



Georgia BEAD Program Challenge Process

Guidebook

OUR VISION

*A transparent,
integrated enterprise
where technology
decisions are made
with the citizen in mind*

—

OUR MISSION

*To provide technology
leadership to the state
of Georgia for sound IT
enterprise management*

2024

Overview of the BEAD Program

- In June 2023, Georgia was allocated \$1.3 billion of federal BEAD funds that will become available following completion of the federal planning cycle.
- Funds are prioritized for *unserved* locations (those that cannot get internet service of 25/3 Mbps) first and *underserved* locations (those that can get internet service between 25/3 and 100/20 Mbps only) second.
- For the Challenge Process to begin, Georgia's Initial Proposal Volume I must be approved by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and Volume II of the Initial Proposal must be submitted for formal approval.

Planning

2023

Provisional Grant Program

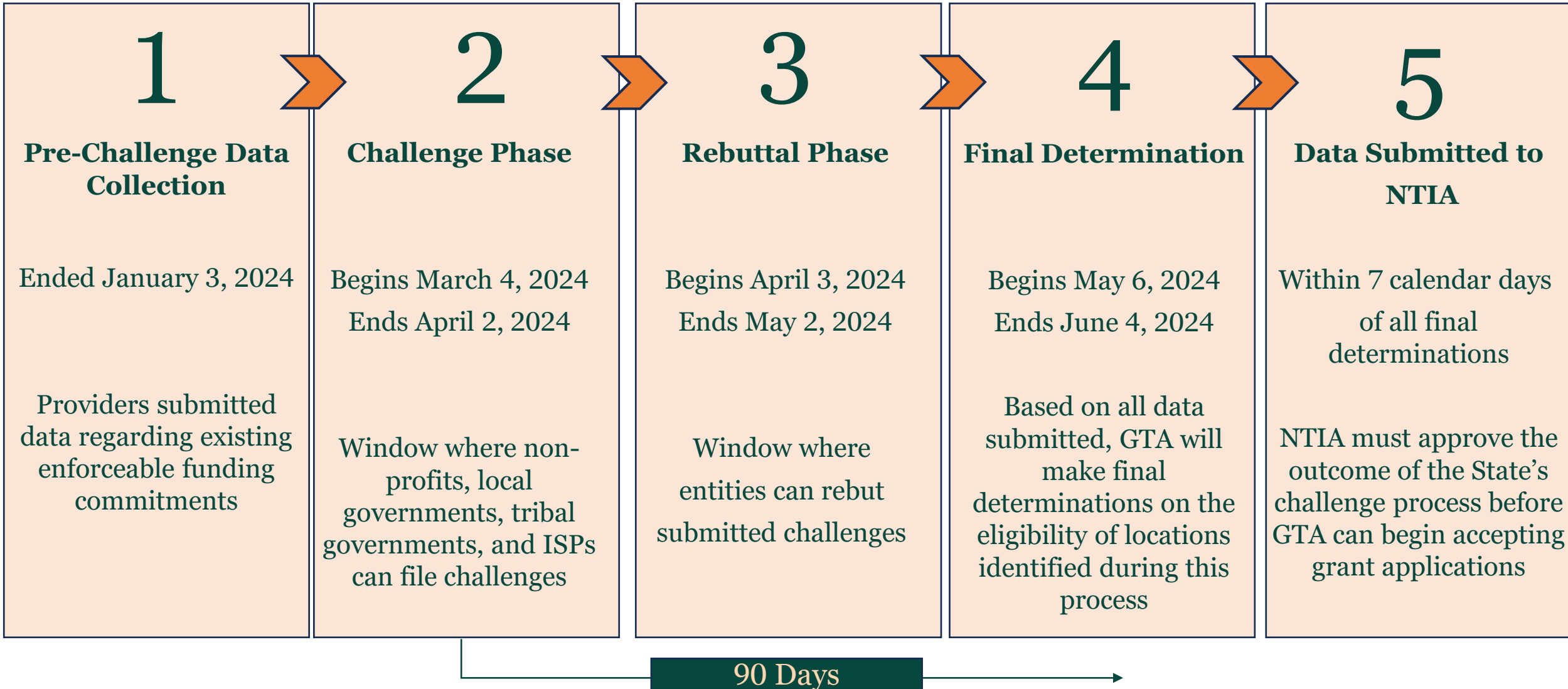
2024

Projects Begin

2025



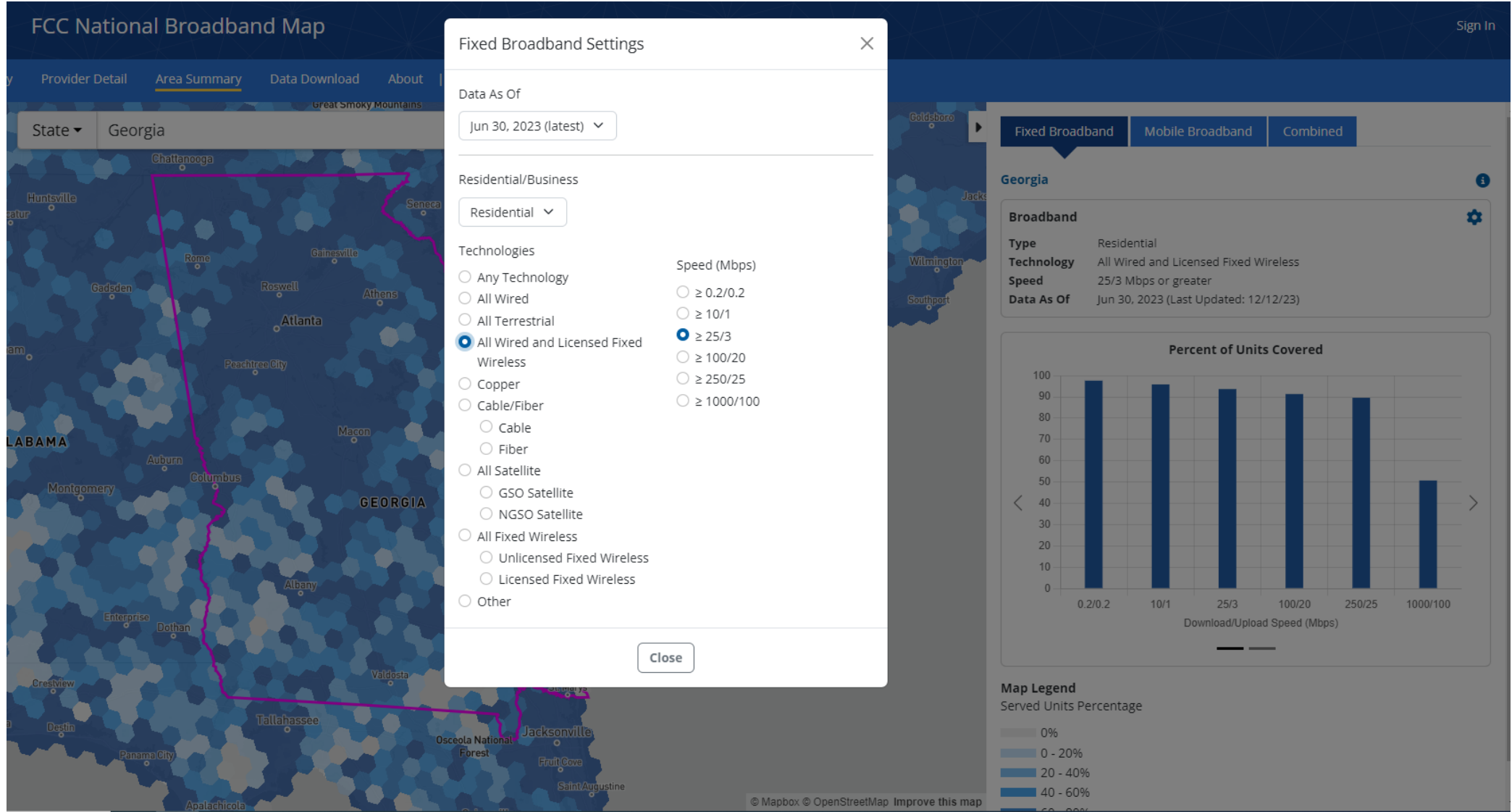
BEAD Challenge Process Timeline



Eligible Challengers

Per NTIA's model challenge process, only **Internet Service Providers (ISPs), non-profits, local governments, and tribal governments** are eligible challengers. Individuals are not eligible to challenge locations but are encouraged to work with an eligible challenger to submit a challenge.

Eligible Locations are based off the FCC's National Broadband Map



The screenshot displays the FCC National Broadband Map interface for the state of Georgia. A settings dialog box is open, allowing users to filter the map data based on specific criteria.

Fixed Broadband Settings

- Data As Of: Jun 30, 2023 (latest)
- Residential/Business: Residential
- Technologies:
 - Any Technology
 - All Wired
 - All Terrestrial
 - All Wired and Licensed Fixed Wireless
 - Copper
 - Cable/Fiber
 - Cable
 - Fiber
 - All Satellite
 - GSO Satellite
 - NGSO Satellite
 - All Fixed Wireless
 - Unlicensed Fixed Wireless
 - Licensed Fixed Wireless
 - Other
- Speed (Mbps):
 - ≥ 0.2/0.2
 - ≥ 10/1
 - ≥ 25/3
 - ≥ 100/20
 - ≥ 250/25
 - ≥ 1000/100

Georgia Summary Panel:

- State: Georgia
- Tab: Fixed Broadband
- Broadband Type: Residential
- Technology: All Wired and Licensed Fixed Wireless
- Speed: 25/3 Mbps or greater
- Data As Of: Jun 30, 2023 (Last Updated: 12/12/23)

Percent of Units Covered:

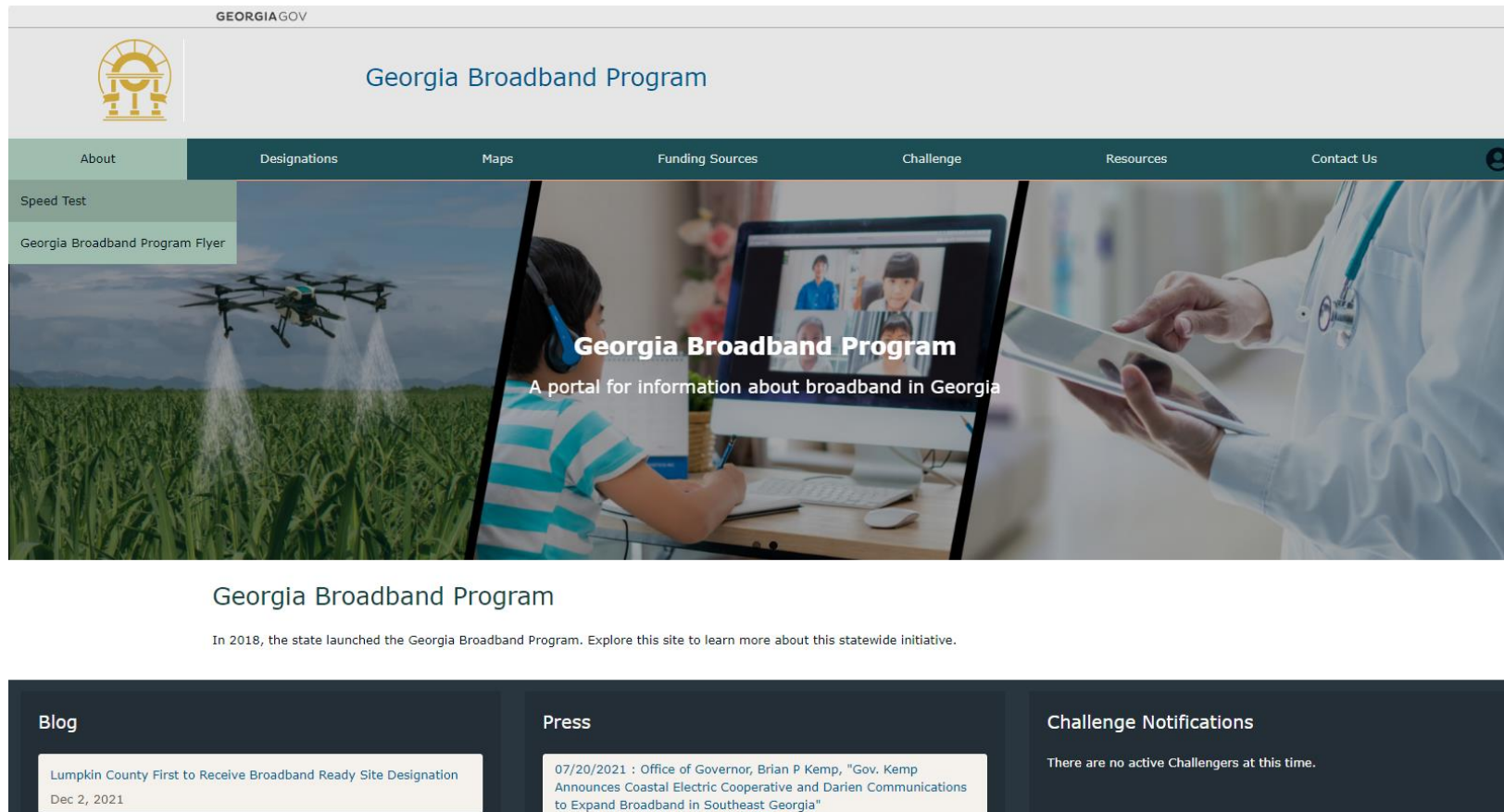
Download/Upload Speed (Mbps)	Percent of Units Covered
0.2/0.2	~95%
10/1	~92%
25/3	~88%
100/20	~85%
250/25	~82%
1000/100	~48%

Map Legend:

- Served Units Percentage
- 0%
- 0 - 20%
- 20 - 40%
- 40 - 60%
- 60 - 80%
- 80 - 100%

How to Submit a Challenge

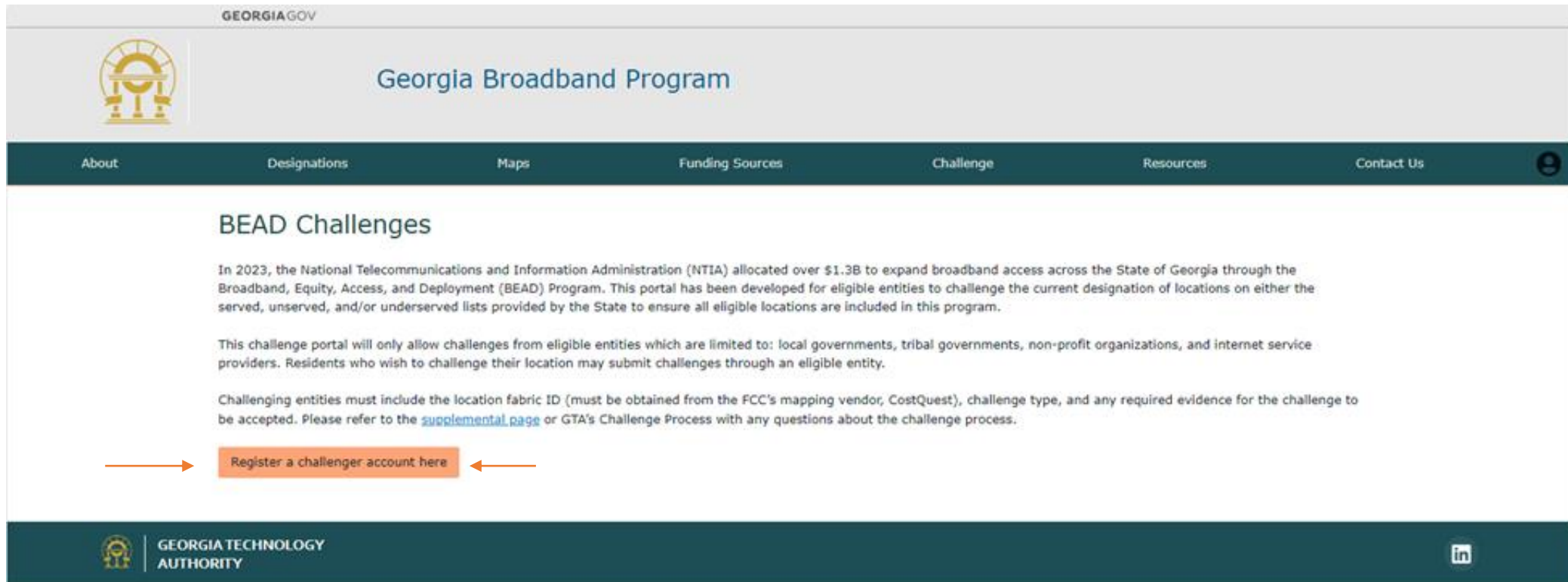
All challenges must be submitted through the challenge portal at <https://broadband.georgia.gov>.



Per NTIA’s model challenge process, only Internet Service Providers (ISPs), non-profits, local governments, and tribal governments are eligible challengers. Individuals are not eligible to challenge locations but are encouraged to work with an eligible challenger to submit a challenge.

How to Submit a Challenge

Eligible challengers will be required to create an account and will be notified via email when their account has been requested and approved or denied. The email will include instructions on how to complete your account registration.



The screenshot shows the Georgia Broadband Program website. At the top, it says "GEORGIA.GOV" and "Georgia Broadband Program". Below that is a navigation menu with links for "About", "Designations", "Maps", "Funding Sources", "Challenge", "Resources", and "Contact Us". The main content area is titled "BEAD Challenges" and contains the following text:

In 2023, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) allocated over \$1.3B to expand broadband access across the State of Georgia through the Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program. This portal has been developed for eligible entities to challenge the current designation of locations on either the served, unserved, and/or underserved lists provided by the State to ensure all eligible locations are included in this program.

This challenge portal will only allow challenges from eligible entities which are limited to: local governments, tribal governments, non-profit organizations, and internet service providers. Residents who wish to challenge their location may submit challenges through an eligible entity.

Challenging entities must include the location fabric ID (must be obtained from the FCC's mapping vendor, CostQuest), challenge type, and any required evidence for the challenge to be accepted. Please refer to the [supplemental page](#) or GTA's Challenge Process with any questions about the challenge process.

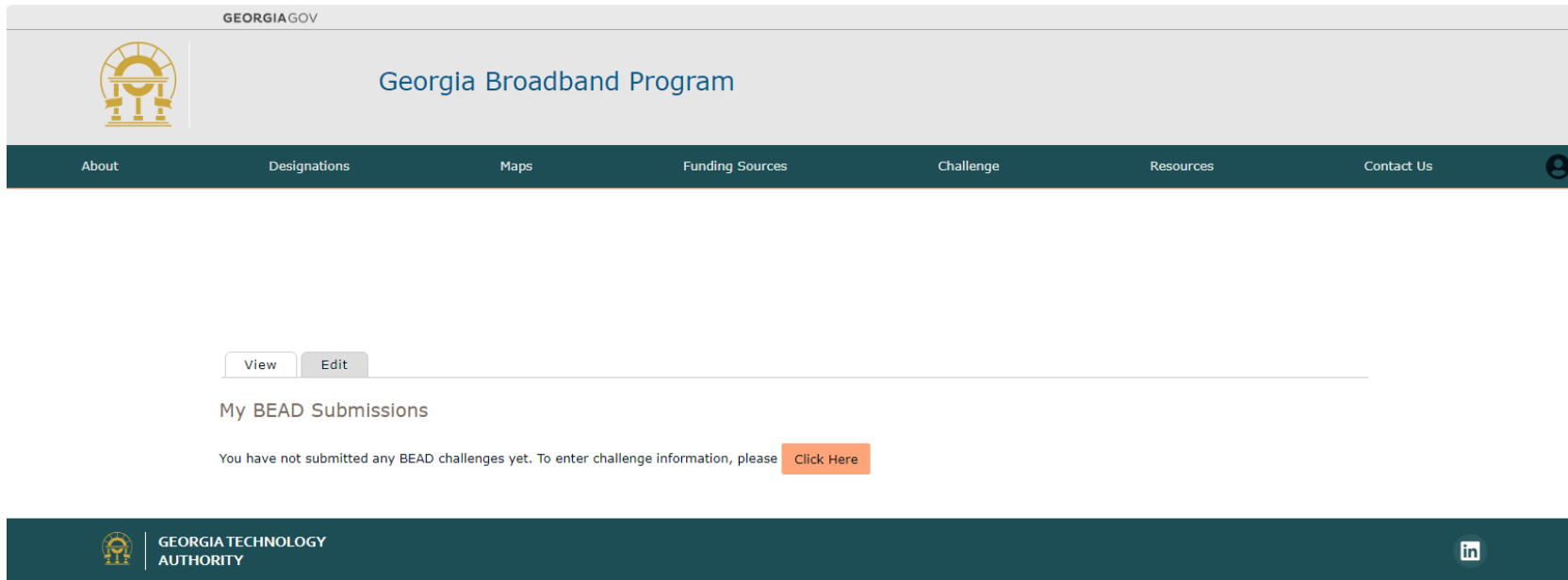
Below the text is a button that says "Register a challenger account here" with arrows pointing to it from both sides.

At the bottom of the page, it says "GEORGIA TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY" and has a LinkedIn icon.

Per NTIA's model challenge process, only Internet Service Providers (ISPs), non-profits, local governments, and tribal governments are eligible challengers. Individuals are not eligible to challenge locations but are encouraged to work with an eligible challenger to submit a challenge.

How to Submit a Challenge

Once an account has been approved the user may submit challenges through the portal.



The screenshot displays the Georgia Broadband Program portal interface. At the top, the header includes the Georgia Government logo and the text "GEORGIA GOV". Below this, the "Georgia Broadband Program" title is centered. A dark navigation bar contains links for "About", "Designations", "Maps", "Funding Sources", "Challenge", "Resources", and "Contact Us", along with a user profile icon. The main content area features a "View" and "Edit" button pair, followed by the heading "My BEAD Submissions". A message states, "You have not submitted any BEAD challenges yet. To enter challenge information, please [Click Here](#)". The footer contains the Georgia Technology Authority logo and name, and a LinkedIn social media icon.

How to Submit a Challenge

- Challengers **MUST** use the CSV Template and include the location ID, challenge type, and required evidence for the challenge to be considered.
- After submitting a challenge, users will receive an email that their challenge has been received.
 - Challengers will also receive email updates when their challenge is under review, and when the challenge has been sustained, partially sustained, or rejected. If the challenge is rejected or partially sustained, challengers may reach out to the Georgia Broadband Office for additional information.

Create BEAD Challenge

Counties *

Choose some options

Challenge CSV *

Choose File | No file chosen

If you are submitting a challenge packet over 100MB, please contact [CVI0G CONTACTS] for further information and instruction.

One file only.

100 MB limit.

Allowed types: csv.

Challenge Code(s) *

A S L D T B E P N C R

Select all that apply. For more information about challenge codes, click [HERE](#)

Challenge Evidence/ Supporting Documents

Add a new file *

Choose Files | No file chosen

Unlimited number of files can be uploaded to this field.

100 MB limit.

Allowed types: doc docx xls xlsx ppt pptx txt rtf zip pdf csv.

By [signing below](#), I verify that I am representing an eligible challenging entity per the State of Georgia's Initial Proposal Volume I as approved by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

Signature *

Name

01/08/2024

Comment

Briefly describe the changes you have made.



Important Information

GTA is strongly encouraging entities to submit challenges early in the challenge period. Challenges that are incomplete or missing required information will be rejected and may not be resubmitted after the 30-day Challenge period has closed.

How to Rebut a Challenge

- Internet Service Providers wishing to rebut a challenge will be notified via the approved email addresses they provided to GTA when a challenge has been levied against them. The email will include:
 - Which locations were challenged
 - What types of challenges were levied against the locations
 - Entity levying the challenge
 - Instructions on providing rebuttal documentation to the Georgia Technology Authority

Types of Challenges

Eligible entities may challenge broadband serviceable locations for the following reasons:

- Availability
- Speed (only for fixed wireless subscribers)
- Latency (only for fixed wireless subscribers)
- Data Cap
- Technology
- Business Service Only
- Enforceable Commitment
- Planned Service
- Not Part of an Enforceable Commitment
- Location is a CAI
- Location is not a CAI

Types of Challenges

Code	Challenge Type	Description	Examples of Evidence
A	Availability	The broadband service identified is not offered at the location, including a unit of a multiple dwelling unit (MDU).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screenshot of provider webpage. • A service request was refused within the last 180 days (e.g., an email or letter from provider). • Lack of suitable infrastructure (e.g., no fiber on pole). • A letter or email dated within the last 180 days that a provider failed to schedule a service installation or offer an installation date within 10 business days of a request. • A letter or email dated within the last 180 days indicating that a provider requested more than the standard installation fee to connect this location or that a provider quoted an amount in excess of the provider's standard installation charge in order to connect service at the location.

Types of Challenges

Code	Challenge Type	Description	Examples of Evidence
S	Speed (only for fixed wireless subscribers)	The actual speed of the service tier falls below the unserved or underserved thresholds.	Speed test by subscriber, showing the insufficient speed and meeting the requirements for speed tests.
L	Latency (only for fixed wireless subscribers)	The round-trip latency of the broadband service exceeds 100 ms.	Speed test by subscriber, showing the excessive latency.
D	Data cap	The only service plans marketed to consumers impose an unreasonable capacity allowance (“data cap”) on the consumer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Screenshot of provider webpage. •Service description provided to consumer.
T	Technology	The technology indicated for this location is incorrect.	Manufacturer and model number of residential gateway (CPE) that demonstrates the service is delivered via a specific technology.

Types of Challenges

Code	Challenge Type	Description	Examples of Evidence
B	Business service only	The location is residential, but the service offered is marketed or available only to businesses.	Screenshot of provider webpage.
E	Enforceable Commitment	The challenger has knowledge that broadband will be deployed at this location by the date established in the deployment obligation.	Enforceable commitment by service provider (e.g., authorization letter). In the case of Tribal Lands, the challenger must submit the requisite legally binding agreement between the relevant Tribal Government and the service provider for the location(s) at issue.

Types of Challenges

Code	Challenge Type	Description	Examples of Evidence
P	Planned service	The challenger has knowledge that broadband will be deployed at this location by December 31, 2025, without an enforceable commitment or a provider is building out broadband offering performance beyond the requirements of an enforceable commitment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Construction contracts or similar evidence of on-going deployment, along with evidence that all necessary permits have been applied for or obtained. •Contracts or a similar binding agreement between the State or SBO and the provider committing that planned service will meet the BEAD definition and requirements of reliable and qualifying broadband even if not required by its funding source (i.e., a separate federal grant program), including the expected date deployment will be completed, which must be on or before December 31, 2025.

Types of Challenges

Code	Challenge Type	Description	Examples of Evidence
N	Not part of enforceable commitment	This location is in an area that is subject to an enforceable commitment to less than 100% of locations and the location is not covered by that commitment. (See BEAD NOFO at 36, n. 52).	Declaration by service provider subject to the enforceable commitment.
C	Location is a CAI	The location should be classified as a CAI.	Evidence that the location falls within the definitions of CAIs set out in section 1.3 of Volume I.
R	Location is not a CAI	The location is currently labeled as a CAI but is a residence, a non-CAI business, or is no longer in operation.	Evidence that the location does not fall within the definitions of CAIs set out in section 1.3 of Volume I or is no longer in operation.

Types of Challenges

- **Area and MDU Challenges**
 - An area challenge reverses the burden of proof for availability, speed, latency, data caps, and technology if a defined number of challenges for a particular category, across all challengers, have been submitted for a provider. Thus, the provider receiving an area challenge or MDU must demonstrate that they are indeed meeting the availability, speed, latency, data cap and technology requirement, respectively, for all served locations within the area or all units within an MDU.
 - An area challenge is triggered if there are challenges to **six or more** broadband serviceable locations using a particular technology and a single provider within a census block group.
 - An MDU challenge requires challenges by at **least three units or 10 percent of the unit count** listed in the Fabric within the same broadband serviceable location, whichever is larger.

Lists of CAIs, Served, Unserved, & Underserved Locations



Using the below template and unserved/underserved location data along with the most recent data from the [FCC national broadband map](#), **internet service providers (ISPs) and local government organizations are encouraged to submit data associated with enforceable funding commitments with federal, state, or local governments for broadband service that meets or exceeds 100/20 Mbps by January 3, 2024.** Any additional data on enforceable commitments may also be submitted during the challenge phase of the state challenge process.

Send your template and any additional data to broadband@gta.ga.gov.

 [Pre-challenge Data Collection Template](#) (XLS, 13.96 KB)

 [Location IDs of all unserved locations](#) (XLS, 3.15 MB)

Last update: November 28, 2023

 [Location IDs of all underserved locations](#) (XLS, 1.2 MB)

Last update: November 28, 2023

- Eligible challenging entities must have a Tier D (ISPs) or Tier E (non-profits, local governments, tribal governments) with the FCC's vendor, CostQuest to interpret the data available on GTA's website.
- For more information regarding this, please contact us at broadband@gta.ga.gov.

Additional References

- [BEAD Homepage](#)
- [Initial Proposal Volume 1](#)
- [Initial Proposal Volume 2](#)
- [Five-Year Action Plan](#)
- [Digital Connectivity Plan](#)

Challenge Process Points of Contact



Jessica Simmons- Deputy CIO & Executive Director, Georgia Broadband Program

Sarah Baska- Director of Broadband Program Operations

William Gaston- Broadband Infrastructure Manager

Please email us at Broadband@gtga.gov.