
West Virginia ARPA Broadband Investment Plan FAQ

First Set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) (July, 2021)

Address Eligibility

Can an ISP respond to the Request for Comment on address eligibility by submitting the broadband coverage polygons that will be required by the FCC’s Digital Opportunity Data Collection Program?

While the FCC has not yet issued its final Order establishing the Digital Opportunity Data Collection program or requiring the submission of broadband coverage polygons per service tier, the requirement to submit this more granular information is inevitable. Because this information will soon be required by the FCC, and the FCC will make the information available publicly, it is encouraged that ISPs submit this information to the State Broadband Office in advance of the ARPA Broadband Investment Plan infrastructure grant Programs.

Has Frontier provided any information about its PSC obligation build plans, or is it getting credit for these areas without saying anything on its own?

No. The PSC Order approving Frontier’s reorganization does not specify which addresses Frontier may connect with fiber as part of its PSC obligation, nor does it require Frontier to publicly disclose the addresses of locations they connect with fiber under their PSC obligation until after they are connected.

These locations are being removed from possible funding because Frontier MIGHT build to them, but Frontier doesn't share that information?

Potential Frontier PSC obligation addresses are categorized as either “Likely Unserved” or “Likely Served.” Both categories may be considered eligible for funding at the end of the Comment Period depending on information received.

What about areas that are currently under construction with private funds? Are we not able to claim those addresses?

These areas can be considered on a case by case basis. If the addresses in question can be considered to have a dedicated funding source and a service provider with a binding commitment to serve, they can potentially be categorized as “Served” and therefore ineligible for funding. Otherwise, the addresses may be categorized as “Unserved” and the network developer would be able to seek grant funding for the area.

What are the data source(s) of the locations (addresses and coordinates)?

The West Virginia Emergency Management Division (WVEMD).

Can you provide clarification on addresses that extend past the end of line of an ISP provider? (For instance, on the same street) Are they considered "accessible" therefore, fall under the definition of "serviceable"?

Addresses are categorized as either “Unserved,” “Likely Unserved,” “Likely Served” or “Funded.” Neither “accessible” or “serviceable” are categories of consideration. Addresses that do not have cable or fiber infrastructure on the utility pole serving an address (if an aerial installation) may be categorized as “Unserved” if not “Funded.”

Is there a way to see why a particular location was labeled one way or another? For those locations where you used a methodology to determine they're likely to be served but they're not under Form 477 or existing funding obligation, can we see that information for specific locations?

“Likely Served” addresses are addresses that are within areas reported as served by FCC Form 477 filings.

Would there be funding available for "long drops" for example a 700" driveway that only serves one home?

Individual addresses requiring longer than average service drops will not be excluded from funding and will ultimately be categorized as either “Unserved,” “Served” or

“Funded.”

The address dataset available for download on the WV website does not contain zip codes for each address. Can these be made available?

The dataset for download on the broadband.wv.gov website has been updated with zip codes, counties and geo-coordinates.

Why was the decision made to allow builds to RDOF areas awarded to SpaceX and not allowed to other providers who have a proven history of ignoring contractual obligations?

Funding for anticipated broadband infrastructure grant programs will come from ARPA and the US Treasury Capital Projects Fund, and while Treasury has not yet released rules for the Capital Projects Fund it has released them for the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds and current assumptions are based on those rules. State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund rules for broadband infrastructure spending define locations eligible for funding as addresses that “lack access to a wireline connection capable of reliably delivering at least minimum speeds of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload [].” As such, addresses served by wireless service, including satellite, may be excluded from being categorized as “Served.”

How will network infrastructure maps -- critical infrastructure information -- be protected from public disclosure? The Request for Comment is not clear whether the facility maps will be presumed to be highly confidential and whether it will be adequately protected from public requests and public disclosure. Can you please discuss the planned confidentiality protections?

Entities that wish for information provided to the Office of Broadband to be treated in a confidential manner should clearly mark such materials as confidential.

Under W.Va. Code 31G-1A-5, materials provided to the Office of Broadband and its consultants and agents which are marked confidential, and which pertain to broadband deployment information, physical plant locations, subscriber levels, market penetration data, and any other information that constitute trade secrets or proprietary business information, are exempt from disclosure under the West Virginia Freedom of Information Act. The Secretary of Economic Development is responsible for securing

and safeguarding such information from public disclosure and administering appropriate security measures. Confidential information will only be shared within the Office of Broadband, to its agents and consultants, and officials or authorized persons of the state.

Can you confirm if data related to availability response for another network/ISP does not require supporting documentation in any particular format so long as an appropriate case is made?

The Other Network Comment Template form, on the Supporting Documents tab, lists various “Potential Supporting Documents” and the format required to submit that documentation.

What happens if Frontier's RDOF long-form application is rejected by the FCC?

The addresses within Frontier RDOF assigned census blocks may then be categorized as “Unserved.”

Some of the data needs cleaned. For example- when narrowing down the list to areas that we currently serve- Morgantown was spelled 4 different ways. Is there any way to fix that so we can accurately match addresses to our system?

These address formatting and spelling inconsistencies are present in the West Virginia Emergency Management Division (WVEMD) address database and to preserve the integrity of the data it has so far not been altered.