



# PUBLIC NOTICE

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## WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU ANNOUNCES UPDATED INTERIM ELIGIBLE LOCATIONS FILE FOR ENHANCED ALTERNATIVE CONNECT AMERICA MODEL MECHANISM

### WC Docket No. 10-90

By this Public Notice, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) provides an updated list of locations that are eligible for Enhanced Alternative Connect America Cost Model (A-CAM) support. The updated file is available here: <https://www.fcc.gov/wireline-competition/interim-eligible-locations-file-june-2025>. The Bureau also clarifies that an Enhanced A-CAM recipient's obligated locations will be used to determine any potential support reductions.<sup>1</sup>

In 2023, the Commission released the *Enhanced A-CAM Order* to promote the widespread deployment of 100/20 Mbps broadband across areas served by A-CAM recipients and by rate-of-return carriers still receiving legacy support.<sup>2</sup> Carriers that elected to receive Enhanced A-CAM support are required to provide qualifying service of at least 100/20 Mbps to locations within their service areas for which voice and terrestrial broadband services of speeds 100/20 Mbps or faster were not yet available or that lacked an enforceable commitment for deployment.<sup>3</sup> Data from the National Broadband Map and the Broadband Funding Map were used to determine which areas were eligible for Enhanced A-CAM support,<sup>4</sup> and the Bureau was delegated the authority to determine, by the end of 2025, "the exact set of locations that must be served based on the Fabric, the Broadband Data Collection [(BDC)], and further

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<sup>1</sup> See Letter from Genevieve Morelli, ACAM Broadband Coalition; Michael R. Romano, Executive Vice President, NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association; Derrick B. Owens Sr. Vice President - Government & Industry Affairs and Stephen L. Goodman Regulatory Counsel WTA – Advocates for Rural Broadband; and Diana Eisner, Vice President, Regulatory & Legal Affairs USTelecom – The Broadband Association to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket No. 10-90 et al. (filed May 30, 2025) (*Obligated Locations ex parte*). Obligated locations are all the locations where an Enhanced A-CAM recipient is obligated to provide service of 100/20 Mbps or better, either by deploying service to a previously unserved location or by maintaining its existing service, without regard to whether it will receive support for that specific location.

We believe this interpretation is consistent with the *Enhanced A-CAM Order*'s directive to the Bureau to develop "a methodology to gradually reduce support where the number of locations to which a carrier is obligated to deploy is less than 95% but greater than 85% of the *obligated* locations in the authorization." See *Connect America Fund*; *ETC Annual Reports and Certifications*; *Telecommunications Carriers Eligible to Receive Universal Service Support*; *Connect America fund – Alaska Plan*; *Expanding Broadband Service Through the ACAM Program*, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 14-58, 09-197, and 16-271; RM-1168, Report and Order, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, and Notice of Inquiry, 38 FCC Rcd 7040, 7073, para. 77 (2023) (*Enhanced A-CAM Order*) (emphasis added).

<sup>2</sup> *Enhanced A-CAM Order*, 38 FCC Rcd at 7048, para. 19.

<sup>3</sup> See *id.* at 7057, para. 37.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at 7059, para. 42.

deduplication of enforceable commitments.”<sup>5</sup> The Bureau has subsequently issued guidance clarifying which locations will need to be served by Enhanced A-CAM carriers.<sup>6</sup>

To generate the list of eligible locations for Enhanced A-CAM, the Bureau announced that it would use Version 4 of the location fabric, as modified by successful challenges, to determine the existence of Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs).<sup>7</sup> To determine the availability of broadband at those locations, the Bureau announced that it would use BDC availability data from June 2023, for any locations where such data existed.<sup>8</sup> The Bureau also stated that any challenges to broadband availability data should have been filed by August 1, 2024, in order to ensure that the challenges would be adjudicated by May 15, 2025, and incorporated in the final list of eligible locations.<sup>9</sup>

The updated eligible location list we release today incorporates all broadband fabric challenges that were filed by August 1, 2024. The list also reflects the ongoing deduplication process, which entails working with NTIA and state broadband offices to determine the existence of enforceable commitments from other programs to deploy broadband to currently unserved locations within Enhanced A-CAM areas. Those locations that are currently unserved but are subject to enforceable commitments that were made on or before August 30, 2023 to deploy broadband at speeds of 100/20 Mbps or greater are not eligible for Enhanced A-CAM support. The deduplication process is complete in 40 states. In the states where we have not yet completed the deduplication process, the list of locations is subject to further change as a result of the deduplication process.<sup>10</sup> In the states where the deduplication process is not yet complete, we have tentatively removed the locations within Enhanced A-CAM areas that we identified as being subject to enforceable commitments from other programs. We are currently awaiting confirmation from the respective state broadband offices before finalizing the list of locations in those states. We believe that providing this updated eligible locations file before the deduplication process is complete in each state will give providers more certainty about the locations they will ultimately be required to serve.

Once the deduplication process is complete for all 50 states, the Bureau will release a Public Notice with an updated eligible location list, and will also put forth the methodology that will be used to recalculate support amounts for Enhanced A-CAM carriers whose total number of obligated locations

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<sup>5</sup> *Id.* at 7055, para. 34. The Bureau was given delegated authority to adjust the exact set of locations that needed to be served by the end of 2025 by identifying “(1) locations in the Fabric when the Bureau sets final obligations; (2) locations that were already served by an unsubsidized competitor at the time the offer was made but this competitive service was not reflected in the Broadband Data Collection; and (3) locations that were subject to an enforceable commitment for the deployment of broadband of 100/20 Mbps or greater at the time the offer was made.”

<sup>6</sup> See *Wireline Competition Bureau Announces Guidance Regarding Locations and Broadband Coverage for Enhanced Alternative Connect America Model Mechanism*, WC Docket No. 10-90, Public Notice, 39 FCC Rcd 423 (WCB 2024) (*Enhanced A-CAM Locations Public Notice*); *Wireline Competition Bureau Announces An Updated Interim Eligible Locations List For Enhanced Alternative Connect America Model Mechanism*, WC Docket No. 10-90, Public Notice, 39 FCC Rcd 7494 (WCB 2024) (*Enhanced A-CAM Updated Interim Eligible Locations Public Notice*).

<sup>7</sup> *Enhanced A-CAM Locations Public Notice*, 39 FCC Rcd at 424.

<sup>8</sup> *Wireline Competition Bureau Updated Guidance Regarding Locations and Broadband Coverage for Enhanced Alternative Connect America Model Mechanism*, WC Docket No. 10-90, Public Notice, 39 FCC Rcd 4206, 4208 (WCB 2024) (*Enhanced A-CAM Updated Locations Guidance Public Notice*); *Enhanced A-CAM Updated Interim Eligible Locations Public Notice*, 39 FCC Rcd at 7495.

<sup>9</sup> *Enhanced A-CAM Locations Public Notice*, 39 FCC Rcd at 425.

<sup>10</sup> The states where the deduplication process is not yet complete are: Arizona, California, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, New Mexico, North Carolina, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

decreases by more than 5 percent from the number of obligated locations in the initial Enhanced A-CAM offer, made on August 30, 2023.<sup>11</sup>

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

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<sup>11</sup> See *Wireline Competition Bureau Announces Enhanced Alternative Connect America Cost Model Support Amounts Offered to Rate-of-Return Carriers to Expand Rural Broadband*, WC Docket No. 10-90, Public Notice, 38 FCC Rcd 7828 (WCB 2023) (*Enhanced A-CAM Offer PN*).