

AREA AND MDU CHALLENGES



What is an Area Challenge or an MDU Challenge?

If multiple homes in a certain area, or multiple units in a Multi-Dwelling Unit building (MDU), are unable to receive broadband internet service from a single provider due to issues such as slow speeds or lack of available service, this may be indicative of a larger problem that is affecting the entire area or entire MDU.

If a qualifying threshold for the number of challenges to the same provider and same type of internet connection is met, then an Area Challenge or an MDU Challenge will take place. When this happens, then the internet service provider will be asked to provide evidence that shows they can serve all the locations they claim to serve in that area or building (for a wired internet technology) or a representative random sample of locations selected by Massachusetts Broadband Institute (for licensed fixed wireless).

Area and MDU challenges apply to various challenge types including: **Availability (A), Speed (S), Latency (L), Data cap (D), and Technology (T).**



MDU Challenge Threshold

The MDU Challenge Threshold is the number of units in an MDU that must be challenged in order for an entire MDU to be challenged.

- For MDUs with fewer than 15 units, one (1) challenged unit is required to trigger a challenge.
- For MDUs with 16 to 24 units, two (2) challenged units are required to trigger a challenge.
- For MDUs with 25 total units and above, at least three (3) units must be challenged to trigger a challenge.

MDU Challenges count toward area challenges (i.e., six (6) successful MDU challenges in a census block group may trigger an area challenge).

Area Challenge Threshold

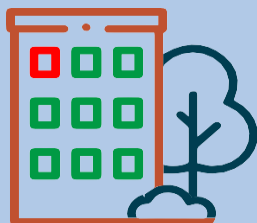
The Area Challenge Threshold is the number of challenges in a specific area, also known as census block group, that are needed to challenge the entire area.

- An area challenge is triggered if six (6) or more broadband serviceable locations using a particular technology and a single provider within a census block group are challenged.

MDU Challenge Example

The graphic shows a small apartment building (MDU) with fewer than 15 units. One of the units has made a successful challenge, triggering an MDU challenge.

The challenged provider must now provide evidence that they can provide service to each unit in the building that they claim to serve. Locations that cannot be demonstrated to be served will be eligible for BEAD funding.

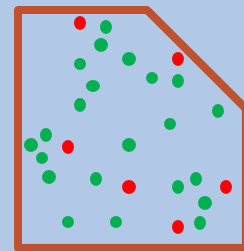


Key: ● Challenged
● Unchallenged

Area Challenge Example

The graphic shows a census block group with six or more locations within a census block group that are challenged. For this example, six locations have submitted successful challenges, triggering an Area Challenge.

The challenged provider must submit evidence that they provide service for all the locations they claim to serve within the area (for a wired internet technology) or a representative random sample of locations selected by MBI (for licensed fixed wireless).



Key: ● Challenged
● Unchallenged

A service provider will only have to respond to challenges made to locations that they claim to serve, not every location within that area or building.

Area and MDU Challenge Notifications and Timeline for Rebuttals



- Area and MDU Challenges will be reviewed continuously as new challenges are received
- Area Challenges and MDU Challenges will be triggered in the event that a sufficient number of challenges to meet the Threshold are sustained after the challenge and rebuttal evidence is considered by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute.
- Internet Service Providers will have 30 days from the open of the rebuttal phase to provide rebuttal evidence regarding the locations included in the Area Challenge or MDU Challenge.