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**For Immediate Release**

**FCC AUTHORIZES SECOND WAVE OF FUNDING FOR RURAL BROADBAND FROM CONNECT AMERICA FUND AUCTION**

*Another Round of Funding Starts This Month for Broadband Buildout in Rural Communities in 22 States*

WASHINGTON, June 10, 2019—The FCC today authorized \$166.8 million in funding over the next decade to expand broadband to 60,850 unserved rural homes and businesses in 22 states, representing the second wave of support from last year’s successful Connect America Fund Phase II auction. Providers will begin receiving funding this month.

In total, the auction last fall allocated \$1.488 billion in support to expand broadband to more than 700,000 unserved rural homes and small businesses over the next 10 years. The FCC authorized the first wave of funding in May, providing \$111.6 million in funding over the next decade to expand service to 37,148 unserved homes and businesses in 12 states.

To date, the first two rounds of authorizations are providing \$278.4 million over the next decade to expand service to 97,998 new locations. Over the coming months, the FCC will be authorizing additional funding as it approves the final applications of the winning bidders from the auction.

“I’m pleased to announce that the second round of funding starts now for buildout of high-speed Internet service to 60,850 rural homes and businesses, which will bring them to the right side of the digital divide and give them access to the 21<sup>st</sup>-century opportunities that broadband offers,” said FCC Chairman Ajit Pai. “Providers will be deploying gigabit-speed connections to the majority of locations for which funding is being authorized today, while nearly 8,000 homes and small businesses on Tribal lands will be getting fixed broadband service for the first time.”

The funding applications approved by the Commission today include the following:

- Central Virginia Services, an electric coop, is receiving \$28.6 million to deploy gigabit connections to nearly 11,000 locations in rural Virginia
- NTUA Wireless is receiving \$28.4 million to serve over 7,000 homes and small businesses in Tribal areas of Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah, while SW DinehNet will serve 869 Tribal locations in New Mexico
- Co-Mo Comm, an electric coop, is receiving nearly \$22 million to deploy gigabit connections to over 8,350 rural locations in Missouri

- Commnet of Nevada is receiving \$23.6 million to provide service to over 12,800 homes and businesses in 11 counties in rural Nevada

Below is a complete list by state of the companies receiving support, the number of homes and businesses served (locations), the amount of support over 10 years, and the minimum download/upload speeds to be provided:

<b>State</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Minimum Speed</b>	<b>Locations</b>	<b>Support / 10 Years</b>
Arizona	NTUA Wireless	25/3 Mbps	4,959	\$21,262,510
Arkansas	Next, Powered by NAEC	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	6,582	\$22,600,026
Delaware	Verizon Delaware	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	22	\$148,090
Illinois	Illinois Electric Cooperative	100/20 Mbps	804	\$2,276,419
Iowa	Heartland Telecommunications Company of Iowa	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	191	\$627,920
Kansas	IdeaTek Telcom	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	2,490	\$6,186,882
Maryland	Verizon Maryland	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	1,194	\$3,058,921
Massachusetts	Verizon New England	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	305	\$948,305
Michigan	Great Lakes Energy Connections	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	357	\$1,043,543
Minnesota	Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Cooperative	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	315	\$1,313,543
Minnesota	Garden Valley Telephone Company	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	95	\$880,346
Minnesota	West Central Telephone Association	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	532	\$611,934
Minnesota	Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	209	\$552,330
Missouri	Co-Mo Comm	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	8,356	\$21,968,964
Missouri	Callabyte Technology	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	1,485	\$2,174,192
Nevada	Commnet of Nevada	25/3 Mbps	12,844	\$23,669,837
New Jersey	Verizon New Jersey	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	510	\$1,621,782
New Mexico	NTUA Wireless	25/3 Mbps	1,476	\$4,612,929
New Mexico	SW DinehNet	25/3 Mbps	869	\$2,038,738
Oklahoma	Oklahoma Western Telephone Company	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	573	\$2,303,928
Oregon	Douglas Service	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	533	\$3,475,834

Pennsylvania	Verizon Pennsylvania	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	699	\$1,672,629
Pennsylvania	Verizon North	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	10	\$14,654
Rhode Island	Verizon New England	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	165	\$475,303
Tennessee	Meriwether Lewis Connect	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	290	\$1,183,627
Tennessee	HolstonConnect	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	517	\$535,417
Utah	NTUA Wireless	25/3 Mbps	606	\$2,566,538
Virginia	Central Virginia Services	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	10,827	\$28,602,957
Virginia	BARConnects	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	1,734	\$4,974,237
Virginia	EMPOWER Broadband, Inc.	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	838	\$1,868,320
Virginia	Verizon Virginia	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	421	\$1,399,211
Virginia	Verizon South	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	35	\$138,038
West Virginia	Hardy Telecommunications	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	7	\$47,435
<b>Total</b>			<b>60,850</b>	<b>\$166,855,339</b>

Providers must build out to 40% of the assigned homes and businesses in the areas won in a state within three years. Buildout must increase by 20% in each subsequent year, until complete buildout is reached at the end of the sixth year.

The Connect America Fund Phase II auction is part of a broader effort by the FCC to close the digital divide in rural America. In addition to the funding that will be made available through this auction, the Commission recently provided 186 companies in 43 states \$65.7 million in additional annual funding to upgrade broadband speeds in rural communities, and offered incentives for over 500 rural carriers to provide faster broadband to over 1 million rural homes and businesses. Chairman Pai also announced his intention to create the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, which will provide \$20.4 billion over the next decade to connect approximately four million rural homes and businesses to high-speed broadband, representing the FCC's single biggest step yet to close the digital divide.

More information is available on the auction is available at <https://www.fcc.gov/auction/903>. A map of winning bids is available at <https://www.fcc.gov/reports-research/maps/caf2-auction903-results/>.

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*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*