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**For Immediate Release**

**FCC AUTHORIZES OVER \$240 MILLION FOR RURAL BROADBAND**

***Connect America Fund Support Will Expand Deployment to Over 100,000 Rural Homes & Businesses***

WASHINGTON, February 13, 2020—The Federal Communications Commission today authorized more than \$240 million in funding over ten years to expand rural broadband deployment in Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, Oklahoma, and Wyoming. These investments will connect more than 100,000 unserved rural homes and businesses in these states. Broadband providers will begin receiving funding later this month.

“Today’s announcement is another important step in our efforts to close the digital divide and connect rural Americans with the economic, healthcare, and educational opportunities made possible by high-speed broadband,” said FCC Chairman Ajit Pai. “Earlier this week, I had the opportunity to see firsthand how funding provided through the FCC’s Connect America Fund Phase II auction is having a positive impact on the Wind River Indian Reservation in rural Wyoming. And the funding we are authorizing today will bring those same benefits and connect more rural Americans with digital opportunity.”

This represents the ninth wave of support from the successful 2018 Connect America Fund Phase II auction. Providers must build out to 40% of the assigned homes and businesses in the areas won 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 funding being authorized in New York is the third wave of matching funds provided through the FCC’s partnership with the state’s New NY Broadband Program.

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	Support/10 Years	Locations
Arkansas	Wisper ISP, Inc	100/20 Mbps	\$399,565	102
Illinois	Wisper ISP, Inc	100/20 Mbps	\$35,079,137	8,907
Indiana	Wisper ISP, Inc	100/20 Mbps	\$123,648	14

Kansas	Wisper ISP, Inc	100/20 Mbps	\$1,607,524	414
Massachusetts	Westfield Gas & Electric Light Department	1 Gbps/500 Mbps; 10/1 Mbps	\$10,228,950	4,665
Missouri	Wisper ISP, Inc	100/20 Mbps; 25/3 Mbps	\$176,319,409	68,269
New York	Hughes Network Systems, LLC	25/3 Mbps	\$7,026,075	22,305
Oklahoma	Wisper ISP, Inc	100/20 Mbps	\$6,790,089	2,443
Wyoming	Mountain West Technologies	100/20 Mbps	\$2,658,056	550
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$240,232,453</b>	<b>107,669</b>

In total, the Connect America Fund Phase II Auction in 2018 allocated \$1.488 billion in support over the next ten years to expand broadband to more than 700,000 unserved rural homes and small businesses in 45 states. The FCC has now authorized nine waves of funding, and today's action brings total authorized funding to over \$1.4 billion, which is expanding connectivity to 627,097 homes and businesses nationwide. Funding rounds will continue until the authorization process is complete.

[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 January, the FCC took its biggest single step to date toward closing the rural digital divide by establishing the [Rural Digital Opportunity Fund](#), which will direct up to \$20.4 billion to expand broadband in unserved rural areas.

A map of winning bids in the Auction is available at <https://www.fcc.gov/reports-research/maps/caf2-auction903-results/>.

New York funding is through a separate process set up by the Commission upon request from and in partnership with the state's New NY Broadband Program. In total, the FCC has authorized \$62.4 million in federal funding through this partnership to connect 45,835 homes and businesses in New York. This funding was announced in a separate public notice from the notice announcing the ninth wave of Connect America Fund Auction support.

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*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*