Fact Sheet

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FCC Broadband Maps: Individual Map Challenges

Background

As policymakers work to close the digital divide, accurate broadband availability maps are crucially important. The FCC recently updated it's national broadband maps, but numerous errors persist. Since these maps will guide policymakers as they determine where billions of dollars are spent on rural broadband deployment, taking swift action to ensure these maps are accurate is essential.

Individuals are able to challenge the location and broadband availability information shown on the map. Each availability challenge is sent to the internet provider in question and requires a response from them to each challenge. Importantly, challenges are meant to dispute the availability data submitted by a provider, not the quality of service a provider offers.

How to Review Map Data

- 1. Search for your address at <u>broadbandmap.fcc.gov</u>.
- 2. Your address should appear on the map. If your location is missing, the location's placement on the map may be incorrect, or the address or unit count for your location is incorrect. If this happens, you can submit a *location challenge*.
- 3. The map will also display internet *availability* at your location, including a list of providers, network technology they use, and the maximum advertised download and upload speeds at your location. If the services listed are not available or contain inaccurate information, you can submit an *availability challenge*.

Reviewing the map data should take less than 5 minutes. If the information you see on the map is incorrect, the FCC is asking if you would submit a short description disputing the information and supporting documentation if you have it. If everything you see displayed is correct, there is no need to do anything.

Why does this matter?

These new broadband maps identify where broadband is or is not available. \$42.5 billion in federal funding is currently available to expand broadband access and connect rural America. Where that funding goes and how it gets spent will be based on the information shown on these maps. By participating in the challenge process, American families and businesses can help ensure the maps are accurate and make sure this funding goes to connect rural communities.