



PUBLIC NOTICE

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**WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU AND OFFICE OF ECONOMICS AND
ANALYTICS ANNOUNCE REVISED 2024 URBAN RATE SURVEY BROADBAND
SERVICES BENCHMARKS AND WAIVER OF IMPLEMENTATION DATE TO
FEBRUARY 1, 2024**

WC Docket No. 10-90

By this Public Notice, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) and the Office of Economics and Analytics (Office) announce revised 2024 reasonable comparability benchmarks for fixed broadband services for eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) that are subject to broadband public interest obligations.¹ The Bureau and Office determined there was an error in calculation of the broadband rates; therefore, we have posted revised broadband rates and explanatory notes on the Commission's website at <https://www.fcc.gov/economics-analytics/industry-analysis-division/urban-rate-survey-data-resources>. The reasonable comparability benchmark for voice services and the required minimum usage allowance for fixed broadband remain the same as announced previously.²

The following table provides the revised 2024 benchmark for several different broadband service offerings, though providers will need to determine the benchmark for services with characteristics not shown in the table:³

¹ These ETCs include incumbent local exchange rate-of-return carriers, Rural Broadband Experiment providers, CAF Phase II Auction (Auction 903) winners, Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Auction (Auction 904) winners, Bringing Puerto Rico Together Fund providers, Connect USVI providers, and Enhanced A-CAM providers. See *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket No. 10-90 et al., Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 26 FCC Rcd 17663 (2011) (*USF/ICC Transformation Order*), *aff'd sub nom*, *In re: FCC 11-161*, 753 F.3d 1015 (10th Cir. 2014); *Rural Digital Opportunity Fund*, WC Docket No. 19-126, *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90, Report and Order, 35 FCC Rcd 686, 707, para. 42 (2020).

² *Wireline Competition Bureau and Office of Economics and Analytics Announce Results of 2024 Urban Rates Survey for Fixed Voice and Broadband Services, Posting of Survey Data and Explanatory Notes, and Required Minimum Usage Allowance for Eligible Telecommunications Carriers*, Public Notice, WC Docket No. 10-90, DA 23-1172 (WCB/OEA Dec. 15, 2023).

³ We emphasize that carriers subject to broadband public interest obligations may offer their customers services other than those meeting the defined benchmark and minimum usage allowance. As long as the carrier offers at least one broadband service plan that meets the relevant metrics, it is free to offer other plans and packages to meet the varying needs of consumers. We note that usage allowance requirements do not apply to those areas that rely exclusively on satellite backhaul. See *USF/ICC Transformation Order*, 26 FCC Rcd at 17699-700, para. 101; see also 47 CFR § 54.313(g).

Download Bandwidth (Mbps)	Upload Bandwidth (Mbps)	Capacity Allowance (GB)	2024 U.S.	2024 Alaska
4	1	660	\$83.80	\$109.44
4	1	Unlimited	\$83.80	\$109.44
10	1	660	\$83.80	\$109.44
10	1	Unlimited	\$83.80	\$109.44
25	3	660	\$89.41	\$128.70
25	3	Unlimited	\$89.41	\$128.70
25	5	660	\$88.91	\$127.03
25	5	Unlimited	\$88.91	\$127.03
50	5	660	\$89.66	\$129.94
50	5	Unlimited	\$92.19	\$132.83
100	10	Unlimited	\$91.35	\$131.66
100	20	660	\$91.24	\$132.47
100	20	Unlimited	\$92.24	\$134.23
250	25	Unlimited	\$104.62	\$153.98
500	50	Unlimited	\$119.73	\$175.78
1000	100	Unlimited	\$134.28	\$193.39
1000	500	660	\$133.36	\$191.77
1000	500	Unlimited	\$134.29	\$193.39

*As noted below, the minimum usage allowance for carriers receiving support from the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund is 2 Terabytes (TB) for the Above-Baseline and Gigabit tiers.

The Office has posted a revised Excel file with a tool in which providers can enter the relevant variables to determine the benchmark for specific service characteristics at <https://www.fcc.gov/economics-analytics/industry-analysis-division/urban-rate-survey-data-resources>.

Under the Commission's rules, each ETC must certify that it is meeting the relevant reasonable comparability benchmarks for fixed voice and broadband services provided during 2024 in FCC Form 481, to be filed no later than July 1, 2025.⁴ However, because the broadband comparability benchmarks are being revised, the Office and Bureau waive the requirement that ETCs meet these benchmarks beginning January 1, 2024 and instead will provide ETCs until February 1, 2024 to meet the 2024 benchmarks. This waiver is in the public interest as it will ensure that ETCs have sufficient time to inform customers of any rate changes and to make any necessary changes to their billing systems.⁵

⁴ 47 CFR § 54.313(a)(10), (a)(12); *see also USF/ICC Transformation Order*, 26 FCC Rcd at 17693, 17695, 18046-47, paras. 81, 86, 1026. Carriers subject to the Alaska Plan are required to meet Alaska-specific benchmarks and to certify that they are meeting the relevant reasonable comparability benchmark for their broadband service offering in the FCC Form 481 filed no later than July 1, 2025. *See Connect America Fund; Universal Service Reform–Mobility Fund; Connect America Fund–Alaska Plan*, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 16-271, WT Docket No. 10-208, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 31 FCC Rcd 10139, 10149, para. 28 (2016); *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90, Order, 31 FCC Rcd 12086, 12092, para. 21 (2016).

⁵ Generally, the Commission's rules may be waived for good cause shown. 47 CFR § 1.3. Waiver of the Commission's rules is appropriate only if both: (1) special circumstances warrant a deviation from the general rule, and (2) such deviation will serve the public interest. *See Northeast Cellular Tel. Co. v. FCC*, 897 F.2d 1164, 1166 (D.C. Cir. 1990) (citing *WAIT Radio v. FCC*, 418 F.2d 1153, 1157-59 (D.C. Cir. 1969), *cert. denied*, 93 S.Ct. 461 (1972)).

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