

Starlink's and Comcast's questionable coverage maps cause conflict

Article

The news: ISPs submitting inaccurate coverage information to the **Federal Communications Commission (FCC)** are compromising which parts of the US can get access to a **\$42.5 billion broadband fund**, per [Ars Technica](#).

Can't trust carriers' maps: Wireless providers overstating their coverage continue to complicate efforts to identify underserved communities.

- **Starlink, T-Mobile, Verizon, and Comcast**, have all provided false availability data to the federal government's broadband fund map.
- In **SpaceX's** Starlink case, it claims to serve the whole US on the FCC's map, but its own maps reveal a waitlist in huge portions of the country.
- The **Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA)** told Ars Technica that "the FCC's current maps are based on old data from June 2022."
- "They're reporting hypothetical service, not actual service," said **Christopher Ali**, a telecommunications professor at **Pennsylvania State University**.

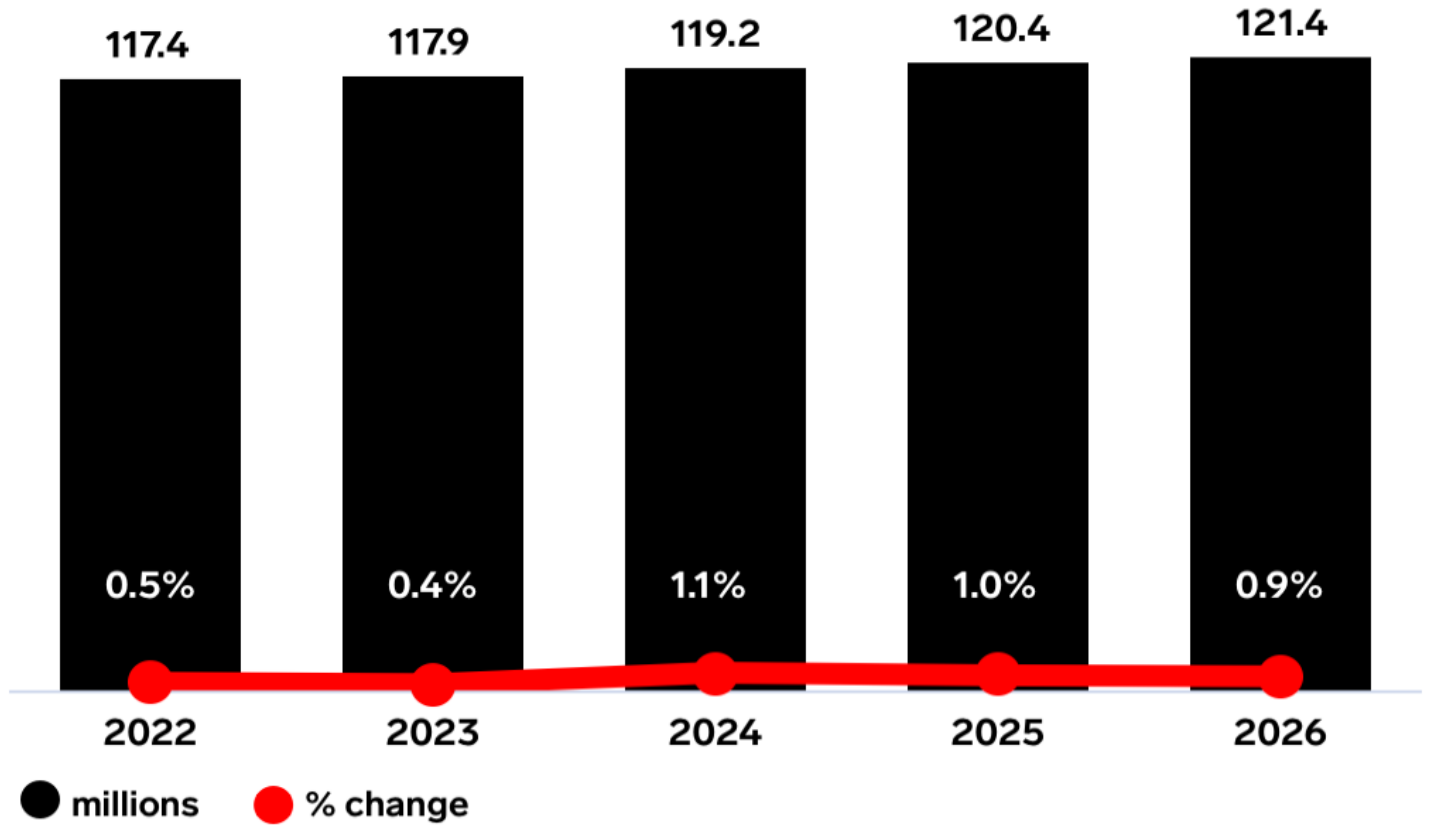
The problem: Inaccuracies in the FCC map will block competitors from obtaining subsidies and competing in certain markets because maps show they are already being served. **Those areas could lose out on billions in federal funds** as a result.

- Customers from Harrietta, Michigan; West Chester, Pennsylvania; and Woodinville, Washington, proved they don't get Starlink service, even though the company claims to serve the area on the FCC map.
- Verizon was called out for similar inaccuracies and said it's possible that "services were available at the reporting date but no longer accessible to new customers."

Key takeaway: The **National Telecommunications and Information Administration** plans to issue grants by June 30, but given the questionable nature of carriers' claims, **this deadline should be moved until a trusted body can provide an accurate and updated coverage picture.**

Home Internet Households

US, 2022-2026



Note: a household with an active subscription to a high-speed broadband wireless internet

Source: eMarketer, October 2022

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