



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: <https://www.fcc.gov>
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

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MOBILITY FUND II CHALLENGE PROCESS WEBINAR FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Webinar will be held at 2:00 pm EDT on May 3, 2018

By this Public Notice, the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB), through its Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA), and the Rural Broadband Auction Task Force (RBATF) announce an upcoming webinar on the process for challenging the identification of areas initially deemed ineligible for universal service funding through the Mobility Fund Phase II (MF-II) reverse auction.

Last year, the FCC adopted rules governing the MF-II reverse auction to award universal service support for mobile wireless carriers.¹ The Commission established a budget of \$4.53 billion over ten years to provide ongoing support for the provision of service in areas that, absent subsidies, lack adequate mobile voice and broadband coverage. Geographic areas lacking unsubsidized, qualified 4G LTE service have been initially deemed “eligible areas” for MF-II support; those with such service have been deemed initially “ineligible.”

On February 27, 2018, the FCC released a map showing areas across the United States initially deemed eligible to receive support for the deployment of 4G LTE service.² This map was based on the coverage maps provided by mobile carriers, but if state or local government officials believe the map is incorrect, they now have an opportunity to provide input to help correct the map. The process for submission of evidence to correct the map is called the “challenge process.”

Also on February 27, 2018, the Commission announced the procedures for the challenge process in which governmental entities and other interested parties will have an opportunity to challenge an initial determination that an area is ineligible for MF-II support.³ The window for submitting a challenge opened on March 29, 2018, and will remain open until August 27, 2018.

On April 10, 2018, the Commission made available a map of areas initially deemed ineligible for MF-II support due to qualifying, unsubsidized coverage reported by one mobile carrier.⁴ This map will

¹ *Connect America Fund; Universal Service Reform – Mobility Fund*, Order on Reconsideration and Second Report and Order, 32 FCC Rcd 6282 (2017); *Connect America Fund; Universal Service Reform – Mobility Fund II*, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 32 FCC Rcd 2152 (2017).

² *Mobility Fund Phase II Initial Eligible Areas Map*, Public Notice, DA 18-187 (WTB/WCB Feb. 27, 2018).

³ *Procedures for the Mobility Fund Phase II Challenge Process*, Public Notice, DA 18-186 (WTB/WCB Feb. 27, 2018).

⁴ *Mobility Fund Phase II One Provider Map*, Public Notice, DA 18-353 (WTB/WCB Apr. 10, 2018). This map was added as an additional layer to the existing Initial Eligible Areas map, available on the FCC’s website at <https://www.fcc.gov/maps/mobility-fund-ii-initial-eligible-areas-map/>.

help ensure a timely and effective MF-II challenge process as the map informs challengers of those areas for which they will need to test the coverage of only one unsubsidized mobile carrier.

This free webinar will focus on the issues that affect state and local government offices and agencies and will explain the MF-II reverse auction, how to determine if a particular locality has been identified as initially deemed ineligible for support and how to challenge that determination and seek inclusion of the locality among the areas identified as eligible for support. It will be held at **2:00 pm EDT, May 3, 2018**, and will give participants an opportunity to ask questions to Commission staff.

The webinar will be available via WebEx. To register, click [here](#). On the event information page click on the registration link, provide the required information, and then click on “Submit” to complete your registration. Once registered you will receive a confirmation email with instructions for joining the event, the password, and the link for the meeting.

Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Send an email to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice) or 202-418-0432 (TTY). Please include a description of the accommodation you will need and tell us how to contact you. Requests for special accommodation should be made as early as possible. Last minute requests will be accepted but may be impossible to fill.

For additional information about the webinar, please contact Barbara Britt at Barbara.Britt@fcc.gov or (202) 418-0323.

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