Meeting the FCC Mobility II Challenge
New Hampshire Perspective
What is the challenge supposed to accomplish?

• FCC will spend ~$4.5 billion over 10 years to bring 4G LTE mobile service across the US
• Many towns and regions in New Hampshire won’t qualify unless they prove their service does not meet FCC standards
• The challenge for local communities is to collect data to support their claims
Public Utility Commission’s Role in the Process

• At Sen. Maggie Hassan’s request, the PUC and other state agencies are offering support to coordinate test efforts and help ensure data is collected “by the book”

• We will provide what effort and resources we can, but towns and regions own the process
The devil is in the details

Data to prove we need upgraded service must be:

- Collected on high-end handsets specific to each of the carriers in a region
- Extensively sampled – approximately 6 to 9 separate collection points in each square kilometer
Certification

• All data submitted must be certified by a qualified engineer or government entity. The FCC guidance states:

Data submitted to the Challenge “...must be substantiated by the certification of a qualified engineer, under penalty of perjury. [Or] we will allow certification by a government official authorized to act on behalf of the organization and with actual knowledge of the accuracy of the underlying data.”
Responsibility Matrix

• NH PUC: Coordination of efforts; provide maps and confidential data; analyze results for completeness; submit challenges; support for towns and regions
• NH DED: Fundraising assistance; publicity coordination; support for towns and regions
• Local leaders: Coordinate volunteers and testing efforts; certify results; accept and disburse funds
• All working together: Develop custom comprehensive testing plan for each area
• Volunteers: Testing based on plan
Plans are still evolving, but towns and regions are stepping up

- Strong interest in three regions
- Currently seeking funds to get acceptable phones to do the job
- Plan to pilot data collection in Haverhill and Peterborough by end of July to work out any kinks and ensure we can meet FCC requirements
Options for Funding

• **Grants** - application deadlines have passed and the deadline for the challenge is off cycle for grants from NH Charitable Foundation, and USDA.

Corporate Gift - NE Delta Dental
Town or County Government may apply.
https://nedelta.com/Corporate-Giving/Corporate-Giving-Guidelines

• **Loans** - available on a limited basis from USDA, NHCDFA, Regional Economic Development Corps, Community Loan Fund and others.
Options for Funding - continued

• Sponsorships - raise funds from businesses in support of mobile communication on a regional or a community by community basis.

• GoFundMe - web based fund raising possibility through a focused accelerated marketing program.

• Cost share – towns interested in participating in the challenge share the cost.
Reality and Recommendation

• Moving forward – Timeline is short and funding must be secured for an estimated $7,200 budget.
• Host a Building Capacity Workshop and build a team – learn how to create a strategic plan and implement a fundraising campaign.

• For more information and guidance on funds raising contact carol.miller@livefree.nh.gov at the Department of Business and Economic Affairs or call 603-271-0252
Where to find the latest information

- [http://www.puc.state.nh.us/Telecom/fcc_mobility_fund_2_challenge_info.html](http://www.puc.state.nh.us/Telecom/fcc_mobility_fund_2_challenge_info.html)
- Links to FCC pages
- Volunteer sign up online form – can be linked-to from a town or region webpage
- Information about current and past meetings
- FAQ answering questions about the Challenge process – feel free to submit your questions!
Where to find the latest information

Town and regional websites:

• Support and tools for recruiting, training and organizing volunteers

• Cross-links to help raise general citizen awareness of the effort and progress
Still Unknown

• Funding for the test effort
• Other details of the challenge process that the FCC has yet to clarify
• How the FCC will prioritize its grants
• How eager carriers will be to increase their coverage with whatever new money is available
First Cut Plan for Initial Pilot

• Participation and Leadership – identified by July 11
• Test Route – planned by July 13
• Volunteer Testers – signed up and trained by July 26
• Test Plan Executed (*) – July 26 to July 31
• Data Certified -- by August 1
• Data Upload to USAC – by August 6
• After-action Discussion – August 9

* If necessary, use non-compliant phones to test the process only
NH PUC Contacts

Kath Mullholand          Jan Gugliotti
Director, RISD Division Business Analyst, RISD Division
603 271 6039            603 271 7031
Kath.Mullholand@puc.nh.gov Jan.Gugliotti@puc.nh.gov
Questions?