

Connect America Fund Webinar

Expanding the State Access Tool:
Providing Carrier Data to State Utility Commissions

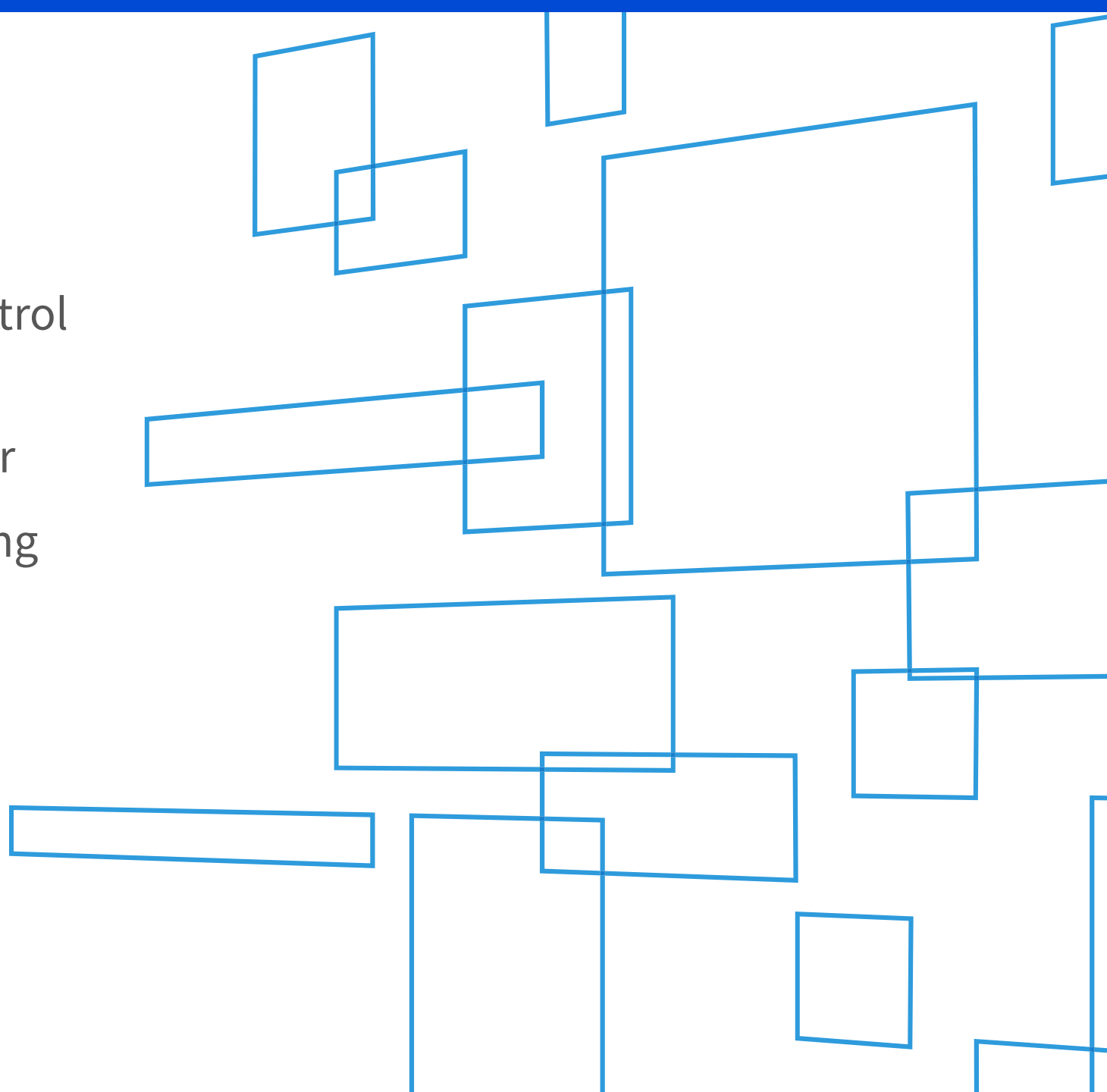
August 5, 2020



Universal Service
Administrative Co.

Housekeeping

- Use the “Audio” section of your control panel to select an audio source
- Turn on your computer’s speaker, or
- Use the call-in instructions (including audio PIN)



Welcome

Today's Speakers:

Joelle Tessler

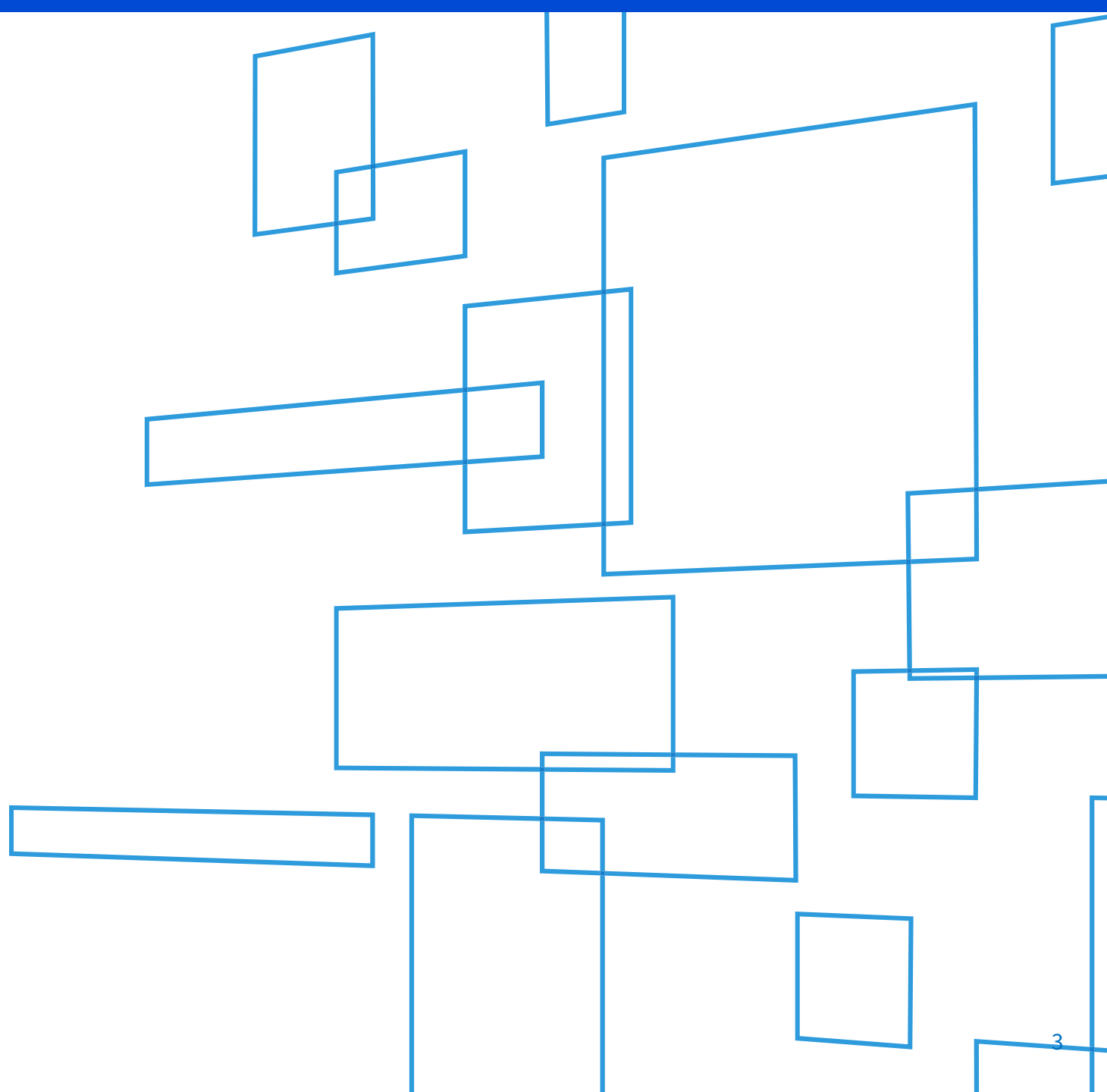
Senior Manager of Stakeholder
Engagement and Outreach

and

Donna Jolly

Senior Project Manager

High Cost/Connect America Fund



Connect America Program

Program Goals

- Preserve and advance universal availability of voice service
- Drive universal availability of modern networks capable of providing voice and broadband service to homes, businesses and community anchor institutions
- Drive universal availability of modern networks capable of providing advanced mobile voice and broadband service
- Ensure that rates for broadband and voice services are reasonably comparable in all regions of the nation
- Contain administrative costs and minimize the universal service contribution for consumers and businesses through efficient, effective program management

Connect America Program

Modernization of the High Cost Program Creates the **Connect America Fund**

Since 2011, a series of FCC modernization orders has radically transformed the High Cost Program to create the **Connect America Fund**

Legacy

- High Cost
- Voice
- Maintaining service
- Cost-based funding
- Forms-based reporting requirements
- Beneficiary audits
- Compliance

Modernized

- Connect America
- Voice and broadband
- Maintaining and expanding service
- Incentive-based support
- Systems-based portal
- In-program deployment verification
- Success

State Access Tool

Single Source of Carrier Data For State Utility Commissions

- Allows state commissions to review and download:
 - ◇ Annual Form 481 filings and attachments submitted by carriers as of July 1, 2020
 - Financial and operational data
 - ◇ High Cost Universal Broadband (HUBB) data certified by carriers as of May 28, 2020
 - Broadband deployment data listing the locations where carriers that receive CAF support had built out mass-market, high-speed Internet service as of Dec. 31, 2019
- State Access Tool serves as a single source of data for state utility commissions to use to perform the annual certification of carriers under their jurisdiction that are eligible to receive High Cost support (pursuant to 47 CFR § 54.314)
- **States must complete this annual Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) certification in the 54.314 system by Oct. 1, 2020**

FCC Form 481

Annual submission required of all carriers that receive High Cost support (except Mobility Fund support)

- Filing due annually on July 1
- Contains operational and financial information used to validate carrier support, including:
 - Functionality in emergency situations
 - Tribal lands reporting
 - Rate comparability
 - Balance sheets, income statements, cash flow statements for privately held Rate of Return carriers

FCC Form 481 (cont.)

Annual submission required of all carriers that receive High Cost support

- Carriers file using online 481 system, accessible through USAC's E-file system
- Starting with the 2018 filing year, USAC provides public access to most Form 481 data
 - Carriers can request confidential treatment of data not considered confidential by default
 - FCC makes determination on confidentiality requests
- USAC provides state commissions and tribes with access to all Form 481 data for carriers that serve their states and territories
 - Carriers no longer have to file Form 481 separately with state commissions and tribes

FCC Form 481 (cont.)

Annual submission required of all carriers that receive High Cost support

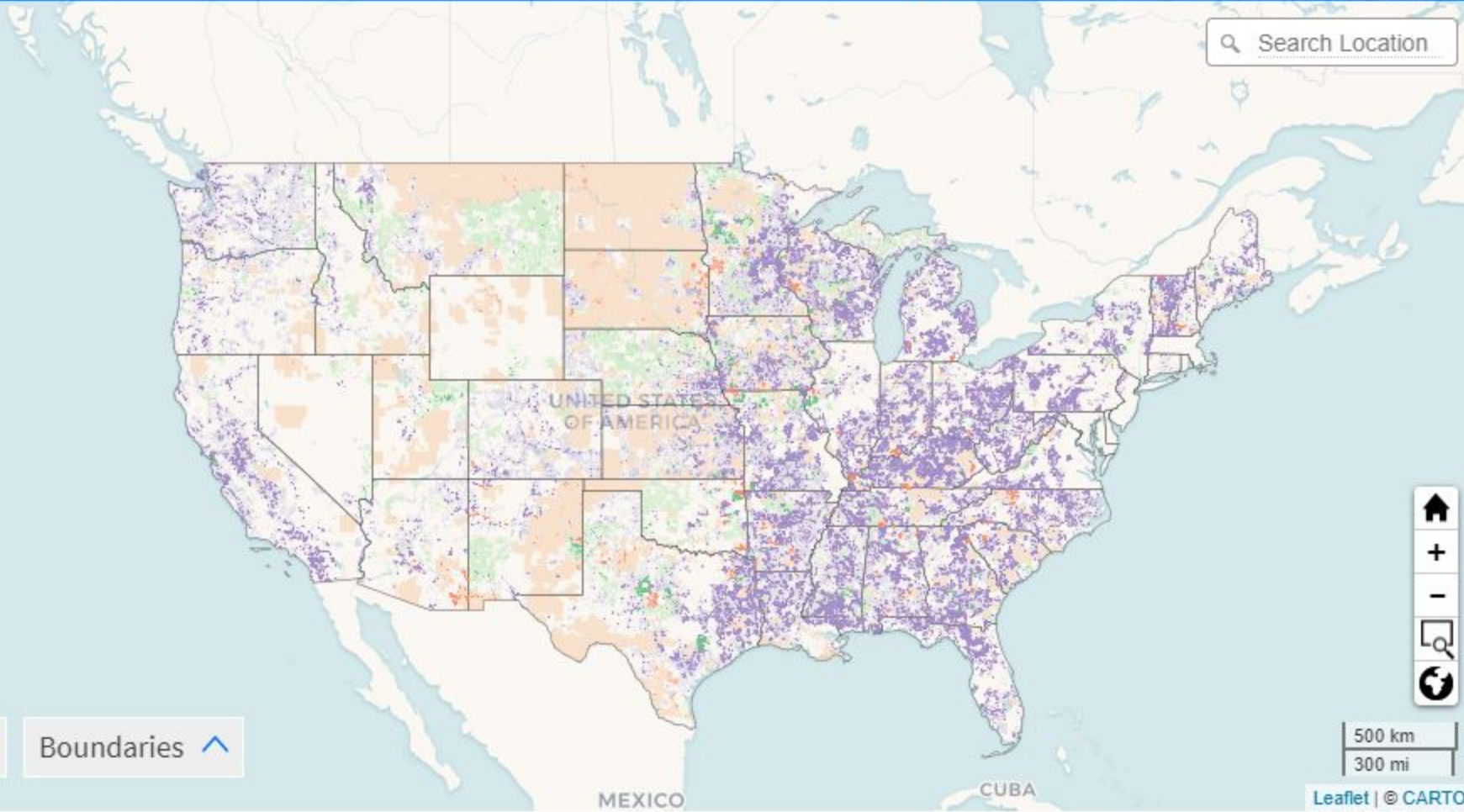
- USAC is planning two updates to the Form 481 data in the state access tool:
 - To incorporate capital expenditure spending reported by CAF Phase II Auction participants
 - ◇ CAF II Auction carriers were unable to report Cap Ex spending (out of total support received) until after the July 1 filing deadline due to a system issue
 - ◇ CAF II Auction participants are updating this data now and USAC will update it in the state access tool later in August
 - To add electronic copies of the annual USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers submitted by carriers to satisfy the Form 481 financial reporting obligation
 - ◇ FCC has temporarily waived this filing requirement after USDA temporarily waived financial reporting requirements for RUS loan recipients due to the Covid outbreak
 - ◇ ETCs must provide RUS report to USAC at the same time it is due to USDA and that timing is TBD

High Cost Universal Broadband (HUBB) Portal

A system that collects location information showing where carriers are deploying broadband using CAF support

- A tool for collecting location-specific service availability data from carriers participating in modernized CAF programs. Data includes:
 - Carrier name
 - Address
 - Latitude and longitude coordinates
 - Deployment year
 - Speeds available
- Provides real-time validation of data submissions and serves as a platform for verification
- Annual March 1 filing deadline for locations deployed in the previous calendar year
- **State Access Tool contains 2019 deployment data certified by carriers in the HUBB as of May 28, 2020**

Feedback



Fund

All Funds ▼

State

All States ▼

Company Name

Search Company Name

Speed (Applicable only to Local Data)

All Speeds ▼

Deployment Year

All Years ▼

Clear All Filters

State Data

Local Data

Displaying 1-25 of 762 records | [Download Data](#)

State ▲	Fund	Company Name	Deployment Year	Locations Obligation	Locations Deployed	Total Support Disbursed
---------	------	--------------	-----------------	----------------------	--------------------	-------------------------

Funds Currently in the HUBB

Carriers participating in the following funds had until **March 2, 2020** to file geolocation data for all locations deployed in **2019**:

- **Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase II Model:** CAF II carriers had to be at least 80 percent of the way deployed toward their total build-out obligations by the end of 2019 or face potential loss of support. This 80 percent build-out milestone applies in each state where the carrier receives support.
- **Alternative Connect America Cost Model (A-CAM), Revised ACAM and ACAM II**
- **Connect America Fund-Broadband Loop Support (CAF-BLS)**
- **Rural Broadband Experiments (RBE)**
- **Alaska Plan** (other than carriers with individualized performance plans that only require them to maintain service at existing levels)
- **CAF Phase II Auction** (optional)

Carriers that did not deploy any locations in 2019 were still required to log into the HUBB and certify "no locations to upload" by March 2, 2020.

Funds New to the HUBB in 2020

Several funds were new to the HUBB with the March 2020 filing window:

- **Revised A-CAM** and **ACAM II** were required to file any locations deployed in 2019 by **March 2, 2020**
 - ACAM II carriers have until March 1, 2021 to report pre-2019 deployment
 - ACAM and Revised ACAM locations should already have pre-2019 deployment in the HUBB
 - ACAM carriers had until March 2019 to report locations deployed by Dec. 31, 2017, along with 2018 deployments
 - This also applies to Revised ACAM carriers since they were in the original ACAM group
 - USAC will migrate existing locations already in the HUBB - filed as original ACAM locations by carriers now participating in Revised ACAM, and filed as CAF BLS locations for carriers now participating in ACAM II – before deployment milestones for those funds hit
- **CAF Phase II Auction**
 - HUBB filing is optional for this year; Not required to file in the HUBB Until March 1, 2021

Funds New to the HUBB in 2020 (cont.)

Also new in 2020: all **CAF-BLS** carriers became subject to HUBB reporting obligations and had until **March 2, 2020** to report broadband deployment completed in 2019

- This included CAF-BLS carriers that were previously exempt from HUBB reporting obligations because they had already built out 10/1 Mbps broadband to at least 80 percent of their study area
- These carriers have until March 1, 2021 to report pre-2019 broadband deployment at speeds of at least 25/3 Mbps completed since May 25, 2016 (the date the original Rate of Return reform order took effect)
- CAF BLS carriers that were fully deployed to all locations in their study area with 25/3 Mbps broadband before May 25, 2016, or become fully deployed, will have satisfied the CAF BLS buildout obligation.

Questions?

