



LANDS OF OPPORTUNITY: BRINGING TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES TO RURAL COMMUNITIES

FCC Federal Communications Commission
Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau
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This publication is intended to serve as a resource for local, state, and tribal government leaders, community planners, educators and health care professionals on:

- Programs and incentives available to assist in the development of telecommunications services;
- Assistance in developing infrastructure or basic and advanced telecommunications services; and
- Potential for advanced telecommunications services to promote economic growth in rural communities.

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LANDS OF OPPORTUNITY: Building Rural Connectivity

INTRODUCTION

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is an independent federal government agency directly responsible to Congress. The FCC was established by the Communications Act of 1934 to regulate interstate communications by radio, television, wire, satellite, and cable.

The core mission of the FCC, as established by Congress, is to make available, to the greatest extent possible, to all the people of the United States, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex, nationwide and worldwide quality communications services at reasonable charges and to promote safety of life and property through the use of communications services.

Through its Bureaus and Offices, the FCC:

- educates and informs consumers about telecommunications goods and services and engages their input to help guide the work of the Commission;
- enforces the Communications Act, as well as the Commission's rules, orders, and authorizations;
- represents the Commission in satellite and international matters;
- regulates AM radio, FM radio, and television broadcast stations;
- regulates the use of radio spectrum to fulfill the communications needs of individuals, businesses, governments, public safety service providers, aircraft, and ship operators; and
- develops rules and policies concerning telephone companies that provide international, interstate, and, under certain circumstances, intrastate wireline and wireless telecommunications services to the public.

