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Aug. 27, 2015	Sara Spaulding, APR 720-708-0398 Sara.spaulding@centurylink.com

CenturyLink to bring broadband to 53,000 rural households in Colorado

Company to accept Connect America Fund money

DENVER – [CenturyLink, Inc.](#) (NYSE: CTL) announced today that it will bring high-speed Internet services to more than 53,000 rural households and businesses in Colorado by accepting the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)’s Connect America Fund (CAF) statewide offer in Colorado.

CenturyLink is accepting 33 CAF phase II statewide offers from the FCC to bring Internet service with speeds of at least 10 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload to approximately 1.2 million locations in FCC-designated, high-cost census blocks. The company is accepting a total of approximately \$500 million a year for six years.

High-speed Internet access brings many benefits to rural communities, including economic development and better access to education and healthcare services such as distance learning and telemedicine.

“We’re pleased to help bridge the urban-rural digital divide by bringing high-speed broadband to more than 53,000 households and businesses in high-cost markets in Colorado,” said Terry Beeler, CenturyLink mountain west region president. “While CAF II funding does not address all markets in our footprint, our company investment for CAF II is significant, and we look forward to working closely with Colorado policymakers to find funding and deployment solutions for additional markets.”

“Over the last few years, we have worked together with the legislature and stakeholders to update our telecommunications laws so that Colorado is investment ready,” said Governor John Hickenlooper. “We applaud CenturyLink’s decision to utilize Connect America Funds from the FCC in order to spur broadband investment in rural areas. This is a strong step toward improving broadband access across our state and we are hopeful that the funds will be used expeditiously and efficiently to have the greatest impact in rural Colorado.”

“I am pleased that CenturyLink is continuing its commitment to deploying more broadband services in rural Colorado by accepting Connect America Funds and dedicating its own financial resources to maintaining the digital highways of the future,” said State Representative for District 58 Don Coram.

“Congratulations to CenturyLink and the FCC for bringing high-speed Internet to more rural communities,” said Executive Director of CLUB 20 Christian Reece. “High-speed Internet is vital to rural economies by supporting economic growth, providing greater education

opportunities, and assisting with healthcare accessibility. CLUB 20 is excited to partner with CenturyLink to make western Colorado more competitive statewide.”

“Rural Colorado needs and appreciates CenturyLink’s efforts to extend broadband services,” said State Representative for House District 57 Bob Rankin. “Increased economic development, modern telemedicine and online education will greatly benefit rural and small town residents who would otherwise not share in the growth and prosperity so evident on Colorado's front range.”

Once CenturyLink’s initial CAF II six-year build-out plan is finalized over the coming months, construction is expected to begin in early 2016.

The FCC created the CAF program in 2011 to facilitate high-speed Internet access in high-cost locations by transitioning Universal Service Fund money that was supporting rural landline service to the build-out of broadband infrastructure in rural communities.

CenturyLink previously accepted approximately \$75 million in CAF phase I interim, one-time support to bring broadband with 4 Mbps download speed to nearly 114,000 unserved rural locations in 33 of the 37 states where it offers residential broadband service.

About CenturyLink

[CenturyLink, Inc.](#) (NYSE: CTL) is a global communications, hosting, cloud and IT services company enabling millions of customers to transform their businesses and their lives through innovative technology solutions. CenturyLink offers network and data systems management, big data analytics and IT consulting, and operates more than 55 data centers in North America, Europe and Asia. The company provides broadband, voice, video, data and managed services over a robust 250,000-route-mile U.S. fiber network and a 300,000-route-mile international transport network. Visit [CenturyLink.com](#) for more information.

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