

CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS OF WASHINGTON COMPANY, LLC
Washington State Universal Communications Service Program Annual Report
Pursuant to WAC 480-123-130(1)
June 30, 2023, Revised August 16, 2023

Under Docket UT-220584, the Washington UTC (“UTC”), on December 8, 2022, granted the Petition for Funding (“Petition”) from the Washington State Universal Communications Service Program filed by Consolidated Communications of Washington Company, LLC. d/b/a Consolidated Communications (“Consolidated”) that included a broadband deployment plan covering the entire 4-year funding period with the following elements:

1. Multiyear investment plan;
2. Specific project(s) that are projected to provide or enhance broadband services at speeds required by the commission or the Federal Communications Commission (currently 25/3 or better). Project information will include an estimated timeline, geographic location, number of locations passed, and up-load and download speeds;
3. A plan for maintenance of broadband services in the provider's service area;
4. A description for how the provider will enhance broadband services in its service area; and
5. Any supporting information that the commission requests to assist its review and analysis of the provider's broadband plan.

Pursuant to WAC 480-123-130(1), Consolidated must submit the following information and reports to the UTC on or before July 1st of the year following each calendar year in which Consolidated received support:

- a) The number of residential and business access lines and broadband connections served within the state of Washington for which the provider used program support during the preceding calendar year in the provision of basic telecommunications and broadband service (broken down to reflect beginning and end of year quantities);

RESPONSE: On January 1, 2022, Consolidated had 6,197 residential access lines, 3,169 business access lines and 11,625 broadband connections/subscribers. On December 31, 2022, Consolidated had 5,519 residential access lines, 2,941 business access lines and 10,787 broadband connections/subscribers.

- b) Detailed information on how the provider used program support during the preceding year to maintain, provide, or enhance telecommunications services;

RESPONSE: In the December 8, 2022, Petition for Funding, the Washington State Universal Communications Service Program granted to Consolidated, under Docket UT-220584. In the Petition Consolidated indicated it had deployed broadband to 214 of its 398 UTC broadband location buildout obligation, where 158 of those 214 locations now have 25/3 Mbps broadband availability, and 56 locations now have 50/5 Mbps broadband availability. Consolidated understands, as of the Petition, 184 total locations remained in need of buildout in order to meet Consolidated’s 398 buildout obligation.

In the Petition, Consolidated indicated it had three projects totaling an estimated 155 locations, scheduled to be completed by the end of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. Consolidated is now reporting the successful completion of its three-project buildouts, and has exceeded the originally-projected 155 locations by nine (9), totaling 164 locations. With those additional 164 locations, Consolidated has now completed 378 total buildout locations, 20 buildout locations short of Consolidated’s 398 buildout obligation.

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[REDACTED]

Consolidated's original obligation, as granted on November 24, 2020, under Docket UT-200696, was to deploy broadband service capable of 25 Mbps downstream / 3 Mbps upstream or better speeds to no fewer than 398 new locations that were not supported by any other state or federal program. Consolidated must meet this obligation by the end of the programs build-out period in 2024.

Consolidated completed the following three projects using program support during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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- c) Detailed information on how the provider used program support during the preceding year to meet the provider's broadband buildout requirement. Information must include location information in the same format that broadband specific location data is filed with the Federal Communications Commission or the Universal Service Administrative Company. If the data format or reporting data fields change, the providers and commission staff will work together to revise the requirements and format;

RESPONSE: Please see Schedule A.

- d) A list with detailed information of all consumer requests for new basic telecommunications service in the area for which the provider received program support during the preceding year that the provider denied or did not fulfill for any reason;

RESPONSE: Consolidated can state that there were no consumer requests for basic telecommunications service that were denied or not fulfilled.

- e) A sworn statement from a company officer of the provider certifying that, during the preceding year, the provider materially complied with all commission rules in chapter 480-120 WAC that are applicable to the provider and its provision of service within the area for which the provider received program support;

RESPONSE: Please see Exhibit 1

- f) A sworn statement by a company officer certifying that during the preceding year, the provider met the requirements of WAC 480-123-120(5) – the broadband deployment obligation;

RESPONSE: Please see Exhibit 1

- g) Broadband availability data as required by the commission;

RESPONSE: Consolidated filed its Broadband Data Collection (BDC) submission with the WA UTC on March 2, 2023, under Docket UT-230043, in accordance with WAC 480-123-030(1)(g), for Consolidated Communications of Washington Company, LLC, with data as of December 31, 2022, and filed in full with the FCC on February 28, 2023.

- h) A report on operational efficiencies and business plan modifications for the area for which the provider receives program support during the preceding year that the provider has undertaken to transition or expand from primary provision of legacy voice telephone service to broadband service or otherwise reduce its reliance on support from the program, and whether and how disbursements from the program were used to accomplish such outcomes;

RESPONSE: Consolidated use of program funds to place new fiber and updated electronics in the identified projects areas, has resulted in making the network more reliable for customers and more efficient for the company's Network Operations Centers. This increase in monitoring and manage the network has greatly increased the company's operational efficiency.

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- i) The provider's Form 477 Subscription Data at the census tract level on a Washington state basis that provides data in the same format and within fourteen calendar days of the dates the data is provided to the Federal Communications Commission;

RESPONSE: In the FCC Public Notice, DA 22-1345, released December 19, 2022, it stated that Broadband providers no longer need to file broadband deployment data through FCC Form 477; FCC Form 477 subscription data must be filed in the Broadband Data Collection (BDC) system. Further, the UTC advised while the Form 477 system is now retired, the Form 477 voice and broadband subscribership data that is required under WAC 480-123-060(1)(i), is now required to be filed with the FCC via the BDC system. Accordingly, Consolidated filed its voice and data subscribership data with the WA UTC on March 3, 2023, under Docket UT-230020, which now complies with WAC 480-123-030(1)(i). The BDC submission by Consolidated contained data as of December 31, 2022, and filed in full with the FCC on February 28, 2023.

- j) Detailed information on any other efforts the provider made to use program support to advance universal service and the public interest in Washington.

RESPONSE: [REDACTED]

- k) Any other information or reports the commission requires including, but not limited to, information the commission needs to provide a report to the legislature concerning the program.

RESPONSE: Although not information or a report the commission requires, Consolidated offers the UTC high-level information that supports Consolidated's commitment to provide high-speed broadband to its serving areas in Washington. Consolidated self-funded an overbuild of approximately 3,000 fiber passings within the city of Ellensburg, completed Q4, 2022, where those fiber passings to residence and business now have the availability of 1-Gig symmetrical fiber broadband service.

Consolidated has no additional information to provide at this time, but commits to working with the UTC, as needed.