

Media Contact:

Tina Pelkey, (202) 418-0536
tina.pelkey@fcc.gov

For Immediate Release**FCC ESTIMATES SIX MILLION RURAL HOMES AND BUSINESSES
COULD BENEFIT FROM THE RURAL DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY
FUND*****Preliminary List Shows Number of Locations Eligible for Bidding in Each State for
High-Speed Broadband Through Phase I of the \$20.4 Billion Fund***

WASHINGTON, January 14, 2020—Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai announced initial estimates of how many homes and businesses in each state could benefit from Phase I of the \$20.4 billion Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. In total, about 6 million rural homes and businesses could be eligible for bidding in an auction slated for later this year to receive funding for high-speed broadband. This state-by-state list is for Phase I funding, which would target a total of \$16 billion to census blocks with no broadband service at all meeting the Commission’s minimum speed standards. The remainder of the funding would be disbursed during Phase II. As recently [announced](#), the FCC will vote January 30 on launching the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund.

“The digital divide affects many people in many rural communities. I’ve said that the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund would be our boldest step yet to bridge this divide, and today we get a glimpse of the broad impact this investment in rural America would have across the country,” said Chairman Pai. “Our staff’s initial estimate shows that in 25 states there would be more than 100,000 locations that would be eligible for Phase I of the Fund, and the benefits would be felt from the Pacific Coast to the Great Plains, and from Appalachia to the Gulf Coast. The Rural Digital Opportunity Fund is critical to bridging the digital divide. I hope that my colleagues will join me in voting for it on January 30.”

The preliminary state-by-state list is below.*

State	Bid-Eligible Locations
Alabama	211,000
Arizona	147,000
Arkansas	222,000
California	421,000
Colorado	99,000
Connecticut	4,000
Delaware	8,000
Florida	143,000
Georgia	197,000
Hawaii	17,000
Idaho	76,000
Illinois	246,000
Indiana	202,000
Iowa	68,000
Kansas	63,000
Kentucky	108,000
Louisiana	188,000
Maine	35,000
Maryland	49,000
Massachusetts	34,000
Michigan	286,000
Minnesota	134,000
Mississippi	231,000
Missouri	236,000

State	Bid-Eligible Locations
Montana	50,000
Nebraska	54,000
Nevada	34,000
New Hampshire	21,000
New Jersey	14,000
New Mexico	74,000
North Carolina	169,000
North Dakota	5,000
Ohio	215,000
Oklahoma	162,000
Oregon	91,000
Pennsylvania	197,000
Rhode Island	5,000
South Carolina	120,000
South Dakota	14,000
Tennessee	182,000
Texas	381,000
Utah	16,000
Vermont	26,000
Virginia	217,000
Wisconsin	271,000
Washington	115,000
West Virginia	130,000
Wyoming	21,000

The Rural Digital Opportunity Fund would allocate \$20.4 billion through a reverse-auction format to connect millions of rural homes and small businesses to high-speed broadband networks. The Fund would target areas that lack access to 25/3 Mbps broadband services in two stages. During Phase I, the FCC would target \$16 billion to areas that are wholly unserved by such broadband (where there is no 25/3 Mbps service at all). For Phase II, the FCC would use its new granular broadband mapping approach, called the Digital Opportunity Data Collection, to target unserved households in areas that are partially served by such broadband (areas where some households have access to 25/3 Mbps service but others do not). Phase II would also include areas that do not receive winning bids in Phase I.

** Commission staff's initial estimate is that approximately six million model-determined locations would be eligible for bidding in Phase I of the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. This figure is subject to change for a variety of reasons, including updated data regarding broadband deployment and construction as well as any modifications made to Chairman Pai's draft rules. Locations in Alaska and New York are not eligible for RDOF because of previously established programs to fund rural broadband in these states.*

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Media Relations: (202) 418-0500 / ASL: (844) 432-2275 / TTY: (888) 835-5322 / Twitter: @FCC / www.fcc.gov

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