

From: Native <Native@fcc.gov>

Subject: Recent FCC Actions of Potential Interest to Tribes

Date: April 10, 2020 at 7:11:28 AM MST

To: Undisclosed recipients: ;

Greetings from the Federal Communications Commission's Office of Native Affairs and Policy.

The Commission has released several items of potential interest to Tribes, one of which will be considered at the agency's April Open Meeting:

Proposing the 5G Fund for Rural America – On April 23, 2020, the Commission will consider a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that proposes establishing the 5G Fund for Rural America, and awarding up to \$9 billion in support over 10 years for the deployment of 5G mobile broadband services in rural areas, including \$680 million reserved to support 5G networks serving Tribal lands. An accompanying Order directs the FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau and the Office of Economics and Analytics to seek comment on and develop an adjustment factor to ensure sufficient auction support in areas with rugged terrain, sparse populations, or other factors affecting deployment costs. <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-363491A1.pdf> (Public Draft)

COVID-19 Telehealth Program and Connected Care Pilot Program – In March, the Commission voted to adopt a \$200 million telehealth program to support healthcare providers responding to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Congress appropriated the funds as part of the CARES Act. Through the COVID-19 Telehealth Program, the FCC will help healthcare providers purchase telecommunications, broadband connectivity, and devices necessary for providing telehealth services. The FCC also adopted final rules to stand up a Connected Care Pilot Program. This separate, three-year Pilot Program will provide up to \$100 million of support from the Universal Service Fund (USF) to help defray health care providers' costs of providing connected care services and to help assess how the USF can be used in the long term to support telehealth. <https://www.fcc.gov/fcc-approves-emergency-covid-19-telehealth-and-connected-care-pilot-programs>

On April 8, 2020, the Wireline Competition Bureau provided guidance on the COVID-19 Telehealth Program Application Process: <https://www.fcc.gov/document/guidance-covid-19-telehealth-program-application-process>.

Open Proceeding on Sharing Communications Outage Information with Eligible State and Federal Agencies – The Commission also recently released a Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for sharing detailed communications outage information with state and federal agencies to improve their situational awareness, enhance their ability to respond more quickly to outages affecting their communities, and help save lives, while also preserving the confidentiality of this data. The Commission's proposal would allow participating agencies to share Network Outage Reporting System (NORS) and Disaster Information Reporting System (DIRS) information with first responders and other government officials who play a vital public safety role in their jurisdictions during crises. Participating agencies would also be allowed to publicly disclose information that is appropriately aggregated and anonymized. The Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeks comment on the inclusion of Tribal Nation governments in the proposed information sharing framework. <https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-promoting-public-safety-through-fed-state-info-sharing-0>

On April 1, 2020, the FCC's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau released a Public Notice announcing the following comment and reply dates for the Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Comments are due April 30, 2020; Reply Comments are due June 1, 2020. <https://www.fcc.gov/document/pshsb-announces-comment-dates-fed-state-info-sharing-proposals>

If you have questions, please contact the Office of Native Affairs and Policy: Sayuri Rajapakse at sayuri.rajapakse@fcc.gov or Janet Sievert at janet.sievert@fcc.gov.

Matthew Duchesne
Chief, Office of Native Affairs and Policy
Federal Communications Commission
202.418.3629
matthew.duchesne@fcc.gov