BEAD Challenge Process- Questions and Answers

#	Question	MBI Response
1.	What is an Eligible Entity (EE)?	An EE is an entity that meets the NTIA designated qualifications to submit a challenge. EE's consists of four groups: local governments, tribal governments, internet service providers (ISPs), and non-profit organizations. Residents are prohibited by federal rules from directly submitting challenges to MBI. However, residents will be able to participate in the Challenge Process by following specific guidelines to submit their evidence through an eligible entity. Information and directions for residents will be shared on the BEAD Challenge Process page.
2.	How long before the Challenge Process can municipalities begin to prepare and collect information from the program?	Preparation can begin now. Please review details on challenge types in MBI's Vol. 1.
3.	Is affordability also part of the Bead Challenge? Or is only based on a speed of 100/20 available?	Affordability is not a criterion for the Challenge Process.
4.	What funds and resources are being provided to local governments to complete an area challenge?	MBI will be contracting with a support services partner who will provide technical assistance to residents and Eligible Entities (EE's). MBI will also be providing resources on their website as well as office hours. All resources can be found on MBI's BEAD Challenge Process page.
5.	Do all EE's need to complete an expression of interest with MBI and/or register prior to the portal opening?	All EE's will need to register for the portal to submit challenges. We encourage all EE's to pre-register with MBI to be notified when portal registration opens on June 10. MBI will be providing technical assistance on how to register in the coming weeks.
6.	Are future RDOF funding sights included in these numbers or would that be challenged by the provider?	Federal funding commitments have not been excluded from the numbers yet, but the FCC data that will be utilized during the BEAD Challenge Process will exclude locations that are subject to enforceable federal or state funding commitments for internet connectivity. However, MBI is aware that FCC data may not be accurate and may incorrectly identify some communities as receiving state or federal funding for internet connectivity. Those locations incorrectly identified are also encouraged to submit challenges to correct this.

7.	Will you accept CSV files for challenges? Is there a limit to how many you can submit at once?	MBI will publish acceptable forms of evidence by June 20.
8.	Are colleges eligible to participate?	Colleges may participate in the BEAD Challenge Process if they are a non-profit organization.
9.	Is reliability considered in the served/unserved decision?	If reliability is a concern, MBI suggests filing a speed, latency, or technology challenge. MBI will publish acceptable forms of evidence by June 20.
10.	Who will be the target population?	All 351 communities across the Commonwealth, specifically communities who have concerns surrounding internet connectivity.
11.	How are internet service providers (ISPs) involved in the Challenge Process?	ISPs are considered EE's and can submit challenges. Following the 30-day challenge window, ISPs will have the opportunity to dispute challenges during the 30-day rebuttal phase. MBI will host an ISP-related webinar. More information about the webinar can be found here.
12.	Are the instructions on how to run the test going to be translated?	Yes, MBI intends to provide technical assistance in various languages.
13.	Many ISPs do not allow you to order service online. You are forced to call them. Will MBI be accepting call logs as evidence for availability challenges?	MBI will publish acceptable forms of evidence by June 20.
14.	Besides speed tests, what other evidence would be considered?	MBI will publish acceptable forms of evidence by June 20.
15.	Has MBI established any parameters about what kind of testing is acceptable?	MBI will publish acceptable forms of evidence by June 20. Please review details on challenge types and in MBI's Vol. 1.

16.	When residents perform a speed test does, what the person pays for internet speed matter?	If the resident has access to internet speeds of 100/20 available, they are considered 'served,' even if they are not subscribing to services at those speeds. Residents will need to identify the speeds they are currently subscribed to.
17.	What is the date of the FCC data map that will be used for the challenge process?	The FCC map was updated in May 2024 to reflect availability as of December 31, 2023. MBI will be using version 4 of the FCC Broadband Data Collection (BDC) Data. You view the national broadband map and become familiar with the data here.
18.	Do EE's need to obtain a CostQuest license to access the FCC map fabric?	EE's will not need a CostQuest license to participate in the Challenge Process. Parties interested in analyzing this data using their internal GIS resources will need to apply for a license at broadbandusa.ntia.gov/policies/CostQuest-Licensing. It is recommended to start this process now as it may take several weeks.
19.	Where can residents find a speed test before the challenge to document when service is unreliable?	To familiarize themselves with what a speed test may look like and how it is conducted, residents may utilize Ookla's online speed test. Additional acceptable speed tests are outlined in Vol. 1.