

required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or the Commission) invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collection. Comments are requested concerning: whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; the accuracy of the Commission's burden estimate; ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and ways to further reduce the information collection burden on small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees.

DATES: Written PRA comments should be submitted on or before January 27, 2026. If you anticipate that you will be submitting comments, but find it difficult to do so within the period of time allowed by this notice, you should advise the contact listed below as soon as possible.

ADDRESSES: Direct all PRA comments to Nicole Ongele, FCC, via email PRA@fcc.gov and to nicole.ongele@fcc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information about the information collection, contact Nicole Ongele, (202) 418-2991.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FCC may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the PRA that does not display a valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number.

OMB Control Number: 3060-1081.

Title: Sections 1.2002, 54.201, 54.202, 54.205, Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support.

Form Number: N/A.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Number of Respondents and Responses: 24 respondents; 28 responses.

Estimated Time per Response: 1-40 hours.

Obligation to Respond: Required to obtain or retain benefits. Statutory authority is contained in sections 201(b), 214(e)(6), and 303(r) of the

Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 201(b), 214(e)(6), 303(r).

Frequency of Response: One-time reporting requirement.

Total Annual Burden: 808 hours.

Total Annual Cost: No cost.

Needs and Uses: Section 254(e) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (Act) provides that "only an ETC designated under section 214(e) shall be eligible to receive specific Federal universal service support."

Section 214(e)(2) of the Act gives state commissions the primary responsibility for performing ETC designations.

Section 214(e)(6) vests the Commission with authority to designate as an ETC "a common carrier providing telephone exchange service and exchange access that is not subject to the jurisdiction of a State commission."

Section 214(e)(4) provides that state commissions, in a case of a common carrier designated under paragraph (2) of this section, or the Commission, in a case of a common carrier designated under paragraph (6) of this section, "shall permit" an ETC to relinquish its designation "in any area served by more than one" ETC so long as "the remaining [ETCs] ensure that all customers served by the relinquishing carrier will continue to be served," and the relinquishing carrier provides "sufficient notice to permit the purchase or construction of adequate facilities by any remaining eligible telecommunications carrier." The ETC must provide advance notice to the state commission or the Commission.

The Commission's rules for ETC designation require the collection of information specified below, except where the Commission has waived information collection requirements when enforcing them would not serve the public interest.

On October 20, 2023, the Commission adopted the *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket No. 10-90 et al. WT Docket No. 10-208, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Report and Order, FCC 23-87 (Oct. 20, 2023) (*Administrative Order*). In the *Administrative Order*, the Commission modified, in relevant part, section 205 of the Commission's rules, to require an ETC that intends to relinquish its ETC designation to provide: (1) advance notice to the state commission and to the Commission of such intention to relinquish, and (2) notice to the Commission of the state authority's decision to permit or deny such relinquishment, within 10 days of its decision. These filings must be submitted regardless of whether the ETC is currently receiving federal support. The Commission identified its statutory

authority to impose these requirements through section 254 of the Act and as reasonably ancillary thereto.

The Commission notes that information collections associated with the Lifeline-only ETC designations and relinquishments are reflected in OMB Control No. 3060-0819.

This information collection addresses the burdens associated with these requirements.

Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene Dortch,

Secretary, Office of the Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2025-21326 Filed 11-26-25; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[OMB 3060-0853; FR ID 319353]

Information Collection Being Submitted for Review and Approval to Office of Management and Budget

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burdens, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC or the Commission) invites the general public and other Federal Agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collection. Pursuant to the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act of 2002, the FCC seeks specific comment on how it might further reduce the information collection burden for small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees. The Commission may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. No person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information subject to the PRA that does not display a valid OMB control number.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted on or before December 29, 2025.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function. Your comment must be submitted into www.reginfo.gov per the

above instructions for it to be considered. In addition to submitting in www.reginfo.gov also send a copy of your comment on the proposed information collection to Nicole Ongele, FCC, via email to PRA@fcc.gov and to Nicole.Ongele@fcc.gov. Include in the comments the OMB control number as shown in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information or copies of the information collection, contact Nicole Ongele at (202) 418-2991. To view a copy of this information collection request (ICR) submitted to OMB: (1) go to the web page <http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>, (2) look for the section of the web page called “Currently Under Review,” (3) click on the downward-pointing arrow in the “Select Agency” box below the “Currently Under Review” heading, (4) select “Federal Communications Commission” from the list of agencies presented in the “Select Agency” box, (5) click the “Submit” button to the right of the “Select Agency” box, (6) when the list of FCC ICRs currently under review appears, look for the Title of this ICR and then click on the ICR Reference Number. A copy of the FCC submission to OMB will be displayed.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork burdens, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520), the FCC invited the general public and other Federal Agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the following information collection. Comments are requested concerning: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Commission’s burden estimates; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on the respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Pursuant to the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act of 2002, Public Law 107-198, see 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(4), the FCC seeks specific comment on how it might further reduce the information collection burden for small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees.

OMB Control Number: 3060-0853.

Title: Certification by Administrative Authority to Billed Entity Compliance with the Children’s internet Protection Act Form, FCC Form 479; Receipt of

Service Confirmation and Certification of Compliance with the Children’s internet Protection Act Form, FCC Form 486; and Funding Commitment and Adjustment Request Form, FCC Form 500.

Form Numbers: FCC Forms 479, 486 and 500.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit, not-for-profit institutions, and state, local or tribal government.

Number of Respondents and Responses: 84,010 respondents, 94,203 responses.

Estimated Time per Response: 1 hour for FCC Form 479, 1 hour for FCC Form 486, 1 hour for FCC Form 500, 0.75 hours for maintaining and updating the internet Safety Policy, and 0.5 hours for recordkeeping requirements.

Frequency of Response: On occasion and annual reporting requirements and recordkeeping requirement.

Obligation to Respond: Required to obtain or retain benefits. Statutory authority for this information collection is contained in 47 U.S.C. 151, 154(i), 155, 201, 205, 214, 219, 220, 254, 303(r), 403, and 1302.

Total Annual Burden: 78,319 hours.

Total Annual Cost: No cost.

Needs and Uses: The Commission will submit this information collection to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), which is an extension of a currently approved collection, to obtain a full three-year clearance from OMB. The requirements contained herein are necessary to implement the Congressional mandate for universal service. It provides the Commission and USAC with the necessary information to administer the E-Rate program, determine the amount of support entities seeking funding are eligible to receive, to determine if entities are complying with the Commission’s rules, and to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse. The information will also allow the Commission to evaluate the extent to which the E-Rate program is meeting the statutory objectives specified in section 254 of the 1996 Act, the Commission’s performance goals established in the *2014 First and Second E-Rate Orders*, and to evaluate the need and feasibility for any future revisions to program rules.

FCC Form 486 was revised. On July 29, 2024 the Commission released a Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (WC Docket No. 21–31, FCC 24–76) (*2024 Wi-Fi Hotspots Order*); finding that the off-premises use of wireless internet services and the Wi-Fi hotspot devices needed to deliver the services; serves an educational purpose

and are eligible for E-Rate support. The *2024 Wi-Fi Hotspots Order*, 89 FR 67303, August 20, 2024, would have added the following certifications to the FCC Form 486: applicants that receive support for Wi-Fi hotspots and service for off-premises use uses the FCC Form 486 to certify that they have updated and publicly posted their “acceptable use policy (AUP)” consistent with the requirements in 47 CFR 54.516(f); the Wi-Fi hotspots and/or services the school, library, or consortium purchased using E-Rate support for off-premises use have been activated and made available to students, school staff, and/or library patrons; public notice of their availability has been provided; and the authorized person is not requesting reimbursement for Wi-Fi hotspots and/or services that have not been made available for distribution. On September 30, 2025, the Commission adopted the *Hotspots Order on Reconsideration* (WC Docket No. 21–31, FCC 25–62) (*Hotspots Order on Reconsideration*), that rescinds the *2024 Wi-Fi Hotspots Order*, and removes the eligibility of E-Rate support for off-premises use of wireless mobile internet services and the Wi-Fi hotspot devices needed to deliver the services. The Wi-Fi hotspots and service-related rules, including the certifications, are no longer applicable and are removed from this information collection.

The hourly burden will increase by 10,044 hours for FCC Forms 479, 486, and 500. The public burden for the collection contained herein will increase to 78,319 burden hours.

FCC Form 486 “Receipt of Service Confirmation and Certification of Compliance with the Children’s internet Protection Act.” After the Administrator reviews the funding request and commits to fund the eligible equipment and/or services requested, applicants use the FCC Form 486 to notify USAC of their service start dates for their funding requests. Universal service support will not be paid on an approved funding commitment prior to receipt of the FCC Form 486.

Billed entities also use the FCC Form 486 to certify compliance with the Children’s internet Protection Act (CIPA), see 47 U.S.C. 254 (h)–(l), or qualification for a CIPA exemption when they seek discounts for category one services (*i.e.*, internet access) and category two services (*i.e.*, internal connections, managed internal broadband services, or basic maintenance of internal connections). When the billed entities are members of a larger consortia, they individually certify CIPA compliance by submitting the FCC Form 479 “Certification by Administrative Authority to Billed

Entity of Compliance with Children's internet Protection Act" to the consortium leader. The consortium leader can then file the FCC Form 486 certifying CIPA compliance on behalf of the consortia. CIPA requires schools and libraries that have computers with internet access to certify that they have in place certain internet safety policies and technology protection measures to be eligible to receive program services under section 254(h) of the Act. *See also* 47 CFR 54.520. The FCC Form 486 is also a necessary prerequisite for invoicing and payment.

FCC Form 500 "Funding Commitment Adjustment Request." The FCC Form 500 is used by E-Rate participants to make adjustments to previously filed forms, such as changing the contract expiration date noted on the FCC Form 471, changing the funding year service start date listed on the FCC Form 486, cancelling or reducing the amount of a funding request, and extending the service delivery deadline for non-recurring services.

All of the requirements contained in this information collection are necessary to implement the Congressional mandate for the E-Rate program and reimbursement process.

Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene Dortch,

Secretary, Office of the Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2025-21316 Filed 11-26-25; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

[MB Docket No. 25-322; DA 25-961; FR ID 319167]

Empowering Local Broadcast TV Stations To Meet Their Public Interest Obligations: Exploring Market Dynamics Between National Programmers and Their Affiliates

AGENCY: Federal Communications Commission.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: In this document, the Media Bureau seeks comment on the current market, regulatory, and contractual dynamics governing the relationship between local television broadcast stations and national programmers in order to identify any barriers that may be preventing local broadcast television stations from meeting their public interest obligations and responding to the needs of their local communities.

DATES: Comments are due by December 10, 2025. Reply Comments are due by December 24, 2025.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by MB Docket No. 25-322, electronically or on paper. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific information and addresses for electronic or paper filings.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathy Berthot, Federal Communications Commission, Media Bureau, Policy Division, *Kathy.Berthot@fcc.gov*, (202) 418-7454.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This is a summary of the Media Bureau's Public Notice, *Empowering Local Broadcast TV Stations to Meet Their Public Interest Obligations: Exploring Market Dynamics Between National Programmers and Their Affiliates*, MB Docket No. 25-322, DA 25-961, released on November 19, 2025. The full text of this document is available for public inspection and can be downloaded at <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-25-961A1.pdf>. Alternative formats are available for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format) by sending an email to fcc504@fcc.gov or calling the Commission's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice), (202) 418-0432 (TTY).

Comment Period and Filing Procedures. Interested parties may file comments on or before the dates provided in the **DATES** section of this document. Comments must be filed in MB Docket No. 25-322. Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS). See Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings, 63 FR 24121 (1998).

- All filings must be addressed to the Commission's Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission.

- *Electronic Filers:* Comments may be filed electronically using the internet by accessing the ECFS: <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/>.

- *Paper Filers:* Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and one copy of each filing. If more than one docket or rulemaking number appears in the caption of this proceeding, filers must submit two additional copies for each additional docket or rulemaking number.

- Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail and Priority Mail) must be sent to 9050 Junction Drive, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701.

- U.S. Postal Service first-class, Express, and Priority mail must be addressed to 45 L Street NE, Washington, DC 20554.

Procedural Matters

Ex Parte Rules. The proceeding this Public Notice initiates shall be treated as an "exempt" proceeding in accordance with the Commission's *ex parte* rules. *Ex parte* presentations are permissible and need not be publicly disclosed, but may be if the presenter chooses.

Synopsis

Congress has provided the FCC with broad and expansive authority over the provision of broadcast television service. Specifically, television broadcasters are required by both the Communications Act and the terms of their FCC-issued licenses to operate in the public interest. Television broadcasters have this public interest obligation because the government has given them the privilege of using a scarce national resource—the public airwaves—and in doing so has necessarily excluded others that might want to broadcast their own programming over that spectrum. This public interest obligation distinguishes television broadcasters from other types of program distributors, including cable companies, streaming services, podcasts, and more, that were never given free access to the public airwaves or a federal license to broadcast on that spectrum.

By this Public Notice, the Media Bureau continues its efforts to empower local television broadcasters to meet their public interest obligations. Consistent with longstanding FCC precedent and rules, we want to identify any barriers that may be preventing local broadcast television stations from meeting their public interest obligations and responding to the needs of their local communities. In doing so, we will focus here on seeking comment on the current market, regulatory, and contractual dynamics governing the relationship between local television broadcast stations on the one hand and national programmers on the other.

The obligation to operate a broadcast television station in the public interest is fundamental to holding Commission licenses. This obligation predates the Commission and the Communications Act of 1934, having been codified in the Radio Act of 1927. Consistent with the First Amendment, the Commission has afforded licensees leeway in meeting this obligation. But courts have long held that the First Amendment does not relieve a licensee of its public interest obligation, nor does it absolve the Commission of its statutory duty to ensure those licensees meet public interest requirements.