



## NTIA Licensing FAQ

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## General Questions

Q. I have already signed an agreement with CostQuest. Why do I need to sign an NTIA agreement?

The FCC licenses (Tiers 1, 2, 3, and 4) are specific to FCC BDC purposes. Those agreements were developed under an agreement with the FCC, which restricts the use of Licensed Materials for FCC Broadband Data Collection (BDC) purposes. These purposes include submitting Fabric corrections as well as submitting broadband availability and availability challenges.

The NTIA licenses (Tier A, B, C, D, and E) were developed to support the BEAD program and other federal broadband programs available today or in the future and facilitate compliance with reporting obligations associated with such programs - including reporting associated with the FCC Broadband Funding Map established by section 60105 of the IIJA. If your organization currently participates or intends to participate in federal broadband programs, the NTIA license may support those activities, consistent with the terms of the License Agreement.

Q. The FCC Fabric is distributed as part of the FCC BDC process. How do State entities receive the NTIA License and Licensed Materials?

NTIA has provided CostQuest with a list of state contacts. CostQuest sent an email to each contact. If you have not been contacted and believe you should have been, please contact CostQuest, [ifasupport@costquest.com](mailto:ifasupport@costquest.com).

Q. Is there a difference between the NTIA Fabric and the FCC Fabric?

The fabric available through the FCC and NTIA licenses are consistent within a release. The FCC release separates bsl\_flag yes and no records into distinct files. NTIA Fabric is presented as a single file.

A release refers to the fabric version that the FCC makes available for BDC purposes. If the date of the release is the same, then the fabric obtained through the FCC or NTIA license is the same. Both the FCC Fabric and Fabric released by NTIA contain a column, fcc\_rel. This column provides the date of the FCC Fabric used in that deliverable.

Q. If I am an FCC licensee, can I use my FCC-licensed materials for purposes outside of the BDC process?

No. The FCC Licensed Materials are only for FCC BDC purposes. They can't be used for purposes outside of the license agreement. If you are going to use FCC Licensed Materials for purposes other than BDC purposes, this is a violation of the FCC License Agreement.

Q. I am a contractor for a State. How do I get the NTIA Fabric?

A contractor for a State can get the NTIA Fabric pursuant to the terms of the State's Tier C license. The State should complete the NTIA Tier C license process. Once they are licensed, the State can share the Licensed Materials with you as an Authorized User, per the process outlined in the License Agreement. The Licensed Materials will be shared by the Licensee. They will not come through CostQuest. It is the Licensee's responsibility to ensure Attachment B of their License Agreement is completed by Authorized Users.



### Q. What Licenses are available within the NTIA Program?

As of this date, five license tiers are contemplated. Not all of these licenses have been released. The tiers are described in the table below.

License Tier	Licensee	Description	Availability
<b>Tier A</b>	NTIA	NTIA, its agents, and any NTIA-established entities	Complete
<b>Tier B</b>	Federal Broadband Granting Agencies	Includes any federal agency that administers a federal financial assistance program that supports or promotes broadband deployment, use, or adoption	Available on request through NTIA.
<b>Tier C</b>	Pass Through Entities	Includes Broadband Grant Program recipients that are a State, local government, Tribal Entity, Institution of Higher Education, or nonprofit organization	Available on request through NTIA.
<b>Tier D</b>	Prospective and awarded Recipients and Subrecipients	Entities that participate in Federal Broadband Programs	Available
<b>Tier E</b>	Licensee-Pass Through Entity Challengers	Entities that will challenge Pass Through Entity coverage maps.	Planned release September 2023.

### Q. How can county or other local government units receive the Fabric Data?

The answer varies based on how the county or other local government intends to use the Fabric Data.

If the county is helping the state fulfill the responsibilities of a Pass Through Entity, this would be an Authorized User of a Tier C license. An example could be a county GIS center that supports statewide mapping. That would be an Authorized User.

If the county or other local government is seeking sub-recipient funds to lead a broadband deployment project, that is Tier D license.



If the county is supporting challenge work, that is Tier E.

## Tier C License

### Q. Under the NTIA Tier C license, can I share data?

The NTIA Tier C license supports the distribution of Licensed Materials to a Licensee's Authorized Users. An Authorized User may be a subcontractor or contractor working on the Licensee's behalf to support the licensed purposes. The use of the Licensed Material by the Authorized Users must be in support of the Licensee's intent and consistent with the terms of the license agreement.

### Q. I am a Tier C Licensee, and I want to assign an Authorized User, what should I do?

Complete Exhibit B in the Agreement and retain it for your records. Note that Exhibit B to the License Agreement requires a Licensee to obtain signatures of its Authorized User Entities (i.e., not every employee of the Authorized User but the signature of an individual with appropriate signature authority from the Authorized User entity) agreeing to the terms of the License Agreement.

An entity that shares Licensed Materials with an Authorized User remains responsible for ensuring the Authorized User maintains the security of the Licensed Materials and uses the Licensed Materials in accordance with the Permitted Uses.

### Q. As a Pass Through Entity and Tier C Licensee, how can I publish fabric data to support a challenge process?

To support a challenge process, a Pass Through Entity can publish the Fabric's location\_id field along with non-Fabric derived attributes such as technology and speed to fulfill its federal broadband grant program obligations. From a challenger's perspective, both a sub-recipient (eg. an ISP who holds a Tier D license) and a local government / non-profit (who holds a Tier E license) will be able to translate the location\_id into an address and location for review purposes.

### Q. As part of a challenge process, can an ISP share Fabric derived shape files or address lists with a Tier C Awardee?

No. The only Licensed Materials that can be shared back with another Licensee may only include the location\_id. An example of this is a record submitted to the FCC BDC system. This record consists of location\_id with FCC required broadband availability.

### Q. Can the Tier C License Agreement be modified?

CostQuest will only consider modifications to the Tier C Agreement in cases where the Agreement language conflicts with local, tribal or state laws and regulations. A sample copy of the Tier C Agreement is available here <https://costquest.info/465K3yC>. Please contact the NTIA help desk, [ifasupport@costquest.com](mailto:ifasupport@costquest.com), to begin the modification process.

### Q. As a Tier C Licensee, what kind of reports can I publish?

The Tier C license provides rights to publish Derivative Data Reports, such as broadband coverage by state, county, Metropolitan Statistical Area, Congressional District, Census Designated Place, tribal area, or other US Census Bureau-defined boundary, or at H3\_8 or larger Uber hex cell levels (or such other aggregated geographies as may be agreed by the Licensee and Licensor).



As described above, a Tier C Licensee can also publish a subset of location\_id's to support its challenge process.

## Tier C Online Presentation

Q. As a Tier C Licensee, can I produce a public broadband map using the Licensed Materials?

Yes. The Tier C License allows your organization to produce graphical representations in an online map. The online map should be set up to prevent the download of Data in a manner that is inconsistent with each user's License Agreement and should indicate restrictions of use. The Licensee will also not permit the export or publication of raw Data from the online interface. In other words, specific security measures must prevent bulk extractions of attribute-level data from an online presentation.

The FCC Broadband Map is a model of how Data can be mapped in an online environment. Attributes from Fabric records are visible on user click. There are security procedures in place that prevent the automated scraping of attribute information. Display of Fabric attributes via labels (e.g., address, latitude and longitude) are not permitted. Thematic mapping-using color or other cartographic techniques to influence the appearance of spatial data- for categories of attributes (served, unserved, building\_type\_code, cost, etc.) is permitted. Thematic categories should be developed so that Data attribute information is not clearly discernable (e.g., categories so narrow the value of an attribute is apparent).

Q. As a Tier C Licensee, can I produce online reports and dashboards based on Licensed Materials?

Yes. Reports and dashboards can be published online. These publications should follow the guidelines presented above for reporting. The online reports and / or dashboards must also be set up in such a way as to prevent bulk extractions of attribute-level data.

## Tier D License

Q. I am an ISP and I have a request from another entity to publish my organization's BDC deployment filings. Can I do this?

Yes. Some states (Pass Through Entities) require ISPs (Tier D Licensees) to provide deployment information. In another circumstance, Tier B Licensees (FBGAs) require Tier C Licensees to report deployment information from ISPs.

Under the NTIA License, a Licensee can publish deployment filings to another Licensee. After you confirm the other entity has an NTIA License, you can pass the BDC deployment information to the other Licensee. Do not pass the entire Data record along with the deployment information. Pass only the Fabric location\_id along with the required deployment information.

Q. I am a recipient of Treasury Department funds, and I need to send my deployment information to the state. How can I do this?

Once you have received a Tier D license that covers the counties of your award, you can exchange the location\_id(s) and broadband availability information corresponding to the reporting requirement. This same process can be used for other FBGA awards.



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