USAC and the Connect America Fund

Filing in the HUBB Portal

January 19, 2021
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
### 2020 Milestones and 2021 HUBB Filing Obligations by Fund

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

- **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

1. **Compile Data**: Use templates to compile location data, using Geolocation best practices.
2. **Enter Data**: Upload template with location data to the HUBB.
3. **Validate Data**: Location data validated by HUBB – address any errors or warnings.
4. **Certify Data**: Certifying Officer certifies location data in the HUBB.
5. **Certify Milestone**: Certifying Officer certifies milestone in the HUBB (if applicable).
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 data 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 DLS report 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).

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
Recently Uploaded Files

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>File Name</th>
<th>File Type</th>
<th>Uploaded</th>
<th>Progress</th>
<th>Records Uploaded</th>
<th>Data Errors &amp;Warnings</th>
<th>Data Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certified Modification 9-23.csv</td>
<td>Bulk Modification</td>
<td>Sep 23, 2019 11:04:15 AM</td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0 / 0</td>
<td>Certify Data</td>
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<td>0 / 0</td>
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</table>

- 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
HUBB No Locations To Upload
HUBB Location Details Screen

**Actions**
- Certify Locations
- Delete Locations
- Revert Prior Certification
- Download Locations for Bulk Modifications and Deletions
## Milestone Certification and Reporting

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): 10068

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deployment Year</th>
<th>Locations Ready For Certification</th>
<th>Certified Locations</th>
<th>% of Certified Locations</th>
<th>Milestone Obligation %</th>
<th>Milestone on Target?</th>
<th>Certified On</th>
<th>Milestone Certification Status</th>
<th>View History</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>432</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
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<td>178</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Milestone Certification

**Disclaimer**: This report provides feedback as data is added or removed from the NODB. 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): 6659

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deployment Year</th>
<th>Locations Ready For Certification</th>
<th>Certified Locations</th>
<th>% of Certified Locations</th>
<th>Milestone Obligation %</th>
<th>Milestone on Target?</th>
<th>Certified On</th>
<th>Milestone Certification Status</th>
<th>View History</th>
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<td>2016</td>
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<td>2017</td>
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<td>2018</td>
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<td>2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>6500</td>
<td>97.61%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>-</td>
<td><a href="#">Certify</a></td>
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</table>
HUBB New Locations CSV Template

Fields with an Asterisk (*) are Required

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<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
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<th>G</th>
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<th>J</th>
<th>K</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Study Area Code*</td>
<td>Latitude*</td>
<td>Longitude*</td>
<td>Date of Deployment*</td>
<td>Download/Upload Speed Tier*</td>
<td>Address*</td>
<td>City*</td>
<td>State*</td>
<td>Zip Code*</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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
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](https://www.usac.org/high-cost/annual-requirements/performance-measures-testing/) about the performance measures testing program
- [Charts](https://www.usac.org/high-cost/annual-requirements/performance-measures-testing/) showing acceptable test paths and remote server locations
- List of [vendors](https://www.usac.org/high-cost/annual-requirements/performance-measures-testing/) that are helping carriers with speed and latency testing
- Quick tips [guide](https://www.usac.org/high-cost/annual-requirements/performance-measures-testing/) to the PMM
- Performance measures testing webinar [recording](https://www.usac.org/high-cost/annual-requirements/performance-measures-testing/)
- Performance measures testing webinar [presentation](https://www.usac.org/high-cost/annual-requirements/performance-measures-testing/)
Questions?