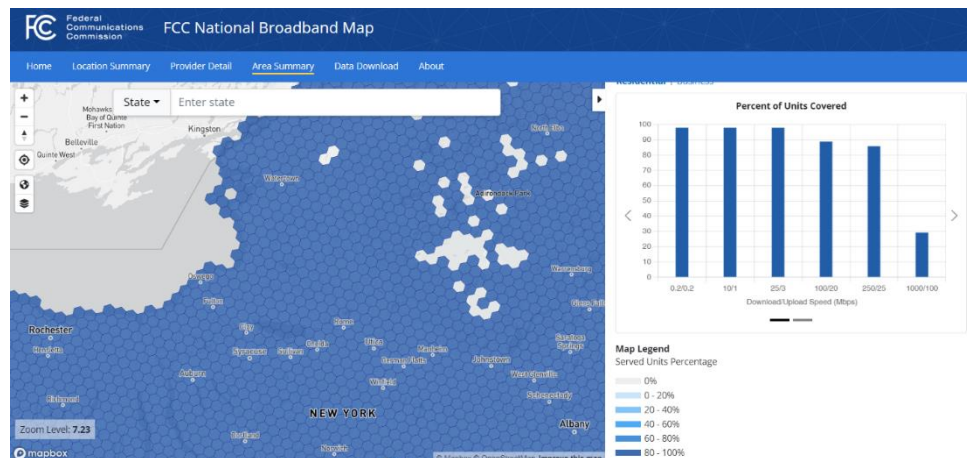


New FCC Broadband Maps Available

On November 18, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) unveiled the pre-production draft of its [new broadband maps](#), providing a picture of where broadband is and is not available, with updates and improvements to the maps over time. This release sets in motion the process for stakeholders to submit challenges to the map, which will be used to allocate funds. It is important that availability data be as accurate as possible as the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) expects to announce \$42.45 billion in formula-based allocations by June 30, 2023, to eligible states and territories through the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program.

Maps that show high-speed Internet service availability are nothing new. The problem is that the FCC's maps had previously relied on data collected at the census block level, so if a single home was served in a census block, the whole block would show up as served. The result was that maps were overly optimistic, lacked location-specific information, and glossed over gaps in coverage. With



these new maps, the FCC has integrated the information from broadband providers with hundreds of location-specific data sources, giving more detailed picture of fixed broadband availability.

Users now can search for their address and find information about which internet service providers claim to offer service at the location, the broadband technologies they offer, and the advertised maximum download and upload speeds. The new maps will help policymakers more accurately target investments to expand broadband to unserved and underserved areas and create market pressures on internet providers to improve their coverage.

These *pre-production draft* maps kick off an ongoing, iterative process by consistently adding new data to improve and refine the maps. FCC has set up a system that allows consumers and others to challenge inaccuracies and provide feedback. Individuals who see that the information on the maps does not match up with what they know from their lived experience

will be able to submit challenges, or request corrections, directly through the map interface. Bulk challenges will also be accepted from state, Tribal, and local governments and other stakeholders who see problems to correct in multiple locations. To search a map for your location, visit broadbandmap.fcc.gov/home.

Earlier this year, New York State's ConnectALL office released a similar address-level broadband availability map. In October, the ConnectALL office [reported](#) that they submitted more than 31,000 missing unserved or underserved address locations to inform the federal broadband data and mapping.

Those wanting to challenge the map data are advised to submit challenges by January 13, 2023, so that the FCC can include the corrections in the final version of the map that will be used to allocate BEAD funding. However, the FCC will continue to improve the data and mapping by accepting challenges on a regular basis after this date.