



Michael Preston
Secretary of Commerce,
Executive Director
Arkansas Economic
Development Commission

December 2, 2020

VIA EMAIL

Arkansas Rural Connect Program Awardees

Re: Project Expenditures and Target

Dear Awardees:

The purpose of this letter is to express the importance of submitting all project expenditures through the UAMS portal. Federal guidance requires all expenditures to occur between March 1, 2020, through December 30, 2020. Any payments for services or items provided outside this window will not be approved expenditures and the funds used to make the unauthorized purchase of services or goods must be reimbursed by the ISP and returned to the State. This is the same for any expenditure not submitted through the UAMS portal. By now, you should have been in contact with UAMS and should be importing your expenditures through their portal. UAMS is our designated monitor of your project(s) progress and expenditures. You are contractually required to cooperate with their efforts to monitor your project(s) and expenditures. So please respond to all emails and phone calls made to you by UAMS. We will start requesting refunds for all CARES Act awardees for unused funds the week of January 18, 2021. So please submit all expenditure documents to the UAMS portal a week before that time.

I also want you to keep in mind that December 30th is quickly approaching and, for the majority of you, your project should be completed. I want to encourage each of you to push hard this month to complete your project on time so the citizens of Arkansas can benefit during this pandemic. Please keep in mind, your issuance of an ARC grant is evidence that the State of Arkansas has great confidence in your ability to deploy broadband to the rural areas of Arkansas on time. Don't let them down. They are counting on you and so are we.

I'm also planning on visiting some your project areas with video cameras once your project is completed so I can talk to you, the local official and some happy customers. The purpose is to promote the ARC program and its projects. Thank you again for participating in the ARC room.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Porch".

Steven Porch
Chief Legal Counsel, Department of Commerce
Executive Broadband Manager



Michael Preston
Secretary of Commerce,
Executive Director
Arkansas Economic
Development Commission

October 15, 2020

VIA EMAIL

ARC Grant Awardees

Re: Arkansas Rural Connect Grant Awardees, Pictures and Employment Opportunities

Dear ARC Awardees:

Congratulations again on a successful application to the Arkansas Rural Connect Grant Program! The purpose of this letter is to encourage each of you to forward the broadband office pictures of your deployment efforts. The State of Arkansas has put much faith in you to increase the connectivity for rural Arkansans and would like to display your progress on our website and possibly other media avenues. Please make sure the pictures you send us are good to post on our website or can be used in ARC promos.

Second, please let us know how many people you have employed as result of the ARC grant, i.e. contractors, subcontractors, etc. Please email the pictures and the employment information to me at sporch@arkansasedc.com. We greatly appreciate your assistance in gathering this information. We would like to have the information before next Friday, October 23, 2020.

Thank you again for your interest in the Arkansas Rural Connect Grant Program. If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact me at 1-501-682-2432.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Porch", written over a blue horizontal line.

Steven Porch
Chief Legal Counsel, Department of Commerce
Executive Broadband Manager



December 30, 2020

Dear ISPs:

The purpose of this letter is to inform those, who have not completed their deployment by the contractual deadline of December 30, 2020, the position of the Commerce Broadband Office. The Broadband Office views this missed deadline as a breach of the ARC agreement. However, we are aware of supply chain issues, sicknesses, permits, etc. In light of these circumstances, the Commerce Broadband Office will forebear any action until January 31, 2021. This means that ISPs will have until January 31, 2021, to complete their current project. However, this does **not** mean the Commerce Broadband Office is waiving any of its breach claims. But only to wait and see the outcome of your current project until January 31, 2020. The Commerce Broadband Office will make decisions on the appropriate actions to take at that time. We implore you to complete your projects by January 31, 2021.

In the interim, you must continue submitting invoices through the UAMS portal and cooperating with UAMS staff. Unfunded projects of ISPs, who have not completed their current projects, will not receive any new awards for projects until the current projects are completed and signed off by UAMS. To be clear, ISPs in breach can submit projects to the Broadband Office for review. But we will not fund them until current projects are completed.

Thank you again for your continued efforts to get rural Arkansans connected.

Sincerely,

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

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