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| ***FCC - News from the Federal Communications Commission***  **Media Contact:**  Anne Veigle, (202) 418-0506  anne.veigle@fcc.gov  **For Immediate Release**  **FCC RELEASES FINAL LIST OF AREAS ELIGIBLE FOR RURAL DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY FUND PHASE I AUCTION**  ***Auction Beginning on October 29 Could Connect 10.25 Million Unserved Americans***  WASHINGTON, October 8, 2020—The Federal Communications Commission today announced the final list of areas that will be eligible for bidding in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase I auction, which will target up to $16 billion to census blocks with no fixed broadband service meeting the Commission’s minimum standards. In total, about 5.3 million unserved homes and businesses are located in areas eligible for bidding in the Phase I auction, which will begin on October 29. The auction will prioritize bids for the deployment of broadband networks providing higher speeds up to 1 Gbps and lower latency.    “The current pandemic has highlighted the importance of bringing broadband access to all Americans, and the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund is our boldest step yet to bridge the digital divide,” said Chairman Pai. “Our announcement today demonstrates the broad impact that our investment in rural America will have across the country. Our staff estimates that as many as 10.25 million Americans live in areas that could be connected to broadband through the Phase I auction, which starts in three weeks. The auction will end up connecting consumers from the Pacific Coast to the Great Plains, and from Appalachia to the Gulf Coast, who are currently missing out on digital opportunity and the economic, educational, healthcare, civic, and social benefits it brings.”  The numbers below summarize state-by-state eligibility and were developed in accord with the eligibility criteria adopted in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Order.   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **State** | **Locations** |  | **State** | **Locations** | | Alabama | 197,240 |  | Nebraska | 43,445 | | Arizona | 131,949 |  | Nevada | 31,620 | | Arkansas | 201,923 |  | New Hampshire | 18,243 | | California | 370,986 |  | New Jersey | 11,933 | | Colorado | 77,625 |  | New Mexico | 64,408 | | Connecticut | 3,281 |  | New York | 46,953 | | Delaware | 7,757 |  | North Carolina | 158,805 | | Florida | 147,162 |  | North Dakota | 2,780 | | Georgia | 181,070 |  | Ohio | 191,832 | | Hawaii | 8,081 |  | Oklahoma | 126,153 | | Idaho | 40,753 |  | Oregon | 82,583 | | Illinois | 159,967 |  | Pennsylvania | 190,325 | | Indiana | 161,688 |  | Rhode Island | 3,678 | | Iowa | 53,819 |  | South Carolina | 109,300 | | Kansas | 46,827 |  | South Dakota | 10,051 | | Kentucky | 99,200 |  | Tennessee | 166,406 | | Louisiana | 176,614 |  | Texas | 311,108 | | Maine | 27,967 |  | Utah | 10,784 | | Maryland | 38,990 |  | Vermont | 19,468 | | Massachusetts | 29,491 |  | Virginia | 189,358 | | Michigan | 251,083 |  | Washington | 103,155 | | Minnesota | 144,099 |  | West Virginia | 120,156 | | Mississippi | 219,466 |  | Wisconsin | 240,840 | | Missouri | 199,211 |  | Wyoming | 18,978 | | Montana | 46,076 |  |  |  |   Additional information about the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase I (Auction 904) can be found at: <https://www.fcc.gov/auction/904>  ###  **Media Relations: (202) 418-0500 / ASL: (844) 432-2275 / TTY: (888) 835-5322 / Twitter: @FCC / www.fcc.gov**  *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).* |