



# PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission  
45 L Street NE  
Washington, DC 20554

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

DA 23-363

Released: May 5, 2023

## WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU ANNOUNCES DEADLINE FOR ELECTION TO RECEIVE TRANSITIONAL MOBILE SUPPORT FOR THE UNIENDO A PUERTO RICO FUND AND THE CONNECT USVI FUND

WC Docket Nos. 18-143, 10-90

In the *PR-USVI Transitional Support Order*, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) made available transitional support to current recipients of Stage 2 high-cost mobile support in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands to strengthen and harden 4G LTE and 5G-NR networks.<sup>1</sup> In this Public Notice, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) announces the deadline for eligible facilities-based mobile providers to elect to receive transitional mobile high-cost support is 6:00 p.m. EDT on **May 22, 2023**.<sup>2</sup>

The Commission determined that eligible mobile providers will have a one-time opportunity to elect to receive transitional mobile support by the deadline provided above.<sup>3</sup> In order to receive transitional mobile support, an eligible carrier must submit a letter signed by an officer of the company confirming that the carrier elects transitional mobile support and commits to satisfy the specific service obligations and requirements of transitional support recipients.<sup>4</sup> Eligible carriers may submit one letter for both Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, if applicable.<sup>5</sup>

Carriers must file a copy of the letter through the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System indicating the appropriate docket numbers, as well as email a copy to [ConnectAmerica@fcc.gov](mailto:ConnectAmerica@fcc.gov).<sup>6</sup>

We expect transitional support recipients to have read and familiarized themselves with all of the requirements in the *PR-USVI Transitional Support Order*. We remind all providers that carriers receiving federal universal service support "shall use that support only for the provision, maintenance, and

<sup>1</sup> *The Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund and the Connect USVI Fund*, WC Docket Nos. 18-143, 10-90, Report and Order and Order on Review, FCC 23-32, at 10, para. 27 (Apr. 19, 2023) (*PR-USVI Transitional Support Order*).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at 13, paras. 35-36. On May 5, 2023, the *PR-USVI Transitional Support Order* was published in the Federal Register. Federal Communications Commission, *The Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund and the Connect America USVI Fund*, 88 FR 28993 (May 5, 2023). The *Order* provides that eligible mobile providers must submit their election to receive transitional mobile support within 15 days of its publication of in the Federal Register. Fifteen days after Federal Register publication is Saturday, May 20, so elections must be submitted by Monday, May 22.

<sup>3</sup> *PR-USVI Transitional Support Order* at 13, paras. 35-36.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at 13, para. 36; 47 CFR § 54.1516(b).

<sup>5</sup> If a transitional support recipient will receive support in both Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands, its election letter should specifically note the correct entity that will receive transitional support in each location, if applicable.

<sup>6</sup> *PR-USVI Transitional Support Order* at 13, para. 36; 47 CFR § 54.1516(b).

upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.”<sup>7</sup> Therefore, providers must use this funding to help harden and strengthen their networks.<sup>8</sup> As provided in the *PR-USVI Transitional Support Order*, all eligible telecommunications carriers receiving transitional mobile support are subject to ongoing oversight and must comply with annual reporting and certification requirements.<sup>9</sup> We also remind transitional support recipients that have not already submitted their Disaster Response and Recovery Plans that those Plans must be submitted, in addition to their elections, or transitional support may be withheld.<sup>10</sup>

For additional information on this proceeding, contact Dangkhua Nguyen ([Dangkhua.Nguyen@fcc.gov](mailto:Dangkhua.Nguyen@fcc.gov)) of the Wireline Competition Bureau, Telecommunications Access Policy Division.

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<sup>7</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 254(e); 47 CFR § 54.7(a).

<sup>8</sup> See generally *PR-USVI Transitional Support Order*; 47 CFR § 54.1518.

<sup>9</sup> *PR-USVI Transitional Support Order* at 11-13, paras. 31-34.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.* at 11-12, 17, paras. 32, 49 & n.129; 47 CFR § 54.1524(a) (providing that Disaster Response and Recovery Plans must be submitted to the Bureau for approval by July 1, 2023).