

# APPENDIX H – ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (FCC)

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- On March 31, 2020, the FCC [adopted](#) the COVID-19 Telehealth Program, which will provide \$200 million in funding, appropriated by Congress as part of the CARES Act, to help health care providers furnish connected care services to patients at their homes or mobile locations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The FCC has moved quickly to distribute this funding to help health care providers and patients across the country during the coronavirus pandemic, and, as of June 10, 2020, had [approved](#) funding for 305 health care providers in 42 states plus Washington, DC for a total of \$104.98 million in funding.
- On March 3, 2020, the FCC adopted a [Report and Order](#) making 280 MHz of spectrum in the C-band available for flexible use, including 5G, through a public auction that will commence on December 8, 2020. This is the Commission’s most significant action yet to repurpose mid-band airwaves and would represent a critical step toward securing United States leadership in 5G. On June 1, FCC Chairman Pai [announced](#) that the repurposing of C-band spectrum would move forward on an accelerated timeframe, enabling the critical C-band spectrum to be used to deliver new and innovative wireless services to consumers years ahead of schedule.
- As of May 14, 2020, the FCC had [authorized](#) \$1.44 billion in funding to expand broadband to 632,420 homes and small businesses in rural America from the Connect America Fund Phase II auction. Over 99% of homes and businesses served with support from the auction will have broadband available with download speeds of at least 25 megabits per second (Mbps) and 53% will have at least 100 Mbps service available. Companies receiving support have included wireless Internet service providers, satellite providers, electric cooperatives, and price cap and rate-of-return carriers.
- In September 2019, the FCC [announced](#) that bidding will commence in an auction of licenses for 3.5 GHz mid-band spectrum on June 25, 2020. This will be

another important step toward releasing flexible-use mid-band spectrum to the market and furthering deployment of fifth-generation wireless, the Internet of Things, and other advanced spectrum-based services in the United States. In March, the FCC [announced](#) that the auction was delayed until July 23, 2020.

- In September 2019, the FCC adopted a [Report and Order](#) in which it approved \$950 million in funding over ten years to improve, expand, and harden communications networks in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This funding will provide mid- and long-term support to deploy fast, resilient, and reliable networks, building on the results of the Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund and the Connect USVI Fund, which provided support for network restoration in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017.
- In August 2019, the FCC [authorized](#) over \$4.9 billion in support over the next decade to 171 rate-of-return carriers for maintaining, improving, and expanding affordable rural broadband services for 455,334 homes and businesses in 39 States and American Samoa, including 44,243 locations on Tribal lands. Support recipients must provide services of at least 25 Megabits per second downstream and 3 Mbps upstream to over 363 locations, including over 37,000 locations on Tribal lands.
- In August 2019, the FCC [authorized](#) nearly \$16.2 million in Federal funding over the next decade to expand broadband to 8,088 unserved rural New York homes and businesses, the second round of matching funds provided in a partnership with the State's New NY Broadband Program. The funding was provided through the FCC's Connect America Fund. This authorization followed the FCC's authorization on July 15, 2019 of over \$39.2 million in Federal funding over the next decade, also in conjunction with the New NY Broadband Program, to expand broadband to 15,442 unserved rural New York homes and businesses.
- On May 28, 2019, the FCC [announced](#) the successful conclusion of bidding in Auction 102 for 24 GHz band licenses. Auction 102 is the Commission's second auction of millimeter wave spectrum suitable for 5G. With the closing of bidding in Auction 102, along with the closing of bidding in Auction 101 for 28 GHz band licenses in January 2019, the FCC completed its first set of high-band airwaves auctions to make spectrum available for 5G wireless, Internet of Things, and other advanced spectrum-based services.

- As of December 31, 2019, recipients of funding through the FCC's high cost programs have reported deploying broadband to approximately 4.2 million homes and businesses. Recipients must report deployment data as of December 31 each year.