**Notice of Rulemaking and Public Hearing**

The Arkansas State Broadband Office is soliciting public comments on a new administrative rule, BEAD Challenge Process. The proposed rule is necessary to implement the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program from the federal government. The BEAD program will allocate state grants for the construction of broadband networks. This proposed rule details the process for challenging the Arkansas BEAD Funding Map published by the Arkansas State Broadband Office identifying locations that are eligible for BEAD funding.

A public hearing will be held on March 4, 2024, from 2PM to 3PM at 1 Commerce Way, Riverview Conference Room 203, Little Rock, AR 72202. The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comment on the proposed rule. Written comments may be submitted to the Arkansas State Broadband Office until 5pm on March 10, 2024, addressed to Arkansas State Broadband Office, attn: Kimberly Young, 1 Commerce Way, Suite 601, Little Rock, AR 72202 or via email at broadband@arkansas.gov.

Please direct inquiries to: Glen Howie or Kimberly Young by phone at 501-682-7306 or email broadband@arkansas.gov. A copy of the proposed rule may be obtained or viewed on the Arkansas State Broadband Office website <https://broadband.arkansas.gov> or by calling 501-682-7306.