

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)
)
A National Broadband Plan for Our Future) GN Docket No. 09-51

**COMMENTS OF THE MINORITY MEDIA
AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL**

The Minority Media and Telecommunications Council (MMTC) respectfully submits these Comments in response to the Commission's Public Notice Welcoming Responses to Staff Workshops.¹ MMTC has followed the workshops closely to ensure that the record is complete on issues particularly germane to the full participation of minorities in broadband adoption, deployment and policy development.

MMTC encourages the Commission to resubmit to the original panelists some of the questions that were submitted to moderators but not asked at the workshops, or that were asked but were incompletely answered. As noted infra, these questions should also be posed in future workshops where appropriate.

8/6/09: E-Government and Civic Engagement

The following question was asked but was not fully answered by panelists. It could also be asked at the workshop on Diversity and Civil Rights Issues in Broadband Policy.

- Many municipalities have difficulty connecting their low-income constituents to city initiatives. If these municipalities use broadband to get their message across, won't they still miss low-income constituents because their broadband adoption rates are so low? Without universal broadband adoption, doesn't reliance on broadband for e-government simply amplify the voices of those fortunate enough to already have broadband?

8/12/09: Deployment

The following questions were submitted but not asked. They could also be asked at the workshops on Sources of Spectrum and on Economic Issues in Broadband Competition.

- (Wireless): In what ways are providers partnering with Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Businesses (SDBs) and Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs), particularly those with ties to the unserved/underserved communities to encourage their participation in deploying wireless to these areas?
- (Unserved/Underserved): How are providers working with the Commission to gather mapping data to identify geographic and socio-economic communities that are unserved/underserved?

¹ See The Commission Welcomes Responses to Staff Workshops, Public Notice, DA 09-1992 (rel. Sept. 1, 2009). These Comments reflect the institutional views of MMTC and are not intended to reflect the views of individual MMTC officers, directors or advisors.

8/18/09: Opportunities for Small and Disadvantaged Businesses

This question was asked but not fully answered by panelists. It could be asked at the workshops on Sources of Spectrum and on Economic Issues in Broadband Competition.

- Which of the Commission's rules and regulations should be repealed or modified to encourage greater SDB participation (e.g., spectrum or designated entity (DE) rules)? What factors does the Commission need to be aware of when formulating rules so that the rules do not have a negative effect on SDBs?

This question was submitted but not asked. It could be asked at the workshop on Economic Issues in Broadband Competition.

- How can the Commission identify qualified SDBs to participate in broadband buildout and adoption programs without creating additional entry barriers such as excessive bonding requirements, bundling of contracts, requiring previous large project experience or imposing needlessly short deadlines?

8/20/09: Education

The following question was submitted but not asked. It could be asked at the Diversity and Civil Rights workshop and any future workshops dealing with education or digital literacy.

- At what grade levels should broadband literacy be taught, and what components should be offered at each grade level?

Respectfully submitted,

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