

How Title II Helps Lower Broadband Costs for Consumers in Multiple Tenant Environments

[Multiple Tenant Environments](#), or MTEs, like apartments and office complexes face broadband access issues due to exclusive agreements between landlords and internet service providers. This means that residents sometimes have *no choice* but to use the broadband provider that gave their landlord the best deal instead of the one that best meets their needs or offers the best price to subscribers. These exclusive deals stifle competition between providers, raise broadband prices for consumers, and diminish service quality for tenants.

Expanding the FCC's MTE rules – first developed for telephone and cable service – to broadband remains challenging. Despite the FCC's previous efforts, exclusive agreements persist. Broadband providers exploit legal loopholes, and the FCC's rules cannot directly address exclusive broadband agreements.

Reclassifying broadband as a "telecommunications" service under Title II of the Communications Act gives the FCC clear authority to close these loopholes and to make further rule changes to promote broadband competition (such as providing access to utility poles for competitive broadband providers). **To ensure fair competition and consumer choice, the FCC needs to take stronger action to address broadband competition in MTEs.** Title II empowers the agency to do so.

Goal: Promote choice, competition, affordability, and service quality in broadband access for MTE residents by eliminating artificial barriers to competition.

Lack of Choice: Tenants often have limited or no choice in selecting their broadband provider due to exclusive agreements struck between landlords and ISPs.

Exclusive Agreements: Landlords and internet service providers enter into exclusive and other contracts (revenue sharing agreements, wiring agreements, marketing agreements, bulk service agreements), limiting broadband competition while driving up broadband prices.

Impact on Competition: These exclusive contracts can stifle new entrants from offering services in MTEs.

Consumer Impact: Limited choice can lead to higher prices, poorer service quality, and less innovation in service offerings.

Legal Issues: The FCC's previous classification of broadband as an "information service" currently makes it impossible for it to oversee exclusive broadband agreements.