

Media Contact:

Katie Gorscak, (202) 418-2156

Katie.gorscak@fcc.gov

For Immediate Release**FCC AUTHORIZES OVER \$61.8 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR
RURAL BROADBAND*****Sixth Round of Funding from Connect America Fund Auction
Starts This Month and Includes 14 States***

WASHINGTON, October 10, 2019—The Federal Communications Commission today authorized over \$61.8 million in funding over the next decade to expand broadband to nearly 22,000 unserved rural homes and businesses in 14 states, representing the sixth wave of support from last year’s successful Connect America Fund Phase II auction. Broadband providers will begin receiving funding later this month.

“In states from the Pacific Coast to New England, we’re taking another step toward closing the digital divide,” said FCC Chairman Ajit Pai. “This sixth round of funding continues to build on our efforts to provide rural Americans with the economic, educational, civic, and healthcare opportunities that high-speed Internet access makes possible.”

In total, the auction last year allocated \$1.488 billion in support over the next ten years to expand broadband to more than 700,000 unserved rural homes and small businesses nationwide. The FCC has now authorized six waves of funding, and today’s action brings total authorized funding to nearly \$1.2 billion, which will expand connectivity to 409,661 homes and businesses nationwide. Additional rounds will be authorized in the coming months.

Funding applications approved by the Commission today include the following:

- Sunset Digital Communications is receiving nearly \$29.6 million over 10 years to offer service to nearly 9,100 rural homes and businesses in Virginia and Tennessee at gigabit speeds.
- Three companies – Inventive Wireless, Tri County Telephone, and Union Telephone – are receiving nearly \$12.2 million over 10 years to offer service to 4,752 homes and businesses in Wyoming.
- LocalTel Communications is receiving over \$6.8 million to offer service to 1,910 homes and businesses in central Washington state.
- Gallatin Wireless Internet is receiving over \$4 million to offer service to 1,256 homes and businesses in Montana.

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:

State	Company	Minimum Speed	Support Over 10 Years	Locations
California	Frontier California	100/20 Mbps	\$51,553	23
Colorado	Inventive Wireless of Nebraska	25/3 Mbps	\$1,505,513	336
Iowa	Independent Networks	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	\$288,834	123
Iowa	Maquoketa Valley Rural Electric Cooperative	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	\$2,262,039	1,107
Kansas	Twin Valley Communications	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	\$45,610	9
Louisiana	Allen's T.V. Cable Service	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	\$1,776,733	794
Massachusetts	CRC Communications	25/3 Mbps	\$921,505	772
Minnesota	Broadband Corp.	100/20 Mbps	\$428,117	128
Minnesota	Farmers Mutual Telephone Company	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	\$217,993	65
Montana	Gallatin Wireless Internet	25/3 Mbps	\$4,012,941	1,256
Nebraska	Inventive Wireless of Nebraska	25/3 Mbps	\$678	2
Oklahoma	Oklahoma Fiber	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	\$1,715,314	1,460
Tennessee	Sunset Digital Communications	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	\$5,595,555	2,095
Virginia	Sunset Digital Communications	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	\$23,979,453	6,998
Washington	LocalTel Communications	25/3 Mbps	\$6,847,092	1,910
Wyoming	Inventive Wireless of Nebraska	25/3 Mbps	\$3,734,455	1,354
Wyoming	Tri County Telephone Association	1 Gbps/500 Mbps, 25/3 Mbps	\$3,004,236	1,930
Wyoming	Union Telephone Company	100/20 Mbps, 25/3 Mbps	\$5,437,562	1,468
Total			\$61,825,183	21,830

The Connect America Fund Phase II auction is part of a broader effort by the FCC to close the digital divide in rural America. On August 1, the FCC proposed taking its biggest single step to date toward closing the rural digital divide by establishing the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, which would direct up to \$20.4 billion to expand broadband in unserved rural areas.

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.

More information 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/>.

###

Media Relations: (202) 418-0500 / ASL: (844) 432-2275 / TTY: (888) 835-5322 / Twitter: @FCC / www.fcc.gov

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).