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Response to Broadband Opportunity Council Notice and Request for Comment
Comments on Question G.26. – Comments on RUS Community Connect Grant Program
6-10-15

The RUS Community Connect Program has been very effective in supporting broadband deployment using FTTP technology in rural communities. This comment addresses one of the community eligibility requirements for the Community Connect Program. Under current rules, if a community has access to 3Mbps of bandwidth from a cellular phone, that community is ineligible for the Program.

Our comment is that 3Mbps of bandwidth from a terrestrial wireless provider is not equivalent to a FTTP service. Wireless companies offer service that includes restrictive and expensive data usage plans. FTTP providers typically offer unrestricted data usage plans and up to 1Gbps of bandwidth.

FTTP deployment in many rural community is restricted by the 3Mbps eligibility requirement. We would like to see the eligibility requirement revised to not reference terrestrial wireless broadband service.

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