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For Immediate Release

FCC AUTHORIZES NEARLY \$89.2 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR RURAL BROADBAND

Eighth Round of Funding from Connect America Fund Auction Starts This Month and Includes 21 States

WASHINGTON, December 16, 2019—The Federal Communications Commission today authorized nearly \$89.2 million in funding over the next decade to expand broadband to more than 123,000 unserved rural homes and businesses across 21 states, representing the eighth wave of support from last year’s successful Connect America Fund Phase II auction. Broadband providers will begin receiving funding later this month.

“Across the nation, we’re continuing to close the digital divide so that all Americans—no matter where they live—have access to affordable broadband connectivity and the digital opportunity it brings,” said FCC Chairman Ajit Pai. “And as this eighth round of funding demonstrates, the Connect America Fund Phase II Auction is doing so in a cost-effective way: Because providers competed for Connect America Fund Auction support, finite universal service dollars reached many more homes and businesses at a much lower cost.”

Among the companies approved for funding by the Commission today is satellite provider Viasat, which is receiving \$87.1 million over 10 years to offer service to more than 121,700 remote and rural homes and businesses in 17 states, at speeds of at least 25/3 Mbps. In return for this funding, Viasat will be providing service in the supported areas at lower cost to consumers, while also permitting higher usage allowances, than it typically provides in areas where it is not receiving Connect America Fund support.

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	Locations
Alabama	Viasat	25/3 Mbps	\$3,692,935	9,075
Arizona	Viasat	25/3 Mbps	\$129,559	354
California	Viasat	25/3 Mbps	\$13,918,362	18,795
Colorado	Viasat	25/3 Mbps	\$7,231,181	6,517
Florida	Viasat	25/3 Mbps	\$5,032,841	9,859
Georgia	Viasat	25/3 Mbps	\$6,264,362	13,815

Idaho	Viasat	25/3 Mbps	\$4,402,040	3,607
Illinois	LTD Broadband	25/3 Mbps	\$19,462	145
Iowa	LTD Broadband	25/3 Mbps	\$69,516	33
Kentucky	Viasat	25/3 Mbps	\$1,673,145	4,169
Louisiana	Viasat	25/3 Mbps	\$2,873,230	4,427
Maine	Viasat	25/3 Mbps	\$4,713,986	4,098
Minnesota	LTD Broadband	25/3 Mbps	\$1,104,441	840
Montana	Viasat	25/3 Mbps	\$5,180,536	5,342
New Mexico	Viasat	25/3 Mbps	\$3,132,667	3,268
South Carolina	Horry Telephone Cooperative	25/3 Mbps	\$233,490	80
Utah	Viasat	25/3 Mbps	\$3,119,687	2,995
Washington	Viasat	25/3 Mbps	\$7,031,864	10,982
West Virginia	Viasat	25/3 Mbps	\$5,432,056	7,057
Wisconsin	Bruce Telephone Company	1 Gbps/500 Mbps	\$177,933	34
Wisconsin	JCWIFI.com	25/3 Mbps	\$486,424	175
Wisconsin	Viasat	25/3 Mbps	\$3,963,228	7,565
Wyoming	Viasat	25/3 Mbps	\$9,301,915	9,805
Total			\$89,184,858	123,037

In total, the Connect America Fund Auction last year allocated \$1.488 billion in support over the next ten years to expand broadband to more than 700,000 unserved rural homes and small businesses nationwide. The FCC has now authorized eight waves of funding, and today's action brings total authorized funding to nearly \$1.2 billion, which is expanding connectivity to 541,733 homes and businesses nationwide. Funding rounds will continue until the authorization process is complete.

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.

[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.

A map of winning bids in the Auction is available at <https://www.fcc.gov/reports-research/maps/caf2-auction903-results/>.

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