



July 13, 2020

Dear ISPs:

My name is Steven Porch, Chief Legal Counsel for the Arkansas Department of Commerce and Executive Broadband Manager for the AEDC Arkansas Rural Connect Grant Program. While Dr. Nathan Smith will continue to serve as the State Broadband Manager and will still be involved in the ARC broadband grant program, I will now give oversight to ARC.

I want to remind you that we have \$19.3 million in CARES Act funding for those of you who can deploy broadband to qualified areas before December 30, 2020. You do not have to deploy broadband to the entire area due to the flexibility of the deployment rate. However, you do have to tell us in your application what you can cover of the qualified area before December 30, 2020. You also need to include a letter with your application explaining how this deployment will assist with telemedicine/health, distance learning and telework.

Time is short so please take advantage of the \$19.3 million. We also have \$4.7 million for deployments that will take longer. Please give us a call with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "S. Porch", written over a blue circular scribble.

Steven Porch
Chief Legal Counsel and
Executive Broadband Manager for ARC Broadband Program
Arkansas Department of Commerce