PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: https://www.fcc.gov

DA 24-1279
Released: December 26, 2024

WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU AND OFFICE OF MANAGING DIRECTOR ANNOUNCE ADDITIONAL CONGRESSIONAL FUNDING FOR THE SECURE AND TRUSTED COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

WC Docket No. 18-89

By this Public Notice, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) and the Office of Managing Director (OMD) announce that on December 23, 2024, the Spectrum and Secure Technology and Innovation Act of 2024 was signed into law as part of the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (2025 NDAA). Under this law, Congress authorized the Commission to borrow up to $3.08 billion from the Treasury Department to fully fund the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program (Reimbursement Program or Program).[1] Consistent with the 2025 NDAA, the Commission will take quick steps to secure the additional funding through the borrowing authority granted by Congress. Other than providing additional funding, the 2025 NDAA does not make any changes to the requirements, processes, or procedures for the Reimbursement Program.

The Commission established the Reimbursement Program pursuant to the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 (Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act).[2] In 2020, Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, which amended the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act,[3] and appropriated $1.9 billion to the Commission to "carry out" the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act.[4] The Program reimburses eligible providers for costs

---

[1] Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025, H.R. 5009, 118th Cong. (2024) (2025 NDAA), *available at* https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/5009/text. The legislation amends section 4(k) of the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 to increase the Commission's permitted expenditures to $4.98 billion and directs that "not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission may borrow from the Treasury of the United States an amount not to exceed $3,080,000,000 to carry out the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019."

[2] Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019, Pub. L. No. 116-124, § 4(a)-(c), 134 Stat. 158 (2020) (codified as amended at 47 U.S.C. §§ 1601–1609) (Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act). *See Protecting Against National Security Threats to the Communications Supply Chain Through FCC Programs*, WC Docket No. 18-89, Second Report and Order, 35 FCC Rcd 14284 (2020) (*2020 Supply Chain Order*); *Protecting Against National Security Threats to the Communications Supply Chain Through FCC Programs,* WC Docket No. 18-89, Third Report and Order, 36 FCC Rcd 11958 (2021) (*2021 Supply Chain Order*); 47 CFR §§ 1.50004 et seq. Information related to the FCC's supply chain proceeding and the Reimbursement Program is available at https://www.fcc.gov/supplychain.

[3] Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub. L. No. 116–260, § 901, 134 Stat. 1182 (2020) (CAA).

[4] CAA § 906. Section 906 provides that "[t]here is appropriated to the Federal Communications Commission, out of amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for fiscal year 2021, to remain available until expended— . . . (2) $1,900,000,000 to carry out the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C. 1601 et

(continued….)

incurred in the removal, replacement, and disposal of communications equipment or services produced or provided by Huawei Technologies Company[5] or ZTE Corporation.[6] Because demand for funds exceeded available funding, the Program requires additional funding. In the Bureau's bi-annual Reports to Congress, the Bureau has continued to make Congress aware of the funding shortfall and the impacts on Program recipients.[7]

Allocation Information. Congress in the 2025 NDAA instructed the Commission to borrow the additional program funds from the Treasury Department. Consistent with the Office of Management and Budget and Treasury procedures, the Commission will expeditiously submit a request to borrow the funds. Once approved, the Bureau and OMD will then release a Public Notice announcing the date on which the additional funding will be available for distribution. When the borrowing process is complete and the Commission is able to make allocations with the newly available funds, the Bureau will allocate funding to each approved applicant who has not received notice that its funding has been reclaimed, up to the full amount of their approved cost estimates. Additionally, the Bureau will notify recipients when their full allocations are reflected in the Supply Chain Reimbursement Program portal. Recipients should ensure that their contact information in the portal is and continues to be up to date. Both before and after the release of the Public Notice announcing additional funding for distribution, the Fund Administrator and the Bureau will continue to administer the Program and process requests for reimbursement consistent with existing processes.[8]

Ongoing Program Implementation. While the Commission takes steps to implement the 2025 NDAA's additional funding, recipients can and should continue their work to remove, replace, and dispose of covered communications equipment and services. The Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act, as implemented through the Commission's rules, requires recipients to remove, replace, and dispose of all Huawei and/or ZTE communications equipment and services that were in their networks as of the date of the submission of the application even if the recipient received a prorated allocation.[9] In addition, and consistent with the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act, the

(Continued from previous page)
seq.), of which $1,895,000,000 shall be used to carry out the program established under section 4 of that Act (47 U.S.C. 1603)."

[5] *See generally Protecting Against National Security Threats to the Communications Supply Chain Through FCC Programs – Huawei Designation*, PS Docket No. 19-351, Order, 35 FCC Rcd 6604 (PSHSB 2020) (*Huawei Designation Order*).

[6] *See generally Protecting Against National Security Threats to the Communications Supply Chain Through FCC Programs – ZTE Designation*, PS Docket No. 19-352, Order, 35 FCC Rcd 6633 (PSHSB 2020) (*ZTE Designation Order*).

[7] Wireline Competition Bureau, Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program Report (Jan. 11, 2023), https://www.fcc.gov/document/supply-chain-reimbursement-program-report; Wireline Competition Bureau, Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program Second Report (July 10, 2023), https://www.fcc.gov/document/supply-chain-reimbursement-program-second-report; Wireline Competition Bureau, Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program Third Report (Jan. 5, 2024), https://www.fcc.gov/document/supply-chain-reimbursement-program-report; Wireline Competition Bureau, Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program Fourth Report (July 1, 2024), https://www.fcc.gov/document/supply-chain-reimbursement-program-fourth-report.

[8] Each Reimbursement Program recipient must file at least one reimbursement claim to receive a funding disbursement within one year of the approval of its Application Request for Funding Allocation. 47 CFR § 1.50004(g)(1). The Bureau will allocate funding up to the full amount of the approved allocations for all approved recipients that have not received notice that their funding has been reclaimed.

[9] 47 U.S.C. § 1603(e)(4)(A)(iii) (recipient must file a final certification to show removal, replacement, and disposal of "all" covered equipment and services); 47 CFR 1.50004(m)(1); *see also* 47 U.S.C. § 1603(d)(4)(A)(i)(I) (applicant must certify it has a plan to remove "any" covered equipment and services); 47 CFR § 1.50004(a)(3)(i)(A).

Commission's rules require Reimbursement Program participants to complete the removal, replacement, and disposal process within one year from the initial disbursement of funds, subject to the grant of any individual extension.[10] We remind recipients that the Supply Chain Reimbursement Program portal permits recipients to submit invoices beyond their allocation amount. We encourage recipients to submit all relevant invoices for the work completed under the Reimbursement Program.

Additional Information and Resources. Recipients with questions may contact the Fund Administrator Help Desk by email at SCRPFundAdmin@fcc.gov or by calling (202) 418-7540 from 9:00 AM ET to 5:00 PM ET, Monday through Friday, except for Federal holidays. General information and Commission documents regarding the Reimbursement Program are available on the Reimbursement Program webpage, https://www.fcc.gov/supplychain/reimbursement.

- FCC -

[10] *2020 Supply Chain Order*, 35 FCC Rcd at 14354, para. 169 (establishing a one-year timeline for removal, replacement, and disposal). The initial disbursement is deemed to occur on the date on which the Commission first distributes reimbursement funds to the recipient. *Id.* (establishing a one-year timeline for removal, replacement, and disposal).