



UScellular
8410 W. Bryn Mawr Ave
Chicago, IL 60631

November 11, 2024

Dear Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, Office of Broadband,

UScellular provides wireless telecommunications services to customers, with over 4 million retail connections in portions of 21 states, collectively representing a total population of 32 million. UScellular has operated a carrier-grade network for over 40 years and therefore has a robust and strong history of owning, operating, and managing a broadband network, focused on the needs of rural, often underserved areas.

At UScellular, our mission is to connect customers to what matters most to them. This includes providing exceptional wireless communication services which enhance customers' lives, increase the competitiveness of local business, and improve the efficiency of government operations in the markets UScellular serves. UScellular's strategy is to attract and retain customers by providing a high-quality network, outstanding customer service, competitive devices, plans, and pricing – all provided with a local community focus. Specific to our network, UScellular continues to enhance its network capabilities, including deploying 5G technology. 5G technology helps address customers' growing demand for data services and creates opportunities for new services requiring a high-speed, low-latency, reliable network.

UScellular's initial 5G deployment leveraged low-band spectrum, bringing 5G services to portions of substantially all our markets. During 2023, UScellular continued to invest in 5G with a focus on deployment of mid-band spectrum, which will largely overlap portions of areas already covered with low-band 5G service. 5G service deployed over mid-band spectrum will further enhance speed and capacity for UScellular's mobility and fixed wireless services and can deliver the BEAD required 100/20 Mbps speeds.

Footprint wide, UScellular operates over 7,000 cell site locations, owning over fifty percent of these towers. In Virginia specifically, we have operated a carrier-grade network since 1992. Our network in Virginia covers 29 counties and includes over 300 cell towers that provide mobile and fixed broadband supporting over 160,000 subscribers, including nearly 7,000 fixed wireless subscribers.

Over our decades as a network operator, we have leveraged a combination of internal, patent developing technical resources and partnership with global entities such as Ericsson, Nokia, Qualcomm, and various device manufacturers, each bringing enhanced functionality and expertise. We have a robust engineering team that supports the operation of our network, addressing all aspects from RF design, transport, deployment of infrastructure and ongoing system performance and network monitoring.

In terms of network deployment, our infrastructure build project managers are highly experienced with tower build and tower upgrade projects, having worked with telecom builds for numerous years. Many of our Project Managers have their PMP certification, a formalized training in initiating, planning, executing, monitoring, and controlling projects with structure. UScellular, with its general contractors, prioritizes safety with all network deployments and requires robust training and certification for all contractors and subcontractors leveraged.

It is UScellular's policy, and practice, to comply with all local, state, federal and international laws, rules, and regulations that apply to any aspect of UScellular's operations. This includes compliance with the United States Government's requirements relevant to federal contractors and subcontractors. UScellular is firmly committed to equal employment opportunity for all, and we seek to ensure that there is no unlawful discrimination in all facets of employment and career development. We ensure our contractors comply with all laws, rules, and regulations via robust language in our Master Service Agreements. Additionally, deployment program specific stipulations are often included in our Statements of Work with contractors. Our strong commitment to conducting business with the highest ethical standards guides our work and protects our company's reputation.

UScellular has participated and been awarded grants from multiple infrastructure subsidy programs. This includes over 10 years of participation in Nebraska's NUSF program, through which we have been awarded funding to deploy new or upgrade approximately 80 towers throughout rural, underserved Nebraska. We were also awarded funds for 15 new towers in rural and underserved Missouri as part of their 2023 Missouri Cell Tower Program. We are proud of our history of delivering on our grants within the required timelines and on budget, complying with all necessary reporting requirements of any program we participate in.

UScellular was founded with an eye on the more rural and often forgotten areas of the county and we pride ourselves in understanding the needs of the communities in which we operate. We are committed to continuing to connect customers to what matters most and feel our forty plus year history as an operator of a carrier-grade wireless network qualifies us to continue expanding broadband service to un/underserved locations under the BEAD program.

Please reach out to me if more information is needed on any of these topics. Additionally, more detail can be found at our website, www.uscellular.com. Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Marci Morgan

Marci Morgan

Director of Strategy and Business Development

UScellular Operating Counties in Virginia

Given that UScellular does not operate in the full state of Virginia, if UScellular were to apply for BEAD funding in the state, it would fall in one or more of the following counties:

- Smyth County
- Grayson County
- Carroll County
- Wythe County
- Patrick County
- Floyd County
- Pulaski County
- Giles County
- Craig County
- Montgomery County
- Franklin County
- Henry County
- Roanoke County
- Alleghany County
- Botetourt County
- Bedford County
- Campbell County
- Halifax County
- Charlotte County
- Appomattox County
- Prince Edward County
- Cumberland County
- Buckingham County
- Fluvanna County
- Albemarle County
- Greene County
- Amherst County
- Rockbridge County
- Bath County