An Active 2025

NTCA
THE RURAL
BROADBAND
ASSOCIATION®

Universal Service

The Backdrop

Leadership

Brendan Carr
Chairman

Geoffrey S~~~~~
Commissioner

Nathan S~~~~~
Commissioner

Anna M. Gomez
Commissioner

Program Overview
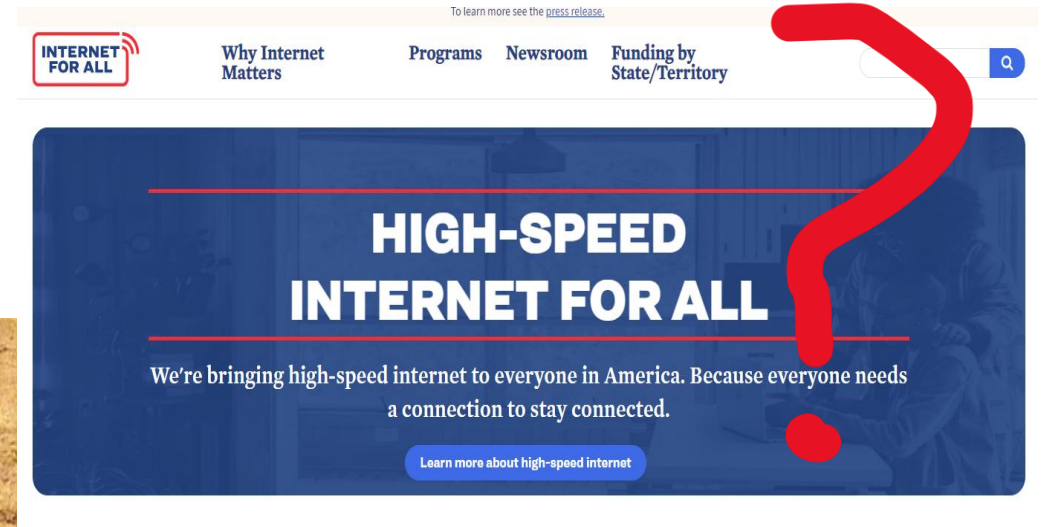
Animals

Biotechnology

Broadband

ReConnect Loan and Grant Program

Program Overview

About

The ReConnect Program offers ~~~~, grants, and loan-grant combinations to facilitate broadband deployment in areas of rural Am~~~ca that currently do not have sufficient access to broadband. In facilitating the expansion of broadband services and infrastructure, the program will fuel long-term rural economic development a~~ opportunities in rural America.

To learn more see the press release.

INTERNET FOR ALL | Why Internet Matters | Programs | Newsroom | Funding by State/Territory

HIGH-SPEED INTERNET FOR ALL

We're bringing high-speed internet to everyone in America. Because everyone needs a connection to stay connected.

Learn more about high-speed internet

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The Courts

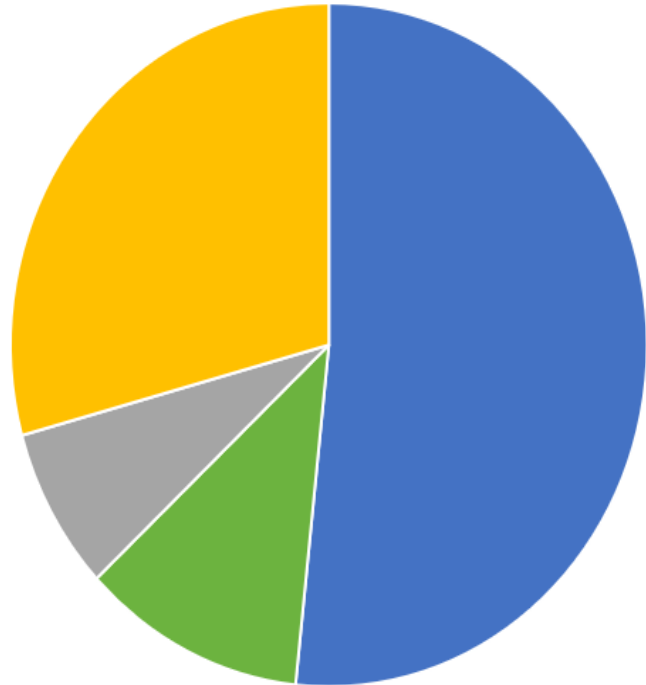# Hooray – we won! (Or did we?)

- **Compelling 6-3 Majority at Supreme Court**
  - No individual delegation issues
  - No "double-layered" delegation

- **But wait – there's more!**
  - Not taking no for an answer – either in court or back at the FCC
  - 254(c)(3) and (h)(2) (Art. I)
  - Private nondelegation BUT statutory and Appropriations Clause (Art. II)
  - APA process

- **Future of Universal Service?**
  - Out of the fire and back into the frying pan . . .

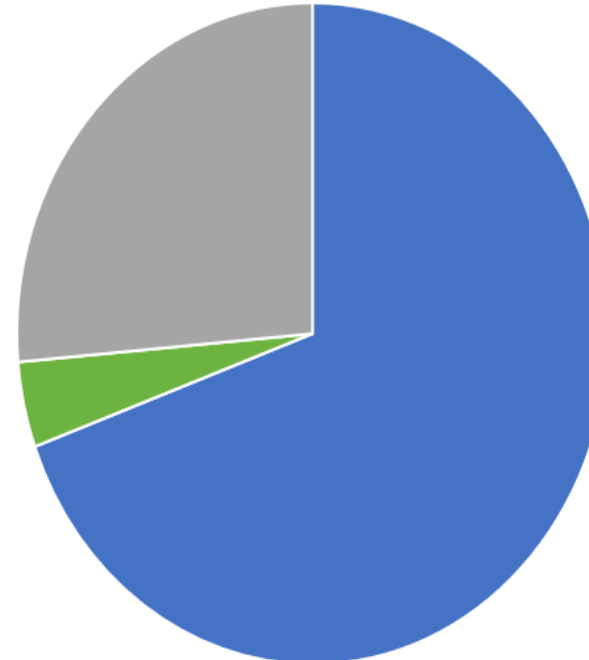NTCA THE RURAL BROADBAND ASSOCIATION

The FCC

USF Baseline

State	BLS	ICC	ACAMII	HCL	ACAM	CAFII_AUC	FHCS_CETC	RDOF	EACAM	Total
Montana	$ 31,340,227	$ 7,248,798	$ 15,108,981	$ 3,601,488	$ 24,699,516	$ 919,348	$ 3,970,840	$ 5,309,219	$ 73,845,249	$ 166,043,666

- **2023 Disbursement**
- **$8.4 Billion Total**

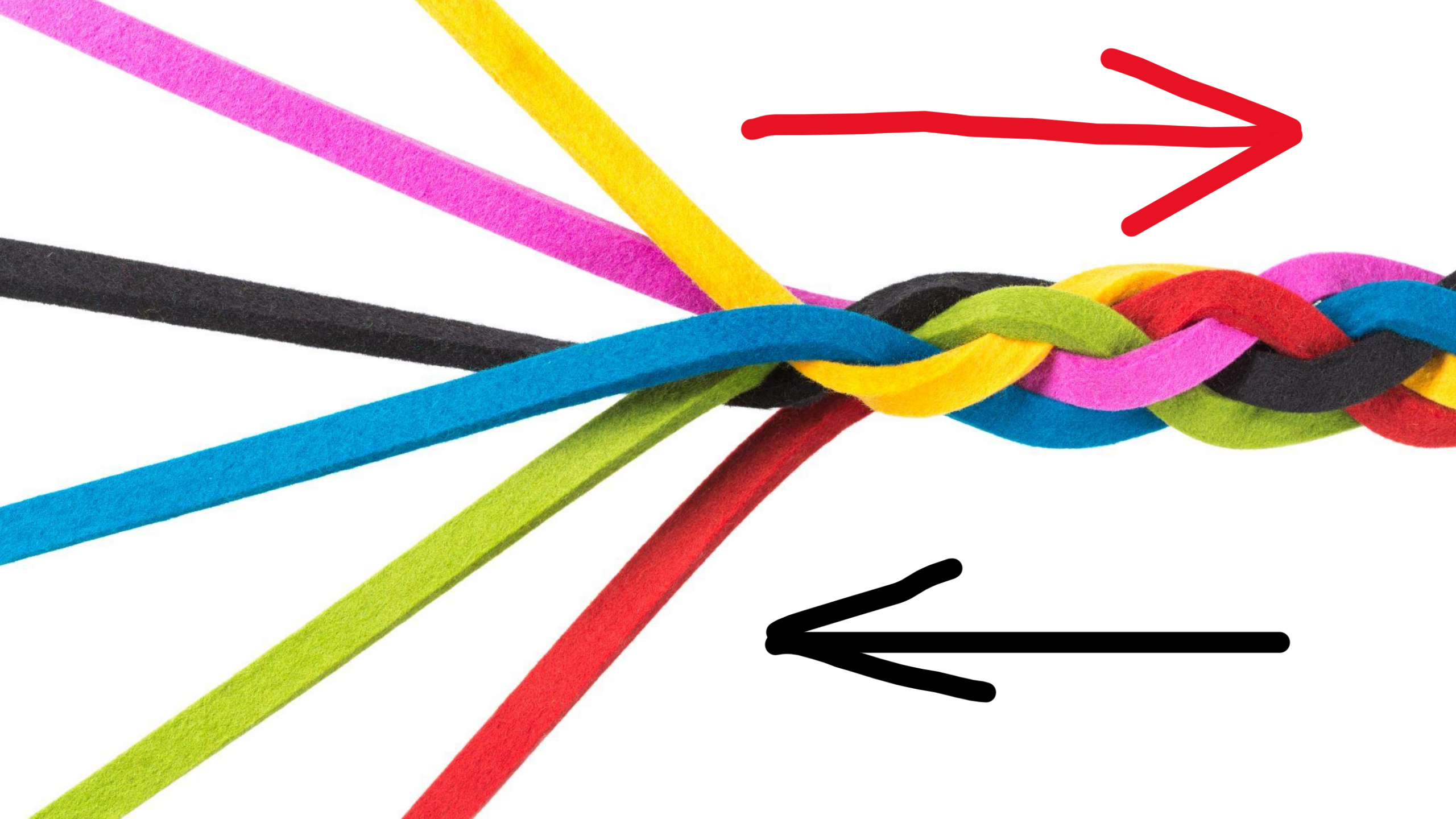■ High-Cost ■ Low-Income ■ Rural Health Care ■ E-Rate

- **2023 High-Cost Claims**
- **$4.26 Billion Total**
- **RLEC Avg. ~ $2.8 Million**
- **Rural Customer Avg. ~ $460**

■ RLEC ■ Other ILEC ■ "CLEC"
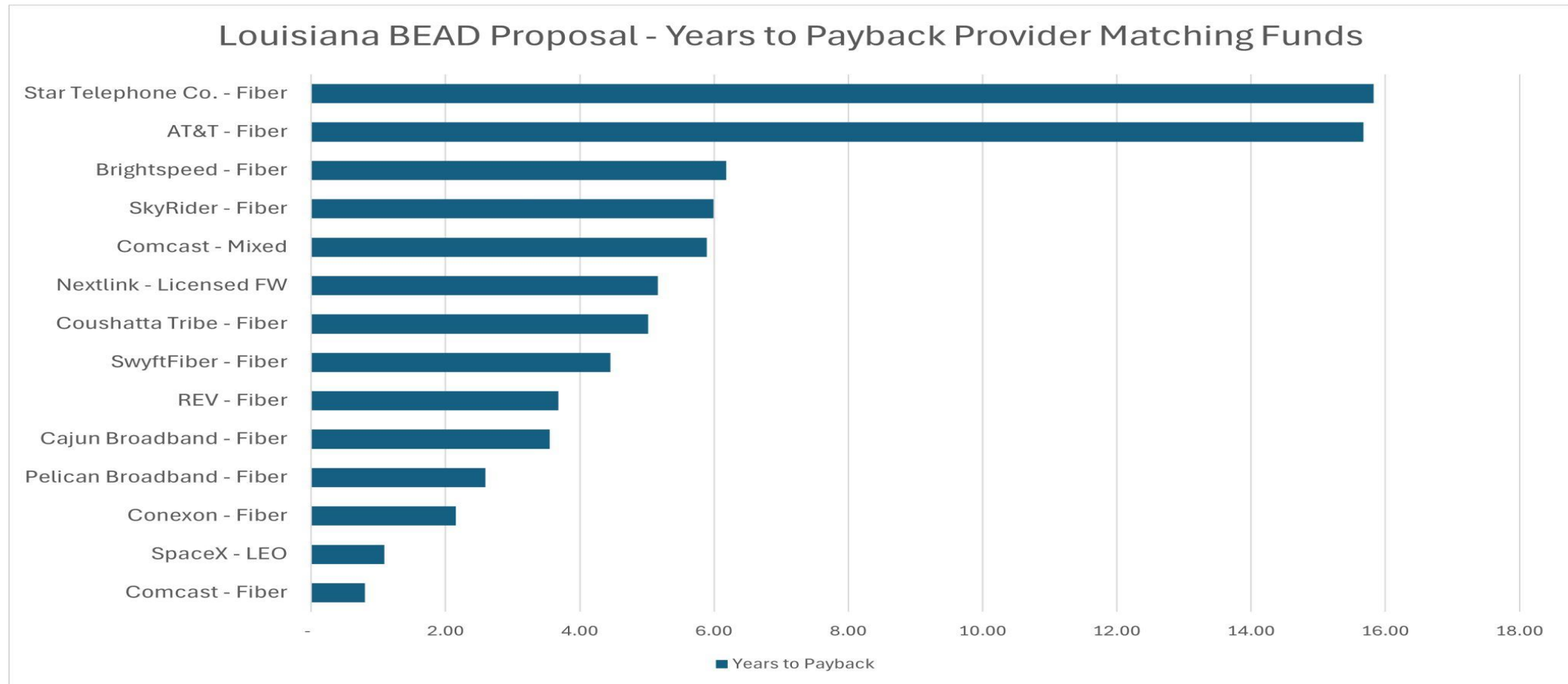
Near-Term Steps Forward and Back

- **Enhanced ACAM Support Adjustments**
  - Done – Data/Fabric versions; definition of "obligated"
  - In Process – Finalizing state enforceable commits and location challenges
  - Open Questions – Meaning of the "5% buffer" and how to recalculate
  - Unknowns – What is the real budget?

- **ACAM 1 and 2 / CAF-BLS and HCLS / Alaska Connect Fund**
  - Mapping/challenges
  - Budgets (including BCM)
  - New buildout obligations
  - Effects of BEAD

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The Future of USF - Distribution

- **Reform may likely look like convergence post-BEAD**
  - ACAM 1/2 in 2028?
  - CAF-BLS/HCLS will be seriously examined at same time
  - CAF 2 and RDOF Auctions will follow
  - Other areas (served and unserved)?

- **Biggest Questions**
  1. Where?
  2. Who?
  3. What kind?
  4. How much?

The Future of USF - Distribution

Louisiana BEAD Proposal - Years to Payback Provider Matching Funds

The Future of USF – Contribution

- **Congressional Working Group**

- **Options**
  - Broadband Revenues
  - Broadband Connections
  - Telephone Numbers
  - Big Tech
  - Cloud/B2B
  - Appropriations

- **Does this help pay for/restart an affordability program?**

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BEAD

BEAD

- **Changes have come quickly**
  - Low-Cost Option
  - Labor requirements
  - Climate resiliency
  - Technology Treatment

- **Taxation of BEAD and others?**

- **Keys now – Mapping Eligible Locations and Scalability**

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BEAD

Virginia BEAD Program - Award Recommendations

Applicant	Locations	Funding	Fund/Loc
All Points Broadband	19,801	$ 171,382,468	$ 8,655
Amazon Kuiper Commercial Services	6,957	$ 4,461,300	$ 641
Citizens Telephone	840	$ 7,676,033	$ 9,138
Cogeco US (Delmar), LLC d/b/a Breezeline	48	$ 520,582	$ 10,845
Comcast	24,343	$ 146,403,435	$ 6,014
Connect Holding II LLC d/b/a Brightspeed	4,963	$ 16,661,198	$ 3,357
Eastern Shore of Virginia Broadband Authority	4,119	$ 8,812,916	$ 2,140
EMPOWER	6,512	$ 35,185,485	$ 5,403
FiberLync	831	$ 2,788,698	$ 3,356
Firefly (CVEC)	486	$ -	$ -
GigaBeam Networks	3,986	$ 18,174,941	$ 4,560
Global Technical Networks/SPARQ	2,304	$ 5,325,023	$ 2,311
Hosted Backbone/Port 80	4,573	$ 21,806,686	$ 4,769
IBT Group	1,519	$ 3,766,585	$ 2,480
iWISP	279	$ 797,940	$ 2,860
Kinex	1,278	$ 1,228,806	$ 962
MGW Communications	600	$ 5,434,483	$ 9,057
Point Broadband	3,757	$ 23,358,488	$ 6,217
RiverStreet Networks	13,509	$ 44,002,222	$ 3,257
Scott County Telephone Cooperative	543	$ 482,000	$ 888
SpaceX	5,579	$ 3,258,750	$ 584
Verizon	4,645	$ 30,431,448	$ 6,551
Wi-Fiber	2,759	$ 23,187,805	$ 8,404
ZiTel	12,985	$ 38,130,346	$ 2,936
TOTAL	**127,216**	**$ 613,277,638**	**$ 4,821**

Broadband (de)Regulation

Delete, Delete, Delete

- **Court case impacts on prior regulations**
  - Net neutrality
  - Digital discrimination
  - Data breach reporting

- **The Delete Docket is more than the Delete Docket**
  - Cost accounting rules
  - SLCs and ARCs
  - Business Data Services/Special Access
  - Reporting rules
  - Tech/IP Transitions

706, Speeds, & Competition

- **Incremental Speed Standards Have Been the FCC's Norm**

- **706 Historically is Among the FCC's Most Political Dockets**

- **FCC Proposing to Maintain (100/20) and Retreat (Gig/500) for the Next Year**

- **Good news – fixed and mobile complementary**

- **Satellite – served or unserved?**

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Engage!!!

Broadband Built to Last

www.ntca.org/universalservice