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For Immediate Release**FCC AUTHORIZES \$121 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR
RURAL BROADBAND*****Fourth Round of Funding from Connect America Fund Auction
Starts This Month and Includes 16 States***

WASHINGTON, August 12, 2019—The Federal Communications Commission today authorized over \$121 million in funding over the next decade to expand broadband to 36,579 unserved rural homes and businesses in 16 states, representing the fourth wave of support from last year’s successful Connect America Fund Phase II auction. Providers will begin receiving funding later this month.

“As we continue to authorize funds to expand broadband in rural America, I am excited to see the benefits for rural residents who live all across the country, from Tribal lands in Wyoming to mountain communities in Appalachia, from the Great Plains to the Pacific Northwest, and from the Texas Panhandle to northern Minnesota,” said FCC Chairman Ajit Pai. “This round of funding is yet another step toward closing the digital divide, providing access to digital opportunity to over 36,000 more unserved rural homes and businesses.”

In total, the auction last year allocated \$1.488 billion in support to expand broadband to more than 700,000 unserved rural homes and small businesses over the next 10 years. The FCC has already authorized three waves of funding in May, June, and July. Today’s action brings total authorized funding to over \$924 million, expanding connectivity to 342,097 homes and businesses; additional rounds will be authorized in the coming months.

Funding applications approved by the Commission today include the following:

- Northern Arapaho Tribal Industries, which is owned by the Northern Arapaho Tribe, is receiving \$4.1 million to deploy service to 849 homes and businesses on the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming, all of which will get access to service delivering Gigabit speeds
- Tri-Co Connections is receiving \$32.3 million to deploy Gigabit service to over 7,015 homes and businesses in rural Pennsylvania over its fiber network
- Midcontinent Communications is receiving \$39 million to deploy service to 9,371 homes and businesses in rural Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota, all of which will get service delivering speeds of at least 100 Mbps downstream/20 Mbps upstream

- Citynet West Virginia will receive \$6.5 million over the next decade to deliver Gigabit service over its fiber network to 898 homes and businesses in rural West Virginia

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

State	Company	Minimum Speed	Support/10 Years	Number of Locations
Arkansas	3E8 Broadband Solutions	25/3 Mbps	\$3,621,847	129
Arkansas	3E8 Broadband Solutions	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	*	682
Illinois	Wabash Independent Networks	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	\$359,430	261
Indiana	Marshall County Fiber	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	\$1,326,394	1,203
Maryland	Declaration Networks Group	25/3 Mbps	\$2,880,040	2,454
Minnesota	Halstad Telephone Company	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	\$19,635	7
Minnesota	Jaguar Communication	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	\$510,588	672
Minnesota	Midcontinent Communications	100/20 Mbps	\$27,977,284	7,410
Missouri	Air Link Rural Broadband	100/20 Mbps	\$11,371,438	2,321
Missouri	Barry Technology Services	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	\$6,103,454	2,308
New Mexico	Plains Internet	100/20 Mbps	\$2,582,772	509
North Dakota	Midcontinent Communications	100/20 Mbps	\$6,044,447	1,069
Oklahoma	Cim Tel Cable	100/20 Mbps	\$1,869,392	386
Oklahoma	Cim Tel Cable	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	*	24
Oklahoma	Cross Cable Television	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	\$80,156	47
Oklahoma	Cross Wireless	100/20 Mbps	\$827,394	210
Oklahoma	Plains Internet	100/20 Mbps	\$1,770,537	3,194
Pennsylvania	Tri-Co Connections	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	\$32,326,228	7,015
South Dakota	Midcontinent Communications	100/20 Mbps	\$4,880,611	892
Tennessee	Ben Lomand Communications	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	\$333,797	171
Texas	Plains Internet	100/20 Mbps	\$1,799,731	939

Washington	Declaration Networks Group	25/3 Mbps	\$3,904,100	2,929
West Virginia	Citynet West Virginia	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	\$6,517,708	898
Wyoming	Northern Arapaho Tribal Industries	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	\$4,070,664	849
TOTAL			\$121,177,649	36,579
			* Dollar amount included in total for company	

The Connect America Fund Phase II auction is part of a broader effort by the FCC to close the digital divide in rural America. On August 1, the FCC proposed taking its biggest single step to date toward closing the rural digital divide by establishing the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, which would direct up to \$20.4 billion to expand broadband in unserved rural areas

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

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

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