

VPS Consulting Memo

Enhanced A-CAM Official Offers Released

ELECTIONS MUST BE MADE BY SEPTEMBER 29, 2023.

Summary

On July 24, 2023, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released its Enhanced A-CAM Order¹ giving legacy high-cost support recipients and current A-CAM I & II recipients the ability to accept the 15-year Enhanced A-CAM offer to provide 100/20 Mbps broadband service to unserved and underserved locations. On August 7th, the FCC released illustrative results showing projected support amounts to carriers under the Enhanced A-CAM program.² On August 14th, the FCC released additional information regarding the illustrative results.³ Finally, on August 30, 2023, the FCC released the official Enhanced A-CAM offers to eligible carriers.⁴

Carriers must elect whether to accept the Enhanced A-CAM offer by September 29, 2023.

What Should You Do With Your Offer?

Carriers should be performing all necessary due diligence to determine whether to accept the Enhanced A-CAM Offer. This includes financial forecasting, serviceable location analysis, and competitive overlap reviews. Carriers should assess whether 2028 build-out requirements can feasibly be met in accordance with the Enhanced A-CAM rules even without an inflation adjustment. Carriers should consider what additional compliance work needs to be completed to meet the requirements for cybersecurity, supply chain risk management, and participation in the Affordable Connectivity Program. Finally, carriers should keep in mind the risks associated with acceptance. Risks include competition from both unsubsidized and subsidized carriers, regulatory burdens, regulatory uncertainty, and risks beyond the control of the carrier such as population decline in rural areas.

¹ <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-23-60A1.pdf>

² <https://www.fcc.gov/document/wcb-releases-illustrative-results-enhanced-cam>

³ <https://www.fcc.gov/document/wcb-releases-enhanced-acam-illustrative-results-additional-information>

⁴ <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-23-779A1.pdf>

Additional Information

For more information on Enhanced A-CAM or if you would like VPS guidance, please contact these members of the Vantage Point Solutions team:

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