



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
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August 30, 2024

Re: BEAD Challenge Process
 Preliminary Determination of Eligible Locations

5-BCH-2024

To Challenge Process Participants:

The Commission has completed the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program Challenge Process as approved in Wisconsin's Initial Proposal Volume 1 ([PSC REF#: 496853](#)). The results are attached and have been submitted to the federal National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) for review and approval. The challenges that are approved by NTIA will determine the final list of locations eligible for BEAD funding in Wisconsin.

Challenge Process Results

The Challenge Submission period opened on April 29, 2024, and concluded on May 29, 2024. Commission staff then completed the comprehensive review of all submitted challenges and determined which challenges meet the required minimum level of evidence ([PSC REF#: 505883](#)). The 30-day rebuttal period began on June 20, 2024, and closed on July 20, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. CT. Staff have reviewed the 3,225 received rebuttals, and each permissible rebuttal was sustained or rejected based on the evidence submitted.

Table 1 provides a summary of received rebuttals and the resulting determination. Approximately 3,000 rebuttals were accepted, which resulted in a rejection of the initial challenge. Three rebuttals were rejected, which resulted in an acceptance of the initially submitted challenge. In addition, as part of the challenge process, NTIA allows the Commission to "true up" its service availability data to reflect service availability as of December 31, 2023. The true up process allows the Commission to account for new service that has been installed from June 30 to December 31, 2023, and better target BEAD funding to locations still lacking service. In 257 instances, challenges were determined to be "moot" because the original challenge affected a service offering that no longer exists (for example, when an internet service provider reports they no longer serve the location).

All accepted challenges that did not receive a rebuttal were accepted as challenged and submitted to NTIA. Approximately 35,200 locations were challenged and available for rebuttal but did not receive a rebuttal, and thus were accepted as challenged, along with those for which the rebuttals were rejected. The posted BEAD Location Challenges data set compiles all received challenges and rebuttals and their final determination ([PSC REF#: 515715](#)).

Table 1: Summary of Rebuttals by Challenge Type

Challenge Type Rebutted	Count of Locations Rebutted	Count of Rebuttals Accepted <i>(challenge rejected)</i>	Count of Rebuttals Rejected <i>(challenge accepted)</i>	Count of Moot Challenges with a Rebuttal
Availability Challenge rebuttals	25	11	3	11
Availability Area Challenge rebuttals	258	50	0	208
Pre-challenge Measurement Modification rebuttals	2,941	2,903	0	38
Business service only Challenge rebuttals	1	1	0	0
Total	3,225	2,965	3	257

No rebuttals were received for any community anchor institution (CAI) challenges that were made available for rebuttal. Thus, all CAI challenges have been accepted and submitted to NTIA ([PSC REF#: 515716](#)) ([PSC REF#: 515717](#)).

Preliminary BEAD Eligible Locations

Using the results of the challenge process, staff have created a preliminary list of locations that are eligible for BEAD funding because they: (a) lack access to a connection of 100 megabits per second (Mbps) download and 20 Mbps upload, and (b) do not already have connections in progress under a state or federally funded expansion project. A preliminary summary of BEAD eligibility for all Wisconsin locations is shown in the table below. A full listing of all broadband serviceable locations in Wisconsin and their preliminary BEAD eligibility status can be found as separate files by county in the docket 5-BCH-2024 ([PSC REF#: 515772](#)). A web map of the preliminary list of BEAD eligible locations can be found here: [BEAD Eligibility Map](#).

The list of eligible locations is preliminary and is subject to review and approval by NTIA. Once a final list of eligible locations is approved by NTIA, it will represent the final determination of locations eligible for BEAD. Once accepted, a revised list (if necessary) will be posted to the docket 5-BCH-2024.

Table 2: Preliminary Count of BEAD Eligible Locations

BEAD Eligibility Status	Count of BEAD-Eligible Locations
Unserved	98,685
Underserved	107,892
Total	206,577

Please direct questions to PSCBEADChallenge@wisconsin.gov.

Sincerely,



Joe Fontaine
Administrator
Division of Digital Access, Consumer and Environmental Affairs

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