



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

Office of Communications Business Opportunities

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Title: FCC Office of Communications Business Opportunities News Digest- November 2024

Greetings from the Federal Communications Commission.

The FCC's Office of Communications Business Opportunities (OCBO) acts as principal advisor to the Chairwoman and the Commissioners on issues, rulemakings, and policies that affect small businesses. OCBO promotes diversity, competition, and innovation in the provision and ownership of telecommunications and information services by supporting policies that create opportunities for small businesses, as well as policies that increase affordable access to communications technology for all small businesses.

To make it easy to engage with the FCC, OCBO publishes a monthly digest with updates and reminders that may be of interest to small business stakeholders. This list is not comprehensive of all FCC deadlines, programs, and initiatives, but does represent items that OCBO thinks might be important to the communities that you serve.

Please reach out to OCBO at OCBOinfo@fcc.gov with any questions, or to be added to our distribution list. A copy of this news digest is also available at www.fcc.gov/OCBO.

*Jeff Tignor, Acting Director
FCC Office of Communications Business Opportunities*

Important News and Updates

For daily news from the FCC, sign up for the FCC's Daily Digest at FCC.gov/daily-digest

FCC Announces Tentative Agenda for November 21, 2024 Open Commission Meeting

Chairwoman Rosenworcel announced that the following items are tentatively on the agenda for the November meeting, public drafts of each item are linked below and available at FCC.gov/november-2024-open-commission-meeting. Please reach out to OCBOinfo@fcc.gov with any small business inquiries about these items.

- **Updating Security for Vital Infrastructure**
The Commission will consider a [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) that would undertake the first major comprehensive review of the Commission's submarine cable rules since 2001. By this proceeding, the Commission seeks comment on how best to improve and streamline its submarine cable rules to facilitate efficient deployment of submarine cables while at the same time ensuring the security, resilience, and protection of this critical infrastructure. (OI Docket No. 24-523, MD Docket No. 24-524)
- **Enhancing Caller ID Authentication Rules**
The Commission will consider a [Report and Order](#) that would strengthen its caller ID authentication rules by authorizing the use of third parties in the authentication process subject to

limits that ensure accountability for compliance with the STIR/SHAKEN standards. (WC Docket No. 17-97)

- **Program Originating Boosters**

The Commission will consider a [Second Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration](#) that would adopt final service rules that will enable FM and low power (LPFM) broadcasters to use FM booster stations to originate program content. (MB Docket Nos. 20-401, 17-105)

FCC Proposes Expanding 6 GHz Band Operations For Very Low Power Devices

- By [News Release](#) on October 4, 2024, FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel proposed new rules to expand very low power device operations in additional spectrum in the 6 GHz band alongside other Wi-Fi-enabled devices. The FCC has, in recent years, expanded unlicensed use between 5.925 and 7.125 GHz, helping to usher in Wi-Fi 6E, set the stage for Wi-Fi 7, and support the growth of the Internet of Things.

Media Bureau Announces Filing Window for New Noncommercial Educational Television Stations

- In a [Public Notice](#) of October 10, 2024, the Media Bureau announced a NCE TV filing window. The Notice provides an overview of the procedures, filing requirements, and comparative selection process that will apply to the upcoming filing window for applications for new noncommercial educational television station construction permits. The window will open at 12:01 a.m. EST on December 4, 2024, and close at 6:00 p.m. EST on December 11, 2024.

FCC Requires All Mobile Phones to be Hearing Aid Compatible

- An October 17, 2024, [News Release](#) states the FCC adopted new rules establishing that 100% of all mobile handsets—such as smartphones—must be compatible with hearing aids. With this change, the 48 million Americans with hearing loss will be able to choose among the same mobile phone models that are available to all consumers. Under the new rules, after a transition period, Americans with hearing loss will no longer be limited in their choice of technologies, features, and prices available in the mobile handset marketplace.

FCC Accepting Applications for 2025 Attorney Honors Program

- The FCC has begun [accepting applications from graduating law students](#), recent law school graduates, and current judicial clerks for its Fall 2025 Attorney Honors Program. The application window opened on Friday, October 11, 2024, and closes on Thursday, November 21, 2024. The Attorney Honors Program is the FCC's primary vehicle for hiring entry-level attorneys. Participants selected for the Attorney Honors Program will serve in a two-year employment and training program designed to introduce them to the field of communications law and policy and to provide a wide variety of learning experiences. Application Window Runs from October 11 to November 21, 2024.

Amateur and Personal Radio Services Licensees and Operators May Not Use Radio Equipment to Commit or Facilitate Criminal Acts

- On November 4, 2024, the FCC's Enforcement Bureau issued an [Advisory](#) to remind licensees and operators in the Amateur and Personal Radio Services that they may not use radio equipment to commit or facilitate crimes.

Open Comment Periods

View all FCC proposed rulemakings at [FCC.gov/proposed-rulemakings](https://www.fcc.gov/proposed-rulemakings)

Data Caps in Consumer Broadband Plans. (WC Docket No. 23-199)

- FCC's, October 15, 2024, [Notice of Inquiry](#), explores the use of data caps for fixed and mobile broadband Internet service, and their corresponding impact on consumers and competition. Comments Due: November 14, 2024. Reply Comments Due: December 2, 2024.

FCC Extends Comment Period on Implications of Artificial Intelligence Technologies on Protecting Consumers from Unwanted Robocalls and Robotexts. (CG Docket No. 23-362)

- Through an [Order](#), of October 24, 2024, the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau granted, in part, a joint motion filed by several industry and consumer groups seeking a 30-day extension of time to file reply comments. Reply Comments Due: November 15, 2024.

FCC to Review Customer Support Offered by Broadband, Cable, and Phone Providers to Consumers

- Through an October 24, 2024, [News Release](#) the FCC announced the launch of a formal proceeding to review the quality of support cable, broadband, satellite TV, and voice service providers give their customers. The [Notice of Inquiry, Strengthening Customer Service in the Communications Industry](#), seeks information on current customer service practices. It aims to empower consumers to easily cancel subscriptions, talk to live customer service representatives, easily consent to or decline automatic service renewals, and improve the accessibility of customer service engagement among other things. Comments due: November 22, 2024. Reply Comments Due: December 9, 2024

Compliance Guides for Small Businesses

View all FCC Small Entity Compliance Guides at [FCC.gov/general/compliance-guides-small-businesses](https://www.fcc.gov/general/compliance-guides-small-businesses)

The Office of Communications Business Opportunities publishes small entity compliance guides (SECG). Compliance guides are intended to help small entities—small businesses, small organizations (non-profits), and small governmental jurisdictions—comply with the rules adopted in the FCC's rulemaking dockets.

Establishing the Digital Opportunity Data Collection, Modernizing the FCC Form 477 Data Program. (DA-24-1079)

- By [Delegated Authority](#) on October 16, 2024, the above titled, SECG was published. In the Establishing the Digital Opportunity Data Collection, Fourth Report and Order, the Commission adopted certain requirements mandated by the Broadband DATA Act, as well as rules that implemented improvements to the data collection.

Addressing the Homework Gap through the E-Rate Program. (DA-24-1083)

- By [Delegated Authority](#) on October 18, 2024, the above titled, SECG was published. In the *2024 E-Rate Hotspots Report and Order*, the Commission modernized the E-Rate program to meet the evolving needs of schools and libraries around the country by allowing E-Rate support for the

distribution of Wi-Fi hotspots and services to students, school staff, and library patrons for off-premises use.

Upcoming FCC Events

Please visit [FCC.gov/Events](https://www.fcc.gov/Events) for a complete FCC event Calendar

Task Force for Reviewing the Connectivity and Technology Needs of Precision Agriculture in the United States

- The FCC's Task Force for Reviewing the Connectivity and Technology Needs of Precision Agriculture in the United States will hold its next meeting via live internet link on December 5, 2024. The meeting will come to order at 10 a.m. EST. The meeting will be held via conference call and open viewing to the public via live feed from the FCC's web page at www.fcc.gov/live.

Communications Equity and Diversity Council

- The FCC's, third Communications Equity and Diversity Council meeting will occur on Friday, December 6, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The CEDC meeting will be held in a hybrid manner. The public may attend the meeting in person at FCC headquarters at 45 L Street NE, Washington, DC. The meeting also will be available to the public for viewing via the internet at <https://www.fcc.gov/live>.

Upcoming Federal Partner Events

National Veterans Small Business Week

- SBA celebrates and empowers service member, veteran, National Guard and Reserve member, and military spouse entrepreneurs during National Veterans Small Business Week (NVSBW), November 11-15, 2024. Events taking place across the country are continually added to the [NVSBW list](#).