

June 21, 2022

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- ▶ COMMENTS SOUGHT ON 911 CALL ROUTING
- ▶ **93 BIDDERS IN 2.5 GHZ AUCTION**
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INFORMATION AND ADVOCACY FOR THE
RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

Regulatory Headlines

[BDC Webinar Scheduled](#)

The FCC's Broadband Data Task Force will hold a webinar on Wednesday, June 29, at 2 PM ET to provide information and preview the BDC system for organizations mandated with submitting data during the filing window that begins the next day.

[Proposed ACP Rules](#)

The FCC has issued a NPRM seeking comment on rules for collecting data on the price and subscription rates of internet service offerings received by households enrolled in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP).

[Comments Sought on 911 Call Routing](#)

In 2018, the FCC issued a NOI to seek comment on the feasibility of using location-based routing to reduce the amount of mis-routed wireless calls to 911 and improve emergency response times. Due to technological developments, new industry trends, and regulatory changes, the Commission has now adopted a Public Notice to update the record on location-based wireless 911 calls.

[93 Bidders in 2.5 GHz Auction](#)

All major U.S. wireless carriers have filed applications to participate in an auction of mid-band 2.5 GHz spectrum scheduled to start July 29, as have several dozen smaller companies.

[ACP Waiver Petitions Granted](#)

The FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau has partially granted petitions for limited waiver filed by NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association and AT&T Services Inc. concerning the FCC's non-usage rules for Affordable Connectivity Program subscribers who receive free-to-the-end-user service.

[FCC Announces CALEA System](#)

The Federal Communications Commission's Public Safety and Security Bureau (Bureau) has announced the implementation of a voluntary Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA) electronic filing system (CEFS) for CALEA System Security and Integrity Plans (SSI Plans).



Market Watch

[VZ, AT&T Agree to Delay 5G Deployment](#)

[Indiana's Second Statewide Fiber Network](#)

[Verizon Cuts Base Fios, FWA Internet Costs](#)

[Cox Touts Network Expansion](#)



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Questions? Comments?
Contact Chris Barron

cbarron@alexicon.net

Technology Trends

New and notable technology and services

Rural Broadband & Network Convergence

Rural areas are known – and valued – for their slower pace of life. Yet those who live in low-density population areas have no less need than their urban and suburban counterparts for high-speed data and internet. Rural broadband has become a political imperative, with public funds supporting expansion. Among other service providers, cable operators are uniquely positioned to converge the cable access network and enable delivery of broadband over fiber, coaxial cable, and wireless spectrum.

Fiber Broadband Expansion Opportunity

The broadband industry is at a unique crossroads. The recent pandemic illustrated the necessity for broadband everywhere. That reality has helped create an unprecedented funding cycle for fiber broadband expansion. An opportunity that we are only just beginning to understand. Between the many federal and state broadband funding opportunities that are now in play, well over \$100 billion will be made available over the next five years. Programs include ARPA, BEAD, RDOF, and ReConnect.

Data That Cyber Criminals Want

Data theft and extortion has become a common – and unfortunately effective – part of ransomware attacks, where in addition to encrypting data and demanding a ransom payment for the decryption key, gangs steal information and threaten to publish it if a payment isn't received. These so-called double extortion attacks have become an effective tool in the arsenal of ransomware gangs, who leverage them to force victims to pay up, even in cases where data could be restored from offline backups, because the threat of sensitive information being published is too great.

Verizon Spreads Legionnaires' Disease

When you think about potential vectors for disease, Verizon probably isn't the first thing that comes to mind. But this week, New York Attorney General Letitia James announced the findings of a three-year investigation into cooling towers on buildings throughout the state. It did not look good for Verizon.

Talent Pipeline Challenge

The White House will launch a summer-long initiative on Friday to encourage labor unions and industry to work together to train more workers for good jobs in the electric vehicle, broadband and construction sectors, senior administration officials said. The "Talent Pipeline Challenge" will encourage employers and state and local governments to use \$800 million in job training funds from the \$1 trillion Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, they said.



IN FOCUS **BEAD** **Notice of Funding Opportunity**

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) contained around \$65 billion related to broadband deployment, adoption, and equity. The largest program by far is the NTIA-administered Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program—\$42.5 billion for states and territories to invest in planning, deployment, mapping, equity and adoption activities. NTIA's [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) (NOFO) contains the details of the program, and following are some of the highlights:

- * Entities eligible to receive direct funding are states, D.C., Puerto Rico, American Samoa, U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands
- * Minimum allocation to states is \$100m. The remainder of the funding will be distributed based on the relative number of unserved locations (which will in turn require the FCC's upcoming BDC-generated maps)
- * States can request up to \$5m in initial planning funding
- * Key Dates
 - 7/18/22: State/territory letter of intent due
 - 8/15/22: Initial planning funds application due
 - 270 days after initial planning funds received: 5 year action plans due
 - [BDC maps released by FCC, Notice of Funding to eligible entities issued by NTIA]
 - 180 days after release of Notice of Available Amounts: Initial proposals due
- * Once initial proposals are approved, NTIA will release up to 20% of available funds to the state/territory

- * Focus of grants will be on unserved (<25/3 Mbps) and underserved (w/o 100/20 Mbps) areas, and gigabit service to community anchor institutions (schools, libraries, health clinics, etc) (Unserved areas will include areas served solely by satellite service)
- * States will distribute support based on NTIA-approved plans—final proposals are due within year after initial proposals are approved by NTIA
- * There will be a process, to be determined by the eligible entity and approved by NTIA, where certain interested parties, such as broadband providers, can challenge, among other things, whether a particular location is unserved or underserved
- * Subgrantees (can include broadband providers) will be selected by the states/territories using a competitive process, and will be required for deployment grants to complete such deployment within 4 years (with a 1 year extension possible)
- * Any proposal to deploy in Tribal areas must include Tribal government consent
- * States must consider existing enforceable buildout commitments before declaring an area unserved or underserved. This can include commitments related to FUSF, RUS funding, etc.

For more information on the BEAD program, please visit the NTIA's website [here](#).

Reminders

- * **Broadband Performance Pre-Testing** began 1Q22 for ACAM II, CAF BLS, and CAF II auction support recipients. The next report is due to USAC on July 7.
- * The transition to **988 suicide prevention hotline** is currently scheduled for July 16, 2022. By this date, all calls to 988 are to be routed to 1-800-273-TALK.
- * The [Broadband Data Collection](#) system is currently scheduled to open on June 30, 2022, with the inaugural filing due September 1.



Questions? Comments?
Contact Chris Barron
cbarron@alexicon.net