



Date: 1/17/2025

Subject: FCC Office of Communications Business Opportunities News Digest—January 2025

Greetings from the Federal Communications Commission.

The FCC's Office of Communications Business Opportunities (OCBO) advises the Commission on issues, rulemakings, and policies that affect 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 Announcements

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

FCC OPENS ENTIRE 6 GHZ BAND TO VERY LOW POWER DEVICE OPERATIONS

On December 11, 2024, the FCC adopted a Third Report and Order expanding unlicensed very low power (VLP) device operation to the entire 6 GHz band. This action will provide additional spectrum for high-throughput, low latency operations for versatile portable devices, which will be instrumental in supporting cutting-edge applications, such as augmented and virtual reality and wearable technologies, that will help businesses, enhance learning opportunities, advance healthcare opportunities, and bring new entertainment experiences.

FCC NOTIFIES OVER 2,400 VOICE SERVICE PROVIDERS THAT THEY FACE REMOVAL FOR FAILING TO COMPLY WITH THE ROBOCALL MITIGATION DATABASE FILING REQUIREMENTS.

On December 17th, the FCC notified 2,411 companies that they must cure the deficiencies in their Robocall Mitigation Database (RMD) certifications and notify EB that the deficiencies have been cured, or explain why EB should not remove the certifications from the RMD.

FCC RELEASES FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR TCPA ONE-TO-ONE CONSENT RULES

On December 23, 2024, The Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau released a [Fact Sheet](#) responding to frequently asked questions about the FCC's new one-to-one consent rules for callers, which closed a loophole that had allowed certain callers to inundate consumers with unwanted

robocalls and robotexts. Under the Commission's new one-to-one consent rule—which takes effect on January 27, 2025—the Telephone Consumer Protection Act's (TCPA's) prior express written consent requirement applies to a single seller at a time. In other words, robocallers and robotexters must obtain a consumer's written consent for marketing messages for each seller.

FCC ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL CONGRESSIONAL FUNDING FOR "RIP AND REPLACE"

On December 26, 2024, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) and the Office of Managing Director (OMD) announced that the Spectrum and Secure Technology and Innovation Act of 2024 was signed into law as part of the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (2025 NDAA). Under this law, Congress authorized the Commission to borrow up to \$3.08 billion from the Treasury Department to fully fund the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program. Consistent with the 2025 NDAA, the Commission will take quick steps to secure the additional funding through the borrowing authority granted by Congress. For Questions, please contact the Fund Administrator Help Desk by email at SCRPFundAdmin@fcc.gov or by calling (202) 418-7540 from 9:00 AM ET to 5:00 PM ET, Monday through Friday, except for Federal holidays.

SECURE AND TRUSTED COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM FIFTH REPORT

On December 30, 2024, the Wireline Competition Bureau released its fifth congressionally required report on the implementation of the Reimbursement Program and the work done by recipients to permanently remove, replace, and dispose of covered communications equipment or services.

FCC ADOPTS STRICTER ROBOCALL MITIGATION DATABASE FILING REQUIREMENTS

On December 30, 2024, the FCC adopted new rules to further tighten filing requirements for the Robocall Mitigation Database to better ensure widespread compliance and heightened awareness of provider responsibilities to protect consumers.

FCC RELEASES 2024 COMMUNICATIONS MARKETPLACE REPORT

On December 31, 2024, the FCC released its annual Communications Marketplace Report. The Report provides a comprehensive overview of the state of the communications marketplace by assessing all forms of competition in the communications marketplace; the state of deployment of communications capabilities, including advanced telecommunications capability; and barriers to competitive entry, including entry barriers for entrepreneurs and other small businesses.

UPDATED FILING INSTRUCTIONS FOR INTERSTATE INMATE CALLING SERVICE PROVIDERS

On January 8, 2025, the FCC released revised instructions, reporting templates, and certification forms for the Annual Reports that providers of incarcerated people's communications services (IPCS) are required to submit.

FCC ADOPTS RULES REQUIRING USE OF NEW MULTILINGUAL TEMPLATES FOR WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERTS

On January 9, 2025, the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau announced new rules requiring wireless providers that participate in WEA to implement multilingual templates that alert originators can choose to send during life-threatening emergencies.

SEVENTH REPORT ON OWNERSHIP OF BROADCAST STATIONS

On January 10, 2025, the Media Bureau released its *Seventh Report on Ownership of Broadcast Stations*. The report tabulates 2023 Biennial Ownership Data from FCC Form 323 and Form 323-E.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU REMINDS ACCREDITATION BODIES TO REQUEST RECOGNITION FOR THE INTERNET OF THINGS CYBERSECURITY LABELING PROGRAM

On January 10, 2025, the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau released a [public notice](#) reminding organizations seeking authority to accredit Cybersecurity Label Administrators (CLAs) and/or laboratories under the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC or Commission) Internet of Things (IoT) Cybersecurity Labeling Program, which includes the U.S. government certification mark (U.S. Cyber Trust Mark), that they must be recognized by the Bureau to perform such accreditation. The public notice includes instructions for requesting recognition from the Bureau.

WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU ADOPTS BROADBAND SERVICEABLE LOCATION FABRIC

On January 10, 2025, the Wirelines Competition Bureau announced that the Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric will provide the basis for verifying compliance with high-cost program deployment obligations and for adjusting the location obligations for certain high-cost support mechanisms.

Open Comment Periods and Data Collection Periods

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

BROADBAND DATA TASK FORCE ANNOUNCES THE OPENING OF THE SIXTH BROADBAND DATA COLLECTION WINDOW

The Broadband Data Task Force Announces the Opening of the Sixth BDC filing window on January 2, 2025, for data as-of December 31, 2024. Beginning on January 2, 2025, facilities-based broadband service providers may submit data into the BDC system at <https://bdc.fcc.gov/bdc>, specifying where they made mass-market broadband Internet access service available as of December 31, 2024. Such entities, as well as providers of fixed and mobile voice services, must also submit their December 31, 2024, subscription data required under Form 477 into the BDC system at <https://bdc.fcc.gov/bdc.2>. All availability and subscription data must be submitted no later than March 3, 2025.

SECURE AND TRUSTED COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM SPENDING REPORTS FILING DEADLINE

On January 10, 2025, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) issued a public notice reminding participants in the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program (Reimbursement Program) of their obligation to file reimbursement spending reports with the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) by February 10, 2025. For information on procedures for submitting spending reports, see the User Guide on spending reports, which is available on the Reimbursement Program webpage, <https://www.fcc.gov/supplychain/reimbursement>. For Questions,

contact: Fund Administrator Help Desk by email at SCRPFundAdmin@fcc.gov or by calling (202) 418-7540 from 9:00 AM ET to 5:00 PM ET, Monday through Friday, except for Federal holidays.

Federal Partner News

U.S. Small Business Administration

Please visit [SBA.gov](https://www.sba.gov) for additional Disaster Relief Assistance

HELP IS AVAILABLE FOR BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS IMPACTED BY THE WILDFIRES IN CALIFORNIA

SBA disaster assistance for homeowners, renters, nonprofits, and *businesses of all sizes* affected by the wildfires and straight-line winds in California. For additional information visit:

<https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance/california-wildfires>

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)

Please visit the [CISA.gov](https://www.cisa.gov) for additional Cybersecurity News

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) SECTOR-SPECIFIC GOALS (SSGs)

On January 7, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) published new voluntary cybersecurity performance goals for the information technology (IT) and product design sector. The [IT Sector-Specific Goals \(SSGs\)](#) are aligned to [Secure by Design](#) principles and will help to protect the sector from cyber incidents, identify and address vulnerabilities prior to product release, improve incident response, and significantly improve software security. CISA worked extensively with the IT Sector Coordinating Council (IT SCC) to develop these goals. Through the IT SCC, subject matter experts, associations, and other key partners provided critical, beneficial input that supported the development process. While specific to the IT sector, the goals provide software and product developers in all [critical infrastructure sectors](#) with minimum foundational practices upon which they should focus their efforts.

CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY RELEASE AI CYBERSECURITY PLAYBOOK

On January 15, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), in partnership with the Joint Cyber Defense Collaborative (JCDC), released the [JCDC AI Cybersecurity Collaboration Playbook](#), a key resource to guide voluntary information sharing across the Artificial Intelligence (AI) community. Designed for AI providers, developers, and adopters, the playbook addresses emerging threats to AI-enabled systems and critical infrastructure. It outlines processes for sharing information about incidents and vulnerabilities, explains CISA's actions in response, and fosters collaboration among government, industry, and international partners. For more information on CISA's work in AI, visit [cisa.gov/ai](https://www.cisa.gov/ai).