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**FCC’s CONNECT AMERICA FUND TO EXPAND BROADBAND TO NEARLY 400,000 RURAL HOMES AND BUSINESSES IN 41 STATES**

**Washington, D.C**. – Over $255 million in funding to provide new broadband access to over 400,000 homes and businesses in rural areas of 41 states has been authorized from the Federal Communications Commission’s Connect America Fund, connecting nearly 1 million people who lack service.

The Connect America Fund is part of the FCC’s initiative to bring broadband access to rural communities. The $255,723,850 authorized today represents a jump-start to bring broadband to these areas. It brings the total authorized from the first phase of the Connect America Fund to nearly $403 million.

“Access to modern broadband networks is essential in the information age,” said FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler. “Yet 15 million Americans live in areas where they can’t get wireline broadband no matter how much they want it. These funds will jump-start broadband access in areas that would otherwise be bypassed by the digital economy.”

Five carriers will use the funds in rural portions of their service areas where, absent support from the Connect America Fund, broadband expansion was unlikely. The carriers are AT&T, CenturyLink, Fairpoint Communications, Frontier Communications, and Windstream Corp.

The authorizations are as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| State | Total Locations | Total Funding |
| AL | 37,591 | $27,723,400  |
| AR | 19,668 | $11,980,425  |
| AZ | 18,531 | $11,637,000  |
| CA | 740 | $442,100  |
| CO | 8,271 | $4,731,300  |
| FL | 8,641 | $5,623,525  |
| GA | 28,575 | $16,854,525  |
| IA | 5,967 | $3,443,175  |
| ID | 1,461 | $841,575  |
| IL | 2,571 | $1,600,350  |
| IN | 6,082 | $3,670,000  |
| KS | 346 | $214,825  |
| KY | 6,994 | $4,668,175  |
| LA | 11,072 | $8,087,150  |
| ME | 1,420 | $861,550  |
| MI | 3,746 | $2,169,875  |
| MN | 5,614 | $3,391,900  |
| MO | 12,641 | $8,033,450  |
| MS | 21,486 | $16,170,825  |
| MT | 1551 | $1,075,575  |
| NC | 13,028 | $8,310,425  |
| NE | 531 | $346,725  |
| NH | 1,254 | $725,700  |
| NJ | 11 | $6,050  |
| NM | 8,227 | $4,906,900  |
| NV | 902 | $502,850  |
| NY | 15,733 | $8,960,500  |
| OH | 7,175 | $4,393,775  |
| OK | 3,889 | $2,490,625  |
| OR | 5,134 | $3,007,975  |
| PA | 4,714 | $2,673,250  |
| SC | 10,401 | $7,639,125  |
| SD | 40 | $22,000  |
| TN | 34,485 | $26,243,700  |
| TX | 25,143 | $16,107,225  |
| UT | 360 | $207,900  |
| VA | 4,715 | $2,765,600  |
| WA | 4,165 | $2,529,250  |
| WI | 14,143 | $8,295,925  |
| WV | 36,339 | $22,333,425  |
| WY | 52 | $34,225  |
| Grand Total | 393,409 | $255,723,850  |

In August, the five carriers identified 563,767 locations where they wanted to use Connect America funds to reach customers unserved by broadband. The eligibility of some of those locations was challenged. Today’s action authorizes funding for 393,409 locations that were not subject to a challenge.

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