria established by NTIA. All requirements must be satisfied for a challenge to be considered.

Requirement	Eligibility Criteria
Eligible Challenger	The challenging organization must be a broadband service provider, local government, or nonprofit organization.
Eligible Location	The Broadband Serviceable Location (BSL) must appear on ConnectLA's published Supplemental BEAD Eligible Location List.
Challenge Purpose	The challenge must seek to remove a BSL from the published list. Challenges requesting the addition of locations are not permitted.
Qualifying Service	The challenged BSL must currently have BEAD-qualifying broadband service or be scheduled to receive qualifying service no later than September 3, 2027.
Supporting Documentation	Evidence must clearly identify each challenged BSL and demonstrate existing or planned qualifying service at that specific location. Evidence of service at nearby locations alone is insufficient.
Complete Submission	All required information and supporting documentation must be submitted during the challenge window. There is no rebuttal period or subsequent opportunity to supplement an incomplete submission.

Important: Challengers should verify that all applicable requirements are met before submitting a challenge. Incomplete submissions or challenges that do not meet the eligibility criteria may be rejected.

BEAD-Qualifying Service Requirements

To support the removal of a Broadband Serviceable Location (BSL) from the Supplemental BEAD Eligible Location List, challengers must provide evidence demonstrating that existing or planned broadband service meets the applicable BEAD-qualifying service requirements, such as the following:

- **Performance:** Broadband service must provide actual speeds of at least **100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload**. Advertised or “up to” speeds alone are insufficient to demonstrate qualifying service.
- **Latency:** Service must provide round-trip latency of **100 milliseconds or less** to the nearest FCC-designated Internet Exchange Point.
- **Service Availability:** Fixed broadband service can be initiated within 10 business days of a request, without additional charges or delays attributable to extending the provider's network.

- **Technology:** Service must use an eligible FCC Broadband Data Collection (BDC) technology code: 10, 40, 50, 61, 70, 71, or 72.
- **Capacity and Coverage:** The provider must demonstrate sufficient network capacity to serve existing customers and all challenged BSLs at the required performance levels, including the network path from the last mile to the nearest FCC-designated Internet Exchange Point.

ConnectLA applies consistent qualifying-service standards across all technologies and challengers. The form of supporting engineering evidence may vary by technology, but the qualifying-service requirements remain the same.

Building a Complete Evidence Package

This section outlines the general submission requirements, supporting evidence for existing and planned service, technology-specific documentation, and examples of evidence that is insufficient on its own. All evidence must be clearly associated with the location being challenged and submitted through the Supplemental BEAD Challenge Portal.

The following information must be included with each challenge:

- **Challenger Information:** Challenger name and contact information; provider name, if different.
- **Challenge Basis**: Existing Service or Planned Service.
- **Location Information**: FCC Location ID and address for each challenged BSL.
- **Service Information:** Technology code; actual download, upload, and latency performance; and standard-installation information.
- **Network Documentation:** Network design and engineering documentation demonstrating coverage and sufficient capacity for each challenged BSL.
- **Bulk Submissions:** An index that maps each FCC Location ID to the supporting file, diagram, network segment, customer record, or page.

Existing Service verses Planned Service Supporting Evidence

Supporting documentation will vary depending on whether the challenge is based on Existing Service or Planned Service. The following examples outline the types of evidence that may be submitted to demonstrate qualifying service at each challenged BSL.

EXISTING SERVICE — AVAILABLE NOW

- **As-built network documentation** showing the deployed network, coverage, and capacity for each BSL.
- **Performance data** consistent with the BEAD Performance Measures Policy Notice or a comparable federal program.

- **Location-specific service proof,** such as an existing customer—or a customer within the last 12 months—showing technology and qualifying performance at that BSL.
- **Deployment records,** such as permits, inspection results, construction contracts, and invoices.
- **Photographs** that validate installed and maintained network components, where useful.
- **BDC filing status** and filing window, if reported.

PLANNED SERVICE — AVAILABLE BY SEPTEMBER 3, 2027

- **Planned network design** showing how the network will cover and have capacity for each BSL.
- **Construction schedule and milestones** demonstrating service availability by September 3, 2027.
- **Completed and remaining work,** including evidence of current construction progress.
- **Obtained permits** and **completed pole-attachment agreements,** as applicable.
- **Construction contracts, invoices, or other binding agreements** supporting the deployment commitment.
- **Other objective evidence** showing the plan is funded, feasible, and on track.

Technology-Specific Supporting Evidence

The type of supporting documentation may vary depending on the technology used to provide service. Challengers should submit evidence appropriate to their technology that demonstrates sufficient network coverage, capacity, and qualifying performance at each challenged BSL.

Technology	**Supporting Documentation**
Wireline	GIS-based as-built or planned diagrams, proximity to each BSL, segment capacity, and relevant network characteristics such as HFC or PON split ratios.
Fixed wireless	A propagation study supported by empirical evidence, plus network capacity and backhaul. Unlicensed fixed wireless must also satisfy the applicable requirements of the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice.
LEO satellite	Evidence of spot-beam and backhaul capacity sufficient to serve every challenged BSL at qualifying performance.

Evidence That Is *Not* Sufficient on Its Own

Certain documentation may support a challenge but is not sufficient on its own to demonstrate BEAD-qualifying service. Challengers should ensure that supporting evidence is complete, location-specific, and demonstrates the applicable service requirements.

The following evidence is not sufficient on its own:

- A provider attestation or certification without supporting evidence.
- Presence in the FCC National Broadband Map or a BDC filing.
- A marketing page, advertised “up to” speed, or generalized coverage map.
- Service to a nearby BSL or one customer offered as proof for other locations.
- A network diagram that does not show capacity, coverage, or a clear link to the challenged BSLs.
- A planned-service claim without a schedule, documented progress, and objective evidence that the deadline can be met.

Submitting a Challenge Through the ConnectLA Supplemental Deployment Challenge Portal

All challenges must be submitted electronically through the designated Supplemental Deployment Challenge Portal. Challengers should complete the following steps to prepare and submit their challenges:

1. **Create an Account.** Access the Supplemental Deployment Challenge Portal and register for an account.

2. **Review the Published Location List.** Identify the BSLs you intend to challenge and confirm that each location appears on ConnectLA's published Supplemental BEAD Eligible Location List.

3. **Prepare Supporting Documentation.** Organize the required information, evidence files, and location-to-evidence index, as applicable, for each challenged BSL.

4. **Select the Challenge Basis.** Indicate whether the challenge is based on **Existing Service** or **Planned Service** and identify the affected BSLs.

5. **Enter Service Information and Upload Evidence.** Provide the required service details and supporting documentation. BSLs may be grouped when the same service claim and supporting evidence apply, provided the documentation clearly identifies each challenged location.

6. **Review and Attest.** Review the submission for completeness and accuracy and complete the required attestation.

7. **Submit the Challenge.** Submit all required information and supporting documentation before the published deadline. Incomplete submissions may be rejected, and there is no rebuttal round or subsequent opportunity to supplement the evidentiary record.

Final Check Before Submitting

Before submitting a challenge, confirm that each challenged BSL appears on the published eligible location list, the challenge seeks removal of that location, and the supporting documentation demonstrates that the applicable performance, technology, installation, coverage, and capacity requirements are met. Challengers should address any missing information or documentation before submitting their challenge.

What happens after submission?

Following the close of the challenge window, ConnectLA will review and adjudicate submitted challenges within 30 calendar days, consistent with NTIA's Supplemental Deployment Policy Notice. Determination will be based on the evidence provided during the challenge period.

- **Challenge Approved:** If the submitted evidence sufficiently demonstrates existing or planned BEAD-qualifying service, the challenged BSL will be removed from the Supplemental BEAD Eligible Location List and not be available in the next Benefit of the Bargain Round.
- **Challenge Denied:** If the evidence is insufficient to demonstrate qualifying service at the challenged BSL, the location will remain on the list. Qualified entities will have an opportunity to bid on eligible locations.

NTIA will review the final list submitted by ConnectLA and may reverse a determination when needed for compliance with federal policy and BEAD reason-code guidance.

Additional Resources

The following resources provide additional information regarding the Supplemental BEAD challenge process and applicable service requirements.

- NTIA Supplemental Deployment Policy Notice — Establishes the supplemental deployment process, challenge requirements, and examples of supporting evidence.
- NTIA Performance Measures for BEAD Last Mile Networks — Provides guidance regarding broadband performance requirements.
- NTIA BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice — Includes additional requirements applicable to certain technologies, including unlicensed fixed wireless.