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Questions and Answers from the SCBBO BEAD Eligibility Cleanup (BEC) Informational Session

Date

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Background

The South Carolina Broadband Office (SCBBO) outfitted under the Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) facilitated a BEAD Eligibility Cleanup (BEC) Informational Session. This document includes Questions and Answers that were covered during the Informational Session.

Informational Links

- [SC BEAD Webpage](#)
- [BEC Guidelines](#)
- [BEC Informational Session Slides](#)

Questions and Answers

Q. Why is this level of detail required to validate a BSL when the FCC does not require this level of detail when filing our bi-annual report? If the BSL is accepted and approved through the FCC, is that not good enough if we are not going after grant funding?

A. NTIA requires service availability designations to be reported to the FCC as served (100/20 Mbps for BSLs classified as Unserved or Underserved and 1 Gbps symmetric service for BSLs classified as CAIs), in addition to evidentiary proof to code a given BSL as a non-BEAD location.

Q. Regarding the evidence of service availability, does the screenshot of the service offering mean we can use .com screenshots, or what evidence is the state looking for?

A. ISPs may utilize screenshots illustrating service availability. The screenshot must include the address of the location, the name of the service provider, and the speed tier. The record must show a minimum of 100/20 for a non-CAI location, or 1 Gig-symmetric for CAIs and be repeatable when the SCBBO searches the same site with the same address. The minimum types of evidentiary proof SCBBO will accept is referenced in the BEC guidelines, available on the BEAD webpage of the ORS website, at:

<https://ors.sc.gov/broadband/office/investments/state/bead>

Q. Could you share a link to the current BSL csv file?

A. Eligibility data is available for download on the Citrix Sharefile Platform via the BEAD - Maps and Data folder. If you do not have access to the platform, please fill out this form: <https://arcg.is/101ueC2> Upon Completion of the form, you will be added to an ISP specific folder with a sub-folder to upload a copy of your organization's NTIA CostQuest Tier D License. Access to the Eligibility Data will be provided upon receipt of the NTIA CostQuest license.

Q. Can we use other ISPs websites to see if the location is serviceable and submit a screenshot to clean up the data?

A. Only the ISP providing service can use a screenshot from their website as evidence. Reminder, the screenshot must show the address capable of receiving a minimum of 100/20 for a non-CAI location, or 1 Gig-symmetric for CAIs and be repeatable when the SCBBO searches the same site with the same address. Additionally, NTIA requires service availability designations to be reported to the FCC as served (100/20 Mbps for BSLs and 1 Gbps symmetric service for CAIs).

Q. Will the chat questions and responses also be published?

A. Yes, answers to questions covered during the informational session are provided herein.

Q. What constitutes a 'stamped' as-built for the purpose of evidence? ... IE would a pdf from ArcGIS be acceptable?

A. PDF files from ArcGIS are not considered 'stamped' as-builts for purposes of BEC and the evidentiary proof needed to demonstrate service availability.

Q. Similar if not the same as the "Using Other ISPs website data" question, if we are not an ISP (we are an independent PM/CM firm), are we able to submit evidence for eligibility challenge as well?

A. Third parties may be contracted to assist ISPs regarding BEC. ISPs must submit evidence and information pertaining to BEC on their own behalf. For a third party to participate under an ISP, the third party must have their own CostQuest license or be designated as an authorized user under an existing CostQuest license. To learn more about CostQuest licensing, visit: <https://www.ntia.gov/funding-programs/internet-all/broadband-equity-access-and-deployment-bead-program/program-documentation/costquest-licensing>. Note, SCBBO reserves the right to contact the ISP directly to affirm collaboration with third parties in question.

Q. What if the correct location address is associated with a different BSL?

A. For purposes of BEC, address changes should only be reflected on the locations an ISP is proposing as either served or not a true BSL that are included in the CSV file they upload to the Citrix Sharefile platform.

Q. If an address has been dropped subsequent version of a fabric is there a specific GIS code required?

A. No. For purposes of BEC, address changes should only be reflected on the locations an ISP is proposing as either served or not a true BSL that are included in the CSV file they upload to the Citrix Sharefile platform.

Q. So for every single BSL we report to you, do you have to have a geotagged photo for evidence or website screen shot? Anything else?

A. Refer to BEC guidelines for the types of required evidentiary proof permissible. ISPs do not have to include exclusively geotagged photos or website screenshots for all locations.

Q. It is very expensive to get as-builts stamped. We have as-builts just not officially stamped

A. In instances where an ISP has as built plans that have not been stamped by a certified professional engineer (PE), SCBBO will accept a signed attestation from a PE licensed to work in South Carolina certifying the plans were prepared under their responsible charge, meets professional standards of care, and complies with relevant codes and regulations.

Q. So all needed data is already on the Citrix folder right now?

A. Eligibility data is available for download on the Citrix Sharefile Platform via BEAD Maps and Data folder. If you do not have access to the platform, please fill out this form: <https://arcg.is/101ueC2> Upon Completion of the form, you will be added to an ISP specific folder with a sub-folder to upload a copy of your organization's CostQuest Tier D License. Access to the Eligibility Data will be provided upon receipt of the CostQuest license.

Q. Can we use a service order as evidence. For example, a CAI has initiated service with us in December and we are engineering it.

A. Perhaps. Per NTIA guidance, the location must have been reported as served with 1 Gbps symmetric service during the December 2024 FCC BDC reporting cycle. In the instance that the CAI is in the FCC No_BSL table and is not reported against in the FCC Broadband map, ISPs may submit evidence and SCBBO will reach out if there are any questions or a need for additional evidence.

Q. For locations that have become invalid in subsequent versions of the fabric is there a preferred way to challenge these locations as they have already been removed from the fabric using the BDCs standardized process? For example, we have about 450 locations in our footprint that have been identified as being removed in v5.

A. Any SC BEAD location(s) that may have been removed in subsequent versions of the FCC Fabric will need to be submitted through the BEC phase following the process outlined in the BEC Guidance including the supporting evidence for "2. Location is Invalid" (GIS_Code = 2). The sole evidence of fabric removal is not sufficient to remove a location from SC BEAD eligibility for the reason that FCC Location_ids may no longer exist, however a new point with a new Location_id may be present at the property's footprint in subsequent versions.