



# TVC

Offering Complete Solutions for Any  
Broadband Project or Application

**TVC is the only solution provider  
and distributor you need for your  
entire network.**

From design and engineering through  
procurement and builds, we have the ability  
to supply products and technical services to  
support your project cycle requirements.

[www.tvcinc.com](http://www.tvcinc.com) | 888.644.6075

## Product and Solution Sets

- Broadband Electronics
- Conduit & Innerduct
- Fiber Cable & Connectivity
- Safety
- Tools
- Coax Cable & Connectivity
- Customer Premise
- Outside Plant
- Test Equipment
- Video Processing
- Network Design & Construction

## BCAP

## NewsClips

December 23, 2020

**TV Answer Man**  
[DirectTV Offers Free  
NFL Sunday Ticket  
& NBA League Pass](#)

A massive coronavirus aid package approved by Congress late Monday sets aside \$7 billion to help Americans get high-speed internet connections and pay their monthly bills, marking one of the most substantial one-time broadband investments in U.S. history.

**Fierce Video**  
[16 of the biggest  
things in video and  
TV tech from 2020](#)

Nearly half the money is slated to fund a new monthly benefit for low-income families, aiming to ensure that those who have lost their jobs can stay online at a time when the pandemic has forced millions of people to work, learn and communicate on their devices from home. Lawmakers also set aside money to expand internet service to the country's hardest-to-reach areas, upgrade infrastructure that may suffer from security flaws and map the state of the country's connectivity so the U.S. government can better spend future funds.

**Associated Press**  
[How Networks Have  
Adjusted To Airing  
NFL](#)

Telecom giants, consumer advocates and Washington policymakers on Tuesday cheered the broadband investment, which is slightly smaller than the 2009 relief law that Congress adopted in the shadow of the Great Recession. Sen. Maria Cantwell of Washington, the top Democrat on the chamber's tech-focused commerce committee, said the bill would offer "a little bit of help" after the coronavirus illustrated the costs of inadequate connectivity. But she still called on Congress to increase spending in future coronavirus relief efforts, pointing to lingering gaps — particularly in education because Congress did not authorize new funding to help students get online more easily. "We just have to fight in January to get that rectified," Cantwell said.

**Politico**  
[Google could face  
trillions in fines in  
Texas antitrust suit](#)

The heightened congressional investment in fast, reliable internet service reflects the unique circumstances of the coronavirus pandemic and the lingering economic inequalities it has exposed. The country still suffers from a

**Philadelphia Inquirer**  
[In rural Pa., largely  
untouched by  
COVID-19 in the  
spring, deaths are  
now surging: 'It's  
just scary'](#)

**Pennlive**

**What Pa. lawmakers  
liked and loathed in  
the \$900B  
coronavirus relief  
package**

**Allentown Morning  
Call**

**Op-ed: Why  
important  
Pennsylvania  
legislation rarely  
sees the light of day**

**The Hill**

**Pro-Trump PAC  
launches \$500,000  
ad buy for Loeffler,  
Perdue**

digital divide, the gap between those who have reliable broadband and the millions who do not. The problem is particularly pronounced among lower-income families and people of color, and it wreaks some of its worst havoc on children, who may struggle to complete their work.

Earlier in the pandemic, more than half of lower-income families said they were worried about their ability to pay for either their home broadband connections or their cellphone bills, according to a survey from the Pew Research Center. Months later, more than 10 million Americans are out of work, and countless others have experienced pay cuts, furloughs or other economic hardships, threatening to exacerbate an affordability crisis that predates the pandemic. The stimulus bill seeks to offer relief to some of these families, chiefly through a roughly \$3 billion program that allows low-income American households to obtain rebates of up to \$50 each month to cover their broadband bills, or up to \$75 if they live in a tribal area.

At least 33 million households are believed to be eligible for the benefit, according to Matt Wood, the vice president for policy at the advocacy group Free Press. The estimate corresponds with the total number of Americans who are eligible for the Federal Communications Commission's other low-income broadband benefit known as Lifeline. Those who have lost jobs as a result of the coronavirus, or enrolled in other safety-net programs such as reduced-price school lunches, also may qualify for new broadband rebates under the stimulus law. "The biggest part of the digital divide is people who cannot afford services they already have available to them," Wood said, adding that the money would directly help those who are "not able to make ends meet."

Lawmakers tasked the FCC with devising and managing the benefit, which under the timeline sketched out by lawmakers could start closer to February. Once it is operational, the government is expected to remit payments directly to internet service providers on Americans' behalf, though these companies are not required to participate. Lawmakers also agreed to reimburse carriers up to \$100 if they provide a device, such as a laptop, to their customers. "The FCC will act quickly to implement the bill's important provisions once it is adopted and signed into law," the agency's outgoing chairman, Ajit Pai, pledged in a statement late Monday.

Lawmakers also authorized a full suite of additional spending, including \$1.3 billion in total funding to boost broadband infrastructure in rural and tribal areas. The stimulus sets aside \$250 million for the FCC to help advance telehealth at a time when more Americans are connecting with their doctors online. And it authorizes \$65 million to map the parts of the country that lack broadband, a project Congress commissioned months ago — and until now had not funded. "I think it demonstrates Washington woke up in the pandemic to the reality that broadband is no longer nice to have, it's need to have," said Jessica Rosenworcel, a Democratic commissioner at the FCC. "Households without it don't have a fair shot at maintaining some semblance of modern life, when so much of modern life has migrated online."

But the stimulus stops short of the more massive sums that some congressional Democrats including President-elect Joe Biden have sought as part of a much larger push to rethink the country's digital infrastructure. House Democrats this year advanced a bill that included \$100 billion in new spending to improve connectivity and affordability nationwide, and Biden has called for at least \$20 billion as part of an initiative to bring the next generation of wireless service, known as 5G, to every part of the country.

Lawmakers also opted against including any new stimulus money for a federal program that helps schools pay for internet connectivity and classroom equipment. An earlier stimulus deal brokered by Senate Democrats and Republicans put aside \$3 billion for the initiative, known as E-Rate, aiming to help schools and libraries provide more Wi-Fi hot spots and laptops to students. But supporters, including the National Education Association, said Republicans sought onerous restrictions on the aid, ultimately resulting in its exclusion from the final package. The lobbying group criticized the party and

the broader \$900 billion stimulus in a letter Monday for falling “drastically short” because it neglected some students and teachers.

The omissions offered further evidence to policymakers that Congress needed to return to the issue next year and authorize billions of dollars in additional spending to continue their work. “This is the beginning of what needs to be a nationwide effort to connect 100% of the U.S. to broadband,” said Rosenworcel, the FCC commissioner. “This is a down payment.”

– ***Washington Post***

---

Federal Communications Commission chairman Ajit Pai leaves a mixed legacy as he prepares to depart the regulator on Jan. 20, when the Biden administration takes over.

Pai presided over a flurry of spectrum-related decisions, worked hard at pruning what he called the regulatory underbrush and tried to deregulate local broadcast ownership, an effort that was once again blocked by the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, though in that he had to stand in line behind numerous previous FCC chairs whose congressionally-mandated reviews of media regulations kept running into trouble with the same court.

Andrew Jay Schwartzman, senior counselor at the Benton Institute for Broadband & Society and no cheerleader for the deregulatory Pai, told *Multichannel News* that while he believes Pai’s policies resulted in less competition and higher prices, the chairman gets “high marks” for “facing down” other parts of the government to open up new spectrum bands for wireless.

Pai ran into pushback from the Transportation Department, the Defense Department and other agencies for his efforts to liberate government spectrum for commercial use, either by reclamation and auction or by dynamic sharing. But he pushed through the flak to get key bipartisan votes on some crucial spectrum repurposing, as well as some less-than-bipartisan items to speed 5G tower siting.

Pai — an affable figure who loved to quote song lyrics, rooted unabashedly for his Kansas City Chiefs from his bully pulpit and wielded an oversize Reese’s mug — appeared on the surface an unlikely figure to draw what were sometimes withering attacks over his signature issue: net neutrality. “Ajit Pai will go down in history as one of the most corrupt government officials of the century,” Evan Greer, deputy director of open-internet advocacy group Fight for the Future, said in one such harsh attack. “His callous attack on net neutrality and blatant coddling of Big Telecom monopolies sparked the largest cross-partisan online backlash in the modern era. As he fades into the background, his smug demeanor and giant Reese’s mug will become cautionary memes — reminding internet users what happens when we don’t hold our government accountable.” The FCC had no comment on Greer’s statement for this story.

It was clear from the outset of his tenure that Pai would take aim at the FCC’s net-neutrality rules adopted, against his dissent, by Democratic predecessor Tom Wheeler. Pai’s deregulatory decision ceded the bulk of internet access oversight to the Federal Trade Commission, which essentially backstops ISP service pledges to make sure they are not false, deceptive or anti-competitive.

That was just fine with cable and telco broadband operators, who said the rules had bottled up investment, but drew harsh and sometimes personal criticism from backers of the net neutrality rules. Critics cited Pai’s handling of the net neutrality comment docket: He erred on the side of letting all flowers bloom, and many of them turned out to be weeds in the form of bogus comments, some stemming from Russia. But most of the criticism was over the decision itself and elimination of rules that net neutrality advocates said were necessary to save the internet. Pai has since suggested those dire predictions

were bogus, too. That net neutrality deregulation will likely get reversed in a Biden FCC, or overturned by Congress if the Democrats take over the Senate.

And while Pai's attempts to deregulate broadcasting were mostly eliminated by a 3rd Circuit action over what the court said was the FCC's failure to sufficiently gauge their impact on diversity, the Pai FCC did preside over the historic repack of almost 1,000 stations following the broadcast incentive auction. It also approved a new ATSC 3.0 broadcast standard that could be a game-changer. "Ideology aside, chairman Pai has been an excellent administrator of the agency," said Schwartzman, who squared off in court against the FCC efforts to deregulate broadcast media. "His good-natured personality has served him well in that regard."

Pai made freeing up spectrum for unlicensed use (see box) and closing the digital divide a priority. The chairman gets high marks from the public-interest community for his spectrum-freeing activity, Schwartzman said. Those spectrum moves have included the repurposing of C-band auction that launched last week, the largest auction of midband spectrum ever, and the decision last month to repurpose spectrum licensed to intelligent transport systems (ITS) for WiFi, a move pushed and applauded by cable broadband operators, given that WiFi hot spots are still their primary mobile broadband play.

Closing the digital divide, particularly the rural divide, has proved more difficult. The FCC's success in that regard is open to interpretation, depending on how progress is measured and how "high speed" and "access" are defined. Pai has cited steady progress: the National Grange honored him as their Champion of Rural America in 2019 for his expansion of rural broadband, for example.

But Democrats, in Congress and on the FCC, argue that as long as millions remain without access to affordable, high-speed broadband (faster than the FCC's current baseline definition), particularly given the pandemic-focused spotlight on the consequences of a lack of access, the Pai FCC has not made enough progress. Pai agreed more can be done, but said Congress needs to step in given with more funding. NCTA-the Internet & Television Association president and CEO Michael Powell concurred, suggesting recently the government may have to make affordable broadband part of the social safety net. — **Next TV**

---

FOX News Digital closed out November 2020 with a record month in multiplatform views (over 2.7 billion) and multiplatform minutes (over 5 billion), its highest month in history across both categories. The digital network hit a new milestone surpassing over 5 billion multiplatform minutes for the first time ever and continued its streak of now twelve consecutive months of over 100 million multiplatform unique visitors.

November 2020 proved to be FOX News Digital's strongest performance of any November on record, lifted by political and post-election coverage. FOX News Digital also secured double-digit increases versus the prior year across all key performance metrics, including multiplatform views (a 75 per cent increase from prior year), multiplatform minutes (a 29 percent increase from prior year) and multiplatform unique visitors (a 38 per cent increase from prior year) according to Comscore. November 2020 marked the highest month in history for unique visitors on the FOX News Mobile Application. Furthermore, the App surpassed the CNN Mobile App for the 24th month in a row in unique visitors (9.8 million versus CNN's 9.6 million), and delivered its ninth consecutive month scoring over 8 million unique visitors.

Once again FOX News led the competition as the most engaged news brand on social media (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) for the 75th consecutive month among the news competitive set, driving over 76 million total interactions, according to Socialbakers. FOX News finished the month with its best November in history in total social interactions, retaining its position as number one in Facebook and Instagram interactions among news competitors, amounting 51 million on Facebook and 23 million Instagram interactions, also

according to Socialbakers. Viewers continue to stream FOX News' content on Facebook, with the network topping all news competitors and notching over 174 million total Facebook video views, according to data from CrowdTangle.

Additionally, FOXBusiness.com reached 29.5 million multiplatform unique visitors, drove 115 million multiplatform total views and saw 251 million multiplatform total minutes last month, securing double digit growth across all metrics versus the prior year. – **Advanced Television**



**Broadband  
Cable Association  
of Pennsylvania**

127 State Street Harrisburg, PA 17101  
717-214-2000 (t) 717-214-2020  
bcap.org

First in Broadband.  
The Future of Broadband.®