

New Jersey BEAD CHALLENGE PROCESS



By: Nicole Ugarte, Federal Program Officer

New Jersey will open registration for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program's Challenge Process on **October 21, 2024**. Registration will remain open for 14 days and will close on November 3, 2024, 11:59 EST. The portal for eligible challengers to submit challenges will be open for 30 days starting November 4 until December 3, 2024, 11:59 EST.

The Challenge Process is a critical phase of the BEAD Program because it determines which locations and community anchor institutions in each state and territory are eligible to be served by BEAD funded networks. In this process, an eligible challenger may challenge a determination made by the state as to whether a particular location (home or business) or Community Anchor Institution (CAI)—such as schools or libraries—is served, underserved, or unserved.

Who Can Participate?

Eligible challengers include (1) units of local and/or Tribal government, (2) nonprofit organizations, and (3) broadband service providers. Individuals do not have standing to submit challenges but can participate by contacting an eligible challenger to submit a challenge on their behalf.

What is the Role of Eligible Challengers?



Read the Challenge Process instructions and guidance posted by your state or territory to understand the steps required to submit a challenge.



Gather acceptable evidence, which may include speed tests, screenshots from a provider website, service requests, letters or emails, and more.



Submit a challenge with acceptable evidence to your state or territory's BEAD Challenge Process website. Inform and encourage other eligible challengers to participate.



Respond to, or check for responses to, your challenge by periodically checking your state or territory's BEAD Challenge website for updates.

What Resources Can I Use to Create My Strategy for Participating in the Challenge Process?

New Jersey Resources

- ✓ **Challenge Process Website** NJ's Office of Broadband Connectivity's Challenge Process website for conducting the Challenge Process. Consider signing up early and be validated as a permissible challenger. [BEAD Challenge Process \(nj.gov\)](https://www.nj.gov/broadband/challenge-process)
- ✓ **SBO Overview** Provides an overview of the Challenge Process phases, challenge timelines, and instructions on how to submit and rebut a challenge.
- ✓ **Approved Initial Proposal Volume 1** Details the NTIA approved plans for conducting the BEAD Challenge Process.

NTIA Resources

- ✓ **BEAD Challenge Process Policy Notice** Guidance informing the design and implementation of the BEAD Challenge Process.
- ✓ **BEAD NOFO** Describes the requirements under which NTIA awards grants for the BEAD Program.

Visit New Jersey's Office of Broadband Connectivity's website to review the Challenge Process instructions and guidance, submit your challenge evidence, and check for challenge responses.