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For Immediate Release

**FCC AUTHORIZES FIRST WAVE OF FUNDING FOR RURAL
BROADBAND FROM CONNECT AMERICA FUND AUCTION**

*Funding Starts This Month for Broadband Buildout
in Rural Communities in 12 States*

WASHINGTON, May 14, 2019—The FCC today authorized nearly \$111.6 million in funding over the next decade to expand broadband to 37,148 unserved rural homes and businesses in 12 states representing the first wave of support from last year’s successful Connect America Fund Phase II auction. Providers will begin receiving funding this month.

In total, the auction allocated \$1.488 billion in support to expand broadband to more than 700,000 unserved rural homes and small businesses over the next 10 years. Over the coming months, the FCC will be authorizing additional funding waves as it approves the final applications of the winning bidders from the auction.

“I’m pleased to announce that funding starts now for buildout of high-speed Internet service to over 37,000 rural homes and businesses, which will bring them to the right side of the digital divide and give them access to the 21st-century opportunities that broadband provides,” said FCC Chairman Ajit Pai. “The FCC’s first-ever auction of fixed broadband support exceeded our expectations. Indeed, providers will be deploying gigabit-speed connections to the majority of locations for which funding is being authorized today. Moreover, this deployment is costing taxpayers much less than initially projected because the Commission allocated this funding through competitive bidding.”

The largest funding applications approved by the Commission today are as follows:

- ECO Services, an electric cooperative, is receiving \$22.2 million to deploy gigabit connections to over 7,700 locations in rural Oklahoma.
- United Services, an electric cooperative, is receiving \$20.2 million to deploy gigabit connections to over 5,500 locations in rural Missouri.
- Hawaiian Telcom is receiving \$18.1 million to deploy gigabit connections to over 3,900 locations in rural Hawaii.

Below is a complete list by state of the companies receiving support, the number of homes and businesses served (locations), the amount of support over 10 years, and the minimum download/ upload speeds to be provided:

State	Company	Minimum speed	Locations	Support/10 years
Arizona	Commnet Four Corners	25/3 Mbps	1,943	\$6,903,910
Arkansas	OzarksGo	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	4,028	\$11,453,537
Arkansas	Wave Rural Connect	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	758	\$3,969,608
Arkansas	South Central Connect	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	566	\$2,826,047
Colorado	Commnet Four Corners	25/3 Mbps	3,384	\$5,512,547
Hawaii	Hawaiian Telcom	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	3,936	\$18,160,638
Kentucky	Cincinnati Bell	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	321	\$1,035,217
Missouri	GoSEMO	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	1,783	\$2,229,219
Missouri	United Services	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	5,590	\$20,197,033
New Mexico	Commnet Four Corners	25/3 Mbps	5,706	\$12,323,479
Ohio	Cincinnati Bell Extended	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	1	\$4,513
Ohio	Cincinnati Bell Telephone	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	20	\$59,100
Oklahoma	ECO Services	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	7,701	\$22,205,909
Oklahoma	Wave Rural Connect	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	288	\$793,292
Tennessee	Gibson Connect	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	217	\$808,942
Utah	Commnet Four Corners	25/3 Mbps	216	\$643,873
Wyoming	Commnet Four Corners	25/3 Mbps	690	\$2,446,067
Total:			37,148	\$111,572,932

Providers must build out to 40% of the assigned homes and businesses in a state within three years. Buildout must increase by 20% in each subsequent year, until complete buildout is reached at the end of the sixth year.

The Connect America Fund Phase II auction is part of a broader effort by the FCC to close the digital divide in rural America. In addition to the funding that will be provided by this auction, the Commission recently provided 186 companies in 43 states \$65.7 million in additional annual funding to upgrade broadband speeds in rural communities, and offered incentives for over 500 rural carriers to provide faster broadband to over 1 million rural homes and businesses. Chairman Pai also announced his intention to create the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, which will provide \$20.4 billion over the next decade to connect up to four million rural homes and businesses to high-speed broadband, representing the FCC's single biggest step yet to close the digital divide.

More information is available on the auction is available at <https://www.fcc.gov/auction/903>. A map of winning bids is available at <https://www.fcc.gov/reports-research/maps/caf2-auction903-results/>.

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