

Interim Network Service Validation Testing

Understanding and identifying the mechanism of service validation, validation testing, and network performance.

OVERVIEW

This resource highlights the processes and requirements for interim network service validation testing for Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP) and Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) grant recipients.

Network service validation: The process used to validate that grant recipients have constructed networks in compliance with Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) requirements, and to provide ongoing visibility into end-user experiences related to network performance and availability.

NOFO Requirements

- **Qualifying Broadband Service:** Broadband service with a download speed of not less than 25 megabits per second, an upload speed of not less than 3 megabits per second, and a latency sufficient to support real-time, interactive applications; the ability to provide 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream simultaneously to every household in the eligible service area.
- In order for latency to meet qualifying broadband service requirements, 95% or more of all peak period measurements of network round-trip latency must be at or below 100 milliseconds. This is calculated using the total round-trip latency between the customer's premise and the closest designated internet core peering interconnection point.



PROCESS







Planning Meeting: An opportunity for the Federal Program Officer (FPO) and the grant recipient to determine the logistics of the Network Service Validation testing.

- **Planning Meeting Attendees:**
 - ✓ FPO
 - ✓ Grant recipient
 - ✓ Representative authorized to perform the network validation test
 - ✓ Program support team members (as needed)
- **Planning Meeting Purpose:**
 - ✓ Confirm sample size
 - ✓ Discuss validation parameters and criteria
 - ✓ Select network service validation method
 - ✓ Answer grant recipient's questions

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NETWORK SERVICE VALIDATION TYPES

Validation Type	Process Overview
 Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Deployment Verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The grant recipient uses the results from the FCC Deployment Verification process to demonstrate compliance with the Network Validation process.
 Network System Validation Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The FPO observes the grant recipient personnel initiate the network speed and latency test at the agreed-upon time and the recipient submits the results to the FPO.
 Third-Party System Validation Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The grant recipient procures an independent firm to conduct the FCC or Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) style testing for throughput and latency.
 Speed Test Verification of Throughput & Latency Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In extreme circumstances, the grant recipient may use third party internet-hosted speed tests (i.e., Ookla or similar) to verify latency and throughput. This method requires approval of the FPO and Program Leadership.

ATTESTATION FORM

Grant recipients must submit an **Attestation form** for any Network Service Validation Testing method selected. The Attestation includes the following:

- Documentation of IP addresses used for reporting that reflect measurements from end-user locations to the point of peering interconnection (throughput and latency only).
- Documentation that the reported, unmodified data originated from the network.
- Confirmation of the validation tester's identity.

The Attestation form should be **submitted after the initial Network Service Validation test** and semi-annually as part the **ongoing Network Service Validation** requirement.

For questions about the Attestation process, please contact your FPO.