



CHALLENGE SUBMISSION PROCESS

Unserved High-Speed Broadband Funding Program

High-speed broadband service providers serving households and businesses within a proposed project area may challenge an application on the grounds that granting an award to the applicant will result in the deployment of high-speed broadband infrastructure in an area that is served by speeds of at least 25 megabits per second downstream and 3 megabits per second upstream.

Challenges will be emailed to ra-dcedsitedvpt@pa.gov. Challenges for the 2021 round of funding under the Unserved High-Speed Broadband Funding Program will be accepted from October 1, 2021 through November 14, 2021. Challenges must include the information and items listed below.

REQUIRED INFORMATION

1. Challenge Company Name:
2. Challenge Company Address:
3. Challenge Company Contact Name and Title:
4. Contact Email:
5. Contact Phone:
6. Name of Applicant being Challenged:
7. Location of Proposed Service Area:
8. A copy of the most recently submitted FCC Form 477. Include FCC Registration Number if not provided on the FCC Form 477.
9. A notarized affidavit that the proposed project area is currently served by existing high-speed broadband, or has received federal, state and/or local grants or other subsidies for or has started a planned deployment of high-speed broadband infrastructure within the applicant's proposed project area.
10. A mapping file of existing (or planned) infrastructure or service area in one of the following formats: .shp, .shx, .dbf or .kmz. If the area contains both currently served and areas of future service, please clearly indicate which is which. If a mapping file is not available, a PDF map may be submitted but will limit the ability of the scoring team to determine overlapping areas.
11. Challengers that have received federal, state and/or local grants or other subsidies must submit copies of award letters and commitments from all applicable sources.
12. Challengers that have started a planned deployment of infrastructure must include copies of permits and planning approvals, progress to date and a timeline to service availability in the applicant's proposed project area. If construction is not complete, provide the number of additional customers that can be served by the completed project.
13. Type of last mile technology:

<input type="checkbox"/> a. Fiber to the premise	<input type="checkbox"/> d. Fixed Wireless***
<input type="checkbox"/> b. DSL	<input type="checkbox"/> e. Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> c. Coaxial	

***If fixed wireless, please attach a propagation study and describe the criteria used to generate the study.
14. The number of current broadband customers in the proposed service area.

a. Business: _____	b. Residential: _____
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15. The speeds that are/will be offered to residential customers and business customers.

a. Business	b. Residential
Download: _____	Download: _____
Upload: _____	Upload: _____
16. Any additional supporting documentation.

DISCLOSURES

All challenges collected are subject to public disclosure, except for the specific location of infrastructure assets. In order for feedback regarding existing service, construction, or future builds to be considered when reviewing applications, supporting evidence and documentation must be provided. Comments with insufficient evidence or documentation will not be considered. Commenters may be asked to provide additional information and/or work with DCED to validate service availability.

If a challenging provider is found to have submitted inaccurate information, all current and future comments will be disregarded in the scoring process. In order for an area to be considered served, service at or exceeding 25 megabits per second downstream and 3 megabits per second upstream must be available to all residential customers in the defined area.

Providers that submit challenges that are found to be valid will have 18 months from the date the Authority awards grants for that funding round to submit documentation that the challenger has fulfilled its commitment made during its challenge.

If an application is denied funding due to a valid challenge, and the challenger does not fulfill its commitment to provide high-speed broadband service to customers in the affected project area, the Authority shall not consider challenges from the provider for the next two grant cycles unless it is determined that the failure to fulfill the commitment was due to unforeseeable and disastrous circumstances beyond the provider's control, and the provider has taken reasonable steps to fulfill the commitment in light of the circumstances.

The submission of a challenge will serve as acknowledgement of the challenge procedures established under the Unserved High-Speed Funding Program guidelines.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this information is true.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

Title