



**Minority Media &
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**STATEMENT OF MMTC ON THE TELECOM
CARRIERS' USE REFORM PROPOSAL**

The Minority Media and Telecommunications Council (MMTC) is encouraged to see a collaborative and comprehensive proposal put forth to reform the Universal Service High Cost Fund. The proposal recommends transitioning Universal Service Fund support away from voice services and toward broadband access in the hardest to serve areas – a position consistent with the recommendations MMTC supported in the National Broadband Plan.

For years, policy makers and stakeholders have debated reforming USF. Now is the time to act decisively. Broadband access has become the great social and economic equalizer in our society and all Americans deserve to experience its benefits.

Access to broadband is *the* Civil Rights issue of the 21st Century - thus, it's essential for the Commission to get USF reform right. Minorities need to be part of the USF reform conversation because the nation cannot afford to leave them behind in terms of broadband access.

MMTC looks forward to working with the FCC, industry leaders and stakeholders to consider the recommendations outlined today to reform the Universal Service Fund for the digital age.

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