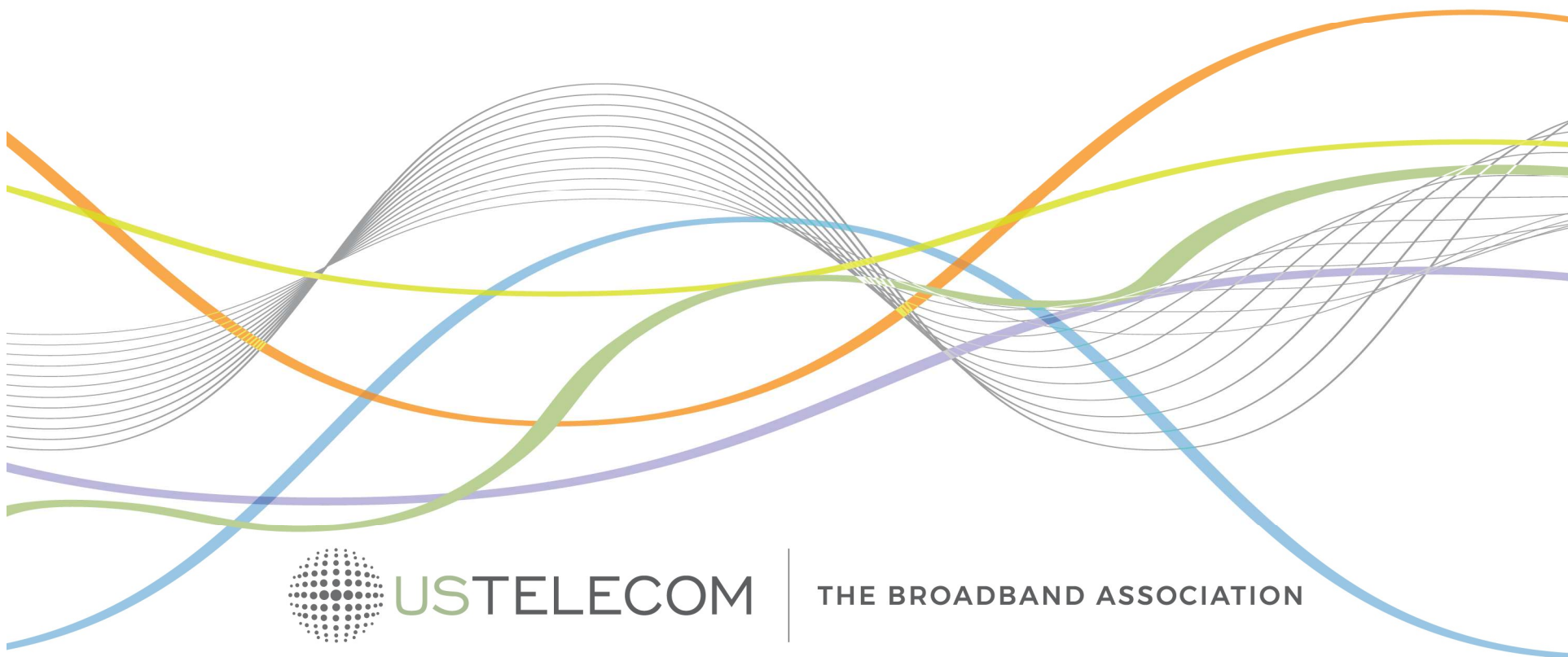


State of Broadband In a COVID World

Thursday, November 16, 2020



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THE BROADBAND ASSOCIATION

Major FCC Initiatives in Broadband Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF)

- \$20B Reverse Auction to aid in closing the digital divide (former Price Cap \$\$)
- Phase I - \$16B underway now
- Washington State:
 - 1,416 Census Block Groups
 - 103,155 Eligible Locations
 - \$54,729,320 Reserve Price
- Funds Authorized in Early 2021 for 10 Years
- Phase II - \$4B+ When Maps are Done
- Existing USF Budgets Have Not Grown Over Time



Major FCC Initiatives in Broadband Digital Opportunity Data Collection (DODC)

- Companion to Rural Digital Opportunity Fund
- Implements the Broadband DATA Act
- Requires Service Provider Submission of Service Areas by Polygon/Shapefile
- Adopts the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric
- Includes Challenge Process, Verification, Use of Crowdsourcing and Assistance for Small Providers



Major FCC Initiatives in Broadband Digital Opportunity Data Collection (DODC)

- Improves GRANULARITY of what is served and unserved
 - 38% of rural locations reported as served were actually unserved.
- Improves ACCURACY as to number of locations and will be updated.
 - 48% of rural locations counts do not match actual location counts.
- Improves PRECISION by creating system of uniform geocoding
 - 61% of rural locations were not in the correct structure location



Other Broadband Efforts

- NTIA
 - 2 year mapping effort that has collected some state data and created platform for viewing that data
- RUS Reconnect Program
 - \$200 million for grants
 - Up to \$200 million for 50/50 grant/loan combinations
 - Up to \$200 million for low-interest loans
 - Rural areas lacking access to fixed, terrestrial broadband service of least 10/1 Mbps



Other Broadband Efforts

- CARES Act
 - \$200 million for the Federal Communications Commission to award for telehealth services;
 - \$25 million for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Distance Learning, Telemedicine (DLT), and Broadband Program;
 - \$100 million in funding for USDA's ReConnect program;
 - \$13.2 billion to the Education Department for an "Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund," which included educational technology
- New Administration Likely Action – HEROS Act Lite
 - Would establish the "Emergency Broadband Connectivity Fund" (\$8.8 billion)

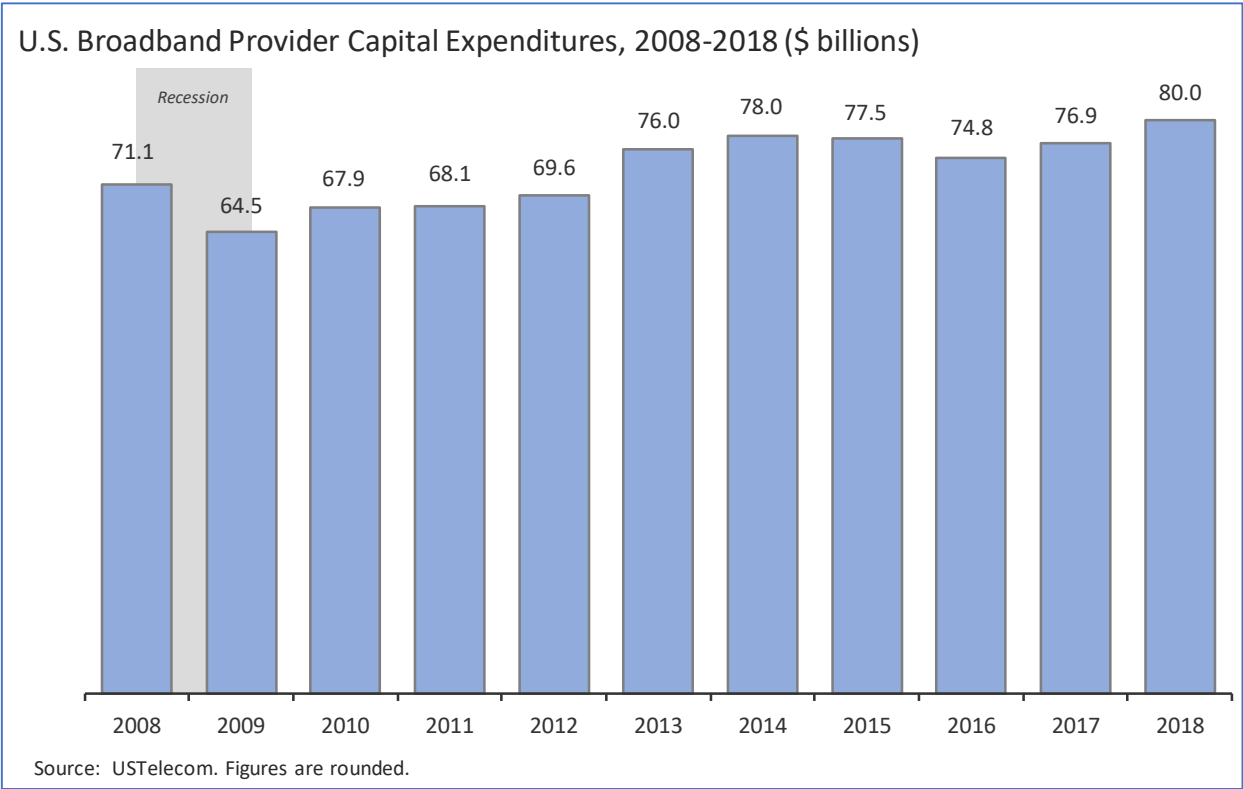


Broadband IS NOT A Utility

- COVID-19 Pandemic has reinforced that broadband is as essential as access to power and water.
- Regulating broadband like utilities is not a model to be emulated:
 - **TIME** - It took about 25 years to go from 10 percent to 70 percent electricity and it took 15 years to make that same jump for broadband.
 - That timeline correlates to nearly another **30 years** see if broadband can fully match the pace of electricity adoption.
 - **PRICE** - BB prices have not risen as fast as electricity and are currently in decline.
 - **INNOVATION** –Light touch regulation allows for more superior innovation.
 - During COVID the U.S. has experienced resilient networks.
 - European networks (which are more heavily regulated) have experienced speed reductions.



Broadband Capex Fell in 2015 and Resumed Growth in 2017 with Return to Light Touch Regulation



Broadband IS NOT A Utility

- Utility style regulation would only take us backwards.
 - **Does not benefit our competition position as a country.**
 - **Does not help teachers.**
 - **Does not help families.**
 - **Does not help businesses and those working from home.**
 - **In a time when we are relying on broadband more than ever is not the time to hastily shift gears in regulation**



Questions????

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