

USAC and the Connect America Fund

Filing in the HUBB Portal

January 19, 2021



Universal Service
Administrative Co.

Connect America Fund 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 Fund Compliance

USAC closely monitors carrier compliance with broadband deployment obligations to safeguard the accountability, transparency and integrity of the Connect America Fund.

Compliance process consists of three steps:

HUBB Portal: Tracking Broadband Deployment

Verification Reviews: Confirming Broadband Deployment

Performance Testing: Measuring Network Speed and Latency

High Cost Universal Broadband (HUBB) Portal

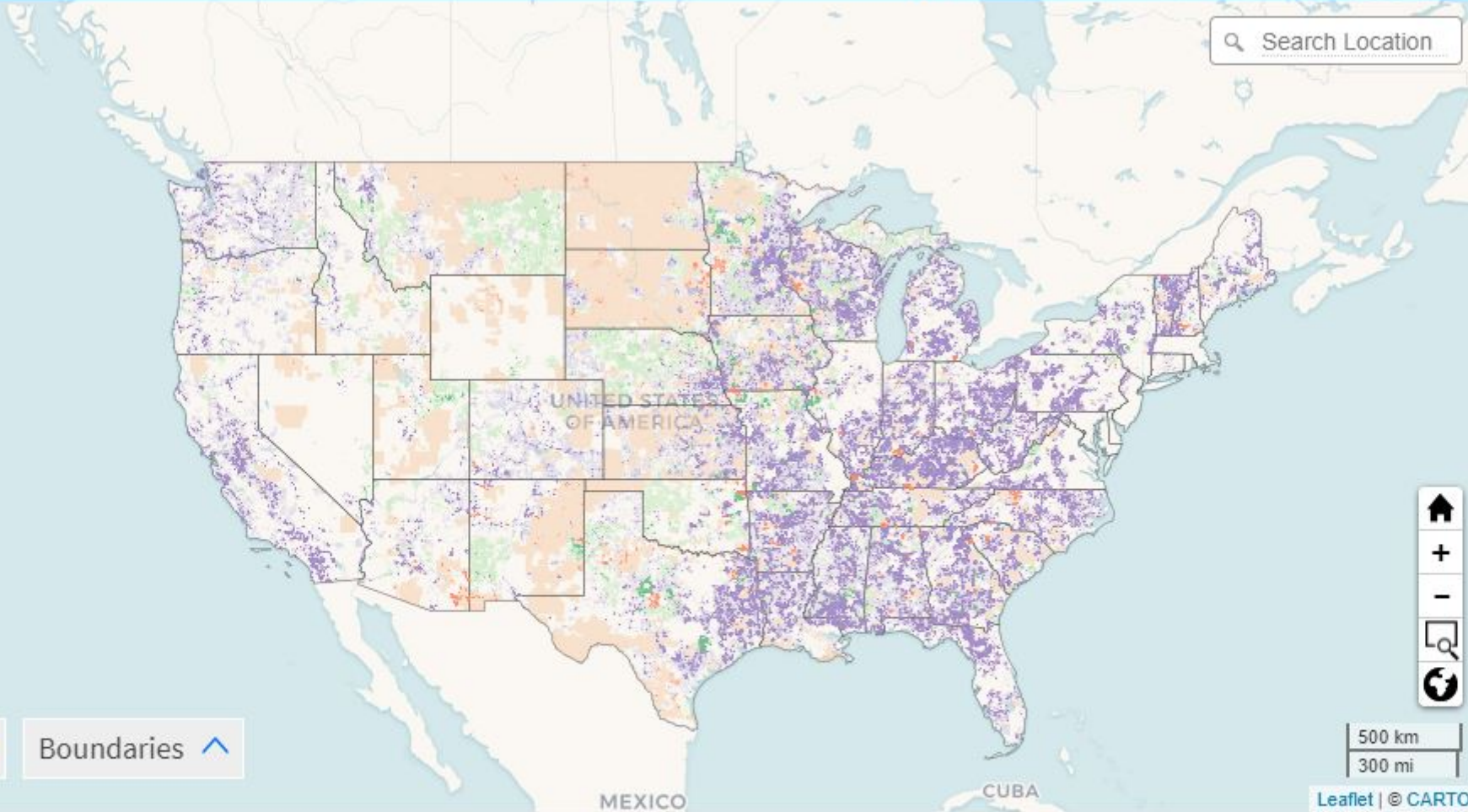
A system that collects the geographic coordinates (latitude and longitude) of locations where carriers are deploying broadband using CAF support

- Tool for collecting location-specific service availability data from carriers across all Connect America Fund (modernized) programs – millions of individual records
- Performs automated, real-time validation of data submissions
 - Checks that latitude and longitude of a reported location fall within area eligible for funding
 - Checks that the location is not a duplicate of one already submitted
- Tracks carrier progress toward meeting deployment obligations, including interim milestones
- Annual HUBB filing deadline is in March for carriers to report broadband deployed with CAF support in the prior calendar year or certify “no locations to upload”

High Cost Universal Broadband (HUBB) Portal

- Serves as a starting point for verification reviews to confirm deployment to a statistically valid, random sample of locations reported by carriers
 - All carriers participating in CAF programs with deployment obligations are subject to verification reviews tied to mandatory deployment milestones
 - Goal is to verify that a carrier deployed broadband meeting FCC's minimum performance standards to a qualifying number of locations by the relevant deployment milestone
 - Original and Revised ACAM carriers face first verification reviews in 2021
- Serves as a starting point for Performance Measures testing framework to ensure that CAF-funded broadband service meets basic speed and latency standards
 - Requires carriers to conduct speed and latency testing at a USAC-selected random sample of CAF-supported locations with active subscribers on a quarterly basis
 - CAF II Model carriers start official testing in 2021, and Original and Revised ACAM, RBE and Alaska Plan carriers start pre-testing in 2021

Feedback



Search Location

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

Legend Boundaries

500 km
300 mi
Leaflet | © CARTO

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
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2020 Milestones and 2021 HUBB Filing Obligations by Fund

Fund	HUBB Filing	Milestone	Notes
CAF II Model	Y	Y – 100 percent	CAF II Model carriers should be fully built out by end of 2020
ACAM I and Revised ACAM	Y	Y – 40 percent	First deployment milestone: 40 percent of fully funded locations at speeds of at least 10/1 Mbps
ACAM II	Y	N	Deadline to report pre-2019 deployments is 3/1/21
CAF-BLS	Y	N	All CAF-BLS Carriers Must File; Deadline to report pre-2019 deployments is 3/1/21
RBE	Y	Rolling	Rolling deployment milestones
Alaska Plan	Y	N	Other than carriers with individualized plans
CAF Phase II Auction	Y	N	First mandatory HUBB filing in 2021

- **Carriers have until March 1, 2021 to file data for all locations deployed in 2020 or certify no locations to upload**
- **ACAM I and Revised ACAM:** First milestone due - must be at least 40 percent of the way toward meeting their final fully funded build-out obligations by the end of 2020 (locations must deliver speeds of at least 10/1 Mbps or better)
- **CAF-BLS:** All CAF-BLS carriers must file in the HUBB
- **Alaska Plan** (Other than carriers with individualized plans that only require them to maintain existing service)

HUBB Filing Obligations

- **Carriers that did not deploy any locations in 2020 must still log into the HUBB and certify "no locations to upload" by March 1, 2021**
- **Carriers with 2020 deployment milestones – including CAF II Model, Original ACAM and Revised ACAM carriers - must also complete a separate milestone certification as part of the annual HUBB filing**
 - Carriers will face verification reviews of their 2020 deployment milestones following the March 1, 2021 filing deadline
 - Carriers found to have missed deployment milestones face increased reporting obligations and potential loss of support
 - USAC is currently updating ACAM milestone tracking functionality in the HUBB and has turned off this certification functionality until this is complete

HUBB Filing Obligations

- All **CAF-BLS** carriers are subject to HUBB reporting obligations
 - This includes CAF-BLS carriers that were exempt from HUBB reporting obligations in the past 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, along with 2020 deployments
 - 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, have satisfied their buildout obligation
 - USAC and the FCC will develop a process for these carriers to certify to full deployment. **Fully deployed carriers should not file any locations built before May 25, 2016 in the HUBB.**
- **ACAM II** carriers have until March 1, 2021 to report pre-2019 (and 2020) broadband deployment
 - ACAM II milestone tracking will be updated in the HUBB after filing deadline
- **CAF II Auction** carriers must file with the HUBB for first time this year (March 2020 filing was optional)
 - CAF II Auction milestone tracking will be added to the HUBB after filing deadline

HUBB Data Filing Process

Compile
Data

Enter
Data

Validate
Data

Certify
Data

Certify
Milestone

Use templates to compile location data, using Geolocation best practices

Upload template with location data to the HUBB

Location data validated by HUBB – address any errors or warnings

Certifying Officer certifies location data in the HUBB

Certifying Officer certifies milestone in the HUBB (if applicable)

HUBB Home Screen

Select Application

HUBB ▾

- Home
- Manage Uploads
- Location Details
- Milestone Certification and Reporting

Select Holding Company/ Carrier Name

Carrier Name ▾

Carrier Name

Deployment Information

ALASKA ▾ AK ▾ 2019 ▾

Progress for

Carrier Name



- Locations certified towards target
- Locations saved but not certified (Not yet counted towards your Target)
- Locations not saved or certified

Select Application

[Home](#)[Manage Uploads](#)[Location Details](#)[Milestone Certification and Reporting](#)

Manage Uploads

Use the form entitled CSV Template to upload data. For more information on how to use these and how to format your data, click on Detailed Instructions and Filing Guidance Q&A. For bulk deleting data from previously uploaded file, use the form entitled Bulk Deletion Template. For bulk updating data from previously uploaded file, use the form entitled Bulk Modification Template.

The "deployment year" is derived by the system from the deployment date provided in each qualifying uploaded record that should be reported to USAC. The year associated with the deployment date is used as the "deployment year".

The HUBB permits carriers to file records for multiple deployment years at once. Timeliness is based on the due date for the deployment year associated with each record. That is, if records are filed prior to the deployment year due date, they are considered on-time. If records are filed after the deployment year due date, they are considered late. For example, on March 15, 2018, a CAF-BLS recipient files some records for the 2017 deployment year (report due March 1, 2018) and some records for the 2018 deployment year (report due March 1, 2019). The records associated with the 2017 deployment year are considered late as they were filed after the 2017 deployment year due date (March 1, 2018). The records associated with the 2018 deployment year are considered on-time as they were filed before the 2018 deployment year due date (March 1, 2019).

[Upload Location File](#)[No Locations To Upload](#)[Upload Bulk Deletion File](#)[Upload Bulk Modification File](#)

Help with Uploading

[Detailed Instructions](#)[Filing Guidance Q&A](#)[CSV Template](#)[Bulk Deletion Template](#)[Bulk Modification Template](#)

HUBB Manage Uploads Screen

Resources

- Detailed Instructions Available
- Filing FAQ
- New Locations Template
- Bulk Deletion Template
- Bulk Modifications Template

Actions

- Upload New Locations File
- No Locations To Upload
- Upload Bulk Deletion File
- Upload Bulk Modifications File

Upload Location File

No Locations To Upload

Upload Bulk Deletion File

Upload Bulk Modification File

HUBB Manage Uploads Screen

Recently Uploaded Files



File Name	File Type	Uploaded	Progress	Records Uploaded	Data Errors & Warnings	Data Details
Certified Modification 9-23.csv	Bulk Modification	Sep 23, 2019 11:04:15 AM	Complete	1	0 0	Certify Data
Certified Modification 9-23.csv	Bulk Modification	Sep 23, 2019 11:03:04 AM	Complete	1	1 0	Error Log
Certified Deletion 9-23.csv	Bulk Delete	Sep 23, 2019 11:02:45 AM	Complete	1	0 0	-



- View Status of New Locations Uploads
- View Status of Bulk Modifications and Deletions
- Download and View Error Log
- Certify Data for New Locations and Modified Locations

No Locations To Upload

Select Fund: AK PLAN | Deployment Year: 2020

I certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier
613023 - UNITED UTILITIES INC.

To the best of my knowledge, the information submitted to USAC and certified in the filing for this deployment report is accurate and information submitted to USAC and certified in earlier filings for the broadband deployment report continues to be accurate.

In the Deployment Year selected, the reporting carrier(s) did not deploy to any locations in eligible areas in satisfaction of its (their) public interest obligations (For example, if you selected 2018 in the drop down above, you are certifying that from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018 the reporting carrier(s) did not deploy to any locations in eligible areas in satisfaction of its (their) public interest obligations.)

Please enter the holding company name:
*

To sign digitally, please enter your name [MM SPO]:
*

Certify

HUBB No Locations To Upload



Select Application

HUBB

Home

Manage Uploads

Location Details

Milestone Certification and Reporting

Location Details

Show locations by

Fund

AK PLAN

Deployment Year

2020

Status

Not Certified

Uploaded From

From

Uploaded To

To

Show More

Actions

- Certify
- Delete
- Revert
- Download

Carrier Location ID

Search Lat, Long, ID or SAC

10 record(s). Select all 167 records that match the filters above.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SAC	Certified On	Carrier Location ID	Latitude	Longitude	Date of Deployment	Speed Tier	State	Locations	View/Edit
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	613023	11/20/2018		63.034618	-163.553605	8/15/2018	1	AK	1	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	613023	11/20/2018		63.032551	-163.557346	8/15/2018	1	AK	1	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	613023	11/20/2018		63.032441	-163.555522	8/15/2018	1	AK	1	

HUBB Location Details Screen

Actions

- Certify Locations
- Delete Locations
- Revert Prior Certification
- Download Locations for Bulk Modifications and Deletions



Select Application

HUBB 

HUBB Milestone Certification and Reporting Screen



Home


Manage Uploads



Location Details



Milestone Certification and Reporting

Milestone Certification and Reporting

 Select a fund 

AK PLAN 

 State selected: AK 

 SAC selected: 613023 

Fields may automatically populate based on your uploaded file.
You may edit your fields at any time.

In the table below, click a deployment year to view your uploaded locations by speed tier.

Disclaimer: This report provides feedback as data is added or removed from the HUBB. The information contained within this report is intended for informational purposes only to assist in compliance efforts and does not constitute a final determination of your compliance with the required performance obligations.

Build-out requirement (locations): 10008

Deployment Year	Locations Ready For Certification	Certified Locations	% of Certified Locations	Milestone Obligation %	Milestone on Target?	Certified On	Milestone Certification Status	View History
2017	0	432	-		-	-		
2018	0	178	-		-	-		
2019	0	0	-		-	-		
2020	0	0	-		-	-		

Milestone Certification



SAC selected: 100024



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Build-out requirement (locations): **6659**

Deployment Year	Locations Ready For Certification	Certified Locations	% of Certified Locations	Milestone Obligation %	Milestone on Target?	Certified On	Milestone Certification Status	View History
2016	0	0	-		-	-		
2017	0	0	-		-	-		
2018	0	0	-		-	-		
2019	0	0	-		-	-		
2020	2000	6500	97.61%	40%	Yes	-	Certify	



HUBB New Locations CSV Template



Fields with an Asterisk (*) are Required

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	Study Area Code*	Latitude*	Longitude*	Date of Deployment*	Download/Upload Speed Tier*	Address*	City*	State*	Zip Code*	# of Units*	Carrier Location ID
2											
3											
4											
5											
6											
7											
8											
9											

HUBB Tips for Success

- Collect accurate location data – use geo-location best practices
- Start filing early to identify and fix any data errors
- Ensure all of your users can successfully log into HUBB
 - Contact your company officer for updates to user accounts
- Check the version of your Internet browser
 - Check Help for currently supported versions
- Download and use the most current version of the template
 - Found in HUBB and on HUBB resource page
- **Make sure to Certify your data and milestone (if applicable) after it has been saved**

HUBB Bulk Data Modifications and Deletions

- Ability to change or delete multiple HUBB location records at once through Bulk upload
 - Single location changes still available
- Separate CSV Templates for Bulk Modifications, Bulk Deletions and Additions (current)
- Modifications – changes to data fields for previously certified deployment locations
 - Speed Tier, Address, City, State, Zip Code, Carrier ID
 - Date of Deployment – Month and Day – (Changes to Year Requires FCC Approval)
 - Latitude and Longitude – within specific distance (≤ 36 ft)
- Modifications & Deletions Can be Uploaded by Any Carrier Role – Must be Certified by the Certifying Officer
- Deletions – removing previously certified deployment locations and replacing them
 - Changes to Deployment Year considered a deletion
 - Changes to Latitude and Longitude greater than specific distance (> 36 ft)
 - Reason required for all Deletions
 - For Deleted Locations – Resubmit New Locations
 - Retain records to demonstrate link to original location being replaced for verification purposes

HUBB Resources

For more information about the HUBB,
please visit the HUBB Resources Page
on the High Cost Website:

<https://www.usac.org/high-cost/annual-requirements/submit-data-in-the-hubb/>

Resources include:

HUBB [FAQs](#)

[Guide](#) to Geolocation Practices

Multifactor Authentication Troubleshooting [Steps](#)

(for E-File access)

Confirming Broadband Buildout

For more information about the verification process,
please visit the Verification Page
on the High Cost Website:

<https://www.usac.org/high-cost/resources/fund-verification-reviews/>

Resources include:

Verification webinar [recording](#)

Verification webinar [presentation](#)

Performance Measures Testing

For more information about performance measures testing,
please visit the Performance Measures Page
on the High Cost Website:

<https://www.usac.org/high-cost/annual-requirements/performance-measures-testing/>

Resources include:

[FCC information](#) about the performance measures testing program

[Charts](#) showing acceptable test paths and remote server locations

List of [vendors](#) that are helping carriers with speed and latency testing

Quick tips [guide](#) to the PMM

Performance measures testing webinar [recording](#)

Performance measures testing webinar [presentation](#)

Questions?

