FCC National Broadband Map and Broadband Funding Map

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Introduction to the FCC

The FCC is an *independent* U.S. government agency established by Congress with the Communications Act of 1934.

- Independent of the Executive Branch (directly responsible to Congress, not the President).
- Clearly separated from regulated entities (the United States does not have any government-owned telecommunications companies).

The FCC is a converged regulator (telecommunications and broadcasting) \rightarrow regulates television, radio, wireline, fixed and mobile wireless, satellite, and cable services in all 50 states plus U.S. territories.

Mission: "To ensure that all Americans, without discrimination, have available a rapid, efficient, nationwide and worldwide wire and radio communication service with adequate facilities at reasonable charges."

The FCC is both the policy maker and the regulator.



Leadership

- Directed by five Commissioners → appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate for staggered five-year terms.
- The President selects one of the Commissioners to serve as Chair.
- Maximum of three Commissioners from the President's political party at any given time.
- Operates under the "Government in the Sunshine Act."

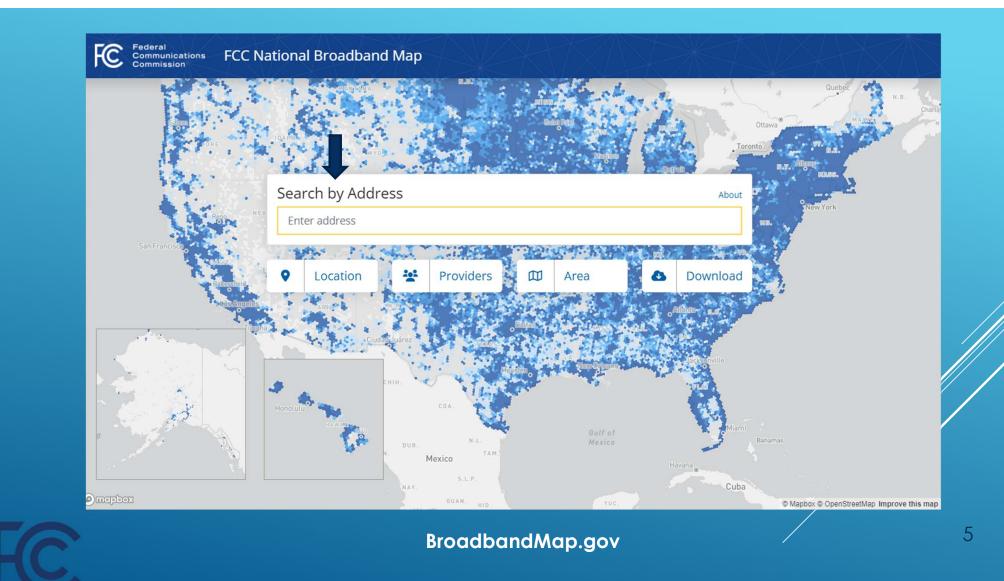
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FCC Strategic Goals 2022 - 2026

- Pursue a "100 Percent" Broadband Strategy
- Promote Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility
- Empower Consumers
- Enhance Public Safety and National Security
- Advance U.S. Global Competitiveness
- Foster Operational Excellence





Broadband Data Collection (BDC): New Approach to Mapping Broadband Availability

- The FCC historically collected broadband deployment data at the census-block level. Large geographic scale meant a generalized view of deployment.
- More reliable and consistent broadband availability data are critical to efforts to target public funds to connect unserved and underserved communities.
- Congress directed the FCC to develop processes and procedures to collect, verify, and publish more granular data in the Broadband Deployment Accuracy and Technological Availability (DATA) Act.
- The first draft of the new Map was published in November, 2022.



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New Approach to Mapping Broadband Availability

- Fixed broadband: shift from Census Blocks to individual locations, using a newly created locations database (the "Fabric")
- Mobile broadband: standardized parameters, propagation model and link budget info
- Challenge processes, crowdsource data, verifications, audits
- Iterative process data updated, corrected on a continuing basis



Provides a better tool for targeting future infrastructure investment

WHAT'S ON THE NATIONAL BROADBAND MAP?

The National Broadband Map consists of 2 datasets, both of which can be challenged:

FABRIC LOCATIONS

• What is it?

- The Fabric is a dataset of all locations in the United States and Territories where fixed broadband internet access service is or could be installed.
- Who creates it?
 - The Fabric is developed by CostQuest in consultation with the FCC and in accordance with FCC rules.
- Challenges and updates timeline?
 - The Fabric is updated twice per year.
 - For the best opportunity for challenges to be included in version 4 of the Fabric, challenges should be submitted by September 8, 2023.

• What's on the current map?

 Version 2 of the Fabric is the base of the current map. Version 3 of the Fabric is available to license holders to submit challenges, and for ISPs to submit their updated availability data.

BROADBAND AVAILABILITY

• What is it?

- Broadband availability data shows what broadband services, if any, are available at locations included in the Fabric, as reported by internet service providers every 6 months.
- Who creates it?
 - Internet service providers report their availability data to the FCC every 6 months.

• Challenges and updates timeline?

- Broadband availability data is updated consistently over time as challenges are resolved.
- Challenges are accepted and resolved on a rolling and ongoing basis.

• What's on the current map?

 The map shows availability data as-of December 31, 2022 and reflects resolved availability challenges. The map will be updated regularly as additional challenges are resolved.



BroadbandMap.gov

Broadband Data Collection: Challenge Processes

Two distinct categories of data populate the new broadband maps, both of which are subject to challenge in the BDC system:

- Fabric Data (fixed locations)
- Availability Data (fixed and mobile)

Each category of data may be challenged individually or on a "bulk" basis.

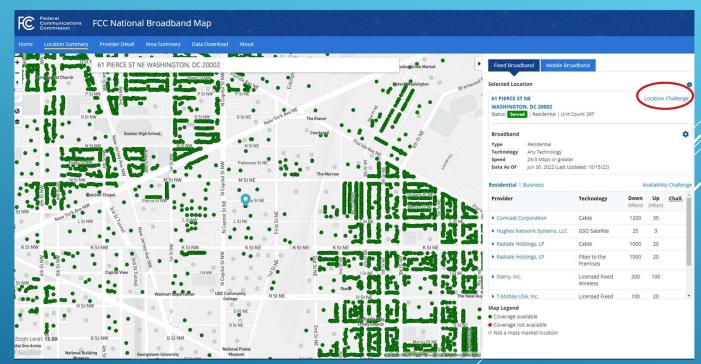


National Broadband Map: Location Challenges

Location points are part of a dataset called the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric.

What can be challenged?

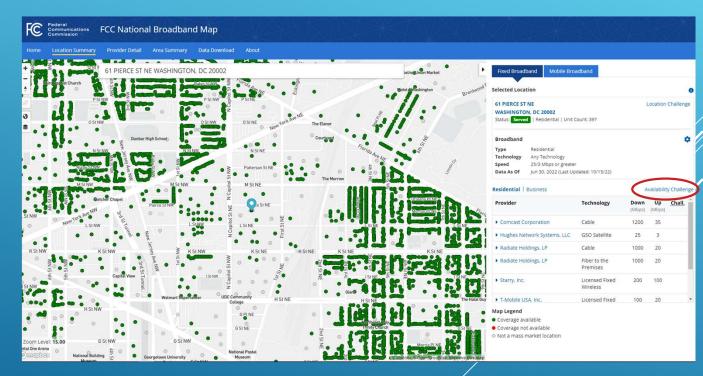
- Wrong address
- Wrong unit count
- Wrong placement on the map
- Misidentified as non-Broadband-Serviceable
- Missing location



National Broadband Map: Availability Challenges

Fixed broadband service is "available" at a location if the:

- provider has, or previously had, a connection in service to the location.
- provider could initiate service through a routine installation within 10 business days of a request with no extraordinary charges or delays attributable to the extension of the provider's network.



National Broadband Map: Mobile Availability Challenges

- Challengers may dispute the availability of <u>mobile</u> broadband service using on-the-ground speed test data.
- Speed test data may be submitted using the FCC's Speed Test app (or another third-party speed test app approved by the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology).
- Alternatively, bulk availability challengers may submit speed test data collected using their own hardware and software provided it meets FCC's requirements.





Federal Broadband Funding Map

- The 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act tasked FCC with creating a map to be "the centralized, authoritative source of information on funding made available by the Federal Government for broadband infrastructure deployment in the United States."
- Federal agencies that fund broadband deployment must regularly provide relevant information to the FCC for inclusion in the Funding Map.
- The FCC published the first version of the Broadband Funding Map on May 15, 2023 and must update it at least twice a year.
- The Funding Map is interactive/searchable and currently includes data from the largest federal programs, with others to be added going forward.
- Broadband Funding Map: https://fundingmap.fcc.gov



Broadband Data Collection: Resources

For More Information: <u>www.fcc.gov/BroadbandData</u>



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