

- (D) the National Security Agency; and
- (E) the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(3) Commission

The term “Commission” means the Federal Communications Commission.

(4) Communications equipment or service

The term “communications equipment or service” means any equipment or service that is essential to the provision of advanced communications service.

(5) Covered communications equipment or service

The term “covered communications equipment or service” means any communications equipment or service that is on the list published by the Commission under section 1601(a) of this title.

(6) Customers

The term “customers” means, with respect to a provider of advanced communications service—

- (A) the customers of such provider; and
- (B) the customers of any affiliate (as defined in section 153 of this title) of such provider.

(7) Executive branch interagency body

The term “executive branch interagency body” means an interagency body established in the executive branch.

(8) Person

The term “person” means an individual or entity.

(9) Program

The term “Program” means the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program established under section 1603(a) of this title.

(10) Provider of advanced communications service

The term “provider of advanced communications service”—

- (A) means a person who provides advanced communications service to United States customers; and
- (B) includes—

- (i) accredited public or private non-commercial educational institutions, providing their own facilities-based educational broadband service, as defined in section 27.4 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation; and

- (ii) health care providers and libraries providing advanced communications service.

(11) Recipient

The term “recipient” means any provider of advanced communications service the application of which for a reimbursement under the Program has been approved by the Commission, regardless of whether the provider has received reimbursement funds.

(12) Reimbursement funds

The term “reimbursement funds” means any reimbursement received under the Program.

(Pub. L. 116-124, §9, Mar. 12, 2020, 134 Stat. 169; Pub. L. 116-260, div. N, title IX, §901(2), Dec. 27, 2020, 134 Stat. 2121.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2020—Par. (10). Pub. L. 116-260 amended par. (10) generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “The term ‘provider of advanced communications service’ means a person who provides advanced communications service to United States customers.”

§ 1609. Severability

If any provision of this chapter, or the application of such a provision to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remaining provisions of this chapter, and the application of such provisions to any person or circumstance, shall not be affected thereby.

(Pub. L. 116-124, §10, Mar. 12, 2020, 134 Stat. 170.)

CHAPTER 16—BROADBAND ACCESS

SUBCHAPTER I—BROADBAND GRANTS FOR STATES, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, PUERTO RICO, AND TERRITORIES

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SUBCHAPTER I—BROADBAND GRANTS FOR STATES, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, PUERTO RICO, AND TERRITORIES

§ 1701. Findings

Congress finds the following:

(1) Access to affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband is essential to full participation in modern life in the United States.

(2) The persistent “digital divide” in the United States is a barrier to the economic competitiveness of the United States and equitable distribution of essential public services, including health care and education.

(3) The digital divide disproportionately affects communities of color, lower-income areas, and rural areas, and the benefits of broadband should be broadly enjoyed by all.

(4) In many communities across the country, increased competition among broadband pro-