Federal Communications Commission

2025

Budget Estimates to Congress

March 2024

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INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY OF REQUEST

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INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY OF REQUEST

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) is pleased to present its fiscal year (FY) 2025 budget request.

The FCC is an independent regulatory agency of the United States Government. The FCC is charged with regulating interstate and international communications by radio, television, wire, satellite, and cable. The Commission also regulates telecommunications and advanced communication services and video programming for people with disabilities, as set forth in various sections of the Communications Act.

As specified in section 1 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, the FCC's mission is to "make available, so far as possible, to all the people of the United States, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex, rapid, efficient, Nation-wide, and world-wide wire and radio communication service with adequate facilities at reasonable charges."[1] In addition, section 1 provides that the Commission was created "for the purpose of the national defense" and "for the purpose of promoting safety of life and property through the use of wire and radio communications."[2]

The FCC is directed by five Commissioners appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate for five-year terms, except when filling the unexpired term of a previous Commissioner. Only three Commissioners can be from the same political party at any given time. The President designates one of the Commissioners to serve as the Chairperson.

The FCC's vision is to pursue policies to bring affordable, reliable high-speed broadband to 100 percent of the country and encourage the private sector to build, maintain, and upgrade next-generation networks so that the benefits of advanced communications services are available to all Americans. The FCC will work to promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility; empowering consumers; enhancing public safety and national security; and advancing America's global competitiveness. Furthermore, in FY 2025, the FCC will continue to improve its processes to deliver on the needs of today and the future in a more proactive and efficient manner to maintain a current high level of performance. Through these reform efforts, the Commission will develop and implement changes that focus the Commission on effectively and efficiently leveraging human capital to deliver on programs that are the highest need to citizens and where there is a unique Federal role.

For FY 2025, the Commission is requesting the budget and personnel amounts that are summarized in the bullets and a table below.

The Commission requests $448,075,000 in budget authority from regulatory fee offsetting collections. This request represents an increase of $57,883,000 or 14.8 percent from the FY 2024 Annualized Continuing Appropriations Act level of $390,192,000.

[1] 47 U.S.C. § 151.
[2] *Id.*

The Commission also requests $139,000,000 in budget authority for the Spectrum Auctions program. This request represents an increase of $6,769,000 or 5.1 percent from the FY 2024 Annualized Continuing Appropriations Act level of $132,231,000. As of December 31, 2023 the Commission's spectrum auctions program has generated over $233.5 billion for government use; at the same time, the total cost of the spectrum auctions program has been less than $2.5 billion or 1.1 percent of the total auctions' revenue.

In creating a lean, accountable, and efficient Commission that works for the American people, the Commission requests 1,600 Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) funded by budget authority from S&E, Spectrum Auctions program, and other budget authorities provided by the President and Congress. This FTE level is the same level as the FY 2023 appropriated and enacted level and the FY 2024 Congressional request level. With this FTE level, the Commission will meet its mission demands in FY 2025.

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024		FY 2025		Change in Request	
	FTEs[1]	Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FTEs[1]	Estimates to Congress	FTEs[1]	Amount
Budget Authority - Offsetting Collections:						
Regulatory Fees - Commission[2]	1,540	$378,061	1,540	$433,740	0	$55,679
Regulatory Fees - Office of Inspector General (OIG)	60	$12,131	60	$14,335	0	$2,204
Subtotal - Offsetting Collections	**1,600**	**$390,192**	**1,600**	**$448,075**	**0**	**$57,883**
Budget Authority - Other Offsetting Collections:						
Auction Cost Recovery Reimbursement - Commission		**$132,231**		**$139,000**		**$6,769**
Subtotal - Salaries and Expenses		**$522,423**		**$587,075**		**$64,652**
Budget Authority - Economy Act Reimbursable Agreements:						
Economy Act Reimbursable Agreements		**$4,000**		**$4,000**		**$0**
Total Gross Proposed Budget Authority[2]	**1,600**	**$526,423**	**1,600**	**$591,075**	**0**	**$64,652**

[1]The FTE numbers include Auctions Program FTEs. Refer to page 15 for a breakdown of FTEs between Regulatory Fees and Auctions Program FTEs.

[2]The Commission's other budget authorities are summarized on page 58.

In furtherance of these objectives and the FCC's mission, the FY 2025 budget request will be used to support the following Strategic Goals:

Strategic Goal 1: Pursue a "100 Percent" Broadband Policy

The COVID-19 pandemic put a spotlight on the serious broadband gaps that exist across the country, including in rural infrastructure, affordability for low-income Americans, and at-home access for students. This continuing digital divide means millions of Americans do not have meaningful access to essential infrastructure for 21st century success. In response to the challenges that many Americans face, the agency should advance access to communications that are essential for Americans to work remotely, learn remotely, receive healthcare, and engage in commerce. To this end, the FCC will pursue policies to help bring affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband to 100 percent of the country.

Strategic Goal 2: Promote Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility

The FCC will seek to gain a deeper understanding of how the agency's rules, policies, and programs may promote or inhibit advances in diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. The FCC will pursue focused action and investments to eliminate historical, systemic, and structural barriers that perpetuate disadvantaged or underserved individuals and communities. In so doing, the FCC will work to ensure equitable and inclusive access and facilitate the ability of underserved individuals and communities to leverage and benefit from the wide range of opportunities made possible by digital technologies, media, communication services, and next-generation networks. In addition, the FCC recognizes that it is more effective when its workforce reflects the experience, judgement, and input of individuals from many different backgrounds. Advancing equity is core to the agency's management and policymaking processes and will benefit all Americans.

Strategic Goal 3: Empower Consumers

Consumers who are well informed about their rights and what they're buying are more confident and more likely to participate in the digital economy. The FCC will tackle new challenges to consumer rights and opportunities stemming from digital transitions. The FCC also will pursue effective enforcement and new approaches to protect consumers from unwanted and intrusive communications, phone-based scams, telephone privacy issues, and other trends that affect consumers. The FCC will work to enhance competition and pursue policies that protect the competitive process to improve consumer choice and access to information. The FCC will work to foster a regulatory landscape that fosters media competition, diversity, and localism. The FCC also must work to ensure the availability of quality, functionally equivalent communications services for persons with disabilities.

Strategic Goal 4: Enhance Public Safety and National Security

There is no task at the FCC that is more important than keeping the American people safe. The FCC will pursue policies to promote the availability of secure, reliable, interoperable, redundant, and rapidly restorable critical communications infrastructure and services. The FCC also will promote the public's access to reliable 911, emergency alerting, and first responder communications. The FCC will work to ensure the continued availability of timely emergency

alerts. The FCC will work in coordination with Federal and state, local, Tribal, and territorial government partners and industry stakeholders to support disaster response and to ensure the nation's defense and homeland security.

Strategic Goal 5: Advance America's Global Competitiveness

The FCC will take action to promote investment and advance the development and deployment of new communications technologies, such as 5G, that will allow the nation to remain a global leader in an increasingly competitive, international marketplace. The FCC will identify incentives and policies to close security gaps and accelerate trustworthy innovation. The FCC will work with its federal partners to advocate for US interests abroad.

Strategic Goal 6: Foster Operational Excellence

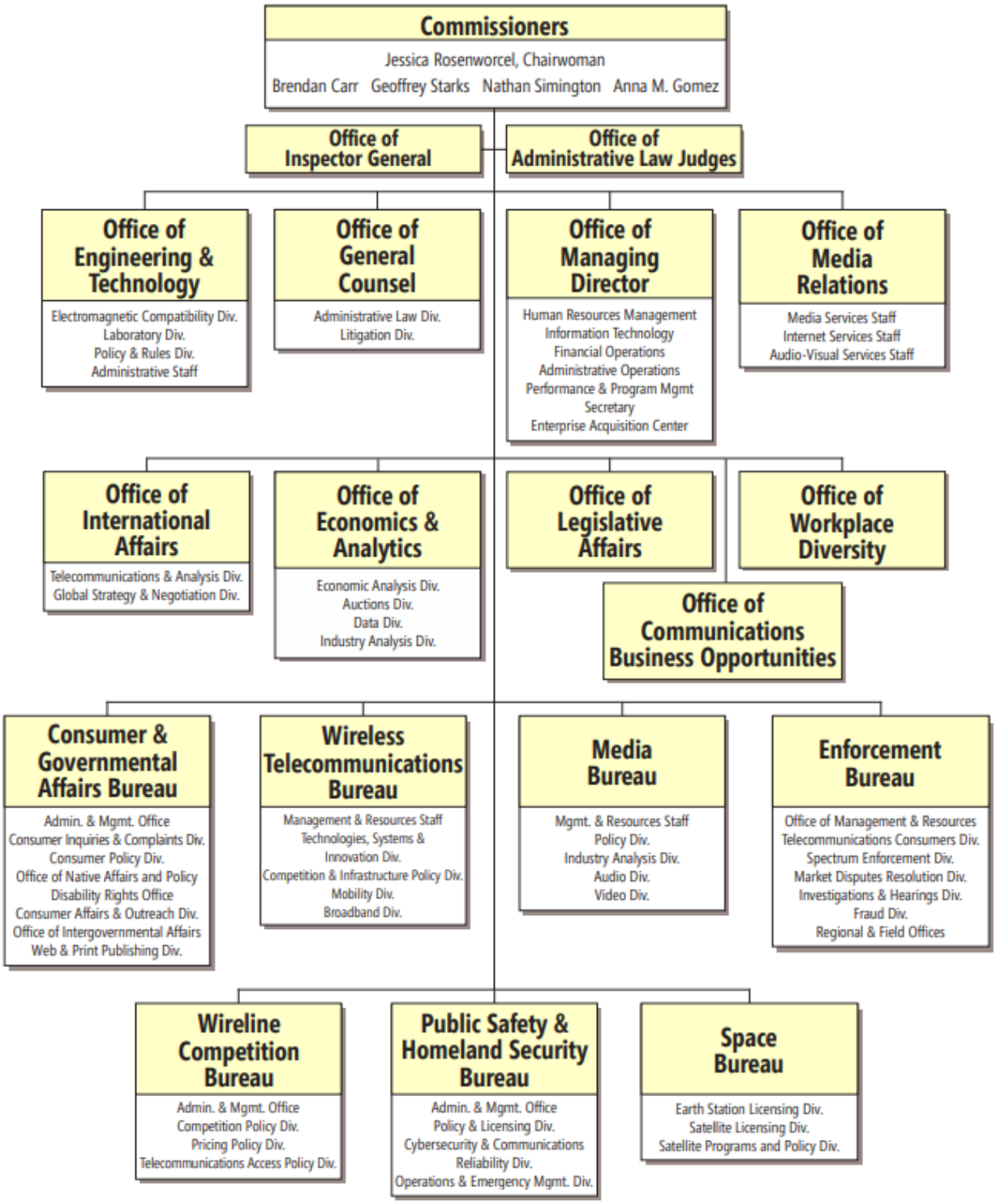
The FCC should be a model for excellence in government by effectively managing its resources, maintaining a commitment to transparent and responsive processes that encourage public involvement and decision-making that best serves the public interest, and encouraging a culture of collaboration both internally and across government agencies.

Additional Useful Information to Better Understand the Budget Request

Below is some additional useful information for readers to better understand the information presented in the Commission's budget request:

- FY 2023 numbers presented are actuals.
- FY 2024 numbers presented are annualized numbers from the Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 (Continuing Appropriations Act).
- The FTE numbers included in the chart Summary of FYs 2023 – 2025 FTEs and Funding by Bureau and Offices and in charts in "Fiscal Year 2025 Requirements by Bureaus and Offices" section also include FTEs from the Spectrum Auctions Program, and other budget authorities provided by the President and Congress, but the personnel compensation and benefits dollar amounts only represent personnel compensation and benefits dollars from S&E.
- This budget estimate assumes Congress will have fully restored the Commission's general spectrum auction authority.
- Under current funding forecasts, the final fully funded month of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is projected to be April 2024 and the Commission looks forward to working with Congress to extend this program and ensure that it continues to provide critical benefits to millions.

Organizational Chart



Fiscal Year 2025 Proposed Appropriation Language

For necessary expenses of the Federal Communications Commission, as authorized by law, including uniforms and allowances therefor, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901–5902; not to exceed $4,000 for official reception and representation expenses; purchase and hire of motor vehicles; special counsel fees; and services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, $448,075,000 to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That $448,075,000 of offsetting collections shall be assessed and collected pursuant to section 9 of title I of the Communications Act of 1934, shall be retained and used for necessary expenses and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the sum above appropriated shall be reduced as such offsetting collections are received during fiscal year 2025 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2025 salaries and expenses appropriation estimated at $0: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding 47 U.S.C. 309(j)(8)(B), proceeds from the use of a competitive bidding system that may be retained and made available for obligation shall not exceed $139,000,000 for fiscal year 2025: *Provided further*, That, of the amount appropriated under this heading, not less than $14,335,000 shall be for the salaries and expenses of the Office of Inspector General.

Legislative Proposals

The Administration is proposing one legislative change in the President's FY 2025 Budget pertaining to the FCC. This proposal, described below, is designed to make more spectrum available for commercial use, and represents sound economic policy.

Spectrum Auction Authority

The Commission's auction authority for spectrum originally was scheduled to expire in FY 1998; however, it was extended by subsequent legislation. It was extended through FY 2007 in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, P.L. 105-33; through FY 2011 by the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, P.L. 109-171; through FY 2012 by the DTV Delay Act, P.L. 111-4; through FY 2022 by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, P.L. 112-96; through December 16, 2022 by the Continuing Appropriations and Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023, P.L. 117-180; through December 23, 2022 by the Further Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2023, P.L. 117-229; through December 30, 2022 by the Further Additional Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2023, P.L 117-264; and through March 9, 2023 by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, P.L. 117-328.

Additionally, in the Spectrum Pipeline Act of 2015 (included as Title X in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, P.L. 114-74), the Commission's auction authority with respect to only electromagnetic spectrum identified under section 1004(a) of that Act was extended until September 30, 2025, and with respect to only the electromagnetic spectrum identified under section 90008(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), P.L. 117-58, was extended until November 15, 2028.

Thus, the Commission's authority to grant licenses or construction permits for stations using spectrum subject to mutually exclusive application using competitive bidding ended on March 9, 2023, except for the spectrum identified pursuant to the Spectrum Pipeline Act of 2015 and IIJA. On December 19, 2023, the 5G SALE Act, P.L. 118-27 gave Commission the authority for a 90-day period to grant certain licenses in Auction 108. On February 29, 2024, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau completed the processing of all outstanding Auction 108 long-form applications and issued all licenses won in Auction 108 pursuant to the 5G SALE Act.

As of this submission the Commission's general spectrum auction authority has not been fully reinstated. This Legislative proposal seeks to reinstate the Commission's general auction authority for spectrum auction for ten years through fiscal year 2034.

Summary of FYs 2023 - 2025 FTEs and Funding by Bureaus and Offices

(Dollars in Thousands)

Bureaus and Offices	FY 2023		FY 2024		FY 2025	
	FTEs[1]	Actuals	FTEs[1]	Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FTEs[1]	Estimates to Congress
Chairwoman and Commissioners	23	$4,999	24	$6,573	25	$7,087
Consumer & Government Affairs Bureau	107	$23,840	118	$25,864	118	$27,289
Enforcement Bureau	175	$39,405	204	$44,816	204	$49,340
International Bureau[2]	44	$9,575				
Media Bureau	121	$26,092	135	$28,545	135	$29,739
Public Safety & Homeland Security Bureau	109	$24,112	115	$25,761	115	$26,368
Sapce Bureau	20	$4,896	45	$11,125	45	$12,172
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau	149	$15,605	158	$16,462	158	$17,682
Wireline Competition Bureau	155	$32,382	173	$37,046	173	$39,137
Office of Administrative Law Judges	3	$647	4	$807	4	$922
Office of Communications Business Opportunities	9	$1,881	12	$2,128	12	$2,546
Office of Economics and Analytics	110	$14,903	134	$18,717	134	$36,103
Office of Engineering & Technology	76	$14,501	79	$15,601	79	$16,651
Office of General Counsel	66	$18,033	76	$20,104	76	$21,674
Office of International Affairs	22	$4,620	43	$9,594	43	$10,153
Office of Legislative Affairs	8	$1,782	8	$2,025	8	$2,139
Office of Managing Director	196	$107,615	192	$108,348	191	$130,185
Office of Media Relations	12	$2,547	12	$2,936	12	$2,781
Office of Workplace Diversity	6	$1,220	8	$1,609	8	$1,772
Subtotal	**1,411**	**$348,655**	**1,540**	**$378,061**	**1,540**	**$433,740**
Office of Inspector General	46	$10,443	60	$12,131	60	$14,335
Total - Salaries & Expenses[3]	**1,457**	**$359,098**	**1,600**	**$390,192**	**1,600**	**$448,075**

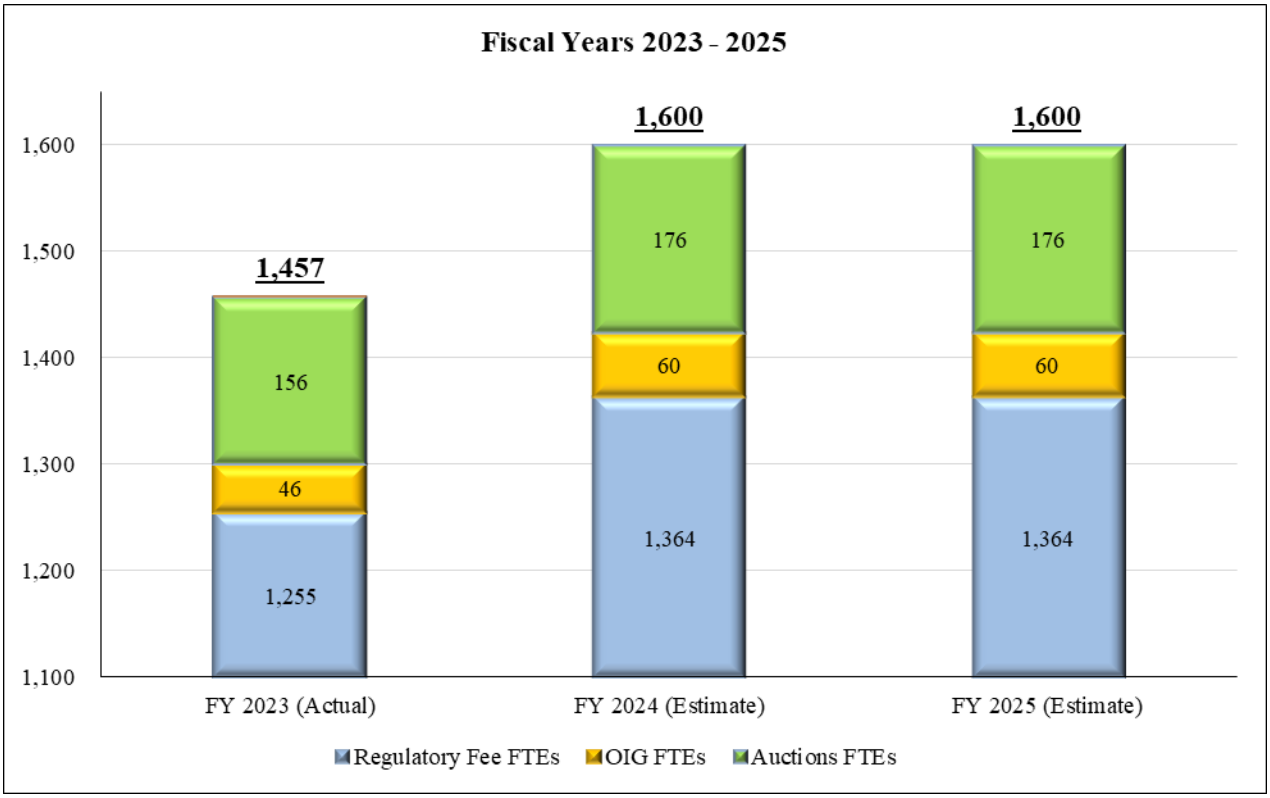
[1]The FTE numbers include the spectrum auctions program FTEs.

[2]The International Bureau was reorganized and restructured in FY 2023. The work functions and structure of the International Bureau were divided between the new Space Bureau and the Office of International Affairs.

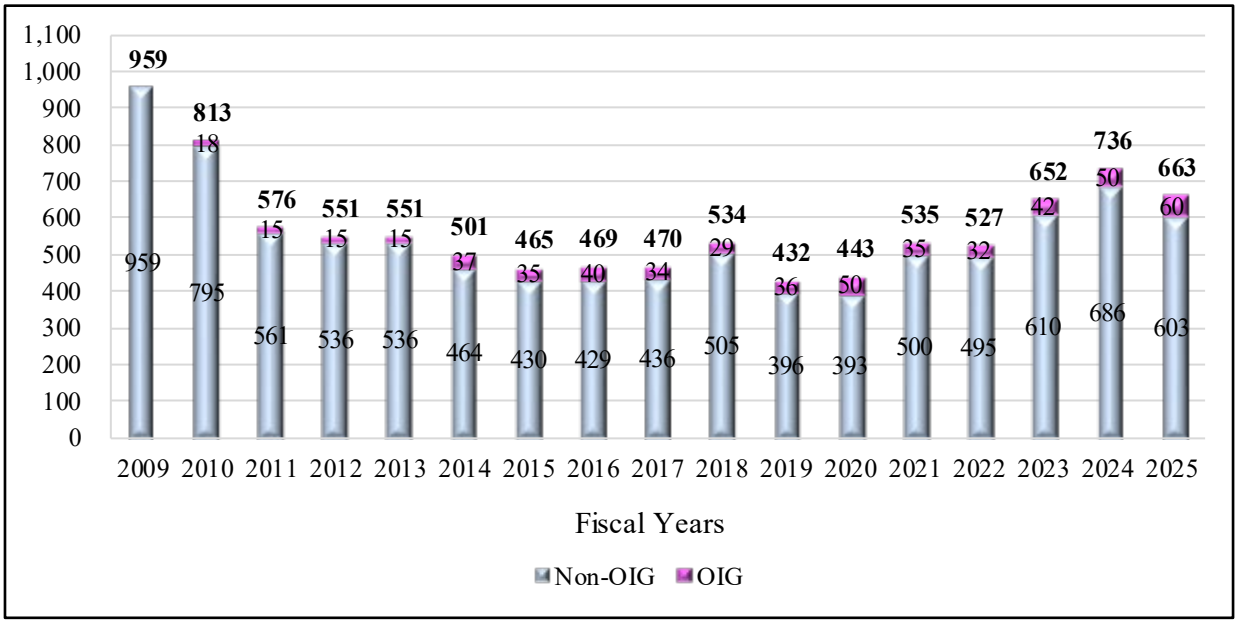
[3]The Commission's other budget authorities are summarized on page 58.

The Commission is responsible for the overall management, oversight, and administration of the Universal Service Fund (USF), including all USF policy decisions. All USF related activities are currently funded by regulatory fees. The Universal Service Fund Activities and Costs section starting on page 23 provides more details related to the Commission's USF activities and related costs.

FTEs by Resource Category



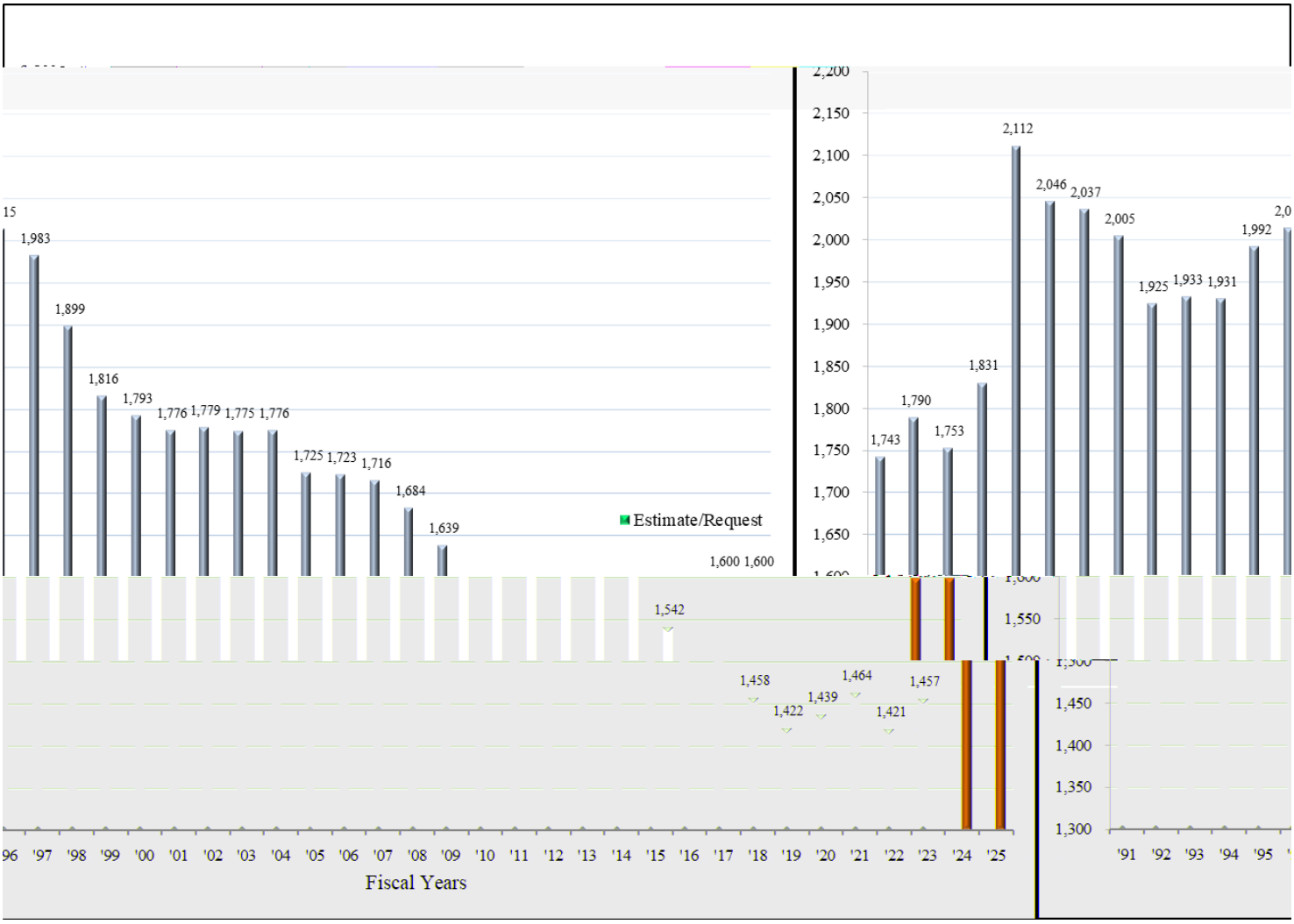
Number of Contractors



Amounts for FYs 2024 through 2025 are estimates. The OIG number for FY 2009 was not separable.

FTEs - Historical and Estimated

Fiscal Years 1991 – 2025



Summary of Changes - Regulatory Fees (Offsetting Collections)

(Dollars in Thousands)

Regulatory Fees - Offsetting Collections:	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress	TOTAL NET CHANGE Amount	TOTAL NET CHANGE Percent
Commission	$378,061	$433,740	$55,679	
Office of Inspector General	$12,131	$14,335	$2,204	
Total Spending Authority - Offsetting Collections	**$390,192**	**$448,075**	**$57,883**	**14.8%**
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) - Commission[1]	1,540	1,540	0	
FTEs - Office of Inspector General	60	60	0	
Total Full-Time Equivalents	**1,600**	**1,600**	**0**	

Explanation of Changes - Regulatory Fees (Offsetting Collections)			
FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act		**$390,192**	
FY 2024 Base Adjustments:			
Compensation & Benefits[2]	$14,220		
Non-Salary Inflationary Increase[3]	$1,961		
Subtotal - FY 2024 Base Adjustments		**$16,181**	
FY 2024 Base Increases:			
Enterprise and Fraud Risk Management and Internal Control Support	$1,000		
Enterprise Data Platform	$500		
Data Collection System for Bureaus and Offices	$500		
Multi-Factor Authentication of Public Facing System	$450		
Subtotal - FY 2024 Base Increases		**$2,450**	
FY 2024 - One-Time Investment Requests:			
Enterprise Data Platform	$2,000		
Data Collection System for Bureaus and Offices	$1,000		
Subtotal - FY 2024 One-Time Investment Requests		**$3,000**	
Reversal of FYs 2024 & 2023 One-Time Investment Requests:		**-$4,080**	
FY 2025 Adjusted Base Before Adjustments & Increases		**$407,743**	
FY 2025 Base Adjustments:			
Compensation & Benefits[2]	$8,282		
Non-Salary Inflationary Increase[3]	$2,050		
Subtotal - FY 2025 Base Adjustments		**$10,332**	
FY 2025 Base Increase - Broadband DATA Collection - Statutory Required		**$30,000**	
FY 2025 Estimates to Congress		**$448,075**	

[1]The FTE numbers include the Spectrum Auctions Program FTEs.

[2]Utilized an estimated pay increase rate of 5.2% in CY 2024 and 2% in CY 2025.

[3]Utilized an estimated inflationary rate of 2% for the non-payroll increases.

Narrative Explanation of Changes - Salaries and Expenses - Regulatory Fees

Personnel Compensation and Non-Salaries Inflationary Increase to Base: $26,513,000

A. **Personnel Compensation Increase ($22,502,000) –** Pursuant to OMB guidance, the request includes increases for personnel compensation and benefits as follows:

   1. **FY 2024 ($14,220,000) –** The increase is due to a pay increase rate of 4.6% for the last quarter of Calendar Year (CY) 2023 and a 5.2% increase for the first three quarters of CY 2024.

   2. **FY 2025 ($8,282,000) –** The increase is due to a pay increase rate of 5.2% for the last quarter of CY 2024 and a 2% increase for the first three quarters of CY 2025.

B. **Non-Salary Inflationary Increase ($4,011,000)** – This request provides expected inflationary increases for phones, utilities, printing and reproduction services, contractual services, supplies, travel, training, and other expenses. The Non-Salary inflationary increase for FY 2024 and FY 2025 is as follows:

   1. **FY 2024 ($1,961,000)** – This increase is a due to an estimated inflationary increase of two (2) percent for FY 2024.

   2. **FY 2025 ($2,050,000)** – This increase is a due to an estimated inflationary increase of two (2) percent for FY 2025.

FY 2024 Base Increases ($2,450,000) and One-Time Requests ($3,000,000) for New Investments: $5,450,000

1. **Enterprise and Fraud Risk Management and Internal Control Support ($1,000,000)**

   In managing FCC programs such as the Universal Service Fund (USF), Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) Fund, Spectrum Auctions Program, Affordable Connectivity Program, Emergency Connectivity Fund, and others, management is responsible for and required to comply with various General Accountability Office (GAO) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance such as OMB A-123, Management's Responsibility for Enterprise Risk Management and Internal Control; GAO's A Framework for Managing Fraud Risks in Federal Programs; and OMB M-21-19, Requirements for Payment Integrity Improvement. With an ever-growing risk environment, OMB and GAO have implemented many best practices to help agencies manage, access, monitor and respond to fraud, waste and abuse. The Commission is requesting base funding to hire experts and independent contract support to help manage this emerging growth area within Commission programs.

2. **Enterprise Data Platform ($2,500,000)**

   The FCC plans to expand and enhance an Enterprise Data Platform to address in part statutory and OMB requirements for federal government agencies. This includes a one-time request for $2,000,000, and an ongoing base increase of $500,000 for: (1) addressing

the Open, Public, Electronic and Necessary Government Data Act (OPEN Data Act), part of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act (Evidence Act), that requires agencies to publish public government data assets in a machine readable format and to develop and maintain a comprehensive data inventory, and (2) supporting Executive Order (EO) 14028 on Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity, which requires Federal Government organizations to take action to strengthen national cybersecurity specifically calling for federal agencies and their suppliers "to modernize their approach to cybersecurity" by accelerating the move to secure cloud services and implementing a Zero Trust architecture (EO Zero Trust Architecture).

3. Data Collection System for Bureaus and Offices ($1,500,000)

This request includes a one-time increase of $1,000,000, and an ongoing base increase of $500,000. The Commission and policy Bureaus regularly adopt rules to institute new or updated data collections to provide the necessary data to for fact-based policy making and implementation of existing programs. In addition, existing data collections often need updates or modernization, including due to security issues like the Log4j vulnerability. The volume of data collections can outstrip the IT resources we have available to implement them. Access to a secure low-code/no-code platform will allow the Agency to develop and design online data collection forms and interfaces to support Bureaus and Offices that are required by the Commission to conduct and implement data collections. Such a system will support compliance with the EO Zero Trust requirements; provide a secure, central location for data collected by the agency; and allow us to implement data-quality requirements on collections.

4. Multi-Factor Authentication of Public Facing System ($450,000)

Per National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publication (SP), all public facing websites/systems require the use of a Multi-Factor Authenticator. An authentication system that requires more than one distinct authentication factor for successful authentication. FCC will leverage LOGIN.GOV to comply with NIST SP requirements for all public facing website/systems.

FY 2025 Base Increases $30,000,000

A. Broadband DATA Collection ($30,000,000)

The President signed into law the Broadband Deployment Accuracy and Technological Availability Act (Broadband DATA Act), P. L. 116-130, on March 23, 2020. The Broadband DATA Act is important legislation that directs the FCC to improve the way broadband availability data is collected, verified, and reported, so that the FCC, other federal agencies, state, local and Tribal governments and other stakeholders have a precise and accurate view of where broadband is, and is not available, across the United States and Territories. Specifically, the Broadband DATA Act requires the FCC to regularly collect and disseminate, on an ongoing biannual basis, granular broadband service availability data from wired, fixed-wireless, satellite, and mobile broadband providers.

In conjunction with the biannual Broadband Data Collection (BDC), the FCC must establish data specifications that broadband providers must adhere to in reporting this more granular

service availability data. To support this increased level of granularity, the FCC was required to establish and maintain the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric (Fabric). The Fabric is a dataset of geolocation information for all locations in the U.S. where broadband service is or could be made available. The Fabric, in conjunction with the location-based availability data reported by fixed broadband service providers serves as the foundation for accurately assessing the availability of fixed broadband internet access service for universal service support and other purposes. In addition to fixed broadband services (i.e. wireline, terrestrial fixed wireless, and satellite services), the FCC also collects mobile coverage data using standardized propagation modeling to show the 3G, 4G, and 5G coverage of each mobile provider. Finally, the FCC must continuously undertake (and staff with FTEs) challenge and crowdsourcing processes to enable the submission of independent data disputing the accuracy of the FCC's broadband maps, conduct audits and verifications of the broadband availability data on the map, and provide technical support to small providers, State, local and Tribal governmental entities, and consumers.

Recognizing that these more precise and granular broadband mapping initiatives required the FCC to make significant new investments in the development, modernization, and enhancement of information technology systems and data, Congress appropriated $98 million in funding to cover the FCC's development and other implementation costs. The agency's costs were heaviest during the start-up implementation years, as the FCC developed the IT platform, systems, Fabric, and other elements of the BDC. As the FCC continues implementation of the ongoing and iterative BDC, FCC budget allocations are needed to support: (i) bi-annual availability collections; (ii) Fabric updates; (iii) ongoing challenge and crowdsource data collections, (iv) data review and processing; (v) statutory outreach obligations; (vi) FCC-initiated verifications, audits and enforcement; and (vii) rule updates.

These types of development and ongoing costs include, among other things:

- BDC system operations and maintenance and development of additional functionalities and enhancements to support ongoing operations;
- Other IT costs, such as BDC system analytics tools, optimization and AI support, independent verification and validation, user acceptance testing, a ticketing system, and cloud hosting;
- Fabric maintenance, updates, and Fabric challenge review;
- Help center technical assistance support for broadband service providers, challengers, other third party stakeholders and consumers;
- Enhancements to and operations related to a new FCC Speed Test app to enable mobile challenge and crowdsource functionality;
- Engineering support of verification and audit efforts, including the review and analysis of mobile and terrestrial fixed wireless data, propagation modeling, and mobile drive testing;
- Travel for speaking engagements and outreach to state and Tribal governments, providers, and other stakeholders; and
- Existing FTEs to support the work described above and other ongoing obligations, including conducting challenge adjudication, location restoration reviews, verifications, audits and enforcement actions, all of which help assure accuracy and completeness of broadband availability data published on the National Broadband Map.

Office of Inspector General Narrative

The Office of the Inspector General's (OIG or the Office) workload continues to increase in all mission-critical areas. Therefore, the Office continues to focus on ensuring appropriate staffing levels to keep pace with the increased responsibilities and workload. OIG has increased its hiring over the past few budget years and this recruitment effort has permitted the Office to engage in a greater number of, and more complex audits and investigations. We anticipate the need for additional resources 2025, as we continue to oversee the FCC's expanded subsidy programs. As a result, we will support in FY 2025 an expanded program of proactive investigations into E-rate, Lifeline and COVID-19 relief program providers and recipients and obtain additional law-enforcement capabilities we currently lack. We continually gauge the relative merits of any audit and investigation prior to expending valuable resources.

The OIG FY 2025 budget request of $14,335,000 reflects a $2,204,000 increase over the FY 2024 Annualized Continuing Appropriations Act level of $12,131,000. The increase is attributable to a $1,791,798 increase in salary and benefits and $412,202 in non-salary.

For FY 2025, a funding level of $14,335,000 is required for effective oversight of FCC program and waste, fraud and abuse detection and prevention therein. These FCC programs have grown exponentially; in 2021, the Universal Service fund provided $10.9872 billion to support the four Universal Service programs. Additionally in 2021, Congress appropriated $24.77 billion for COVID-19 and other emergency relief programs: the COVID-19 Telehealth Program ($200 million), the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program ($3.2 billion), the Affordable Connectivity Program ($14.2 billion), and the Education Connectivity Fund ($7.17 billion).

OIG's Office of Audits (OA) conducts and contracts for the performance of independent and objective audits, inspections, evaluations, and related projects, designed to promote economy, effectiveness and efficiency in FCC programs and operations, and to prevent and detect fraud waste and abuse. As of September 30, 2022, OA completed five projects and three additional FY 2022 projects are currently in process. OA plans to complete more than 40 audits, inspections, and evaluations over the next five years, covering important Commission activities and programs including, but not limited to, the Universal Service Fund (USF), Telecommunications Relay Services Fund, Affordable Connectivity Program Secure and Trusted Communications Network Reimbursement Program and Broadband Mapping. Further, OA will provide the expertise and resources necessary to complete unforeseen special projects and Congressional requests, and will continue to perform the necessary work to ensure all mandated audits and evaluations are completely timely.

OIG's Office of Investigations (OI) matters cover a wide range of topics touching on myriad aspects of the FCC's mission and programs. Most significantly, our investigations often address allegations of criminal misconduct or civil fraud in USF programs. We deal with complex investigations, large criminal conspiracies, and matters involving complex financial transactions throughout the United States and its territories. As of September 30, 2022, OI had 48 open cases. Working with the Department of Justice, in recent years, OI has recovered tens of millions of dollars of government funds and saved the government hundreds of millions of additional dollars, resulting from criminal and civil fraud cases that have been successfully prosecuted or settled. In the upcoming year, in addition to our ongoing activities, we expect to conduct investigations to fulfill our mandate to deter and detect fraud, waste and abuse. OIG plans to hire

at least two attorney investigators, four criminal investigators, and support staff, and essential forensic tools to effectively advance our mission.

In compliance with the IG Reform Act of 2008, this FCC OIG FY 2025 budget request includes a fair share ratio in the amount of $36,606 for contribution to the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, funds to support IGNet Management Services, and training funds in the amount of $94,300.

Universal Service Fund Activities and Costs

The Commission is responsible for the overall management, oversight, and administration of the Universal Service Fund (USF). The Commission develops policies and rules for the USF, and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) collects and delivers funding through four programs – Schools and Libraries (E-Rate), Rural Health Care, Lifeline, and High Cost – focused on places where broadband and connectivity needs are critical. These programs serve people in rural, underserved, and difficult-to-reach areas.

The Commission works with USAC, as administrator of the USF, to review USAC's administrative expenses and also to oversee the effectiveness of USAC's internal controls around USAC's program management, procurements, information technology projects, and personnel processes. The descriptions below provide additional information about how the Commission's various Bureaus and Offices work together as the agency carries out its USF management and oversight responsibilities.

Office of Managing Director. The Office of Managing Director (OMD) is responsible for all USF management and administrative activities, including finance, accounting, procurement, information technology, and audits of beneficiaries and contributors. OMD provides instruction and oversight to USAC on these issues.

Wireline Competition Bureau. The Wireline Competition Bureau (WCB) oversees USF policy and provides guidance on the applicability and interpretation of the Commission's USF rules, orders, and directives to USAC and to stakeholders. WCB also is primarily responsible for USF rulemaking proceedings, appeals of USAC decisions, requests for waivers of the Commission's USF rules, petitions for USF declaratory rulings, and interactions with the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service.

Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB), in coordination with WCB, develops policy and procedures concerning the Mobility Fund and the Alaska Plan for mobile, which represent universal service support mechanisms dedicated exclusively to mobile wireless services.

Office of Economics and Analytics. The Office of Economics and Analytics (OEA), in coordination with WCB, oversees reverse auctions policy and implementation for distributing high-cost universal service support. and in coordination with WTB and WCB developed the proposal for the 5G Fund for Rural America. OEA is also primarily responsible for the preparation and publication of USF information in the Universal Service Monitoring Report.

Office of General Counsel. The Office of General Counsel (OGC) oversees issues relating to litigation and settlements and serves as the Commission's chief legal advisor, including on issues pertaining to USF matters.

Enforcement Bureau. If USAC or a Commission Bureau or Office identifies a possible violation of the Communications Act or a Commission rule, order, or directive, the matter is referred to the Enforcement Bureau (EB) for possible investigation and administrative enforcement action, including issuing forfeitures. EB pursues potential investigations of USF-related matters from other sources of information as well. In addition, EB is authorized to suspend and debar persons

from participating in the universal service mechanisms upon a criminal conviction of or civil judgment for fraud against a USF program.

Office of Inspector General. The Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducts audits, evaluations, and inspections of USF programs and operations, as well as program service providers and beneficiaries designed to prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse. These oversight activities and related initiatives help promote economy, effectiveness, and efficiency of the USF.

USF Activities

The Commission's continued budgetary and programmatic focus for the universal service programs includes: (1) promoting policies to help bring affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband to 100 percent of the country, (2) protecting program integrity for each of the universal service programs, and (3) promoting efficiency, accountability, and fiscal responsibility. With these priorities in mind, the Commission targets support to deliver, expand, and maintain voice and broadband service to high cost and rural areas, low-income consumers, schools and libraries, and rural health care providers.

Under the Connect America Fund, as of August 2023, the Commission has authorized $1.48 billion in support over 10 years to 193 winning bidders of reverse auctions to provide fixed broadband and voice services to over 708,494 locations in 45 states.

As part of its Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF), the Commission used a reverse auction mechanism to distribute support for the provision of fixed broadband and voice services. In December 2023, the Commission's Wireline Competition Bureau and Office of Economics and Analytics announced the conclusion of the RDOF long-form application review. Currently, there are 379 support recipients with authorized winning bids totaling over $6 billion in support over a ten-year term, covering just under 3.5 million locations in 48 states and one territory. While authorized bids included a range of performance tiers, over 97% of locations are covered by winning bids for Gigabit speed service.

In October 2020, the Commission adopted the 5G Fund for Rural America to replace Mobility Fund Phase II. The 5G Fund Phase I auction will award up to $8 billion over 10 years to deploy 5G service in areas otherwise unlikely to receive timely 5G deployment. In September 2023, the Commission today sought further comment on the 5G Fund for Rural America to reignite the Commission's plan to expand the deployment of 5G service to rural communities that remain trapped on the wrong side of the digital divide. Taking advantage of the agency's new and improved broadband coverage map, which shows that over 14 million homes and businesses lack mobile 5G coverage, the Commission seeks comment on how to define the areas that will be eligible for support in the 5G Fund Phase I auction and proposes to modify the metric used to accept bids and identify winning bids, in order to target support to places where people live, work, and travel in rural America.

In the Lifeline program, the Commission's primary goals are to: (1) continue implementation of the modernization of the Lifeline program to support affordable, high-speed internet access for our nation's poorest families; and (2) ensure fiscal responsibility and protect program integrity so Lifeline USF dollars support service that reaches the consumers Lifeline was created to help. Actions to accomplish these goals include using a unified interface to independently process eligibility verification and recertification of Lifeline applicant and subscribers, as well as

interconnected verification with other agency and state eligibility databases to improve program controls. In November 2023, the Commission adopted rules to implement the Safe Connections Act, including establishing a process for domestic violence survivors experiencing financial hardship to access the Lifeline benefit for affordable communications service.

In the E-Rate program, the Commission is committed to ensuring eligible schools and libraries can obtain affordable, high-speed broadband services and internal connections that are necessary to connect today's students and library patrons with next-generation learning opportunities and services. The E-Rate program has a cap of $4.77 billion for the current funding year, adjusted annually for inflation.

Finally, in the Rural Healthcare program, the Commission remains committed to promoting telehealth by providing financial support to eligible health care providers for broadband and telecommunications services. The Rural Healthcare program has a cap of $682.4 million for the current funding year, adjusted annually for inflation.

The chart below shows the estimated costs that the Commission will incur in overseeing USF activities, which includes costs incurred by the OIG.

(Dollars in Thousands)

Fiscal Years	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
FCC's USF Activities Cost[1]	$16,130	$16,452	$16,781
Full-Time Equivalent (FTEs)	73	73	73

[1]Amount shown are projections based on actual cost.

The chart below shows the total number of Commission FTEs working on USF activities by bureau and office for FY 2023 based on extrapolated data.

Number of FCC FTEs Working On USF Activities By Bureau and Office	FTEs
Wireline Competition Bureau	41
Office of Economics & Analytics	16
Enforcement Bureau	8
Office of General Counsel	3
Office of the Managing Director	3
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau	2
Total FTEs	**73**

Crosswalk of USF Outlays to FCC Strategic Goals

In FY 2023, USF made outlays totaling $8.283 billion. These outlays were allocated to the following FY 2023 strategic goal:

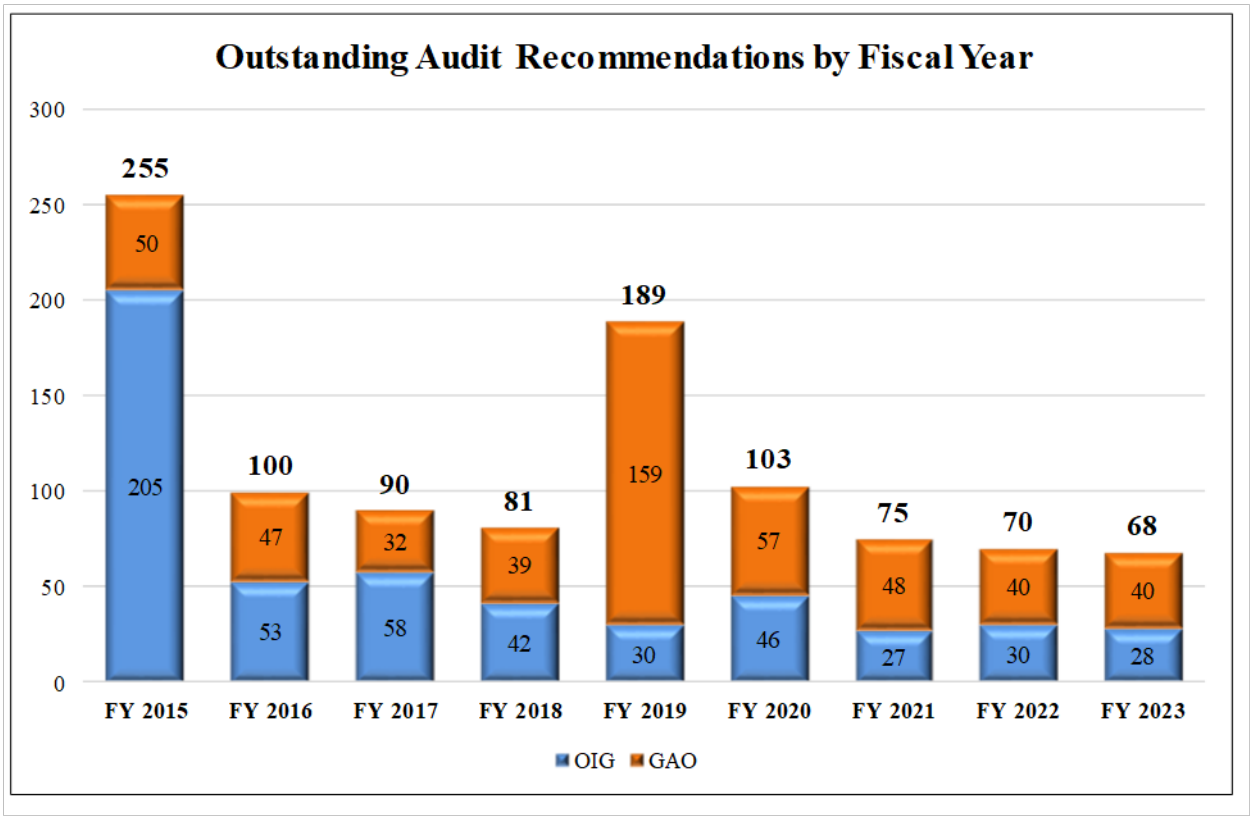
(Dollars in Millions)

Applicable FY 2023 Strategic Goals	Outlay Amount	Percent
Pursue a "100 Percent" Broadband Policy	$6,378	77%
Promote Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Acessibility	$1,905	23%
Total	**$8,283**	**100%**

As of September 30, 2023

Overall Status of Audit Recommendations

The chart below shows the number of audit recommendations outstanding from various audits conducted by FCC's Office of Inspector General (OIG) and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) at the end of each fiscal year. The numbers shown below exclude those recommendations for which the Commission has already submitted information to GAO and OIG requesting closure of the recommendation. The count also excludes those recommendations that the Commission has determined to close as not implemented.



Crosswalk - Summary of Changes for Regulatory Fees

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2024 Reversal of One-Time Requests	Base Realign-ments for FY 2025 Base	FY 2025 Base	FY 2025 Base Increases	FY 2025 Salary Increase	FY 2025 Non-Salary Inflationary Increase	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress
Chairwoman and Commissioners	$6,573	$0	$335	$6,908	$0	$156	$23	**$7,087**
Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau	$25,864	$0	$725	$26,589	$0	$640	$61	**$27,290**
Enforcement Bureau	$44,816	$0	$3,253	$48,069	$0	$1,174	$97	**$49,340**
Media Bureau	$28,545	$0	$414	$28,959	$0	$763	$18	**$29,740**
Public Safety & Homeland Security Bureau	$25,761	$0	-$80	$25,681	$0	$656	$30	**$26,367**
Space Bureau	$11,125	$0	$733	$11,858	$0	$314	$0	**$12,172**
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau	$16,462	$0	-$1,190	$15,272	$2,000	$397	$13	**$17,682**
Wireline Competition Bureau	$37,046	$0	-$1,565	$35,481	$2,700	$933	$23	**$39,137**
Office of Administrative Law Judges	$807	$0	$92	$899	$0	$23	$1	**$923**
Office of Communications Business Opportunities	$2,128	$0	$351	$2,479	$0	$65	$2	**$2,546**
Office of Economics and Analytics	$18,717	$0	-$587	$18,130	$17,500	$418	$55	**$36,103**
Office of Engineering and Technology	$15,601	$0	$618	$16,219	$0	$406	$25	**$16,650**
Office of General Counsel	$20,104	$0	$1,017	$21,121	$0	$498	$56	**$21,675**
Office of International Affairs	$9,594	$0	$299	$9,893	$0	$259	$0	**$10,152**
Office of Legislative Affairs	$2,025	$0	$58	$2,083	$0	$54	$2	**$2,139**
Office of Managing Director	$108,348	-$4,080	$15,398	$119,666	$7,800	$1,113	$1,606	**$130,185**
Office of Media Relations	$2,936	$0	-$227	$2,709	$0	$64	$7	**$2,780**
Office of Workplace Diversity	$1,609	$0	$117	$1,726	$0	$43	$3	**$1,772**
Subtotal	**$378,061**	**-$4,080**	**$19,761**	**$393,742**	**$30,000**	**$7,976**	**$2,022**	**$433,740**
Office of Inspector General	$12,131	$0	$1,870	$14,001	$0	$306	$28	**$14,335**
TOTAL	**$390,192**	**-$4,080**	**$21,631**	**$407,743**	**$30,000**	**$8,282**	**$2,050**	**$448,075**

The Commission's other budget authorities are summarized on page 58.

SPECTRUM AUCTIONS

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Spectrum Auctions Program - Explanation of Requested Change

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) requests $139,000,000 for the Spectrum Auctions Program for FY 2025, which is an increase of $6,769,000 from the annualized Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 level of $132,231,000 as detailed below. Funding at this level will enable the Commission to continue its efforts to make more spectrum available for 5G; to continue the implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, the Spectrum Pipeline Act of 2015 and certain provisions of the RAY BAUM'S Act, including the MOBILE NOW Act, as well as the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021; to continue the close-out of post-broadcast incentive auction (BIA) work related to displacement, repacking, and reimbursing from the TV Broadcaster Relocation Fund (TVBRF) to broadcasters, multichannel video programming distributors (MVPDs), Low Power TV (LPTV), TV translator stations, and FM broadcast stations for reasonable relocation costs incurred because of the Commission's broadcast incentive auction; and to upgrade and improve Commission's auction infrastructure in preparation for future auctions.

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress	TOTAL NET CHANGE	
			Amount	Percent
Spectrum Auctions Program Cost Recovery	$132,231	$139,000	$6,769	5.1%
Explanation of Changes				
FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Approriations Act			**$132,231**	
FY 2024 Base Adjustments:				
Compensation & Benefits[1]		$2,156		
Non-Salary Inflationary Increase[2]		$1,780		
Subtotal - FY 2025 Base Adjustments			**$3,936**	
FY 2025 Base Adjustments:				
Compensation & Benefits[1]		$1,091		
Non-Salary Inflationary Increase[2]		$1,742		
Subtotal - FY 2025 Base Adjustments			**$2,833**	
FY 2025 Estimates to Congress			**$139,000**	

[1]Utilized an estimated pay increase rate of 5.2% in CY 2024 and 2% in CY 2025.

[2]Utilized an estimated inflationary rate of 2% for the non-payroll increases.

Spectrum Auctions Program

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993, P.L. 103-66 (Act), required the Commission to auction licenses for portions of the electromagnetic spectrum used for certain services, replacing the former lottery process. The Act further requires the Commission to ensure that small businesses, women, minorities, and rural telephone companies have an opportunity to participate in the competitive bidding process. The Commission initiated regulations implementing the spectrum auction authority granted by the legislation and conducted its first round of auctions in July 1994.

As of December 2023, the total amount generated for broader government use and deficit reduction since 1994 exceeds $233.5 billion. The original spectrum auction authority was scheduled to expire in FY 1998; however, it was extended through FY 2007 in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, P.L. 105-33; extended through FY 2011 by the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, P.L. 109-171; extended through FY 2012 by the DTV Delay Act (2012), P.L. 111-4; extended through FY 2022 by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, P.L. 112-96; extended through December 16, 2022, by the Continuing Appropriations and Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Acct, 2023, P.L. 117-180; extended through December 23, 2022, by the Further Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2023, P.L. 117-229; extended through December 30, 2022, by the Further Additional Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2023, P.L. 117-264; and extended through March 9, 2023, by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, P.L. 117-328.

The Commission's authority to conduct new auctions and grant a license or permit under section 309(j) of the Communications Act expired March 9, 2023, except that, with respect to the electromagnetic spectrum identified under section 1004(a) of the Spectrum Pipeline Act of 2015, such authority shall expire on September 30, 2025, and with respect to the electromagnetic spectrum identified under section 90008(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58), such authority shall expire on November 15, 2028, seven (7) years after the date of enactment of that Act. On December 19, 2023, the 5G SALE Act, P.L. 118-27, gave Commission the authority for a 90-day period to grant certain licenses in Auction 108. On February 29, 2024, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau completed the processing of all outstanding Auction 108 long-form applications and issued all licenses won in Auction 108 pursuant to the 5G SALE Act. The Commission anticipates that the general auction authority for spectrum will be fully reinstated by Congress before FY 2025.

The Commission is authorized to retain funds from auction revenues to develop, implement, and maintain the auctions program. These funds cover the personnel and administrative costs required to plan and execute spectrum auctions; operational costs to manage payments and collections activities; development, implementation, and maintenance of all information technology systems necessary for auctions operations, including development of a combinatorial bidding system; and a proportional share of the general administrative costs of the Commission. This budget submission assumes that the auctions program will continue to recover the costs of conducting auction activities from spectrum license auction receipts as the Commission continues to use auctions as a licensing mechanism for spectrum-based communications services.

The Commission's FY 2024 annualized level from the Continuing Appropriation Act capped the auctions program obligations at $132,231,000. The Commission's request of $139,000,000 for FY 2025 is an increase of $6,769,000 or 5.1 percent. This is due to an inflationary increase in salary and non-salary costs.

Funding at budget level of $139,000,000 will enable the Commission to:

- implement the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Infrastructure Act) by taking steps toward the potential auction of licenses in the 3.1-3.45 GHz band;
- implement the Spectrum Pipeline Act of 2015 by, for example, taking steps to auction 30 megahertz identified pursuant to the Act and continuing the steps necessary to promote use of the 3.5 GHz band;
- implement the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 for 5G Act of 2020 by supporting the transition of the 3.45 GHz band and the relocation of secondary radiolocation users;
- continue ongoing activities and taking other steps necessary to implement the RAY BAUM'S Act, including the Making Opportunities for Broadband Investment and Limiting Excessive and Needless Obstacles to Wireless Act (MOBILE NOW Act) provisions regarding identifying, making licenses available through auction, and transitioning spectrum for mobile and fixed wireless broadband use in, among other bands, the 3.7 GHz-4.2 GHz range;
- continue the close-out process for the post-Broadcast Incentive Auction (BIA) work related to displacement, repacking, and reimbursing from the TVBRF to broadcasters for their costs to implement the results of the BIA; and,
- upgrade and improve its auctions program infrastructure and security posture in preparation for future auctions authorized by the Infrastructure Act and the Spectrum Pipeline Act.

In addition, as the demand for spectrum for new technologies extends to spectrum bands previously assigned for legacy applications, creative approaches must be found to accommodate existing licensees and operations while expanding opportunities for access by new users.

Spectrum Pipeline Act of 2015, RAY BAUM'S Act, and Other Auction Program Improvements

The Spectrum Pipeline Act of 2015 (Pipeline Act) requires the Commission to auction 30 megahertz of spectrum identified by the Secretary of Commerce for reallocation from Federal use to non-Federal use, shared use, or a combination thereof. The Pipeline Act also appropriates funds from the Spectrum Relocation Fund to support activities by Federal entities to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Federal use of spectrum in order to make Federal spectrum available for non-Federal use, shared use, or a combination thereof. The Pipeline Act requires the FCC, as part of its role on the interagency Technical Panel established within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), to review Federal entities' proposals for funds for these purposes.

Additionally, the Pipeline Act requires the Commission to submit four reports to Congress. In November 2018, the Commission submitted a first report with an analysis of its new rules for the innovative Citizens Broadband Radio Service in the 3550-3700 MHz band. That same month, the Commission submitted a second report analyzing proposals to promote and identify additional bands that can be shared under such rules and identifying at least 1 gigahertz of spectrum between 6 GHz and 57 GHz for such use. By January 1, 2024, in coordination with the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, the Commission must submit a third report that identifies at least an additional 50 megahertz of spectrum below 6 GHz for potential auction. Also, a fourth report which identifies at least another additional 50 megahertz of additional spectrum below 6 gigahertz for potential auction must be submitted by January 1, 2024. The latter two reports must contain an assessment of the Federal operations in such spectrum based on

necessary information provided by the Assistant Secretary in coordination with the affected federal entities, an estimated timeline for a competitive bidding process, and a proposed plan for balance between unlicensed and licensed use.

The RAY BAUM'S Act amended the Pipeline Act to require notice and comment for certain Pipeline Act reports and to direct the Commission to undertake numerous rulemakings and initiatives related to potential repurposing, reallocation, sharing, or auction of spectrum bands. The latter directive included a requirement that the Commission work with NTIA to identify an additional 255 megahertz of spectrum for mobile and fixed wireless use by December 31, 2022.

To fulfill these statutory requirements and enhance the Commission's ability to execute upcoming auctions, auctions funding will also be used for the following that entail extensive work to be performed during FY 2025:

- *3.1-3.45 GHz Band* – The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (P.L. 117-58), among other things, requires the Commission, in consultation with the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, to begin a system of competitive bidding for frequencies within 3.1-3.45 GHz band identified for shared use by federal and non-federal users by the Departments of Commerce and Defense no sooner than November 30, 2024. The Department of Defense completed its study of the band in September 2023 and is briefing Capitol Hill and federal agencies on the feasibility of sharing this spectrum with commercial users. The band has also been identified for additional study by NTIA and the Department of Defense in the National Spectrum Strategy. Ongoing coordination with our federal partners to understand the nature of the federal incumbents in the band and any development of an auction and related work will require Commission staff resources in FY 2025.

- *3.5 GHz Auction and Post-Auction Implementation* – In 2018, the Commission updated its service rules for licenses in the 3550-3650 MHz portion of the 3.5 GHz band, which were awarded through an auction. Due to the characteristics of and use cases for licenses in this band, the Commission has an ongoing need to interface with the Spectrum Access System Administrators (SASs), which manage the dynamic spectrum sharing environment in the 3.5 GHz band, as well as the Environmental Sensing Capability (ESC) operators, which facilitate federal incumbent protection in the band. The Commission also will have an ongoing need to test and verify the operational capabilities of current and future SASs and ESCs, as discussed below. Successful implementation of the unique sharing model adopted in the band provides the American consumer with access to additional spectrum resources.

- *3.7-4.2 GHz Auction and Post-Auction Implementation* –Auction 107 offered flexible-use licenses for 280 megahertz of spectrum in this band. The Commission will continue to oversee the process of transitioning incumbent Fixed Satellite Services (FSS) and fixed service licensees out of the 280 megahertz that has been auctioned, including the transition cost reimbursement process. Under the transition process adopted by the Commission, overseeing this process will involve Commission staff resources in FY 2025.

- *3.45-3.55 GHz Band* – In a March 2021 Second Report and Order, the Commission reallocated the 3.45-3.55 GHz band to make 100 megahertz of spectrum available for flexible use and adopted a framework for the 3.45 GHz band that will enable robust commercial use by an array of service providers, while also ensuring that federal incumbents are still protected from harmful

interference where and when they require continued access to the band. Activities by the Commission since the 2021-22 auction of licenses in the band, including transitioning incumbent secondary users, will potentially require Commission staff resources into FY 2025.

- *2.5 GHz Band (2496-2690 MHz)* – On July 10, 2019, the Commission released a *Report and Order* modernizing the 2.5 GHz band and making additional spectrum available for 5G and other advanced wireless services. Among other steps, the Commission established a priority filing window providing Tribal Nations with a one-time licensing opportunity for unassigned 2.5 GHz spectrum over their rural Tribal lands. The Commission has so far issued 336 licenses to eligible Tribal entities enabling them to address the communications needs of their communities. Finally, the Commission conducted Auction 108 for over 7,850 overlay licenses for remaining unassigned spectrum in the 2.5 GHz band. The Commission announced the grant of 650 licenses on December 1, 2022 and additional licenses were granted on January 5 and March 1, 2023. Processing of the remaining license applications will continue pursuant to the 5G SALE Act, which provides the Commission authority to do so through March 17, 2024. Certain post-auction activities requiring Commission staff resources may continue into FY 2025, in addition to activities related to the Rural Tribal Priority Window.

- *FM broadcast service construction permits* – Pending the further development of the Commission's upcoming auction schedule and authority, the Commission may consider an auction of FM broadcast service construction permits in FY 2024 or FY 2025. The initial public notice announcing this FM auction would list the specific vacant FM allotments for which the Commission would offer construction permits in the auction. Conducting the auction and performing pre-auction and post-auction activities will require Commission staff resources in FY 2025.

- *Other Auction Development and Implementation* – The Commission needs to make additional changes to the auction bidding and licensing systems to prepare for auctions of spectrum bands that may become available for licensing based on spectrum planning currently underway, including other bands identified by the Mobile Now Act, the 30 megahertz required by the Pipeline Act, and bands identified by the Infrastructure Act. The Commission and its federal partners, including NTIA and the Department of Defense, are currently collaborating to explore additional mid-band 5G opportunities, such as implementation of the National Spectrum Strategy as well as ongoing work streams in NTIA's Interagency Spectrum Advisory Council (ISAC) . The ISAC provides a forum for the Commission and its federal partners to address spectrum policy issues that affect the use of spectrum by non-federal and federal users. The ISAC is exploring other bands that could potentially be made available for commercial 5G use, including on a shared basis, consistent with statutory directives. The Commission expects these activities will extend into FY 2025.

- *SAS/ESC Testing for 3.5 GHz* – The SASs and ESCs are necessary components to facilitate additional non-federal access to spectrum in the 3.5 GHz band and are necessary to protect incumbent Federal operations. Six SASs have been authorized for full commercial use in the 3.5 GHz band for five-year terms, and sensor deployment and four ESC operators have been approved for commercial operation. In FY 2022, the Commission enabled Priority Access Licensees to enter into light-touch leases and spectrum manager leases with notification to a SAS administrator, consistent with the Commission's rules. The Commission will continue to monitor and analyze the operations of approved SASs and ESCs to ensure compliance with the

rules. Other entities have applied to be SAS administrators and ESC operators and more applications may be filed in the future. The Commission will need to test and evaluate these new SASs and ESCs prior to approving them for use in the 3.5 GHz band. The Commission may also need to perform additional testing on existing SASs and ESCs to ensure that any future system upgrades or modifications comply with the rules. This work will continue into FY 2025.

- *Optimization for New Spectrum Opportunities* – The optimization team will help the Commission analyze and study options for using complex mathematical optimization techniques for making new spectrum licenses available through new auction formats including overlay licenses, transitioning incumbents out of repurposed spectrum bands while assuring continued service to their customers, and other ways to implement spectrum sharing scenarios, to ensure we are maximizing the amount of useful commercial spectrum. They will develop optimal band plans accommodating incumbent uses and demonstrate the value of additional clearing or sharing as necessary. This research will also provide statistical and technical computation, analysis, simulation, and modeling, including geographic data and mapping, related to auctions.

- *Spectrum Visualization Tools* – Public Facing and Internal – The Commission continues to develop spectrum visualization tools to provide the public and government agencies with insights into how spectrum utilization could be modified to meet growing demand for wireless broadband services, including through licenses assigned by auction. These tools will help satisfy the public's significant interest in understanding who has licensed rights to different spectrum bands at different locations and provide the ability to manipulate and analyze this data. Federal agencies also would benefit from this information as they consider sharing/relocation options. Additionally, it is critical for internal Commission teams to have robust data, including mapping, to understand coverage and operations across the country. For example, in anticipation of the auction of overlay licenses in the 2.5 GHz band (Auction 108), on March 21, 2022, the Commission announced the launch of a mapping tool for use by potential bidders to help assess whether and to what extent there is unassigned 2.5 GHz spectrum available in any U.S. county. Similar work will continue in FY 2025.

- *Auction Application System (formerly known as Integrated Spectrum Auctions System (ISAS)) Enhancement/Modernization* – The Commission must modify the application forms for participation in each auction in response to the auction's unique requirements. Work to modernize the auction application system will provide the foundation for new implementations of the primary auctions application software, including providing the ability to customize the form to support future auctions based on novel license eligibility requirements and auction formats, while improving security. This work, including updates to implement new spectrum and auction policies, will continue through FY 2025.

- *Universal Licensing System Modernization* – The Commission must modernize its licensing database and infrastructure to implement complex new service rules, as well as replace outdated technology to improve reliability, security, and access to data. The modernized system would enable the FCC to better support new auctions, inventory existing auction licenses, and re-auction spectrum. In FY 2025, the work will continue.

Continued Close-Out of Post-Broadcast Incentive Auction Transition Work

The Incentive Auction Closing and Channel Reassignment Public Notice, released on April 13, 2017, announced the completion of the first-ever spectrum incentive auction. The BIA made available 84 megahertz of low-band spectrum for commercial and unlicensed wireless use by repurposing a portion of the broadcast TV band. The total net winning bids of the auction were $19.3 billion. Pursuant to the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, the auction proceeds, among other things, were directed to fund $1.75 billion, and the Reimbursement Expansion Act of 2018 (REA) funded the remainder, of a $2.7 billion TVBRF. The TVBRF reimburses entities for their reasonable expenses incurred as a result of stations being involuntarily relocated to new channels. The TVBRF permitted the Commission to obligate funds until July 3, 2023, and the Commission may reimburse entities from obligated funds for a period of 5 years thereafter, during which time the Commission staff will continue to administer reimbursement of previously obligated funds for reimbursement of eligible expenses. As of December 2023, 4 full power stations had not completed construction of final facilities and therefore remained on interim facilities. In addition, some repacked stations, that have already vacated their pre-auction channel, have ongoing construction to remove old antennas and equipment and take other follow-up efforts, the reasonable costs of which are also reimbursable from the TVBRF. Certain LPTV/translator stations are still constructing displacement facilities. Activities that will continue to take place in FY 2025 include: licensing for broadcasters being relocated and for LPTV/translator stations building displacement facilities; reimbursement of ongoing construction expenses; close-out procedures for entities participating in the TVBRF; post-implementation site visits; data validations, audits, and disbursement validations; and processing of banking information submissions.

FCC Obligations in Support of the Auctions Program

Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §309(a), the Commission must provide its authorizing and appropriations committees in Congress with a detailed report of the FCC's obligations in support of the auctions program for each fiscal year of operation. The following table shows available auction cash for recent fiscal years.

Spectrum Auctions Activities

Dollars in Thousands

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024[3]
Beginning Cash Balance as of October 1	$3,508,741	$3,378,640	$7,731,130	$84,938,157	$3,098,809	$3,075,249
Current Year Net Cash	2,598,061	6,845,791	77,926,671	(81,370,968)	321,770	211,071
Less:						
Deferred Revenue as of September 30[1]	(2,725,948)	(2,491,088)	(113,267)	(466,496)	(345,287)	(343,074)
Deposit Liability - Refunds as of September 30[2]	(2,214)	(2,213)	(606,377)	(1,884)	(43)	(281)
Available Cash as of September 30	**$3,378,640**	**$7,731,130**	**$84,938,157**	**$3,098,809**	**$3,075,249**	**$2,942,965**

[1]Cash associated with licenses that have not been granted as of stated date.

[2]Upfront auction deposits not refunded as of stated date.

[3]The available cash balance is as of November 30, 2023

Summary of Distribution of Resources - Spectrum Auctions Program

SPECTRUM AUCTIONS COST RECOVERY REIMBURSABLE AUTHORITY INCLUDING OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

(Dollars in Thousands)

Object Classification Description	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress
Personnel Compensation & Benefits:			
Full-time & Other than full-time Permanent (11.1 & 11.3)	$24,458	$28,587	$31,013
Personnel benefits (12.0)	8,789	9,443	10,268
Subtotal - Personnel Compensation & Benefits	**$33,247**	**$38,030**	**$41,281**
Other Expenses:			
Benefits for former personnel (13.0)	$2	$8	$9
Travel & transportation of persons (21.0)	336	387	403
Transportation of things (22.0)	10	9	9
Rent payments to GSA (23.1)	4,615	4,616	4,803
Communications, utilities, & misc. charges (23.3)	2,046	2,194	2,283
Printing and reproduction (24.0)	142	217	226
Other services from non-Federal sources (25.2)	11,182	25,241	26,167
Other goods & services from Federal sources (25.3)	766	932	969
Operation & maintenance of equipment (25.7)	50,877	59,930	62,156
Supplies and materials (26.0)	91	117	122
Equipment (31.0)	578	530	552
Insurance claims & interest (40.0)	14	20	20
Subtotal - Other Expenses	**$70,659**	**$94,201**	**$97,719**
Total - Auctions Cost Recovery Reimbursable Authority	**$103,906**	**$132,231**	**$139,000**

Spectrum Auctions Expenditures Report

Section 309(j) of the Communications Act permits the Commission to use funds raised from auctions to fund its auctions program, including contracts for services and costs related to personnel performing work in support of Commission auctions authorized under that section. The FCC's Office of General Counsel (OGC) and Office of Managing Director (OMD) provide direction to FCC employees attributing hours for this purpose. The House of Representatives and Senate Appropriations Committees review and set a yearly cap for the spectrum auctions program.

The requested funding level at $139,000,000 will enable the Commission to fund the following activities: further the objective of making more spectrum available for commercial use; continue implementation of the Spectrum Pipeline Act of 2015 and certain provisions of the RAY BAUM'S Act, including the MOBILE NOW Act, as well as the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act; continue the close-out of post-BIA work to include the new additional requirements from the REA related to the TVBRF; and upgrade and improve auctions infrastructure in preparation for future actions. In addition, as the demand for spectrum for new technologies extends to spectrum bands previously assigned for legacy applications, creative approaches must be found to accommodate existing licensees and operations while expanding opportunities for access by new users.

The Commission's spectrum auctions program supports efficient licensing while also contributing significant funds to the U.S. Treasury for deficit reduction and providing direct support to other government programs. As of December 2023, the Commission had generated over $233.5 billion in auctions revenues since initiating the auctions program in 1994. During this period, auctions program expenses have been 1.1 percent of the Commission's total auctions revenues.

Spectrum auction planning, development, and implementation is performed agency-wide and is very information technology (IT) intensive, as reflected in our Auction Expenditure Justification Reports. For example, the Incentive Auction Task Force as well as the team that implemented the transition of 100 megahertz of spectrum in the 3.45-3.55 GHz band to flexible use licenses subject to certain cooperative sharing requirements and assigned by auction, drew upon the resources and expertise of staff from across the Commission, including the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Media Bureau, International Bureau, Bureau of Consumer and Governmental Affairs, Office of Economics and Analytics, Office of Engineering and Technology, OMD, and OGC. Auctions funds also cover the program's share of Commission operating expenses. The Commission uses these funds to enable successful auctions and expends them in a manner consistent with statutory requirements.

Every auction is different and has specific requirements, which require careful attention to detail and planning. Since auction activities are performed agency-wide and are unique, allocating the appropriate amount of cost and overhead related to the auctions program is a challenge. In addition, the complexity of spectrum auctions has increased steadily as the Commission works through more difficult technical and policy issues related to the scarcity of vacant spectrum. Preparation for spectrum auctions generally requires sufficient time to design, develop, and implement secure, reliable, and effective auction application, bidding, and post-auction licensing systems.

In the practice of cost accounting, costs are identified as one of the following: (1) direct cost, (2) indirect cost, or (3) generally allocated cost. The methodology for deriving the proportional

share of generally allocated administrative costs to be charged to the auctions program is based on the Commission's time reporting system and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. The allocation is based on the percentage of actual hours that employees worked to support the auction program plus the same proportional share of the employee's indirect hours (leave hours). This full time equivalent (FTE) rate is applied to costs that benefit the Commission as a whole. The items that are allocated by the FTE rate include Commission-wide IT systems, guard service, administrative facility services, supplies, furniture, equipment, and human resources training activities. The FCC has maintained an average of 14 percent for this purpose, with minor deviations.

The Commission continues to plan for future auctions, most notably reallocating and auctioning frequencies within 3.1-3.45 GHz band identified for shared use by federal and non-federal users by the Departments of Commerce and Defense; reallocating bands made available in the Spectrum Frontiers proceeding to terrestrial wireless use; and an auction of the spectrum required by the Spectrum Pipeline Act of 2015. Other auctions that may continue to be a focus for the Commission in FY 2025 include re-auctions of certain licenses previously offered and unassigned, because either there was no winning bidder, a winning bidder defaulted, or a licensee returned its license(s) to the Commission. Commission staff will also continue to oversee the reimbursement process and the work of a Relocation Payment Clearinghouse in the 3.45 GHz band.

The Commission will also continue to leverage auctions expertise and infrastructure to support reverse auctions that allocate Universal Service funding in an efficient and effective manner. Specifically, the Commission has adopted rules to make available through reverse auctions up to $9 billion in the 5G Fund to support deployment of mobile broadband in unserved areas. In addition, the Commission is continually working to update and modernize its auction bidding and application systems to improve their speed, flexibility, reliability, and security to support timely new auctions when additional spectrum that could be made available is identified.

In FY 2025, the Commission will continue implementation of the RAY BAUM'S Act, including working with NTIA to identify 255 megahertz of additional spectrum (subject to certain frequency and use requirements) for mobile and fixed broadband use; preparing annual reports on upcoming systems of competitive bidding; and coordinating with the Departments of Commerce and Defense on initiatives related to shared spectrum allocations, bidirectional sharing, and commercial wireless use in the 3100-3550 MHz bands; and monitoring post-auction operations in bands subject to spectrum sharing and/or transition to new flexible uses.

In addition, a Commission auction focus in FY 2025 will be to continue post-broadcast incentive auction implementation. The auction required that 987 full power and Class A television stations be repacked into a new, smaller TV band, which involved reorganizing and assigning channels to the remaining broadcast television stations to create contiguous blocks of cleared spectrum suitable for flexible wireless use. The process also displaced over 2,000 low power TV and TV translator stations and those stations were provided with an opportunity to construct displacement facilities. The scope of the repacking component of this auction has made it a unique and computationally complex challenge that will continue to require substantial resources and engagement from the Commission until all stations are operating on their permanent facilities and the reimbursement process has been completed. The TVBRF permitted the Commission to obligate funds until July 3, 2023, and the Commission may reimburse entities from obligated funds for a period of 5 years thereafter, during which time the Commission staff will continue to administer reimbursement of

previously obligated funds for reimbursement of eligible expenses. The post-auction transition also requires continued engagement of the Fund Administrator, which is overseen by Commission staff, to administer the reimbursements by reviewing cost estimates and invoices to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse. Such active oversight of the process will continue to require Commission staff resources to coordinate with broadcasters to monitor broadcaster progress, identify and resolve transition-related problems and challenges, process applications, review and verify information, undertake and complete the ongoing reimbursement program and, as appropriate, conduct subsequent verifications and audits of the reimbursements.

Finally, the Commission will continue to devote resources in FY 2025 towards implementation efforts to transition a 280-megahertz block of spectrum in the 3.7-4.0 GHz band, plus a 20-megahertz guard band, from incumbent use to new flexible-use now that the related auction is complete. All eligible incumbent space station operators elected to clear according to the following accelerated timeline: (1) clearing 120 megahertz (3.7-3.82 GHz) by December 5, 2021, and (2) clearing the remaining 180 megahertz (3.82-4.0 GHz) by December 5, 2023. Both of these deadlines were met, making the incumbent space station operators eligible for accelerated relocation payments of up to $9.7 billion, to be paid by the new flexible-use licensees. Incumbent fixed-satellite service (FSS) and fixed service (FS) licensees, as well as incumbent earth station operators, may also seek reimbursement of reasonable relocation costs paid by flexible-use licensees as a condition on their license.

Commission staff are overseeing the reimbursement process and the work of a Relocation Payment Clearinghouse, who manages the intake, payout, and auditing of relocation funds, serves in an administrative role to mediate disputes related to such costs, and provides progress reports to the Commission. Commission staff will also handle any appeals of disputes mediated by the Relocation Payment Clearinghouse in the first instance.

The enacted and estimated FTE levels for the spectrum auctions program for FYs 2023 through 2025 are shown on page 15. At the end of the Spectrum Auctions section is a crosswalk showing how spectrum auctions program funds will be utilized in FY 2025.

The following two schedules provide some details of the spectrum auctions program since its inception in 1994. These schedules also provide some perspective into how much money was collected/generated for the U.S. Treasury or for broader government use and the total cost for running the Commission's spectrum auctions program.

Spectrum Auctions and Cash Collected/Generated by Fiscal Year

Fiscal Years 1994 through December 2023

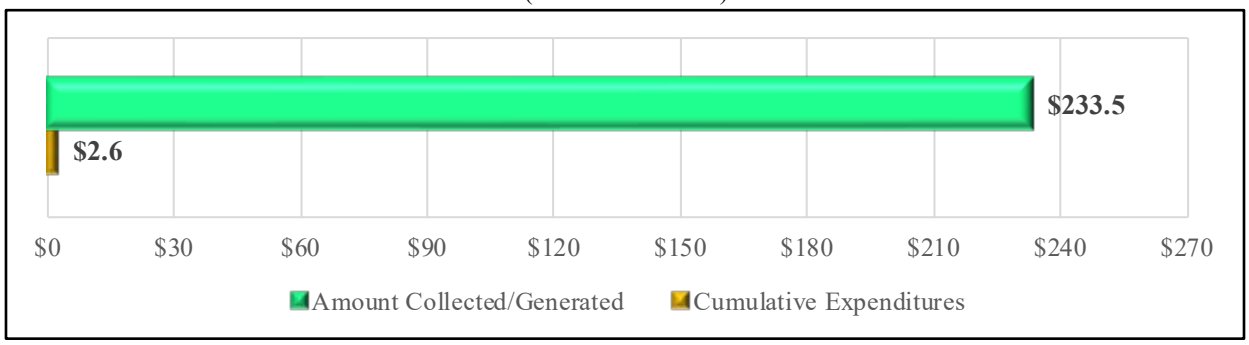
Fiscal Year	Number of Auctions	Number of Licenses Won	Amount Collected/Generated
1994	2	604	$652,954
1995	2	129	$8,234,321
1996	6	2,026	$2,019,376
1997	4	1,614	$2,205,922
1998	2	1,388	$860,879
1999	6	1,693	$499,599
2000	8	4,403	$1,335,043
2001	4	3,447	$583,600
2002	7	7,036	$135,631
2003	7	3,144	$77,122
2004	5	267	$126,790
2005	6	2,803	$2,208,333
2006	5	1,284	$13,834,979
2007	5	290	$163,430
2008	3	1,144	$18,988,396
2009	2	115	$5,696
2010	3	4,788	$25,973
2011	3	126	$31,493
2012	1	93	$3,878
2013	2	3,197	$5,784
2014	2	186	$1,564,597
2015	2	1,713	$41,776,426
2016	0	0	$0
2017	1	2,776	$19,306,993
2018	2	41	$806
2019	3	5,880	$2,724,006
2020	2	34,767	$12,136,648
2021	2	5,781	$81,127,067
2022	3	11,931	$22,868,100
2023	0	0	$0
2024	0	0	$0
Totals	**100**	**102,666**	**$233,503,841**

Dollars in Thousands

Spectrum Auctions Program – Cash Collected/Generated vs. Expenditures

Fiscal Years 1994 through December 2023

(Dollars in Billions)



Cumulative Expenditures include the amount requested for FY 2024.

Crosswalk - Summary of Changes for Spectrum Auctions Program

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	Base Realign-ments for FY 2025 Base	FY 2025 Base	FY 2025 Salary Increase	FY 2025 Non-Salary Inflationary Increase	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress
Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau	$155	$3	$158	$0	$3	$161
Media Bureau	$2,300	$46	$2,346	$0	$47	$2,393
Space Bureau	$2	$0	$2	$0	$0	$2
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau	$3,705	$74	$3,779	$0	$76	$3,855
Office of Administrative Law Judges	$2	$0	$2	$0	$0	$2
Office of Economics and Analytics	$13,631	$274	$13,905	$0	$279	$14,184
Office of Engineering and Technology	$61	$1	$62	$0	$2	$64
Office of General Counsel	$31	$1	$32	$0	$1	$33
Office of International Affairs	$2	$0	$2	$0	$0	$2
Office of Managing Director	$74,253	$1,378	$75,631	$0	$1,333	$76,964
Office of Media Relations	$38	$1	$39	$0	$1	$40
Office of Workplace Diversity	$13	$0	$13	$0	$0	$13
Compensation & Benefits	$38,038	$2,158	$40,196	$1,091	$0	$41,287
TOTAL	**$132,231**	**$3,936**	**$136,167**	**$1,091**	**$1,742**	**$139,000**

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Budget Authorities Already Provided

COVID-19 Telehealth Program

Due to the novel coronavirus 2019 disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the Commission established the COVID-19 Telehealth Program through a *Report and Order* released on April 2, 2020. Round 1 of the COVID-19 Telehealth Program was funded through a $200 million Congressional appropriation as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, to immediately support eligible health care providers responding to the pandemic by providing funding for telecommunications services, information services, and connected devices necessary to provide critical connected care services whether for treatment of the COVID-19 disease or other health conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 Telehealth Program was an emergency funding program designed to provide flexibility for eligible health care providers that applied for and received funding commitments, and then requested reimbursement for eligible expenses that they purchased and received from their service providers or vendors under the COVID-19 Telehealth Program.

In order to seek funding in Round 1, eligible health care providers were required to submit an application to the Commission, including information on the costs of the services and/or connected devices for which they plan to seek reimbursement. The Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau), in consultation with the FCC's Connect2Health Task Force, reviewed the COVID-19 Telehealth Program applications, as outlined in the *Report and Order*, selected participants, and made funding awards on a rolling basis to eligible applicants based on the estimated costs of the eligible items they intended to purchase with the COVID-19 Telehealth Program funds. Selected funding recipients received a funding commitment letter providing their award amount and additional information about certain COVID-19 Telehealth Program requirements and procedures. Consistent with the requirements in the *Report and Order*, the Commission prioritized applications from areas that were hardest hit by COVID-19 and where funding had the most impact on addressing a community's health care needs. To ensure as many applicants as possible received available funding under the CARES Act, the Bureau did not award more than $1 million to any single applicant. The Commission stopped accepting applications for Round 1 funding under the COVID-19 Telehealth Program on June 25, 2020. Awards were made until the appropriated Round 1 funding under the COVID-19 Telehealth Program was exhausted, which occurred on July 8, 2020. The Bureau issued $200 million in total COVID-19 Telehealth Program Round 1 funding commitments for 539 applications.

After paying for and receiving the eligible services and/or connected devices from the service provider or vendor, funding recipients were required to submit to the Commission: a request seeking reimbursement; invoice documentation sufficient to identify the eligible items that were purchased and received, and the price paid; and, if applicable, a Letter of Authorization for those applicants that received a funding commitment on behalf of other eligible health care provider sites. Under Round 1 of the COVID-19 Telehealth Program, the Commission reimbursed funding recipients the full cost of the eligible services and/or connected devices received so long as the invoice submissions were accompanied by the required supporting documentation. After the reimbursement request was approved by the Commission, payment was issued by the U.S. Department of Treasury electronically to the bank account on file associated with the funding recipient.

On December 27, 2020, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 was signed into law, which appropriated $249.95 million for Round 2 of the Commission's COVID-19 Telehealth Program. This additional funding allowed the Commission to continue its efforts to expand telehealth throughout the country and enable patients to access necessary health care services while helping slow the spread of the disease. Per congressional directive, the Commission was required to seek comment on various ideas related to committing the new funding, including the criteria to use to evaluate applications and how to treat pending applications from Round 1. The Commission released a Public Notice seeking comment on these issues on January 6, 2021. On March 30, 2021, the Commission released a *Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration* setting forth additional details about the policies and procedures that would apply during Round 2. On April 15, 2021, the Bureau released a Public Notice announcing the duration of the Round 2 application filing window, which opened on April 29, 2021 and closed on May 6, 2021.

On August 26, 2021, the Bureau released a Public Notice announcing the first group of funding to 62 awardees totaling $41.98 million for Round 2 of its COVID-19 Telehealth Program. Health care providers in each state, territory, and the District of Columbia, including those previously unfunded in Round 1, used this funding to provide telehealth services during the coronavirus pandemic. The Bureau then released three additional Public Notices, on September 29, October 21, and November 9, committing over $150 million.

At that point, consistent with the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, a 10-day window was provided for unfunded applicants to supplement or clarify their applications. A November 9, 2021, Public Notice announced that the period began November 9, 2021, and ended November 19, 2021. The same Public Notice provided guidance for applicants who wanted to supplement their applications.

After the 10-day supplemental period ended, applications were re-ranked, and funding was awarded to the highest-scoring remaining applications. On December 21, 2021, the Bureau released a Public Notice committing funding to an additional 68 applicants. On January 26, 2022, the Bureau released its sixth and final Public Notice, which committed funding to 100 applicants. In total, 446 awardees received $256.4 million in funding commitments as part of Round 2 of the Program.

On July 29, 2022, a Public Notice announced that the deadline for all purchases and implementation of services was October 31, 2022 and the deadline for submission of all invoices and requests for reimbursement was October 31, 2023.

Further, on April 12, 2023, the Commission released a Public Notice announcing that the pandemic emergency period for the Telehealth Program ended on April 10, 2023, due to the enactment of House Joint Resolution 7. Pursuant to the CARES Act, eligible telehealth expenses must have been paid for and received on or between March 13, 2020, through April 10, 2023, the end of the emergency period. As of December 2023, Round 2 participants have submitted final reimbursement requests.

Broadband Deployment Accuracy and Technological Availability (Broadband DATA) Act and Broadband Deployment Locations Map

The Commission has long recognized that precise, granular data on the availability of fixed and mobile broadband are vital to bringing digital opportunity to all Americans, no matter where they

live, work, or travel. On March 23, 2020, the Broadband Deployment Accuracy and Technological Availability Act (Broadband DATA Act) was signed into law requiring the Commission to create a new set of broadband availability maps. Among other things, the Broadband DATA Act requires the Commission to collect standardized, granular data on the availability and quality of both fixed and mobile broadband Internet access services, to create a common dataset of all locations where fixed broadband Internet access service can be installed (the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric or Fabric), and to create publicly available coverage maps. The Act further requires the Commission to establish processes for members of the public and other entities to (1) provide verified data for use in the coverage maps; (2) challenge the coverage maps, the broadband availability data submitted by service providers, and the Fabric; and (3) submit specific crowdsource information about the development and availability of broadband service.

In July 2020, the Commission adopted a *Second Report and Order and Third Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* that adopted rules for the collection and verification of improved, more precise data on both fixed and mobile broadband availability. In January 2021, the Commission released a *Third Report and Order* that took additional steps to ensure that both the new data collection itself, and the measures for verifying the accuracy of the data collected, will yield a robust and reliable data resource for the Commission, Congress, federal and state policymakers, and consumers to evaluate the status of broadband deployment throughout the United States.

On December 27, 2020, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 was signed into law appropriating $98 million in funding for the implementation of the Broadband DATA Act. After receiving this funding, the Chairwoman established the Broadband Data Task Force (Task Force) in February 2021 to lead the cross-agency effort to implement the Act. Since then, the Task Force, working closely with multiple Commission Bureaus and Offices, has moved ahead with the complex and interrelated workstreams that must be accomplished as expeditiously as possible to enable the Commission to produce precise and consistent maps of broadband availability and thereby to assure that federal and state funding efforts can be predicated on such accurate information. All fixed and mobile providers of mass-market broadband Internet access service are required to file broadband availability data as of June 30 and December 31 each year. Submissions are due no later than September 1 and March 1, respectively. The initial filing window of the Broadband Data Collection (BDC) opened on June 30, 2022, the second on January 3, 2023, the third on June 30, 2023, and the fourth on January 2, 2024.

On September 12, 2022, following the deadline for filing of service availability data in the inaugural data collection that commenced on June 30, 2022, the Commission began accepting bulk challenges to the Fabric from state, local and Tribal governments and internet service providers. This ongoing process enables the Commission and its contractor to augment their efforts to update and improve the Fabric. A revised version of the Fabric incorporating the results of challenges, as well as other updates and refinements to the Fabric made by the contractor, are made available to licensees on or before the opening of each biannual BDC filing window.

On November 18, 2022, the Commission released a pre-production draft of its new National Broadband Map based on the availability data submitted by providers. The new map is the most comprehensive, granular and standardized data the Commission has ever made available on broadband availability. On the same day, the Commission announced the beginning of the fixed and mobile availability challenge processes, and the individual Fabric challenge process. This began an ongoing, iterative process that will continuously improve the data shown on the map by

incorporating challenges from individuals and other stakeholders. To date, stakeholders have submitted over 4 million challenges to provider reported availability data and millions of location challenges. On May 30, 2023, the FCC released the second iteration of the National Broadband Map based on the December 31, 2022, availability data submitted by providers. The robust location and availability challenge processes are also ongoing and continue to refine the accuracy of the data reflected on the map. The FCC's third collection window, which collected availability data as of June 30, 2023, closed on September 15, 2023, and provides the basis for the most recent iteration of the National Broadband Map, which was released on November 17, 2023.

In light of the collection of more precise location-specific availability data in the BDC, the Commission adopted an Order on December 19, 2022, to sunset the Form 477 broadband deployment data collection that would eliminate a largely duplicative requirement on service providers. As a result, internet service providers are no longer required to submit Form 477 broadband deployment data, but must still submit broadband and voice subscription data using the FCC Form 477, which is now submitted through the BDC system.

The FCC takes several steps to ensure that provider reporting is as accurate as possible. These include BDC system validations as data is submitted, close and continued engagement with filers to correct data anomalies identified as a result of the system checks and other inputs, data verification inquiries, and agency-initiated audits. The FCC has initiated over 900 data verification inquiries to date to ensure that availability submissions are accurate. Audits are also being undertaken both in response to specific identified concerns and on a random basis.

Implementing the Broadband DATA Act required the Commission to develop a complex platform and systems to collect and map data collected from over 2,500 internet service providers and to enable consumers and other stakeholders to submit challenges to that data, to develop a Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric dataset that serves as the basis for the reporting and publication of fixed availability data, and to establish a help center to provide technical assistance to providers, consumers, and other stakeholders.

The Commission relies on the BDC system and platform to accept broadband availability coverage data submissions from service providers and other entities, to map that data and make it public; and to receive, track, and resolve challenges and crowdsource data – including data from the FCC's mobile Speed Test App – submitted in response to the provider availability data. On March 4, 2022, the Commission published detailed technical specifications for the submission of subscription, availability and supporting data into the BDC filing platform. On June 23, 2022, the Task Force issued a public notice announcing early access to certain portions of the BDC system for filers to register in advance of the opening of the initial filing window. The FCC is now engaged in contracting for enhancement, operations, maintenance, and support services for the BDC system to continue beyond 2023.

The FCC has also continued its work to update and improve the Fabric. After a lengthy protest to the contract award was resolved by Government Accountability Office (GAO) in the FCC's favor on February 24, 2022, its contractor built and made available to Internet service providers and governmental entities the first version of the Fabric in advance of the June 30, 2022, opening of the filing window for the BDC. The FCC has continued to work with its contractor to improve and refine the Fabric using many underlying datasets to derive locations/broadband serviceable

locations (BSLs) for the Fabric data. These datasets include addresses, raw building footprints extracted from aerial and satellite imagery using deep learning methods, tax assessor attributes, imagery data, state and local parcel records, HUBB data, manual visual verifications, Census data, and road data. These types of datasets are input into the contractor's predictive modeling to determine whether a structure exists (both on a parcel and in non-parceled areas) and whether the structure represents a broadband serviceable location, and also uses the data to set the attributes provided in the Fabric records (e.g., units, address, building_type_code, etc.). To date, four versions of the Fabric have been released, the first in advance of the inaugural June 30, 2022 collection and updated versions in advance of each biannual collection since then, the most recent being for use in the December 31, 2023, data collection. Additionally, since September 2022, several million location challenges have been accepted and successfully incorporated into the Fabric. These challenges have been important in helping to identify missing locations and correcting addresses and other information associated with the BSLs included in the Fabric. As a result of this ongoing work and the challenge process, roughly two million BSLs have been added to the map since the November 2022 pre-production version was published.

The Commission has engaged in additional procurement efforts and has retained outside resources to assist in providing technical assistance to Internet service providers as well as to participants in the challenge process, as required under the Broadband DATA Act. To supplement these efforts, the FCC has executed two separate contracts with an outside firm to provide technical assistance for both filers of broadband availability data (including state agencies possessing verified data) and stakeholders, such as states, seeking to challenge the availability data submitted by internet service providers and the BSLs set out in the Fabric. These resources include help desk support for answering basic questions related to the filing requirements, as well as specialized Geographic Information System (GIS) support for preparing and submitting verified broadband availability data. In April 2022, the Task Force also launched an online help center and other new resources to assist Internet service providers and other filers of verified broadband availability data prepare their submissions for the BDC filing windows. The resources include video webinars and tutorials, technical assistance information, and the ability to request one-on-one assistance from an agent over the telephone or via email.

The Commission also continues to address the legal and policy issues associated with implementing the challenge, crowdsource and verification processes. On March 9, 2022, the Task Force, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Office of Economics and Analytics, and Office of Engineering and Technology released a detailed order, technical appendix, rules and technical data specifications setting forth technical requirements and specifications for the mobile challenge, verification, and crowdsource processes required by the Act. Individual consumers are now able to submit mobile challenge and crowdsource data using mobile speed test apps, such as the FCC Speed Test app. Currently, we are using the preexisting FCC Speed test app as updated and modified for use in the BDC mobile challenge and crowdsource processes. In February 2023, in anticipation of the expiration of the preexisting contract, the FCC issued a contract solicitation to re-compete the FCC Speed Test app, and on March 3, 2023, the FCC awarded a contract to Mozark PTE. The award was protested by another party, thereby halting development of the new speed test app, but GAO ruled in the FCC's favor on July 18, 2023, and the stop work order has been lifted and development efforts are underway. In light of the delay, the FCC executed a short-term extension of the prior contract so that the prior vendor can continue hosting the FCC app until the new app is operational. Recognizing that some entities such as state and Tribal governments might prefer to submit mobile

speed test data in bulk using their own hardware and software, specifications and procedures were made available on September 15, 2022, for such entities to do so.

The FCC has also acquired propagation modeling software and automation services for use in verifying the accuracy of mobile providers' broadband availability maps. To supplement this effort, in 2022 and 2023, the Commission awarded two additional contracts for wireless engineering analysis and support services, and for mobile drive testing services. These contracts will enable in-depth review of data submitted by mobile and fixed wireless providers, including their link budgets, network monitoring results, and infrastructure data, and will help facilitate our audits and verifications of mobile providers' coverage data.

The FCC also continues to offer assistance and educational resources for consumers, service providers, state, local, and Tribal governmental entities, as well as other interested parties. Staff have hosted a number of virtual technical assistance webinars and workshops, and published video tutorials detailing the various ways that entities may help improve the accuracy of the data on the map and providing step-by-step instructions on how to do so. In addition, FCC staff have engaged with stakeholders by participating in numerous in-person and online events in partnership with other organizations. These organizations include the National Governor's Association, National Association of Counties, National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates, National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, National League of Cities, various state-hosted broadband events, several industry trade associations, and others. The Task Force also meets one-on-one with stakeholders, including state broadband offices, localities and counties, service providers, and other entities who have questions about participating in the BDC.

To date, the Task Force has participated in over 300 engagements with stakeholders, including the ones highlighted above. Along with personal engagement with stakeholders, the FCC also maintains an online Help Center which includes a variety of self-help resources such as knowledge-based articles, tutorial videos, and step-by-step instructions for both consumers and entities who wish to participate in the BDC. Importantly, the Help Center also offers an option for users to "Get Help" by connecting with the technical assistance team for hands-on technical support. The Task Force continues its outreach efforts to support ongoing improvements to the National Broadband Map, as envisioned by the Broadband DATA Act.

Tribal outreach has also been a key focus of our outreach efforts. The Broadband DATA Act recognized the unique issues that have historically made it difficult to precisely map broadband availability on Tribal lands and FCC staff have actively engaged with Tribal entities on BDC matters. Since as early as December 2021, FCC staff has hosted and/or participated in numerous in-person meetings and workshops with Tribes, including Tribal leaders, broadband providers, and other Tribal organizations, to offer Technical Assistance for BDC filings and educate Tribal stakeholders about the National Broadband Map and ways they can contribute to making the location and availability data shown as accurate as possible. This Tribal engagement includes a December 2021 virtual technical assistance workshop held specifically for Tribal providers who were preparing and submitting fixed availability data, in addition to all of the materials and the technical assistance help desk which support non-Tribal providers. Staff have also worked extensively with Tribal governmental entities to encourage participation in the location and availability challenge processes by providing training, technical assistance, educational resources, and hands-on demonstrations of how to submit a challenge.

To date, staff have conducted roughly 100 engagements with Tribal entities and organizations. In-person Technical Assistance meetings have included representatives of Tribal Nations and entities in nine states/eight BIA Regions: Alaska (Alaska Region), Arizona (Western Region), California (Pacific Region), Minnesota (Midwest Region), New Mexico (Southwest Region), Oklahoma (Eastern Oklahoma Region), Oregon, South Dakota (Great Plains Region) and Washington (Northwest Region), and Maine (Eastern Region). These engagements have also included the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, the National Tribal Telecommunications Association, the Great Plains Tribal Chairmans Association, the National Congress of American Indians, as well as individual one-on-one meetings. FCC staff have also met with the Native Nations Communications Task Force, an FCC advisory group comprised of Tribal stakeholders. In collaboration with the FCC's Office of Native Affairs and Policy, the Commission has also sent numerous fact sheets and other information to Tribal entities, both reminding providers of the obligation to file and offering resources to support all types of BDC engagement.

On November 15, 2021, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (the IIJA) was signed into law. The IIJA amended the Broadband DATA Act to require the Commission to resolve challenges no later than 90 days after the date on which a final response by a provider to a challenge is complete, and to implement this new requirement as soon as possible after the date of enactment of the IIJA. The IIJA also appropriated $10 million to the Commission, in consultation with all relevant Federal agencies, for the creation of a Broadband Deployment Locations Map, a public resource that will show the locations of broadband infrastructure projects funded by the Federal Government.

The IIJA required that the Broadband Deployment Locations Map be made publicly available on the Commission's website no later than May 2023. The Commission engaged the same firm working to build the systems for the BDC to build out the data collection and map to meet the IIJA's requirements, and on May 15, 2023, the Commission released the Broadband Funding Map. In addition, Commission staff continue to meet with staff from executive agencies to assist them in developing system requirements and ensure alignment of their data.

Secure & Trusted Communications Network Reimbursement Program

On March 12, 2020, the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 (Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act) was signed into law. The Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act, among other measures, directed the Commission to establish the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program (Reimbursement Program) to fund the removal, replacement, and disposal of covered communications equipment or services that pose an unacceptable risk to the national security of the United States or the security and safety of U.S. persons from the networks of providers of advanced communications service. Specifically, the Reimbursement Program assists providers of advanced communications service with the costs of permanently removing, replacing, and disposing of communications equipment and services produced or provided by Huawei Technologies Company (Huawei) and ZTE Corporation (ZTE) and obtained by the providers on or before June 30, 2020.

On December 10, 2020, the Commission adopted a *Second Report and Order* implementing the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act by establishing rules for the Reimbursement Program. The Reimbursement Program provides funding allocations to eligible providers of advanced communications service based on their estimated costs. Reimbursement Program

recipients can then obtain funding disbursements from their allocation upon showing of actual expenses incurred. Reimbursement Program recipients will have one year from the initial disbursement to complete the permanent removal, replacement, and disposal of covered communications equipment or services, unless a general or individual extensions of that deadline is granted by the Commission. Recipients of Reimbursement Program funds shall use these funds solely to: (1) permanently remove covered communications equipment and services from their networks; (2) replace the covered communications equipment and services with non-covered equipment or services; and (3) dispose of the covered communications equipment and services, in accordance with the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act and the Commission's rules.

On December 27, 2020, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Consolidated Appropriations Act), was signed into law. The legislation included a $1.9 billion appropriation that funds the Reimbursement Program. In addition, the legislation amended the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act, expanding program eligibility from providers of advanced communications service with two million or fewer customers to providers with ten million or fewer customers. The Consolidated Appropriations Act also amended the definition of a provider of advanced communications service to specifically include certain non-commercial education institutions, healthcare providers, and libraries providing advanced communications service, and added a method for prioritizing funding that differs from the approach adopted by the Commission in the *Second Report and Order*. The Commission released a *Third Report and Order,* on July 14, 2021, implementing the changes required by the Consolidated Appropriations Act and making additional clarifications about the Reimbursement Program. Notably, the Commission stated that the Reimbursement Program is limited to reimbursing the costs of removal, replacement, and disposal to communications equipment and service produced or provided by Huawei and ZTE that was obtained on or before June 30, 2020.

On April 28, 2021, the Commission's Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) announced the selection of a contractor as the Reimbursement Program Fund Administrator to assist with processing applications and administering the Reimbursement Program. On August 3, 2021, the Bureau released a public notice adopting final procedures for and providing eligible providers of advanced communications services with additional guidance regarding the application filing and reimbursement process for the Reimbursement Program. The Bureau also finalized the information fields on the new FCC Form 5640, which participants must submit to request funding allocations and disbursements from the Reimbursement Program.

The filing window to accept applications to participate in the Reimbursement Program opened on October 29, 2021 and closed on January 28, 2022. The Commission received 181 applications seeking approximately $5.26 billion in support for costs of removing, replacing, and disposing of Huawei and ZTE communications equipment and services. Because demand for program support significantly exceeded the $1.9 billion appropriation that funds the Reimbursement Program, the Bureau was required to implement the prioritization scheme mandated by the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act when it approved funding allocations. That scheme required that funding be first allocated to applicants with 2 million or fewer customers (Priority 1). Priority 1 applicants submitted approximately $4.64 billion in cost estimates that were deemed reasonable and supported. Because that amount also exceeded available funding, the Commission's rules required the Bureau to prorate the allocations approved for the Priority 1 applicants on an equal basis, consistent with the Act's requirement that funding be distributed on an equitable basis. The pro-rata factor applied to the funding allocations was approximately 39.5%. The Bureau issued

decisions approving prorated funding allocations for 126 applications filed by 85 eligible providers on July 15, 2022. That same day, the FCC informed Congress that to fund all reasonable and supported cost estimates submitted to the Reimbursement Program and cover estimated administrative expenses, the Program would require approximately $4.98 billion, reflecting an approximate $3.08 billion shortfall from the $1.9 billion appropriation. The Administration requested the remaining $3.08 billion needed for this reimbursement program as emergency supplemental funding in FY 2024.

Emergency Broadband Connectivity Fund-Emergency Broadband Benefit Program and Affordable Connectivity Fund-Affordable Connectivity Program

On December 27, 2020, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Consolidated Appropriations Act), was signed into law. In the Consolidated Appropriations Act, Congress appropriated $3.2 billion for the Emergency Broadband Connectivity Fund for fiscal year 2021, to remain available until expended or six months after the end of the public health emergency. The Consolidated Appropriations Act directed the Commission to use that funding to establish the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) Program, under which eligible low-income households may receive a discount off the cost of broadband service and certain connected devices during an emergency period relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, and participating providers can receive a reimbursement for such discounts. Enrollments in the EBB Program ceased on December 30, 2021 and the successor program, the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), began on December 31, 2021.

On November 15, 2021, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, 2021 (Infrastructure Act), was signed into law. In the Infrastructure Act, Congress appropriated $14.2 billion for the Affordable Connectivity Fund, to remain available until expended. The Infrastructure Act directed the Commission to use that funding to establish the ACP, under which eligible low-income households may receive a discount off the cost of broadband service and certain connected devices and participating providers can receive a reimbursement for passing such discounts on to eligible households.

To participate in the ACP, a provider must elect to participate and either be a state designated eligible telecommunications carrier or be approved by the Commission through a separate ACP application process. Participating providers make available to eligible households a monthly discount off the cost of an Internet service offering and associated equipment, up to $30.00 per month. On qualifying Tribal lands, the monthly discount may be up to $75.00 per month. Participating providers receive reimbursement from the ACP for the discounts provided. Participating providers that also supply an eligible household with a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet (connected device) may receive a single reimbursement of up to $100.00 for the connected device, if the charge to and payment from the eligible household for that device is more than $10.00 but less than $50.00. A participating provider may receive reimbursement for only one supported device per eligible household. Providers must submit certain certifications to the Commission to receive reimbursement from the ACP, and the Commission is required to adopt audit requirements to ensure provider compliance and program integrity.

In implementing the ACP, the Infrastructure Act permits the Commission to apply rules contained in part 54 of the Commission's rules, including those governing the Lifeline program. The

Infrastructure Act further permits the Commission to avail itself of the services of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), the administrator of the universal service support programs, to administer the ACP. Specifically, the Infrastructure Act required the Commission to adopt rules implementing the ACP by January 14, 2022.

Consistent with the Infrastructure Act, the Commission adopted a *Report and Order* on January 14, 2022 adopting the rules and policies creating and governing the ACP. The Commission has established processes and systems to administer the ACP, including approval and election processes for broadband providers to participate, consumer application and enrollment processes, and provider reimbursement processes. Consumers can apply for the ACP through the National Verifier at GetInternet.gov or through service providers' alternative verification processes.

On August 5, 2022, the Commission adopted a *Second Report and Order*, establishing the Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grant Program. In the order, the Commission established rules and guidelines for grant applicants including, eligibility and reporting requirements, funding mechanisms, application submission and review procedures. The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the ACP Outreach Grants was released on November 10, 2022 and the application deadline was January 9, 2023. As of August 1, 2023, the FCC approved 228 outreach grants to entities, including ACP Pilot Participants, to and issued over $72 million in in grant funding to its outreach partners. The Commission announced additional outreach grant opportunities in May 2023.

On August 5, 2022, the Commission adopted a *Third Report and Order*, establishing the Your Home, Your Internet Pilot Program. In this order, the Commission established rules and guidelines for housing agencies to participate in a pilot program, enhancing the ACP application process, and providing approved participants access to the National Verifier. Earlier that year, in January 2022, the Commission directed the Bureau and the USAC to conduct a one-year test pilot for granting trusted, neutral third-party entities with access to the National Verifier for purposes of assisting customers with applying for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP Navigator Pilot). The application window for the Your Home, Your Internet Pilot Program and the ACP Navigator Program and the related grant funding opportunity opened on November 21, 2022 and closed on January 9, 2023. A total of 34 entities were selected to participate in the ACP Pilot Programs: 23 entities selected for the Your Home, Your Internet Pilot Program, and 11 entities selected for the ACP Navigator Pilot Program. As a result of the wind down of the ACP, Pilot Participants were required to stop pilot-related outreach activities on February 7, 2024.

Additionally, the Infrastructure Act requires the Commission to develop a mechanism by which a provider could provide an ACP benefit, up to $75, in "high-cost" areas designated by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). On August 4, 2023, NTIA announced its designated high-cost areas, and the Commission released its *Sixth Report and Order* establishing the mechanism for providers to offer the ACP high-cost area benefit. On November 1, 2023, the Wireline Competition Bureau released a public notice with key dates and processes related to the provider application for the benefit.

The Infrastructure Act also requires the Commission to adopt rules for the collection of price and subscription rates of internet service offerings of ACP providers. On November 15, 2022, the FCC adopted an Order establishing the data to be collected, the mechanism for collecting the data, and the format of the data's publication. The inaugural collection opened on September 8, 2023 and providers were required to submit data by November 30, 2023.

Without additional funding to support the ACP, the FCC announced on January 11, 2024 the specific steps it would take to administer the wind-down of the ACP. One of those steps required freezing new enrollments in the program. When the FCC stopped accepting new enrollments into the program on February 7, 2024, there were 23,269,550 households enrolled in the ACP. Historical enrollment information remains available on USAC's website. The FCC announced that the final fully funded month of the ACP will be April 2024 with a partial reimbursement available to providers for May 2024. Building on the demonstrated successes enabled by the $14.2 billion provided in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for this program, the budget includes the Administration's pending supplemental request for $6 billion to continue the ACP in 2024. The Commission looks forward to working with Congress to extend this program and ensure that it continues to provide critical benefits to millions.

Emergency Connectivity Fund

To help schools and libraries provide connected devices, such as a laptop, tablet, or similar end-user devices, and broadband connectivity to students, school staff, and library patrons during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) emergency period, Congress established a $7.171 billion Emergency Connectivity Fund (the Fund) to remain available until September 30, 2030, as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (American Rescue Plan Act) signed into law on March 11, 2021. Per congressional directive, the Commission was required to promulgate rules providing for the distribution of funding from the Emergency Connectivity Fund to eligible schools and libraries for the purchase of eligible equipment and/or advanced telecommunications and information services for use by students, school staff, and library patrons at locations including locations other than a school or library within 60 days from the date of enactment.

Consistent with this congressional directive, on March 16, 2021, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) sought comment on the provision of support from the Emergency Connectivity Fund consistent with section 7402 of the American Rescue Plan Act. Subsequently, on May 10, 2021, the Commission established the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program and promulgated rules for the distribution of funding from the Fund. The first Emergency Connectivity Fund Program application filing window opened on June 29, 2021 and closed on August 13, 2021. During the first application filing window, eligible schools, libraries, and consortia of eligible schools and libraries, submitted requests for funding to purchase eligible equipment and services between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022 for use by students, school staff and library patrons who would otherwise lack sufficient access to connected devices and/or broadband connectivity to engage in remote learning during the COVID-19 emergency period.

On August 25, 2021, the Commission announced that it received requests for $5.137 billion to fund 9.1 million connected devices and 5.4 million broadband connections during the first application filing window. The first application filing window attracted applications from all 50 states, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia – including schools and libraries in both rural and urban communities seeking funding for eligible equipment and services received or delivered between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022. In view of outstanding demand and the recent spike in coronavirus cases, the FCC opened a second application filing window for schools and libraries to request funding for connected devices and broadband connections for off-campus to meet the unmet needs of students, school staff, and library patrons during the current school year (i.e., July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022).

The second Emergency Connectivity Fund Program application filing window opened on September 28 and closed on October 13, 2021. On October 25, 2021, the Commission announced that it received requests for nearly $1.3 billion during the second application filing window to fund nearly 2.4 million connected devices and over 564,000 broadband connections.

On March 23, 2022, the Commission announced that a third application filing window would open on April 28, 2022, and close on May 13, 2022, and that it expected at least $1 billion was available for commitments and disbursements for this third window. During the third filing window, eligible schools and libraries could request funding for eligible equipment, non-recurring services, and up to 12 months of recurring services that will be delivered or received between July 1, 2022, through December 31, 2023. On May 25, 2022, the Commission announced that it received requests for over $2.8 billion during the third filing window to fund over 5.1 million connected devices and over 4.2 million broadband connections. The Commission also noted that because demand exceeded available funds, the third window requests will be prioritized to fund the schools and libraries with greatest need with a preference given to rural schools and libraries.

On May 12, 2023, the Bureau provided additional guidance on the expiration of the COVID-19 public health emergency on May 11, 2023, and announced June 30, 2024, as the sunset date for the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program. For purposes of the Emergency Connectivity Fund, section 7402 of the American Rescue Plan Act defines the COVID-19 emergency period as beginning on the date the Secretary of Health and Human Services determined that a public health emergency exists as a result of COVID-19 pursuant to section 319 of the Public Health Service Act, and ending on the June 30 that first occurs after the date that is one year after the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines that a public health emergency no longer exists. On January 31, 2020, the Department of Health and Human Services declared that a public health emergency exists and has existed since January 7, 2020. The COVID-19 public health emergency expired at the end of the day on May 11, 2023, and thereafter, Emergency Connectivity Fund Program support will only be available for purchases of eligible equipment and services made by June 30, 2024.

On May 12, 2023, the Bureau also extended the service delivery date for certain first and second window recurring service and equipment requests. For applicants that received a funding commitment decision letter (FCDL) or revised funding commitment decision letter (RFCDL) on or after July 1, 2022, the recurring service request will have a service delivery date of 14 months after the date of the letter, or June 30, 2024, whichever date is later. Approved, up-to-12-months of recurring service funding requests associated with a special construction request have a service delivery date of June 30, 2024. Applicants that received an FCDL or RFCDL for an equipment funding request on or after January 1, 2023, will have a service delivery date of 180 days after the date of the letter, but not to exceed June 30, 2024. All applicants with approved third filing window requests for recurring services, non-recurring services, and equipment will have a service delivery date of June 30, 2024.

As of November 30, 2023, the Commission has issued 34 waves of funding commitments for windows 1 and 2, and 37 waves of funding commitments for window 3, collectively totaling approximately $6.6 billion since the program was launched on June 29, 2021. Total commitments are supporting over 11,500 schools, 1,070 libraries, and approximately 130 consortia for nearly 13 million connected devices and over 8.1 million broadband connections for students, school staff, and library patrons located in all 50 states, American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Summary of Other Budget Authorities Received in FYs 2020, 2021, & 2022

As of January 31, 2024

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Budget Authority	Amount Obligated	Amount Disbursed
COVID-19 Telehealth Program - Round 1	$200,000	$199,730	$198,517
COVID-19 Telehealth Program - Round 2	$249,900	$245,286	$229,733
Secure & Trusted Communications Network Reimbursement Program	$1,900,000	$1,853,340	$462,232
Emergency Broadband Connectivity Fund - Emergency Broadband Benefit Program	$3,200,000	$3,199,941	$3,199,776
Affordable Connectivity Fund - Affordable Connectivity Program	$14,200,000	$11,612,264	$10,574,557
Broadband DATA Act	$65,000	$48,900	$30,770
Emergency Connectivity Fund	$7,171,000	$5,986,496	$4,309,052
TOTAL - FY '20 - '22 Other Budget Authorities	**$26,985,900**	**$23,145,957**	**$19,004,636**

Note: Amounts dedicated to OIG for COVID-19 Telehealth Program - Round 2 and Emergency Connectivity Fund are not included in the amounts shown above. Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (P.L. 118-5) rescinded $32 of COVID-19 Telehealth Program - Round 1 funds.

Summary of Commission's All Other Budget Authorities

(Dollars in Thousands)

Other Budget Authorities Already Provided:[1]	Fiscal Years 2020	2021	2022	TOTAL
COVID-19 Telehealth Program[2]	$200,000	$249,950		**$449,950**
Secure & Trusted Communications Network Reimbursement Program[3]		$1,900,000		**$1,900,000**
Emergency Broadband Connectivity Fund - Emergency Broadband Benefit Program[4]		$3,200,000		**$3,200,000**
Broadband DATA Act[5]		$65,000		**$65,000**
Emergency Connectivity Fund[6]		$7,172,000		**$7,172,000**
Affordable Connectivity Fund[7]			$14,200,000	**$14,200,000**
TOTAL - New Direct Appropriations	**$200,000**	**$12,586,950**	**$14,200,000**	**$26,986,950**

	Fiscal Years 2012	2018	2019	TOTAL
TV Broadcaster Relocation Fund (TVBRF):[8]	$1,750,000	$600,000	$400,000	**$2,750,000**

Permanent Indefinite Appropriation & Unused Carryover Funds:	Fiscal Years 2023	2024	2025	NET CHANGE
Credit Program Account[9]	$47	$0	$0	$0
Universal Service Fund Oversight - OIG (unused carryover funds)[10]	$1,136	$3,144	$0	$0
Total	**$1,183**	**$3,144**	**$0**	**$0**

[1]Refer to the table on the previous page for a summary and status of these other budget authorities already provided.

[2]FY 2020 funds were provided by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (P.L. 116-136) and FY 2021 funds were provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260). Included in the FY 2021 funding was an allocation of $50 thousand to OIG for oversight. Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (P.L. 118-5) rescinded $32.

[3]Funds were provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260).

[4]Funds were provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260) and not more than $64 million (2%) of the funding was made available for administrative use.

[5]Funds were provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260) and an additional $33 million was also made available under the Commission's S&E - Regulatory Fees (Offsetting Collections) for a total of $98 million.

[6]Funds were provided by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (P.L. 117-2) and not more than $143.42 million (2%) of the funding was made available for administrative use and $1 million to OIG for oversight.

[7]Funds were provided by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, (P.L. 117-58).

[8]The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (2012 Act) mandated that the Commission reimburse reasonable channel relocation costs incurred by those qualified TV Broadcasters that will be affected by spectrum relocation. The 2012 Act also gave the Commission the authority to use $1.75 billion from Incentive Auction revenues to reimburse TV Broadcasters for relocation costs. Additional authority totaling $1 billion was provided to the Commission for this and for other purposes by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (P.L. 115-141). The TVBRF is capped at $2.75 billion.

[9]A permanent indefinite appropriation for credit reform that becomes available pursuant to a standing provision of law without further action by Congress. FCC is working on closing out this fund and requests no funding for FY 2024 and estimates no funds for FY 2025.

[10]Repressents unused carryover fund from prior fiscal years. Any remaining unused funds from FY 2024 will be carried over to FY 2025.

ECONOMY ACT REIMBURSABLE AGREEMENTS

The Economy Act provides authority for Federal agencies to order goods and services from other Federal agencies and be reimbursed for costs of those goods and services. An interagency agreement is an arrangement in which one agency (Servicing Agency) provides goods or services to another agency (Requesting Agency) and receives reimbursement of costs incurred. Agencies can use interagency agreements to conduct a wide variety of operations. Interagency agreements can be routine in nature, involve the acquisition of goods or services necessary to maintain agency operations, or support a specific program.

As the Servicing Agency, the Commission requested $4 million in Economy Act Reimbursable Agreements with other Federal agencies for FY 2024. The Commission estimates that in FY 2025, the FCC's interagency reimbursable agreements will remain consistent at approximately $4 million.

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FEE COLLECTIONS

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Regulatory Fees

Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 159, the Commission annually collects regulatory fees and retains them for Commission use to offset certain costs incurred by the Commission to carry out its functions.

These regulatory fees apply to the current holders of licenses with the FCC as of a specific date and to other entities (e.g., cable television systems) which benefit from Commission regulatory activities that are not directly associated with the FCC's application processing functions.

The regulatory fees do not apply to governmental entities, amateur radio operator licensees, nonprofit entities holding tax exempt status under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. § 501, and certain other non-commercial entities.

Under the provisions of 47 U.S.C. § 159, the Commission has the authority to review its regulatory fees and to adjust the fees to reflect changes in its appropriation from year to year. The FCC may also add, delete, or reclassify services under certain circumstances. Additionally, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 159a, the Commission may charge up to a 25% late payment penalty and dismiss applications or revoke licenses for non-payment of the fees; the Commission may also waive, reduce, or defer payment of a fee for good cause.

The Commission originally implemented the Regulatory Fee Collection Program by rulemaking on July 18, 1994. The most recent regulatory fee order was released by the Commission on August 10, 2023.

Availability of Regulatory Fees

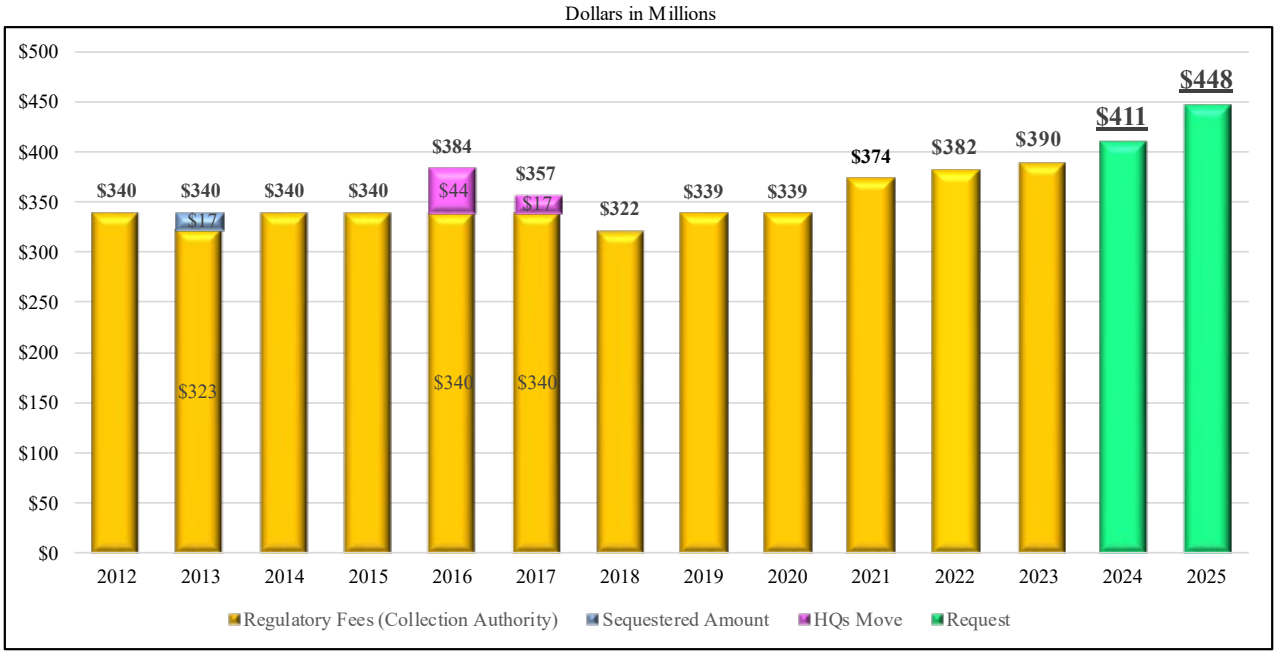
The RAY BAUM'S Act of 2018 (2018 Act) requires the Commission to transfer all excess collections to the General Fund of the U.S. Treasury for the sole purpose of deficit reduction. On September 30, 2023 the Commission transferred over $13.8 million in excess collections from FY 2023 funds to the General Fund of the U.S. Treasury to be used for deficit reduction.

The Commission receives an annual Salaries and Expenses appropriation. On March 1, 2013, the OMB issued a report to Congress on sequestration for FY 2013. For the FCC, this translated into a $17 million reduction in new budgetary authority. The sequestered amount is currently maintained in the Commission's no-year account, which indicates that the unobligated balances brought forward exclude $17 million in unavailable balances of funds temporarily sequestered in FY 2013.

The FY 2025 request level for regulatory fees is $448,075,000, which is a net increase of $57,883,000 or 14.8 percent from the FY 2024 annualized level from Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 level of $390,192,000. The distribution of budget authority from offsetting collections from regulatory fees is illustrated in the following graph.

Historical Distribution of Appropriated Budget Authority – Regulatory Fees

The following graph depicts the historical distribution of appropriated budget authority since FY 2012.



For FYs 2016 and 2017, $44 million and $17 million, respectively, represent amounts provided for the necessary expenses associated with moving the FCC headquarters to a new facility to significantly reduce space consumption.

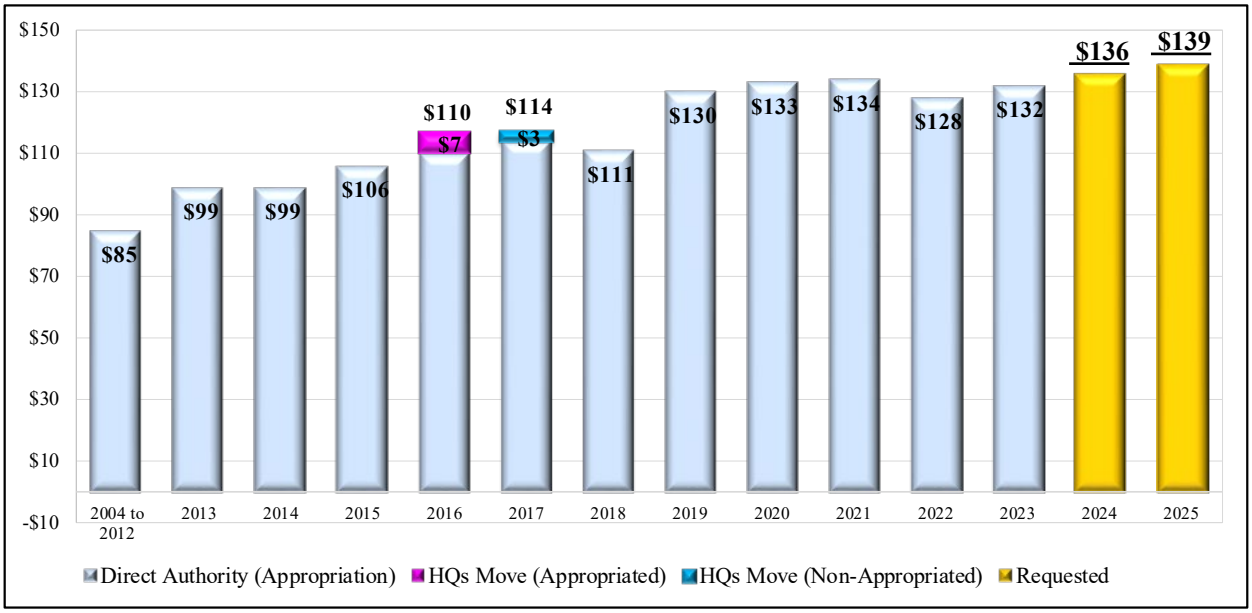
In FY 2013, FCC's appropriated budget authority was reduced by $17 million due to the FY 2013 sequestration order implemented on March 1, 2013 as required by the Budget Control Act of 2011. The total amount shown for FY 2013 in the above graph includes the $17 million sequestered amount.

The Commission's other budget authorities are summarized on page 58.

Historical Appropriated Budget Authority – Spectrum Auctions Program

The following graph depicts the historical appropriated budget authority for the spectrum auctions program since FY 2004.

(dollars in millions)



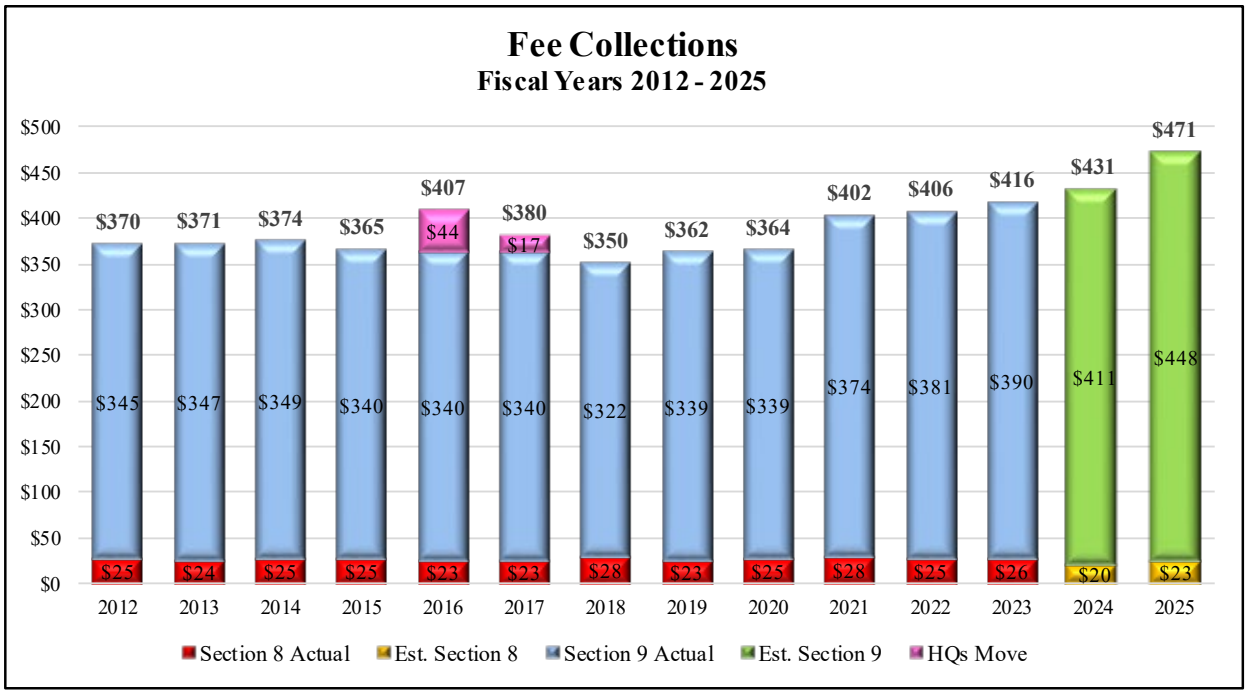
FY 2024 column represents amount requested.
The increase in funding from FY 2019 is to implement the requirements of the RAY BAUM's Act.
For FY 2016, $7 million represents an amount provided by appropriation for the necessary expenses associated with moving the FCC headquarters to a new facility to significantly reduce space consumption. For FY 2017, $3 million represents an amount the Commission reserved to ensure adequate funds are available based on GSA's initial estimates.

Application Processing Fees

Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 158, since FY 1987, the Commission has collected and deposited application processing fees, often referred to as Section 8 fees, into the General Fund of the U.S. Treasury. These fees are intended to recover a substantial portion of the costs of the Commission's application processing functions. The program encompasses over 300 different fees, with the vast majority collected at the time an original license application, renewal, or request for modification is filed with the Commission. Most fees are assessed as a one-time charge on a per-application basis, although there are certain exceptions.

Government, nonprofit, and non-commercial broadcast license applicants are exempt from the fees. A commercial bank is used to collect the fees, with all fees deposited into the General Fund of the U.S. Treasury. Once deposited, these fees are generally not refundable regardless of the outcome of the application process. The Commission must review and revise the fees every two years based upon changes to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The most recent Order increasing application fees to reflect changes in the CPI index was adopted by the Commission on December 15, 2022 and released on December 16, 2022. This adjustment complies with the statutory formula set forth in Section 8(b). Application Processing Fee Collections (Section 8) and Regulatory Fee collections are summarized in the following graph.

Dollars in Millions



For FYs 2016 and 2017, $44 million and $17 million, respectively, represent amounts provided for the necessary expenses associated with moving the FCC headquarters to a new facility to significantly reduce space consumption.

The Commission's other budget authorities are summarized on page 58.

The RAY BAUM'S Act of 2018 substantially amended Section 8 of the Communications Act (47 U.S.C. § 158) and provided an effective date of October 1, 2018 for those changes. Congress provided that application fees in effect on the day before the effective date of the RAY BAUM'S Act shall remain in effect until such time as the Commission adjusts or amends such fees. Moving forward after October 1, 2018, the Commission's next amendment of the schedule of application fees will be based on the updated requirements in Section 8 of the Communications Act as amended by the RAY BAUM'S Act. On December 16, 2022 the Commission released an order adjusting and amending application fees based on the requirements of the RAY BAUM's Act.

PERFORMANCE PLAN

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PERFORMANCE PLAN

Mission

As specified in section one of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC or Commission) mission is to "make available, so far as possible, to all the people of the United States, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex, rapid, efficient, Nation-wide, and world-wide wire and radio communication service with adequate facilities at reasonable charges." [3] In addition, section one provides that the Commission was created "for the purpose of the national defense" and "for the purpose of promoting safety of life and property through the use of wire and radio communications."[4]

About the Federal Communications Commission

The FCC is an independent regulatory agency of the United States Government. The FCC is charged with regulating interstate and international communications by radio, television, wire, satellite, and cable. The Commission also regulates telecommunications, advanced communication services, and video programming to promote accessibility for people with disabilities, as set forth in various sections of the Communications Act.

The FCC is directed by five Commissioners appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate for five-year terms, except when filling the unexpired term of a previous Commissioner. Only three Commissioners can be from the same political party at any given time. The President designates one of the Commissioners to serve as the Chairperson.

The FCC is organized by function. There are seven Bureaus and eleven Offices. The Bureaus and the Offices develop and administer the FCC's policies and regulations, process applications for licenses to operate facilities and provide communications services; analyze complaints from consumers and other licensees; conduct investigations; develop and implement regulatory programs; inform and educate consumers and conduct outreach, and organize and participate in hearings, workshops, conferences, webinars and other events. Generally, the Offices provide specialized support services. The Bureaus and Offices are:

- **The Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau** develops and implements consumer policies, including disability access and policies affecting state, local, Tribal, and territorial governments. The Bureau also serves as the public face of the Commission through outreach and education and responds to consumer inquiries and informal complaints. The Bureau maintains collaborative partnerships with consumer-facing organizations and state, local, Tribal, and territorial government in such areas as implementation of critical initiatives, implementation of new technologies, and emergency preparedness. In addition, the Bureau's Disability Rights Office provides expert policy and compliance advice on accessibility with respect to various forms of communications for persons with disabilities. The Bureau also ensures public facing access to the Commission for persons with disabilities via a team of American Sign Language interpreters and accessible formats specialists. The Bureau's Office of Native Affairs and Policy (ONAP) maintains an active Tribal consultation, engagement and outreach program to support robust government-to-government consultation with

[3] 47 U.S.C. § 151.
[4] *Id.*

federally recognized Tribes, Alaska Native Villages, and Native Hawaiian Organizations and in support of the Commission's efforts to close the digital divide, including on Tribal lands.

- **The Enforcement Bureau** enforces the Communications Act and the FCC's rules. Among its responsibilities, it acts to protect consumers, their privacy, and sensitive information, ensure efficient use of spectrum, further national security and public safety, promote competition, resolve disputes, and protect the integrity of FCC programs and activities from fraud, waste, and abuse.

- **The Media Bureau** recommends, develops, and administers the policy and licensing programs relating to electronic media, including broadcast television and radio, cable television, and satellite television in the United States and its territories.

- **The Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau** develops and implements policies and programs to strengthen public safety communications and interoperability, homeland security, national security, emergency management and preparedness, disaster management, and network reliability and resiliency. These efforts include rulemaking proceedings that promote more efficient use of public safety spectrum, improve public alerting mechanisms, enhance the nation's 911 emergency calling system, and establish frameworks for communications prioritization during crises. The Bureau also maintains 24/7 operations capability and promotes Commission preparedness to assist the public, first responders, the communications industry, and all levels of government in responding to emergencies and major disasters where reliable public safety communications are essential. Finally, the Bureau coordinates the Commission's national security mission and consults with the Defense Commissioner pursuant to 47 CFR § 0.181 of the Commission's rules.

- **The Space Bureau** develops, recommends, and implements policies and programs for satellite and space-based communications and activities. The Bureau strives to promote a competitive and innovative communications marketplace by leading licensing and regulatory efforts related to satellite and space-based communications while fostering the efficient use of scarce spectrum and orbital resources.

- **The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau** is responsible for wireless telecommunications programs and policies in the United States and its territories, including licensing and regulatory functions. Wireless communications services include cellular, paging, personal communications, mobile and fixed wireless broadband, and other radio services used by businesses and private citizens.

- **The Wireline Competition Bureau** develops, recommends, and implements policies and programs for wireline telecommunications, broadband, and telephone lines, as well as many policies (including, but not limited to, local number portability) that are not dependent on the technology used by the service provider, striving to promote the widespread development and availability of these services. The Bureau has primary responsibility for the Universal Service Fund which helps connect all Americans to communications networks.

- **The Office of Administrative Law Judges** is composed of one judge (and associated staff) who presides over hearings and issues decisions on matters referred by the FCC.

- **The Office of Communications Business Opportunities** promotes diversity, competition, and innovation in the provision and ownership of telecommunications and information services by

supporting opportunities for small businesses, as well as women-owned and minority-owned communications businesses.

- **The Office of Economics and Analytics** provides objective economic analysis to support Commission policy making and implements agency-wide data practices and policies, including implementing significant economically-relevant data collections. The Office also manages the FCC's auctions in support of and in coordination with the FCC's Bureaus and Offices.

- **The Office of Engineering and Technology** advises the FCC on technical and engineering matters. The Office develops and administers FCC decisions regarding spectrum allocations, use of spectrum on an unlicensed basis, and coordinates use of shared spectrum with the Executive Branch. The Office also oversees the Commission's equipment authorization program to ensure radiofrequency devices comply with technical rules and rules prohibiting authorization of equipment that has been determined to pose an unacceptable risk to national security. The Office also oversees the Commission's program to promote new and innovative technologies and services.

- **The Office of the General Counsel** serves as the FCC's chief legal advisor.

- **The Office of the Inspector General** conducts and supervises audits and investigations relating to FCC programs and operations.

- **The Office of International Affairs** oversees and coordinates the FCC's global participation in international and multilateral conferences, bilateral meetings, regional organizations, cross-border negotiations and international standard setting efforts. The Office also facilities through rulemaking and licensing the Commission's development of policies regarding international telecommunications facilities and services as well as submarine cables, and advises and makes recommendations to the Commission on foreign ownership issues. In undertaking these functions, the Office implements Commission policies to facilitate competition and foreign investment in U.S. international telecommunications markets while ensuring, in consultation with relevant federal partners, that national security, law enforcement foreign policy, and trade policy concerns are addressed.

- **The Office of Legislative Affairs** serves as the liaison between the FCC and Congress, as well as other Federal agencies.

- **The Office of the Managing Director** administers and manages the FCC.

- **The Office of Media Relations** informs the media of FCC decisions and serves as the FCC's main point of contact with the media.

- **The Office of Workplace Diversity** develops, coordinates, evaluates, and recommends to the Commission policies, programs, and practices that foster a diverse workforce, and promotes and ensures equal employment opportunity (EEO) for all employees and applicants without regard to race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability (mental, intellectual, or physical), marital status, parental status, political affiliation, genetic information (including medical history), or any other basis protected by law.

Strategic Goals

1. **Pursue a "100 Percent" Broadband Policy**: The COVID-19 pandemic put a spotlight on the serious broadband gaps that exist across the country, including in rural infrastructure, affordability for low-income Americans, and at-home access for students. This continuing digital divide means millions of Americans do not have meaningful access to essential infrastructure for 21st century success. In response to the challenges that many Americans face, the agency should advance access to communications that are essential for Americans to work remotely, learn remotely, receive healthcare, and engage in commerce. To this end, the FCC will pursue policies to help bring affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband to 100 percent of the country.

2. **Promote Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility.** The FCC will seek to gain a deeper understanding of how the agency's rules, policies, and programs may promote or inhibit advances in diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. The FCC will pursue focused action and investments to eliminate historical, systemic, and structural barriers that perpetuate disadvantaged or underserved individuals and communities. In so doing, the FCC will work to ensure equitable and inclusive access and facilitate the ability of underserved individuals and communities to leverage and benefit from the wide range of opportunities made possible by digital technologies, media, communication services, and next-generation networks. In addition, the FCC recognizes that it is more effective when its workforce reflects the experience, judgement, and input of individuals from many different backgrounds. Advancing equity is core to the agency's management and policymaking processes and will benefit all Americans.

3. **Empower Consumers**: Consumers who are well informed about their rights and what they're buying are more confident and more likely to participate in the digital economy. The FCC will tackle new challenges to consumer rights and opportunities stemming from digital transitions. The FCC also will pursue effective enforcement and new approaches to protect consumers from unwanted and intrusive communications, phone-based scams, telephone privacy issues, and other trends that affect consumers. The FCC will work to enhance competition and pursue policies that protect the competitive process to improve consumer choice and access to information. The FCC will work to foster a regulatory landscape that advances media competition, diversity, and localism. The FCC also must work to ensure the availability of quality, functionally equivalent communications services for persons with disabilities.

4. **Enhance Public Safety and National Security**: The FCC will pursue policies and enforcement efforts to promote the availability of secure, reliable, interoperable, redundant, and rapidly restorable critical communications infrastructure and services. The FCC also will promote the public's access to reliable 911 and emergency alerting and support public safety's access to first responder communications. The FCC will work in coordination with federal partners, state, local, and Tribal governments and territorial government partners, and industry stakeholders to support disaster response and to ensure and promote the nation's defense and homeland security.

5. **Advance America's Global Competitiveness**: The FCC will take action to promote investment and advance the development and deployment of new communications technologies, such as 5G, that will allow the nation to remain a global leader in an increasingly competitive, international marketplace. The FCC will identify incentives and policies to close security gaps and accelerate trustworthy innovation. The FCC will work with its federal partners to advocate for US interests abroad.

6. **Foster Operational Excellence**: The FCC should be a model for excellence in government by effectively managing its resources, maintaining a commitment to transparent and responsive processes that encourage public involvement and decision-making that best serves the public interest, and encouraging a culture of collaboration both internally and across government agencies.

What the FCC Commits to Accomplish in FY 2025

To implement its strategic goals, the FCC has identified several underlying strategic objectives. Each strategic objective has associated performance goals and targets.

Strategic Goal 1: Pursue a "100 Percent" Broadband Policy

Strategic Objective 1.1: Pursue policies to help bring affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband to 100 percent of the population, including rural areas, Tribal lands, and U.S. Territories as well as for low-income Americans and students.

Performance Goals and Targets:

1.1.1 Evaluate and report on the availability of broadband services throughout the country.

- Consistent with the RAY BAUM'S Act, evaluate and prepare a biennial report on the state of the communications marketplaces based on various data collected by the Commission, including the Broadband Data Collection.
- Consistent with Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, evaluate and prepare an annual report based on various data collected by the Commission to assess whether advanced telecommunications capability is being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion.
- Continue ongoing implementation of the Broadband Data Collection, pursuant to the Broadband DATA Act, by collecting and mapping broadband availability and other data submitted by providers, and incorporating stakeholder feedback through the fixed, Fabric, and mobile challenge processes, as well as verification, crowdsourcing, auditing, and other efforts.
- Continue implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), enacted in November 2021, by collecting data and publishing a map to serve as the centralized, authoritative source of information about locations served by federal broadband infrastructure funding.
- Ensure data collected and used to monitor voice and broadband marketplaces through the Broadband Data Collection, the Measuring Broadband America program, and other avenues are accurate, reliable, and useful to the Commission, Congress, the industry, and the public by identifying potential issues in the data and working with filers as appropriate to clarify or resolve such issues.
- Continue implementation of Section 60506 of the IIJA by ensuring that all people of the United States benefit from equal access to broadband internet access service.

1.1.2 Support and facilitate the development, deployment, and adoption of broadband services across multiple platforms, including at home access for students.

- Promote affordable access to reliable broadband networks in American's rural, Tribal, insular, and high-cost areas, and to people of color and others who have been historically underserved, persons who live in rural areas, on Tribal lands, persons with disabilities, and persons otherwise affected by persistent poverty, discrimination, or inequity.
- Improve access to healthcare in American's rural, Tribal, insular, and high-cost areas, and to people of color and others who have been historically underserved, persons who live in rural areas, on Tribal lands, persons with disabilities, and persons otherwise affected by persistent poverty, discrimination, or inequity through the Rural Healthcare Program.
- Support and study the impact of provisioning telehealth and connected care services through the Connected Care Pilot Program.
- Use public data to partner with new federal, state, and/or local entities or continue partnerships with existing entities to target outreach to eligible households located in Census tracts that are in the bottom 10% of adoption rates.
- For Lifeline, increase the number of state or federal eligibility database connections to the National Verifier.
- Ensure that students as well as school staff and library patrons with unmet needs have access to connected devices and broadband services for off campus use through implementation of the Emergency Connectivity Fund.
- Connect schools and libraries by providing affordable access to broadband services through the E-Rate program.
- Carry out rulemakings, spectrum reallocations, and license application reviews as needed to ensure that the growing demand for broadband services, including satellite-delivered broadband, is met.
- Provide support in multi-lateral and bi-lateral settings for deployment of broadband satellite systems, and harmonized cross border spectrum use to avoid harmful interference, including through support to international regulators and ministries to develop licensing processes that foster deployment.
- Continue streamlining and updating rules for licensing submarine cables to facilitate timely deployment of undersea broadband facilities.
- Ensure competitive access to critical infrastructure to facilitate broadband deployment.
- Carry out rulemakings to examine how to provide the basis for a uniform, national regulatory approach to promote broadband Internet use for consumers, and to protect competition, national security, and public safety as it relates to communications providers.
- Adopt and implement rules that address the requirements of the Safe Connections Act to ensure that survivors of domestic violence and abuse have access to communications services for at least an emergency support period.
- Begin to roll out a broadband adoption consumer outreach and education campaign which will help build consumer adoption of broadband by addressing relevance and security concerns from current non-adopters.
- To support development and deployment of broadband infrastructure, review and respond to issues that arise under the National Environmental Policy Act and National Historic Preservation Act.
- The Budget includes the Administration's supplemental request for an additional $6 billion dollars for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) to fund the program through

December of 2024. With that funding, the FCC would take the following actions in FY 2025 to continue to implement ACP:

- Increase total ACP households by 1% month-over-month as long as the program is accepting new enrollments.
- Use public data to track disparity of internet adoption for ACP households in low-income and rural areas; isolate the Census tracts in the bottom 10% of adoption rates and identify those with the highest ACP eligibility rates, with the goal of increasing total enrollment in those Census tracts by 2 to 4% through the exhaustion of any additional funding or by the end of FY 2025 (whichever date comes first) when compared to total enrollment in those tracts as of September 30, 2024.
- Set a baseline target for newly enrolled ACP households that did not have consistent, reliable internet access in the six months prior to enrolling in ACP, with the goal of maintaining the target through the exhaustion of any additional funding or on a quarterly basis by the end of FY 2025 (whichever date comes first).
- Continue to deploy quarterly surveys to newly enrolled ACP households to determine internet usage history and access, as well as ease of applying and enrolling to measure the performance of the program.
- Maintain customer satisfaction rates related to ease of the ACP application at 90% or above.
- For ACP, increase the number of state or federal eligibility database connections to the National Verifier.
- Use tools for measuring enrolled households' awareness of the ACP prior to enrollment and non-enrolled households' awareness of the ACP. Use the results to help inform what localities need additional outreach from federal, state and non-profit partners to increase ACP awareness.
- Continue locally-focused and targeted programs of consumer and governmental outreach activities and events based on FCC's efforts to build public awareness and adoption of the ACP.
- Continue to conduct a program of local and virtual outreach briefings, train-the-trainer sessions, and partnership coordination efforts to ensure that information to targeted consumer groups is maximized.

1.1.3 Work in partnership with state, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, and consumer and industry groups, to ensure that broadband networks are deployed to all American consumers, including those in Tribal, rural, insular, and high-cost areas.

- Implement rules and procedures designed to expand broadband service to rural and Tribal areas and U.S. territories through the use of licensed spectrum and unlicensed operations, including in the 2.5 GHz, 3.45 GHz, 3.5 GHz, 3.7 GHz, 5.9 GHz, and 6 GHz bands.
- Explore ways to increase the availability of broadband services in rural and Tribal communities and U.S. territories and spectrum access by small carriers.
- Ensure that state, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, and consumer and industry groups, are aware of and able to participate in the Universal Service and Affordability Programs, including E-Rate, and Lifeline.
- Carry out cross border coordination activities to eliminate any broadband coverage gap due to cross border interference and ensure that the spectrum is used in an efficient manner along the United States' border areas, consistent with the Unites States' bilateral and multilateral obligations.

- Work in partnership with state, local, Tribal, and territorial governments and other third parties to facilitate their participation in the Broadband Data Collection challenge processes which can help ensure that the National Broadband Map is accurate and allows federal and other governmental agencies to precisely target to communities and areas most in need of reliable broadband service.
- Continue to work in partnership with state, local, and Tribal governments to implement and administer the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF), Connect America Fund Phase II (CAF II), Rate of Return carrier reform and all other active high-cost initiatives to further our efforts to ensure that broadband networks are deployed in American's rural, insular, and high-cost areas, and to people of color and others who have been historically underserved, persons who live in rural areas, persons with disabilities, and persons otherwise affected by persistent poverty, discrimination, or inequity.
- Consistent with Section 60506 of the IIJA, continue to work in partnership with state, local, Tribal, and territorial governments and interested stakeholders to identify model policies and best practices that can be adopted to ensure that broadband internet access service providers do not engage in digital discrimination.
- Enhance communications and outreach with Tribal governments to ensure awareness and participation in Commission proceedings to provide opportunities for Tribal Nations to inform the FCC and to help ensure that their views and interests are heard in the decision-making process.

Strategic Objective 1.2: Provide opportunities for innovation in broadband services and technologies by modernizing Universal Service Fund (USF) programs to better facilitate affordable broadband deployment and meaningful access to essential services for all Americans.

Performance Goals and Targets:

1.2.1 Efficiently support broadband deployment where it is most needed by implementing USF mechanisms that are grounded in sound policy.

- Continue to administer RDOF and CAF II auction awards and recipients' compliance with program requirements.
- Ensure increased accountability by continuing to implement and administer the Rural Broadband Accountability Plan through increased audits, verifications, and transparency for USF High Cost programs, including the RDOF.
- Continue to review and evaluate Alaska Plan mobile provider compliance with commitments to provide mobile broadband service under the Alaska Plan in exchange for universal service high cost funds.
- Make significant progress towards establishing policies to support the preservation and expansion of mobile wireless voice and broadband services.
- Continue to implement the Bringing Puerto Rico Together and Connect U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) Fund programs.
- Make significant progress to reform and more accurately target USF support for mobile broadband in unserved areas.
- Implement Enhanced Alternative Connect America Cost Model (A-CAM) to provide support to participating A-CAM carriers who agree to deploy 11/20 Mbps or faster broadband service.

1.2.2 Continue reform and modernization of universal service programs to reflect technological developments and changes in the market.

- Continue to evaluate service requirements of high-cost support recipients to ensure funding for reasonable comparable services in rural, insular, and high-cost areas.
- Foster certainty among providers that receive high-cost support by administering a process to update deployment obligations to reflect real-world conditions.
- Make progress to monitor the reform of high cost support to unserved areas in Alaska.
- Implement measures to promote greater program efficiencies, certainty, and predictability for rate-of-return carriers.

Strategic Objective 1.3: Advance access to communications that are essential for Americans to work remotely, learn remotely, receive healthcare remotely, and engage in commerce and precision agriculture.

Performance Goals and Targets:

1.3.1 Ensure a competitive and vibrant spectrum ecosystem that fosters competition and innovation and that supports home networks, business private networks, public networks, and Wi-Fi enabled hotspots.

- Develop and implement flexible spectrum authorization policies that are designed to help avoid excessive concentration of spectrum license holdings in the United States, such as shared uses, including unlicensed, license-lite and license by rule operations which promote competition, innovation, investment, entrepreneurship, and consumer benefits.
- Advocate adoption of spectrum authorization and other flexible, technology neutral, and market-oriented spectrum policies internationally.
- Ensure effective policies are in place to promote and protect competition and remove barriers to investment.
- Provide opportunities for innovative and experimental uses of spectrum.

1.3.2 Foster an environment that will encourage investment in broadband networks and services by existing providers while encouraging participation in broadband markets by new and non-traditional participants.

- Coordinate with stakeholders to identify impediments towards broadband investment or deployment.
- Continue working on policies and other proceedings, including forbearance proceedings under Section 10 of the Communications Act, to reduce or eliminate rules that may be discouraging investment in newer technologies.
- Carry out rulemakings to determine actions the Commission may take to ensure consumers have meaningful access to broadband service, including determining whether rules are necessary to prevent practices by broadband Internet Service Providers that may be harmful to consumers.

Strategic Objective 1.4: Communicate information about FCC programs and policies to help bring affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband to 100% of the country.

Performance Goals and Targets:

1.4.1 Continue national consumer awareness, education, and outreach efforts focusing on broadband adoption with specific emphasis on developing alliances with people of color and others who have been historically underserved, persons who live on Tribal lands, in rural areas, persons with disabilities, and persons otherwise affected by persistent poverty, discrimination, or inequity.

- Create a series of new, innovative, and accessible guides, animated videos, and publications, including translation for low English proficiency populations.
- Develop an outreach program of events and webinars, and email messaging campaigns to build awareness and knowledge about the benefits of broadband in rural and other underserved communities, and to people of color and others who have been historically underserved, persons who live in rural areas, persons with disabilities, and persons otherwise affected by persistent poverty, discrimination, or inequity
- Utilize traditional media sources (including those media sources owned by women, minorities, and Tribal entities) through new partnerships to promote events and webinars to people of color and others who have been historically underserved, persons who live in rural areas, persons with disabilities, and persons otherwise affected by persistent poverty, discrimination, or inequity.
- Develop an outreach program of events, webinars, and materials that explain the recent rule changes benefitting Tribal Nations and Tribal Libraries.
- Work in partnership with state, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, consumers and community organizations, and other third parties to facilitate their participation in the Broadband Data Collection challenge processes which can help ensure that the National Broadband Map is accurate and allows federal and other governmental agencies to precisely target communities and areas most in need of reliable broadband service.
- Continue working with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) to develop effective outreach strategies to target populations that are traditionally underserved.
- Continue to develop relationships and partnerships with trusted third-party organizations that play an integral role in informing their communities of the Commission's USF and Affordability Programs.
- Continue Tribal and other state and locally-focused outreach efforts to encourage and facilitate participation in the Broadband Data Collection challenge processes to help ensure that the National Broadband Map is accurate.
- Support the Commission's broadband deployment efforts by disseminating information through workshops to small businesses, including those owned by people of color, women, veterans, LGBTQ+, and persons with disabilities.

1.4.2 Continue locally-focused and targeted programs of consumer and governmental outreach activities and events based on FCC's efforts to extend service through the Universal Service Fund and other initiatives to promote new deployment.

- Coordinate the timing of geographically focused micro-outreach campaigns in concert with new carrier deployment.
- Develop an outreach program of events, local partnership engagements, email campaigns, and webinars to build awareness and knowledge about the benefits of broadband in areas where new carrier deployment has or soon will occur.

- Continue to work with USAC to strengthen outreach efforts, and evaluate the most effective solutions that can be deployed to reach target audiences.

Strategic Goal 2: Promote Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility

Strategic Objective 2.1: Pursue focused action, policies, and investments to eliminate historical, systemic, and structural barriers that perpetuate disadvantaged or underserved individuals and communities.

Performance Goals and Targets:

2.1.1 Perform outreach and conduct programs related to communications issues that will promote education and awareness about historical, systemic, and structural barriers that perpetuate disadvantaged or underserved individuals and communities.

- Conduct quarterly dialogue sessions with representatives of national, regional, and local consumer advocacy organizations as well as representatives from state, local, Tribal, and territorial governments and other interested stakeholders (e.g., community anchor institutions) to socialize new and existing Commission policies and develop future areas for collaboration on digital equity, inclusion, and accessibility. Such sessions can be in the form of webinars that focus on separate Commission initiatives and policies.
- Conduct regular webinars and interactive workshops to encourage and facilitate participation by diverse and historically underserved individuals and communities in the Broadband Data Collection challenge process to help ensure that the National Broadband Map accurately reflects the availability of broadband services in their communities.
- Host a workshop in conjunction with the Communications Equity and Diversity Council, or its successor, to disseminate information about the digital divide and related issues, with a focus on small businesses, including those owned by people of color, women, veterans, LGBTQ+, Tribal Nations, and persons with disabilities.
- Create interactive programs in conjunction with the Communications Equity and Diversity Council, or its successor, to educate underserved communities about the benefits of broadband.
- Leverage language translation capacity to target consumer education materials, campaigns, and alerts for multi-lingual audiences and persons with disabilities, including Native American languages.
- Continue to enforce the Commission's EEO rules applicable to broadcasters, multi-channel video programming distributors, and satellite digital audio radio services providers, including by conducting audits of compliance with EEO rules.
- Promote global education and awareness about barriers to broadband accessibility and advocate internationally the U.S. positions that would promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, in various international meetings and conferences, including through the FCC's International Visitors Program and other U.S. training opportunities with global counterparts where the FCC participates.
- As part of the Commission's efforts under the auspices of the Task Force to Prevent Digital Discrimination, conduct meetings with stakeholders to understand and address consumer experiences and challenges with broadband access in unserved and underserved areas, including rural and/or urban communities.

2.1.2 Identify historical, systemic, and structural barriers experienced by disadvantaged, marginalized, or underserved individuals and communities, and take measures to ensure their equitable and inclusive access to digital technologies, media, communications services, and next generation networks.

- Consistent with the IIJA, continue implementation of rules to facilitate equal access to broadband internet access service, including measures that prevent digital discrimination of access based on income level, race, ethnicity, color, religion, or national origin and through identifying necessary steps for the Commission to take to eliminate digital discrimination of access to broadband internet access service.
- Work in partnership with state, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, consumer and industry groups and the Communications Equity and Diversity Council, or its successor, the Disability Advisory Committee, and the Native Nations Communications Task Force, to identify historical, systemic and cultural barriers experienced by disadvantaged, marginalized or underserviced individuals and communities.
- Work in partnership with state, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, consumer and industry groups, and the Communications Equity and Diversity Council, or its successor, to explore strategies to accelerate the entry of small businesses, including those owned by women and minorities, into the media, digital news and information, and audio and video programming industries, including as owners, suppliers and employees.
- Consistent with the IIJA, develop model policies and best practices that can be adopted by state, local, Tribal, and territorial governments to ensure that broadband internet access service providers do not engage in digital discrimination.
- Consistent with the IIJA work in partnership with the Attorney General to ensure that Federal policies promote equal access to robust broadband internet access service by prohibiting deployment discrimination.

Strategic Objective 2.2: Seek to gain a deeper understanding of how the agency's rules, policies, and programs may promote or inhibit advances in diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.

Performance Goals and Targets:

2.2.1 Conduct outreach to the Commission's counterparts throughout various levels of government as well as other stakeholders to better understand how the Commission can promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility through its rules, policies, and programs.

- Coordinate and work with state, local, Tribal, and territorial governments to leverage the knowledge and interests of the governments closest to consumers and their communities, including conducting Tribal consultations and listening sessions about proposed and adopted Commission policies, as well as information webinars for Tribal Nations on Commission actions.
- Discuss best practices for promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in policies and programs with international counterparts through, for example, the FCC's International Visitors Program and the United States Telecommunications Training Institute, and in the International Telecommunications Union.
- Establish, maintain, and leverage effective strategic partnerships with national, local, and grassroots entities to build awareness on Commission input opportunities for stakeholders prior to and during policymaking processes.

- Evaluate opportunities to advance consideration of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in policymaking functions.
- Work with federal partners to ensure numbering policies promote accessibility for persons with disabilities.

2.2.2 Ensure that the FCC cultivates an inclusive culture that encourages collaboration, flexibility, and fairness.

- Continue agency-wide efforts to be a model EEO employer ensuring equal employment opportunity to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, marital status, parental status, political affiliation, genetic information, or any other basis protected by law, such as retaliation, reprisal, and equal pay.
- Develop the FCC's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) Strategic Plan to advance DEIA in the FCC's workforce and remove any potential barriers to DEIA in the FCC's workforce.
- Process informal and formal EEO complaints in a timely manner and consistent with the requirements of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's (EEOC) Management Directive 110.
- Prepare and timely submit all annual EEO reports to the EEOC and other regulatory bodies as required.
- Ensure that all employees timely complete training regarding EEO matters.
- Provide training and special emphasis programming to promote an inclusive culture that encourages and facilitates collaboration, flexibility, and equity.
- Continue agency program of providing reasonable accommodation for employees with disabilities in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Process 95% of requests for reasonable accommodation from employees and job applicants within 20 days of receipt.
- Continue agency-wide anti-harassment efforts, including reports and training programs on a recurring basis.
- Continue the agency's alternative dispute resolution (ADR) program promoting the use of conflict prevention and ADR techniques and training opportunities for supervisors, managers, and employees regarding the benefits and leveraging of ADR techniques and strategies.
- Respond to all requests for mediation and/or conflict resolution assistance.
- Provide ADR training for employees and supervisor and managers on a recurring basis.

Strategic Goal 3: Empower Consumers

Strategic Objective 3.1: Remove impediments to consumer participation in the digital economy and tackle new challenges to consumer rights and opportunities stemming from the digital transitions.

Performance Goals and Targets:

3.1.1 Pursue policies and effective enforcement to protect consumers from unwanted and intrusive communications, phone-based scams, privacy issues, and other trends affecting consumers.

- Ensure continued voice service provider implementation of SHAKEN/STIR Caller ID authentication framework and/or robocall mitigation programs to reduce high-impact fraudulent robocalls and seek accountability among bad actors.
- Work on identifying a Caller ID authentication framework or other robocall mitigation solutions in connection with the non-IP portion of the network to reduce high-impact fraudulent robocalls.
- Facilitate the development of solutions that identify the makers of robocalls, mechanisms for caller ID validation, and tools to reduce high-impact fraudulent robocalls.
- Review filings in and ensure effective use of the Robocall Mitigation Database.
- Develop and enforce policy measures to combat unlawful robocalling and robotexting while also protecting consumer privacy and the ability to make lawful calls and texts.
- Improve safeguards around the process to allocate telephone numbers to providers of Voice over Internet Protocol service.
- Continue to release unwanted call complaint data to the public for use in combatting unlawful telemarketing and robocalling.
- Provide unwanted call complaint data internally to inform policy and potential enforcement of telemarketing and robocall violations.
- Increase, diversify and distribute print and online consumer education materials focusing on emerging and existing scams, by identifying partners and potential partners for distribution of materials in assorted community venues (e.g., libraries, schools).
- Work with other Federal agencies, as well as state and local governments, and international counterparts and partners on combatting unlawful robocalls.
- Investigate alleged violations of rules designed to protect consumers, including allegations concerning robocalls and text messages; take appropriate enforcement action. Promote cooperation with other countries on combatting unlawful robocalls, including through sharing best practices for combatting unlawful robocalls.
- Enter into arrangements with other countries where productive on the means and mechanisms of combatting unlawful robocalls.
- Coordinate with international partners and the State Department on diplomatic means and mechanisms to combat unlawful robocalls and robotexts from other countries into the United States.
- Facilitate, through education and awareness activities and resources, the voluntary adoption of best practices for preventing, or mitigating the risk of unlawful robocalls to hospitals and health systems
- Reduce financial incentives to engage in robocalling by working with all carriers requesting assistance with tariff and contract revisions.
- Continue a comprehensive program of consumer education and awareness activities to reach consumers (through outreach events, train-the-trainer sessions, and establishment of strategic partnerships with community-serving entities) to identify and combat unlawful telemarketing and robocalls and to further refine the methods to report illegal telemarketing and robocalls to provide the Commission with a more complete, real-time data set about the prevalence of such calls. Continue to evaluate and promote the Reassigned Numbers Database to further enhance its usefulness in protecting both callers and consumers and consider additional pro-consumer uses for the database.
- Consistent with the IIJA, continue implementation of revisions to the Commission's public complaint process to accept complaints from consumers or other members of the public that relate to digital discrimination.

- Take enforcement action where warranted regarding the marketing of unauthorized or noncompliant equipment.
- Investigate and take enforcement action against carriers and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) providers who violate privacy and data protection-related statutes and regulations, and fail to take reasonable measures to discover and protect against attempts to gain unauthorized access through their networks and systems to proprietary information and customer proprietary network information (CPNI) or who otherwise fail to follow the CPNI rules. Review and revise as necessary CPNI and Local Number Portability rules to require wireless providers to adopt secure methods of authenticating a customer before transferring a customer's phone number to a new device or provider, and take additional steps to prevent SIM change and port-out fraud as necessary.
- Review and revise as necessary CPNI rules, including data breach rules, to protect consumers' proprietary information.
- Investigate and take enforcement action against providers for mishandling sensitive consumer information and violations of Commission rules protecting the confidentiality of data in the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) context.
- Investigate and take enforcement action against regulatees, including satellite and cable providers, for mishandling of subscribers' Personally Identifiable Information.
- Assist small businesses with complying and responding to FCC enforcement actions by revising the Commission's webpage about the role of the Ombudsman and non-retaliation policy and hosting educational workshops.
- Adopt rules necessary to implement the Safe Connections Act of 2022 to help survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and other related crimes or abuse separate service lines from accounts of their abusers, protect the privacy of calls made by survivors to domestic abuse hotlines, and support survivors that pursue a line separation request and face financial hardship through the Commission's affordability programs.
- Continue to implement rules and policies related to U.S. numbering resources in order to protect consumers and competition, including overseeing the North American Numbering Council and numbering database administration.

3.1.2 Ensure the availability of quality, functionally equivalent communications services for persons with disabilities.

- Develop Internet Protocol Captioned Telephone Service (IP CTS) performance goals and service quality metrics.
- Decide applications and continue to shift conditional certification for Internet-based TRS providers to permanent status.
- Continue to investigate complaints involving violations of the Commission's TRS rules and take appropriate enforcement action.
- Undertake initiatives to expedite the consistent roll-out of real-time text technology, which supplants antiquated TTY technology for individuals with disabilities who are text-reliant.
- Continue implementation of accessibility requirements for video conferencing services to ensure functionally equivalent participation in videoconferences by individuals with disabilities.
- Continue to pursue a goal of 100 percent of mobile devices being hearing-aid compatible, including evaluation of ways to update hearing-aid compatibility policies to address

advancements in wireless technology and to ensure that consumers have the information that they need to make informed purchasing decisions.

- Continue to implement new hearing aid compatibility technical standards to ensure that consumers with hearing loss have equal access to the latest and most technologically advanced handsets as all other consumers.
- Consider proposals to improve access to functionally equivalent communications services for incarcerated individuals with disabilities. Work to develop policies in connection with text-to-988.
- Consider proposals to improve the versions of emergency alert system (EAS) messages displayed as text on television screens so as to give deaf and hard-of-hearing viewers access to clearer and more complete emergency information.

3.1.3 Work to enhance competition and pursue policies that protect the competitive process to improve consumer choice and access to information.

- Provide consumers with up-to-date, user-friendly online, print, and video publications concerning their rights, responsibilities, and service options so that they can make informed decisions.
- Monitor trends in consumer complaints and work with interested consumer, industry, and state, local, Tribal, and territorial government stakeholders to identify marketplace practices that negatively affect consumer interests and competition.
- Support the deployment of Consumer Broadband Labels to assist consumers in comparison shopping for broadband services through standardized information on pricing, connection speeds, data limits, and clarity on connection rates.
- Continue implementation of the Broadband DATA Act and IIJA by collecting and mapping broadband availability and data submitted by providers and incorporating consumer and other stakeholder feedback through the fixed and mobile challenge process and data crowdsourcing.

3.1.4 Implement actions to ensure that individuals with disabilities can access video programming.

- Ensure that transitions to new technologies and standards continue to provide consumers with disabilities with access to video programming through closed captioning, audio description, accessible emergency information, and accessible user interfaces and video programming guides and menus.
- Extend audio description requirements to enable a greater number of individuals who are blind or visually impaired to be connected, informed, and entertained by television programming.
- Undertake appropriate initiatives to close accessibility gaps with regard to closed captioning and user interface settings.
- Increase awareness of accessibility requirements by engaging in outreach to industry and consumers.

3.1.5 Implement actions to protect incarcerated individuals and their families, including those who are deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind, or who have a speech disability, to ensure they have access to affordable communications services.

- Adopt rules necessary to implement the Martha Wright-Reed Just and Reasonable Communications Act of 2022.
- Adopt and implement caps on charges for video and audio intrastate, interstate, and international inmate calling services for incarcerated people and on associated ancillary charges.
- Pursue rulemaking actions necessary to ensure just and reasonable rates and practices in connection with interstate, intrastate, and international calling services for incarcerated people and that incarcerated people with communication disabilities receive service that is functionally equivalent to that received by those without such disabilities.
- Review annual reports from providers of interstate, intrastate, and international inmate calling services and pursue enforcement actions necessary to ensure that those providers fully comply with applicable Commission rules.
- Continue to monitor the market for calling services for incarcerated people to ensure that the Commission's rules keep pace with technological developments and evolving business practices.

3.1.6 Work in partnership with Tribal Nations and entities to ensure that have knowledge of Commission programs and opportunities designed to increase access to affordable communications services.

- Assist the Commission developing policies and programs to address the lack of adequate communications services on Tribal lands nationwide.
- Lead the Commission's outreach and disseminate timely information to Tribal governments and organizations, with the objective of increasing their awareness of, and participation, in, Commission programs and proceedings.
- Ensure Native views and interest are heard in the Commission decision-making process.
- Oversee the work of the Native Nations Communications Task Force.

Strategic Goal 4: Enhance Public Safety and National Security

Strategic Objective 4.1: Keep the public safe by promoting and pursuing policies and initiatives, including enforcement efforts, to ensure the availability of secure, reliable, interoperable, resilient, and rapidly restorable critical communications infrastructures and services.

Performance Goals and Targets:

4.1.1 Adopt public safety spectrum policies that facilitate interoperable communications by first responders.

- Analyze existing rules to determine whether the process for establishing interoperability agreements between Federal agencies and state, local, Tribal, and territorial public safety agencies on Federal and non-Federal channels can be made more efficient.
- Continue to engage in cross-border spectrum agreement discussions with Canada and Mexico.
- Encourage the enhancement and use of redundant communications, such as amateur radio, family radio, and general mobile radio services, to support public safety communications during disasters and emergencies.

4.1.2 Implement an integrated regulatory framework that promotes faster emergency response, leverages technological advancements, and promotes the rapid deployment of innovative public safety communications, such as Next Generation 911 (NG911).

- Monitor benchmarks regarding direct 911 dialing and notification requirements for Multi-Line Telephone Systems (MLTS).
- Monitor dispatchable location requirements for MLTS, fixed telephony, interconnected VoIP, TRS, and mobile text adopted in 2019 pursuant to Section 506 of the RAY BAUM'S Act.
- Continue to implement the Congressional mandate to report annually on states and territories 911 fee expenditures to help ensure that 911 fees collected by states and territories are used to fund 911 expenses and facilitate the advancement of NG911.
- Evaluate how wireless 911 calls may be routed more rapidly to the proper 911 call center to ensure that 911 callers can be located expeditiously by public safety answering points (PSAPs) and emergency responders.
- Evaluate proposals for updating the FCC's rules to facilitate the transition to Next Generation 911.
- Advance 911 location services by continuing to implement the Commission's 2015 Location Accuracy rules and monitoring whether Commercial Mobile Radio Services providers are meeting their horizontal location accuracy benchmarks to provide x/y location within 50 meters or dispatchable location for 80% of all wireless 911 calls, and vertical location accuracy requirement to provide z-axis location within 3 meters or dispatchable location for wireless 911 calls in FY 2025.
- Support PSAPs in updating the Master PSAP registry and providing notice to carriers when a given PSAP is text-to-911 capable.
- Maintain public-facing communication mechanisms, such as the Public Safety Support Center and specific FCC email accounts that support PSAPs and emergency responders.
- Monitor implementation of rules and procedures adopted pursuant to Section 902 of the Don't Break Up the T-Band Act of 2020, which directed the Commission to adopt rules that define what uses of 911 fees by states and taxing jurisdictions constitute fee diversion. In addition, evaluate recommendations to Congress by the Ending 911 Fee Diversion Now Strike Force, a federal advisory committee established by the FCC, pursuant to Section 902, to study 911 fee diversion and develop recommendations to end this practice.
- Take enforcement action where warranted.

4.1.3 Combat the malicious or illegal use of communications systems, services, and networks by developing reforms and examining and employing other technological solutions.

- Take steps to implement new rules or facilitate other solutions to reduce the use of contraband cellphones in correctional facilities.
- Coordinate with federal partners to combat the importation of illegal communications devices into the U.S., with specific emphasis on devices which are designed to intentionally block, jam, hijack, or interfere with authorized radio communications including cellular communications and the Global Positioning System (GPS).
- Ensure the technical knowledge, skills, and capabilities of the Commission align with its statutory roles and responsibilities, and employ technological solutions, in coordination with

interagency stakeholders as appropriate, to detect, identify, and manage communications risks.

- Collaborate with Federal and state, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, and explore, identify, and employ technological solutions to detect, identify, and locate communications equipment used for malicious intent jeopardizing national security or safety of life and property.

4.1.4 Take measures to facilitate the rapid restoration of critical communications during disasters, emergencies, and significant events.

- Identify opportunities for and participate in pre-disaster coordination and planning with Federal partners, state, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, communications industry, and utilities providers to identify and prioritize restoration of key communications infrastructure.
- Pursue a framework that facilitates infrastructure and service restoration; that encourages the provision of innovative solutions to fill vital public safety communications gaps, especially in underserved and underprivileged communities; and that promotes communications redundancy and resilience during restoration and recovery efforts.
- Evaluate and monitor the implementation of the Commission's new rules requiring roaming, mutual aid, and other planning and restoration methods for all facilities-based mobile wireless providers.
- Work quickly and effectively with government counterparts in Mexico and Canada to address interference issues affecting critical communications infrastructure and services along the U.S. border.
- Continue efforts to bolster mobile and fixed voice and broadband services throughout Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands as part of the Commission's commitment to ensure restoration, hardening, and expansion of advanced telecommunications networks under the Bringing Puerto Rico Together Fund (PR Fund) and the Connect USVI Fund.

4.1.5 Take measures to enhance network security, national security, consumer privacy, and device integrity by promoting policies and programs to enhance the cybersecurity posture of the equipment, systems and services foundational to public safety, health and economic development.

- Develop and promote cyber risk management planning by industry and FCC program participants.
- Pursue cooperative partnerships to facilitate the prompt development and adoption of common standards for smart devices and products beating a government-backed cybersecurity label, promoting consumer transparency and empowering smart purchasing.
- Advance adoption of baseline protocols supporting secure Internet routing and information exchange.

Strategic Objective 4.2: Promote the public's access to reliable 911 and emergency alerting and support public safety's access to first responder communications.

Performance Goals and Targets:

4.2.1 Promote the nationwide availability of reliable and effective 911, Enhanced 911 (E911), and Next Generation 911 (NG911) service by developing and implementing policies that will ensure the

reliability, resiliency, and security of communications networks, particularly for 911 and NG911 networks.

- Further delineate, through Commission rules or policies, the technical responsibilities of participants in the NG911 ecosystem, including: originating service providers, covered 911 service providers, third party providers, Emergency Services IP networks (ESInets) and PSAPs.
- Promote compliance with the Commission's rules by taking action, where appropriate, on complaints and referrals concerning the Commission's 911, E911 and NG911 rules.
- Investigate cases involving violations of the FCC's rules related to 911, E911 and NG911 service and refer appropriate enforcement action on apparent violations.
- Promote technical assistance as appropriate to PSAPs and other state, local, and territorial governments on issues related to 911, E911, and NG911 reliability.
- Collaborate with state, local, Tribal, and territorial governments in reviewing and exploring major 911 reliability issues in their jurisdictions.

4.2.2 Collect and analyze information pertaining to outages and degradation of communications networks, 911/NG911 and 988 network services by working with stakeholders to understand and address problems.

- Engage Field Offices as appropriate on complaints raising public safety interference issues within one calendar day of filing through the FCC's Radio Frequency Service Interference Complaint Portal.
- Review service provider compliance with the Commission's outage reporting obligations and reports on individual outages and refer compliance issues for enforcement action where appropriate to ensure that consumers have continued access to communications services during an emergency.
- Refer providers for enforcement action where warranted for violations of outage reporting obligations.

4.2.3 Analyze and report on major outages to assess practices in order to prevent future outages.

- Publish incident reports after significant outages to get timely information to the public outages and recovery efforts.
- Based on an analysis of aggregated outage data, publicly share "lessons learned" regarding voluntary best practices and other measures providers can take to help prevent similar outages in the future.
- Leverage information and analysis to advance communications network reliability and resiliency through direct engagement and/or regulatory action as appropriate.
- Share relevant information on disruptions and degradations of communications services with appropriate federal, state, Tribal, and territorial stakeholders, and facilitate actions to enable restoration, availability and resilience.

4.2.4 Fulfill the FCC's responsibilities under the National Preparedness System, including support to Emergency Support Function #2 (ESF#2) – Communications. Provide situational awareness of the status of communications services and infrastructure; coordinate with industry, the utilities sector, and

other Federal, state, local, Tribal, and territorial governments to facilitate communications protection, resilience, response, and restoration during times of crisis.

- Respond to and support, when applicable, requests for information and assistance from Federal, state, local, and Tribal public safety officials, law enforcement, and national security partners within one day during significant disasters and incidents.
- Activate the Disaster Information Reporting System (DIRS) as necessary to collect information from service providers on the status of communications and use that information to provide daily situational awareness reports to ESF #2 agencies.
- Take pro-active steps to expedite the processing of Special Temporary Authorizations during disasters and major incidents.
- Implement, assess, and promote wireless resiliency, including cooperation among wireless service providers and other stakeholders (including backhaul providers, power companies and local public safety representatives) in advance of and during disasters.
- Share network outage and infrastructure status information with Federal and state partners to improve situational awareness.
- Coordinate with other regulators, sector-specific agencies, and ESF#14 (Cross-Sector business and Infrastructure) to identify ways to harmonize communications infrastructure restoration practices across sectors including the utilities sector.
- Maintain up-to-date contacts and relationships with appropriate state, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, disability groups, and consumer organizations to facilitate the dissemination of critical updates and information in the event of an emergency or disaster.

4.2.5 Strengthen access to emergency services and emergency public information sources during emergencies by supporting improved preparedness, reliability of communications networks, and disaster management practices.

- Work in partnership with other Federal agencies, as well as state, local, Tribal, and territorial governments to: share information on communications network status; identify and publish best practices and lessons learned for disaster preparedness and network reliability and resiliency through Public Notices and through the FCC's website; and coordinate efforts to respond to network degradation or failure during disasters emergencies, or significant events to promote security and the safety of life and property.
- Participate in interagency continuity of operations (COOP) and continuity of government (COG) planning and exercises.
- Work in partnership with PSAPs and other emergency call centers to encourage the use of text-to-911, including real-time text, and direct video calling, for use by people with disabilities.
- During incidents in which ESF#2 and DIRS are activated, use information about the status of communications submitted by service providers in DIRS to provide daily public reports with certain aggregated data.
- Work in partnership with other Federal agencies and the North American Numbering Plan Administrator to oversee implementation of 988 as the 3-digit code for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.
- Implement and further facilitate the reliability and operational awareness/reporting of outages impacting 988 service to ensure maximum availability to consumers in need.

- Work in partnership with other Federal agencies and the North American Numbering Plan Administrator to allow text messaging to the 988 code as well as voice calls.
- Continue to evaluate and facilitate measures to improve public safety messaging for non-English proficient consumers and those in underserved communities.

4.2.6 Work to ensure the continued availability of timely emergency alerts. Facilitate the effectiveness and reliability of the EAS and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), including through encouraging the development of new alerting capabilities that leverage emerging technologies.

- Support any Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) initiated tests of the EAS and WEA to ensure continued effectiveness of these alert and warning systems.
- Continue to advance the reliability, speed and accuracy of WEA through data-driven assessment of localized performance metrics.
- Further explore, through the rulemaking process and other available means, improvements to WEA based on advancements in technology, market developments, and evolving public safety stakeholders' needs.
- Work with FEMA, other federal, state, and local agencies, and other stakeholders to improve the quality and reliability of networks used to distribute EAS messages.
- Ensure that EAS messages are clear enough to enable the public to understand them and respond with appropriate protective actions during emergency situations.
- Take measures to ensure the Alert Reporting System is available and effective in reducing the paperwork burden on State Emergency Communications Committees, the voluntary entities that administer the EAS at the state level, and in allowing the Commission and other authorized stakeholders to have accurate knowledge of how EAS alerts are propagated at the state, local, and national levels.
- Continue to take enforcement action against pirate radio stations, which do not carry EAS alerts and may disrupt the distribution of EAS alerts.
- Continue to refer matters to the Enforcement Bureau for action against entities that abuse or misuse EAS/WEA systems, including unauthorized uses of the EAS/WEA alert tones.

Strategic Objective 4.3: Leverage Commission expertise, situational awareness, and authorities to mitigate national and homeland security risks in coordination with interagency partners.

Performance Goals and Targets:

4.3.1 Support national security initiatives, and law enforcement and first responder operational activities during steady state, major disasters, emergencies, and significant events.

- Provide consultative support to the Defense Commissioner pursuant to section 0.181 of the Commission's rules.
- Coordinate with interagency partners to identify and assess existing and evolving risks to the communications sector and develop and implement modern policy and operational solutions to manage those risks.
- Implement an enduring communications sector risk assessment and risk information sharing capability and provide periodic and, as required, ad hoc briefings to Commission leadership to inform risk-based policies.

- Coordinate within the Commission and with inter-agency partners to ensure that Commission policy positions are represented in all dialogue pertaining to national security and public safety issues impacting or impacted by communications.
- Provide Federal, state, local, Tribal, and territorial government with critical information pertaining to the potential misuse of spectrum, communications infrastructure, and licensee status.
- Actively participate with Interagency partners and state, local, Tribal, and territorial government in planning for high-profile events that could be at risk of terrorist attacks, e.g., National Special Security Events (NSSE) and Special Event Assessment Rating (SEAR).
- Modernize and expand the FCC's capabilities to conduct over-the-air evaluations of radiofrequency spectrum in coordination with public safety and national security partners.
- In support of interagency partners and federal law enforcement, develop and maintain the necessary programs to facilitate identification of communications that denote potential criminal or terrorist activity.
- Leverage existing, and new sources of infrastructure data to identify and analyze risks to interdependent and interconnected communications, to better enable emergency management officials at the Federal and state, local, and Tribal governments to harden critical public safety communications infrastructure during blue skies, perform disaster response operations, and prioritize restoration of critical communications services.
- Work with key Federal partners to improve the provision and resilience of National Security and Emergency Preparedness communications.
- Modernize the process for telecommunications carriers to submit Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA) System Security and Integrity Plans.
- Continue to coordinate with federal agencies to educate small businesses about potential cybersecurity threats and measures they should take to protect against vulnerabilities in their network.
- With close coordination with other U.S. government agencies and international partners, promote global awareness about communication network security issues to ensure adoption of policies, standards, guidelines, and procurement strategies that reinforce vendor diversity and foster market competition.
- In conjunction with relevant U.S. government agencies, examine existing grants of section 214 authority to ensure such companies do not pose a security threat to the United States, and where appropriate, take enforcement action.

4.3.2 Identify and implement methods to mitigate risks to communications reliability, resilience, and security.

- Coordinate and collaborate with appropriate government entities, the private sector to identify and develop measures to mitigate security risks to U.S. communications.
- Pursuant to the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019, maintain and update the Covered List of Covered Equipment and Services that pose an unacceptable risk to the national security of the United States or the security and safety of the American people.
- Coordinate with interagency partners to ensure an accurate and up-to-date Covered List of covered communications equipment or services that particular enumerated entities (certain federal agencies and Congress, as specified in the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act) have determined pose an unacceptable risk to the national security of the United Sates or the security and safety of Unites Staes persons.

- Prohibit the use of any federal subsidy administered by the FCC that provides funds to be used for the capital expenditures necessary for the provision of advanced communications service, to purchase, obtain, maintain, improve, modify, or otherwise support any covered equipment or services on the FCC's Covered List.
- Take enforcement action in appropriate cases for violations of the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act, and any related Commission rules, and the Commission's rules on prohibiting use of universal service funds to obtain equipment or services from companies that pose a threat to national security.
- Continue to implement the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program to reimburse eligible providers of advanced communications services for reasonable expenses incurred in removing, replacing, and disposing of communications equipment or services produced or provided by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation that was obtained on or before June 30, 2020 from their networks.
- Adopt rules and implement processes in the Commission's equipment authorization program to effectuate the prohibition on authorization of certain equipment that has been determined to pose an unacceptable risk to national security (as identified on the Covered List and produced by certain entities), in accordance with the Secure Equipment Act of 2021 and the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019.
- Take measures to identify and prohibit the authorization of equipment that poses an unacceptable risk to the U.S. communications networks and supply chain as identified in the Covered List.
- Identify and implement methods that foster vendor diversity and the development and deployment of emerging communications technologies, such as open radio access network.
- Continue to examine communications priority services rules and programs, including the Telecommunications Service Priority and Priority Access Service rules.
- In coordination with other Federal agencies, advocate for mitigating risks and securing the communications supply chain with other countries.
- Promote space innovation and U.S. leadership in the emerging space economy to advance our nation's economic, scientific, technological, and national security interests.
- Facilitate progress and reduce barriers for missions involving in-space servicing, assembly, and manufacturing (ISAM) by providing clarifications, updates or modifications of Commission licensing processes and addressing possible spectrum needs.
- Review licenses for all satellite services for adherence to best practices and established guidelines for orbital debris mitigation and safe space operations.
- In coordination with other Federal agencies as needed, ensure that FCC regulations and licensing practices reflect and utilize the latest advancements in orbital debris mitigation remediation and removal practices and assessment methods.

4.3.3 Employ FCC authorities in coordination with interagency partners to assess and mitigate national security, law enforcement, foreign policy, or trade policy risks related to applicants' foreign ownership, as part of the Commission's overall public interest analysis of applications, and take enforcement action where warranted.

- Adopt and implement new rules that would require, for the first time, companies or individuals applying for a new international section 214 authorization or those with existing international section 214 authorizations to file renewal applications at the FCC. Among other requirements, the rules would enable up-to-date review of international section 214

authorizations to fully take into account rapidly changing national security, law enforcement, and other considerations. To implement the renewal rules, in 2023 the Commission conducted a one-time collection of foreign ownership information from international section 214 authorization holders.

- Coordinate with the relevant Executive Branch agencies, seeking their review and recommendations on applications and petitions with foreign ownership for any national security, law enforcement, foreign policy, or trade policy concerns.
- Based on the Commission's regulatory authority, the FCC will require and make available on the Commission's website the Standard Questions that applicants will be required to submit to the Executive Branch agencies prior to or at the same that that they file applications or petitions with the Commission.
- As appropriate, use the Commission's regulatory authorities to condition the grant of applications on the applicants' compliance with the terms of relevant national security and law enforcement mitigation agreements.
- As appropriate, use the Commission's regulatory authorities to assess and determine whether revocation or termination of an authorization or license is appropriate in light of any national security or law enforcement concerns.
- As appropriate, continue to facilitate a more streamlined and transparent review process for coordinating applications and petitions with the Executive Branch agencies.
- As appropriate, take enforcement action against unauthorized assignments and transfers of control, or unauthorized increase in foreign ownership, of Commission authorizations and licenses involving foreign ownership and control that impact national security, law enforcement, foreign policy, or trade policy concerns.

Strategic Goal 5: Advance America's Global Competitiveness

Strategic Objective 5.1: Promote investment and advance the development and deployment of new communications technologies, such as 5G, that will allow the nation to remain a global leader in an increasingly competitive, international marketplace.

Performance Goals and Targets:

5.1.1 Evaluate and report on the competitive environment for communications services.

- Consistent with the RAY BAUM'S Act, evaluate and prepare a unified report on the state of the communications marketplaces based on various data collected by the Commission, including the Broadband Data Collection, which is being implemented pursuant to the Broadband DATA Act.

5.1.2 Ensure effective policies are in place to promote and protect competition and remove barriers to investment.

- Develop and promulgate Commission policies designed to promote competitive choices for wireless, satellite, and wireline voice and data service providers, for domestic and international services and for multichannel video programming.
- Promote compliance with rules designed to maximize competitive choices by taking enforcement action in appropriate cases.

- Review, process, and resolve applications for transfer of control and assignment of licenses in a timely manner.
- Encourage broadcaster innovation in delivering new services.
- Evaluate policies designed to help avoid excessive concentration of spectrum license holdings in the United States in order to promote competition, lower prices, and a vibrant telecommunications system.

5.1.3 Pursue spectrum policies to achieve the effective and efficient use of spectrum.

- Work to make available additional mid-band and other spectrum to facilitate deployment of next-generation services.
- Design and hold spectrum auctions as directed through statutory mandate, including to make more spectrum available for 5G and other next-generation services.
- Finalize the transition of secondary, non-federal radiolocation operations out of 100 megahertz of recently auctioned spectrum in the 3.45-3.55 GHz band.
- Administer the transition of 280 megahertz of spectrum in the C-Band (3.7-4.2 GHz) for terrestrial 5G service.
- Identify additional frequency bands for unlicensed operations to promote innovative uses of unlicensed technologies.
- Coordinate effectively with Federal agencies regarding identifying and acting upon opportunities to expand access to spectrum for wireless broadband.
- Ensure that the FCC's decision-making process includes, where appropriate and practicable, consultation with Tribal Nations and Territories regarding potential impact and concomitant new and enhanced opportunities and outcomes of spectrum allocation and license assignment policies.
- Review internal proposals to improve the efficiency of spectrum use.
- Promote compliance with rules designed to maximize the effective and efficient use of spectrum by taking enforcement action in appropriate cases.
- Process all Spectrum Pipeline Plans submitted by Federal agencies for potential relocation of their radio operations to other bands within 120 days to encourage repurposing of Federal spectrum to commercial use.
- Meet the statutory requirements of the MOBILE NOW Act by evaluating and reporting on spectrum use on a timely basis and repurposing and reallocating spectrum to support next generation mobile broadband.
- Support the Commission's spectrum use efforts by disseminating information about the assignment and use of spectrum to small businesses, including those owned by people of color, women, veterans, LGBTQ+, and persons with disabilities. Develop innovative spectrum sharing opportunities and mechanisms that may permit multiple categories of users to co-exist in close proximity, enabling more intensive use of the spectrum.
- Authorize the use of more spectrally efficient technologies.
- Coordinate effectively with Canada and Mexico to ensure efficient, interference free use of spectrum along border areas.
- Engage in domestic and international outreach activities to encourage efficient and effective spectrum use consistent with U.S. adopted policies.
- Consider various ways to promote more efficient use of spectrum through improved receiver interference immunity performance, including possible policy guidance.

5.1.4 Allow new services and technologies to come to market by expediting processes.

- Initiate action on 50% of incoming waiver requests within 6 months, and 90% within one year.
- Resolve at least 8,000 applications filed by television and radio licensees during FY 2024.
- Resolve 90% of equipment authorization inquiries in less than 30 days to ensure timely authorization of innovative and compliant products in the marketplace.
- Conduct semi-annual meetings with Telecommunication Certification Bodies to review test procedures and provide training on new technologies.
- Act on 90% of applications for routine experimental licenses within 90 days of receipt.
- Take enforcement action in appropriate cases against violations of spectrum-related rules, such as interference, unauthorized use of frequencies, and marketing of unauthorized equipment.
- Investigate and prioritize actions on allegations of violations of the Commission's spectrum licensing and equipment authorization rules and take appropriate enforcement action.
- Process at least 95% of routine spectrum license applications within 90 days of receipt.

5.1.5 Continue post-incentive auction (IA) repacking, displacement, and reimbursement efforts for broadcasters.

- Continue post-IA broadcast transition for the full power and Class A stations completing construction of repacked facilities, FM broadcast stations implicated by the transition of full power and Class A stations, and the low power (LPTV) and TV translator stations provided displacement relief as a result of the repack in order to make spectrum available for deployment of mobile broadband services by carriers who purchased it in the IA.
- Continue administering reimbursements from the obligated portion of the $2.75 billion TV Broadcaster Relocation Fund for eligible costs incurred by full power, Class A, LPTV, TV translator and FM stations, and multichannel video programming distributors in a manner that assures prompt payment, equity, and fairness among eligible stations, and minimizes the possibility of waste, fraud, and abuse.
- Investigate and initiate action where appropriate on potential violations of the post-IA reimbursement rules.

Strategic Objective 5.2: Help the U.S. government promote responsible global development and deployment abroad.

Performance Goals and Targets:

5.2.1 Promote effective oversight and foster investment in 5G and later generation networks by considering actions that address problems in the marketplace. Make fact-based decisions, relying on economic analysis, ongoing fact-gathering initiatives and data analysis.

- Take action informed by data and economic analysis to address gaps in the advanced wireless marketplace, as appropriate.
- Coordinate with and advise international partners in the pursuit of fostering the development of communications services and solutions that promote interconnectivity, economic opportunity, and societal benefits.

5.2.2 Work to promote a high-quality, secure, and globally interconnected communications infrastructure through international telecommunications and satellite programs and policies.

- Work with the Commission's counterparts in other countries and advise on best practices in communications policy.
- In coordination with other Federal agencies, develop and advance spectrum proposals for the next World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) and take steps necessary to implement the results of the prior WRCs.
- In coordination with other Federal agencies, seek to promote policies and regulations that are consistent with FCC regulatory rules and policies at the International Telecommunication Union.
- In coordination with other Federal agencies, encourage other countries to use only trusted vendors or architectures when developing 5G and later generation networks.
- Actively monitor compliance and enforce Commission rules regarding orbital debris standards and practices, and update rules as needed to reflect the latest advancements in remediation and removal practices and assessment methods.
- Approve regional recommendations in the International Telecommunication Union promoting harmonized frequency arrangements for mobile broadband systems providing economies of scale and facilitating deployment and cross-border coordination.
- Advance studies in the International Telecommunication Union that support U.S. industry priorities and foster an international regulatory environment for the development of new technologies and radiocommunication services in preparation for the next World Radiocommunication Conference.
- In coordination with other Federal agencies, participate in international standards-development organizations to promote the adoption of international standards consistent with U.S. and FCC goals and policies.
- Enhance effective collaboration with other Federal agencies to foster the innovative use of spectrum through the introduction of new technologies and services.
- In coordination with other Federal agencies, promote the development and deployment of open radio access network technology in other countries.
- In coordination with the State Department, advocate U.S. positions in cross border and international spectrum harmonization and other activities to ensure that the Unites States' bilateral and multilateral obligations are consistent with the domestic policies.
- In coordination with other Federal agencies promote the development of internal regulatory frameworks for space activities that foster private sector deployment while ensuring effective regulatory supervision.
- Coordinate with the State Department to achieve outcomes in International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO) negotiations that are consistent with U.S. and FCC policies fostering private sector deployment while ensuring that Intelsat obligations to ITSO are met.

Strategic Goal 6: Foster Operational Excellence

Strategic Objective 6.1: Be a model for excellence in government by effectively managing the FCC's resources, maintain a commitment to transparent and responsive processes that encourage public involvement and serves the public good.

Performance Goals and Target

6.1.1 Continue to provide information about the status of matters pending before the FCC by developing and posting information online and communicating with stakeholders.

- Conduct meetings and outreach with stakeholders, including state, local, Tribal, and territorial governments and their representative organizations, including underserved communities that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life, as well as the state Members of Federal-State Joint Boards, to ensure that the Commission understands their positions.
- Respond to 95% of informal consumer complaints within one business day of receipt.
- Improve and enhance the FCC's informal complaint process regarding user experience and sharing of reliable complaint data by updating the Consumer Complaint Center homepage to align with best practices of other federal agency web materials for consumers.
- Continue to engage in outreach and education concerning the availability of the National Broadband Map and to encourage and facilitate participation in the Broadband Data Collection challenge process.
- Continue to promote the Public Safety Support Center as a resource for public safety stakeholders to submit complaints and contact complainants, or otherwise initiate action to resolve complaints impacting emergency services within one day of receipt of the complaint.
- Improve access to information related to wireless licenses and authorizations, including continuation of efforts to modernize and streamline the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS).
- Collect and publish data on federally funded broadband investments.
- Continue to ensure that the FCC domestic transfer of control webpage is accurate and up-to-date, so as to inform all stakeholders of the status of pending transactions from the time of filing until the date of Commission action.
- Continue to timely update the FCC's submarine cable webpage to inform the public, other Federal, state, and local government agencies, and all stakeholders of the total number of submarine cable licenses granted by the FCC to date and the most recent pending and granted submarine cable licenses.
- Continue to timely update the FCC's small entity compliance guide webpage to inform small businesses about new FCC rules and regulations to facilitate compliance.
- Review 100% of incumbent local exchange carriers (LEC) tariffs filed on 15 days' notice in the Electronic Tariff Filing System in FY 2024.
- Review competitive LEC tariffs in a timely manner after they are filed in the Electronic Tariff Filing System and act on any rates, terms, or conditions that violate the Commission's rules or are otherwise unjust and unreasonable.
- Ensure that all new data collections are updated in the FCC data inventory and in the OMB data inventory in accordance with OMB guidelines to the greatest extent practicable.
- In coordination with other federal agencies, prepare the semi-annual publication of the Unified Agenda, which highlights federal agencies' priorities, promotes transparency, planning and coordination, and encourages public participation in the regulatory process.

6.1.2 Ensure the Commission's ability to meet its Mission Essential Functions (MEF) and other critical activities during emergencies and disasters affecting FCC facilities and/or staff.

- Provide adequately trained FCC staff to meet public safety and national security requirements.
- Participate in national-level interagency exercises to validate COG, COOP, and disaster response capabilities.
- Provide analytical support for continuity of operations and disaster response actions when requested.
- Provide remote call center functionality as a critical pathway for public input during emergencies and as a tool for situational awareness about communications network functionality.
- Provide adequately trained staff to record and report on FCC staff availability and MEF performance during continuity of operations and disaster response actions.
- Improve and maintain ability for Commission leadership to communicate via multiple paths (e.g., cellular, satellite, HF) during incidents that may impact segments of the communications grid.
- Work with the interagency national security community to examine steps to improve the resiliency of national security communications requirements of all agencies.

6.1.3 For each program objective, the Office of the General Counsel will work to ensure that the Commission adheres to all legal requirements in its operations by providing timely and accurate legal advice and representation regarding proposed and existing policies and rules within the FCC's purview.

- Provide timely and accurate legal advice to Bureaus, Offices, and the Commission with respect to pending proceedings.
- Promptly respond to all requests for legal advice relating to the Commission's operations.
- Provide support for FCC efforts to deter, detect, and combat waste, fraud, abuse and other misconduct in the various subsidy programs.
- Provide FCC staff with advice relating to government ethics and ensure that all ethics inquiries are addressed in a timely manner.
- Vigorously defend FCC rules, policies, and operations against legal challenge.

6.1.4 For each program objective, the Office of Economics and Analytics will support the Commission by providing expertise, guidance, and assistance to the Bureaus and other Offices in applying the principles of economic and data analysis.

- Implement regulatory impact analysis requirements to ensure that FCC regulations solve real problems at a reasonable cost.
- Advise the Office of the Chair of emerging economic trends and issues relevant to the FCC's mission.
- Continue an active economic research program to bring state-of-the-art economic analysis to bear on matters relevant to the Commission.
- Ensure consistent and timely public interest analysis of applications for transfer of control and assignment of licenses.
- Ensure that analyses concerning mergers and transactions cite relevant facts, sources of information, and convey the basis for findings.
- Provide expertise, guidance, and assistance to the Bureaus and Offices upon request on matters involving economic and data analysis, and the collection and management of data.

Strategic Objective 6.2: Effectively manage and modernize, as appropriate, the FCC's information technology (IT), financial, record keeping, facilities, and human capital resources to best achieve the FCC's mission.

Performance Goals and Targets:

6.2.1 Make information readily available to agency management for decision-making by improving Commission systems and processes.

- Maintain dashboards and information management systems, including systems to monitor field investigations, commercial radio and public safety complaints, consumer protection complaints, and records retention while maintaining confidentiality necessary to protect the integrity of ongoing Commission investigations and to comply with relevant laws (e.g., Privacy Act).
- Participate in ongoing dialogue with FCC Bureaus and Offices to provide information on enforcement-related issues in an efficient and timely manner.
- Provide complaint data to relevant Bureaus and Offices highlighting trends for policy development and potential enforcement.
- Conduct quarterly meetings of the Data Governance Board, which includes leadership from the Office of the Chair, the Office of the Managing Director, the Office of Economics and Analytics, and program offices, to ensure that information obtained by implementing the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act is readily available to support decision-making by the Commission.
- Promote and comply with the Foundations of Evidence-Based Policy Act through a newly designed/modernized ULS database optimized to reduce redundancy, improve access, and provide statistical evidence to support policymaking.

6.2.2 Carry out the agency's mission by upgrading and enhancing technology, tools and processes used by Commission staff.

- The FCC will continue to modernize our legacy information technology systems and is currently working on numerous system modernization projects throughout the agency. Through these efforts, the FCC will save time by eliminating unnecessary processes and reducing manual labor. Modernization of the FCC's systems also helps the Commission to become more agile thereby allowing the organization to adapt quickly to new requirements and demands as they arise. Among these projects are the following critical systems:
    - Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), which is one of the most heavily used systems in the FCC and provides internet access to comments and comment indexing information filed in FCC rulemakings and docketed proceedings. Using ECFS, the public can view comments online or submit comments electronically using one of a variety of supported document formats.
    - International Communications Filing System (ICFS) which is used by the Commission as the official licensing system for: Earth Stations, Space Stations, International Section 214, International Public Fixed, and International HF Broadcasting services.
    - Disaster Information Reporting System (DIRS), which is a web-based system through which the Commission collects operational status and restoration information from communications providers during major disasters and subsequent recovery efforts.

DIRS provides communications providers with a single, coordinated, consistent process to report their communications infrastructure status information during disasters.

- Enhance access to real-time data for decision-making, reduce operating and maintenance costs and meet increased demand loads of public filings by continuing to migrate outdated technology-based systems and applications to cloud-based environments.
- Explore technological tools to enhance accessibility, productivity, and accountability in the Federal workforce and commence migration to next-generation desk top services and end-user computing environment.
- Employ project management principles and timeline tools for planning, preparing, and conducting Commission auctions, as well as the implementation of new, large-scale Commission data collections, to improve, respectively, quality, security, and timeliness of Commission auctions and the efficiency, usability, and applicability of Commission data collection systems.
- Implement enhanced application, system, database, and infrastructure monitoring capabilities and develop an improved method of informing stakeholders of Commission-wide system issues and outages.
- Participate in agency-wide working groups to identify possible upgrades or enhancements to technology and tools to facilitate staff's ability to carry out the agency's mission.
- Update the FCC's IT Strategic Plan.
- Continuously update the FCC's bidding systems to enable the auction of licenses for new services identified by statute that will facilitate the deployment of new technologies to the public, broadcast construction permits, and universal service support that will help ensure affordable access to broadband across the country.
- Review existing staffing and communications processes, and explore more efficient, effective ways to communicate with stakeholders, provide enhanced transparency, facilitate meetings, and receive and respond to requests for status updates (such as electronic licensing and online dashboards reflecting status of proceedings and requests).
- Ensure full compliance with the provisions of section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, requiring the Commission to provide accessible information and communication technology to its employees with disabilities and through the collaboration and cooperation of the Office of Managing Director and the Office of Workplace Diversity regarding initiatives aimed to address accessibility needs of employees with disabilities.
- Continue to implement the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act by making our data publicly available and open by default, and maintaining an inventory of data assets, to the maximum extent practicable.

6.2.3 Maintain a high level of cybersecurity readiness and presence by providing FCC staff with a secure digital infrastructure.

- Ensure that all FCC staff and contractors timely complete cybersecurity training.
- Continue making upgrades to the security of the FCC's IT systems.
- Integrate enhanced credential validation and session management tools in the design and construction of the modernized ULS.

6.2.4 Ensure that all financial operations are helping control or contain costs, providing high quality customer service, and improving the effectiveness and efficiency of Commission operations by conducting a program of continuous review and evaluation.

- Coordinate on budget planning and execution to help ensure that auction, spectrum, and licensing activities are conducted effectively and efficiently.

6.2.5 Expand opportunities for professional staff to improve their skills and knowledge, with the goal of ensuring that the highest quality analysis is applied to Commission policymaking.

- Research and prepare economic working papers for publication in the Office of Economics and Analytics working paper series.
- Continue to invite outside experts, especially those focused on relevant areas, to present their research before Commission economists and other experts.

6.2.6 Ensure that all members of the Commission's workforce and candidates for employment have equal access to opportunities for employment, career growth, training, and development by developing workforce recruitment initiatives that foster a workforce whose diversity reflects the diverse makeup of the Nation.

- Continue the collaborative and cooperative work of the Office of Workplace Diversity and the Associate Managing Director-Human Resource Management regarding recruitment strategies in furtherance of a diverse applicant pool for all agency employment opportunities.

6.2.7 Ensure that the FCC's recruitment, development, and retention strategies for professionals at the FCC further and promote a diverse applicant pool for internship and career opportunities.

- Continue the Early Career Staff Diversity Initiative to advance equitable opportunities for underrepresented undergraduate, graduate, and law school students by providing an increased paid internships throughout the FCC under the Pathways Internship Program to law, graduate, or undergraduate students.
- Continue and bolster agency-wide efforts to increase the diversity of the applicant pool for the Commission's internship, Attorney Honors, and Honors Engineering Programs, including but not limited to outreach efforts to minority serving institutions, such as Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities.
- Continue to pursue and enhance strategic partnership and collaboration with internal and external affinity groups to increase awareness about available internship and career opportunities.
- Examine the agency's recruitment, development, and retention strategies for technical professionals such as economists and engineers, and as warranted, develop a proposal for improvement and/or enhancement of the strategies.

Strategic Objective 6.3: Ensure that the Universal Service Fund (USF) and other subsidy programs are well managed, efficient, and fiscally responsible and reduce fraud, waste, and abuse.

Performance Goals and Targets:

6.3.1 Reduce the potential for fraud, waste, and abuse in the USF and other subsidy programs.

- Investigate and prioritize actions on allegations of violations of the USF rules, including contributions, and take appropriate enforcement action.
- Employ data analytic software tools to enhance and expedite investigations to identify, assess, and address fraud, waste, and abuse through appropriate enforcement actions.
- Continue implementation of policies to simplify and remove waste in the FCC's USF programs.
- Coordinate and share information with USAC on a regular basis to proactively identify and remediate opportunities for fraud, waste, and abuse in all USF programs.
- Review and accept for filing within 14 days of a complete application, domestic section 214 transactions between incumbent telephone companies receiving high-cost USF support through different mechanisms to address potential harm to the Commission's goal of ensuring that limited USF resources are distributed efficiently.
- Coordinate with USAC to implement a fraud risk management framework that aligns with Government Accountability Office (GAO) best practices and begin work to tailor framework for each of the universal service programs.
- Continue engagement with other federal funding agencies to share information and coordinate efforts to facilitate efficiency and effectiveness in USF funding.
- Coordinate with all relevant federal agencies in administering an online mapping tool to provide a locations overview of the overall geographic footprint of each broadband infrastructure deployment project funded by the federal government, as required by the IIJA.
- Administer the Urban Rates Survey to collect information on pricing and establish benchmarks for reasonable costs of service funded through the high-cost programs.

6.3.2 Ensure that the USF programs are administered efficiently and effectively by reviewing the administrative costs of the programs.

- Review internal proposals to improve the efficiency of the administration of universal service programs.
- Review all USAC IT projects commenced in FY 2025 to promote efficiency and effectiveness in USAC's operations.

6.3.3 Take steps to ensure that communications systems funded with USF programs are secure and resilient.

Continue to ensure USF recipients refrain from using USF support to purchase, obtain, maintain, improve, modify, or otherwise support equipment and services from companies the Commission has designated as posing a national security threat to the integrity of communications networks or the communications supply chain, and from using USF support for any equipment and services included on the Commission's List of Covered Equipment and Services.

FISCAL YEAR 2025 REQUIREMENTS BY BUREAUS AND OFFICES

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Offices of the Chairwoman and Commissioners

Offices of the Chairwoman and Commissioners	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**23**	**24**	**25**
11 - Personnel compensation	$3,047,431	$4,124,980	$4,270,594
12 - Personnel benefits	$1,072,994	1,464,810	1,637,416
13 - Benefits for former personnel	0	0	0
Subtotal - Personnel Costs	**$4,120,425**	**$5,589,790**	**$5,908,010**
21 - Travel & transportation of persons	$150,315	$297,000	$302,962
22 - Transportation of things	0	0	0
23 - Rent, Communications, and Utilities	727,789	681,208	870,896
24 - Printing and reproduction	0	0	0
25 - Other contractual services	470	5,100	5,121
26 - Supplies and materials	0	0	0
31 - Equipment	0	0	0
40 - Insurance claims and interest	0	0	0
Subtotal - Non-Personnel Costs	**$878,574**	**$983,308**	**$1,178,979**
TOTAL	**$4,998,999**	**$6,573,098**	**$7,086,989**

The FCC is directed by five Commissioners who are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate for five-year terms, except when filling an unexpired term. The President designates one of the Commissioners to serve either as the Chairperson or Chairwoman. Only three Commissioners may be members of the same political party. None of them can have a financial interest in any Commission-related business.

The Chairperson or Chairwoman serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Commission, supervising all FCC activities, delegating responsibilities to Offices and Bureaus, and formally representing the Commission before the Congress and the Administration.

Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau

Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**107**	**118**	**118**
11 - Personnel compensation	$15,659,670	$17,272,735	$17,904,273
12 - Personnel benefits	5,436,489	6,058,579	6,295,753
13 - Benefits for former personnel	0	0	0
Subtotal - Personnel Costs	**$21,096,158**	**$23,331,314**	**$24,200,026**
21 - Travel & transportation of persons	$246,522	$382,500	$713,863
22 - Transportation of things	0	0	0
23 - Rent, Communications, and Utilities	794,682	657,933	826,907
24 - Printing and reproduction	0	0	0
25 - Other contractual services	1,698,844	1,489,954	1,547,732
26 - Supplies and materials	3,325	2,000	1,040
31 - Equipment	165	0	0
40 - Insurance claims and interest	0	0	0
Subtotal - Non-Personnel Costs	**$2,743,538**	**$2,532,387**	**$3,089,542**
TOTAL	**$23,839,697**	**$25,863,701**	**$27,289,568**

The Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau develops and implements consumer protection policies, including disability access, on behalf of the Commission. Through its outreach and education programs, as well as its Tribal and inter-governmental affairs initiatives, the Bureau enhances the public's understanding of the Commission's work and facilitates the Agency's relationships with other governmental agencies and organizations. The Bureau also serves as the public face of the Commission through the call center and online complaint portal, where consumers can submit inquiries and informal complaints to the Commission regarding communication issues. Consistent with controlling laws and regulations and in accordance with its delegated authority, the Bureau performs the following duties and responsibilities:

- Initiating and directing the policy development and coordination of matters pertaining to consumers and governmental affairs, consistent with the priorities of the Commission;
- Advising the Chairwoman and Commissioners on matters of general consumer and disability policy;
- Protecting consumers from illegal robocalls by enabling voice providers to block robocalls and by implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act and the TRACED Act to protect consumers when they receive illegal robocalls, while educating consumers about robocall-blocking tools, sharing consumer protection best practices, and collecting and tracking consumer complaints to ensure the agency has up-to-date and reliable information to aid with future enforcement actions;

- Communicating with the general public regarding Commission policies, programs, and activities to facilitate public education and participation in the Commission's decision-making processes;

- Handling informal consumer inquiries and complaints consistent with Commission regulations, including facilitating the negotiation and resolution of certain classes of informal complaints;

- Collaborating with, advising, and assisting state, local, and Tribal governments, and other governmental agencies and industry groups, on consumer and inter-governmental matters including disability access, emergency preparedness, broadband access and deployment and implementation of new technologies;

- Developing, recommending, and administering policies, rules, procedures and programs regarding consumer and disability policy and any other related issues affecting consumer policy;

- Consulting with federally recognized Tribal governments on a formal government-to-government basis, and engaging with Tribal governments, representatives and organizations representing those constituencies through meetings, trainings and other outreach, to facilitate a dialogue on telecommunications issues on Tribal lands and how the FCC's rules, policies and programs impact the provision of communications services on Tribal lands and for Native communities;

- Providing outreach to other federal regulatory agencies, for the purpose of fostering an understanding of FCC programs, policies, rules, and decisions;

- Providing outreach to state and local government officials for the purpose of fostering an understanding of FCC programs, policies, rules, and decisions of particular importance to state and local governments;

- Representing the Commission on consumer and inter-governmental-related committees, working groups, task forces, and conferences within and outside the Agency;

- Providing expert advice and assistance within the Commission and to consumers and industry regarding compliance with applicable disability and accessibility requirements, rules, and regulations;

- Serving as the focal point within the Commission for collaborating with multiple stakeholders and consumer advocacy groups to plan, develop, and implement consumer outreach campaigns, events, and programs;

- Researching, developing, coordinating, and distributing educational materials in multiple media and languages, online and in print to inform consumers about the Commission's rules, procedures, policies, and programs;

- Coordinating all sign language interpreting requests for the Agency, producing Braille and other alternative formats of Commission materials, and ensuring they are available to Commission employees and members of the public;

- Coordinating with the Office of Managing Director to ensure compliance with section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, which requires the Commission to procure and maintain accessible information and communication technologies for Commission employees with disabilities and members of the public using these FCC resources; and,

- Coordinating with the Chairwoman, Commissioners, Bureaus and Offices, and other federal agencies to provide Tribal perspectives on regulatory policies impacting the provision and deployment of telecommunications services on Tribal lands and to Tribal, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities.

Enforcement Bureau

Enforcement Bureau	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**175**	**204**	**204**
11 - Personnel compensation	$26,563,763	$30,376,440	$33,246,789
12 - Personnel benefits	9,456,170	10,894,881	11,160,711
13 - Benefits for former personnel	0	0	0
Subtotal - Personnel Costs	**$36,019,933**	**$41,271,321**	**$44,407,500**
21 - Travel & transportation of persons	$189,340	$187,700	$189,980
22 - Transportation of things	0	0	0
23 - Rent, Communications, and Utilities	1,797,419	1,620,694	1,876,004
24 - Printing and reproduction	0	0	0
25 - Other contractual services	558,466	1,019,955	807,274
26 - Supplies and materials	98,101	86,400	94,999
31 - Equipment	741,341	630,000	1,964,562
40 - Insurance claims and interest	0	0	0
Subtotal - Non-Personnel Costs	**$3,384,667**	**$3,544,749**	**$4,932,819**
TOTAL	**$39,404,600**	**$44,816,070**	**$49,340,319**

The Enforcement Bureau serves as the primary Commission entity responsible for enforcement of the Communications Act and other communications statutes, the Commission's rules, orders, and authorizations, other than matters that are addressed in the context of a pending application for a license or other authorization or in the context of administration, including post-grant administration, of a licensing or other authorization or registration program. The Enforcement Bureau's responsibilities include, among other things:

- Investigating and resolving violations involving:
  - Compliance with the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, which generally prohibits unauthorized robocalls, and the Truth in Caller ID Act, which prohibits fraudulent and malicious spoofing;
  - Compliance with the Pallone-Thune Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence (TRACED) Act;
  - Compliance with the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019, the Secure Equipment Act of 2021, and the associated Covered List that together work towards identifying and eliminating potential security vulnerabilities in our communications networks and supply chains;

- Compliance with sections 222, 338(i), and 631 of the Communications Act to protect against unlawful access to and disclosure of customer proprietary network information (CPNI), personally identifiable information (PII), and other customer data, and to maintain cybersecurity;

- Compliance with section 201(b) of the Communications Act, which prohibits telecommunications carriers and interconnected Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) providers from engaging in unjust and unreasonable practices in connection to telecommunications services;

- Compliance with section 511 of the Communications Act to enforce against pirate radio activities;

- Compliance with statutory and regulatory provisions, including complaints filed against common carriers under section 208 of the Communications Act and against utility pole owners under section 224 of the Communications Act;

- Compliance with section 301 of the Communications Act requiring an FCC license or authorization for the operation of satellites, broadcast stations, and wireless systems;

- Compliance with rules governing accessibility to communications services and equipment for persons with disabilities;

- Compliance with sections 214 and 310 of the Communications Act, the Cable Landing License Act of 1921, and Executive Order 10530 to prevent unauthorized transfers of control, and compliance with rules regarding foreign ownership and control;

- Compliance with section 333 of the Communications Act for radiofrequency interference;

- Compliance with section 302 of the Communications Act for the authorization of radiofrequency equipment and devices;

- Compliance with radiofrequency licensing rules and regulations, including reporting obligations;

- Compliance with the Commission's Emergency Alert System (EAS) rules, including applicable rules regarding the prohibition against broadcast of false EAS tones or simulations of such tones;

- Compliance with the Commission's equal employment opportunity (EEO) rules;

- Compliance with the statute and rules regarding paid programming and sponsorship ID;

- Compliance with section 399B of the Communications Act and the rules pertaining to noncommercial broadcast content and station operations;

- Compliance with the applicable statutes and rules regarding broadcast contests;
- Compliance with the applicable statutes and rules regarding the prohibition against broadcast lotteries;
- Compliance with applicable rules regarding the lighting, marking, and registration of radio transmitting towers;
- Compliance with rules governing indecent communications;
- Compliance with the broadcast and cable television children's television programming commercial limits contained in section 102 of the Children's Television Act;
- Compliance with rules regulating unauthorized construction and operation of communications facilities; including compliance with tower construction environmental and historic preservation requirements;
- Compliance with rules prohibiting false distress signals;
- Compliance with Title III licenses and permit requirements;
- Compliance with rules governing the transmission of 911 calls to public safety entities, 911 outage-related communications with public safety entities, and notifications to the Commission of outages and public safety related filings;
- Compliance with rules governing assignments or transfers of control of wireless authorizations;
- Compliance with applicable statutes and rules regarding auction participation and post-auction requirements;
- Compliance with applicable rules regarding Rural Call Completion;
- Compliance with Broadband Access Deployment reporting requirements;
- Compliance with rules governing participation in and receipt of funding from the Universal Service Fund (USF)-supported programs (E-rate, Lifeline, Rural Health Care, and High Cost), and prevention of waste, fraud, and abuse in those programs;
- Compliance with rules governing participation in and receipt of funding from the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) Program and the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), and to address any program integrity issues.
- Compliance with rules governing multichannel video and cable television service under part 76 of the Commission's rules; and,
- Other matters assigned to it by the Commission.

- Policing Integrity:
    - Investigating violations of the Communications Act, the Commission's rules, and other laws bearing on Universal Service Fund (USF), Lifeline and Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) programs and contributions. Such investigations may involve coordination with the FCC's Inspector General, the U.S. Department of Justice, and other law enforcement agencies.
    - Overseeing proceedings suspending or debarring parties from USF programs.
    - Ensuring that commercially available products and devices subject to FCC rules are technically compliant with testing and spectrum operational standards.
- Safeguarding Competition:
    - Enforcing merger conditions and unfair or anti-competitive practices that violate the law.
    - Ensuring that providers' Broadband Access Deployment reports are accurately submitted so that subsidies to under-supported areas are not impermissibly withheld.
- Securing Networks:
    - Investigating interference or misuse of critical infrastructure.
    - Investigating violations of Covered List entities and/or equipment.
    - Investigating use of USF to purchase, obtain, maintain, improve, modify, operate, manage, or otherwise support equipment or services produced by companies found to pose a national security threat to the integrity of communications networks or the communications supply chain.
- Mediating and settling disputes between service providers, upon request.
- Serving as a party in adjudicative hearings conducted pursuant to 47 CFR part 1, subpart B regarding applications, revocation, forfeitures, and other matters designated for hearing.
- Providing field support for, and field representation of, the Bureau, other Bureaus and Offices, and the Commission with other federal agencies for National Security Special Events and the National Response Framework for Emergency Support Function #2 Communications. FCC personnel, with PSHSB coordination and EB management, deploy to FEMA field offices to support communications recovery and restoration.
- Handling Congressional inquiries, Freedom of Information Act requests, and other correspondence relating to or requesting specific enforcement actions, specific complaints, or other specific matters within the responsibility of the Bureau.

International Bureau

International Bureau	FY 2023 Actuals		
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**44**		
11 - Personnel compensation	$6,951,874		
12 - Personnel benefits	2,343,071		
13 - Benefits for former personnel	0		
Subtotal - Personnel Costs	**$9,294,944**		
21 - Travel & transportation of persons	$2,424		
22 - Transportation of things	0		
23 - Rent, Communications, and Utilities	245,803		
24 - Printing and reproduction	0		
25 - Other contractual services	31,600		
26 - Supplies and materials	0		
31 - Equipment	0		
40 - Insurance claims and interest	0		
Subtotal - Non-Personnel Costs	**$279,827**		
TOTAL	**$9,574,772**		

On April 1, 2023 the International Bureau was dissolved and reorganized into the new Space Bureau and the Office of International Affairs. The above table shows the total FY 2023 costs incurred for the International Bureau.

Media Bureau

Media Bureau	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**121**	**135**	**135**
11 - Personnel compensation	$18,754,260	$20,573,977	$21,405,959
12 - Personnel benefits	6,496,296	7,271,505	7,442,981
13 - Benefits for former personnel	0	0	0
Subtotal - Personnel Costs	**$25,250,555**	**$27,845,482**	**$28,848,940**
21 - Travel & transportation of persons	$5,431	$15,000	$15,607
22 - Transportation of things	0	0	0
23 - Rent, Communications, and Utilities	739,272	583,669	769,250
24 - Printing and reproduction	0	0	0
25 - Other contractual services	96,909	101,000	105,094
26 - Supplies and materials	0	0	0
31 - Equipment	0	0	0
40 - Insurance claims and interest	0	0	0
Subtotal - Non-Personnel Costs	**$841,612**	**$699,669**	**$889,951**
TOTAL	**$26,092,168**	**$28,545,151**	**$29,738,891**

The Media Bureau plays a key role in promoting innovation and competition in the media marketplace. The Bureau develops, recommends, and administers the policy and licensing programs for the regulation of media, including cable television, broadcast television and radio, and satellite services in the United States and its territories. The Bureau advises and recommends to the Commission, or acts for the Commission under delegated authority, in matters pertaining to multichannel video programming distribution, broadcast radio and television, direct broadcast satellite service policy, and associated matters. The Bureau will, among other things:

- Process applications for authorization, assignment, transfer, and renewal of licensed media services, including radio and television, and related matters;
- Conduct rulemaking proceedings concerning the legal, engineering, and economic aspects of the media industry;
- Resolve waiver petitions, declaratory rulings, and adjudications related to the media industry; and,
- Ensure the smooth transition of full power, Class A, LPTV, and translator stations as a result of the Incentive Auction repack and efficiently process reimbursement claims from obligated portions of TV Broadcaster Relocation Fund.

Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau

Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**109**	**115**	**115**
11 - Personnel compensation	$16,805,270	$17,776,938	$18,297,635
12 - Personnel benefits	5,838,364	6,337,856	6,529,760
13 - Benefits for former personnel	0	0	0
Subtotal - Personnel Costs	**$22,643,634**	**$24,114,794**	**$24,827,395**
21 - Travel & transportation of persons	$184,822	$177,745	$184,951
22 - Transportation of things	0	0	0
23 - Rent, Communications, and Utilities	527,991	714,040	549,921
24 - Printing and reproduction	0	0	0
25 - Other contractual services	611,535	659,878	686,633
26 - Supplies and materials	37,168	15,000	15,605
31 - Equipment	106,868	80,000	104,054
40 - Insurance claims and interest	0	0	0
Subtotal - Non-Personnel Costs	**$1,468,383**	**$1,646,663**	**$1,541,164**
TOTAL	**$24,112,018**	**$25,761,457**	**$26,368,559**

The Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB) advises and makes recommendations to the Commission, acts for the Commission under delegated authority, and coordinates within the Commission on all matters pertaining to public safety, homeland security, national security, emergency management and preparedness, disaster management, and ancillary operations. The Bureau also performs the following functions:

- Develops, recommends, and administers policy goals, objectives, regulations, programs, and plans for the Commission in the areas of 911, enhanced 911, and Next Generation 911; licensing and operation of public safety radio services; priority emergency communications; alert and warning systems; Continuity of Government (COG) and Continuity of Operations (COOP); national security; emergency alerting, emergency management, and preparedness; disaster management coordination and outreach; communications infrastructure protection; cybersecurity, reliability, resiliency, operability, and interoperability of networks and communications systems; the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA);

- Intakes and processes applications for public safety allocated spectrum and related requests;

- Recommends and develops emergency plans, policies, and preparedness programs covering: (1) reporting and situational awareness of communications status during an emergency; (2) Commission functions during emergency conditions, and (3) the provision of service by communications service providers during emergency conditions;

- Under the direction of the Defense Commissioner, coordinates the Commission's role in homeland security, national security, emergency management and preparedness, defense mobilization, COG planning, and other functions as may be delegated during a national emergency and other events of national security significance; plans and maintains readiness to lead response for major communications disruptions as directed by the President;

- Administers Commission recordkeeping and information collection requirements pertaining to public safety and homeland security issues;

- Oversees public safety-related Federal Advisory Committees;

- Serves as the point of contact for the U.S. Government in matters of spectrum monitoring and raising awareness of international communications interference; oversees coordination of non-routine communications and materials between the Commission and international or regional public organizations or foreign administrations; maintains and operates Commission systems and networks used to monitor for communications risks to national security and public safety;

- Maintains and operates the Commission's 24-hour Operations Center, Sensitive Compartmented Information Facilities (SCIF) and central spectrum monitoring and analysis center;

- Serves as the Commission's lead for interagency coordination and response for all National Special Security Events (NSSE) and Special Event Assessment Rating level 1 events (SEAR-1);

- Deploys operational teams in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, federal law enforcement, and other inter-agency partners;

- Acts on emergency requests for Special Temporary Authority (STA) during non-business hours;

- Represents the Commission on interagency bodies supporting public safety and national security missions;

- Protects U.S. homeland security and national security through efforts to maintain the integrity of the U.S. telecommunications supply chain; maintains the FCC Covered List of equipment and services that pose a threat to national security, pursuant to Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act; and,

- Performs such other functions and duties as may be assigned or referred to it by the Commission or the Defense Commissioner.

Space Bureau

Space Bureau	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**20**	**45**	**45**
11 - Personnel compensation	$3,488,784	$7,918,990	$8,906,008
12 - Personnel benefits	1,232,972	2,789,338	2,960,234
13 - Benefits for former personnel	0	0	0
Subtotal - Personnel Costs	**$4,721,755**	**$10,708,328**	**$11,866,242**
21 - Travel & transportation of persons	$10,296	$54,600	$13,197
22 - Transportation of things	0	0	0
23 - Rent, Communications, and Utilities	163,871	265,249	292,529
24 - Printing and reproduction	0	0	0
25 - Other contractual services	16	97,045	500
26 - Supplies and materials	0	0	0
31 - Equipment	0	0	0
40 - Insurance claims and interest	0	0	0
Subtotal - Non-Personnel Costs	**$174,183**	**$416,894**	**$306,226**
TOTAL	**$4,895,939**	**$11,125,222**	**$12,172,468**

Note: On April 1, 2023 the International Bureau was dissolved and reorganized into the new Space Bureau and the Office of International Affairs.

The Space Bureau plays a key role in advancing the Commission's Space Innovation Agenda to meet the needs of the next generation Space Age. The Bureau promotes a competitive and innovative global communications marketplace by leading policy and licensing matters related to satellite and space-based communications and activities. Among its responsibilities, the Bureau: leads complex policy analysis and rulemakings; authorizes satellite and earth station systems used for space-based services; streamlines regulatory processes to provide maximum flexibility for operators to meet customer needs; and fosters the efficient use of scarce spectrum and orbital resources. The Space Bureau also serves as the FCC's focal point for coordination with other U.S. government agencies on matters of space policy and governance and collaborates with the Office of International Affairs (OIA) for consultations with international and multi-lateral organizations and foreign governments on satellite and space policy matters. The Space Bureau has the following duties and responsibilities:

- Developing, recommending, and administering policies, rules, standards, and procedures for the authorization and regulation of domestic and international satellite systems;
- Monitoring compliance with the terms and conditions of authorizations and licenses granted by the Bureau, and pursuing enforcement actions in conjunction with appropriate bureaus and offices;

- Facilitating the international coordination of U.S. spectrum allocations for space-based services and frequency and orbital assignments so as to minimize cases of international radio interference involving U.S. licensees;

- Coordinating, in consultation with other Bureaus and Offices as appropriate, negotiation of arrangements and procedures for coordination of radio frequency assignments for space-based services to prevent or resolve international radio interference involving U.S. space station and/or earth station licensees;

- Ensuring fulfillment of the Commission's responsibilities under international agreements and treaty obligations in coordination with the Office of International Affairs, and, consistent with Commission policy, to ensure that the Commission's regulations, procedures, and frequency allocations comply with the mandatory requirements of all applicable international and bilateral agreements involving space-based services;

- Coordinating with the Office of International Affairs, to oversee and, as appropriate, administer activities pertaining to the international consultation, coordination, and notification of U.S. frequency and orbital assignments, including activities required by bilateral agreements, the International Radio Regulations, and other international agreements;

- Serving as a focal point for coordination with other U.S. government agencies on matters of space policy, licensing and governance and, supporting the Office of International Affairs with other federal agencies, international or foreign organizations, and appropriate regulatory bodies and officials of foreign governments for meetings that involve space policy matters;

- Exercising authority to issue non-hearing related subpoenas for the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of books, papers, correspondence, memoranda, schedules of charges, contracts, agreements, and any other records deemed relevant to the investigation of matters within the jurisdiction of the Space Bureau. Before issuing a subpoena, the Space Bureau shall obtain the approval of the Office of General Counsel;

- Assisting the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau on issues involving informal consumer complaints and other general inquiries by consumers; and

- Coordinating with the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau on all matters affecting public safety, homeland security, national security, emergency management, disaster management, and related issues.

Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

Wireless Telecommunications Bureau	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**149**	**158**	**158**
11 - Personnel compensation	$11,066,654	$11,694,029	$12,483,197
12 - Personnel benefits	3,911,532	4,242,422	4,513,426
13 - Benefits for former personnel	0	0	0
Subtotal - Personnel Costs	**$14,978,186**	**$15,936,451**	**$16,996,623**
21 - Travel & transportation of persons	$18,310	$24,900	$22,162
22 - Transportation of things	0	0	0
23 - Rent, Communications, and Utilities	426,349	283,335	443,637
24 - Printing and reproduction	0	0	0
25 - Other contractual services	182,726	216,624	217,673
26 - Supplies and materials	0	800	1,872
31 - Equipment	0	0	0
40 - Insurance claims and interest	0	0	0
Subtotal - Non-Personnel Costs	**$627,385**	**$525,659**	**$685,344**
TOTAL	**$15,605,571**	**$16,462,110**	**$17,681,967**

The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) advises and makes recommendations to the Commission, or acts for the Commission under delegated authority, in matters pertaining to the regulation and licensing of wireless communications services, devices, facilities, and electromagnetic spectrum resources. The Bureau develops and recommends policy goals, objectives, programs, and plans for the Commission on matters concerning wireless communications and electromagnetic spectrum resources, drawing upon relevant economic, technological, legislative, regulatory, and judicial information and developments. Such matters include:

- Addressing present and future wireless communications and spectrum needs in the United States;
- Establishing rules and procedures that will support the deployment of 5G and the next generations of service by a variety of mobile providers;
- Promoting access, efficiency, and innovation in the use of the electromagnetic spectrum through licensing procedures and policies;
- Promoting investment in wireless communications infrastructure, including broadband;
- Ensuring choice and opportunity in the development of wireless communication services and related markets;

- Reviewing wireless applications, including those to assign or transfer licenses and for service and facility authorizations, in a manner that facilitates competition in the provision of mobile wireless services to the benefit of consumers;

- Promoting the integration and interconnection of wireless communications networks with other communications networks and facilities;

- In coordination with the Office of Economics and Analytics, serving as a staff resource with regard to the development and implementation of spectrum policy through auctions, and developing, recommending, and administering policies and rules concerning the licensing of spectrum through auctions;

- In coordination with the Wireline Competition Bureau and the Office of Economics and Analytics, developing and recommending policies, programs, rules, and procedures concerning the use of market-based mechanisms, including competitive bidding, to distribute universal service support; and,

- In conjunction with the Office of International Affairs and the Office of Engineering and Technology, representing the United States' spectrum interests and serving as an expert resource on spectrum and infrastructure policy matters in international forums.

In addition to the above, the Bureau's activities also include:

- Developing and coordinating policy;

- Conducting rulemaking and licensing work;

- Acting on rule waiver requests, requests for special temporary authority, and other types of licensing matters;

- Facilitating the development and efficient operation of electronic systems for submission of applications for licenses and registration;

- Determining the resource impact of existing, planned, or recommended Commission activities concerning wireless communications; and,

- Reviewing and coordinating orders, programs, and actions initiated by other Bureaus and Offices in matters affecting wireless communications to ensure consistency of overall Commission policy.

Wireline Competition Bureau

Wireline Competition Bureau	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**155**	**173**	**173**
11 - Personnel compensation	$23,247,356	$26,639,954	$28,285,141
12 - Personnel benefits	8,116,643	9,456,983	9,694,718
13 - Benefits for former personnel	0	0	0
Subtotal - Personnel Costs	**$31,363,999**	**$36,096,937**	**$37,979,859**
21 - Travel & transportation of persons	$30,526	$58,689	$50,984
22 - Transportation of things	0	0	0
23 - Rent, Communications, and Utilities	986,504	813,833	1,026,508
24 - Printing and reproduction	0	0	0
25 - Other contractual services	895	76,500	79,599
26 - Supplies and materials	0	0	0
31 - Equipment	0	0	0
40 - Insurance claims and interest	0	0	0
Subtotal - Non-Personnel Costs	**$1,017,926**	**$949,022**	**$1,157,091**
TOTAL	**$32,381,925**	**$37,045,959**	**$39,136,950**

The Wireline Competition Bureau advises and makes recommendations to the Commission, or acts for the Commission under delegated authority, on matters concerning wireline communications and related operations, drawing on relevant legal, economic, technological, legislative and regulatory expertise, information, and developments. The Bureau has the following duties and responsibilities:

- Working to ensure that all Americans have access to robust and affordable broadband and voice services;
- Working to ensure access to affordable broadband connectivity for low-income consumers, schools, school districts, libraries, and rural health care providers;
- Working to oversee the nation's largest ever program to help households nationwide afford broadband service by providing qualified households discounts on their Internet service bills and an opportunity to receive a discount on a computer or tablet;
- Working to provide health care providers funding for telecommunications services, information services, and devices, as permitted, to provide telehealth services;
- Working to close the homework gap by connecting students inside and outside the classroom;
- Working to ensure that universal service funding contributions are equitable and sustainable;

- Managing and overseeing the universal service fund administrator, the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), including the audit and appeals process;
- Working to sustain the Internet's foundation of openness so that all Americans can create without permission, build community beyond geography, organize without physical constraints, consume content of their choice, and share ideas;
- Working to safeguard the security and integrity of the nation's communications networks and communications supply chain;
- Developing and coordinating wireline telecommunications policy;
- Handling adjudicatory and rulemaking proceedings affecting wireline telecommunications service providers, VoIP providers, broadband providers, and incarcerated people's communications services providers;
- Preparing for Commission consideration draft orders responding to petitions, filed pursuant to the Communications Act, seeking Commission forbearance from applying certain of its regulations or provisions of the Communications Act;
- Administering the provisions of the Communications Act relating to charges, practices, and classifications for wireline telecommunications service providers to ensure that they are just and reasonable;
- Overseeing audio and video communications services for incarcerated people to ensure just and reasonable interstate, intrastate, and international rates;
- Taking action on requests for waiver or interpretation of rules or statutes, where appropriate, affecting wireline telecommunications;
- Making determinations regarding the lawfulness of carriers' tariffs;
- Regulating intercarrier compensation rates and acting to deter traffic pumping and other forms of regulatory arbitrage;
- Administering U.S. numbering policy (including local number portability), including the Commission's rules and policies regarding direct access to numbers by providers of interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services, and developing and implementing call authentication policies to end illegal robocalls;
- Overseeing numbering policy pertaining to calls and texts placed with 988, the 3-digit dialing code for the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline;
- Administering consumer proprietary network information policy for telecommunications carriers;
- Taking action on applications filed pursuant to section 214 of the Communications Act for authorization to transfer domestic service and facility authorizations or to discontinue services or the operation of facilities;

- Reviewing wireline provider performance;
- Taking action to facilitate equal access to broadband internet access service, including measures that prevent digital discrimination of access based on income level, race, ethnicity, color, religion, or national origin and through identifying necessary steps for the Commission to take to eliminate digital discrimination of access to broadband internet access service;
- Overseeing the Act's incumbent local exchange carrier network change disclosure process to ensure that interconnecting competitive local exchange carriers have timely and sufficient notice of planned network changes;
- Regulating the rates, terms, and conditions for pole attachments, except in states that have preempted Commission authority;
- Administering accounting requirements for incumbent local exchange carriers;
- Interacting with the public; local, state, Tribal, and other government agencies; industry groups; and other stakeholders on wireline communications regulation and related matters;
- Fulfilling Congressional directives to report on the availability of advanced telecommunications capability to all Americans and how best to achieve the goals of universal deployment, adoption, availability, affordability, and equitable access to broadband throughout the United States;
- Reviewing and coordinating orders, programs, data collections, reports, and other actions initiated by other Bureaus and Offices in matters affecting wireline communications to ensure consistency with overall Commission policy;
- Coordinating distribution of funds for broadband deployment under the FCC's Universal Service Fund High Cost programs, programs administered by the Rural Utilities Service of the USDA, and programs administered or coordinated through NTIA; and
- Implementing rules under the Safe Connection Act of 2022 to help survivors of domestic violence and similar crimes separate lines from shared mobile accounts that include their abusers, protect the privacy of calls made by survivors to domestic abuse hotlines, and support survivors who face financial hardship through the Commission's affordability programs.

Office of Administrative Law Judges

Office of Administrative Law Judges	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**3**	**4**	**4**
11 - Personnel compensation	$463,086	$587,001	$692,872
12 - Personnel benefits	149,411	187,681	188,354
13 - Benefits for former personnel	0	0	0
Subtotal - Personnel Costs	**$612,496**	**$774,682**	**$881,226**
21 - Travel & transportation of persons	$0	$2,000	$2,080
22 - Transportation of things	0	0	0
23 - Rent, Communications, and Utilities	31,052	24,114	32,310
24 - Printing and reproduction	0	0	0
25 - Other contractual services	3,135	6,000	6,552
26 - Supplies and materials	0	0	0
31 - Equipment	0	0	0
40 - Insurance claims and interest	0	0	0
Subtotal - Non-Personnel Costs	**$34,187**	**$32,114**	**$40,942**
TOTAL	**$646,683**	**$806,796**	**$922,168**

The Office of Administrative Law Judges (OALJ) hears and conducts all adjudicatory cases designated for formal evidentiary hearing, other than those designated to be heard by the Commission or individual Commissioners. The Office may also conduct other hearings which the Commission may assign in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (APA).

OALJ functions substantially as U.S. District Court Judges in non-jury cases, with the exception that Initial Decisions rendered are subject to review by the Commission if requested by a party, or on the Commission's own motion.

Adjudicative

- Schedules and announces time and place of hearings;
- Presides over and conducts formal proceedings and adjudications;
- Acts on motions, petitions, and other pleadings filed in proceedings;
- Conducts on-the-record prehearing conferences;
- Issues subpoenas, administers oaths, examines witnesses, makes findings of fact, and rules upon evidentiary questions; and,
- Prepares and issues Initial Decisions.

Administrative

- Prepares reports, statistical data, and other information requested or received by the Office of Personnel Management, and other offices or agencies of the U.S. Government concerned with proper operation of the Office of Administrative Law Judges;

- Upon request of the Chairwoman, serves as liaison for the Commission in securing advice or information from representatives of agencies, bar associations, and interested persons in connection with Office practices and hearing procedures; and,

- Exercises such further authority as may be assigned by the Commission pursuant to section 5(c) of the Communications Act of l934, as amended.

Office of Communications Business Opportunities

Office of Communications Business Opportunities	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**9**	**12**	**12**
11 - Personnel compensation	$1,349,647	$1,516,556	$1,860,621
12 - Personnel benefits	453,622	536,076	593,367
13 - Benefits for former personnel	0	0	0
Subtotal - Personnel Costs	**$1,803,269**	**$2,052,632**	**$2,453,988**
21 - Travel & transportation of persons	$1,062	$8,700	$6,345
22 - Transportation of things	0	0	0
23 - Rent, Communications, and Utilities	76,714	60,284	79,823
24 - Printing and reproduction	0	0	0
25 - Other contractual services	0	6,400	5,719
26 - Supplies and materials	0	0	0
31 - Equipment	0	0	0
40 - Insurance claims and interest	0	0	0
Subtotal - Non-Personnel Costs	**$77,776**	**$75,384**	**$91,887**
TOTAL	**$1,881,044**	**$2,128,016**	**$2,545,875**

The Office of Communications Business Opportunities (OCBO) promotes diversity, competition, and innovation in the provision and ownership of communications and information services by supporting opportunities for small businesses, as well as women-owned, and minority-owned businesses in the communications industry. A principal function of OCBO is to lead, advise, and assist the Commission, including its component Bureau and Office managers, supervisors, and staff by ensuring the agency fully considers the competitive concerns of small businesses, particularly those owned by women, and minorities in notice and comment rulemakings. In accordance with this function, OCBO has the following duties and responsibilities:

- Serving, through its Director, as the principal small business policy advisor to the Commission;
- Conducts independent analyses of the Commission's proposed policies and practices to ensure those policies and practices fully consider the interests of small entities including, women-owned, and minority-owned businesses in the communications industry;
- Advises the Commission, Bureaus, and Offices of their responsibilities regarding small businesses under the Regulatory Flexibility Act, as amended by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996;
- Develops and recommends Commission-wide goals and objectives that promote increased awareness within the Commission of the impact proposed policies may have on small businesses including, women-owned, and minority-owned businesses in the communications industry;

- Manages the Regulatory Flexibility Analysis process pursuant to the Regulatory Flexibility Act and the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act to ensure that small business, women-owned, and minority-owned business interests are fully considered in agency actions;

- Develops, recommends, coordinates, and administers objectives, plans, and programs to encourage participation by small businesses, women-owned, and minority-owned communications businesses in the rulemaking proceedings;

- Acts as the principal channel for disseminating information regarding the Commission's activities and programs affecting small businesses, women-owned, and minority-owned businesses in the communications industry; and,

- Acts as the Commission's liaison to other federal agencies on matters relating to small businesses, women-owned, and minority-owned businesses in the communications industry.

Office of Economics and Analytics

Office of Economics and Analytics	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**110**	**134**	**134**
11 - Personnel compensation	$10,838,760	$13,178,951	$14,387,877
12 - Personnel benefits	3,785,777	4,747,546	4,907,414
13 - Benefits for former personnel	0	0	0
Subtotal - Personnel Costs	**$14,624,537**	**$17,926,497**	**$19,295,291**
21 - Travel & transportation of persons	$10,315	$30,000	$65,553
22 - Transportation of things	0	0	0
23 - Rent, Communications, and Utilities	216,936	408,002	225,731
24 - Printing and reproduction	0	0	0
25 - Other contractual services	50,980	347,118	16,516,104
26 - Supplies and materials	0	5,000	0
31 - Equipment	0	0	0
40 - Insurance claims and interest	0	0	0
Subtotal - Non-Personnel Costs	**$278,230**	**$790,120**	**$16,807,388**
TOTAL	**$14,902,767**	**$18,716,617**	**$36,102,679**

The Office of Economics and Analytics (OEA) works with Bureaus and other Offices, including those of the Chairwoman and other Commissioners, to develop and implement communications policies in all areas of the Commission's authority and responsibility, and to ensure the highest quality of economic and data analysis. The Office and its staff:

- Work collaboratively with other Bureaus and Offices on rulemakings, transaction reviews, statutory reports, and adjudications in the areas of economic and data analysis for significant communications policy issues, and especially with respect to analysis of the economic impact of Commission policies, rules, and proposals;

- Administer Commission auctions of spectrum licenses and universal service support and advise Bureaus and other Offices on policies related to auctions and competitive bidding;

- Administer and support significant, economically-relevant data collections used by a variety of Bureaus and other Offices, such as the Broadband Data Collection (BDC), and support Bureaus and Offices with their use of the data generated by these collections;

- Oversee and manage significant portions of the implementation of the Broadband Data Collection required by the Broadband DATA Act, including oversight of the BDC System, the development of the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric, and the technical assistance contracts;

- Develop, recommend, and implement policies for data management across the Commission, in conjunction with the Bureaus and other Offices;

- Support the implementation of the Evidence Act, including the Open, Public, Electronic and Necessary (OPEN) Government Data Act and the Federal Data Strategy;
- Provide expert advice to the Chairwoman, Commissioners, and Bureau and Office Chiefs; and,
- Coordinate the development, research, and publication of Working Papers by staff to release research aside from formal Commission actions, with a focus on issues of ongoing and future potential priorities for the Commission.

Office of Engineering and Technology

Office of Engineering and Technology	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**76**	**79**	**79**
11 - Personnel compensation	$9,953,566	$10,505,592	$11,088,247
12 - Personnel benefits	3,656,432	4,002,524	4,270,897
13 - Benefits for former personnel	0	0	0
Subtotal - Personnel Costs	**$13,609,998**	**$14,508,116**	**$15,359,144**
21 - Travel & transportation of persons	$17,628	$18,000	$13,525
22 - Transportation of things	0	0	0
23 - Rent, Communications, and Utilities	383,464	230,767	399,012
24 - Printing and reproduction	0	0	0
25 - Other contractual services	96,681	631,466	657,069
26 - Supplies and materials	12,133	12,550	13,055
31 - Equipment	381,157	200,000	208,889
40 - Insurance claims and interest	0	0	0
Subtotal - Non-Personnel Costs	**$891,063**	**$1,092,783**	**$1,291,550**
TOTAL	**$14,501,061**	**$15,600,899**	**$16,650,694**

The Office of Engineering and Technology administers all non-federal spectrum allocations; authorizes spectrum for experimental, unlicensed, and industrial, scientific, and medical equipment use; manages the Commission's equipment authorization program to ensure radio equipment compliance with its technical rules and other requirements; and provides expert advice on a broad array of technical and engineering issues before the Commission, including recommendations on technical standards for spectrum users and radiofrequency equipment and parts or components thereof. The Office's responsibilities include:

- Developing overall policies, objectives, and priorities for the Office of Engineering and Technology programs and activities; performing management functions; and supervising the execution of these policies;

- Advising and representing the Commission on frequency allocation and spectrum usage matters, including those covered by international agreements;

- Planning and directing broad programs for development of information relative to communication techniques and equipment, radio wave propagation, broadband performance measurement and coverage mapping, and new uses for communications, and advising the Commission and staff offices in such matters;

- Representing the Commission at various national and international conferences and meetings devoted to the progress of radio communications and the development of technologies and standards;

- Conducting engineering and technical analyses in advanced phases of terrestrial and space communications, and special projects to obtain theoretical and experimental data on new or improved spectrum access and sharing techniques, including cooperative studies with other staff units and consultant and contract efforts as appropriate;

- Advising the Commission and other Bureaus/Offices concerning spectrum management, emerging technologies, technical standards, international considerations, and national security matters involved in making or implementing policy or in resolving specific situations involving these matters;

- Developing and implementing procedures to acquire, store and retrieve scientific and technical information required in the engineering work of the Commission;

- Administering Parts 2 (Frequency allocations, radio treaty matters, and equipment authorization procedures), 5 (Experimental radio service), 15 (Unlicensed radio frequency devices), and 18 (Industrial, scientific and medical equipment) of the Commission's Rules and Regulations;

- Performing technical, engineering and management functions of the Commission with respect to formulating rules and regulations, technical standards, and general policies for Parts 2, 5, 15 and 18;

- Providing advice to the Commission, participating in and coordinating staff work with respect to general frequency allocation proceedings and other proceedings not within the jurisdiction of any single Bureau, and providing assistance and advice with respect to rulemaking matters and proceedings affecting more than one Bureau;

- Managing the Commission's equipment authorization program to ensure radio equipment compliance with its technical rules and with its rules prohibiting authorization of equipment that have been determined to raise national security-related concerns. Maintaining a test facility with appropriate and latest equipment to perform technical analyses to facilitate introduction of new services and technology and compliance testing of devices subject to the Commission's technical rules;

- Managing the Commission's experimental licensing program to promote new and innovative technologies and services;

- Administering the Commission's Measuring Broadband America program, an ongoing nationwide performance study of broadband service that provides information for consumers;

- Maintaining liaison with other agencies of government, technical experts representing foreign governments and members of the public and industry concerned with communications and frequency allocation and usage;

- Coordinating frequency assignments for Commission licensees with Federal Government agencies and representing the Commission on issues regarding use of spectrum when jurisdiction is shared with the Federal Government. Serves as the Agency liaison to National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) within the Department of Commerce for coordinating policy decisions and frequency assignments between Federal agency and non-Federal spectrum users; and,

- Preparing technical assistance for legislation and reviewing recommendations for rule changes and rulemaking proposals initiated by other offices affecting Bureau programs and operations.

Office of General Counsel

Office of General Counsel	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**66**	**76**	**76**
11 - Personnel compensation	$11,330,287	$12,819,973	$13,998,087
12 - Personnel benefits	3,992,886	4,642,589	4,819,698
13 - Benefits for former personnel	0	0	0
Subtotal - Personnel Costs	**$15,323,172**	**$17,462,562**	**$18,817,785**
21 - Travel & transportation of persons	$17,521	$16,400	$49,945
22 - Transportation of things	0	0	0
23 - Rent, Communications, and Utilities	527,584	330,838	548,976
24 - Printing and reproduction	0	0	0
25 - Other contractual services	2,165,101	2,293,828	2,257,469
26 - Supplies and materials	0	0	0
31 - Equipment	0	0	0
40 - Insurance claims and interest	0	0	0
Subtotal - Non-Personnel Costs	**$2,710,205**	**$2,641,066**	**$2,856,390**
TOTAL	**$18,033,378**	**$20,103,628**	**$21,674,175**

As chief legal advisor to the Commission and its various components, the Office of General Counsel performs the following duties and responsibilities:

- Reviews all proposed Commission orders and rules for consistency with the Constitution, laws of the United States, and other rules and precedents;
- Represents the Commission in litigation and other dispute-resolution matters;
- Ensures consistent and timely public-interest analysis of mergers and other transactions and provides antitrust, corporate, and technical expertise;
- Protects the Commission's regulatory and pecuniary interests in actual and potential bankruptcy cases;
- Advises the Commission on efforts to address waste, fraud and abuse and recoup improper payments in False Claims Act investigations, litigation, and settlement negotiations;
- Assists and makes recommendations to the Commission with respect to matters handled via adjudication (including the Commission's review of initial decisions by Administrative Law Judges), as well as with respect to such other matters that, by Commission policy, are handled in a similar manner and that have been designated for hearing;
- Advises and makes recommendations to the Commission with respect to proposed legislation;

- Interprets statutes, regulations, and international agreements affecting the Commission;
- Prepares for the Commission procedural rules of general applicability and makes recommendations concerning the interpretation and implementation of such rules;
- Provides advice to the Commission and its components on general law issues (e.g., leases, contracts, debt collection, tort claims, fiscal law, and labor law) common to most federal agencies;
- Serves as principal advisor to the Commission in the administration of laws and regulations regarding government ethics, the Freedom of Information, Privacy, Government in the Sunshine, and Alternative Dispute Resolution Acts;
- Manages and directs the Attorney Honors Program, the agency's primary hiring and recruitment vehicle for entry level attorneys; and,
- Exercises such authority as may be assigned or referred to it by the Commission pursuant to section 5(c) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, as well as the Commission's rules.

Office of International Affairs

Office of International Affairs	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**22**	**43**	**43**
11 - Personnel compensation	$3,309,990	$6,846,025	$7,221,466
12 - Personnel benefits	1,130,691	2,395,054	2,590,456
13 - Benefits for former personnel	0	0	0
Subtotal - Personnel Costs	**$4,440,681**	**$9,241,079**	**$9,811,922**
21 - Travel & transportation of persons	$9,512	$18,100	$13,196
22 - Transportation of things	0	0	0
23 - Rent, Communications, and Utilities	163,871	265,249	292,529
24 - Printing and reproduction	0	0	0
25 - Other contractual services	5,717	69,500	34,875
26 - Supplies and materials	0	0	0
31 - Equipment	0	0	0
40 - Insurance claims and interest	0	0	0
Subtotal - Non-Personnel Costs	**$179,100**	**$352,849**	**$340,600**
TOTAL	**$4,619,781**	**$9,593,928**	**$10,152,522**

Note: On April 1, 2023 the International Bureau was dissolved and reorganized into the new Space Bureau and the Office of International Affairs.

The Office of International Affairs (OIA) is responsible for the Commission's engagement of foreign and international regulatory authorities, including multilateral and regional organizations. OIA also facilitates through rulemaking and licensing the Commission's development of policies regarding international telecommunications facilities and services as well as submarine cables and advises and makes recommendations to the Commission on foreign ownership issues. In undertaking these functions, OIA implements Commission policies to facilitate competition and foreign investment in U.S. and international telecommunications markets while ensuring, in consultation with relevant federal partners, that national security, law enforcement, foreign policy, and trade policy concerns are addressed. OIA also is responsible for intergovernmental leadership, negotiation and international and inter-agency representational functions. OIA oversees and coordinates the FCC's global participation in international and multilateral conferences, regional organizations, cross-border negotiations and international standard setting efforts. OIA also oversees bilateral meetings with other countries and foreign government officials. The Office of International Affairs has the following duties and responsibilities:

- Initiating and directing the development and articulation of international telecommunications policies consistent with the priorities of the Commission;
- Advising the Chairperson and Commissioners on matters of international telecommunications policy and on the adequacy of the Commission's actions to promote

the vital interests of the American public in international commerce, national defense, and foreign policy;

- Representing the Commission on international communications matters, including matters involving international, regional, and cross border spectrum allocation and frequency coordination at both domestic, regional and international conferences and meetings, and directing and coordinating the Commission's preparation for such conferences and meetings;

- Directing and coordinating, in consultation with other Bureaus and Offices as appropriate, negotiation of international agreements to provide for arrangements and procedures for coordination of radio frequency assignments to prevent or resolve international radio interference involving U.S. licensees;

- Ensuring fulfillment of the Commission's responsibilities under international agreements and treaty obligations, and consistent with Commission policy, in coordination with other Bureaus and Offices as appropriate, to ensure that the Commission's regulations, procedures, and frequency allocations comply with the mandatory requirements of all applicable international and bilateral agreements;

- Serving as the single focal point within the Commission for cooperation and consultation on international telecommunications matters with other federal agencies, international, multilateral or foreign organizations, and appropriate regulatory bodies and officials of foreign governments;

- Developing, recommending, and administering policies, rules, standards, and procedures regarding the authorization and regulation of international telecommunications facilities and services, submarine cables, international broadcast services, and foreign ownership issues;

- Developing, recommending, and administering policies, rules, standards, and procedures regarding coordination with Executive Branch agencies on national security, law enforcement, foreign policy, trade policy, or concerns;

- Monitoring compliance with the terms and conditions of authorizations and licenses and pursuing enforcement actions in conjunction with appropriate Bureaus and Offices;

- Developing, coordinating with other federal agencies, and administering the regulatory assistance and training programs for foreign officials to promote telecommunications development;

- Providing advice and technical assistance to U.S. trade officials in the negotiation and implementation of communications trade agreements, and consult with other bureaus and offices as appropriate with respect thereto;

- Conducting economic, legal, technical, statistical, and other appropriate studies, surveys, and analyses in support of international telecommunications policies and programs;

- Collecting and disseminating within the Commission information and data on international communications policies, regulatory and market developments in other countries, and international organizations;

- Working with the Office of Legislative Affairs to coordinate the Commission's activities on significant matters of international policy with appropriate Congressional offices;

- Advising the Chairperson on priorities for international travel and develop, coordinate, and administer the international travel plan;

- Managing efforts across the Bureaus and Offices to participate in international standards activities and serving as the FCC's senior representative at standards meetings around the world in conjunction with staff from other Bureaus and Offices, as needed;

- Issuing orders revoking a common carrier's operating authority pursuant to section 214 of the Act, and issue orders to cease and desist such operations, in cases where the presiding officer has issued a certification order to the Commission that the carrier has waived its opportunity for hearing under that section;

- Exercising the authority to issue non-hearing related subpoenas for the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of books, papers, correspondence, memoranda, schedules of charges, contracts, agreements, and any other records deemed relevant to the investigation of matters within the jurisdiction of the Office of International Affairs. Before issuing a subpoena, the Office of International Affairs shall obtain the approval of the Office of General Counsel;

- Assisting the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau on issues involving informal consumer complaints and other general inquiries by consumers; and,

- Coordinating with the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau on all matters affecting public safety, homeland security, national security, emergency management, disaster management, and related issues.

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of Legislative Affairs	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**8**	**8**	**8**
11 - Personnel compensation	$1,244,604	$1,371,175	$1,475,381
12 - Personnel benefits	449,122	502,479	570,707
13 - Benefits for former personnel	0	0	0
Subtotal - Personnel Costs	**$1,693,726**	**$1,873,654**	**$2,046,088**
21 - Travel & transportation of persons	$0	$200	$208
22 - Transportation of things	0	0	0
23 - Rent, Communications, and Utilities	88,844	150,710	92,446
24 - Printing and reproduction	0	0	0
25 - Other contractual services	0	0	0
26 - Supplies and materials	0	0	0
31 - Equipment	0	0	0
40 - Insurance claims and interest	0	0	0
Subtotal - Non-Personnel Costs	**$88,844**	**$150,910**	**$92,654**
TOTAL	**$1,782,570**	**$2,024,564**	**$2,138,742**

The Office of Legislative Affairs informs the Congress of the Commission's decisions, facilitates responses to Congressional letters and inquiries, and provides technical assistance to Congressional staff regarding proposed legislation. Specifically, the Office has the following functions:

- Advising and making recommendations to the Commission with respect to legislation proposed by Members of Congress or other government agencies and coordinating the preparation of the agency's technical assistance for submission to Congress or other government agencies;
- Tracking, monitoring, and analyzing legislation impacting the Commission, and providing technical assistance to Congressional staff, as necessary;
- Preparing and coordinating Commission and Bureau responses to Congressional inquiries on legislative, regulatory, or policy matters by Congressional committees and individual Members of Congress, including tracking inquiries and setting response times;
- Preparing the FCC Chairwoman and all Commission-designated witnesses for appearances before the United States Congress;
- Coordinating briefings for Members of Congress and staff on issues before the Commission;
- Communicating and consulting with Members of Congress and staff on the Commission's policy agenda;

- Assisting the staffs of Members of Congress in responding to constituent concerns; and,
- Assisting the Office of Managing Director in the preparation of annual reporting requirements to Congress, including the annual submission of the Commission's budget.

Office of the Managing Director

Office of the Managing Director	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**196**	**192**	**191**
11 - Personnel compensation	$28,524,583	$31,623,843	$32,922,656
12 - Personnel benefits	8,275,910	8,932,768	9,314,524
13 - Benefits for former personnel	6,450	45,924	55,596
Subtotal - Personnel Costs	**$36,806,944**	**$40,602,535**	**$42,292,776**
21 - Travel & transportation of persons	$629,069	$897,755	$730,267
22 - Transportation of things	63,016	57,104	59,417
23 - Rent, Communications, and Utilities	21,008,032	22,293,238	21,666,429
24 - Printing and reproduction	1,141,472	970,520	1,293,406
25 - Other contractual services	46,117,631	42,116,749	62,187,974
26 - Supplies and materials	539,450	696,476	721,388
31 - Equipment	747,417	177,336	479,206
32 - Land & Structures	493,367	501,339	513,372
40 - Insurance claims and interest	68,544	35,000	240,549
Subtotal - Non-Personnel Costs	**$70,807,996**	**$67,745,517**	**$87,892,008**
TOTAL	**$107,614,939**	**$108,348,052**	**$130,184,784**

The Managing Director is appointed by the Chairwoman with approval of the Commissioners. Under the supervision and direction of the Chairwoman, the Managing Director serves as the Commission's Chief Operating Officer with the following duties and responsibilities:

- Providing managerial leadership to, and exercising supervision and direction over, the Commission's Bureaus and Offices with respect to organization and operations, information technology systems and cybersecurity, and personnel and contract management;

- Providing input to Commission policy development and rulemakings on operational requirements, implementation risks and feasibility, software and systems requirements, fraud prevention and audit considerations, and financial and budgetary impacts;

- Managing all budget and financial operations within the Commission, including: collection of approved regulatory fees for agency operations; overseeing funding allocations and performance management for the operations of the Commission's Bureaus and Offices; managing of auction proceeds; accounting for other monies received by the Commission including licensing fees, forfeitures, and other actions; and providing financial oversight of the Universal Service Fund (USF), Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) Fund, and the North American Numbering Plan (NANP) Fund;

- Formulating and implementing management and operational policies, programs, and directives for the Commission consistent with the authority delegated by the Commission and the Chairwoman and recommending to the Chairwoman and the Commission major changes in such policies and programs;

- Advising the Chairwoman and the Commission on management, organizational, and operational matters; reviewing and evaluating the programs and procedures of the Commission; and initiating action or making recommendations as may be necessary to administer the Communications Act most effectively in the public interest; and,

- Assist the Chairwoman in carrying out the administrative and executive responsibilities delegated to the Chairwoman as the administrative head of the agency.

Office of Media Relations

Office of Media Relations	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**12**	**12**	**12**
11 - Personnel compensation	$1,616,828	$1,591,755	$1,743,985
12 - Personnel benefits	599,898	620,559	674,255
13 - Benefits for former personnel	0	0	0
Subtotal - Personnel Costs	**$2,216,726**	**$2,212,314**	**$2,418,240**
21 - Travel & transportation of persons	$0	$38,250	$15,607
22 - Transportation of things	0	0	0
23 - Rent, Communications, and Utilities	98,009	162,767	101,982
24 - Printing and reproduction	0	0	0
25 - Other contractual services	229,311	514,041	233,372
26 - Supplies and materials	0	4,484	4,114
31 - Equipment	2,752	4,450	7,291
40 - Insurance claims and interest	0	0	0
Subtotal - Non-Personnel Costs	**$330,072**	**$723,992**	**$362,366**
TOTAL	**$2,546,797**	**$2,936,306**	**$2,780,606**

The FCC's Office of Media Relations is the agency's liaison to the news media. It provides information to the public about the work of the FCC, manages content on the Commission's website, oversees the release of FCC documents, leads the agency's social media accounts, and manages external-facing and event audio/visual services. The Office's duties and responsibilities include:

- Serving as the agency's primary liaison to the news media;
- Producing press releases, fact sheets, speeches, and other public relations materials;
- Managing and creating content for the FCC's social media sites, including Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, X, YouTube, and others;
- Managing the Commission's website, working with other Bureaus and Offices to create and manage website content, overseeing and implementing the look and feel of the FCC.gov homepage, managing the use and display of images, and overseeing the agency's web standards and guidelines;
- Overseeing and directing primary video content for official Commission activities and events including the monthly Open Commission Meeting which is used for public outreach, educational outreach and support of Commission priorities, and includes all public meetings; and,
- Serving as primary media relations liaison for the Office of the Chairwoman.

Office of Workplace Diversity

Office of Workplace Diversity	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**6**	**8**	**8**
11 - Personnel compensation	$811,673	$1,078,286	$1,179,337
12 - Personnel benefits	306,378	402,526	450,539
13 - Benefits for former personnel	0	0	0
Subtotal - Personnel Costs	**$1,118,051**	**$1,480,812**	**$1,629,876**
21 - Travel & transportation of persons	$1,059	$8,500	$5,201
22 - Transportation of things	0	0	0
23 - Rent, Communications, and Utilities	30,136	24,114	31,356
24 - Printing and reproduction	0	0	0
25 - Other contractual services	70,716	96,000	105,611
26 - Supplies and materials	0	0	0
31 - Equipment	0	0	0
40 - Insurance claims and interest	0	0	0
Subtotal - Non-Personnel Costs	**$101,912**	**$128,614**	**$142,168**
TOTAL	**$1,219,962**	**$1,609,426**	**$1,772,044**

The Office of Workplace Diversity develops, coordinates, evaluates, and recommends to the Commission policies, programs, and practices that foster a diverse workforce, and promotes and ensures equal employment opportunity (EEO) for all employees and applicants. A principal function of the Office is to lead, advise, and assist the Commission, including its component Bureau/Office managers, supervisors, and staff at all levels, on ways to promote inclusion and full participation of all employees in pursuit of the Commission's mission. In accordance with this principal function, the Office shall: (1) conduct independent analyses of the Commission's policies and practices to ensure that those policies and practices foster diversity in the workforce and ensure equal opportunity for employees and job applicants; and (2) advise the Commission, Bureaus, and Offices of their responsibilities under: Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as Amended; the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended; Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, as amended; Executive Order 11478; the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act and all other statutes, Executive Orders, and regulatory provisions relating to workforce diversity, equal employment opportunity, nondiscrimination, and civil rights. The Office has the following duties and responsibilities:

- Serving, through its Director, as the principal advisor to the Chairwoman and Commission officials on all aspects of workforce diversity, organization, EEO, nondiscrimination, and civil rights;

- Providing leadership and guidance to create a work environment that values and encourages diversity in the workforce;

- Developing, implementing, and evaluating programs and policies to foster a workforce whose composition reflects the diverse makeup of the Nation, enhances the mission of the Commission, and demonstrates the value and effectiveness of a diverse workforce and work environment that is inclusive and accessible;

- Developing, implementing, and evaluating programs and policies that promote understanding among members of the Commission's workforce of their differences and the value of those differences, and provides a channel for communication among diverse members of the workforce at all levels;

- Developing, implementing, and evaluating programs and policies to ensure that all members of the Commission's workforce and candidates for employment have equal access to opportunities for employment, career growth, training, and development, and are protected from discrimination and harassment;

- Developing and recommending Commission-wide workforce diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility goals and reporting on achievements;

- Developing, implementing, and evaluating programs and policies to enable all Bureaus and Offices to manage a diverse workforce effectively and in compliance with all EEO and civil rights requirements;

- Working closely with the Associate Managing Director - Human Resources Management to ensure compliance with Federal and Commission recruitment and staffing requirements;

- Managing the Commission's EEO compliance program. Responsibilities in this area include processing complaints alleging discrimination, issuing final agency decisions on EEO complaints within the Commission, and providing consulting services to employees and applicants for employment on EEO matters;

- Developing and administering the Commission's program of reasonable accommodation for employees and job applicants with disabilities in accordance with applicable laws and regulations;

- Developing and administering the Commission's program of Alternative Dispute Resolution to provide conflict resolution strategies (including a mediation process) and to promote the use of dispute prevention and alternative dispute techniques;

- Representing the Commission at meetings with other public and private groups and organizations on matters concerning workforce diversity and EEO; and,

- Maintaining liaison with and soliciting views of organizations within and outside the Commission on matters relating to EEO and workforce diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.

Office of Inspector General

Office of Inspector General	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)	**46**	**60**	**60**
11 - Personnel compensation	$7,216,301	$8,289,099	$9,661,330
12 - Personnel benefits	2,486,681	2,531,646	2,951,213
13 - Benefits for former personnel	0	0	0
Subtotal - Personnel Costs	**$9,702,982**	**$10,820,745**	**$12,612,543**
21 - Travel & transportation of persons	$0	$68,773	$71,551
22 - Transportation of things	0	0	0
23 - Rent, Communications, and Utilities	344,141	344,141	372,264
24 - Printing and reproduction	0	0	0
25 - Other contractual services	395,908	862,775	1,242,679
26 - Supplies and materials	0	578	599
31 - Equipment	0	33,988	35,364
40 - Insurance claims and interest	6	0	0
Subtotal - Non-Personnel Costs	**$740,055**	**$1,310,255**	**$1,722,457**
TOTAL	**$10,443,037**	**$12,131,000**	**$14,335,000**

The FCC's OIG was established in compliance with the Inspector General Act of 1978 (Public Law 94-454), as amended. OIG conducts and supervises audits, inspections and investigations relating to FCC programs and operations. OIG provides management feedback, leadership, and recommends policies for activities designed to promote economy, efficiency, and increase the effectiveness of the administration. Further, the OIG works to both prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse in such programs and operations. OIG communicates with the Commission and Congress to keep them informed about issues and deficiencies relating to the administration of such programs and operations and the necessity for and progress of corrective action. The Inspector General reports directly to the Commission. The primary duties and responsibilities of OIG include:

Conducting, supervising, and coordinating audits and investigations relating to the programs and operations of the FCC;

- Reviewing existing and proposed legislation and regulations relating to programs and operations of the FCC and making recommendations in semiannual reports required by section 5(a) of the Inspector General Act concerning the impact of such legislation or regulations on the economy and efficiency in the administration of programs and operations administered or financed by the FCC and the prevention and detection of fraud, waste, and abuse in such programs and operations;

- Recommending policies for and conducting or coordinating other activities carried out by or financed by the FCC for the purpose of promoting economy and efficiency in the

administration of or preventing and detecting fraud and abuse in its programs and operations;

- Recommending policies for matters relating to the promotion of economy and efficiency in the administration of, or the prevention and detection of fraud and abuse in, programs and operations administered or financed by the FCC; and,

- Reporting expeditiously to the Attorney General whenever the Inspector General has reasonable grounds to believe there has been a violation of Federal criminal law.

APPENDICES

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Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Estimates to Congress
Summary - Requested Resources

DISTRIBUTION OF BUDGET AUTHORITY

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress	Change to Budget Authority
FCC - Without Office of Inspector General (OIG):				
Authority to Spend Offsetting Collections:				
Total - Regulatory Fees (Offsetting Collections)[1]	**$348,655**	**$378,061**	**$433,740**	**$55,679**
Authority to Spend Other Offsetting Collections:				
Spectrum Auctions Cost Recovery Reimbursement	$103,906	$132,231	$139,000	$6,769
Economy Act Reimbursable Agreements	$1,041	$4,000	$4,000	$0
Total - Other Offsetting Collections	**$104,946**	**$136,231**	**$143,000**	**$6,769**
Total Budget Authority - FCC Without OIG	**$453,601**	**$514,292**	**$576,740**	**$62,448**
FCC - Office of Inspector General:				
Authority to Spend Offsetting Collections:				
Total - Regulatory Fees (Offsetting Collections)	$10,443	$12,131	$14,335	$2,204
Authority to Spend Other Offsetting Collections:				
Spectrum Auctions Cost Recovery Reimbursement	$0	$0	$0	$0
Total Budget Authority - Office of Inspector General	**$10,443**	**$12,131**	**$14,335**	**$2,204**
TOTAL - FCC with Office of Inspector General				
TOTAL - Regulatory Fees (Offsetting Collections)	$359,098	$390,192	$448,075	$57,883
TOTAL - Spectrum Auctions Cost Recovery Reimbursement	$103,906	$132,231	$139,000	$6,769
TOTAL - Economy Act Reimbursable Agreements	$1,041	$4,000	$4,000	$0
TOTAL - Budget Authority Request	**$464,044**	**$526,423**	**$591,075**	**$64,652**

[1]The Commission's other budget authorities are summarized on page 58.

Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Estimates to Congress
Summary - Requested Resources

OUTLAYS

(Dollars in Millions)

	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress
FCC - Without Office of Inspector General:			
New Offsetting Collections:			
Regulatory Fees[1]	$349	$378	$434
Spectrum Auctions Cost Recovery Reimbursement	$104	$132	$139
Economy Act Reimbursable Agreements	$1	$4	$4
Subtotal - Outlays from Offsetting Collections Authority (FCC)	**$454**	**$514**	**$577**
FCC - Office of Inspector General (OIG):			
New Offsetting Collections:			
Outlays from New Offsetting Collections Authority (OIG)	$10	$12	$14
TOTAL OUTLAYS - Offsetting Collections Authority	**$464**	**$526**	**$591**

[1]The Commission's other budget authorities are summarized on page 58.

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTs (FTEs)

	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress
Total Compensable Work Years:			
Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) Employment	**1,457**	**1,600**	**1,600**
Proposed Distribution:			
Offsetting Collections - Commission without OIG	1,255	1,364	1,364
Offsetting Collections - Office of Inspector General	46	60	60
Subtotal - Regulatory Fees (Offsetting Collections)	**1,301**	**1,424**	**1,424**
Spectrum Auctions Program	156	176	176
TOTAL FTEs - COMMISSION	**1,457**	**1,600**	**1,600**

The FTE numbers include the Spectrum Auctions Program FTEs.

Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Estimates to Congress
Summary - Distribution of Resources

REGULATORY FEES – OFFSETTING COLLECTIONS (INCLUDING OIG)

(Dollars in Thousands)

Object Classification Description	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress
Personnel Compensation & Benefits:			
Full-time & Other than full-time Permanent (11.1 & 11.3)	$202,244	$225,786	$240,657
Personnel benefits (12.0)	69,191	78,018	80,784
Subtotal - Personnel Compensation & Benefits	**$271,435**	**$303,804**	**$321,441**
Other Expenses:			
Benefits for former personnel (13.0)	$7	$46	$56
Travel & transportation of persons (21.0)	1,524	2,305	2,469
Transportation of things (22.0)	63	57	59
Rent payments to GSA (23.1)	23,808	24,195	24,728
Non-GSA rental payments (23.2)	2	0	0
Communications, utilities, & misc. charges (23.3)	5,569	5,719	5,756
Printing and reproduction (24.0)	1,141	971	1,293
Other services from non-Federal sources (25.2)	19,059	20,961	41,475
Other goods & services from Federal sources (25.3)	3,530	4,224	6,051
Operation & maintenance of equipment (25.7)	29,728	25,425	40,340
Supplies and materials (26.0)	690	823	853
Equipment (31.0)	1,980	1,126	2,800
Land and structures (32.0)	493	501	513
Insurance claims & interest (40.0)	69	35	241
Subtotal - Other Expenses	**$87,663**	**$86,388**	**$126,634**
Total Obligations from Regulatory Fees	**$359,098**	**$390,192**	**$448,075**
Total Resources from Regulatory Fees1	**$359,098**	**$390,192**	**$448,075**

[1]The Commission's other budget authorities are summarized on page 58

Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Estimates to Congress
Summary - Distribution of Resources

SPECTRUM AUCTIONS COST RECOVERY REIMBURSABLE AUTHORITY

(Dollars in Thousands)

Object Classification Description	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress
Personnel Compensation & Benefits:			
Full-time & Other than full-time Permanent (11.1 & 11.3)	$24,458	$28,587	$31,013
Personnel benefits (12.0)	8,789	9,443	10,268
Subtotal - Personnel Compensation & Benefits	**$33,247**	**$38,030**	**$41,281**
Other Expenses:			
Benefits for former personnel (13.0)	$2	$8	$9
Travel & transportation of persons (21.0)	336	387	403
Transportation of things (22.0)	10	9	9
Rent payments to GSA (23.1)	4,615	4,616	4,803
Communications, utilities, & misc. charges (23.3)	2,046	2,194	2,283
Printing and reproduction (24.0)	142	217	226
Other services from non-Federal sources (25.2)	11,182	35,241	36,368
Other goods & services from Federal sources (25.3)	766	932	969
Operation & maintenance of equipment (25.7)	50,877	49,930	51,955
Supplies and materials (26.0)	91	117	122
Equipment (31.0)	578	530	552
Insurance claims & interest (40.0)	14	20	20
Subtotal - Other Expenses	**$70,659**	**$94,201**	**$97,719**
Total - Auctions Cost Recovery Reimbursable Authority	**$103,906**	**$132,231**	**$139,000**

Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Estimates to Congress
Summary – Distribution of Resources

GOVERNMENT/OTHER REIMBURSABLE AUTHORITY

(Dollars in Thousands)

Object Classification Description	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress
Personnel Compensation & Benefits:			
Full-time & Other than full-time Permanent (11.1 & 11.3)	$307	$350	$350
Personnel benefits (12.0)	110	90	90
Subtotal - Personnel Compensation & Benefits	**$417**	**$440**	**$440**
Other Expenses:			
Travel & transportation of persons (21.0)	$26	$50	$50
Transportation of things (22.0)	2	0	0
Other services from non-Federal sources (25.2)	558	2,735	2,735
Operation & maintenance of equipment (25.7)	6	425	425
Supplies and materials (26.0)	6	50	50
Equipment (31.0)	26	300	300
Subtotal - Other Expenses	**$624**	**$3,560**	**$3,560**
Total Government/Other Reimbursable Authority	**$1,041**	**$4,000**	**$4,000**

CREDIT PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(Dollars in Thousands)

Object Classification Description	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress
Other Expenses:			
Insurance claims & interest (40.0)	$47	$0	$0
Subtotal - Other Expenses	**$47**	**$0**	**$0**
Total Credit Program	**$47**	**$0**	**$0**

Note: The Commission is currently working with OMB to close out the Credit Program. OIG has no Credit Program funds.

Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Estimates to Congress
Summary – Distribution of Resources

TV BROADCASTER RELOCATION FUND

(Dollars in Thousands)

Object Classification Description	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress
Other services from non-Federal sources (25.2)	$1,116	$0	$0
Subtotal - Other Expenses	**$1,116**	**$0**	**$0**
Total TV Broadcaster Relocation Fund	**$1,116**	**$0**	**$0**

Note: The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (2012 Act) mandated that the Commission reimburse reasonable channel relocation costs incurred by those qualified TV Broadcasters that will be affected by spectrum relocation. The 2012 Act also gave the Commission the authority to use $1.75 billion from Incentive Auction revenues to reimburse TV Broadcasters for relocation costs. Additional authority totaling $1 billion was provided to the Commission for this and for other purposes by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018, Public Law 115-141. The TV Broadcaster Relocation Fund is capped at $2.75 billion. The amount shown for FY 2023 is the actual carryover of funds that is available until July 3, 2023. Any remaining unused funds from FY 2023 will be transferred to the Treasury.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL – UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND

(Dollars in Thousands)

Object Classification Description	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress
Travel & transportation of persons (21.0)	$23	$30	$0
Other services from non-Federal sources (25.2)	1,113	3,114	0
Subtotal - Other Expenses	**$1,136**	**$3,144**	**$0**
Total Universal Service Program	**$1,136**	**$3,144**	**$0**

Note: The Office of Inspector General (OIG) - Universal Service Fund (USF) represents carryover funds. These resources are presented in a separate schedule apart from the Salaries & Expenses account and funded from amounts transferred from the USF in FY 2008, as permitted in appropriations language for that year. No new budget authority is requested by the OIG in FYs 2024 and 2025. The carryover balances will be used to continue the USF oversight by OIG. Any remaining unused funds from FY 2024 will be carried over to FY 2025.

Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Estimates to Congress
Summary – Distribution of Resources

REGULATORY FEES – OFFSETTING COLLECTIONS (EXCLUDING OIG)

(Dollars in Thousands)

Object Classification Description	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress
Personnel Compensation & Benefits:			
Full-time & Other than full-time Permanent (11.1 & 11.3)	$195,028	$217,497	$231,370
Personnel benefits (12.0)	66,705	75,486	78,616
Subtotal - Personnel Compensation & Benefits	**$261,733**	**$292,983**	**$309,986**
Other Expenses:			
Benefits for former personnel (13.0)	$7	$46	$56
Travel & transportation of persons (21.0)	1,524	2,236	2,396
Transportation of things (22.0)	63	57	59
Rent payments to GSA (23.1)	23,463	23,851	24,370
Non-GSA rental payments (23.2)	2	0	0
Communications, utilities, & misc. charges (23.3)	5,569	5,719	5,756
Printing and reproduction (24.0)	1,141	971	1,293
Other services from non-Federal sources (25.2)	18,707	20,205	39,174
Other goods & services from Federal sources (25.3)	3,486	4,117	5,939
Operation & maintenance of equipment (25.7)	29,728	25,425	40,341
Supplies and materials (26.0)	690	823	852
Equipment (31.0)	1,980	1,092	2,764
Land and structures (32.0)	493	501	513
Insurance claims & interest (40.0)	69	35	241
Subtotal - Other Expenses	**$86,922**	**$85,078**	**$123,754**
Total - Obligations from Regulatory Fees	**$348,655**	**$378,061**	**$433,740**
Total - Resources from Regulatory Fees[1]	**$348,655**	**$378,061**	**$433,740**

[1]The Commission's other budget authorities are summarized on page 58.

Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Estimates to Congress
Summary – Distribution of Resources

REGULATORY FEES – OFFSETTING COLLECTIONS (OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL)

(Dollars in Thousands)

Object Classification Description	FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Annualized Level - Continuing Appropriations Act	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress
Personnel Compensation & Benefits:			
Full-time & Other than full-time Permanent (11.1 & 11.3)	$7,216	$8,289	$9,661
Personnel benefits (12.0)	2,487	2,532	2,951
Subtotal - Personnel Compensation & Benefits	**$9,703**	**$10,821**	**$12,612**
Other Expenses:			
Travel & transportation of persons (21.0)	$0	$68	$72
Rent payments to GSA (23.1)	344	344	372
Other services from non-Federal sources (25.2)	352	755	1,094
Other goods & services from Federal sources (25.3)	44	108	149
Supplies and materials (26.0)	0	1	1
Equipment (31.0)	0	34	35
Subtotal - Other Expenses	**$740**	**$1,310**	**$1,723**
Total - Obligations from Regulatory Fees	**$10,443**	**$12,131**	**$14,335**
Total - Resources from Regulatory Fees	**$10,443**	**$12,131**	**$14,335**

Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Estimates to Congress
Summary - Distribution of Resources by Strategic Goals

Fiscal Year 2023 -2025 Strategic Goals	Pursue a "100 Percent" Broadband Policy	Promote Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Acessibility	Empower Consumers	Enhance Public Safety and National Security	Advance America's Global Competitive-ness	Foster Operational Excellence	TOTAL
Regulatory Fees:							
FY 2023 Actuals	**$56,346**	**$3,539**	**$60,545**	**$42,304**	**$125,405**	**$70,959**	**$359,098**
FY 2024 Annualized CR Amount	**$61,225**	**$3,845**	**$65,788**	**$45,967**	**$136,264**	**$77,103**	**$390,192**
FY 2024 Adjustment to Base	$3,225	$202	$3,465	$2,421	$7,177	$5,141	**$21,631**
Less: One-Time Investment Requests	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	-$4,080	**-$4,080**
FY 2025 Base Level	**$64,450**	**$4,047**	**$69,253**	**$48,388**	**$143,441**	**$78,164**	**$407,743**
FY 2025 Adjustments to Base:							
Salary Inflationary Increase	$1,988	$93	$1,139	$901	$2,919	$1,242	**$8,282**
Non-Salary Inflationary Increase	$324	$20	$348	$243	$721	$393	**$2,050**
Base Increases	$30,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	**$30,000**
Subtotal	**$32,312**	**$114**	**$1,487**	**$1,144**	**$3,641**	**$1,635**	**$40,332**
FY 2025 Budget Estimates	**$96,762**	**$4,161**	**$70,740**	**$49,532**	**$147,082**	**$79,799**	**$448,075**
Spectrum Auctions Program							
FY 2023 Actuals	**$15,782**	**$29**	**$457**	**$2,257**	**$31,288**	**$54,093**	**$103,906**
FY 2024 Annualized CR Amount	**$20,084**	**$37**	**$582**	**$2,872**	**$39,817**	**$68,839**	**$132,231**
FY 2024 Adjustment to Base	**$598**	**$1**	**$17**	**$86**	**$1,185**	**$2,049**	**$3,936**
FY 2025 Base Level	**$20,682**	**$38**	**$599**	**$2,958**	**$41,002**	**$70,888**	**$136,167**
FY 2025 Adjustments to Base:							
Salary Inflationary Increase	$166	$0	$5	$24	$329	$568	**$1,092**
Non-Salary Inflationary Increase	$264	$1	$8	$38	$524	$906	**$1,741**
FY 2025 Budget Estimates	**$21,112**	**$39**	**$612**	**$3,020**	**$41,855**	**$72,362**	**$139,000**

[1]Refer to page 57 for a summary and status of these other budget authorities that were already provided.

Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Estimates to OMB
Allocation of Obligations by Budget Object Class Code

(Dollars in Thousands)

Budget Object Class Codes and Descriptions		FY 2023 Actuals	FY 2024 Annualized CR Amount	Reversal of FY 2024 One-Time Requests	FY 2025 Base	Base Increase	Pay Increase	Non-Payroll Inflationary Increase	FY 2025 Estimates to Congress
11	Personnel Compensation	$202,244	$225,786	$3,918	$229,704	$5,740	$5,588	$0	$241,032
12	Benefits	$69,191	$78,018	-$1,605	$76,413	$2,460	$2,693	$0	$81,566
13	Benefits for former personnel	$7	$46	$8	$54	$0	$1	$0	$55
21	Travel & transportation of persons	$1,524	$2,305	$114	$2,419	$0	$0	$49	$2,468
22	Transportation of things	$63	$57	$1	$58	$0	$0	$1	$59
23.1	Rent payments to GSA	$23,808	$24,195	$72	$24,267	$0	$0	$475	$24,742
23.2	Non-GSA rental payments	$2	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
23.3	Communications, utilities, & misc. charges	$5,569	$5,719	-$76	$5,643	$0	$0	$113	$5,756
24	Printing and reproduction	$1,141	$971	$297	$1,268	$0	$0	$26	$1,294
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	$19,059	$20,961	$4,768	$25,729	$14,000	$0	$539	$40,268
25.3	Other goods & services from Federal sources	$3,530	$4,224	$1,744	$5,968	$0	$0	$120	$6,088
25.7	Operation & maintenance of equipment	$29,728	$25,425	$6,475	$31,900	$7,800	$0	$640	$40,340
26	Supplies and materials	$690	$823	$13	$836	$0	$0	$17	$853
31	Equipment	$1,980	$1,126	$1,619	$2,745	$0	$0	$55	$2,800
32	Land and structures	$493	$501	$2	$503	$0	$0	$10	$513
40	Insurance claims & interest	$69	$35	$201	$236	$0	$0	$5	$241
Regulatory Fees Budget Authority Request		**$359,098**	**$390,192**	**$17,551**	**$407,743**	**$30,000**	**$8,282**	**$2,050**	**$448,075**
Spectrum Auction Cost Recovery Reimbursement		$103,906	$132,231	$3,936	$136,167	$0	$1,091	$1,742	$139,000
Reimbursables - Government/Other		$1,041	$4,000	$0	$4,000	$0	$0	$0	$4,000
TOTAL Budget Authority Request		**$464,045**	**$526,423**	**$21,487**	**$547,910**	**$30,000**	**$9,373**	**$3,792**	**$591,075**

Note: The Commission's other budget authorities are summarized on page 58

EXHIBITS AND REPORTS

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Universal Service Fund Exhibit

Pursuant to the Communications Act of 1934, as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (1996 Act), all telecommunications service providers and certain other providers of telecommunications contribute to the Federal Universal Service Fund (USF) based on a percentage of their interstate and international end-user telecommunications revenues. These companies include wireline phone companies, wireless phone companies, paging service companies and certain Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) providers. The goals of USF are to increase access to both telecommunications and advanced services, such as high-speed Internet, for all consumers at just, reasonable and affordable rates.

The 1996 Act established principles for universal service that specifically focused on increasing access to evolving services for consumers living in rural and insular areas, and for consumers with low incomes. Additional principles called for increased access to high-speed Internet in the nation's schools, libraries and rural health care facilities. The FCC established four programs within the USF to implement the statute. The four programs are: (1) High Cost--ensures consumers in rural, insular, and high cost areas have access to modern communications networks capable of providing voice and broadband service, both fixed and mobile, at rates that are reasonably comparable to those in urban areas; (2) Lifeline (for low-income consumers)--provides a monthly benefit on home or wireless phone and broadband service to eligible households and includes initiatives to expand phone service for residents of Tribal lands; (3) Schools and Libraries (E-rate)--provides funding to schools and libraries to obtain broadband, among other things; and (4) Rural Health Care--provides funding to eligible health care providers for telecommunications

Public Law 118-40 temporarily suspended the application of the Antideficiency Act to the Federal USF programs authorized under section 210 of the Communications Act of 1934, through March 22, 2024. The Antideficiency Act requires that funds be available before incurring an obligation on behalf of the Federal Government.

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)

		2023 Actual	2024 Est.	2025 Est.
	Obligation by program activity:			
0001	Universal service fund	$7,151	$25,540	$14,851
0002	Program support	$250	$266	$269
0900	Total new obligations (object class 41.0)	$7,401	$25,806	$15,120
	Budgetary resources			
1000	Unobligated balance carried forward, start of year	($12,438)	($11,250)	($29,486)
1010	Unobligated balance transfer to other accounts			
1021	Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	$645	$834	$912
1033	Recoveries of prior year paid obligations	$43	$0	$0
1050	Unobligated balance (total)	($11,750)	($10,416)	($28,574)
	Budget authority: Mandatory			
1201	Appropriation(special fund) - Receipt	$7,901	$8,312	$8,958
1201	Appropriation(special fund) - Interest	$0	$0	$0
1220	Appropriation transferred to other accounts	$0	$0	$0
1260	Appropriation, mandatory (total)	$7,901	$8,312	$8,958
	Spending authority from offsetting collections, mandatory:			
1850	Collected (total)	$0	$0	$0
1900	Budget authority (total)	$7,901	$8,312	$8,958
1930	Total budgetary resources available	($3,849)	($2,104)	($19,616)
1941	Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	($11,250)	($29,486)	($29,486)

Universal Service Fund Exhibit Continued

	Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)			
	Change in obligated balances:			
3000	Unpaid obligated balance, start of year	$18,719	$17,192	$33,222
3010	Obligation incurred, unexpired accounts	$7,401	$25,806	$15,120
3020	Total outlays (gross)	($8,283)	($8,942)	($9,700)
3030	Unpaid obligation transferred to other accounts	$0	$0	$0
3040	Recoveries of prior year obligations	($645)	($834)	($912)
3050	Unpaid obligated balance, end of year (net)	$17,192	$33,222	$37,730
3100	Obligation balance, start of year	$18,719	$17,192	$33,222
3200	Obligation balance, end of year	$17,192	$33,222	$37,730
	Budget authority and outlays net:			
4090	Budget authority gross:	$7,901	$8,312	$8,958
4100	Outlays from new mandatory authority	$3,809	$4,371	$5,233
4101	Outlays from new mandatory balances	$4,474	$4,571	$4,467
4110	Total outlays (net)	$8,283	$8,942	$9,700
	Offsets against gross budget authority and outlays			
4123	Offsetting collection from Non-Federal sources	($43)	$0	$0
4143	Recoveries of prior year paid obligations, unexpired accounts	$43	$0	$0
4160	Budget authority net (mandatory)	$7,901	$8,312	$8,958
4170	Outlays net (mandatory)	$8,240	$8,942	$9,700
4180	Budget authority net (total)	$7,901	$8,312	$8,958
4190	Outlays net (total)	$8,240	$8,942	$9,700
	Unexpended balance memorandum entires			
5311	Direct unobligated balance, start of year	($12,438)	($11,251)	$0
5314	Mandatory unobligated balance, start of year	($12,438)	($11,251)	$0
5321	Direct unobligated balance, end of year	($11,251)	$0	$0
5324	Mandatory unobligated balance, end of year	($11,251)	$0	$0
5331	Direct obligated balance, start of year	$18,719	$17,192	$0
5334	Mandatory obligated balance, start of year	$18,719	$17,192	$0
5341	Direct obligated balance, end of year	$17,192	$0	$0
5344	Mandatory obligated balance, end of year	$17,192	$0	$0

Telecommunications Relay Service Fund Exhibit

As part of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Congress amended the Communications Act of 1934 (Act) to direct the Commission "to ensure that interstate and intrastate telecommunications relay services (TRS) are available, to the extent possible and in the most efficient manner, to hearing and speech-impaired individuals in the United States." Section 225 of the Act also directs the Commission to prescribe regulations that "generally provide that costs caused by interstate telecommunications relay services shall be recovered from all subscribers for every interstate service and costs caused by intrastate telecommunications relay service shall be recovered from the intrastate jurisdiction." The shared-funding mechanism requires providers of interstate telecommunications services to contribute to a fund that reimburses TRS providers for the cost of providing interstate TRS. All telecommunications service providers and certain other providers of telecommunications contribute to the TRS Fund based on a percentage of their end-user telecommunications revenues. These companies include, but are not limited to, wireline phone companies, wireless phone companies, paging service companies and certain Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) providers.

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)

		2023 Actual	2024 Est.	2025 Est.
	Obligation by program activity:			
0001	Telecommunications relay services	$1,221	$1,394	$1,372
0002	Program support	$24	$26	$28
0900	Total new obligations (object class 41.0)	$1,245	$1,420	$1,400
	Budgetary resources			
1000	Unobligated balance carried forward, start of year	$507	$269	$177
1011	Unobligated balance transfer from other accounts	$0	$0	$0
1021	Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	$0	$5	$5
1033	Recoveries of prior year paid obligations	$0	$0	$0
1050	Unobligated balance (total)	$507	$274	$182
	Budget authority: Mandatory			
1201	Appropriation(special fund) - Receipt	$1,007	$1,323	$1,440
1221	Appropriation transferred from other accounts	$0	$0	$0
1260	Appropriation, mandatory (total)	$1,007	$1,323	$1,440
	Spending authority from offsetting collections, mandatory:			
1850	Collected (total)	$0	$0	$0
1900	Budget authority (total)	$1,007	$1,323	$1,440
1930	Total budgetary resources available	$1,514	$1,597	$1,622
1941	Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	$269	$177	$222
	Change in obligated balances:			
3000	Unpaid obligated balance, start of year	$33	$41	$5
3010	Obligation incurred, unexpired accounts	$1,245	$1,420	$1,400
3020	Total outlays (gross)	($1,237)	($1,451)	($1,393)
3031	Unpaid obligation transferred from other accounts [027-5183]	$0	$0	$0
3040	Recoveries of prior year obligations	$0	($5)	($5)
3050	Unpaid obligated balance, end of year (net)	$41	$5	$7
3100	Obligation balance, start of year	$33	$41	$5
3200	Obligation balance, end of year	$41	$5	$7
	Budget authority and outlays net:			
4090	Budget authority gross:	$1,007	$1,323	$1,440
4100	Outlays from new mandatory authority	$973	$1,201	$1,254
4101	Outlays from new mandatory balances	$264	$250	$139
4110	Total outlays (net)	$1,237	$1,451	$1,393

Telecommunications Relay Service Fund Exhibit Continued

Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)

	Offsets against gross budget authority and outlays			
4160	Budget authority net (mandatory)	$1,007	$1,323	$1,440
4170	Outlays net (mandatory)	$1,237	$1,451	$1,393
4180	Budget authority net (total)	$1,007	$1,323	$1,440
4190	Outlays net (total)	$1,237	$1,451	$1,393
	Unexpended balance memorandum entires			
5311	Direct unobligated balance, start of year	$507	$269	$0
5314	Mandatory unobligated balance, start of year	$507	$269	$0
5321	Direct unobligated balance, end of year	$269	$0	$0
5324	Mandatory unobligated balance, end of year	$269	$0	$0
5331	Direct obligated balance, start of year	$33	$40	$0
5334	Mandatory obligated balance, start of year	$33	$40	$0
5341	Direct obligated balance, end of year	$40	$0	$0
5344	Mandatory obligated balance, end of year	$40	$0	$0

GAO - IG Act Audit List

Good Accounting Obligation in Government Act Report

In accordance with the Good Accounting Obligation in Government Act (GAO-IG Act), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) provides the following report. The report describes the Commission's actions on outstanding public recommendations of the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the Commission's Office of the Inspector General (OIG), which have remained unimplemented for one year or more as of the date on which the annual budget justification is submitted. The first section of the report provides information on the status of implementing GAO public recommendations designated by the GAO as *Open* or *Closed, Unimplemented*. The second section of the report provides information on the status of implementing OIG's recommendations for which the Commission has not completed final action. In accordance with the GAO-IG Act, both sections provide the required reporting elements for recommendations published not less than one year before the date on which the annual budget justification is submitted.

The GAO-IG Act also requires agencies to include a statement describing the status of implementing public recommendations open less than one year. For the GAO and OIG recommendations meeting this parameter, as of January 1, 2022, the Commission is in the process of implementing those recommendations, awaiting closure of the recommendations by the GAO or OIG, or awaiting discussions with the GAO or OIG on further actions to be implemented, if any, to close the recommendations.

The GAO-IG Act requires agencies to disclose discrepancies between its report and reports issued by the GAO and OIG. The Commission is not aware of any discrepancies between this report and public reports issued by the GAO relating to public recommendations designated by the GAO as *Open* or *Closed, Unimplemented*. Further, the Commission is not aware of any discrepancies between this report and the semiannual reports submitted by the OIG under Section 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

FCC Report on Outstanding GAO and OIG Recommendations

1. GAO Recommendations

- **Implementation Status of GAO Public Recommendations Designated by the GAO as "open" or "closed, unimplemented."**

  The reporting details are provided in Section 1. As required by the GAO-IG Act, the details include the implementation status of each public recommendation, to include a timeline for full implementation, as applicable; e.g., for several recommendations, the Commission believes it has completed final action and is awaiting GAO concurrence and closure of the recommendations. The Commission did not include recommendations that were over four years old that GAO and the FCC agreed to label as "closed, unimplemented" because GAO agreed to close those recommendations.

2. OIG Recommendations

- **Implementation Status of OIG Public Recommendations for which Final Action Has Not Been Completed.**

  The reporting details are provided in Section 2. As required by the GAO-IG Act, the details include the implementation status of each public recommendation, to include a timeline for implementation, as applicable; e.g., for several recommendations, the Commission believes it has completed final action and is awaiting OIG concurrence and closure of the recommendations.

Section 1 - Implementation Status of GAO Public Recommendations Designated by the GAO as Open or Closed, Unimplemented

Report Number	Report Title	Issued Date	Rec. No. in GAO Report	Recommendation	Timeline for Full Implementation	Justification for Decision Not to Implement
GAO-17-538	TELECOMMUNICATIONS: Additional Action Needed to Address Significant Risks in FCC's Lifeline Program	05/30/2017	1	To address control weaknesses and related program-integrity risks we identified in Lifeline, the Chair of FCC should require Commissioners to review and approve, as appropriate, spending above the budget in a timely manner.	Expect to be Closed as Not Implemented	At this time the FCC has not adopted a self-enforcing mechanism and it should be noted that the current disbursement level is significantly lower than the current budgeted amount for the Lifeline Program.
GAO-17-538	TELECOMMUNICATIONS: Additional Action Needed to Address Significant Risks in FCC's Lifeline Program	05/30/2017	3	To address control weaknesses and related program-integrity risks we identified in Lifeline, the Chair of FCC should establish time frames to evaluate compliance plans and develop instructions with criteria for FCC reviewers how to evaluate these plans to meet Lifeline's program goals.	Expect to be Closed as Not Implemented	The FCC has resumed approving compliance plans in limited circumstances but at this time has not established a time frame for this issue.
GAO-17-538	TELECOMMUNICATIONS: Additional Action Needed to Address Significant Risks in FCC's Lifeline Program	05/30/2017	7	To address our findings regarding the USF, the Chair of FCC should take action to respond to USAC requests for guidance and address pending requests concerning USF contribution requirements to ensure the contribution factor is based on complete information and that USF pass-through charges are equitable.	FY 2025	Implementation is in progress
GAO-18-630	BROADBAND INTERNET: FCC’s Data Overstate Access on Tribal Lands	09/07/2018	3	The Chair of the Federal Communications Commission should obtain feedback from tribal stakeholders and providers on the effectiveness of FCC's 2012 statement to providers on how to fulfill their tribal engagement requirements to determine whether FCC needs to clarify the agency's tribal engagement statement.	FY 2024	Implementation is in progress
GAO-19-75	TRIBAL BROADBAND: FCC Should Undertake Efforts to Better Promote Tribal Access to Spectrum	11/14/2018	1	The Chair of FCC should collect data on the extent that tribal entities are obtaining and accessing spectrum and use this information as FCC implements ongoing spectrum initiatives.	FY 2024	Implementation is in progress

Section 1 - Implementation Status of GAO Public Recommendations Designated by the GAO as Open or Closed, Unimplemented

Report Number	Report Title	Issued Date	Rec. No. in GAO Report	Recommendation	Timeline for Full Implementation	Justification for Decision Not to Implement
GAO-19-75	TRIBAL BROADBAND: FCC Should Undertake Efforts to Better Promote Tribal Access to Spectrum	11/14/2018	3	The Chair of FCC should make information on spectrum-license holders more accessible and easier to understand for interested parties, including tribal entities, to promote their ability to purchase or lease spectrum licenses from other providers.	FY 2024	Implementation is in progress
GAO-19-564	WIRELESS INTERNET: FCC Should Assess Making Off-School-Premises Access Eligible for Additional Federal support	07/29/2019	1	The Chair of the Federal Communications Commission should determine and execute a methodology for collecting and analyzing data—such as conducting a new pilot program regarding off-premises wireless access or analyzing other data—to assess the potential benefits, costs, and challenges of making off-premises wireless access eligible for E-rate program support, and publish the results of this analysis.	FY 2024	Implementation is in progress
GAO-19-247SU	INFORMATION SECURITY: FCC Improved Its Electronic Comment System, but Needs to Remedy Additional Control Weaknesses	09/26/2019	multiple	There are 8 remaining open recommendations. In addition, there is one recommendation that has been implemented and submitted to GAO for closure.	FY 2025	Implementation is in progress
GAO-20-27	TELECOMMUNICATIONS: FCC Should Take Additional Action to Manage Fraud Risks in Its Program to Support Broadband Service in High-Cost Areas	11/18/2019	1	The Chair of FCC should ensure that FCC's Office of Managing Director follows the leading practices in GAO's fraud risk framework related to a dedicated entity's management of its antifraud activities, such as serving as the repository of knowledge on fraud risks and coordinating antifraud initiatives.	Recommendation has been submitted to GAO for closure in September 2023.	Implementation is in progress

Section 1 - Implementation Status of GAO Public Recommendations Designated by the GAO as Open or Closed, Unimplemented

Report Number	Report Title	Issued Date	Rec. No. in GAO Report	Recommendation	Timeline for Full Implementation	Justification for Decision Not to Implement
GAO-20-27	TELECOMMUNICATIONS: FCC Should Take Additional Action to Manage Fraud Risks in Its Program to Support Broadband Service in High-Cost Areas	11/18/2019	2	The Chair of FCC should plan regular fraud-risk assessments tailored to the high-cost program and assess these risks to determine the program's fraud risk profile, as provided in GAO's fraud risk framework.	Recommendation has been submitted to GAO for closure in September 2023.	Implementation is in progress
GAO-20-27	TELECOMMUNICATIONS: FCC Should Take Additional Action to Manage Fraud Risks in Its Program to Support Broadband Service in High-Cost Areas	11/18/2019	3	The Chair of FCC should design and implement an antifraud strategy for the high-cost program with specific control activities, based upon the results of fraud-risk assessments and a corresponding fraud risk profile, as provided in GAO's fraud risk framework.	FY2024	Implementation is in progress
GAO-20-27	TELECOMMUNICATIONS: FCC Should Take Additional Action to Manage Fraud Risks in Its Program to Support Broadband Service in High-Cost Areas	11/18/2019	4	The Chair of FCC should assess the model-based support mechanism to determine the extent to which it produces reliable cost estimates.	FY 2028	Implementation is in progress
GAO-20-27	TELECOMMUNICATIONS: FCC Should Take Additional Action to Manage Fraud Risks in Its Program to Support Broadband Service in High-Cost Areas	11/18/2019	5	The Chair of FCC should consider whether to make use of the model-based support mechanism mandatory depending on the results of the assessment.	FY 2028	Implementation is in progress
GAO-20-294	EMERGENCY ALERTING: Agencies Need to Address Pending Applications and Monitor Industry Progress on System Improvements	02/06/2020	1	The Chair of FCC should develop specific, measurable goals and performance measures for its efforts to monitor the performance of new WEA capabilities, such as enhanced geotargeting and expanded alert message length.	FY 2024	Implementation is in progress

Section 1 - Implementation Status of GAO Public Recommendations Designated by the GAO as Open or Closed, Unimplemented

Report Number	Report Title	Issued Date	Rec. No. in GAO Report	Recommendation	Timeline for Full Implementation	Justification for Decision Not to Implement
GAO-20-468	5G DEPLOYMENT: FCC Needs Comprehensive Strategic Planning to Guide Its Efforts	06/29/2020	1	The Chair of FCC should develop, in coordination with NTIA and other relevant stakeholders, specific and measurable performance goals—with related strategies and measures—to manage spectrum demands associated with 5G deployment.	FY 2025	Implementation is in progress
GAO-20-468	5G DEPLOYMENT: FCC Needs Comprehensive Strategic Planning to Guide Its Efforts	06/29/2020	2	The Chair of FCC should develop specific and measurable performance goals—with related strategies and measures—to determine the effects 5G deployment and any mitigating actions may have on the digital divide.	FY 2025	Implementation is in progress
GAO-20-606	TELECOMMUNICATIONS: FCC Should Take Action to Better Manage Persistent Fraud Risks in the Schools and Libraries Program	09/16/2020	1	The Chair of FCC should direct and coordinate with the Chief Executive Officer of USAC to comprehensively assess fraud risks to the E-rate program, including implementing their respective plans for developing periodic fraud risk assessments, examining the suitability of existing fraud controls, and compiling fraud risk profiles following the timelines described in this report. The assessments should be informed by the key fraud risks identified in this report from closed court cases, prior risk assessments, and OIG reports, among other sources.	Recommendation has been submitted to GAO for closure in February 2023	Implementation is in progress
GAO-20-606	TELECOMMUNICATIONS: FCC Should Take Action to Better Manage Persistent Fraud Risks in the Schools and Libraries Program	09/16/2020	2	The Chair of FCC should ensure that FCC and USAC follow the leading practices in GAO's Fraud Risk Framework when designing and implementing data-analytics activities to prevent and detect fraud as part of their respective antifraud strategies for the E-rate program.	Recommendation has been submitted to GAO for closure in February 2023.	Implementation is in progress

Section 1 - Implementation Status of GAO Public Recommendations Designated by the GAO as Open or Closed, Unimplemented

Report Number	Report Title	Issued Date	Rec. No. in GAO Report	Recommendation	Timeline for Full Implementation	Justification for Decision Not to Implement
GAO-21-24	TELECOMMUNICATIONS: FCC Should Enhance Performance Goals and Measures for Its Program to Support Broadband Service in High-Cost Areas	10/30/2020	1	The Chair of FCC should revise the high-cost performance goals so that they are measurable and quantifiable.	FY 2024	Implementation is in progress
GAO-21-24	TELECOMMUNICATIONS: FCC Should Enhance Performance Goals and Measures for Its Program to Support Broadband Service in High-Cost Areas	10/30/2020	2	The Chair of FCC should ensure high-cost performance measures align with key attributes of successful performance measures, including ensuring that measures clearly link with performance goals and have specified targets.	FY 2024	Implementation is in progress
GAO-21-24	TELECOMMUNICATIONS: FCC Should Enhance Performance Goals and Measures for Its Program to Support Broadband Service in High-Cost Areas	10/30/2020	3	The Chair of FCC should ensure the high-cost performance measure for the goal of minimizing the universal service contribution burden on consumers and businesses takes into account user-fee leading practices, such as equity and sustainability considerations.	FY 2024	Implementation is in progress
GAO-21-24	TELECOMMUNICATIONS: FCC Should Enhance Performance Goals and Measures for Its Program to Support Broadband Service in High-Cost Areas	10/30/2020	4	The Chair of FCC should publicly and periodically report on the progress it has made for its high-cost program's performance goals, for example, by including relevant performance information in its Annual Broadband Deployment Report or the USF Monitoring Report.	FY 2024	Implementation is in progress
GAO-21-235	TELECOMMUNICATIONS: FCC Has Implemented the Lifeline National Verifier but Should Improve Consumer Awareness and Experience	1/28/2021	1	The Chair of FCC should develop and implement a plan to educate eligible consumers about the Lifeline program and Verifier requirements that aligns with key practices for consumer education planning.	Recommendation has been submitted to GAO for closure in July 2023.	Implementation is in progress
GAO-21-235	TELECOMMUNICATIONS: FCC Has Implemented the Lifeline National Verifier but Should Improve Consumer Awareness and Experience	1/28/2021	3	The Chair of FCC should identify and use performance measures to track the Verifier's progress in delivering value to consumers.	Recommendation has been submitted to GAO for closure in July 2023.	Implementation is in progress

Section 1 - Implementation Status of GAO Public Recommendations Designated by the GAO as Open or Closed, Unimplemented

Report Number	Report Title	Issued Date	Rec. No. in GAO Report	Recommendation	Timeline for Full Implementation	Justification for Decision Not to Implement
GAO-21-235	TELECOMMUNICATIONS: FCC Has Implemented the Lifeline National Verifier but Should Improve Consumer Awareness and Experience	1/28/2021	4	The Chair of FCC should ensure that it has quality information on consumers' experience with the Verifier's manual review process, and should use that information to improve the consumer experience to meet the Verifier's goals.	Recommendation has been submitted to GAO for closure in July 2023.	Implementation is in progress
GAO-21-235	TELECOMMUNICATIONS: FCC Has Implemented the Lifeline National Verifier but Should Improve Consumer Awareness and Experience	1/28/2021	5	The Chair of FCC should ensure that the Verifier's online application and support website align with characteristics for leading federal website design, including that they are accurate, clear, understandable, easy to use, and contain a mechanism for users to provide feedback.	FY 2024	Implementation is in progress
GAO 21-297	TELECOMMUNICATIONS FCC Assisted in Hurricane Maria Network Restoration, but a Clarified Disaster Response Role and Enhanced Communication Are Needed	06/01/2021	2	The Chair of FCC should enhance the transparency and accountability of FCC's operations by publicly reporting on the actions and findings of its Hurricane Recovery Task Force and determine if any changes in policy are needed to ensure FCC has transparent operations for any future disaster-related task forces.	FY 2024	Implementation is in progress
GAO-21-494	GAO-21-494 BROADBAND FCC Should Analyze Small Business Speed Needs	07/08/2021	1	The Chair of FCC should solicit input from stakeholders and conduct analysis of small businesses broadband speed needs and incorporate the results of this analysis into its determination of the benchmark for broadband.	FY 2025	Implementation is in progress
GAO-21-474	SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT Agencies Should Strengthen Collaborative Mechanisms and Processes to Address Potential Interference	07/19/2021	1	The Chair of FCC should establish clearly defined and agreed-upon processes for making decisions on spectrum-management activities that involve other agencies, particularly when consensus cannot be reached, in consultation with NTIA and—as appropriate—State.	FY 2024	Implementation is in progress

Section 1 - Implementation Status of GAO Public Recommendations Designated by the GAO as Open or Closed, Unimplemented

Report Number	Report Title	Issued Date	Rec. No. in GAO Report	Recommendation	Timeline for Full Implementation	Justification for Decision Not to Implement
GAO-21-474	SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT Agencies Should Strengthen Collaborative Mechanisms and Processes to Address Potential Interference	07/19/2021	2	The Chair of FCC should clarify and further identify shared goals or outcomes for spectrum-management activities that involve collaboration and ways to monitor and track progress, in consultation with NTIA and—as appropriate—State.	FY 2024	Implementation is in progress
GAO-21-474	SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT Agencies Should Strengthen Collaborative Mechanisms and Processes to Address Potential Interference	07/19/2021	4	The Chair of FCC should request that State initiate a review of the General Guidance Document—in consultation with FCC, NTIA, and other relevant participants—and update and develop a means to continually monitor and update this document.	FY 2024	Implementation is in progress
GAO-21-474	SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT Agencies Should Strengthen Collaborative Mechanisms and Processes to Address Potential Interference	07/19/2021	5	The Chair of FCC should establish procedures to help guide the design (including selection of acceptable assumptions and methodologies) of spectrum-sharing and potential-interference studies intended as U.S. contributions to WRC technical meetings, in consultation with NTIA, State, and other federal participants of the U.S. technical preparatory process.	FY 2025	Implementation is in progress
GAO-22-104669	WORKFORCE DIVERSITY: Hispanic Workers Are Underrepresented in the Media, and More Data Are Needed for Federal Enforcement Efforts.	10/5/2022	2	The Chair of FCC should work with EEOC to develop a new memorandum of understanding that includes a plan for EEOC to routinely share data with FCC regarding discrimination charges filed against broadcasters and cable and satellite television operators.	FY 2024	Implementation is in progress

Section 1 - Implementation Status of GAO Public Recommendations Designated by the GAO as Open or Closed, Unimplemented

Report Number	Report Title	Issued Date	Rec. No. in GAO Report	Recommendation	Timeline for Full Implementation	Justification for Decision Not to Implement
GAO-23-105005	SATELLITE LICENSING: FCC Should Reexamine Its Environmental Review Process for Large Constellations of Satellites	11/2/2022	1	The Federal Communications Commission should review whether licensing large constellations of satellites normally does not have significant effects on the human environment and document FCC's resulting decision.	FY 2026	Implementation is in progress
GAO-23-105005	SATELLITE LICENSING: FCC Should Reexamine Its Environmental Review Process for Large Constellations of Satellites	11/2/2022	2	The Federal Communications Commission should establish a timeframe and process for a periodic review of its categorical exclusion under NEPA and publish both on the FCC website.	FY 2026	Implementation is in progress
GAO-23-105005	SATELLITE LICENSING: FCC Should Reexamine Its Environmental Review Process for Large Constellations of Satellites	11/2/2022	3	The Federal Communications Commission should identify the factors that FCC will consider in determining whether an extraordinary circumstance is present when reviewing licenses for large constellations of satellites and make the results available to the public.	FY 2026	Implementation is in progress

Section 2 - Implementation Status of OIG Public Recommendations for which Final Action Has Not Been Completed

Report Number	Report Title	Issued Date	Rec. No. in OIG Report	Recommendation	Timeline for Full Implementation	Justification for Decision Not to Implement
12-AUD-12-20	FY 2012 A-130 Audit	03/12/2014	4.1	The FCC's Managing Director, CIO and Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau should perform a comprehensive review of current DIRS processes to determine the appropriate placement of DIRS maintenance responsibilities within the FCC.	FY 2024	Implementation is in progress
13-AUD-12-29	FY 2014 WCB Audit	07/29/2015	4.1	WCB should develop and implement a plan that ensures the closure of pending appeals in a timely manner and prioritizes the resolution of appeals filed 2010 and earlier.	FY 2024	Implementation is in progress
15-AUD-10-09	Audit of National Lifeline Accountability Database (NLAD)	03/26/2018	2.2	Require that USAC obtain written statements from state commissions and ETCs to confirm that their staff and agents who have NLAD access rights have successfully completed background investigations.	Recommendation has been submitted to the OIG for closure in May 2023.	Implementation is in progress
15-AUD-10-09	Audit of National Lifeline Accountability Database (NLAD)	03/26/2018	2.4	Require that USAC obtain written statements from state commissions, contractors, and ETCs confirming that their staff and agents who are granted access rights for NLAD have completed appropriate training to reduce the possibility that PII will be accessed, used, or disclosed inappropriately.	Recommendation has been submitted to the OIG for closure in May 2023.	Implementation is in progress
20-AUD-01-01	FY 2019 IPERIA Audit	06/15/2020	12	Develop policies and procedures that (a) acknowledge the interdependent relationships between FCC, the TRS Fund Administrator, and TRS providers; (b) address the responsibilities of each party to manage risks of improper payments; and (c) describe methodologies used to obtain assurance that each party manages its risks of improper payments appropriately and as intended.	FY 2024	Implementation is in progress

Section 2 - Implementation Status of OIG Public Recommendations for which Final Action Has Not Been Completed

Report Number	Report Title	Issued Date	Rec. No. in OIG Report	Recommendation	Timeline for Full Implementation	Justification for Decision Not to Implement
22-AUD-01-01	FY 2021 PIIA Audit	6/28/2022	9	Develop and implement a written IP and UP risk assessment methodology that incorporates the ERM framework from OMB Circular A-123, to assist in the identification and management of payment integrity risk and support whether the program is susceptible to making Ips and/or Ups. The methodology should include a risk scoring or weighting factor for each program and associated risk [Repeat]	Recommendation has been submitted to the OIG for closure in August 2023.	Implementation is in progress
22-AUD-01-01	FY 2021 PIIA Audit	6/28/2022	14	Direct USAC to continue enhancing applicant outreach programs to educate applicants on the S&L program rules, especially rules relating to the competitive bidding processes. Specifically, this may include implementing measures, such as gauging applicant participation to ensure applicants are cognizant of the material being presented or requiring mandatory, comprehensive training for new applicants. [Repeat]	Recommendation has been submitted to the OIG for closure in August 2023.	Implementation is in progress
22-AUD-01-01	FY 2021 PIIA Audit	6/28/2022	15	Enhance the use of automation tools in E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC) to check invoices for common errors and invoices that are flagged as high risk of non-compliance with program invoicing requirements. [Repeat]	Recommendation has been submitted to the OIG for closure in January 2024.	Implementation is in progress
22-AUD-01-01	FY 2021 PIIA Audit	6/28/2022	17	Through the OMB annual data call, include measurable milestones to accurately report IP information on paymentaccuracy.gov and achieve compliance. [Repeat]	FY 2024	Implementation is in progress

Section 2 - Implementation Status of OIG Public Recommendations for which Final Action Has Not Been Completed

Report Number	Report Title	Issued Date	Rec. No. in OIG Report	Recommendation	Timeline for Full Implementation	Justification for Decision Not to Implement
17-AUD-08-04	FY 2017 DATA Act Performance Audit	11/07/2017	2	Ensure that as technical and operational issues arise during the TRS Fund Administrator DATA Act implementation, the TRS Fund Administrator, in conjunction with the FCC, coordinate with OMB and Treasury to work through any issues in real time. The FCC should document all significant issues encountered that required OMB and Treasury involvement.	Recommendation has been submitted to the OIG for closure in November 2023.	Implementation is in progress
19-AUD-08-05	FY 2019 DATA Act Performance Audit	11/08/2019	2	Continue to coordinate with the TRS Fund administrator to develop a DATA Act project plan. The TRS Fund project plan should include an expected timeline and steps to implement necessary changes to systems and business processes to capture, link, reconcile, and report on award-level financial and spending information. The TRS Fund Administrator, in coordination with the FCC, should develop and execute a project plan that conforms with Steps 1 through 8 of the DATA Act Implementation Playbook (Version 2.0).	Recommendation has been submitted to the OIG for closure in November 2023.	Implementation is in progress
21-AUD-08-06	FY 2021 DATA Act Performance Audit	11/08/2021	4	Develop and implement policies and procedures to ensure FCC communicates new guidance to its components. This can include holding regular meetings with the components to ensure all new guidance is communicated and interpreted consistently across the FCC entity.	Recommendation has been submitted to the OIG for closure in September 2023.	Implementation is in progress
21-AUD-08-06	FY 2021 DATA Act Performance Audit	11/08/2021	5	Develop and implement oversight policies and procedures to ensure component entities report financial assistance awards timely.	Recommendation has been submitted to the OIG for closure in September 2023.	Implementation is in progress

Section 2 - Implementation Status of OIG Public Recommendations for which Final Action Has Not Been Completed

Report Number	Report Title	Issued Date	Rec. No. in OIG Report	Recommendation	Timeline for Full Implementation	Justification for Decision Not to Implement
21-AUD-08-06	FY 2021 DATA Act Performance Audit	11/08/2021	7	Coordinate with USAC management to develop and implement processes for obtaining all required data elements from awardees prior to issuing an award. This may include updating or creating program forms to include all required data elements needed for FABS submission.	FY 2024	Implementation is in progress
21-AUD-08-06	FY 2021 DATA Act Performance Audit	11/08/2021	8	Develop and implement oversight policies and procedures for monitoring data reported by component entities to ensure that all DATA Act information is being reported timely, accurately, and completely.	FY 2024	Implementation is in progress
21-AUD-10-01	FY 2021 Emergency Broadband Benefit Program Performance Audit	6/21/2022	1	Increase the scrutiny of the manual verification process, including implementing a multilevel review process that includes reviews of the supporting documentation in comparison to the application.	Recommendation has been submitted to the OIG for closure in July 2022.	Implementation is in progress
FYs 2016-2022 FISMA EVALUATION Reports	FY 2016-2022 Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 (FISMA) Evaluation	Various	multiple	The annual FISMA evaluation report is intended to improve the effectiveness of the FCC's information security program controls in the areas of Risk Management, Configuration Management, Identity and Access Management, and Information Security Continuous Monitoring. As of 11/30/23, total FY 2016-2022 FISMA recommendations that are unimplemented for one year or more is six recommendations.	FY 2024	Implementation is in progress

Response to Congressional Inquiries Concerning GAO Recommendation

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRWOMAN

February 17, 2023

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-307 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Chair:

On September 29, 2022, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report entitled "Hispanic Workers Are Underrepresented in the Media, and More Data Are Needed for Enforcement Efforts." The report examines: (1) the representation of Hispanics in the media industry over the last decade; (2) steps selected media companies publicly reported taking to increase workforce diversity; and (3) how key federal agencies have enforced federal Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) requirements in the industry.

In the report, the GAO concludes that Hispanic workers are underrepresented in the media industry compared to their representation in the rest of the U.S. workforce. Given the important role the media plays in educating and entertaining the public, this report highlights an important issue for the Federal Communications Commission and other federal agencies. Diverse representation in the media industry matters, both in employment in the industry and in viewpoints presented, and the Commission needs accurate information about representation in order to effectively carry out our EEO obligations. Furthermore, gaps in data sharing between federal agencies may hinder EEO efforts. In addition, unions play an important role in helping some media workers obtain employment, and some unions are required to file reports on member demographics with the EEOC.

To produce the report, the GAO analyzed data from the Census Bureau and interviewed stakeholders, including organizations representing media workers and employers. The GAO also reviewed diversity reports published on the websites of large media companies. The GAO additionally interviewed federal officials and reviewed agency documents and enforcement data. The Federal Communications Commission was among the agencies that cooperated with the GAO for this study.

The report makes three recommendations for executive action: (1) the Chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) should work with the FCC to develop a new memorandum of understanding that includes a plan for the EEOC to routinely share data with the FCC regarding discrimination charges filed against broadcasters and cable and satellite television

operators; (2) the Chair of the FCC should work with the EEOC to develop a new memorandum of understanding that includes a plan for the EEOC to routinely share data with the FCC regarding discrimination charges filed against broadcasters and cable and satellite television operators; and (3) the Chair of the EEOC should improve the EEOC's approach to routinely identify local unions required to file an EEO-3 report to help ensure that they file such reports on the demographics of union members.

I appreciate the recommendation for FCC action that the GAO provides in the Report. I agree that coordination between federal agencies is important and that this is especially true with regard to the issues raised in the GAO Report. In the Commission's August 25, 2022, response to the draft report, the FCC's Chief of the Media Bureau and Acting Chief of the Enforcement Bureau concurred that receiving relevant data from the EEOC would assist the Commission both in carrying out our EEO obligations and in the preparation of industry reports, and noted that the FCC has held initial discussions with the EEOC regarding the establishment of an agreement to cooperate. The current plan is to continue these discussions as we determine how to best implement the GAO recommendation.

I hope the above information helps. I would be happy to answer any further questions and provide you with updates in the future.

Sincerely,

Jessica Rosenworcel

cc: The Honorable Tony Cardenas
The Honorable Joaquin Castro
The Honorable Jimmy Gomez
The Honorable Juan Vargas
The Honorable Nydia Velazquez

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRWOMAN

May 11, 2023

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Chair:

In November 2022, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) publicly released a report entitled "Satellite Licensing: FCC Should Reexamine Its Environmental Review Process for Large Constellations of Satellites." (Report). The Report examines (1) how federal agencies consider potential environmental or other effects from large constellations of commercial satellites, and (2) how the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) determines whether licensing large constellations or commercial satellites is categorically excluded or requires an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The Report makes three recommendations to the FCC. These are: (1) the FCC should review whether licensing large constellations of satellites normally does not have significant effects on the human environment and document FCC's resulting decision (Recommendation 1); (2) the FCC should establish a timeframe and process for a periodic review of its categorical exclusion under NEPA, and publish both on the FCC website (Recommendation 2); and (3) the FCC should identify the factors that FCC will consider in determining whether an extraordinary circumstance is present when reviewing licenses for large constellations of satellites and make the results available to the public (Recommendation 3).

I appreciate the recommendations GAO provides in the Report regarding the Commission's consideration of potential environmental or other effects from the increasing number of large constellations of satellites. The FCC regulates the use of non-federal spectrum by space and earth stations in the public interest as an independent multimember Commission established by Congress in the Communications Act of 1934.[1] The Commission has established rules and processes to promote United States leadership in the emerging space economy, and it assesses the suitability of these rules and processes for the increasing number of satellites and new activities in space.[2] In their October 12, 2022 comments on GAO's draft report (FCC

[1] The majority of the rules governing these stations, including space stations, are found in Part 25 of the Commission rules. *See* 47 CFR part 25.

[2] *See* Orbital Debris in the New Space Age, *Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, 35 FCC Rcd. 4156 (2020) (updating the Commission's orbital debris mitigation rules and seeking further comment on

Comment Letter), the Chief of the International Bureau and the Acting Chiefs of the Office of Engineering and Technology and the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau noted that the Commission is committed to ensuring that its actions, including satellite licensing activities, are in compliance with the requirements of NEPA. I echo these same sentiments.

As recognized in the FCC Comment Letter, Recommendations 1 and 3 involve applicability of NEPA to activities undertaken primarily in an outer space environment, which the FCC has recognized as presenting a new and novel issue.[3] The FCC reviews each satellite application or petition on a case-by-case basis, evaluating facts specific to each filing to determine whether the grant of such application or petition would serve the public interest. In this context, the FCC coordinates with other government agencies on issues of mutual interest, including those involving environmental and other effects, and benefits from their input and expertise. The FCC will continue to review applications and petitions on a case-by-case basis under its rules, including the rules implementing NEPA.

The FCC will consider any potential future action under these three recommendations, in a manner consistent with the Council of Environmental Quality's (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA.[4] As noted, in the FCC Comment Letter, the CEQ is in the process of revising its NEPA regulations, and we expect that those rules will require Federal agencies to update their NEPA implementing procedures to conform to the new CEQ regulations.[5] We

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proposals for further mitigation); Space Innovation; Mitigating Orbital Debris in the New Space Age, *Second Report and Order*, FCC 22-74 (2022) (adopting a rule requiring operators to dispose of their satellites in low-Earth orbit within five years after mission completion)). *See also* Space Innovation; Facilitating Capabilities for In-Space Servicing, Assembly, and Manufacturing, *Notice of Inquiry*, FCC 22-66 (2022) (a notice of inquiry seeking to establish a record on the current state of the industry regarding in-space servicing, assembly, and manufacturing capabilities, including orbital debris remediation and active debris removal, and seeking comment on what FCC processes are most appropriate for efficiently licensing these missions and what, if any, changes may need to be made to FCC rules to facilitate development of these technologies).

[3] *Space Exploration Holdings, LLC, Request for Modification of the Authorization for the SpaceX NGSO Satellite System*, Order and Authorization and Order on Reconsideration, 36 FCC Rcd. 7995, 8037, para. 77 (2021) (SpaceX Third Modification Order). Some parties filed a lawsuit in federal court to challenge the SpaceX Third Modification Order, among other issues raising NEPA-related issues. The United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit dismissed the petition for review of the NEPA-related issues on August 26, 2022, finding that one of the NEPA petitioners lacked standing and the other had not demonstrated an injury to an interest protected by NEPA. *Viasat, Inc. v FCC*, 47 F.4th 769 (D.C. Cir. 2022).

[4] *See* https://ceq.doe.gov/laws-regulations/regulations.html (stating that CEQ oversees NEPA implementation, principally through issuing guidance and interpreting regulations that implement NEPA's procedural requirements. CEQ also reviews and approves Federal agency NEPA procedures. CEQ is responsible for developing procedures for Federal agency implementation of NEPA. CEQ's NEPA implementing regulations are found at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508. These procedures were initially promulgated in 1971 as guidelines, and were then issued as regulations in 1978).

[5] In July 2020, CEQ made wholesale revisions to the NEPA regulations for the first time in more than 40 years. That final rule was published on July 16, 2020, and became effective on September 14, 2020. CEQ is now engaged in a comprehensive review of the 2020 rule pursuant to E.O. 13990 (January 20, 2021). CEQ issued an Interim Final Rule on June 29, 2021, which extended the deadline by two years (to September 14, 2023) for Federal agencies to develop or update their NEPA implementing procedures to conform to the CEQ regulations. On April 20, 2022, CEQ issued the Phase 1 Final Rule. The rule finalizes a narrow set of changes to generally restore regulatory provisions that were in effect for decades before the 2020 rules modified them for the first time. *Id.* Separately, CEQ is developing a Phase 2 rulemaking to propose comprehensive revisions to the 2020 regulations and has stated that it intends to issue a second proposed rule for notice and public comment.

anticipate that the FCC will conduct a review of its NEPA rules following the issuance of the revised CEQ rules, including a review of whether licensing large constellations of satellites normally does not have significant effects on the human environment (Recommendation 1) and, if such actions remain subject to a categorical exclusion, the factors that the FCC will consider in determining whether an extraordinary circumstance is present (Recommendation 3). We expect that, as part of that assessment, the Commission will consider whether to establish a timeframe and process for periodic review of our existing categorical exclusion (Recommendation 2).

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Report and would be happy to discuss further if you have any questions. We look forward to continuing to engage with GAO in the future.

Sincerely,

Jessica Rosenworcel

cc: The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
The Honorable Brian Schatz

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRWOMAN

July 24, 2023

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chairwoman
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Chair:

In January 2023, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) publicly released a report titled "Affordable Broadband, FCC Could Improve Performance Goals and Measures, Consumer Outreach, and Fraud Risk Management." (Report). In the Report, GAO makes nine recommendations to assist the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or Commission) enhance the Affordable Connectivity Program's (ACP) performance goals and measures, language translation process, consumer outreach plan, and various processes for managing fraud risk. Specifically, GAO recommended the Commission: (1) ensure that ACP performance goals and measures align with key attributes of effective performance goals and measures (Recommendation 1); (2) revise the language translation process for developing ACP non-English outreach materials (Recommendation 2); (3) develop a consumer outreach plan to educate eligible consumers about ACP that aligns with leading practices for consumer outreach planning (Recommendation 3); (4) develop and implement a process, with clearly defined responsibilities and sources of information on fraud risks, for conducting fraud risk assessments for ACP at regular intervals and when there are changes to the program or operating environment (Recommendation 4); (5) develop and implement an antifraud strategy for ACP that aligns with leading practices in the GAO Fraud Risk Framework (Recommendation 5); (6) develop processes to monitor antifraud controls related to preventing duplicate subscribers in ACP (Recommendation 6); (7) develop processes to monitor antifraud controls related to subscriber identity verification in ACP (Recommendation 7); (8) develop processes to monitor antifraud controls related to subscriber address validation in ACP (Recommendation 8); and (9) use information obtained from monitoring processes to improve the design and implementation of FCC's fraud risk management activities in ACP (Recommendation 9).

I appreciate the recommendations GAO provided in the Report and am pleased to inform you that the Commission has undertaken an aggressive and robust corrective plan to address and resolve each of GAO's nine recommendations. This corrective action plan is detailed in the December 23, 2022, response to the GAO draft report. The Commission's strategy involves multiple tasks for recommendations 1 to 3 and individual tasks for recommendations 4 to 9, totaling 27 separate tasks to enhance the ACP's performance goals and measures, consumer outreach, and fraud risk management.

In less than six months since the Report's release, corrective action tasks addressing recommendations, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, have been implemented, and Commission staff continue efforts to obtain close-out approval from GAO on each. Actions completed include development of new policies and procedures on fraud risk management, development of an anti-fraud strategy aligned with GAO's best practices, establishment of a governance body for fraud risk management, and strengthened internal controls to prevent ACP duplicate identification and prevention, subscriber identity verification, and subscriber address validation. Ongoing efforts continue to resolve GAO's Recommendation 1, which include surveys, metrics, and outreach efforts to track ACP progress in reducing the digital divide, increasing program participation, and measure application difficulty. In addition, a multi-faceted translation plan designed to promote the ACP in 12 languages is underway to address Recommendation 2. Concerning Recommendation 3, innovative outreach efforts continue to make progress in educating consumers about ACP that aligns with leading practices for consumer outreach planning. Finally, in response to Recommendation 9, analytic efforts continue to progress with the objective of improving the ACP's fraud risk management design.

To date, the Commission's plan has resulted in completion of 55 percent of the GAO Recommendations with the goal to close out all recommendations before the end of 2023. I hope the above information helps. I would be happy to answer any further questions and provide you with updates in the future.

Sincerely,

Jessica Rosenworcel

cc: The Honorable Roger F. Wicker
The Honorable John Thune

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRWOMAN

November 1, 2023

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Chair:

On April 25, 2023, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report entitled "Broadband Speed: FCC Should Improve its Communication of Advanced Telecommunications Capability Assessments." (Report No. GAO-23-105655) The report examines (1) the extent to which the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has communicated how it reviews its minimum fixed-broadband speed benchmark, and how it determines whether to update the benchmark; and (2) the extent to which the minimum speed requirements of selected federal and state broadband programs differ from the FCC's benchmark, and stakeholders' views on any implications of these differences.

In the report, the GAO observes that section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 requires the FCC to assess broadband deployment by issuing a notice of inquiry and determining whether advanced telecommunications capability is being deployed in a reasonable and timely fashion to all Americans. As the GAO states, the FCC currently uses a speed benchmark to help measure when a fixed broadband service (e.g., fiber, cable) is providing advanced telecommunications capability. As part of past notices of inquiry, the FCC has solicited public comment on the status of broadband deployment and the fixed speed benchmark, among other topics. At the same time, as the GAO points out, section 706 does not explicitly require the FCC to set a speed benchmark to measure deployment of advanced telecommunications capability or to follow a set process for measuring deployment.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act included a provision requiring the GAO to review the FCC's establishment, review, and update of the fixed broadband speed benchmark. The resulting GAO report concludes that the "FCC's reporting of the analysis and data it considers when assessing whether to raise the speed benchmark has been inconsistent and falls short of FCC's goal of having a transparent process." According to the GAO, "by reporting publicly on its analysis, the public would better understand FCC's decision making and be less likely to see decisions regarding the benchmark as arbitrary." The GAO states that it reviewed relevant laws, regulations, and agency documents, and compared the FCC's efforts to assess broadband deployment to the FCC's strategic plan and relevant internal controls. The GAO also

interviewed FCC employees; selected federal and state officials; industry associations; broadband providers; and research organizations to obtain their views on the FCC's process for determining the deployment of advanced telecommunications capability.

As a result of its conclusions, the GAO recommends that the FCC Chair "should provide consistent communication in [the FCC's] reporting of how it determines whether advanced telecommunications capability is being deployed and when updating the related metrics it uses to assess broadband speeds and deployment." As stated in the April 4, 2023 comments to the draft GAO report, the FCC agrees that transparency and consistency are important principles to follow as we determine whether advanced telecommunications capability is being deployed in a reasonable and timely fashion to all Americans. Moreover, the FCC is committed to data-driven decisions on the advanced telecommunications capability evaluation metrics, as well as vigorous engagement with the record that is developed as part of the public comment process. Toward that end, in July of last year, I circulated to my fellow Commissioners a draft Section 706 Report Notice of Inquiry that would seek comment from the public on whether advanced telecommunications capability is being deployed in a reasonable and timely fashion. In response to GAO's recommendation, on July 19, 2023, I shared a revised draft Section 706 Report Notice of Inquiry which seeks comment on ways the FCC can provide consistent and transparent communications to the public about how it reviews, and determines whether to update, the advanced telecommunications capability evaluation metrics required by Section 706. On October 25, 2023, the Commission adopted the Seventeenth Section 706 Report Notice of Inquiry, and will provide 30 days for comments, and 45 days for reply comments, following publication in the Federal Register. The Commission expects a robust record in this proceeding.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the GAO's report, and I would be happy to answer any further questions and provide you with updates in the future.

Sincerely,

Jessica Rosenworcel

cc: Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
Senate Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
House Committee on Agriculture
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
House Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government