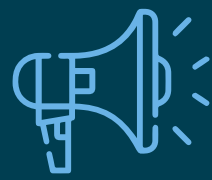


# BEAD CHALLENGE PROCESS



## What is the BEAD State Challenge Process, and how does it support infrastructure build out?

In June 2023, Michigan received a historic \$1.559 billion funding allocation, the fourth highest in the nation, for its Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD Program). The BEAD Program's purpose is to build high-speed internet connections to all the unserved and underserved homes, businesses and institutions in the state. The State Challenge Process is the way that those locations will be identified and verified.

The State Challenge Process begins with the State Challenge Map, which has been published by the Michigan High-Speed Internet Office (MIHI) at [www.MichiganBroadbandMap.com](http://www.MichiganBroadbandMap.com). Challenges are additional evidence about locations that are unserved, underserved and served. Individual Michiganders also can provide information about problems they've had getting access to high-speed internet service at their address. MIHI will review each challenge to ensure that every eligible location is included in Michigan's BEAD program.

### Who Can Submit Challenges?



Federal rules for the BEAD program allow MIHI to accept challenges from:

- Local governments
- Tribal governments
- Nonprofit organizations
- Internet service providers

### How Do Individuals Participate?



Michiganders can play an active role in the State Challenge Process by providing information about problems they have getting access to high-speed internet service through a portal that has been developed by Merit Network: [Merit.edu/Challenge](http://Merit.edu/Challenge). This portal lets individuals report an issue with getting connected to service and/or take a speed test if their service is much slower than expected.

Individuals are also encouraged to connect with the local or Tribal government or nonprofit organizations they are connected to in order to find out whether these local leaders are already engaged in the State Challenge Process and planning to file challenges that include their location.

### What Type of Challenges?

- **Availability:** Service shown isn't available or service is currently available but isn't shown
- **Speed:** Service is so much slower than advertised that the location is underserved or unserved
- **Latency:** Subscribers experience too much lag time
- **Data caps:** Plans impose data caps below 600 GB
- **Enforceable Commitment:** Federal, state, or local funding is already paying to connect this location (or this location will be left out)
- **Planned Service:** Privately-funded construction is underway to connect this location (or this location will be left out)
- **Community Anchor Institution:** Location is (or is not) in one of the CAI categories defined in Michigan's State Challenge Process

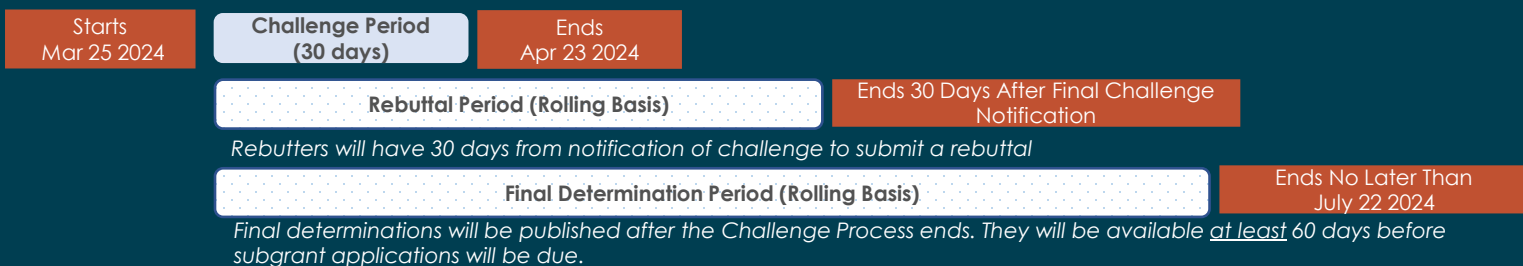
### How Do Eligible Challengers Participate?



1. Eligible Challengers must first register for an account in the State Challenge Portal: [www.MichiganBroadbandMap.com](http://www.MichiganBroadbandMap.com).
2. Once your account is approved, login to the State Challenge Map. **Challenges can be submitted starting at 12:00 am on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024.** Search for an address or navigate on the map to find the location (or locations) you wish to challenge, click on "Submit Challenge" and provide information about which type of challenge you are filing.
3. Provide evidence in a .pdf, .doc, .jpg, .png, or .bmp file format to support your challenge. This evidence must clearly identify the location(s) being challenged and support your claim. Additional details about supporting evidence can be found in the Challenge Process Guidance document.
4. Submit your challenge. **The deadline to submit challenges is 11:59 pm on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024.**

## Challenge Process Timeline

The challenge process will last no more than 120 days in total.



MICHIGAN HIGH-SPEED INTERNET

For additional resources, including more information on the Challenge Process and Michigan's BEAD Program, please visit the MIHI [website](http://www.MichiganBroadbandMap.com).