



NEWS RELEASE

MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION NORTHERN, CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN DISTRICTS

*For Immediate Release:
April 7, 2021*

Central and Northern Commissioners Announce 4-County Fiber LLC Receiving Funds for High-Speed Internet Deployment

4-County Fiber LLC approved to receive \$35,584,890 for broadband expansion

COLUMBUS, MS— Central District Commissioner Brent Bailey and Northern District Commissioner Brandon Presley announce the final approval for federal funds to 4-County Fiber LLC to support the deployment of high-speed internet service to customers across eight counties served by 4-County Electric Power Association.

Commissioners gathered for a ceremony Wednesday at 4-County Electric Power Association's headquarters to issue the final documents and approval to 4-County Fiber LLC for the release of \$35,584,890 from the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) Phase I auction. 4-County Fiber LLC is now approved as a designated eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) and in time will deploy high-speed internet service to 12,343 rural homes and small businesses who are unserved or underserved.

"Access to high-speed broadband internet is a cornerstone of prosperity anywhere, especially our rural communities in Mississippi," Commissioner Bailey said. "Supporting infrastructure improvements, expanding economic opportunities and creating jobs in rural areas of our state requires the deployment of reliable internet service. I am excited that residents spread across eight counties will soon have access to these critical services."

"Broadband is the electricity of the 21st century and rural Mississippians deserve access just like anyone in New York, Los Angeles or Chicago. These funds will go to connect homes and businesses as an investment in the future of our families, education system, economic development and quality of life." Commissioner Presley said. "I am bound and determined to see that the modern economy and education opportunities come to every Mississippian through a world-class broadband connection. We will not stop until the last home and the end of the last dirt road is connected."

Overall, Mississippi had a total of 21 winning bidders of RDOF funds who will potentially receive a collective total of \$495,725,799.60. More information on the RDOF Phase I auction is available at <https://www.fcc.gov/auction/904>, including complete auction results and a map of winning bids.

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