

# High Cost and the Connect America Fund

Expanding access  
to modern communications networks  
across rural America

Presentation to NARUC Staff Subcommittee on  
Telecommunications

Phoenix, AZ

July 14, 2018



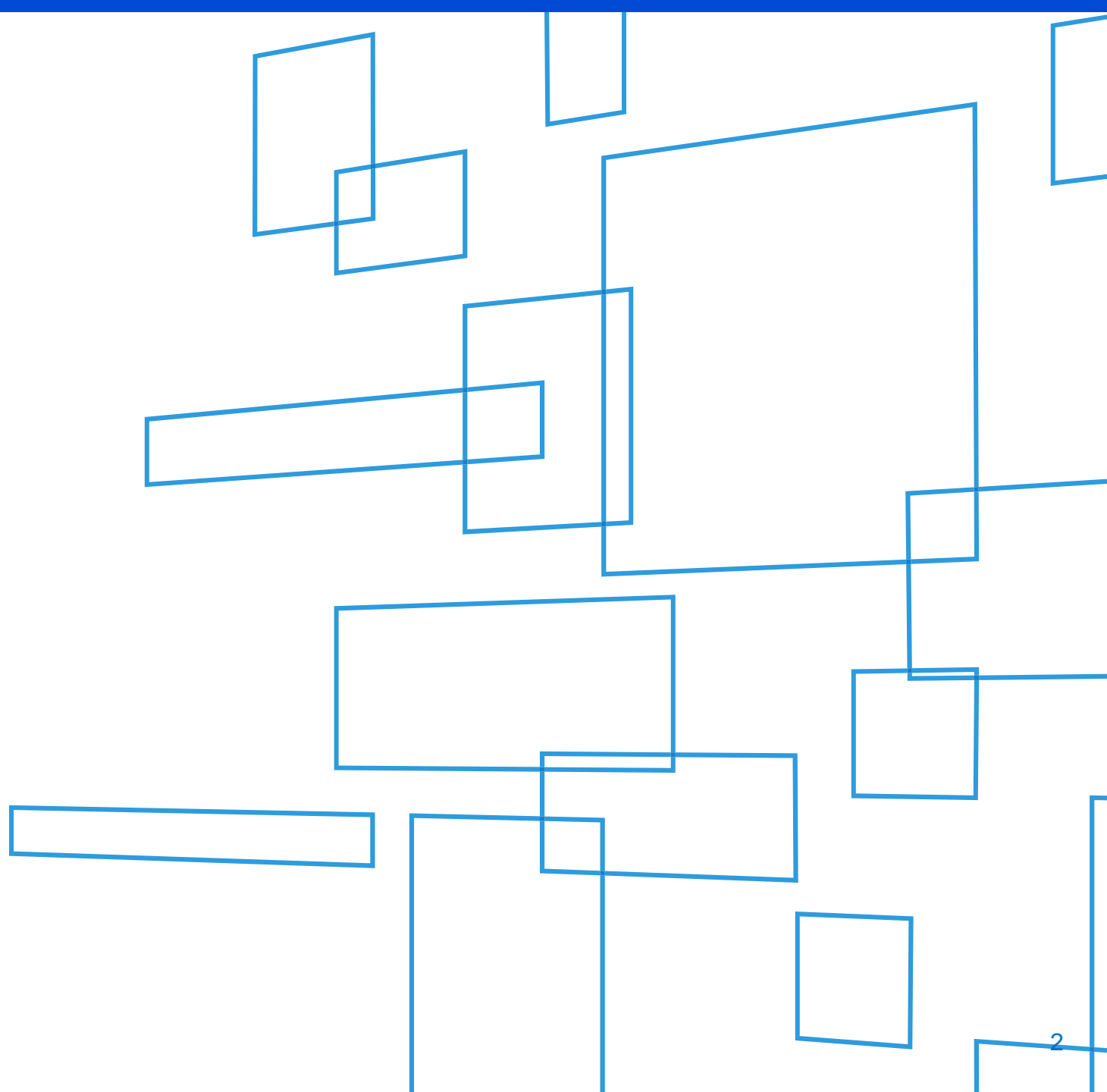
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# Welcome

Today's Speaker:

Victor Gaither

Vice President of High Cost  
USAC



# Agenda

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**Connect America: Modernizing High Cost**

**The HUBB Portal: Tracking Broadband Deployment**

**Compliance: Ensuring Program Integrity**

**Mobility Fund II Challenge Process: Expanding 4G LTE**



A man with a beard is shown in profile, looking down at a tablet device he is holding. He is wearing a dark t-shirt and a backpack. In the background, there is a large array of solar panels mounted on a hillside under a cloudy sky. The entire image has a blue color overlay.

# Connect America: Modernizing High Cost



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# Connect America Program

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## Program Goals

- Preserve and advance universal availability of voice service
- Drive universal availability of modern networks capable of providing voice and broadband service to homes, businesses and community anchor institutions
- Drive universal availability of modern networks capable of providing advanced mobile voice and broadband service
- Ensure that rates for broadband and voice services are reasonably comparable in all regions of the nation
- Contain administrative costs and minimize the universal service contribution for consumers and businesses through efficient, effective program management

# Connect America Program

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## Modernization of the High Cost Program Creates the **Connect America Fund**

Since 2011, a series of FCC modernization orders has radically transformed the High Cost Program to create the **Connect America Fund**

### Legacy

- High Cost
- Voice
- Maintaining service
- Cost-based funding
- Forms-based reporting requirements
- Beneficiary audits
- Compliance

### Modernized

- Connect America
- Voice and broadband
- Maintaining and expanding service
- Incentive-based support
- Systems-based portal
- In-program deployment verification
- Success

# Connect America Program

## CAF Funding in Price Cap Areas

CAF Phase I Incremental	CAF Phase II Model	CAF Phase II Auctions	Rural Broadband Experiments (RBE)	CAF Inter-carrier Compensation (ICC)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Interim program to spur broadband deployment</li><li>• \$486 million</li><li>• Build out to locations unserved by 4/1 Mbps</li><li>• 523,753 locations deployed over two rounds</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provides support based on a cost model</li><li>• \$1.7 billion annually</li><li>• Six-year support term</li><li>• Provide locations with speeds of at least 10/1 Mbps</li><li>• Deployed by Dec 2020, 3.5 million locations</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provides support through a reverse auction to areas declined in CAF II, extremely high-cost areas and certain other census block that were removed from model offer</li><li>• Ten-year term of support</li><li>• Build out to unserved locations with speeds of at least 10/1 Mbps to 1GB/500Mbps</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provided support in Price Cap areas through an auction</li><li>• \$41 million over ten years</li><li>• Build out to unserved locations with speeds between 10/1 Mbps and Mbps</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Allows recovery of revenues reduced due to ICC reforms in 2012</li><li>• Support intended to invest in broadband infrastructure</li><li>• Program will phase out for Price Cap carriers in July 2019</li></ul>

# Connect America Program

## CAF Funding in Rate-of-Return Areas

### Alternative Connect America Cost Model (A-CAM)

- Support based on cost model
- Provide locations with speeds of at least 10/1 Mbps and 25/3 Mbps
- Some 4/1 Mbps and reasonable request
- 714,000 locations deployed by 2026

### High Cost Loop Support (HCLS)

- Legacy program to support voice
- Provides support for the last mile of connection in areas where the cost to provide service exceeds 115 percent of the national average cost

### Connect America Broadband Loop Support (CAF BLS)

- Supports voice, voice and broadband, and broadband-only services
- Replaced ICLS
- Five-year deployment obligation milestone

### CAF Intercarrier Compensation (ICC)

- Allows recovery of revenue reduced due to ICC reforms in 2012
- Support intended to invest in broadband infrastructure
- CAF ICC support recipients must provide broadband with minimum speed requirements of 4/1 Mbps



# Connect America Program

## CAF Funding in Non-Contiguous Areas

### Alaska Plan

- Aims to provide 10/1 Mbps service to as many Alaskans as possible
- Given unique climate conditions and geographic challenges, deployment obligations are tailored to each Alaska carrier's circumstances
- Filing obligations include both last-mile wireline locations served, as well as middle mile infrastructure (including fiber and microwave network maps)

### Uniendo a Puerto Rico And Connect USVI Fund

- Almost \$900 million in medium and long-term support to restore communications networks following 2017 storms and improve broadband access on the islands
- Immediate infusion of almost \$64 million for near-term restoration efforts
- Proposing fixed broadband investment of \$444.5 million for Puerto Rico and \$186.5 million for the Virgin Islands over next decade
- Proposing investment of \$259 million to expand 4G LTE service in Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands

# Connect America Program

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## CAF Funding – Mobile Services

### Mobility Fund Phase I

- \$300 million in non-tribal areas
- \$50 million in tribal lands
- Build-out of networks to support:
  - 3G – 50/200 Kbps
  - 4G – 200/768 Kbps
- Voice and Broadband Services
- Letter of credit requirement

### Mobility Fund Phase II

- \$4.53 billion over 10 years
- Will support build-out of 4G LTE wireless networks
- Will target funding at places that lack unsubsidized 4G LTE service with minimum download speeds of at least 5 megabits per second
- Voice and broadband services
- Letter of credit requirement

A man with a beard, wearing a dark t-shirt and a backpack, stands in a field looking at a tablet. In the background, there are rows of solar panels mounted on a structure covered with straw or hay. The sky is cloudy. The entire image has a blue color overlay.

# The HUBB Portal: Tracking Broadband Deployment



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# High Cost Universal Broadband (HUBB) Portal

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**A system that collects the geographic coordinates (latitude and longitude) of locations where carriers are deploying broadband using Connect America support**

- A tool for collecting location-specific service availability data from carriers across all Connect America Fund (modernized) programs – millions of individual records
- Real-time validation of data submissions
- Serves as a platform for verification and compliance
- Provides the foundation for a public map that will show the impact of CAF funding on broadband expansion across rural America
- Began with the July 2017 filing for Price Cap carriers, followed by March 2018 filing for carriers in multiple modernized funds



# Deployment Data Currently in the HUBB

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As of the March 2018 filing deadline, carriers participating in the following funds had filed latitude and longitude coordinates for all locations deployed in the following years:

- **Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase II:** locations deployed in 2016 and 2017, as well as any locations deployed before 2016 that carriers have *refiled* with the HUBB to meet deployment milestones
- **Alternative Connect America Cost Model (A-CAM):** locations deployed in 2017
- **Rural Broadband Experiments (RBE):** locations deployed in 2017
- **Alaska Plan (other than carriers with individualized performance plans that only require them to maintain service at existing levels):** wireline, last mile end-user locations deployed in 2017 (and 2016 on an optional basis)
- **Connect America Fund-Broadband Loop Support (CAF-BLS - less than 80 percent deployed):** locations deployed from May 26, 2016 (the effective date of the Rate of Return order) – December 31, 2017

# What data is USAC collecting?

(may vary by fund  
and with new HUBB releases)

Field	Example
SAC*	579999
Latitude*	39.509220
Longitude*	-98.433700
Date of Deployment*	02/28/2017
Download/Upload Speed Tier*	3
Address*	715 Wisconsin Street
City*	Cawker City
State*	KS
ZIP Code*	67430
# of Units*	3

# HUBB Resources

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**For more information about the HUBB,**  
please visit the HUBB Resources Page  
on the High Cost Website:

<http://www.usac.org/hc/tools/hubb.aspx>

## **Resources include:**

Links to FCC Public Notices and Orders

FAQs

A Guide to Geolocation Practices

Data Formatting Instructions

# HUBB Portal State Access Tool

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- USAC created a tool to give state commissions access to data in the HUBB for their states by filing year and fund. Tool launched on August 28, 2017.
- The data in the HUBB, along with the data filed on carriers' FCC Forms 481, will assist states in making their annual October certification of eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) pursuant to 47 CFR § 54.314.
- USAC is seeking state commission officials to participate in user testing for the HUBB state access tool in early August. If interested, please contact Joelle Tessler at [Joelle.Tessler@usac.org](mailto:Joelle.Tessler@usac.org)



## HUBB STATE ACCESS TOOL

This tool provides state commissioners with the deployed location data currently in the online HUBB Portal certified as of the date provided below. In the search criteria below, please select the “Fund Type” and “Filing Year” then select “Search” and your results will populate below for browser viewing. You can download the selected location data in a .csv (commas separated value) file by clicking the “Export” button. To view the carrier’s progress towards meeting its total deployment obligation (the percentage towards meeting its final milestone), click the SAC number in the table after your results are populated.

**Please note:** Certain fields in the glossary (For Example, “City”) are not shown in the browser view but are available upon download.

You can find details on all fields in the [HUBB State Access Tool - Data Glossary](#).

### Search Criteria

State \*

Select



Fund Type \*

Select



Filing Year \*

Select




Data provided are locations certified as of midnight May 01, 2018 to account for certifications after the March 1 deadline.

\* Required Field

Reset

Search

[Reset](#)[Search](#)[Export](#) Show  entriesSearch: 

SAC 	Holding Company	Latitude	Longitude	Date of Deployment	Download/Upload Speed Tier	Address	Number of Units
<a href="#">541863</a>	Frontier Communications Corporation	36.601341	-118.057045	2017-10-31	3	625 SUB STATION RD	1
<a href="#">541863</a>	Frontier Communications Corporation	36.599075	-118.051675	2017-10-31	3	907 GOODWIN RD	1
<a href="#">541863</a>	Frontier Communications Corporation	36.598842	-118.051400	2017-10-31	3	863 GOODWIN RD	1
<a href="#">541863</a>	Frontier Communications Corporation	36.602163	-118.060587	2017-10-31	3	451 E MUIR ST	1
<a href="#">541863</a>	Frontier Communications Corporation	36.601610	-118.059962	2017-10-31	3	533 E INYO ST	1
<a href="#">541863</a>	Frontier Communications Corporation	36.602048	-118.056339	2017-10-31	3	665 SCHOOL ST	1
<a href="#">541863</a>	Frontier Communications Corporation	36.602747	-118.056518	2017-10-31	3	655 E MUIR ST	1
<a href="#">541863</a>	Frontier Communications Corporation	36.603635	-118.056985	2017-10-31	3	622 E POST ST	1
<a href="#">541863</a>	Frontier Communications Corporation	36.601399	-118.060842	2017-10-31	3	507 E INYO ST	1
<a href="#">541863</a>	Frontier Communications Corporation	36.602135	-118.056529	2017-10-31	3	653 SCHOOL ST	1

# CAF Map

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USAC is developing a public map that will show the impact of Connect America Fund support on broadband expansion across rural America. The CAF Map will:

- Use broadband deployment data submitted by carriers to the HUBB
- Display USF-funded broadband network availability by location, technology, speeds
- Display summary data by state, as well as individual broadband deployment location

The CAF Map will be linked to USAC's Open Data platform, which is where the data will reside.

**CAF Map launching in 2018**

# USAC Open Data

Using the power of data to provide insights and transparency into universal service programs

## E-rate

Explore and analyze the datasets within the E-rate Program.

## High Cost

Explore and analyze the datasets within the High Cost Program.

## Lifeline

Explore and analyze the datasets within the Lifeline Program.

## Rural Health Care

Information not available, coming soon



A man with a beard, wearing a dark t-shirt and a backpack, stands in a field. He is holding a tablet computer and looking at it. In the background, there are large solar panels mounted on a structure, and a cloudy sky. The entire image has a blue tint.

# Compliance: Ensuring Program Integrity



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# Confirming Broadband Buildout

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CAF compliance process consists of two parts:

## **Validations and Verifications**

To ensure that carriers participating in modernized funds  
are building out broadband as required

# Confirming Broadband Buildout

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## Validations

- Automated in the HUBB
- Ensure that latitude and longitude of a reported location fall within area eligible for funding and that the location is not a duplicate of one already submitted
- Support calculation of milestone compliance (i.e. > or < 40 percent as of 12/31/17)

# Confirming Broadband Buildout

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## Verifications

- After a carrier's locations are certified and validated in the HUBB, High Cost staff conducts verification review to ensure carriers have deployed broadband at the reported locations
- Process begins with announcement to carrier and sample selection
- Carriers submit documentation to show evidence of broadband deployment
  - Documentation may include customer subscription records and online service qualification tools
  - Documentation will be unique to each carrier and may vary by region of the country
- USAC reviews documentation and provides feedback to carriers
- USAC conducts exit conference to discuss results of the review with carrier
- Closure letter identifies any locations that fail to meet deployment obligations, if applicable



# FCC Form 481

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**Annual submission required of all carriers that receive High Cost support with the exception of carriers that only receive Mobility Fund support**

Contains operational and financial information used to validate carrier support, including:

- Functionality in emergency situations
- Tribal lands reporting
- Rate comparability
- Balance sheet, income statement, cash flow statements for privately held Rate of Return carriers

# FCC Form 481

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- Filing is due July 16 this year
- Filing must be made via online 481 system, accessible through USAC's E-file system
- Starting with the 2018 filing year, USAC will provide public access to most Form 481 data
  - Carriers can request confidential treatment of data not considered confidential by default
    - FCC will make determination on confidentiality requests
- USAC will provide state commissions and tribes with access to all Form 481 data for carriers that serve their states
  - Carriers no longer have to file Form 481 separately with state commissions and tribes
  - **State commissions and tribes will access Form 481 data through the existing 54.314 certification system in order to perform the 54.314 certifications (October certifications)**



## E-FILE

[USAC Home](#) | [High Cost Program](#) | [Search Tools](#) | **54.314 Certification**

[Logout](#)

### 54.314 CERTIFICATION

Please select the Study Area Codes (SACs) to be certified below:

Filing Year: 2017 ▼

Select All	SAC	Carrier Name	State	Carrier Type	Certified Last Year	Certified This Year	Filing Number	Status	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>					
<input type="checkbox"/>	610989	ADAK TEL UTILITY	AK	ILEC	Yes	No			Download 481 Filing
<input type="checkbox"/>	613000	ACS OF ANCHORAGE	AK	ILEC	Yes	No			Download 481 Filing

Proceed to Certification

# FCC Form 690

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**Annual submission required of all carriers that receive Mobility Fund support**

- Contains operational information
  - Coverage and performance
  - Tribal lands reporting
  - Project update
- Filing must be made via online 690 system, accessible through USAC's E-file system
- Filing was due July 2
- Carriers must file with the FCC, USAC and state commissions
  - State commissions use to inform their 54.314 certifications

A man with a beard, wearing a dark t-shirt and a backpack, stands in profile facing right. He is holding a tablet computer. In the background, there is a large array of solar panels mounted on a structure in a field. The sky is cloudy. The entire image has a blue color overlay.

# **Mobility Fund II Challenge Process: Expanding 4G LTE Service**



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# Mobility Fund Phase II (MF-II) Challenge Process

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- MF-II will make up to \$4.53 billion available over 10 years (up to \$453 million annually) to preserve and expand 4G LTE wireless coverage in unserved rural areas, including tribal lands
  - According to the FCC, at least 575,000 square miles (about 750,000 road miles and 3 million people) either lack 4G LTE service or are being served only by subsidized providers
- MF-II will target funding at places that lack unsubsidized 4G LTE service with minimum download speeds of at least 5 megabits per second
- The MF-II Challenge Process gives stakeholders an opportunity to submit evidence through a USAC portal to show that an area lacks unsubsidized wireless service with minimum download speeds of at least 5 megabits per second and should therefore be eligible for support
  - **Challenge Process is open to wireless providers, as well as state, local and tribal government entities**
  - Challenge Process portal opened on March 29, 2018

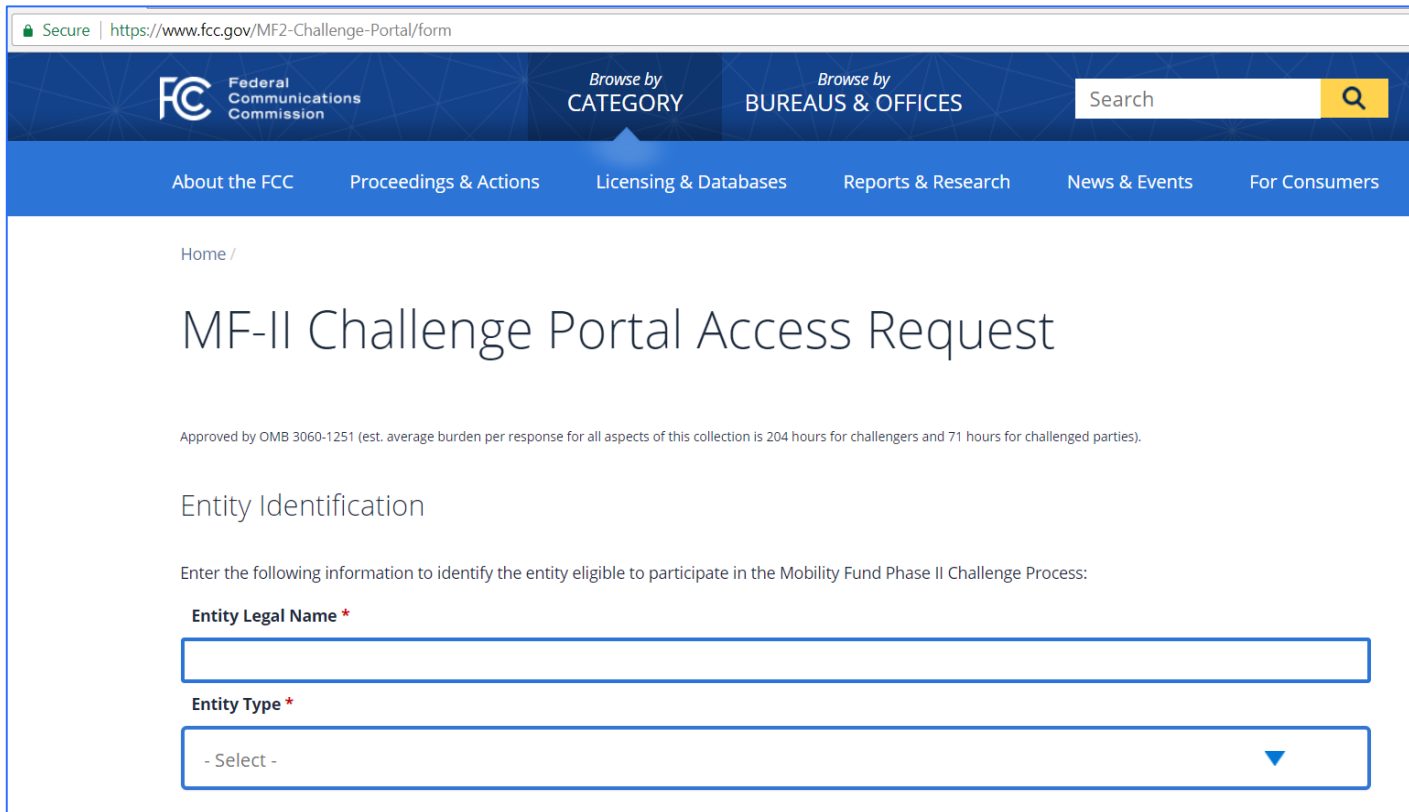
# MF-II Challenge Process: How it Works

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- **INITIAL ELIGIBILITY:** To determine which areas should be eligible for MF-II support, the FCC collected standardized, up-to-date 4G LTE coverage data from mobile providers and supplemented that data with existing USAC subsidy information.
- **THE CHALLENGE PROCESS:** The MF-II Challenge Process gives wireless carriers, as well as state and local government entities, the opportunity to contest the coverage data used to determine initial eligibility. Challengers submit speed test measurements taken in areas initially deemed ineligible to demonstrate that existing coverage is below the 5-megabits-per-second minimum speed benchmark.
- **THE RESPONSE:** Wireless providers that serve a challenged area will have the opportunity to respond to a challenge by submitting their own speed test data and speed reduction reports.
- **FINAL ELIGIBILITY:** When the Challenge Process is complete, the FCC will determine and publish the final list of areas eligible for the MF-II support. MF-II will then use a reverse auction to award ongoing support to winning bidders that commit to offer service in eligible areas

# Requesting Access to the MFII Challenge Process Portal

<https://www.fcc.gov/MF2-Challenge-Portal/form>



The screenshot shows the FCC's website with the URL <https://www.fcc.gov/MF2-Challenge-Portal/form> in the browser's address bar. The page features the FCC logo and navigation links such as 'Browse by CATEGORY', 'Browse by BUREAUS & OFFICES', and a search bar. A secondary navigation bar includes links for 'About the FCC', 'Proceedings & Actions', 'Licensing & Databases', 'Reports & Research', 'News & Events', and 'For Consumers'. The main content area is titled 'MF-II Challenge Portal Access Request' and includes a breadcrumb 'Home /'. Below the title, a notice states: 'Approved by OMB 3060-1251 (est. average burden per response for all aspects of this collection is 204 hours for challengers and 71 hours for challenged parties)'. The section is labeled 'Entity Identification' and contains the instruction: 'Enter the following information to identify the entity eligible to participate in the Mobility Fund Phase II Challenge Process:'. There are two required fields: 'Entity Legal Name \*' with a text input box, and 'Entity Type \*' with a dropdown menu currently showing '- Select -'.

Secure | <https://www.fcc.gov/MF2-Challenge-Portal/form>

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## MF-II Challenge Portal Access Request

Approved by OMB 3060-1251 (est. average burden per response for all aspects of this collection is 204 hours for challengers and 71 hours for challenged parties).

### Entity Identification

Enter the following information to identify the entity eligible to participate in the Mobility Fund Phase II Challenge Process:

**Entity Legal Name \***

**Entity Type \***

- Select -

# Step 1: Downloading Data

- The **Download Data** page allows you to download a zip archive containing confidential, provider-specific coverage maps (polygon shapefiles), as well as baseline eligible areas and tabular data for each state (or state equivalent)
- In order to view polygon shape files, you will need software that can view shape files (.cpg, .dbf, .prj, .shp, .shx), such as ArcGIS or QGIS.
- This data is used for purposes of creating “Challenges” to coverage areas
- Each state and state equivalent is intersected by a 1 km<sup>2</sup> grid

The screenshot shows the 'Download Data' page of the Mobility Fund II Challenge Process Portal. The page has a blue header with the text 'Mobility Fund II Challenge Process Portal'. Below the header is a navigation bar with two links: 'Download Data' (highlighted in blue) and 'Challenge'. The main content area has a large blue heading 'Download Data' and a subheading '92 days left until the Response window opens'. Below this is a section titled 'Download Coverage Maps, Clutter Data, and the Handset List below.' followed by a checkbox that is checked, with the text 'I acknowledge that provider coverage, clutter, and approved handset data is confidential information provided by the FCC and agree to only use this confidential data for purposes of submitting a challenge within the Mobility Fund II Challenge Process Portal.' At the bottom, there is a dropdown menu showing 'KS' and a blue 'Download' button.

Mobility Fund II Challenge Process Portal


Download Data Challenge

## Download Data

92 days left until the Response window opens

Download Coverage Maps, Clutter Data, and the Handset List below.

☒ I acknowledge that provider coverage, clutter, and approved handset data is confidential information provided by the FCC and agree to only use this confidential data for purposes of submitting a challenge within the Mobility Fund II Challenge Process Portal.

KS 

Download

## Step 2: Creating Challenges

- Authorized user can download the speed test template and help manual
- Users can upload Challenge speed test data file by state (or state equivalent)

The screenshot displays the 'Mobility Fund II Challenge Process Portal' interface. At the top, a blue header bar contains the portal title and a user profile for Jonathan.McCormack@acme.wireless at Acme Wireless Co. with a 'Log Out' link. Below the header, a navigation bar includes 'Download Data' and 'Challenge' tabs. Under the 'Challenge' tab, there are two sub-tabs: 'Create Challenge' (which is active and underlined) and 'Review/Certify Challenge'. The main content area is titled 'Create Challenge By State' in large blue text. Below this title, two lines of status information are shown: '147 days left to create/certify Challenges' and '96280 grid cells not certified across all states'. The page is divided into two main sections. The left section, titled 'Challenge Upload', contains the instruction 'Create a Challenge by selecting a state and uploading a file with your speed test data'. It features a 'Select State' dropdown menu with a blue downward arrow and an 'Upload File' button. The right section, titled 'Challenge Help', lists two links: 'Challenge Instructions' and 'Challenger Speed Test Template', each accompanied by a document icon.



# Collecting and Formatting Speed Test Data

- Challenger Speed Test files must be structured according to the USAC file template, which shows all the fields that you must include
- You must upload your Challenger Speed Test file to the Mobility Fund II Challenge System as a plain-text CSV file. To convert a Microsoft Excel (.xlsx) spreadsheet into a CSV file, within Excel, select File > Save As, choose CSV (Comma delimited), and select Save

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
latitude	longitude	timestamp	signal_strength	download_speed	latency	provider_id	provider_name	device_id	device_imei	measurement_method_code	measurement_app_name	measurement_server_location

Field	Sample
latitude	38.03176507
longitude	-121.74140294
timestamp	2018-03-03 06:38 -8:00
signal_strength	-119.40
<b>download_speed</b>	<b>0.2589</b>
latency	84
provider_id	90
provider_name	Wireless Entities
device_id	7
device_imei	294124427605837
measurement_method_code	2
<b>measurement_app_name</b>	<b>FCC Speed Test</b>
measurement_server_location	4.53.112.254

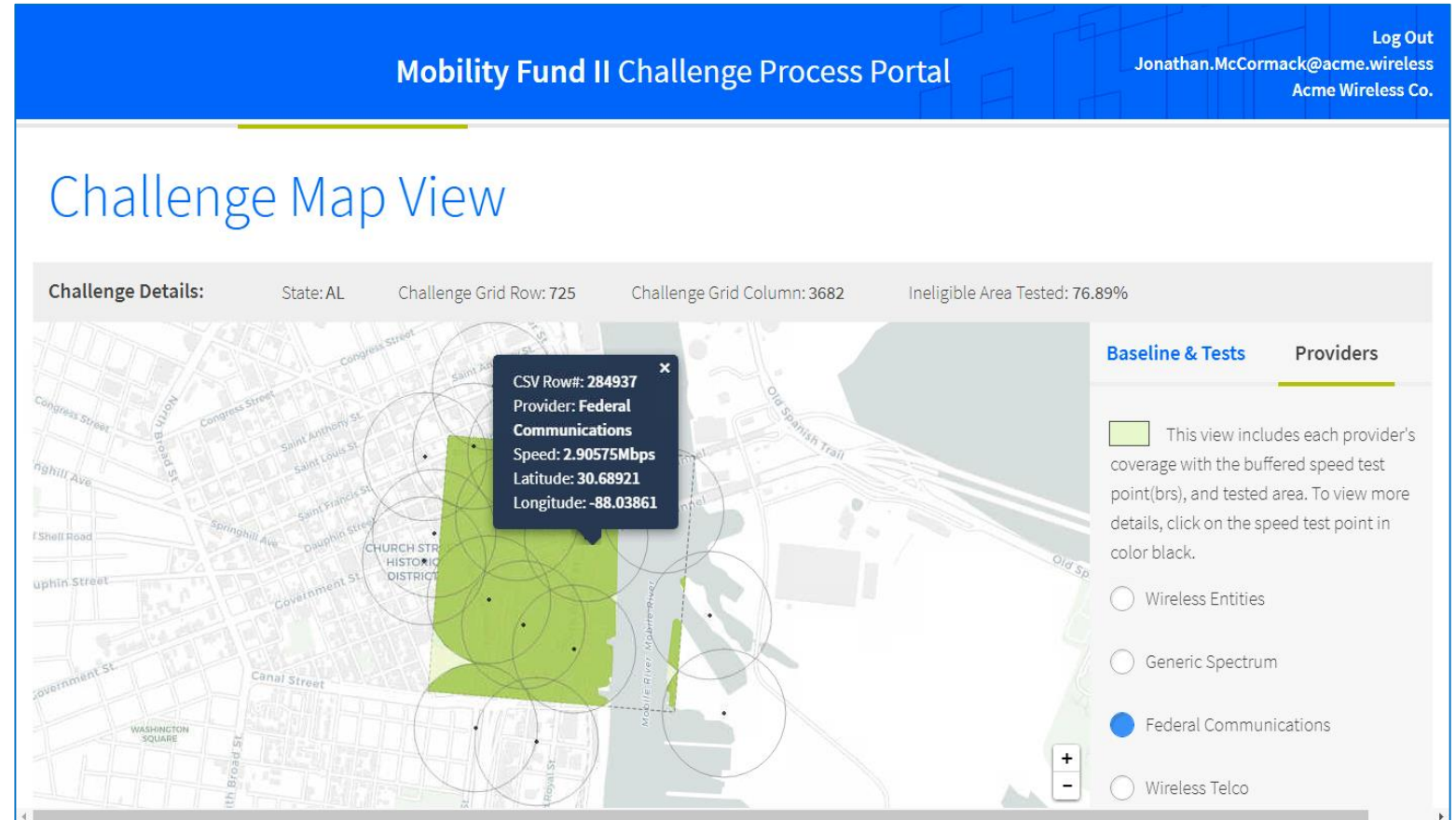
# Creating a Challenge for a State

- Select the state for which you would like to upload speed test data from the dropdown menu on the **Challenge Upload** form
- Click on the **Upload File** button
- Select a properly formatted **Challenger Speed Test** CSV file from your computer and click **OK** to upload the file

The screenshot displays the 'Mobility Fund II Challenge Process Portal' interface. At the top, a blue header contains the portal name and a user name 'Jon'. Below this is a navigation bar with 'Download Data' and 'Challenge' tabs. The 'Challenge' tab is active, showing sub-tabs for 'Create Challenge' (highlighted with a yellow underline) and 'Review/Certify Challenge'. The main heading is 'Create Challenge By State'. Below the heading, it states '147 days left to create/certify Challenges' and '96280 grid cells not certified across all states'. The 'Challenge Upload' section contains a dropdown menu with 'KS' selected and a blue 'Upload File' button, which is circled in blue. To the right, the 'Challenge Help' section lists links for 'Challenge Instructions' (with a PDF icon) and 'Challenger Speed Test Template' (with a CSV icon).

## Step 3: Validating Data

- Challenge speed test data can be viewed on a map
- Each speed test point is buffered
- System validates which part of coverage map(s) have been “Challenged” with speed test data < 5 Mbps



## Step 4: Certifying Challenges

- Challengers must certify to the accuracy and completeness of the submitted data in order to complete the challenge for one or more grid cell.
- A particular 1 km<sup>2</sup> grid cell is presumptively considered “Challenged” if  $\geq 75\%$  of the coverage is “tested”

### Challenge Detail

Displaying 1-3 of 3 records

Filter by: Status

Select Status ▾

Ineligible Area Tested

$\geq 75\%$  ▾

<input type="checkbox"/>	State	Challenge Grid Row	Challenge Grid Column	Ineligible Area Tested	Status	Associated Speed Test	Map View
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AZ	1311	1731	76.87%	Not Certified	<a href="#">View</a>	<a href="#">View</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AZ	1325	1715	90.89%	Not Certified	<a href="#">View</a>	<a href="#">View</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AZ	1461	1643	82.20%	Not Certified	<a href="#">View</a>	<a href="#">View</a>

Show 50 ▾ records/page

[<](#) 1 [>](#) of 1 pages

Certify

# Mobility Fund Phase II Challenge Process Resources

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For more information,  
please visit the MF-II Challenge Process resource page  
on the High Cost Website:

**<https://www.usac.org/hc/MFII-challenge-process.aspx>**

Resources include:

Links to Initial Eligible Areas Map and Portal Access Request Form

Links to FCC Public Notices, Orders and Webinar

User Guide and Data Formatting Instructions

Data Upload Template



**Questions?**