

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS ALABAMA

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Alabama?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 1,490 schools and 239 libraries received \$136,186,232 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 762,345 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 230 health care providers received \$13,974,109 for connections.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 82,589 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Alabama received \$73,346,896 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS ALASKA

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Alaska?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 496 schools and 81 libraries received \$451,440,799 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 137,603 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 227 health care providers received \$602,554,584 for connections.
- Two projects received \$1,681,852 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 19,289 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Alaska received \$167,214,967 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS AMERICAN SAMOA

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in American Samoa?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 66 schools and one libraries received \$3,155,664 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 14,799 students.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 2,002 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in American Samoa received \$2,993,607 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS ARIZONA

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Arizona?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 2,073 schools and 302 libraries received \$165,531,682 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 1,295,333 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 176 health care providers received \$24,986,849 for connections.
- One project received \$237,150 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 184,850 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Arizona received \$68,470,271 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS ARKANSAS

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Arkansas?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 888 schools and 129 libraries received \$48,501,994 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 437,972 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 669 health care providers received \$30,700,860 for connections.
- One project received \$6,183,189 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 79,188 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Arkansas received \$110,852,697 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS CALIFORNIA

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in California?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 11,629 schools and 1,034 libraries received \$911,723,673 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 6,572,531 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 567 health care providers received \$65,246,456 for connections.
- Eleven projects received \$3,205,866 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 1,202,952 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in California received \$72,713,851 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS COLORADO

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Colorado?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 1,922 schools and 156 libraries received \$74,773,583 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 898,597 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 456 health care providers received \$26,019,109 for connections.
- One project received \$824,096 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 91,191 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Colorado received \$46,123,412 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS CONNECTICUT

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Connecticut?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 1,212 schools and 123 libraries received \$65,432,756 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 565,174 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 125 health care providers received \$8,829,287 for connections.
- Five projects received \$2,372,308 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 56,056 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Connecticut received \$32,011 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS DELAWARE

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Delaware?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 254 schools and 33 libraries received \$14,045,534 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 160,048 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 51 health care providers received \$3,310,893 for connections.
- One project received \$3,253,627 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 12,323 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Delaware received \$1,463,737 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in District of Columbia?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 238 schools and 26 libraries received \$23,893,027 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 94,874 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- Three projects received \$2,433,156 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 19,078 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS FLORIDA

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Florida?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 4,487 schools and 399 libraries received \$373,121,553 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 3,103,633 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 356 health care providers received \$20,831,020 for connections.
- Two projects received \$1,523,833 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 255,412 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Florida received \$26,909,782 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS GEORGIA

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Georgia?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 2,465 schools and 374 libraries received \$181,424,092 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 1,814,416 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 681 health care providers received \$27,493,131 for connections.
- Seven projects received \$1,522,920 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 279,243 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Georgia received \$105,076,969 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS GUAM

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Guam?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 42 schools received \$1,043,800 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 28,817 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, three health care providers received \$576,776 for connections.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 346 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Guam received \$14,974,836 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS HAWAII

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Hawaii?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 312 schools and 51 libraries received \$33,368,308 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 186,475 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 48 health care providers received \$3,114,164 for connections.
- Three projects received \$719,289 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 16,506 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Hawaii received \$4,247,422 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS IDAHO

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Idaho?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 761 schools and 117 libraries received \$34,768,669 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 320,178 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 134 health care providers received \$8,391,826 for connections.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 13,848 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Idaho received \$52,334,851 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS ILLINOIS

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Illinois?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 4,493 schools and 349 libraries received \$236,944,556 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 2,089,794 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 601 health care providers received \$33,806,987 for connections.
- Six projects received \$2,297,480 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 265,976 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Illinois received \$116,274,373 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS INDIANA

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Indiana?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 2,044 schools and 371 libraries received \$139,855,331 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 1,111,942 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 519 health care providers received \$23,046,276 for connections.
- Two projects received \$676,830 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 169,966 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Indiana received \$98,976,898 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS IOWA

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Iowa?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 1,471 schools and 107 libraries received \$54,642,660 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 563,918 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 412 health care providers received \$18,397,851 for connections.
- Two projects received \$6,546,652 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 48,561 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Iowa received \$189,197,296 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS KANSAS

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Kansas?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 1,423 schools and 219 libraries received \$64,849,419 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 510,135 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 466 health care providers received \$22,248,611 for connections.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 26,094 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Kansas received \$149,968,677 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS KENTUCKY

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Kentucky?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 1,487 schools and 215 libraries received \$104,860,363 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 701,000 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 656 health care providers received \$23,356,538 for connections.
- Two projects received \$7,181,655 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 151,361 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Kentucky received \$115,652,012 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS LOUISIANA

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Louisiana?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 1,559 schools and 357 libraries received \$129,314,129 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 793,413 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 314 health care providers received \$29,485,881 for connections.
- Two projects received \$9,531,351 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 184,287 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Louisiana received \$77,283,823 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS MAINE

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Maine?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 597 schools and 229 libraries received \$14,694,112 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 167,394 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 303 health care providers received \$18,014,227 for connections.
- One project received \$2,560,098 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 19,899 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Maine received \$25,707,698 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS MARYLAND

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Maryland?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 1,656 schools and 198 libraries received \$73,884,019 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 1,034,153 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 37 health care providers received \$3,451,714 for connections.
- Five projects received \$4,067,406 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 142,677 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Maryland received \$6,094,335 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS MASSACHUSETTS

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Massachusetts?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 2,010 schools and 194 libraries received \$95,093,564 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 973,468 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 82 health care providers received \$9,045,561 for connections.
- Three projects received \$4,486,129 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 104,960 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Massachusetts received \$2,165,316 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS MICHIGAN

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Michigan?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 3,687 schools and 425 libraries received \$151,934,306 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 1,604,342 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 628 health care providers received \$32,676,181 for connections.
- One project received \$606,339 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 305,399 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Michigan received \$93,995,084 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS MINNESOTA

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Minnesota?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 2,190 schools and 348 libraries received \$87,187,837 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 932,548 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 357 health care providers received \$12,193,932 for connections.
- Three projects received \$6,473,025 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 74,939 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Minnesota received \$167,091,436 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS MISSISSIPPI

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Mississippi?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 1,112 schools and 228 libraries received \$68,066,857 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 506,970 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 347 health care providers received \$18,891,020 for connections.
- Two projects received \$2,540,735 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 93,644 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Mississippi received \$155,470,335 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS MISSOURI

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Missouri?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 2,421 schools and 337 libraries received \$94,559,416 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 958,925 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 664 health care providers received \$29,899,910 for connections.
- One project received \$393,012 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 123,820 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Missouri received \$138,353,540 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS MONTANA

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Montana?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 765 schools and 17 libraries received \$14,597,771 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 161,892 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 101 health care providers received \$6,670,735 for connections.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 3,522 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Montana received \$138,350,252 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS NEBRASKA

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Nebraska?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 1,119 schools and 97 libraries received \$36,914,161 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 358,624 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 240 health care providers received \$15,854,972 for connections.
- One project received \$6,183,189 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 6,993 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Nebraska received \$104,775,664 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS NEVADA

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Nevada?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 675 schools and 74 libraries received \$89,917,395 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 493,933 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 64 health care providers received \$9,555,618 for connections.
- One project received \$331,884 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 95,660 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Nevada received \$20,502,723 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS NEW HAMPSHIRE

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in New Hampshire?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 449 schools received \$10,956,307 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 163,393 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 146 health care providers received \$13,498,520 for connections.
- One project received \$559,634 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 8,683 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in New Hampshire received \$7,688,999 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS NEW JERSEY

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in New Jersey?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 2,834 schools and 186 libraries received \$160,129,014 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 1,479,194 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 36 health care providers received \$2,185,384 for connections.
- Two projects received \$690,200 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 122,756 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in New Jersey received \$632,753 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS NEW MEXICO

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in New Mexico?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 969 schools and 77 libraries received \$68,547,328 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 361,944 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 228 health care providers received \$11,622,399 for connections.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 58,731 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in New Mexico received \$89,417,583 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS NEW YORK

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in New York?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 5,817 schools and 863 libraries received \$481,580,337 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 2,921,437 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 489 health care providers received \$26,699,656 for connections.
- Ten projects received \$8,134,156 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 674,472 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in New York received \$45,211,803 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS NORTH CAROLINA

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in North Carolina?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 3,022 schools and 242 libraries received \$207,161,545 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 1,738,327 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 542 health care providers received \$69,408,374 for connections.
- One project received \$1,464,759 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 134,405 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in North Carolina received \$94,704,696 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS NORTH DAKOTA

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in North Dakota?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 421 schools and 34 libraries received \$9,369,644 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 127,720 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 139 health care providers received \$6,491,933 for connections.
- One project received \$6,183,189 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 7,406 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in North Dakota received \$185,339,542 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Northern Mariana Islands?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 19 schools and three libraries received \$424,560 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 9,429 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, one health care provider received \$23,400 for connections.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 2,189 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Northern Mariana Islands received \$890,265 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS OHIO

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Ohio?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 3,956 schools and 723 libraries received \$206,448,477 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 1,971,464 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 645 health care providers received \$35,989,834 for connections.
- Six projects received \$8,346,659 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 338,390 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Ohio received \$35,885,789 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS OKLAHOMA

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Oklahoma?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 2,075 schools and 208 libraries received \$130,096,012 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 745,041 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 485 health care providers received \$20,763,956 for connections.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 165,530 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Oklahoma received \$170,141,088 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS OREGON

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Oregon?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 1,278 schools and 61 libraries received \$69,520,252 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 571,465 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 205 health care providers received \$15,384,325 for connections.
- Two projects received \$6,028,293 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 17,700 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Oregon received \$86,653,818 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS PENNSYLVANIA

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Pennsylvania?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 3,511 schools and 525 libraries received \$174,671,011 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 1,927,956 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 312 health care providers received \$27,210,543 for connections.
- Five projects received \$7,197,137 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 332,993 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Pennsylvania received \$51,761,345 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS PUERTO RICO

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Puerto Rico?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 1,253 schools and 584 libraries received \$94,551,873 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 361,124 students.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 551,253 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Puerto Rico received \$75,970,170 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS RHODE ISLAND

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Rhode Island?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 389 schools and 74 libraries received \$12,743,001 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 155,339 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, four health care providers received \$241,794 for connections.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 24,319 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Rhode Island received \$163,651 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS SOUTH CAROLINA

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in South Carolina?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 1,354 schools and 232 libraries received \$94,111,898 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 810,792 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 312 health care providers received \$44,035,056 for connections.
- Three projects received \$8,457,689 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 115,755 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in South Carolina received \$148,185,845 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS SOUTH DAKOTA

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in South Dakota?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 763 schools and 20 libraries received \$12,475,061 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 170,658 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 194 health care providers received \$6,338,478 for connections.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 5,243 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in South Dakota received \$120,121,732 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS TENNESSEE

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Tennessee?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 1,908 schools and 196 libraries received \$256,698,958 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 1,053,869 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 291 health care providers received \$24,213,499 for connections.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 147,517 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Tennessee received \$94,851,921 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS TEXAS

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Texas?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 9,523 schools and 411 libraries received \$612,411,804 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 5,845,579 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 683 health care providers received \$49,863,069 for connections.
- One project received \$59,142 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 238,482 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Texas received \$248,921,533 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in the U.S. Virgin Islands?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 40 schools and six libraries received \$3,531,856 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 13,405 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 10 health care providers received \$307,312 for connections.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 1,316 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in U.S. Virgin Islands received \$14,899,612 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS UTAH

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Utah?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 1,200 schools and 92 libraries received \$36,633,303 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 722,067 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 124 health care providers received \$10,949,959 for connections.
- Nine projects received \$5,550,146 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 29,493 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Utah received \$44,019,718 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS VERMONT

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Vermont?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 322 schools and 42 libraries received \$11,100,618 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 85,019 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 171 health care providers received \$5,703,999 for connections.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 7,773 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Vermont received \$18,079,905 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS VIRGINIA

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Virginia?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 2,081 schools and 311 libraries received \$136,175,661 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 1,367,675 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 438 health care providers received \$22,397,339 for connections.
- Two projects received \$4,829,700 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 161,583 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Virginia received \$59,670,224 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS WASHINGTON

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Washington?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 2,392 schools and 344 libraries received \$108,572,713 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 1,167,433 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 227 health care providers received \$29,640,801 for connections.
- Two projects received \$6,004,597 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 139,911 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Washington received \$67,760,389 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS WEST VIRGINIA

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in West Virginia?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 766 schools and 168 libraries received \$44,308,225 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 272,670 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 281 health care providers received \$15,320,827 for connections.
- Two projects received \$761,600 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 57,666 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in West Virginia received \$55,313,002 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS WISCONSIN

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Wisconsin?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 2,452 schools and 362 libraries received \$99,782,534 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 924,713 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 507 health care providers received \$41,222,201 for connections.
- One project received \$122,830 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 119,586 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Wisconsin received \$157,506,165 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND: HOW IT IMPACTS WYOMING

Under Threat by the Courts, FCC May Be Forced to End Vital Programs That Help Connect Schools and Libraries, Hospitals, Rural Areas & Low-Income Households

The Universal Service Fund is a \$8 billion decades-old mechanism created by Congress in 1996 to support vital communications investments where the marketplace falls short: connecting schools and libraries to high-speed internet; helping rural hospitals adopt telemedicine; ensuring low-income households have basic communications services; and investing in broadband in communities that need it most. As required by law, telecommunications carriers contribute a portion of their revenues to the Universal Service Fund.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that the current administration of the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional. Chairwoman Rosenworcel [called](#) the decision “misguided and wrong,” because it “upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide.”

This decision breaks with rulings by the Sixth and Eleventh Circuits. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has said the agency will pursue all available avenues for review.

Why Does the Universal Service Fund Matter in Wyoming?

Connecting Schools and Libraries (E-Rate Program):

- From 2022-2024, 162 schools and three libraries received \$2,773,091 for broadband connectivity and internal connections.
- These programs benefited 44,227 students.

Broadband for Health Care Providers (Rural Health Care Program)

- From 2021-2023, 105 health care providers received \$4,124,925 for connections.
- One project received \$824,096 for the Connected Care Pilot Program, which explores how the Universal Service Fund can support telehealth beyond brick-and-mortar medical facilities.

Basic Phone and Internet for Low-Income Households (Lifeline Program)

- In March 2024, 937 subscribers received discounted phone and/or internet service.

High-Speed Internet in Hard-to-Connect Communities (High-Cost Program)

- In 2023, carriers in Wyoming received \$42,779,745 to connect households in the most rural communities.

###

Released: August 8, 2024

Media Contact: MediaRelations@fcc.gov

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*

