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For Immediate Release

**FCC LAUNCHES ENHANCED COMPETITION INCENTIVE PROGRAM
FOR WIRELESS RADIO SERVICES**

*Expands Spectrum Access Opportunities for
Small Carriers, Tribal Nations, and Rural Wireless Entities*

WASHINGTON, February 15, 2024—The Federal Communications Commission today launched the Enhanced Competition Incentive Program (ECIP), which incentivizes wireless licensees to make underutilized spectrum available to small carriers, Tribal Nations, and entities serving rural areas in furtherance of the Commission’s “100 percent broadband policy.” Beginning today, the FCC’s Wireless Telecommunications Bureau will accept applications as part of this creative, new program that encourages licensees to partition, disaggregate, or lease spectrum to better match available spectrum resources with entities that seek to provide needed services to under-connected communities.

“Deployment in rural areas can be challenging, so we created an innovative opportunity for small carriers and Tribal Nations to access scarce spectrum resources,” **said Chairwoman Rosenworcel**. “It’s a terrific tool to use—among others—to make sure we reach 100 percent of us with high-speed service.”

Today’s action builds upon on the [order](#) adopted by the Commission in 2022 and Congressional goals in the MOBILE NOW Act to incentivize beneficial transactions in the public interest. To participate in the program, parties to a license assignment or lease will demonstrate ECIP eligibility when seeking FCC approval of their transaction, consistent with existing secondary market rules and processes. Parties seeking approval for wireless transactions and leases may now file applications seeking to participate in the program.

Under this program, transactions involving small carriers and Tribal Nations can qualify, as can those involving rural-focused entities. All parties to qualifying ECIP transactions will benefit from longer license terms, an extension on construction obligations, and more flexible construction requirements. These benefits provide new incentives aimed at spurring secondary market transactions that can broaden greater access to licensed spectrum among a wider range of providers, including in rural areas.

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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).*