

BEAD Eligible Entity Challenge Process Portal Considerations

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program

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NTIA's Guidance for Challenge Process Portal Development

Disclaimer: The information provided in this document is intended solely to support Eligible Entities in the development or acquisition of challenge process portal capabilities. It is NOT intended to serve as a description of BEAD program requirements; for such requirements, Eligible Entities must refer to the BEAD NOFO and BEAD Challenge Process Policy Notice.

Overview

An Eligible Entity's Challenge Process Portal should enable eligible **challengers and service providers to register and interact**. (For simplicity, this document only refers to rebuttals by service providers – for full details regarding eligible challenges and rebuttals, see the BEAD Challenge Process Policy Notice.) It should enable **submission and review** of challenges, facilitate **provider notifications and rebuttals**, support **adjudication** by the Eligible Entity, and generate **summary reports** after completing the challenge process. The challenge portal should support:

Registration

Eligible challengers (nonprofits, units of local government, Internet service providers) can register, capturing the necessary information described in *Section 10.3 of the Policy Notice*.

Service Provider Onboarding

Service providers, identified by their FCC identifier, can register a contact email or API endpoint to receive challenges for rebuttal.

3 Challenge Submission

Challengers can, normally through a web interface or file upload, submit challenges and supporting documentation, *typically as a PDF file*.

Evidence Review

Eligible Entity staff can review incoming challenges to determine if they meet the required threshold for evidence, (e.g., contain location identifiers, identify a service provider and have the required documentation)

Challenge Notification

If a challenge meets evidentiary requirements, the portal notifies, by email or API, the service provider whose service offering is being challenged.

Rebuttal Submission

The service provider can submit a rebuttal via the portal, either via a web form or via an API.

Adjudication Process

The portal allows Eligible Entity staff to review and adjudicate challenges and rebuttals and make a final determination of whether the challenge is sustained or rejected.

Challenge Process Completion

Once the challenge process has completed, the portal generates a *CSV file* that summarizes the challenges received and their adjudication (*see Section 10.4 of the Policy Notice*). The Eligible Entity must submit this file to NTIA.

Note 1

Eligible Entities may consider additional functionality that improves the challenge process execution and communication.



Eligible Entities must provide notifications of challenges to challenged ISPs. NTIA encourages inclusion of a notification API to facilitate automated processing.