

Federal Communications Commission



2025

Budget-In-Brief
March 2024

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INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY OF REQUEST

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INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY OF REQUEST

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) is pleased to present its fiscal year (FY) 2025 budget request.

The FCC is an independent regulatory agency of the United States Government. The FCC is charged with regulating interstate and international communications by radio, television, wire, satellite, and cable. The Commission also regulates telecommunications and advanced communication services and video programming for people with disabilities, as set forth in various sections of the Communications Act.

As specified in section 1 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, the FCC's mission is to "make available, so far as possible, to all the people of the United States, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex, rapid, efficient, Nation-wide, and world-wide wire and radio communication service with adequate facilities at reasonable charges."¹ In addition, section 1 provides that the Commission was created "for the purpose of the national defense" and "for the purpose of promoting safety of life and property through the use of wire and radio communications."²

The FCC is directed by five Commissioners appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate for five-year terms, except when filling the unexpired term of a previous Commissioner. Only three Commissioners can be from the same political party at any given time. The President designates one of the Commissioners to serve as the Chairperson.

The FCC's vision is to pursue policies to bring affordable, reliable high-speed broadband to 100 percent of the country and encourage the private sector to build, maintain, and upgrade next-generation networks so that the benefits of advanced communications services are available to all Americans. The FCC will work to promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility; empowering consumers; enhancing public safety and national security; and advancing America's global competitiveness. Furthermore, in FY 2025, the FCC will continue to improve its processes to deliver on the needs of today and the future in a more proactive and efficient manner to maintain a current high level of performance. Through these reform efforts, the Commission will develop and implement changes that focus the Commission on effectively and efficiently leveraging human capital to deliver on programs that are the highest need to citizens and where there is a unique Federal role.

For FY 2025, the Commission is requesting the budget and personnel amounts that are summarized in the bullets and a table below.

The Commission requests \$448,075,000 in budget authority from regulatory fee offsetting collections. This request represents an increase of \$57,883,000 or 14.8 percent from the FY 2024 Annualized Continuing Appropriations Act level of \$390,192,000.

¹ 47 U.S.C. § 151.

² *Id.*

The Commission also requests \$139,000,000 in budget authority for the Spectrum Auctions program. This request represents an increase of \$6,769,000 or 5.1 percent from the FY 2024 Annualized Continuing Appropriations Act level of \$132,231,000. As of December 31, 2023 the Commission's spectrum auctions program has generated over \$233.5 billion for government use; at the same time, the total cost of the spectrum auctions program has been less than \$2.5 billion or 1.1 percent of the total auctions' revenue.

In creating a lean, accountable, and efficient Commission that works for the American people, the Commission requests 1,600 Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) funded by budget authority from S&E, Spectrum Auctions program, and other budget authorities provided by the President and Congress. This FTE level is the same level as the FY 2023 appropriated and enacted level and the FY 2024 Congressional request level. With this FTE level, the Commission will meet its mission demands in FY 2025.

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024		FY 2025		Change in Request	
	FTEs ¹	Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FTEs ¹	Estimates to Congress	FTEs ¹	Amount
Budget Authority - Offsetting Collections:						
Regulatory Fees - Commission	1,540	\$378,061	1,540	\$433,740	0	\$55,679
Regulatory Fees - Office of Inspector General (OIG)	60	\$12,131	60	\$14,335	0	\$2,204
Subtotal - Offsetting Collections	1,600	\$390,192	1,600	\$448,075	0	\$57,883
Budget Authority - Other Offsetting Collections:						
Auction Cost Recovery Reimbursement - Commission		\$132,231		\$139,000		\$6,769
Subtotal - Salaries and Expenses		\$522,423		\$587,075		\$64,652
Budget Authority - Economy Act Reimbursable Agreements:						
Economy Act Reimbursable Agreements		\$4,000		\$4,000		\$0
Total Gross Proposed Budget Authority	1,600	\$526,423	1,600	\$591,075	0	\$64,652

¹The FTE numbers include Auctions Program FTEs. Refer to page 37 for a breakdown of FTEs between Regulatory Fees and Auctions Program FTEs.

In furtherance of these objectives and the FCC’s mission, the FY 2025 budget request will be used to support the following Strategic Goals:

Strategic Goal 1: Pursue a “100 Percent” Broadband Policy

The COVID-19 pandemic put a spotlight on the serious broadband gaps that exist across the country, including in rural infrastructure, affordability for low-income Americans, and at-home access for students. This continuing digital divide means millions of Americans do not have meaningful access to essential infrastructure for 21st century success. In response to the challenges that many Americans face, the agency should advance access to communications that are essential for Americans to work remotely, learn remotely, receive healthcare, and engage in commerce. To this end, the FCC will pursue policies to help bring affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband to 100 percent of the country.

Strategic Goal 2: Promote Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility

The FCC will seek to gain a deeper understanding of how the agency’s rules, policies, and programs may promote or inhibit advances in diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. The FCC will pursue focused action and investments to eliminate historical, systemic, and structural barriers that perpetuate disadvantaged or underserved individuals and communities. In so doing, the FCC will work to ensure equitable and inclusive access and facilitate the ability of underserved individuals and communities to leverage and benefit from the wide range of opportunities made possible by digital technologies, media, communication services, and next-generation networks. In addition, the FCC recognizes that it is more effective when its workforce reflects the experience, judgement, and input of individuals from many different backgrounds. Advancing equity is core to the agency’s management and policymaking processes and will benefit all Americans.

Strategic Goal 3: Empower Consumers

Consumers who are well informed about their rights and what they’re buying are more confident and more likely to participate in the digital economy. The FCC will tackle new challenges to consumer rights and opportunities stemming from digital transitions. The FCC also will pursue effective enforcement and new approaches to protect consumers from unwanted and intrusive communications, phone-based scams, telephone privacy issues, and other trends that affect consumers. The FCC will work to enhance competition and pursue policies that protect the competitive process to improve consumer choice and access to information. The FCC will work to foster a regulatory landscape that fosters media competition, diversity, and localism. The FCC also must work to ensure the availability of quality, functionally equivalent communications services for persons with disabilities.

Strategic Goal 4: Enhance Public Safety and National Security

There is no task at the FCC that is more important than keeping the American people safe. The FCC will pursue policies to promote the availability of secure, reliable, interoperable, redundant, and rapidly restorable critical communications infrastructure and services. The FCC also will promote the public’s access to reliable 911, emergency alerting, and first responder communications. The FCC will work to ensure the continued availability of timely emergency

alerts. The FCC will work in coordination with Federal and state, local, Tribal, and territorial government partners and industry stakeholders to support disaster response and to ensure the nation's defense and homeland security.

Strategic Goal 5: Advance America's Global Competitiveness

The FCC will take action to promote investment and advance the development and deployment of new communications technologies, such as 5G, that will allow the nation to remain a global leader in an increasingly competitive, international marketplace. The FCC will identify incentives and policies to close security gaps and accelerate trustworthy innovation. The FCC will work with its federal partners to advocate for US interests abroad.

Strategic Goal 6: Foster Operational Excellence

The FCC should be a model for excellence in government by effectively managing its resources, maintaining a commitment to transparent and responsive processes that encourage public involvement and decision-making that best serves the public interest, and encouraging a culture of collaboration both internally and across government agencies.

Additional Useful Information to Better Understand the Budget Request

Below is some additional useful information for readers to better understand the information presented in the Commission's budget request:

- FY 2023 numbers presented are actuals.
- FY 2024 numbers presented are annualized numbers from the Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 (Continuing Appropriations Act).
- The FTE numbers included in the chart [Summary of FYs 2023 – 2025 FTEs and Funding by Bureau and Offices](#) section also include FTEs from the Spectrum Auctions Program, and other budget authorities provided by the President and Congress, but the personnel compensation and benefits dollar amounts only represent personnel compensation and benefits dollars from S&E.
- This budget estimate assumes Congress will have fully restored the Commission's general spectrum auction authority.
- Under current funding forecasts, the final fully funded month of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is projected to be April 2024 and the Commission looks forward to working with Congress to extend this program and ensure that it continues to provide critical benefits to millions.

Fiscal Year 2025 Proposed Appropriation Language

For necessary expenses of the Federal Communications Commission, as authorized by law, including uniforms and allowances therefor, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901–5902; not to exceed \$4,000 for official reception and representation expenses; purchase and hire of motor vehicles; special counsel fees; and services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, \$448,075,000 to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That \$448,075,000 of offsetting collections shall be assessed and collected pursuant to section 9 of title I of the Communications Act of 1934, shall be retained and used for necessary expenses and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the sum above appropriated shall be reduced as such offsetting collections are received during fiscal year 2025 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2025 salaries and expenses appropriation estimated at \$0: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding 47 U.S.C. 309(j)(8)(B), proceeds from the use of a competitive bidding system that may be retained and made available for obligation shall not exceed \$139,000,000 for fiscal year 2025: *Provided further*, That, of the amount appropriated under this heading, not less than \$14,335,000 shall be for the salaries and expenses of the Office of Inspector General.

Legislative Proposals

The Administration is proposing one legislative change in the President's FY 2025 Budget pertaining to the FCC. This proposal, described below, is designed to make more spectrum available for commercial use, and represents sound economic policy.

Spectrum Auction Authority

The Commission's auction authority for spectrum originally was scheduled to expire in FY 1998; however, it was extended by subsequent legislation. It was extended through FY 2007 in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, P.L. 105-33; through FY 2011 by the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, P.L. 109-171; through FY 2012 by the DTV Delay Act, P.L. 111-4; through FY 2022 by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, P.L. 112-96; through December 16, 2022 by the Continuing Appropriations and Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023, P.L. 117-180; through December 23, 2022 by the Further Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2023, P.L. 117-229; through December 30, 2022 by the Further Additional Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2023, P.L. 117-264; and through March 9, 2023 by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, P.L. 117-328.

Additionally, in the Spectrum Pipeline Act of 2015 (included as Title X in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, P.L. 114-74), the Commission's auction authority with respect to only electromagnetic spectrum identified under section 1004(a) of that Act was extended until September 30, 2025, and with respect to only the electromagnetic spectrum identified under section 90008(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), P.L. 117-58, was extended until November 15, 2028.

Thus, the Commission's authority to grant licenses or construction permits for stations using spectrum subject to mutually exclusive application using competitive bidding ended on March 9, 2023, except for the spectrum identified pursuant to the Spectrum Pipeline Act of 2015 and IIJA. On December 19, 2023, the 5G SALE Act, P.L. 118-27 gave Commission the authority for a 90-day period to grant certain licenses in Auction 108. On February 29, 2024, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau completed the processing of all outstanding Auction 108 long-form applications and issued all licenses won in Auction 108 pursuant to the 5G SALE Act.

As of this submission the Commission's general spectrum auction authority has not been fully reinstated. This Legislative proposal seeks to reinstate the Commission's general auction authority for spectrum auction for ten years through fiscal year 2034.

Summary of FYs 2023 - 2025 FTEs and Funding by Bureaus and Offices

(Dollars in Thousands)

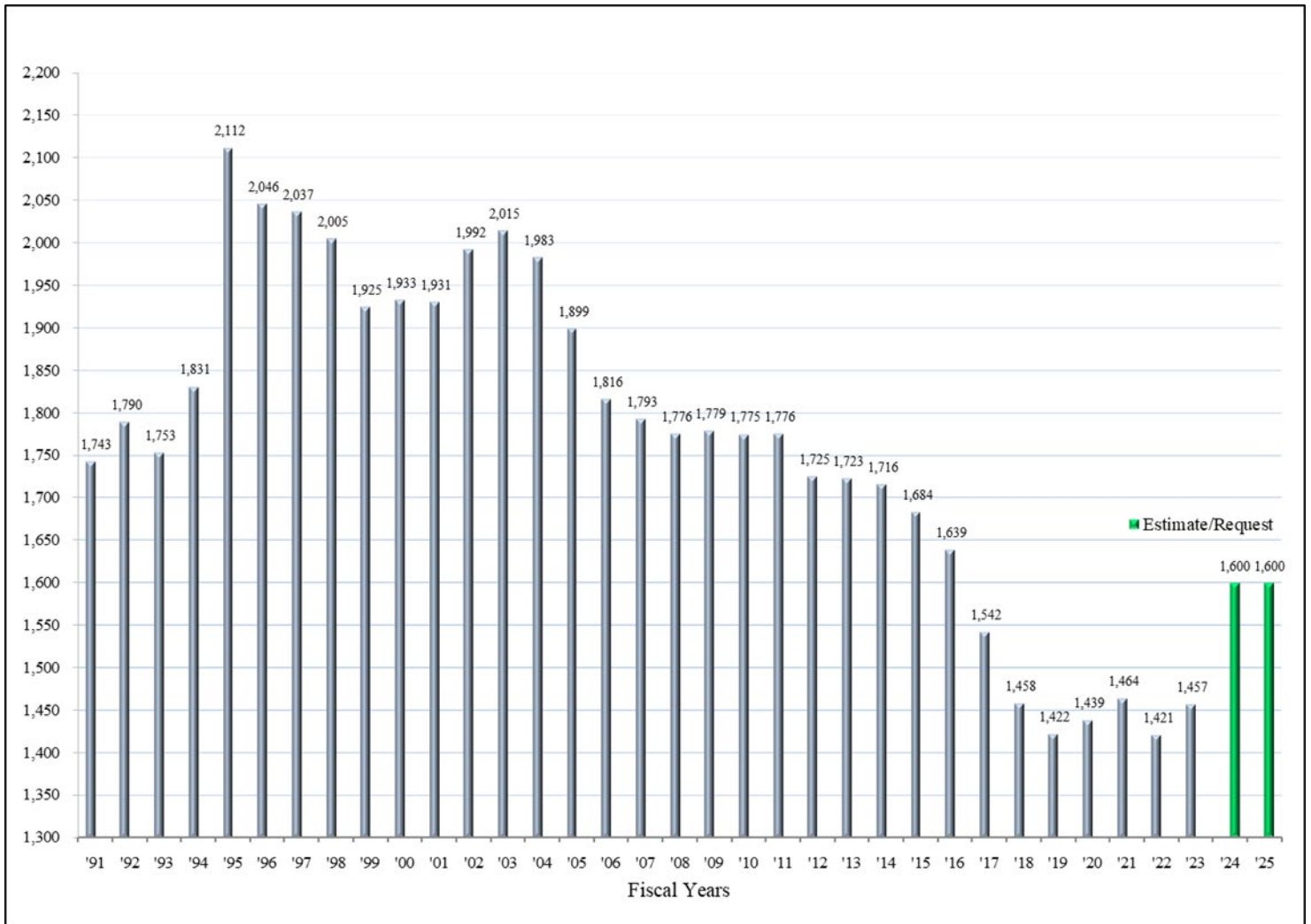
Bureaus and Offices	FY 2023		FY 2024		FY 2025	
	FTEs ¹	Actuals	FTEs ¹	Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FTEs ¹	Estimates to Congress
Chairwoman and Commissioners	23	\$4,999	24	\$6,573	25	\$7,087
Consumer & Government Affairs Bureau	107	\$23,840	118	\$25,864	118	\$27,197
Enforcement Bureau	175	\$39,405	204	\$44,816	204	\$49,247
International Bureau ²	44	\$9,575				
Media Bureau	121	\$26,092	135	\$28,545	135	\$29,616
Public Safety & Homeland Security Bureau	109	\$24,112	115	\$25,761	115	\$26,244
Space Bureau	20	\$4,896	45	\$11,125	45	\$12,100
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau	149	\$15,606	158	\$16,462	158	\$17,682
Wireline Competition Bureau	155	\$32,382	173	\$37,046	173	\$39,034
Office of Administrative Law Judges	3	\$647	4	\$807	4	\$922
Office of Communications Business Opportunities	9	\$1,881	12	\$2,128	12	\$2,546
Office of Economics and Analytics	110	\$14,903	134	\$18,717	134	\$36,103
Office of Engineering & Technology	76	\$14,501	79	\$15,601	79	\$16,651
Office of General Counsel	66	\$18,033	76	\$20,104	76	\$21,674
Office of International Affairs	22	\$4,620	43	\$9,594	43	\$10,153
Office of Legislative Affairs	8	\$1,783	8	\$2,025	8	\$2,139
Office of Managing Director	196	\$107,615	192	\$108,348	191	\$130,792
Office of Media Relations	12	\$2,547	12	\$2,936	12	\$2,781
Office of Workplace Diversity	6	\$1,220	8	\$1,609	8	\$1,772
Subtotal	1,411	\$348,657	1,540	\$378,061	1,540	\$433,740
Office of Inspector General	46	\$10,443	60	\$12,131	60	\$14,335
Total - Salaries & Expenses	1,457	\$359,100	1,600	\$390,192	1,600	\$448,075

¹The FTE numbers include the spectrum auctions program FTEs.

²The International Bureau was reorganized and restructured in FY 2023. The work functions and structure of the International Bureau were divided between the new Space Bureau and the Office of International Affairs.

The Commission is responsible for the overall management, oversight, and administration of the Universal Service Fund (USF), including all USF policy decisions. All USF related activities are currently funded by regulatory fees. The Universal Service Fund Activities and Costs section on pages 19 through 22 provides more details related to the Commission's USF activities and related costs.

FTEs - Historical and Estimated Fiscal Years 1991 – 2025



Summary of Changes - Regulatory Fees (Offsetting Collections)

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress	TOTAL NET CHANGE	
			Amount	Percent
Regulatory Fees - Offsetting Collections:				
Commission	\$378,061	\$433,740	\$55,679	
Office of Inspector General	\$12,131	\$14,335	\$2,204	
Total Spending Authority - Offsetting Collections	\$390,192	\$448,075	\$57,883	14.8%
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) - Commission ¹	1,540	1,540	0	
FTEs - Office of Inspector General	60	60	0	
Total Full-Time Equivalents	1,600	1,600	0	
Explanation of Changes - Regulatory Fees (Offsetting Collections)				
FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act			\$390,192	
FY 2024 Base Adjustments:				
Compensation & Benefits ²		\$14,220		
Non-Salary Inflationary Increase ³		\$1,961		
Subtotal - FY 2024 Base Adjustments			\$16,181	
FY 2024 Base Increases:				
Enterprise and Fraud Risk Management and Internal Control Support		\$1,000		
Enterprise Data Platform		\$500		
Data Collection System for Bureaus and Offices		\$500		
Multi-Factor Authentication of Public Facing System		\$450		
Subtotal - FY 2024 Base Increases			\$2,450	
FY 2024 - One-Time Investment Requests:				
Enterprise Data Platform		\$2,000		
Data Collection System for Bureaus and Offices		\$1,000		
Subtotal - FY 2024 One-Time Investment Requests			\$3,000	
Reversal of FYs 2024 & 2023 One-Time Investment Requests:			-\$4,080	
FY 2025 Adjusted Base Before Adjustments & Increases			\$407,743	
FY 2025 Base Adjustments:				
Compensation & Benefits ²		\$8,282		
Non-Salary Inflationary Increase ³		\$2,050		
Subtotal - FY 2025 Base Adjustments			\$10,332	
FY 2025 Base Increase - Broadband DATA Collection - Statutory Required			\$30,000	
FY 2025 Estimates to Congress			\$448,075	

¹The FTE numbers include the Spectrum Auctions Program FTEs.

²Utilized an estimated pay increase rate of 5.2% in CY 2024 and 2% in CY 2025.

³Utilized an estimated inflationary rate of 2% for the non-payroll increases.

Narrative Explanation of Changes - Salaries and Expenses - Regulatory Fees

Personnel Compensation and Non-Salaries Inflationary Increase to Base: \$26,513,000

A. Personnel Compensation Increase (\$22,502,000) – Pursuant to OMB guidance, the request includes increases for personnel compensation and benefits as follows:

1. **FY 2024 (\$14,220,000)** – The increase is due to a pay increase rate of 4.6% for the last quarter of Calendar Year (CY) 2023 and a 5.2% increase for the first three quarters of CY 2024.
2. **FY 2025 (\$8,282,000)** – The increase is due to a pay increase rate of 5.2% for the last quarter of CY 2024 and a 2% increase for the first three quarters of CY 2025.

B. Non-Salary Inflationary Increase (\$4,011,000) – This request provides expected inflationary increases for phones, utilities, printing and reproduction services, contractual services, supplies, travel, training, and other expenses. The Non-Salary inflationary increase for FY 2024 and FY 2025 is as follows:

1. **FY 2024 (\$1,961,000)** – This increase is a due to an estimated inflationary increase of two (2) percent for FY 2024.
2. **FY 2025 (\$2,050,000)** – This increase is a due to an estimated inflationary increase of two (2) percent for FY 2025.

FY 2024 Base Increases (\$2,450,000) and One-Time Requests (\$3,000,000) for New Investments: \$5,450,000

1. Enterprise and Fraud Risk Management and Internal Control Support (\$1,000,000)

In managing FCC programs such as the Universal Service Fund (USF), Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) Fund, Spectrum Auctions Program, Affordable Connectivity Program, Emergency Connectivity Fund, and others, management is responsible for and required to comply with various General Accountability Office (GAO) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance such as OMB A-123, Management's Responsibility for Enterprise Risk Management and Internal Control; GAO's A Framework for Managing Fraud Risks in Federal Programs; and OMB M-21-19, Requirements for Payment Integrity Improvement. With an ever-growing risk environment, OMB and GAO have implemented many best practices to help agencies manage, access, monitor and respond to fraud, waste and abuse. The Commission is requesting base funding to hire experts and independent contract support to help manage this emerging growth area within Commission programs.

2. Enterprise Data Platform (\$2,500,000)

The FCC plans to expand and enhance an Enterprise Data Platform to address in part statutory and OMB requirements for federal government agencies. This includes a one-time request for \$2,000,000, and an ongoing base increase of \$500,000 for: (1) addressing

the Open, Public, Electronic and Necessary Government Data Act (OPEN Data Act), part of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act (Evidence Act), that requires agencies to publish public government data assets in a machine readable format and to develop and maintain a comprehensive data inventory, and (2) supporting Executive Order (EO) 14028 on Improving the Nation’s Cybersecurity, which requires Federal Government organizations to take action to strengthen national cybersecurity specifically calling for federal agencies and their suppliers “to modernize their approach to cybersecurity” by accelerating the move to secure cloud services and implementing a Zero Trust architecture (EO Zero Trust Architecture).

3. Data Collection System for Bureaus and Offices (\$1,500,000)

This request includes a one-time increase of \$1,000,000, and an ongoing base increase of \$500,000. The Commission and policy Bureaus regularly adopt rules to institute new or updated data collections to provide the necessary data to for fact-based policy making and implementation of existing programs. In addition, existing data collections often need updates or modernization, including due to security issues like the Log4j vulnerability. The volume of data collections can outstrip the IT resources we have available to implement them. Access to a secure low-code/no-code platform will allow the Agency to develop and design online data collection forms and interfaces to support Bureaus and Offices that are required by the Commission to conduct and implement data collections. Such a system will support compliance with the EO Zero Trust requirements; provide a secure, central location for data collected by the agency; and allow us to implement data-quality requirements on collections.

4. Multi-Factor Authentication of Public Facing System (\$450,000)

Per National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publication (SP), all public facing websites/systems require the use of a Multi-Factor Authenticator. An authentication system that requires more than one distinct authentication factor for successful authentication. FCC will leverage LOGIN.GOV to comply with NIST SP requirements for all public facing website/systems.

FY 2025 Base Increases \$30,000,000

A. Broadband DATA Collection (\$30,000,000)

The President signed into law the Broadband Deployment Accuracy and Technological Availability Act (Broadband DATA Act), P. L. 116-130, on March 23, 2020. The Broadband DATA Act is important legislation that directs the FCC to improve the way broadband availability data is collected, verified, and reported, so that the FCC, other federal agencies, state, local and Tribal governments and other stakeholders have a precise and accurate view of where broadband is, and is not available, across the United States and Territories. Specifically, the Broadband DATA Act requires the FCC to regularly collect and disseminate, on an ongoing biannual basis, granular broadband service availability data from wired, fixed-wireless, satellite, and mobile broadband providers.

In conjunction with the biannual Broadband Data Collection (BDC), the FCC must establish data specifications that broadband providers must adhere to in reporting this more granular

service availability data. To support this increased level of granularity, the FCC was required to establish and maintain the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric (Fabric). The Fabric is a dataset of geolocation information for all locations in the U.S. where broadband service is or could be made available. The Fabric, in conjunction with the location-based availability data reported by fixed broadband service providers serves as the foundation for accurately assessing the availability of fixed broadband internet access service for universal service support and other purposes. In addition to fixed broadband services (i.e. wireline, terrestrial fixed wireless, and satellite services), the FCC also collects mobile coverage data using standardized propagation modeling to show the 3G, 4G, and 5G coverage of each mobile provider. Finally, the FCC must continuously undertake (and staff with FTEs) challenge and crowdsourcing processes to enable the submission of independent data disputing the accuracy of the FCC's broadband maps, conduct audits and verifications of the broadband availability data on the map, and provide technical support to small providers, State, local and Tribal governmental entities, and consumers.

Recognizing that these more precise and granular broadband mapping initiatives required the FCC to make significant new investments in the development, modernization, and enhancement of information technology systems and data, Congress appropriated \$98 million in funding to cover the FCC's development and other implementation costs. The agency's costs were heaviest during the start-up implementation years, as the FCC developed the IT platform, systems, Fabric, and other elements of the BDC. As the FCC continues implementation of the ongoing and iterative BDC, FCC budget allocations are needed to support: (i) bi-annual availability collections; (ii) Fabric updates; (iii) ongoing challenge and crowdsource data collections, (iv) data review and processing; (v) statutory outreach obligations; (vi) FCC-initiated verifications, audits and enforcement; and (vii) rule updates.

These types of development and ongoing costs include, among other things:

- BDC system operations and maintenance and development of additional functionalities and enhancements to support ongoing operations;
- Other IT costs, such as BDC system analytics tools, optimization and AI support, independent verification and validation, user acceptance testing, a ticketing system, and cloud hosting;
- Fabric maintenance, updates, and Fabric challenge review;
- Help center technical assistance support for broadband service providers, challengers, other third party stakeholders and consumers;
- Enhancements to and operations related to a new FCC Speed Test app to enable mobile challenge and crowdsource functionality;
- Engineering support of verification and audit efforts, including the review and analysis of mobile and terrestrial fixed wireless data, propagation modeling, and mobile drive testing;
- Travel for speaking engagements and outreach to state and Tribal governments, providers, and other stakeholders; and
- Existing FTEs to support the work described above and other ongoing obligations, including conducting challenge adjudication, location restoration reviews, verifications, audits and enforcement actions, all of which help assure accuracy and completeness of broadband availability data published on the National Broadband Map

Office of Inspector General Narrative

The Office of the Inspector General's (OIG or the Office) workload continues to increase in all mission-critical areas. Therefore, the Office continues to focus on ensuring appropriate staffing levels to keep pace with the increased responsibilities and workload. OIG has increased its hiring over the past few budget years and this recruitment effort has permitted the Office to engage in a greater number of, and more complex audits and investigations. We anticipate the need for additional resources 2025, as we continue to oversee the FCC's expanded subsidy programs. As a result, we will support in FY 2025 an expanded program of proactive investigations into E-rate, Lifeline and COVID-19 relief program providers and recipients and obtain additional law-enforcement capabilities we currently lack. We continually gauge the relative merits of any audit and investigation prior to expending valuable resources.

The OIG FY 2025 budget request of \$14,335,000 reflects a \$2,204,000 increase over the FY 2024 Annualized Continuing Appropriations Act level of \$12,131,000. The increase is attributable to a \$1,791,798 increase in salary and benefits and \$412,202 in non-salary.

For FY 2025, a funding level of \$14,335,000 is required for effective oversight of FCC program and waste, fraud and abuse detection and prevention therein. These FCC programs have grown exponentially; in 2021, the Universal Service fund provided \$10.9872 billion to support the four Universal Service programs. Additionally in 2021, Congress appropriated \$24.77 billion for COVID-19 and other emergency relief programs: the COVID-19 Telehealth Program (\$200 million), the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (\$3.2 billion), the Affordable Connectivity Program (\$14.2 billion), and the Education Connectivity Fund (\$7.17 billion).

OIG's Office of Audits (OA) conducts and contracts for the performance of independent and objective audits, inspections, evaluations, and related projects, designed to promote economy, effectiveness and efficiency in FCC programs and operations, and to prevent and detect fraud waste and abuse. As of September 30, 2022, OA completed five projects and three additional FY 2022 projects are currently in process. OA plans to complete more than 40 audits, inspections, and evaluations over the next five years, covering important Commission activities and programs including, but not limited to, the Universal Service Fund (USF), Telecommunications Relay Services Fund, Affordable Connectivity Program Secure and Trusted Communications Network Reimbursement Program and Broadband Mapping. Further, OA will provide the expertise and resources necessary to complete unforeseen special projects and Congressional requests, and will continue to perform the necessary work to ensure all mandated audits and evaluations are completely timely.

OIG's Office of Investigations (OI) matters cover a wide range of topics touching on myriad aspects of the FCC's mission and programs. Most significantly, our investigations often address allegations of criminal misconduct or civil fraud in USF programs. We deal with complex investigations, large criminal conspiracies, and matters involving complex financial transactions throughout the United States and its territories. As of September 30, 2022, OI had 48 open cases. Working with the Department of Justice, in recent years, OI has recovered tens of millions of dollars of government funds and saved the government hundreds of millions of additional dollars, resulting from criminal and civil fraud cases that have been successfully prosecuted or settled. In the upcoming year, in addition to our ongoing activities, we expect to conduct investigations to fulfill our mandate to deter and detect fraud, waste and abuse. OIG plans to hire

at least two attorney investigators, four criminal investigators, and support staff, and essential forensic tools to effectively advance our mission.

In compliance with the IG Reform Act of 2008, this FCC OIG FY 2025 budget request includes a fair share ratio in the amount of \$36,606 for contribution to the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, funds to support IGNet Management Services, and training funds in the amount of \$94,300.

Universal Service Fund Activities and Costs

The Commission is responsible for the overall management, oversight, and administration of the Universal Service Fund (USF). The Commission develops policies and rules for the USF, and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) collects and delivers funding through four programs – Schools and Libraries (E-Rate), Rural Health Care, Lifeline, and High Cost – focused on places where broadband and connectivity needs are critical. These programs serve people in rural, underserved, and difficult-to-reach areas.

The Commission works with USAC, as administrator of the USF, to review USAC's administrative expenses and also to oversee the effectiveness of USAC's internal controls around USAC's program management, procurements, information technology projects, and personnel processes. The descriptions below provide additional information about how the Commission's various Bureaus and Offices work together as the agency carries out its USF management and oversight responsibilities.

Office of Managing Director. The Office of Managing Director (OMD) is responsible for all USF management and administrative activities, including finance, accounting, procurement, information technology, and audits of beneficiaries and contributors. OMD provides instruction and oversight to USAC on these issues.

Wireline Competition Bureau. The Wireline Competition Bureau (WCB) oversees USF policy and provides guidance on the applicability and interpretation of the Commission's USF rules, orders, and directives to USAC and to stakeholders. WCB also is primarily responsible for USF rulemaking proceedings, appeals of USAC decisions, requests for waivers of the Commission's USF rules, petitions for USF declaratory rulings, and interactions with the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service.

Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB), in coordination with WCB, develops policy and procedures concerning the Mobility Fund and the Alaska Plan for mobile, which represent universal service support mechanisms dedicated exclusively to mobile wireless services.

Office of Economics and Analytics. The Office of Economics and Analytics (OEA), in coordination with WCB, oversees reverse auctions policy and implementation for distributing high-cost universal service support. and in coordination with WTB and WCB developed the proposal for the 5G Fund for Rural America. OEA is also primarily responsible for the preparation and publication of USF information in the Universal Service Monitoring Report.

Office of General Counsel. The Office of General Counsel (OGC) oversees issues relating to litigation and settlements and serves as the Commission's chief legal advisor, including on issues pertaining to USF matters.

Enforcement Bureau. If USAC or a Commission Bureau or Office identifies a possible violation of the Communications Act or a Commission rule, order, or directive, the matter is referred to the Enforcement Bureau (EB) for possible investigation and administrative enforcement action, including issuing forfeitures. EB pursues potential investigations of USF-related matters from other sources of information as well. In addition, EB is authorized to suspend and debar persons

from participating in the universal service mechanisms upon a criminal conviction of or civil judgment for fraud against a USF program.

Office of Inspector General. The Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducts audits, evaluations, and inspections of USF programs and operations, as well as program service providers and beneficiaries designed to prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse. These oversight activities and related initiatives help promote economy, effectiveness, and efficiency of the USF.

USF Activities

The Commission's continued budgetary and programmatic focus for the universal service programs includes: (1) promoting policies to help bring affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband to 100 percent of the country, (2) protecting program integrity for each of the universal service programs, and (3) promoting efficiency, accountability, and fiscal responsibility. With these priorities in mind, the Commission targets support to deliver, expand, and maintain voice and broadband service to high cost and rural areas, low-income consumers, schools and libraries, and rural health care providers.

Under the Connect America Fund, as of August 2023, the Commission has authorized \$1.48 billion in support over 10 years to 193 winning bidders of reverse auctions to provide fixed broadband and voice services to over 708,494 locations in 45 states.

As part of its Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF), the Commission used a reverse auction mechanism to distribute support for the provision of fixed broadband and voice services. In December 2023, the Commission's Wireline Competition Bureau and Office of Economics and Analytics announced the conclusion of the RDOF long-form application review. Currently, there are 379 support recipients with authorized winning bids totaling over \$6 billion in support over a ten-year term, covering just under 3.5 million locations in 48 states and one territory. While authorized bids included a range of performance tiers, over 97% of locations are covered by winning bids for Gigabit speed service.

In October 2020, the Commission adopted the 5G Fund for Rural America to replace Mobility Fund Phase II. The 5G Fund Phase I auction will award up to \$8 billion over 10 years to deploy 5G service in areas otherwise unlikely to receive timely 5G deployment. In September 2023, the Commission today sought further comment on the 5G Fund for Rural America to reignite the Commission's plan to expand the deployment of 5G service to rural communities that remain trapped on the wrong side of the digital divide. Taking advantage of the agency's new and improved broadband coverage map, which shows that over 14 million homes and businesses lack mobile 5G coverage, the Commission seeks comment on how to define the areas that will be eligible for support in the 5G Fund Phase I auction and proposes to modify the metric used to accept bids and identify winning bids, in order to target support to places where people live, work, and travel in rural America.

In the Lifeline program, the Commission's primary goals are to: (1) continue implementation of the modernization of the Lifeline program to support affordable, high-speed internet access for our nation's poorest families; and (2) ensure fiscal responsibility and protect program integrity so Lifeline USF dollars support service that reaches the consumers Lifeline was created to help. Actions to accomplish these goals include using a unified interface to independently process eligibility verification and recertification of Lifeline applicant and subscribers, as well as

interconnected verification with other agency and state eligibility databases to improve program controls. In November 2023, the Commission adopted rules to implement the Safe Connections Act, including establishing a process for domestic violence survivors experiencing financial hardship to access the Lifeline benefit for affordable communications service.

In the E-Rate program, the Commission is committed to ensuring eligible schools and libraries can obtain affordable, high-speed broadband services and internal connections that are necessary to connect today's students and library patrons with next-generation learning opportunities and services. The E-Rate program has a cap of \$4.77 billion for the current funding year, adjusted annually for inflation.

Finally, in the Rural Healthcare program, the Commission remains committed to promoting telehealth by providing financial support to eligible health care providers for broadband and telecommunications services. The Rural Healthcare program has a cap of \$682.4 million for the current funding year, adjusted annually for inflation.

The chart below shows the estimated costs that the Commission will incur in overseeing USF activities, which includes costs incurred by the OIG.

The chart below shows the estimated costs that the Commission will incur in overseeing USF activities, which includes costs incurred by the OIG.

(Dollars in Thousands)			
Fiscal Years	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
FCC's USF Activities Cost ¹	\$16,130	\$16,452	\$16,781
Full-Time Equivalent (FTEs)	73	73	73

¹ Amount shown are projections based on actual cost.

The chart below shows the total number of Commission FTEs working on USF activities by bureau and office for FY 2023 based on extrapolated data.

Number of FCC FTEs Working On USF Activities By Bureau and Office	FTEs
Wireline Competition Bureau	41
Office of Economics & Analytics	16
Enforcement Bureau	8
Office of General Counsel	3
Office of the Managing Director	3
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau	2
Total FTEs	73

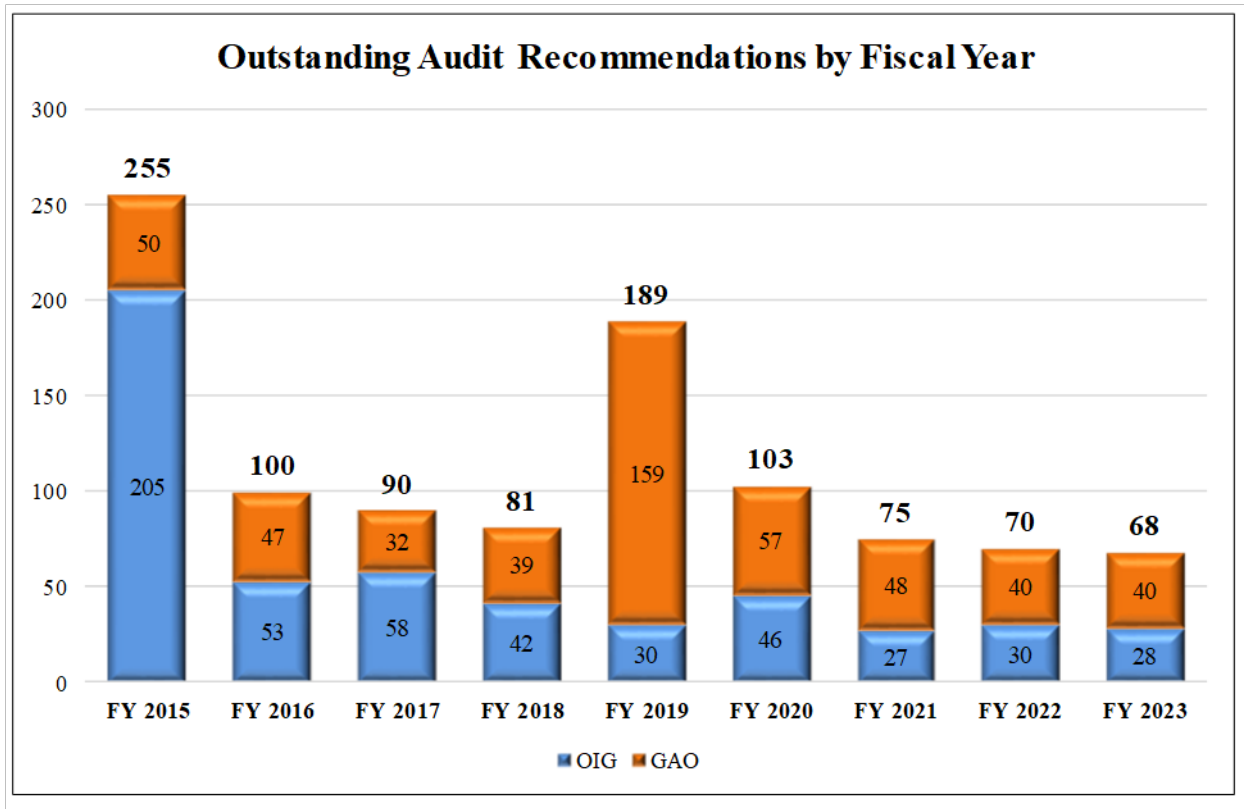
Crosswalk of USF Outlays to FCC Strategic Goals

In FY 2023, USF made outlays totaling \$8.283 billion. These outlays were allocated to the following FY 2023 strategic goal:

(Dollars in Millions)		
Applicable FY 2023 Strategic Goals	Outlay Amount	Percent
Pursue a "100 Percent" Broadband Policy	\$6,378	77%
Promote Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Acessibility	\$1,905	23%
Total	\$8,283	100%
As of September 30, 2023		

Overall Status of Audit Recommendations

The chart below shows the number of audit recommendations outstanding from various audits conducted by FCC's Office of Inspector General (OIG) and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) at the end of each fiscal year. The numbers shown below exclude those recommendations for which the Commission has already submitted information to GAO and OIG requesting closure of the recommendation. The count also excludes those recommendations that the Commission has determined to close as not implemented.



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SPECTRUM AUCTIONS

Spectrum Auctions Program - Explanation of Requested Change

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) requests \$139,000,000 for the Spectrum Auctions Program for FY 2025, which is an increase of \$6,769,000 from the annualized Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 level of \$132,231,000 as detailed below. Funding at this level will enable the Commission to continue its efforts to make more spectrum available for 5G; to continue the implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, the Spectrum Pipeline Act of 2015 and certain provisions of the RAY BAUM'S Act, including the MOBILE NOW Act, as well as the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021; to continue the close-out of post-broadcast incentive auction (BIA) work related to displacement, repacking, and reimbursing from the TV Broadcaster Relocation Fund (TVBRF) to broadcasters, multichannel video programming distributors (MVPDs), Low Power TV (LPTV), TV translator stations, and FM broadcast stations for reasonable relocation costs incurred because of the Commission's broadcast incentive auction; and to upgrade and improve Commission's auction infrastructure in preparation for future auctions.

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress	TOTAL NET CHANGE	
			Amount	Percent
Spectrum Auctions Program Cost Recovery	\$132,231	\$139,000	\$6,769	5.1%
Explanation of Changes				
FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act			\$132,231	
FY 2024 Base Adjustments:				
Compensation & Benefits ¹		\$2,156		
Non-Salary Inflationary Increase ²		\$1,780		
Subtotal - FY 2025 Base Adjustments			\$3,936	
FY 2025 Base Adjustments:				
Compensation & Benefits ¹		\$1,091		
Non-Salary Inflationary Increase ²		\$1,742		
Subtotal - FY 2025 Base Adjustments			\$2,833	
FY 2025 Estimates to Congress			\$139,000	

¹Utilized an estimated pay increase rate of 5.2% in CY 2024 and 2% in CY 2025.

²Utilized an estimated inflationary rate of 2% for the non-payroll increases.

Spectrum Auctions Program

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993, P.L. 103-66 (Act), required the Commission to auction licenses for portions of the electromagnetic spectrum used for certain services, replacing the former lottery process. The Act further requires the Commission to ensure that small businesses, women, minorities, and rural telephone companies have an opportunity to participate in the competitive bidding process. The Commission initiated regulations implementing the spectrum auction authority granted by the legislation and conducted its first round of auctions in July 1994.

As of December 2023, the total amount generated for broader government use and deficit reduction since 1994 exceeds \$233.5 billion. The original spectrum auction authority was scheduled to expire in FY 1998; however, it was extended through FY 2007 in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, P.L. 105-33; extended through FY 2011 by the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, P.L. 109-171; extended through FY 2012 by the DTV Delay Act (2012), P.L. 111-4; extended through FY 2022 by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, P.L. 112-96; extended through December 16, 2022, by the Continuing Appropriations and Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023, P.L. 117-180; extended through December 23, 2022, by the Further Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2023, P.L. 117-229; extended through December 30, 2022, by the Further Additional Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2023, P.L. 117-264; and extended through March 9, 2023, by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, P.L. 117-328.

The Commission's authority to conduct new auctions and grant a license or permit under section 309(j) of the Communications Act expired March 9, 2023, except that, with respect to the electromagnetic spectrum identified under section 1004(a) of the Spectrum Pipeline Act of 2015, such authority shall expire on September 30, 2025, and with respect to the electromagnetic spectrum identified under section 90008(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58), such authority shall expire on November 15, 2028, seven (7) years after the date of enactment of that Act. On December 19, 2023, the 5G SALE Act, P.L. 118-27, gave Commission the authority for a 90-day period to grant certain licenses in Auction 108. On February 29, 2024, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau completed the processing of all outstanding Auction 108 long-form applications and issued all licenses won in Auction 108 pursuant to the 5G SALE Act. The Commission anticipates that the general auction authority for spectrum will be fully reinstated by Congress before FY 2025.

The Commission is authorized to retain funds from auction revenues to develop, implement, and maintain the auctions program. These funds cover the personnel and administrative costs required to plan and execute spectrum auctions; operational costs to manage payments and collections activities; development, implementation, and maintenance of all information technology systems necessary for auctions operations, including development of a combinatorial bidding system; and a proportional share of the general administrative costs of the Commission. This budget submission assumes that the auctions program will continue to recover the costs of conducting auction activities from spectrum license auction receipts as the Commission continues to use auctions as a licensing mechanism for spectrum-based communications services.

The Commission's FY 2024 annualized level from the Continuing Appropriation Act capped the auctions program obligations at \$132,231,000. The Commission's request of \$139,000,000 for FY 2025 is an increase of \$6,769,000 or 5.1 percent. This is due to an inflationary increase in salary and non-salary costs.

Funding at budget level of \$139,000,000 will enable the Commission to:

- implement the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Infrastructure Act) by taking steps toward the potential auction of licenses in the 3.1-3.45 GHz band;
- implement the Spectrum Pipeline Act of 2015 by, for example, taking steps to auction 30 megahertz identified pursuant to the Act and continuing the steps necessary to promote use of the 3.5 GHz band;
- implement the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 for 5G Act of 2020 by supporting the transition of the 3.45 GHz band and the relocation of secondary radiolocation users;
- continue ongoing activities and taking other steps necessary to implement the RAY BAUM'S Act, including the Making Opportunities for Broadband Investment and Limiting Excessive and Needless Obstacles to Wireless Act (MOBILE NOW Act) provisions regarding identifying, making licenses available through auction, and transitioning spectrum for mobile and fixed wireless broadband use in, among other bands, the 3.7 GHz-4.2 GHz range;
- continue the close-out process for the post-Broadcast Incentive Auction (BIA) work related to displacement, repacking, and reimbursing from the TVBRF to broadcasters for their costs to implement the results of the BIA; and,
- upgrade and improve its auctions program infrastructure and security posture in preparation for future auctions authorized by the Infrastructure Act and the Spectrum Pipeline Act.

In addition, as the demand for spectrum for new technologies extends to spectrum bands previously assigned for legacy applications, creative approaches must be found to accommodate existing licensees and operations while expanding opportunities for access by new users.

Spectrum Pipeline Act of 2015, RAY BAUM'S Act, and Other Auction Program Improvements

The Spectrum Pipeline Act of 2015 (Pipeline Act) requires the Commission to auction 30 megahertz of spectrum identified by the Secretary of Commerce for reallocation from Federal use to non-Federal use, shared use, or a combination thereof. The Pipeline Act also appropriates funds from the Spectrum Relocation Fund to support activities by Federal entities to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Federal use of spectrum in order to make Federal spectrum available for non-Federal use, shared use, or a combination thereof. The Pipeline Act requires the FCC, as part of its role on the interagency Technical Panel established within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), to review Federal entities' proposals for funds for these purposes.

Additionally, the Pipeline Act requires the Commission to submit four reports to Congress. In November 2018, the Commission submitted a first report with an analysis of its new rules for the innovative Citizens Broadband Radio Service in the 3550-3700 MHz band. That same month, the Commission submitted a second report analyzing proposals to promote and identify additional bands that can be shared under such rules and identifying at least 1 gigahertz of spectrum between 6 GHz and 57 GHz for such use. By January 1, 2024, in coordination with the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, the Commission must submit a third report that identifies at least an additional 50 megahertz of spectrum below 6 GHz for potential auction. Also, a fourth report which identifies at least another additional 50 megahertz of additional spectrum below 6 gigahertz for potential auction must be submitted by January 1, 2024. The latter two reports must contain an assessment of the Federal operations in such spectrum based on

necessary information provided by the Assistant Secretary in coordination with the affected federal entities, an estimated timeline for a competitive bidding process, and a proposed plan for balance between unlicensed and licensed use.

The RAY BAUM'S Act amended the Pipeline Act to require notice and comment for certain Pipeline Act reports and to direct the Commission to undertake numerous rulemakings and initiatives related to potential repurposing, reallocation, sharing, or auction of spectrum bands. The latter directive included a requirement that the Commission work with NTIA to identify an additional 255 megahertz of spectrum for mobile and fixed wireless use by December 31, 2022.

To fulfill these statutory requirements and enhance the Commission's ability to execute upcoming auctions, auctions funding will also be used for the following that entail extensive work to be performed during FY 2025:

- *3.1-3.45 GHz Band* – The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (P.L. 117-58), among other things, requires the Commission, in consultation with the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, to begin a system of competitive bidding for frequencies within 3.1-3.45 GHz band identified for shared use by federal and non-federal users by the Departments of Commerce and Defense no sooner than November 30, 2024. The Department of Defense completed its study of the band in September 2023 and is briefing Capitol Hill and federal agencies on the feasibility of sharing this spectrum with commercial users. The band has also been identified for additional study by NTIA and the Department of Defense in the National Spectrum Strategy. Ongoing coordination with our federal partners to understand the nature of the federal incumbents in the band and any development of an auction and related work will require Commission staff resources in FY 2025.
- *3.5 GHz Auction and Post-Auction Implementation* – In 2018, the Commission updated its service rules for licenses in the 3550-3650 MHz portion of the 3.5 GHz band, which were awarded through an auction. Due to the characteristics of and use cases for licenses in this band, the Commission has an ongoing need to interface with the Spectrum Access System Administrators (SASs), which manage the dynamic spectrum sharing environment in the 3.5 GHz band, as well as the Environmental Sensing Capability (ESC) operators, which facilitate federal incumbent protection in the band. The Commission also will have an ongoing need to test and verify the operational capabilities of current and future SASs and ESCs, as discussed below. Successful implementation of the unique sharing model adopted in the band provides the American consumer with access to additional spectrum resources.
- *3.7-4.2 GHz Auction and Post-Auction Implementation* – Auction 107 offered flexible-use licenses for 280 megahertz of spectrum in this band. The Commission will continue to oversee the process of transitioning incumbent Fixed Satellite Services (FSS) and fixed service licensees out of the 280 megahertz that has been auctioned, including the transition cost reimbursement process. Under the transition process adopted by the Commission, overseeing this process will involve Commission staff resources in FY 2025.
- *3.45-3.55 GHz Band* – In a March 2021 Second Report and Order, the Commission reallocated the 3.45-3.55 GHz band to make 100 megahertz of spectrum available for flexible use and adopted a framework for the 3.45 GHz band that will enable robust commercial use by an array of service providers, while also ensuring that federal incumbents are still protected from harmful

interference where and when they require continued access to the band. Activities by the Commission since the 2021-22 auction of licenses in the band, including transitioning incumbent secondary users, will potentially require Commission staff resources into FY 2025.

- *2.5 GHz Band (2496-2690 MHz)* – On July 10, 2019, the Commission released a *Report and Order* modernizing the 2.5 GHz band and making additional spectrum available for 5G and other advanced wireless services. Among other steps, the Commission established a priority filing window providing Tribal Nations with a one-time licensing opportunity for unassigned 2.5 GHz spectrum over their rural Tribal lands. The Commission has so far issued 336 licenses to eligible Tribal entities enabling them to address the communications needs of their communities. Finally, the Commission conducted Auction 108 for over 7,850 overlay licenses for remaining unassigned spectrum in the 2.5 GHz band. The Commission announced the grant of 650 licenses on December 1, 2022 and additional licenses were granted on January 5 and March 1, 2023. Processing of the remaining license applications will continue pursuant to the 5G SALE Act, which provides the Commission authority to do so through March 17, 2024. Certain post-auction activities requiring Commission staff resources may continue into FY 2025, in addition to activities related to the Rural Tribal Priority Window.
- *FM broadcast service construction permits* – Pending the further development of the Commission’s upcoming auction schedule and authority, the Commission may consider an auction of FM broadcast service construction permits in FY 2024 or FY 2025. The initial public notice announcing this FM auction would list the specific vacant FM allotments for which the Commission would offer construction permits in the auction. Conducting the auction and performing pre-auction and post-auction activities will require Commission staff resources in FY 2025.
- *Other Auction Development and Implementation* – The Commission needs to make additional changes to the auction bidding and licensing systems to prepare for auctions of spectrum bands that may become available for licensing based on spectrum planning currently underway, including other bands identified by the Mobile Now Act, the 30 megahertz required by the Pipeline Act, and bands identified by the Infrastructure Act. The Commission and its federal partners, including NTIA and the Department of Defense, are currently collaborating to explore additional mid-band 5G opportunities, such as implementation of the National Spectrum Strategy as well as ongoing work streams in NTIA’s Interagency Spectrum Advisory Council (ISAC). The ISAC provides a forum for the Commission and its federal partners to address spectrum policy issues that affect the use of spectrum by non-federal and federal users. The ISAC is exploring other bands that could potentially be made available for commercial 5G use, including on a shared basis, consistent with statutory directives. The Commission expects these activities will extend into FY 2025.
- *SAS/ESC Testing for 3.5 GHz* – The SASs and ESCs are necessary components to facilitate additional non-federal access to spectrum in the 3.5 GHz band and are necessary to protect incumbent Federal operations. Six SASs have been authorized for full commercial use in the 3.5 GHz band for five-year terms, and sensor deployment and four ESC operators have been approved for commercial operation. In FY 2022, the Commission enabled Priority Access Licensees to enter into light-touch leases and spectrum manager leases with notification to a SAS administrator, consistent with the Commission’s rules. The Commission will continue to monitor and analyze the operations of approved SASs and ESCs to ensure compliance with the

rules. Other entities have applied to be SAS administrators and ESC operators and more applications may be filed in the future. The Commission will need to test and evaluate these new SASs and ESCs prior to approving them for use in the 3.5 GHz band. The Commission may also need to perform additional testing on existing SASs and ESCs to ensure that any future system upgrades or modifications comply with the rules. This work will continue into FY 2025.

- *Optimization for New Spectrum Opportunities* – The optimization team will help the Commission analyze and study options for using complex mathematical optimization techniques for making new spectrum licenses available through new auction formats including overlay licenses, transitioning incumbents out of repurposed spectrum bands while assuring continued service to their customers, and other ways to implement spectrum sharing scenarios, to ensure we are maximizing the amount of useful commercial spectrum. They will develop optimal band plans accommodating incumbent uses and demonstrate the value of additional clearing or sharing as necessary. This research will also provide statistical and technical computation, analysis, simulation, and modeling, including geographic data and mapping, related to auctions.
- *Spectrum Visualization Tools* – Public Facing and Internal – The Commission continues to develop spectrum visualization tools to provide the public and government agencies with insights into how spectrum utilization could be modified to meet growing demand for wireless broadband services, including through licenses assigned by auction. These tools will help satisfy the public’s significant interest in understanding who has licensed rights to different spectrum bands at different locations and provide the ability to manipulate and analyze this data. Federal agencies also would benefit from this information as they consider sharing/relocation options. Additionally, it is critical for internal Commission teams to have robust data, including mapping, to understand coverage and operations across the country. For example, in anticipation of the auction of overlay licenses in the 2.5 GHz band (Auction 108), on March 21, 2022, the Commission announced the launch of a mapping tool for use by potential bidders to help assess whether and to what extent there is unassigned 2.5 GHz spectrum available in any U.S. county. Similar work will continue in FY 2025.
- *Auction Application System (formerly known as Integrated Spectrum Auctions System (ISAS)) Enhancement/Modernization* – The Commission must modify the application forms for participation in each auction in response to the auction’s unique requirements. Work to modernize the auction application system will provide the foundation for new implementations of the primary auctions application software, including providing the ability to customize the form to support future auctions based on novel license eligibility requirements and auction formats, while improving security. This work, including updates to implement new spectrum and auction policies, will continue through FY 2025.
- *Universal Licensing System Modernization* – The Commission must modernize its licensing database and infrastructure to implement complex new service rules, as well as replace outdated technology to improve reliability, security, and access to data. The modernized system would enable the FCC to better support new auctions, inventory existing auction licenses, and re-auction spectrum. In FY 2025, the work will continue.

Continued Close-Out of Post-Broadcast Incentive Auction Transition Work

The Incentive Auction Closing and Channel Reassignment Public Notice, released on April 13, 2017, announced the completion of the first-ever spectrum incentive auction. The BIA made available 84 megahertz of low-band spectrum for commercial and unlicensed wireless use by repurposing a portion of the broadcast TV band. The total net winning bids of the auction were \$19.3 billion. Pursuant to the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, the auction proceeds, among other things, were directed to fund \$1.75 billion, and the Reimbursement Expansion Act of 2018 (REA) funded the remainder, of a \$2.7 billion TVBRF. The TVBRF reimburses entities for their reasonable expenses incurred as a result of stations being involuntarily relocated to new channels. The TVBRF permitted the Commission to obligate funds until July 3, 2023, and the Commission may reimburse entities from obligated funds for a period of 5 years thereafter, during which time the Commission staff will continue to administer reimbursement of previously obligated funds for reimbursement of eligible expenses. As of December 2023, 4 full power stations had not completed construction of final facilities and therefore remained on interim facilities. In addition, some repacked stations, that have already vacated their pre-auction channel, have ongoing construction to remove old antennas and equipment and take other follow-up efforts, the reasonable costs of which are also reimbursable from the TVBRF. Certain LPTV/translator stations are still constructing displacement facilities. Activities that will continue to take place in FY 2025 include: licensing for broadcasters being relocated and for LPTV/translator stations building displacement facilities; reimbursement of ongoing construction expenses; close-out procedures for entities participating in the TVBRF; post-implementation site visits; data validations, audits, and disbursement validations; and processing of banking information submissions.

FCC Obligations in Support of the Auctions Program

Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §309(a), the Commission must provide its authorizing and appropriations committees in Congress with a detailed report of the FCC's obligations in support of the auctions program for each fiscal year of operation. The following table shows available auction cash for recent fiscal years.

Spectrum Auctions Activities

	Dollars in Thousands					
	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024³
Beginning Cash Balance as of October 1	\$3,508,741	\$3,378,640	\$7,731,130	\$84,938,157	\$3,098,809	\$3,075,249
Current Year Net Cash	2,598,061	6,845,791	77,926,671	(81,370,968)	321,770	211,071
Less:						
Deferred Revenue as of September 30 ¹	(2,725,948)	(2,491,088)	(113,267)	(466,496)	(345,287)	(343,074)
Deposit Liability - Refunds as of September 30 ²	(2,214)	(2,213)	(606,377)	(1,884)	(43)	(281)
Available Cash as of September 30	\$3,378,640	\$7,731,130	\$84,938,157	\$3,098,809	\$3,075,249	\$2,942,965

¹Cash associated with licenses that have not been granted as of stated date.

²Upfront auction deposits not refunded as of stated date.

³Available cash balance as of November 30, 2023

Summary of Distribution of Resources - Spectrum Auctions Program

SPECTRUM AUCTIONS COST RECOVERY REIMBURSABLE AUTHORITY INCLUDING OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

(Dollars in Thousands)

Object Classification Description	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress
Personnel Compensation & Benefits:			
Full-time & Other than full-time Permanent (11.1 & 11.3)	\$24,458	\$28,587	\$31,013
Personnel benefits (12.0)	8,789	9,443	10,268
Subtotal - Personnel Compensation & Benefits	\$33,247	\$38,030	\$41,281
Other Expenses:			
Benefits for former personnel (13.0)	\$2	\$8	\$9
Travel & transportation of persons (21.0)	336	387	403
Transportation of things (22.0)	10	9	9
Rent payments to GSA (23.1)	4,615	4,616	4,803
Communications, utilities, & misc. charges (23.3)	2,046	2,194	2,283
Printing and reproduction (24.0)	142	217	226
Other services from non-Federal sources (25.2)	11,182	25,241	26,167
Other goods & services from Federal sources (25.3)	766	932	969
Operation & maintenance of equipment (25.7)	50,877	59,930	62,156
Supplies and materials (26.0)	91	117	122
Equipment (31.0)	578	530	552
Insurance claims & interest (40.0)	14	20	20
Subtotal - Other Expenses	\$70,659	\$94,201	\$97,719
Total - Auctions Cost Recovery Reimbursable Authority	\$103,906	\$132,231	\$139,000

Spectrum Auctions Expenditures Report

Section 309(j) of the Communications Act permits the Commission to use funds raised from auctions to fund its auctions program, including contracts for services and costs related to personnel performing work in support of Commission auctions authorized under that section. The FCC's Office of General Counsel (OGC) and Office of Managing Director (OMD) provide direction to FCC employees attributing hours for this purpose. The House of Representatives and Senate Appropriations Committees review and set a yearly cap for the spectrum auctions program.

The requested funding level at \$139,000,000 will enable the Commission to fund the following activities: further the objective of making more spectrum available for commercial use; continue implementation of the Spectrum Pipeline Act of 2015 and certain provisions of the RAY BAUM'S Act, including the MOBILE NOW Act, as well as the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act; continue the close-out of post-BIA work to include the new additional requirements from the REA related to the TVBRF; and upgrade and improve auctions infrastructure in preparation for future actions. In addition, as the demand for spectrum for new technologies extends to spectrum bands previously assigned for legacy applications, creative approaches must be found to accommodate existing licensees and operations while expanding opportunities for access by new users.

The Commission's spectrum auctions program supports efficient licensing while also contributing significant funds to the U.S. Treasury for deficit reduction and providing direct support to other government programs. As of December 2023, the Commission had generated over \$233.5 billion in auctions revenues since initiating the auctions program in 1994. During this period, auctions program expenses have been 1.1 percent of the Commission's total auctions revenues.

Spectrum auction planning, development, and implementation is performed agency-wide and is very information technology (IT) intensive, as reflected in our Auction Expenditure Justification Reports. For example, the Incentive Auction Task Force as well as the team that implemented the transition of 100 megahertz of spectrum in the 3.45-3.55 GHz band to flexible use licenses subject to certain cooperative sharing requirements and assigned by auction, drew upon the resources and expertise of staff from across the Commission, including the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Media Bureau, International Bureau, Bureau of Consumer and Governmental Affairs, Office of Economics and Analytics, Office of Engineering and Technology, OMD, and OGC. Auctions funds also cover the program's share of Commission operating expenses. The Commission uses these funds to enable successful auctions and expends them in a manner consistent with statutory requirements.

Every auction is different and has specific requirements, which require careful attention to detail and planning. Since auction activities are performed agency-wide and are unique, allocating the appropriate amount of cost and overhead related to the auctions program is a challenge. In addition, the complexity of spectrum auctions has increased steadily as the Commission works through more difficult technical and policy issues related to the scarcity of vacant spectrum. Preparation for spectrum auctions generally requires sufficient time to design, develop, and implement secure, reliable, and effective auction application, bidding, and post-auction licensing systems.

In the practice of cost accounting, costs are identified as one of the following: (1) direct cost, (2) indirect cost, or (3) generally allocated cost. The methodology for deriving the proportional

share of generally allocated administrative costs to be charged to the auctions program is based on the Commission's time reporting system and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. The allocation is based on the percentage of actual hours that employees worked to support the auction program plus the same proportional share of the employee's indirect hours (leave hours). This full time equivalent (FTE) rate is applied to costs that benefit the Commission as a whole. The items that are allocated by the FTE rate include Commission-wide IT systems, guard service, administrative facility services, supplies, furniture, equipment, and human resources training activities. The FCC has maintained an average of 14 percent for this purpose, with minor deviations.

The Commission continues to plan for future auctions, most notably reallocating and auctioning frequencies within 3.1-3.45 GHz band identified for shared use by federal and non-federal users by the Departments of Commerce and Defense; reallocating bands made available in the Spectrum Frontiers proceeding to terrestrial wireless use; and an auction of the spectrum required by the Spectrum Pipeline Act of 2015. Other auctions that may continue to be a focus for the Commission in FY 2025 include re-auctions of certain licenses previously offered and unassigned, because either there was no winning bidder, a winning bidder defaulted, or a licensee returned its license(s) to the Commission. Commission staff will also continue to oversee the reimbursement process and the work of a Relocation Payment Clearinghouse in the 3.45 GHz band.

The Commission will also continue to leverage auctions expertise and infrastructure to support reverse auctions that allocate Universal Service funding in an efficient and effective manner. Specifically, the Commission has adopted rules to make available through reverse auctions up to \$9 billion in the 5G Fund to support deployment of mobile broadband in unserved areas. In addition, the Commission is continually working to update and modernize its auction bidding and application systems to improve their speed, flexibility, reliability, and security to support timely new auctions when additional spectrum that could be made available is identified.

In FY 2025, the Commission will continue implementation of the RAY BAUM'S Act, including working with NTIA to identify 255 megahertz of additional spectrum (subject to certain frequency and use requirements) for mobile and fixed broadband use; preparing annual reports on upcoming systems of competitive bidding; and coordinating with the Departments of Commerce and Defense on initiatives related to shared spectrum allocations, bidirectional sharing, and commercial wireless use in the 3100-3550 MHz bands; and monitoring post-auction operations in bands subject to spectrum sharing and/or transition to new flexible uses.

In addition, a Commission auction focus in FY 2025 will be to continue post-broadcast incentive auction implementation. The auction required that 987 full power and Class A television stations be repacked into a new, smaller TV band, which involved reorganizing and assigning channels to the remaining broadcast television stations to create contiguous blocks of cleared spectrum suitable for flexible wireless use. The process also displaced over 2,000 low power TV and TV translator stations and those stations were provided with an opportunity to construct displacement facilities. The scope of the repacking component of this auction has made it a unique and computationally complex challenge that will continue to require substantial resources and engagement from the Commission until all stations are operating on their permanent facilities and the reimbursement process has been completed. The TVBRF permitted the Commission to obligate funds until July 3, 2023, and the Commission may reimburse entities from obligated funds for a period of 5 years thereafter, during which time the Commission staff will continue to administer reimbursement of

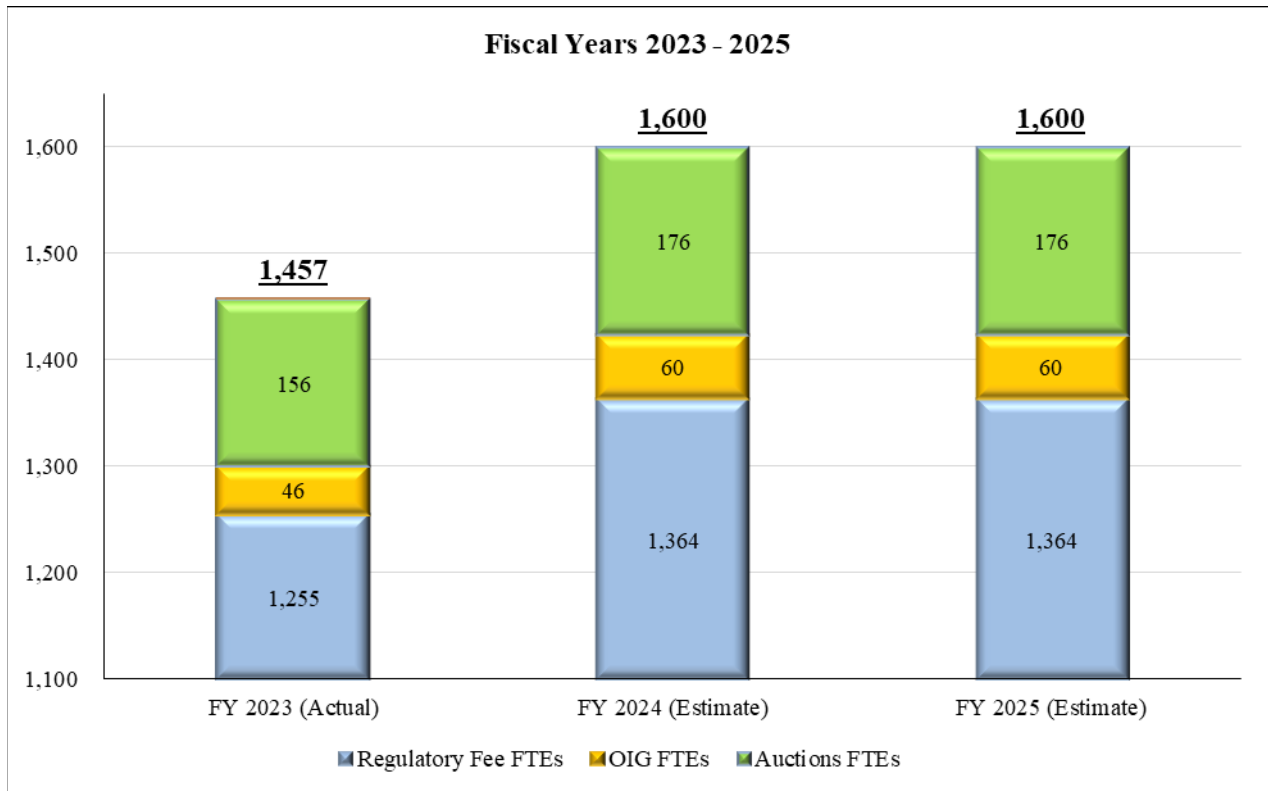
previously obligated funds for reimbursement of eligible expenses. The post-auction transition also requires continued engagement of the Fund Administrator, which is overseen by Commission staff, to administer the reimbursements by reviewing cost estimates and invoices to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse. Such active oversight of the process will continue to require Commission staff resources to coordinate with broadcasters to monitor broadcaster progress, identify and resolve transition-related problems and challenges, process applications, review and verify information, undertake and complete the ongoing reimbursement program and, as appropriate, conduct subsequent verifications and audits of the reimbursements.

Finally, the Commission will continue to devote resources in FY 2025 towards implementation efforts to transition a 280-megahertz block of spectrum in the 3.7-4.0 GHz band, plus a 20-megahertz guard band, from incumbent use to new flexible-use now that the related auction is complete. All eligible incumbent space station operators elected to clear according to the following accelerated timeline: (1) clearing 120 megahertz (3.7-3.82 GHz) by December 5, 2021, and (2) clearing the remaining 180 megahertz (3.82-4.0 GHz) by December 5, 2023. Both of these deadlines were met, making the incumbent space station operators eligible for accelerated relocation payments of up to \$9.7 billion, to be paid by the new flexible-use licensees. Incumbent fixed-satellite service (FSS) and fixed service (FS) licensees, as well as incumbent earth station operators, may also seek reimbursement of reasonable relocation costs paid by flexible-use licensees as a condition on their license.

Commission staff are overseeing the reimbursement process and the work of a Relocation Payment Clearinghouse, who manages the intake, payout, and auditing of relocation funds, serves in an administrative role to mediate disputes related to such costs, and provides progress reports to the Commission. Commission staff will also handle any appeals of disputes mediated by the Relocation Payment Clearinghouse in the first instance.

The actual and estimated FTE levels for the spectrum auctions program for FYs 2023 through 2025 are shown below.

FTEs by Resource Category



The following two schedules provide some details of the spectrum auctions program since its inception in 1994. These schedules also provide some perspective into how much money was collected/generated for the U.S. Treasury or for broader government use and the total cost for running the Commission's spectrum auctions program.

Spectrum Auctions and Cash Collected/Generated by Fiscal Year
Fiscal Years 1994 through December 2023

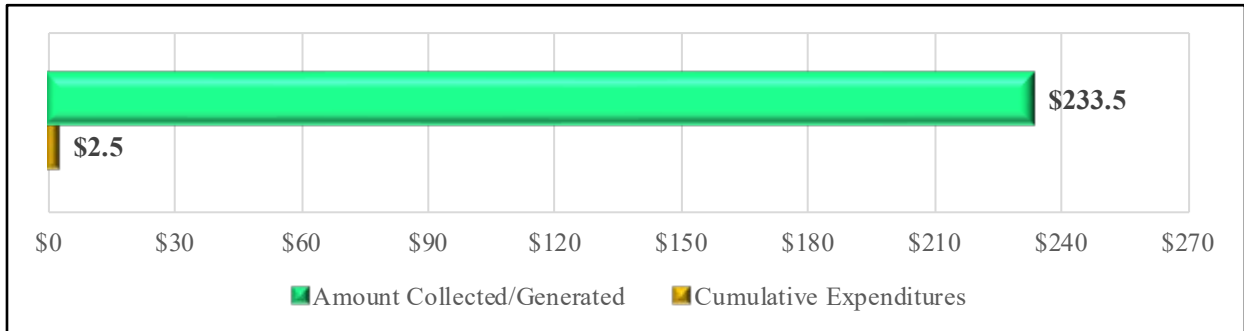
Fiscal Year	Number of Auctions	Number of Licenses Won	Amount Collected/Generated
1994	2	604	\$652,954
1995	2	129	\$8,234,321
1996	6	2,026	\$2,019,376
1997	4	1,614	\$2,205,922
1998	2	1,388	\$860,879
1999	6	1,693	\$499,599
2000	8	4,403	\$1,335,043
2001	4	3,447	\$583,600
2002	7	7,036	\$135,631
2003	7	3,144	\$77,122
2004	5	267	\$126,790
2005	6	2,803	\$2,208,333
2006	5	1,284	\$13,834,979
2007	5	290	\$163,430
2008	3	1,144	\$18,988,396
2009	2	115	\$5,696
2010	3	4,788	\$25,973
2011	3	126	\$31,493
2012	1	93	\$3,878
2013	2	3,197	\$5,784
2014	2	186	\$1,564,597
2015	2	1,713	\$41,776,426
2016	0	0	\$0
2017	1	2,776	\$19,306,993
2018	2	41	\$806
2019	3	5,880	\$2,724,006
2020	2	34,767	\$12,136,648
2021	2	5,781	\$81,127,067
2022	3	11,931	\$22,868,100
2023	0	0	\$0
2024	0	0	\$0
Totals	100	102,666	\$233,503,841

Dollars in Thousands

Spectrum Auctions Program – Cash Collected/Generated vs. Expenditures

Fiscal Years 1994 through December 2023

(Dollars in Billions)



Cumulative Expenditures include the estimated enacted amount for FY 2024

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Budget Authorities Already Provided

COVID-19 Telehealth Program

Due to the novel coronavirus 2019 disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the Commission established the COVID-19 Telehealth Program through a *Report and Order* released on April 2, 2020. Round 1 of the COVID-19 Telehealth Program was funded through a \$200 million Congressional appropriation as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, to immediately support eligible health care providers responding to the pandemic by providing funding for telecommunications services, information services, and connected devices necessary to provide critical connected care services whether for treatment of the COVID-19 disease or other health conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 Telehealth Program was an emergency funding program designed to provide flexibility for eligible health care providers that applied for and received funding commitments, and then requested reimbursement for eligible expenses that they purchased and received from their service providers or vendors under the COVID-19 Telehealth Program.

In order to seek funding in Round 1, eligible health care providers were required to submit an application to the Commission, including information on the costs of the services and/or connected devices for which they plan to seek reimbursement. The Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau), in consultation with the FCC's Connect2Health Task Force, reviewed the COVID-19 Telehealth Program applications, as outlined in the *Report and Order*, selected participants, and made funding awards on a rolling basis to eligible applicants based on the estimated costs of the eligible items they intended to purchase with the COVID-19 Telehealth Program funds. Selected funding recipients received a funding commitment letter providing their award amount and additional information about certain COVID-19 Telehealth Program requirements and procedures. Consistent with the requirements in the *Report and Order*, the Commission prioritized applications from areas that were hardest hit by COVID-19 and where funding had the most impact on addressing a community's health care needs. To ensure as many applicants as possible received available funding under the CARES Act, the Bureau did not award more than \$1 million to any single applicant. The Commission stopped accepting applications for Round 1 funding under the COVID-19 Telehealth Program on June 25, 2020. Awards were made until the appropriated Round 1 funding under the COVID-19 Telehealth Program was exhausted, which occurred on July 8, 2020. The Bureau issued \$200 million in total COVID-19 Telehealth Program Round 1 funding commitments for 539 applications.

After paying for and receiving the eligible services and/or connected devices from the service provider or vendor, funding recipients were required to submit to the Commission: a request seeking reimbursement; invoice documentation sufficient to identify the eligible items that were purchased and received, and the price paid; and, if applicable, a Letter of Authorization for those applicants that received a funding commitment on behalf of other eligible health care provider sites. Under Round 1 of the COVID-19 Telehealth Program, the Commission reimbursed funding recipients the full cost of the eligible services and/or connected devices received so long as the invoice submissions were accompanied by the required supporting documentation. After the reimbursement request was approved by the Commission, payment was issued by the U.S. Department of Treasury electronically to the bank account on file associated with the funding recipient.

On December 27, 2020, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 was signed into law, which appropriated \$249.95 million for Round 2 of the Commission's COVID-19 Telehealth Program. This additional funding allowed the Commission to continue its efforts to expand telehealth throughout the country and enable patients to access necessary health care services while helping slow the spread of the disease. Per congressional directive, the Commission was required to seek comment on various ideas related to committing the new funding, including the criteria to use to evaluate applications and how to treat pending applications from Round 1. The Commission released a Public Notice seeking comment on these issues on January 6, 2021. On March 30, 2021, the Commission released a *Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration* setting forth additional details about the policies and procedures that would apply during Round 2. On April 15, 2021, the Bureau released a Public Notice announcing the duration of the Round 2 application filing window, which opened on April 29, 2021 and closed on May 6, 2021.

On August 26, 2021, the Bureau released a Public Notice announcing the first group of funding to 62 awardees totaling \$41.98 million for Round 2 of its COVID-19 Telehealth Program. Health care providers in each state, territory, and the District of Columbia, including those previously unfunded in Round 1, used this funding to provide telehealth services during the coronavirus pandemic. The Bureau then released three additional Public Notices, on September 29, October 21, and November 9, committing over \$150 million.

At that point, consistent with the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, a 10-day window was provided for unfunded applicants to supplement or clarify their applications. A November 9, 2021, Public Notice announced that the period began November 9, 2021, and ended November 19, 2021. The same Public Notice provided guidance for applicants who wanted to supplement their applications.

After the 10-day supplemental period ended, applications were re-ranked, and funding was awarded to the highest-scoring remaining applications. On December 21, 2021, the Bureau released a Public Notice committing funding to an additional 68 applicants. On January 26, 2022, the Bureau released its sixth and final Public Notice, which committed funding to 100 applicants. In total, 446 awardees received \$256.4 million in funding commitments as part of Round 2 of the Program.

On July 29, 2022, a Public Notice announced that the deadline for all purchases and implementation of services was October 31, 2022 and the deadline for submission of all invoices and requests for reimbursement was October 31, 2023.

Further, on April 12, 2023, the Commission released a Public Notice announcing that the pandemic emergency period for the Telehealth Program ended on April 10, 2023, due to the enactment of House Joint Resolution 7. Pursuant to the CARES Act, eligible telehealth expenses must have been paid for and received on or between March 13, 2020, through April 10, 2023, the end of the emergency period. As of December 2023, Round 2 participants have submitted final reimbursement requests.

Broadband Deployment Accuracy and Technological Availability (Broadband DATA) Act and Broadband Deployment Locations Map

The Commission has long recognized that precise, granular data on the availability of fixed and mobile broadband are vital to bringing digital opportunity to all Americans, no matter where they

live, work, or travel. On March 23, 2020, the Broadband Deployment Accuracy and Technological Availability Act (Broadband DATA Act) was signed into law requiring the Commission to create a new set of broadband availability maps. Among other things, the Broadband DATA Act requires the Commission to collect standardized, granular data on the availability and quality of both fixed and mobile broadband Internet access services, to create a common dataset of all locations where fixed broadband Internet access service can be installed (the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric or Fabric), and to create publicly available coverage maps. The Act further requires the Commission to establish processes for members of the public and other entities to (1) provide verified data for use in the coverage maps; (2) challenge the coverage maps, the broadband availability data submitted by service providers, and the Fabric; and (3) submit specific crowdsource information about the development and availability of broadband service.

In July 2020, the Commission adopted a *Second Report and Order and Third Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* that adopted rules for the collection and verification of improved, more precise data on both fixed and mobile broadband availability. In January 2021, the Commission released a *Third Report and Order* that took additional steps to ensure that both the new data collection itself, and the measures for verifying the accuracy of the data collected, will yield a robust and reliable data resource for the Commission, Congress, federal and state policymakers, and consumers to evaluate the status of broadband deployment throughout the United States.

On December 27, 2020, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 was signed into law appropriating \$98 million in funding for the implementation of the Broadband DATA Act. After receiving this funding, the Chairwoman established the Broadband Data Task Force (Task Force) in February 2021 to lead the cross-agency effort to implement the Act. Since then, the Task Force, working closely with multiple Commission Bureaus and Offices, has moved ahead with the complex and interrelated workstreams that must be accomplished as expeditiously as possible to enable the Commission to produce precise and consistent maps of broadband availability and thereby to assure that federal and state funding efforts can be predicated on such accurate information. All fixed and mobile providers of mass-market broadband Internet access service are required to file broadband availability data as of June 30 and December 31 each year. Submissions are due no later than September 1 and March 1, respectively. The initial filing window of the Broadband Data Collection (BDC) opened on June 30, 2022, the second on January 3, 2023, the third on June 30, 2023, and the fourth on January 2, 2024.

On September 12, 2022, following the deadline for filing of service availability data in the inaugural data collection that commenced on June 30, 2022, the Commission began accepting bulk challenges to the Fabric from state, local and Tribal governments and internet service providers. This ongoing process enables the Commission and its contractor to augment their efforts to update and improve the Fabric. A revised version of the Fabric incorporating the results of challenges, as well as other updates and refinements to the Fabric made by the contractor, are made available to licensees on or before the opening of each biannual BDC filing window.

On November 18, 2022, the Commission released a pre-production draft of its new National Broadband Map based on the availability data submitted by providers. The new map is the most comprehensive, granular and standardized data the Commission has ever made available on broadband availability. On the same day, the Commission announced the beginning of the fixed and mobile availability challenge processes, and the individual Fabric challenge process. This began an ongoing, iterative process that will continuously improve the data shown on the map by

incorporating challenges from individuals and other stakeholders. To date, stakeholders have submitted over 4 million challenges to provider reported availability data and millions of location challenges. On May 30, 2023, the FCC released the second iteration of the National Broadband Map based on the December 31, 2022, availability data submitted by providers. The robust location and availability challenge processes are also ongoing and continue to refine the accuracy of the data reflected on the map. The FCC's third collection window, which collected availability data as of June 30, 2023, closed on September 15, 2023, and provides the basis for the most recent iteration of the National Broadband Map, which was released on November 17, 2023.

In light of the collection of more precise location-specific availability data in the BDC, the Commission adopted an Order on December 19, 2022, to sunset the Form 477 broadband deployment data collection that would eliminate a largely duplicative requirement on service providers. As a result, internet service providers are no longer required to submit Form 477 broadband deployment data, but must still submit broadband and voice subscription data using the FCC Form 477, which is now submitted through the BDC system.

The FCC takes several steps to ensure that provider reporting is as accurate as possible. These include BDC system validations as data is submitted, close and continued engagement with filers to correct data anomalies identified as a result of the system checks and other inputs, data verification inquiries, and agency-initiated audits. The FCC has initiated over 900 data verification inquiries to date to ensure that availability submissions are accurate. Audits are also being undertaken both in response to specific identified concerns and on a random basis.

Implementing the Broadband DATA Act required the Commission to develop a complex platform and systems to collect and map data collected from over 2,500 internet service providers and to enable consumers and other stakeholders to submit challenges to that data, to develop a Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric dataset that serves as the basis for the reporting and publication of fixed availability data, and to establish a help center to provide technical assistance to providers, consumers, and other stakeholders.

The Commission relies on the BDC system and platform to accept broadband availability coverage data submissions from service providers and other entities, to map that data and make it public; and to receive, track, and resolve challenges and crowdsource data – including data from the FCC's mobile Speed Test App – submitted in response to the provider availability data. On March 4, 2022, the Commission published detailed technical specifications for the submission of subscription, availability and supporting data into the BDC filing platform. On June 23, 2022, the Task Force issued a public notice announcing early access to certain portions of the BDC system for filers to register in advance of the opening of the initial filing window. The FCC is now engaged in contracting for enhancement, operations, maintenance, and support services for the BDC system to continue beyond 2023.

The FCC has also continued its work to update and improve the Fabric. After a lengthy protest to the contract award was resolved by Government Accountability Office (GAO) in the FCC's favor on February 24, 2022, its contractor built and made available to Internet service providers and governmental entities the first version of the Fabric in advance of the June 30, 2022, opening of the filing window for the BDC. The FCC has continued to work with its contractor to improve and refine the Fabric using many underlying datasets to derive locations/broadband serviceable

locations (BSLs) for the Fabric data. These datasets include addresses, raw building footprints extracted from aerial and satellite imagery using deep learning methods, tax assessor attributes, imagery data, state and local parcel records, HUBB data, manual visual verifications, Census data, and road data. These types of datasets are input into the contractor's predictive modeling to determine whether a structure exists (both on a parcel and in non-parceled areas) and whether the structure represents a broadband serviceable location, and also uses the data to set the attributes provided in the Fabric records (e.g., units, address, building_type_code, etc.). To date, four versions of the Fabric have been released, the first in advance of the inaugural June 30, 2022 collection and updated versions in advance of each biannual collection since then, the most recent being for use in the December 31, 2023, data collection. Additionally, since September 2022, several million location challenges have been accepted and successfully incorporated into the Fabric. These challenges have been important in helping to identify missing locations and correcting addresses and other information associated with the BSLs included in the Fabric. As a result of this ongoing work and the challenge process, roughly two million BSLs have been added to the map since the November 2022 pre-production version was published.

The Commission has engaged in additional procurement efforts and has retained outside resources to assist in providing technical assistance to Internet service providers as well as to participants in the challenge process, as required under the Broadband DATA Act. To supplement these efforts, the FCC has executed two separate contracts with an outside firm to provide technical assistance for both filers of broadband availability data (including state agencies possessing verified data) and stakeholders, such as states, seeking to challenge the availability data submitted by internet service providers and the BSLs set out in the Fabric. These resources include help desk support for answering basic questions related to the filing requirements, as well as specialized Geographic Information System (GIS) support for preparing and submitting verified broadband availability data. In April 2022, the Task Force also launched an online help center and other new resources to assist Internet service providers and other filers of verified broadband availability data prepare their submissions for the BDC filing windows. The resources include video webinars and tutorials, technical assistance information, and the ability to request one-on-one assistance from an agent over the telephone or via email.

The Commission also continues to address the legal and policy issues associated with implementing the challenge, crowdsource and verification processes. On March 9, 2022, the Task Force, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Office of Economics and Analytics, and Office of Engineering and Technology released a detailed order, technical appendix, rules and technical data specifications setting forth technical requirements and specifications for the mobile challenge, verification, and crowdsource processes required by the Act. Individual consumers are now able to submit mobile challenge and crowdsource data using mobile speed test apps, such as the FCC Speed Test app. Currently, we are using the preexisting FCC Speed test app as updated and modified for use in the BDC mobile challenge and crowdsource processes. In February 2023, in anticipation of the expiration of the preexisting contract, the FCC issued a contract solicitation to re-compete the FCC Speed Test app, and on March 3, 2023, the FCC awarded a contract to Mozark PTE. The award was protested by another party, thereby halting development of the new speed test app, but GAO ruled in the FCC's favor on July 18, 2023, and the stop work order has been lifted and development efforts are underway. In light of the delay, the FCC executed a short-term extension of the prior contract so that the prior vendor can continue hosting the FCC app until the new app is operational. Recognizing that some entities such as state and Tribal governments might prefer to submit mobile

speed test data in bulk using their own hardware and software, specifications and procedures were made available on September 15, 2022, for such entities to do so.

The FCC has also acquired propagation modeling software and automation services for use in verifying the accuracy of mobile providers' broadband availability maps. To supplement this effort, in 2022 and 2023, the Commission awarded two additional contracts for wireless engineering analysis and support services, and for mobile drive testing services. These contracts will enable in-depth review of data submitted by mobile and fixed wireless providers, including their link budgets, network monitoring results, and infrastructure data, and will help facilitate our audits and verifications of mobile providers' coverage data.

The FCC also continues to offer assistance and educational resources for consumers, service providers, state, local, and Tribal governmental entities, as well as other interested parties. Staff have hosted a number of virtual technical assistance webinars and workshops, and published video tutorials detailing the various ways that entities may help improve the accuracy of the data on the map and providing step-by-step instructions on how to do so. In addition, FCC staff have engaged with stakeholders by participating in numerous in-person and online events in partnership with other organizations. These organizations include the National Governor's Association, National Association of Counties, National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates, National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, National League of Cities, various state-hosted broadband events, several industry trade associations, and others. The Task Force also meets one-on-one with stakeholders, including state broadband offices, localities and counties, service providers, and other entities who have questions about participating in the BDC.

To date, the Task Force has participated in over 300 engagements with stakeholders, including the ones highlighted above. Along with personal engagement with stakeholders, the FCC also maintains an online Help Center which includes a variety of self-help resources such as knowledge-based articles, tutorial videos, and step-by-step instructions for both consumers and entities who wish to participate in the BDC. Importantly, the Help Center also offers an option for users to "Get Help" by connecting with the technical assistance team for hands-on technical support. The Task Force continues its outreach efforts to support ongoing improvements to the National Broadband Map, as envisioned by the Broadband DATA Act.

Tribal outreach has also been a key focus of our outreach efforts. The Broadband DATA Act recognized the unique issues that have historically made it difficult to precisely map broadband availability on Tribal lands and FCC staff have actively engaged with Tribal entities on BDC matters. Since as early as December 2021, FCC staff has hosted and/or participated in numerous in-person meetings and workshops with Tribes, including Tribal leaders, broadband providers, and other Tribal organizations, to offer Technical Assistance for BDC filings and educate Tribal stakeholders about the National Broadband Map and ways they can contribute to making the location and availability data shown as accurate as possible. This Tribal engagement includes a December 2021 virtual technical assistance workshop held specifically for Tribal providers who were preparing and submitting fixed availability data, in addition to all of the materials and the technical assistance help desk which support non-Tribal providers. Staff have also worked extensively with Tribal governmental entities to encourage participation in the location and availability challenge processes by providing training, technical assistance, educational resources, and hands-on demonstrations of how to submit a challenge.

To date, staff have conducted roughly 100 engagements with Tribal entities and organizations. In-person Technical Assistance meetings have included representatives of Tribal Nations and entities in nine states/eight BIA Regions: Alaska (Alaska Region), Arizona (Western Region), California (Pacific Region), Minnesota (Midwest Region), New Mexico (Southwest Region), Oklahoma (Eastern Oklahoma Region), Oregon, South Dakota (Great Plains Region) and Washington (Northwest Region), and Maine (Eastern Region). These engagements have also included the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, the National Tribal Telecommunications Association, the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association, the National Congress of American Indians, as well as individual one-on-one meetings. FCC staff have also met with the Native Nations Communications Task Force, an FCC advisory group comprised of Tribal stakeholders. In collaboration with the FCC's Office of Native Affairs and Policy, the Commission has also sent numerous fact sheets and other information to Tribal entities, both reminding providers of the obligation to file and offering resources to support all types of BDC engagement.

On November 15, 2021, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (the IIJA) was signed into law. The IIJA amended the Broadband DATA Act to require the Commission to resolve challenges no later than 90 days after the date on which a final response by a provider to a challenge is complete, and to implement this new requirement as soon as possible after the date of enactment of the IIJA. The IIJA also appropriated \$10 million to the Commission, in consultation with all relevant Federal agencies, for the creation of a Broadband Deployment Locations Map, a public resource that will show the locations of broadband infrastructure projects funded by the Federal Government.

The IIJA required that the Broadband Deployment Locations Map be made publicly available on the Commission's website no later than May 2023. The Commission engaged the same firm working to build the systems for the BDC to build out the data collection and map to meet the IIJA's requirements, and on May 15, 2023, the Commission released the Broadband Funding Map. In addition, Commission staff continue to meet with staff from executive agencies to assist them in developing system requirements and ensure alignment of their data.

Secure & Trusted Communications Network Reimbursement Program

On March 12, 2020, the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 (Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act) was signed into law. The Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act, among other measures, directed the Commission to establish the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program (Reimbursement Program) to fund the removal, replacement, and disposal of covered communications equipment or services that pose an unacceptable risk to the national security of the United States or the security and safety of U.S. persons from the networks of providers of advanced communications service. Specifically, the Reimbursement Program assists providers of advanced communications service with the costs of permanently removing, replacing, and disposing of communications equipment and services produced or provided by Huawei Technologies Company (Huawei) and ZTE Corporation (ZTE) and obtained by the providers on or before June 30, 2020.

On December 10, 2020, the Commission adopted a *Second Report and Order* implementing the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act by establishing rules for the Reimbursement Program. The Reimbursement Program provides funding allocations to eligible providers of advanced communications service based on their estimated costs. Reimbursement Program recipients can then obtain funding disbursements from their allocation upon showing of actual

expenses incurred. Reimbursement Program recipients will have one year from the initial disbursement to complete the permanent removal, replacement, and disposal of covered communications equipment or services, unless a general or individual extensions of that deadline is granted by the Commission. Recipients of Reimbursement Program funds shall use these funds solely to: (1) permanently remove covered communications equipment and services from their networks; (2) replace the covered communications equipment and services with non-covered equipment or services; and (3) dispose of the covered communications equipment and services, in accordance with the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act and the Commission's rules.

On December 27, 2020, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Consolidated Appropriations Act), was signed into law. The legislation included a \$1.9 billion appropriation that funds the Reimbursement Program. In addition, the legislation amended the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act, expanding program eligibility from providers of advanced communications service with two million or fewer customers to providers with ten million or fewer customers. The Consolidated Appropriations Act also amended the definition of a provider of advanced communications service to specifically include certain non-commercial education institutions, healthcare providers, and libraries providing advanced communications service, and added a method for prioritizing funding that differs from the approach adopted by the Commission in the *Second Report and Order*. The Commission released a *Third Report and Order*, on July 14, 2021, implementing the changes required by the Consolidated Appropriations Act and making additional clarifications about the Reimbursement Program. Notably, the Commission stated that the Reimbursement Program is limited to reimbursing the costs of removal, replacement, and disposal to communications equipment and service produced or provided by Huawei and ZTE that was obtained on or before June 30, 2020.

On April 28, 2021, the Commission's Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) announced the selection of a contractor as the Reimbursement Program Fund Administrator to assist with processing applications and administering the Reimbursement Program. On August 3, 2021, the Bureau released a public notice adopting final procedures for and providing eligible providers of advanced communications services with additional guidance regarding the application filing and reimbursement process for the Reimbursement Program. The Bureau also finalized the information fields on the new FCC Form 5640, which participants must submit to request funding allocations and disbursements from the Reimbursement Program.

The filing window to accept applications to participate in the Reimbursement Program opened on October 29, 2021 and closed on January 28, 2022. The Commission received 181 applications seeking approximately \$5.26 billion in support for costs of removing, replacing, and disposing of Huawei and ZTE communications equipment and services. Because demand for program support significantly exceeded the \$1.9 billion appropriation that funds the Reimbursement Program, the Bureau was required to implement the prioritization scheme mandated by the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act when it approved funding allocations. That scheme required that funding be first allocated to applicants with 2 million or fewer customers (Priority 1). Priority 1 applicants submitted approximately \$4.64 billion in cost estimates that were deemed reasonable and supported. Because that amount also exceeded available funding, the Commission's rules required the Bureau to prorate the allocations approved for the Priority 1 applicants on an equal basis, consistent with the Act's requirement that funding be distributed on an equitable basis. The pro-rata factor applied to the funding allocations was approximately 39.5%. The Bureau issued decisions approving prorated funding allocations for 126 applications filed by 85 eligible providers

on July 15, 2022. That same day, the FCC informed Congress that to fund all reasonable and supported cost estimates submitted to the Reimbursement Program and cover estimated administrative expenses, the Program would require approximately \$4.98 billion, reflecting an approximate \$3.08 billion shortfall from the \$1.9 billion appropriation. The Administration requested the remaining \$3.08 billion needed for this reimbursement program as emergency supplemental funding in FY 2024.

Emergency Broadband Connectivity Fund-Emergency Broadband Benefit Program and Affordable Connectivity Fund-Affordable Connectivity Program

On December 27, 2020, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Consolidated Appropriations Act), was signed into law. In the Consolidated Appropriations Act, Congress appropriated \$3.2 billion for the Emergency Broadband Connectivity Fund for fiscal year 2021, to remain available until expended or six months after the end of the public health emergency. The Consolidated Appropriations Act directed the Commission to use that funding to establish the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) Program, under which eligible low-income households may receive a discount off the cost of broadband service and certain connected devices during an emergency period relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, and participating providers can receive a reimbursement for such discounts. Enrollments in the EBB Program ceased on December 30, 2021 and the successor program, the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), began on December 31, 2021.

On November 15, 2021, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, 2021 (Infrastructure Act), was signed into law. In the Infrastructure Act, Congress appropriated \$14.2 billion for the Affordable Connectivity Fund, to remain available until expended. The Infrastructure Act directed the Commission to use that funding to establish the ACP, under which eligible low-income households may receive a discount off the cost of broadband service and certain connected devices and participating providers can receive a reimbursement for passing such discounts on to eligible households.

To participate in the ACP, a provider must elect to participate and either be a state designated eligible telecommunications carrier or be approved by the Commission through a separate ACP application process. Participating providers make available to eligible households a monthly discount off the cost of an Internet service offering and associated equipment, up to \$30.00 per month. On qualifying Tribal lands, the monthly discount may be up to \$75.00 per month. Participating providers receive reimbursement from the ACP for the discounts provided. Participating providers that also supply an eligible household with a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet (connected device) may receive a single reimbursement of up to \$100.00 for the connected device, if the charge to and payment from the eligible household for that device is more than \$10.00 but less than \$50.00. A participating provider may receive reimbursement for only one supported device per eligible household. Providers must submit certain certifications to the Commission to receive reimbursement from the ACP, and the Commission is required to adopt audit requirements to ensure provider compliance and program integrity.

In implementing the ACP, the Infrastructure Act permits the Commission to apply rules contained in part 54 of the Commission's rules, including those governing the Lifeline program. The Infrastructure Act further permits the Commission to avail itself of the services of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), the administrator of the universal service support

programs, to administer the ACP. Specifically, the Infrastructure Act required the Commission to adopt rules implementing the ACP by January 14, 2022.

Consistent with the Infrastructure Act, the Commission adopted a *Report and Order* on January 14, 2022 adopting the rules and policies creating and governing the ACP. The Commission has established processes and systems to administer the ACP, including approval and election processes for broadband providers to participate, consumer application and enrollment processes, and provider reimbursement processes. Consumers can apply for the ACP through the National Verifier at [GetInternet.gov](https://www.getinternet.gov) or through service providers' alternative verification processes.

On August 5, 2022, the Commission adopted a *Second Report and Order*, establishing the Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grant Program. In the order, the Commission established rules and guidelines for grant applicants including, eligibility and reporting requirements, funding mechanisms, application submission and review procedures. The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the ACP Outreach Grants was released on November 10, 2022 and the application deadline was January 9, 2023. As of August 1, 2023, the FCC approved 228 outreach grants to entities, including ACP Pilot Participants, to and issued over \$72 million in grant funding to its outreach partners. The Commission announced additional outreach grant opportunities in May 2023.

On August 5, 2022, the Commission adopted a *Third Report and Order*, establishing the Your Home, Your Internet Pilot Program. In this order, the Commission established rules and guidelines for housing agencies to participate in a pilot program, enhancing the ACP application process, and providing approved participants access to the National Verifier. Earlier that year, in January 2022, the Commission directed the Bureau and the USAC to conduct a one-year test pilot for granting trusted, neutral third-party entities with access to the National Verifier for purposes of assisting customers with applying for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP Navigator Pilot). The application window for the Your Home, Your Internet Pilot Program and the ACP Navigator Program and the related grant funding opportunity opened on November 21, 2022 and closed on January 9, 2023. A total of 34 entities were selected to participate in the ACP Pilot Programs: 23 entities selected for the Your Home, Your Internet Pilot Program, and 11 entities selected for the ACP Navigator Pilot Program. As a result of the wind down of the ACP, Pilot Participants were required to stop pilot-related outreach activities on February 7, 2024.

Additionally, the Infrastructure Act requires the Commission to develop a mechanism by which a provider could provide an ACP benefit, up to \$75, in "high-cost" areas designated by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). On August 4, 2023, NTIA announced its designated high-cost areas, and the Commission released its *Sixth Report and Order* establishing the mechanism for providers to offer the ACP high-cost area benefit. On November 1, 2023, the Wireline Competition Bureau released a public notice with key dates and processes related to the provider application for the benefit.

The Infrastructure Act also requires the Commission to adopt rules for the collection of price and subscription rates of internet service offerings of ACP providers. On November 15, 2022, the FCC adopted an Order establishing the data to be collected, the mechanism for collecting the data, and the format of the data's publication. The inaugural collection opened on September 8, 2023 and providers were required to submit data by November 30, 2023.

Without additional funding to support the ACP, the FCC announced on January 11, 2024 the specific steps it would take to administer the wind-down of the ACP. One of those steps required freezing new enrollments in the program. When the FCC stopped accepting new enrollments into the program on February 7, 2024, there were 23,269,550 households enrolled in the ACP. Historical enrollment information remains available on USAC's website. The FCC announced that the final fully funded month of the ACP will be April 2024 with a partial reimbursement available to providers for May 2024. Building on the demonstrated successes enabled by the \$14.2 billion provided in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for this program, the budget includes the Administration's pending supplemental request for \$6 billion to continue the ACP in 2024. The Commission looks forward to working with Congress to extend this program and ensure that it continues to provide critical benefits to millions.

Emergency Connectivity Fund

To help schools and libraries provide connected devices, such as a laptop, tablet, or similar end-user devices, and broadband connectivity to students, school staff, and library patrons during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) emergency period, Congress established a \$7.171 billion Emergency Connectivity Fund (the Fund) to remain available until September 30, 2030, as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (American Rescue Plan Act) signed into law on March 11, 2021. Per congressional directive, the Commission was required to promulgate rules providing for the distribution of funding from the Emergency Connectivity Fund to eligible schools and libraries for the purchase of eligible equipment and/or advanced telecommunications and information services for use by students, school staff, and library patrons at locations including locations other than a school or library within 60 days from the date of enactment.

Consistent with this congressional directive, on March 16, 2021, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) sought comment on the provision of support from the Emergency Connectivity Fund consistent with section 7402 of the American Rescue Plan Act. Subsequently, on May 10, 2021, the Commission established the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program and promulgated rules for the distribution of funding from the Fund. The first Emergency Connectivity Fund Program application filing window opened on June 29, 2021 and closed on August 13, 2021. During the first application filing window, eligible schools, libraries, and consortia of eligible schools and libraries, submitted requests for funding to purchase eligible equipment and services between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022 for use by students, school staff and library patrons who would otherwise lack sufficient access to connected devices and/or broadband connectivity to engage in remote learning during the COVID-19 emergency period.

On August 25, 2021, the Commission announced that it received requests for \$5.137 billion to fund 9.1 million connected devices and 5.4 million broadband connections during the first application filing window. The first application filing window attracted applications from all 50 states, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia – including schools and libraries in both rural and urban communities seeking funding for eligible equipment and services received or delivered between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022. In view of outstanding demand and the recent spike in coronavirus cases, the FCC opened a second application filing window for schools and libraries to request funding for connected devices and broadband connections for off-campus to meet the unmet needs of students, school staff, and library patrons during the current school year (i.e., July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022). The second Emergency Connectivity Fund Program application filing window opened on

September 28 and closed on October 13, 2021. On October 25, 2021, the Commission announced that it received requests for nearly \$1.3 billion during the second application filing window to fund nearly 2.4 million connected devices and over 564,000 broadband connections.

On March 23, 2022, the Commission announced that a third application filing window would open on April 28, 2022, and close on May 13, 2022, and that it expected at least \$1 billion was available for commitments and disbursements for this third window. During the third filing window, eligible schools and libraries could request funding for eligible equipment, non-recurring services, and up to 12 months of recurring services that will be delivered or received between July 1, 2022, through December 31, 2023. On May 25, 2022, the Commission announced that it received requests for over \$2.8 billion during the third filing window to fund over 5.1 million connected devices and over 4.2 million broadband connections. The Commission also noted that because demand exceeded available funds, the third window requests will be prioritized to fund the schools and libraries with greatest need with a preference given to rural schools and libraries.

On May 12, 2023, the Bureau provided additional guidance on the expiration of the COVID-19 public health emergency on May 11, 2023, and announced June 30, 2024, as the sunset date for the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program. For purposes of the Emergency Connectivity Fund, section 7402 of the American Rescue Plan Act defines the COVID-19 emergency period as beginning on the date the Secretary of Health and Human Services determined that a public health emergency exists as a result of COVID-19 pursuant to section 319 of the Public Health Service Act, and ending on the June 30 that first occurs after the date that is one year after the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines that a public health emergency no longer exists. On January 31, 2020, the Department of Health and Human Services declared that a public health emergency exists and has existed since January 7, 2020. The COVID-19 public health emergency expired at the end of the day on May 11, 2023, and thereafter, Emergency Connectivity Fund Program support will only be available for purchases of eligible equipment and services made by June 30, 2024.

On May 12, 2023, the Bureau also extended the service delivery date for certain first and second window recurring service and equipment requests. For applicants that received a funding commitment decision letter (FCDL) or revised funding commitment decision letter (RFCDL) on or after July 1, 2022, the recurring service request will have a service delivery date of 14 months after the date of the letter, or June 30, 2024, whichever date is later. Approved, up-to-12-months of recurring service funding requests associated with a special construction request have a service delivery date of June 30, 2024. Applicants that received an FCDL or RFCDL for an equipment funding request on or after January 1, 2023, will have a service delivery date of 180 days after the date of the letter, but not to exceed June 30, 2024. All applicants with approved third filing window requests for recurring services, non-recurring services, and equipment will have a service delivery date of June 30, 2024.

As of November 30, 2023, the Commission has issued 34 waves of funding commitments for windows 1 and 2, and 37 waves of funding commitments for window 3, collectively totaling approximately \$6.6 billion since the program was launched on June 29, 2021. Total commitments are supporting over 11,500 schools, 1,070 libraries, and approximately 130 consortia for nearly 13 million connected devices and over 8.1 million broadband connections for students, school staff, and library patrons located in all 50 states, American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Summary Activities for Other Budget Authorities Received in FYs 2020, 2021, & 2022

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Budget Authority	Amount Obligated	Amount Disbursed
COVID-19 Telehealth Program - Round 1	\$200,000	\$199,730	\$198,517
COVID-19 Telehealth Program - Round 2	\$249,900	\$245,286	\$229,733
Secure & Trusted Communications Network Reimbursement Program	\$1,900,000	\$1,853,340	\$462,232
Emergency Broadband Connectivity Fund - Emergency Broadband Benefit Program	\$3,200,000	\$3,199,941	\$3,199,776
Affordable Connectivity Fund - Affordable Connectivity Program	\$14,200,000	\$11,612,264	\$10,574,557
Broadband DATA Act	\$65,000	\$48,900	\$30,770
Emergency Connectivity Fund	\$7,171,000	\$5,986,496	\$4,309,052
TOTAL - FY '20 - '22 Other Budget Authorities	\$26,985,900	\$23,145,957	\$19,004,636

Note: Amounts dedicated to OIG for COVID-19 Telehealth Program - Round 2 and Emergency Connectivity Fund are not included in the amounts shown above. Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (P.L. 118-5) rescinded \$32 of COVID-19 Telehealth Program - Round 1 funds. Amounts shown as of January 31, 2024.

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