

FCC Broadband Data Collection

September 23, 2022

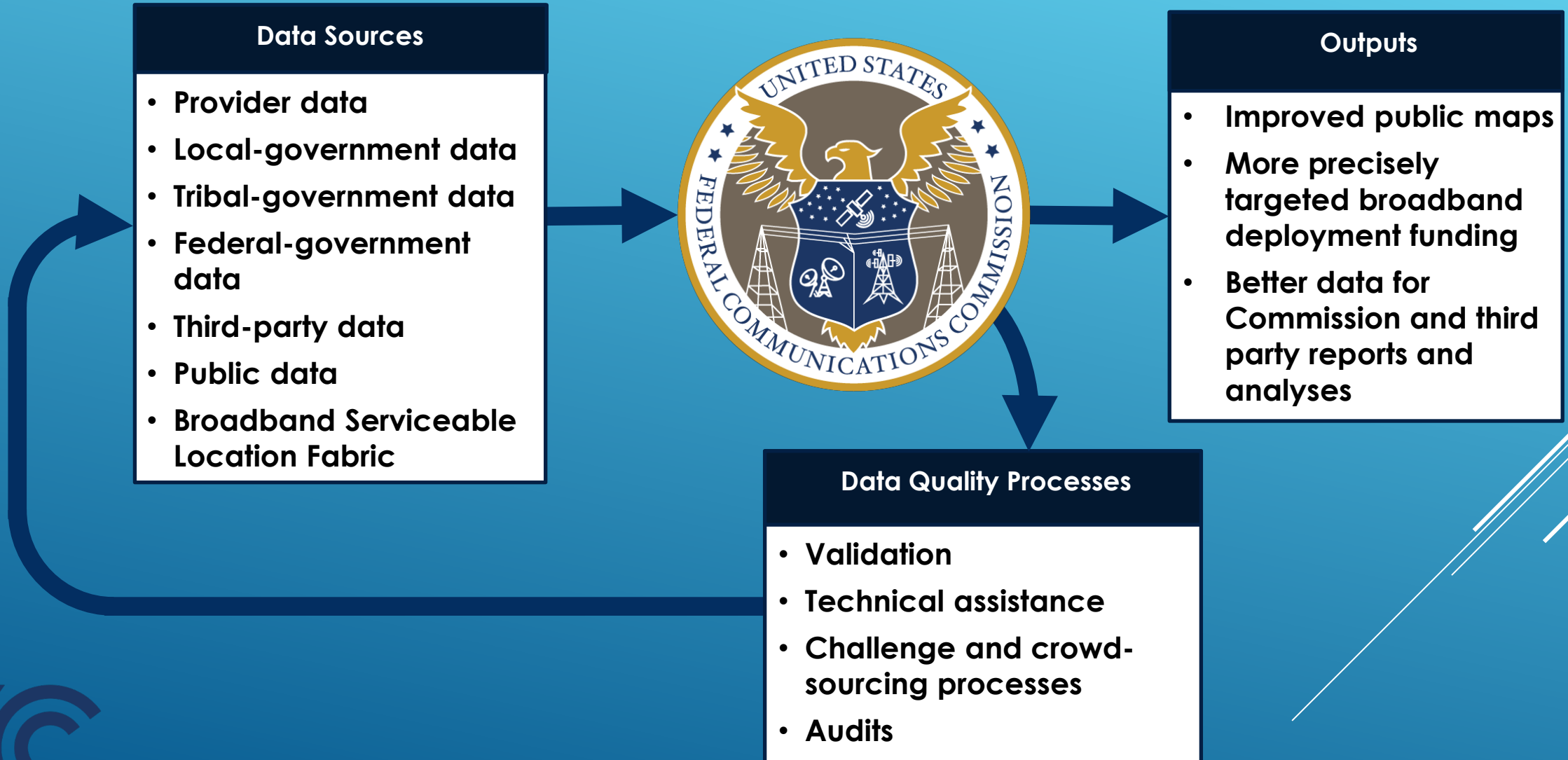
Broadband Data Task Force
Federal Communications Commission



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

- The FCC historically has collected broadband deployment data using FCC Form 477.
- 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.

Broadband Data Collection: Data Flow



Broadband Data Collection: Timing

- The filing window for availability Data “as-of” June 30, 2022 ended on September 1.
- The first set of maps will be available in the Fall of 2022.
- Once the first version of the maps are published, the FCC will begin to accept challenges to the broadband availability data reported by service providers.
- The next BDC filing window will begin on December 31 and end on March 1, 2023, and availability data collections will occur every six months thereafter.

Broadband Data Collection: Challenge Processes

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

- Fabric Data
- Availability Data

Each opportunity allows for both individual and “bulk” challenges.

Broadband Data Collection: Fabric Challenges

Fabric challenges dispute the accuracy of the location data included in the Fabric. Types of Fabric challenges include:

- A location that meets the Commission's definition of a Broadband Serviceable Location is not included in the Fabric;
- A location's classification as being broadband serviceable is incorrect;
- Information about a location is incorrect in the Fabric (e.g., the address or unit count for the location is incorrect); or
- The location's placement (i.e., geographic coordinates) is incorrect.

Broadband Data Collection: Getting Access to the Fabric

1. If you do not already have one, obtain an FCC username and password, and an FCC Registration Number (FRN) for your entity, in CORES (Commission Registration System). When creating your FRN, you must select the Entity Type that matches your government type (federal, state/local, or Tribal).
2. Log in to the BDC system at bdc.fcc.gov using your CORES username and password.
3. After logging in, you should see any FRNs associated with your username. Click on the FRN for the governmental entity that is seeking access to the Fabric dataset.

Broadband Data Collection: Getting Access to the Fabric

4. That will take you to the Entity Information page in the BDC system. Enter the required information. Note that the government entity type selected on that page must match the government entity type selected when registering the FRN in CORES in step 1.
5. Once you complete the licensing process with CostQuest, the FCC's Fabric contractor, they will send you a link to download the Fabric data file.

Broadband Data Collection: Working with the Fabric

- [FCC.gov/BroadbandData/FabricHelp](https://www.fcc.gov/BroadbandData/FabricHelp)
- Review the tutorial videos on what the Fabric is and how to open and work with the file.
- Develop a strategy for analyzing and validating the Fabric data for your jurisdiction to determine whether a challenge is warranted.

Broadband Data Collection: Working with the Fabric

- If you discover that there are locations not included in the Fabric, confirm that these locations align with FCC's definition of a BSL, or broadband serviceable location, before including in a challenge.
- Prepare to submit your challenge data into the BDC system by formatting the data according to the requirements laid out in the Fabric bulk challenge data specification.

Broadband Data Collection: Fixed Availability Challenges

The BDC will measure broadband availability, not network performance, affordability or adoption.

Service is “available” if the provider has, or previously had, a connection in service to the location, or if the 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.

Service providers will report availability by network technology and report the maximum advertised download and upload speeds associated with each such technology.

Broadband Data Collection: Fixed Availability Challenges

Codes identifying the category of or reason for a bulk fixed availability challenge:

- 1 – Provider Failure to Schedule Install Within 10 Days of Request for Service*
- 2 – Provider Failure to Perform Install Within 10 Days of Request for Service*
- 3 – Provider Demand for Connection Charges That Exceed Its Standard Installation Charge*
- 4 – Provider Denial of Request for Service*
- 5 – Reported Service Type Not Offered*
- 6 – Reported Speed Not Available for Purchase*
- 7 – Subscribed Speed Not Achievable [Individuals only can select this option (on the map), but it won't create a challenge]*
- 8 – Signal Not Available (Satellite / Fixed Wireless only)*
- 9 – Provider Demand for Additional Construction (Satellite / Fixed Wireless only)*

Broadband Data Collection: Mobile Availability Challenges

Challengers may dispute the availability of mobile 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 the requirements set forth in the FCC's mobile speed test data specification and they disclose their methodology for collecting such data.

Broadband Data Collection: Resources

For More Information:
www.fcc.gov/BroadbandData