

# Prepare for the Wisconsin BEAD Challenge Process:

## Get a License & Subscribe to the Docket 5-BCH-2024

The BEAD Challenge process for Wisconsin is anticipated to begin in January 2024, dependent on when [NTIA](#), the federal agency overseeing the BEAD program, approves Wisconsin's proposed BEAD Challenge Process contained with the Initial Proposal Volume 1. The proposed draft challenge process can be viewed [here](#).

### How can I participate in the challenge process?

There will be two approaches eligible challengers can take to submit challenges.

**1)** Eligible challengers can identify broadband serviceable locations (BSLs) on the forthcoming PSC BEAD Challenge Map and retrieve the BSL IDs to compile challenges.

Challengers should consider this approach of manually retrieving location data from the map and compiling if they plan to challenge a smaller number of locations.

**2)** Eligible challengers can download a .CSV files of BSL identification numbers to analyze in their own geospatial program to compile challenges. Entities using lists of BSL IDs will need an NTIA license from CostQuest Associates. Without a NTIA license to access the broadband serviceable location fabric, challengers will not be able to meaningfully view or analyze the BSLs in their spatial software to compile challenges.

Challengers should consider this approach if they plan to challenge a large number of locations and they have the necessary technical and GIS analysis expertise.

### What is the broadband serviceable location fabric (BSLF or fabric) and why would I use it?

The fabric is a dataset of all locations where fixed broadband internet access service is or could be installed, including the address, latitude and longitude, and building type of each location. Access to the confidential fabric allows entities seeking to participate in BEAD or other broadband programs to conduct spatial analysis to design grant projects, participate in the BEAD Challenge Process, and fulfil reporting needs.

The forthcoming PSC BEAD Challenge Map will display this fabric data on a limited basis, but entities with access to the fabric can use their own spatial analysis tools to compile and analyze large sets of BSLs.

## How do I access the fabric, and what is a NTIA CostQuest license?

The fabric consists of confidential material considered proprietary by CostQuest, thus a license is required to access fabric data. CostQuest NTIA licenses were created to support the BEAD program and other federal broadband programs. Licenses are required to be FREE for all eligible participants in the challenge process. The CostQuest NTIA licenses come in different tiers and are separate from the FCC licenses that were previously required for engaging with the Broadband Data Collection (BDC) and FCC Challenge process.

## Who should get an NTIA CostQuest license and which tier?

- **Internet Service Providers** registered with the FCC who may apply for BEAD funding and/or may participate in the BEAD challenge process should [request a Tier D license here](#).
- **Eligible non-profit organizations (501(c)(3) and 501(c)(6)), local government, and Tribal government entities** with the necessary GIS expertise interested in participating in the BEAD challenge process, particularly if they anticipate challenging multiple BSLs, should [request a NTIA Cost Quest Tier E license here](#). Eligible challengers requesting a Tier E license that do not have a FCC Registration Number (FRN) must [follow the steps here to get an FCC FRN number](#) before requesting a Tier E license.

Any eligible challenger entity with the necessary GIS expertise and tools that wants to view the BEAD Challenge Map locations spatially as soon as possible, before the 30-day challenge period opens, should request the appropriate license. The PSC will publish the .CSV files of all BSL categories (unserved, underserved, and community anchor institutions) as soon as practicable following approval from NTIA. The PSC will publish the BEAD Challenge Map no later than the start of the 30-day challenge period.

## Additional Support and Resources

For questions regarding the NTIA license and/or the fabric, [CostQuest has published a NTIA Fabric Licensing Process FAQ](#) and CostQuest's NTIA Fabric Support can be contacted at: [ifasupport@costquest.com](mailto:ifasupport@costquest.com)

CostQuest has provided license request instructions and sample agreements for each tier:

- **Tier D:** [License request instructions](#) and [sample agreement](#)
- **Tier E:** [License request instructions](#) and [sample agreement](#)

[Subscribe to the Commission docket 5-BCH-2024 on ERF](#) to receive automated email notifications. This docket will be used to conduct the challenge process and the PSC will post communication related to the challenge process in the coming months before the challenge period begins.

Additional details and updates about the WI BEAD program can be found on the [BEAD Challenge webpage](#). For questions about BEAD and the forthcoming challenge process email: [PSCBEADChallenge@wisconsin.gov](mailto:PSCBEADChallenge@wisconsin.gov)