**DA 20-800**

**Released: July 29, 2019**

**WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU ANNOUNCES DEADLINE FOR**

**PRICE CAP CARRIERS TO ELECT SEVENTH YEAR OF CONNECT**

**AMERICA FUND PHASE II MODEL-BASED SUPPORT**

**WC Docket No. 10-90**

Today, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) announces the process by which price cap carriers currently receiving Connect America Phase II support based on the Connect America Cost Model (CAM) may elect to receive an additional, seventh year of such support. Carriers have until **September 28, 2020** to indicate, on a state-by-state basis, whether they will continue to receive model-based support for 2021.[[1]](#footnote-3)

The Commission has long recognized the importance of providing a gradual transition path between recipients of CAF Phase II model-based support and recipients of funding under a new support mechanism.[[2]](#footnote-4) As a result, the Commission previously determined that it would offer incumbent price cap carriers the option of electing an additional, seventh year of support if they did not receive support through the subsequent competitive bidding process.[[3]](#footnote-5) In the *Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Order*, the Commission clarified that this seventh year of support would cover the full calendar year—from January 2021 through December 2021—and be available to all price cap carriers that originally elected the offer of model-based support.[[4]](#footnote-6) In exchange for receiving a seventh year of support, carriers would “be required to continue providing broadband with performance characteristics that remain reasonably comparable to the performance characteristics of terrestrial fixed broadband service in urban America.”[[5]](#footnote-7)

The process we establish today is similar to prior options we have made available to allow certain carriers to elect to receive high-cost support.[[6]](#footnote-8) Specifically, we require price cap carriers currently receiving CAM support to submit their election letters to the Bureau at ConnectAmerica@fcc.gov.[[7]](#footnote-9) To receive an additional, seventh year of model-based support for a state or states, a carrier must submit a letter signed by an officer of the company confirming that the carrier elects the model-based support amounts as specified in Appendices A and B and committing to satisfy the specific service obligations associated with that amount of model support. Additionally, we require carriers to file this letter in WC Docket No. 10-90 via the Commission’s Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) to ensure that this information is publicly available to all potential Auction 904 bidders. If a carrier fails to submit an election letter by the **September 28, 2020** deadline, it will be deemed to have declined the seventh year of support and will cease receiving model-based support as of December 31, 2020. Carriers submitting election letters will receive an e-mail confirming that their letters have been received and reviewed for completeness and should contact the Bureau **no later than 4 p.m. on September 28, 2020** if they do not receive such confirmation. Following this deadline, the Bureau will release a public notice confirming which price cap carriers elected to receive a seventh year of support and authorizing the Universal Service Administrative Company to disburse the appropriate amounts.

For additional information on this proceeding, contact Ian Forbes, Ian.Forbes@fcc.gov of the Wireline Competition Bureau, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, (202) 418-7400.

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**Appendix A**

**CACM Authorized Annual Support by Carrier**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Carrier** | **State** | **Authorized Annual Support** |
| AT&T INC. | AL | $ 23,161,780 |
| AT&T INC. | AR | $ 21,350,835 |
| AT&T INC. | CA | $ 60,240,434 |
| AT&T INC. | FL | $ 8,485,813 |
| AT&T INC. | GA | $ 25,345,199 |
| AT&T INC. | IL | $ 8,932,507 |
| AT&T INC. | IN | $ 17,576,788 |
| AT&T INC. | KS | $ 18,942,367 |
| AT&T INC. | KY | $ 30,962,548 |
| AT&T INC. | LA | $ 27,907,591 |
| AT&T INC. | MI | $ 29,750,677 |
| AT&T INC. | MS | $ 49,772,592 |
| AT&T INC. | NC | $ 3,498,889 |
| AT&T INC. | OH | $ 14,802,500 |
| AT&T INC. | SC | $ 9,689,453 |
| AT&T INC. | TN | $ 26,137,862 |
| AT&T INC. | TX | $ 42,078,424 |
| AT&T INC. | WI | $ 9,070,392 |
| CENTURYLINK, INC. | AL | $ 17,290,009 |
| CENTURYLINK, INC. | AR | $ 19,761,508 |
| CENTURYLINK, INC. | AZ | $ 10,089,092 |
| CENTURYLINK, INC. | CO | $ 26,509,143 |
| CENTURYLINK, INC. | FL | $ 10,916,671 |
| CENTURYLINK, INC. | GA | $ 269,719 |
| CENTURYLINK, INC. | IA | $ 17,893,887 |
| CENTURYLINK, INC. | ID | $ 6,279,869 |
| CENTURYLINK, INC. | IL | $ 2,093,982 |
| CENTURYLINK, INC. | IN | $ 10,736,352 |
| CENTURYLINK, INC. | KS | $ 16,501,327 |
| CENTURYLINK, INC. | LA | $ 9,471,015 |
| CENTURYLINK, INC. | MI | $ 9,028,031 |
| CENTURYLINK, INC. | MN | $ 54,035,150 |
| CENTURYLINK, INC. | MO | $ 74,927,427 |
| CENTURYLINK, INC. | MT | $ 15,195,628 |
| CENTURYLINK, INC. | NC | $ 10,008,390 |
| CENTURYLINK, INC. | ND | $ 5,656,741 |
| CENTURYLINK, INC. | NE | $ 6,888,416 |
| CENTURYLINK, INC. | NJ | $ 450,340 |
| CENTURYLINK, INC. | NM | $ 10,942,747 |
| CENTURYLINK, INC. | NV | $ 1,072,346 |
| CENTURYLINK, INC. | OH | $ 15,982,805 |
| CENTURYLINK, INC. | OR | $ 17,759,903 |
| CENTURYLINK, INC. | PA | $ 10,562,353 |
| CENTURYLINK, INC. | SC | $ 2,952,228 |
| CENTURYLINK, INC. | SD | $ 9,117,215 |
| CENTURYLINK, INC. | TN | $ 1,662,828 |
| CENTURYLINK, INC. | TX | $ 11,300,418 |
| CENTURYLINK, INC. | UT | $ 1,894,802 |
| CENTURYLINK, INC. | VA | $ 15,731,765 |
| CENTURYLINK, INC. | WA | $ 24,412,884 |
| CENTURYLINK, INC. | WI | $ 55,384,589 |
| CINCINNATI BELL INC. | HI | $ 4,424,319 |
| CINCINNATI BELL INC. | KY | $ 2,034,186 |
| CINCINNATI BELL INC. | OH | $ 194,944 |
| CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS, INC. | CA | $ 14,837 |
| CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS, INC. | FL | $ 2,660,998 |
| CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS, INC. | IL | $ 8,084,857 |
| CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS, INC. | ME | $ 13,289,220 |
| CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS, INC. | MN |  $ 2,516,502 |
| CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS, INC. | MO | $ 1,689,794 |
| CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS, INC. | NH | $ 4,376,606 |
| CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS, INC. | NY | $ 2,568,269 |
| CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS, INC. | OH | $ 420,997 |
| CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS, INC. | OK | $ 215,303 |
| CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS, INC. | PA | $ 239,836 |
| CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS, INC. | TX | $ 1,915,321 |
| CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS, INC. | VT | $ 8,789,359 |
| CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS, INC. | WA | $ 1,321,014 |
| FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | AL | $ 2,998,480 |
| FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | AZ | $ 13,281,066 |
| FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | CA | $ 38,074,824 |
| FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | CT | $ 435,139 |
| FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | FL | $ 342,490 |
| FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | GA | $ 375,826 |
| FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | IA | $ 4,240,587 |
| FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | ID | $ 5,223,121 |
| FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | IL | $ 31,017,498 |
| FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | IN | $ 22,815,087 |
| FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | MI | $ 21,733,859 |
| FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | MN | $ 27,551,363 |
| FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | MS | $ 816,996 |
| FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | MT | $ 1,114,484 |
| FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | NC | $ 3,596,156 |
| FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | NE | $ 2,735,761 |
| FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | NM | $ 4,426,327 |
| FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | NV | $ 1,379,494 |
| FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | NY | $ 17,381,485 |
| FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | OH | $ 22,927,850 |
| FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | OR | $ 3,897,357 |
| FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | PA | $ 3,891,253 |
| FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | SC | $ 2,709,651 |
| FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | TN | $ 2,126,605 |
| FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | TX | $ 16,576,929 |
| FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | UT | $ 2,547,047 |
| FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | WA | $ 8,688,054 |
| FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | WI | $ 30,983,715 |
| FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | WV | $ 38,068,337 |
| MUTUAL TELEPHONE COMPANY (IA) | IA | $ 2,184,040 |
| PTI PACIFICA INC. | MP | $ 2,627,177 |
| WILKES TELEPHONE MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION  | VA | $ 857,021 |
| WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC. | AL | $ 511,038 |
| WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC. | AR | $ 13,163,783 |
| WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC. | FL | $ 5,236,626 |
| WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC. | GA | $ 24,867,807 |
| WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC. | IA | $ 28,672,554 |
| WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC. | KY | $ 21,576,987 |
| WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC. | MN | $ 1,519,855 |
| WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC. | MO | $ 14,187,910 |
| WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC. | MS | $ 917,403 |
| WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC. | NC | $ 1,952,082 |
| WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC. | NE | $ 13,591,437 |
| WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC. | NY | $ 1,557,976 |
| WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC. | OH | $ 4,154,270 |
| WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC. | OK | $ 7,788,213 |
| WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC. | PA | $ 13,001,364 |
| WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC. | SC | $ 935,383 |
| WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC. | TX | $ 21,260,790 |
| WINNEBAGO COOPERATIVE TELECOM ASSN. | IA | $ 209,176 |
| **Sub-Total** |  |  **$ 1,497,972,328**  |

**Appendix B**

**CACM Authorized Annual Support by State**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **State** | **Carrier** | **Authorized Annual Support** |
| AL | AT&T INC. | $ 23,161,780 |
| AL | CENTURYLINK, INC. | $ 17,290,009 |
| AL | FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | $ 2,998,480 |
| AL | WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC. | $ 511,038 |
| AR | AT&T INC. | $ 21,350,835 |
| AR | CENTURYLINK, INC. | $ 19,761,508 |
| AR | WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC. | $ 13,163,783 |
| AZ | CENTURYLINK, INC. | $ 10,089,092 |
| AZ | FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | $ 13,281,066 |
| CA | AT&T INC. | $ 60,240,434 |
| CA | CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS, INC. | $ 14,837 |
| CA | FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | $ 38,074,824 |
| CO | CENTURYLINK, INC. | $ 26,509,143 |
| CT | FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | $ 435,139 |
| FL | AT&T INC. | $ 8,485,813 |
| FL | CENTURYLINK, INC. | $ 10,916,671 |
| FL | CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS, INC. | $ 2,660,998 |
| FL | FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | $ 342,490 |
| FL | WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC. | $ 5,236,626 |
| GA | AT&T INC. | $ 25,345,199 |
| GA | CENTURYLINK, INC. | $ 269,719 |
| GA | FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | $ 375,826 |
| GA | WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC. | $ 24,867,807 |
| HI | CINCINNATI BELL INC. | $ 4,424,319 |
| IA | CENTURYLINK, INC. | $ 17,893,887 |
| IA | FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | $ 4,240,587 |
| IA | MUTUAL TELEPHONE COMPANY (IA) | $ 2,184,040 |
| IA | WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC. | $ 28,672,554 |
| IA | WINNEBAGO COOPERATIVE TELECOM ASSN. | $ 209,176 |
| ID | CENTURYLINK, INC. | 6,279,869 |
| ID | FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | $ 5,223,121 |
| IL | AT&T INC. | $ 8,932,507 |
| IL | CENTURYLINK, INC. | $ 2,093,982 |
| IL | CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS, INC. | $ 8,084,857 |
| IL | FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | $ 31,017,498 |
| IN | AT&T INC. | $ 17,576,788 |
| IN | CENTURYLINK, INC. | $ 10,736,352 |
| IN | FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | $ 22,815,087 |
| KS | AT&T INC. | $ 18,942,367 |
| KS | CENTURYLINK, INC. | $ 16,501,327 |
| KY | AT&T INC. | $ 30,962,548 |
| KY | CINCINNATI BELL INC. | $ 2,034,186 |
| KY | WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC. | $ 21,576,987 |
| LA | AT&T INC. | $ 27,907,591 |
| LA | CENTURYLINK, INC. | $ 9,471,015 |
| ME | CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS, INC. | $ 13,289,220 |
| MI | AT&T INC. | $ 29,750,677 |
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| MI | FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | $ 21,733,859 |
| MN | CENTURYLINK, INC. | $ 54,035,150 |
| MN | CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS, INC. | $ 2,516,502 |
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| MN | WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC. | $ 1,519,855 |
| MO | CENTURYLINK, INC. | $ 74,927,427 |
| MO | CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS, INC. | $ 1,689,794 |
| MO | WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC. | $ 14,187,910 |
| MP | PTI PACIFICA INC. | $ 2,627,177 |
| MS | AT&T INC. | $ 49,772,592 |
| MS | FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | $ 816,996 |
| MS | WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC. | $ 917,403 |
| MT | CENTURYLINK, INC. | $ 15,195,628 |
| MT | FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | $ 1,114,484 |
| NC | AT&T INC. | $ 3,498,889 |
| NC | CENTURYLINK, INC. | $ 10,008,390 |
| NC | FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | $ 3,596,156 |
| NC | WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC. | $ 1,952,082 |
| ND | CENTURYLINK, INC. | $ 5,656,741 |
| NE | CENTURYLINK, INC. | $ 6,888,416 |
| NE | FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | $ 2,735,761 |
| NE | WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC. | $ 13,591,437 |
| NH | CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS, INC. | $ 4,376,606 |
| NJ | CENTURYLINK, INC. | $ 450,340 |
| NM | CENTURYLINK, INC. | $ 10,942,747 |
| NM | FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | $ 4,426,327 |
| NV | CENTURYLINK, INC. | $ 1,072,346 |
| NV | FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | $ 1,379,494 |
| NY | CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS, INC. | $ 2,568,269 |
| NY | FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | $ 17,381,485 |
| NY | WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC. | $ 1,557,976 |
| OH | AT&T INC. | $ 14,802,500 |
| OH | CENTURYLINK, INC. | $ 15,982,805 |
| OH | CINCINNATI BELL INC. | $ 194,944 |
| OH | CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS, INC. | $ 420,997 |
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| OH | WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC. | $ 4,154,270 |
| OK | CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS, INC. | $ 215,303 |
| OK | WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC. | $ 7,788,213 |
| OR | CENTURYLINK, INC. | $ 17,759,903 |
| OR | FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | $ 3,897,357 |
| PA | CENTURYLINK, INC. | $ 10,562,353 |
| PA | CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS, INC. | $ 239,836 |
| PA | FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | $ 3,891,253 |
| PA | WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC. | $ 13,001,364 |
| SC | AT&T INC. | $ 9,689,453 |
| SC | CENTURYLINK, INC. | $ 2,952,228 |
| SC | FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | $ 2,709,651 |
| SC | WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC. | $ 935,383 |
| SD | CENTURYLINK, INC. | $ 9,117,215 |
| TN | AT&T INC. | $ 26,137,862 |
| TN | CENTURYLINK, INC. | $ 1,662,828 |
| TN | FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | $ 2,126,605 |
| TX | AT&T INC. | $ 42,078,424 |
| TX | CENTURYLINK, INC. | $ 11,300,418 |
| TX | CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS, INC. | $ 1,915,321 |
| TX | FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | $ 16,576,929 |
| TX | WINDSTREAM HOLDINGS, INC. | $ 21,260,790 |
| UT | CENTURYLINK, INC. | $ 1,894,802 |
| UT | FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | $ 2,547,047 |
| VA | CENTURYLINK, INC. | $ 15,731,765 |
| VA | WILKES TELEPHONE MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION | $ 857,021 |
| VT | CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS, INC. | $ 8,789,359 |
| WA | CENTURYLINK, INC. | $ 24,412,884 |
| WA | CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS, INC. | $ 1,321,014 |
| WA | FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | $ 8,688,054 |
| WI | AT&T INC. | $ 9,070,392 |
| WI | CENTURYLINK, INC. | $ 55,384,589 |
| WI | FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | $ 30,983,715 |
| WV | FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION | $ 38,068,337 |
| **Sub-Total** |  | **$ 1,497,972,328** |

1. Carriers that elect not to receive a seventh year are indicating that ongoing model-based support is not necessary to maintain voice and broadband services in these areas and will receive no further model-based support after the conclusion of their six-year term (i.e., December 31, 2020). *See* *Rural Digital Opportunity Fund; Connect America Fund*, WC Docket Nos. 19-126, 10-90, Report and Order, 35 FCC Rcd 686, 741, para. 128 (2020) (*Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Order*). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
2. *See* *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket No. 10-90 et al., Report and Order, 29 FCC Rcd 15644, 15666-67, para. 32 (2014) (*December 2014 Connect America Order*). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
3. *Id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
4. *Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Order* at 740-2, paras. 127, 129. (directing Bureau to implement mechanism for carriers to elect seventh year of support). [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
5. *Id.* at 741-42, para. 129 (citing *Connect America Fund et al*., WC Docket No. 10-90 et al., Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 26 FCC Rcd 17663, 17726-27, para. 163 (2011), *aff’d sub nom. In re FCC 11-161*, 753 F.3d 1015 (10th Cir. 2014)). [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
6. *See e.g.*, *Wireline Competition Bureau Announce Alternative Connect America Cost Model II Support Amounts Offered to Rate-of-Return Carriers to Expand Rural Broadband*, WC Docket No. 10-90, Public Notice, 34 FCC Rcd 2868 (Wireline Comp. Bur. 2019) (offering rate-of-return carriers the option of electing to receive A-CAM support); *Connect America Fund; High-Cost Universal Service Support*, WC Docket Nos. 10-90,05-337, Report and Order, 29 FCC Rcd 3964, 4029, para. 153 (offering non-contiguous carriers the option of electing to receive frozen support or model-determined support). [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
7. Carriers are encouraged to submit their election letter prior to the deadline to the extent feasible. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)