

Helping Keep Americans Connected

The USAC Connection High Cost & Low Income monthly newsletter will give you information about upcoming program deadlines, tips to help you ensure timely and proper filings, and other information.

USAC is hosting a [High Cost/Low Income Mid-Atlantic Training](#) session May 8, 2008 in Washington, DC to provide guidance on program rules, audits, and support payment calculations. Space is limited.

High Cost Program

IAS Annual Self-Certifications due June 30, 2008

Each price-cap carrier, and CETCs serving lines in the service area of a price-cap carrier, must file an annual self-certification with USAC and the FCC **by June 30, 2008** in order to receive Interstate Access Support (IAS) for the upcoming program year (July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009). This self-certification must state that all IAS provided will be used **ONLY** for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

April 28 & 29—Visit USAC at Booth 127 at the Rural Cellular Association Annual Convention in Las Vegas.

An IAS self-certification sample letter can be found on [USAC's High Cost Forms page](#) and may be filed by an authorized representative for the carrier. Be sure to reference CC Docket No. 96-45 and file the self-certification with USAC and the FCC. After you file, go to the [Certifications Search Page](#) to see if your self-certification was received. If your self-certification is filed late, absent a waiver from the FCC, you will be eligible for IAS as follows:

By **9/30/08**, eligible for 4Q08, 1Q09, 2Q09.

By **12/31/08**, eligible for 1Q09, 2Q09.

By **3/31/09**, eligible for 2Q09.

See [File Certifications for IAS](#) for more information or call our Customer Service Center at 877-877-4925.

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Low Income Program

ETCs Must Notify Lifeline Customers about the Transition to Digital Television (DTV)

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is requiring all eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) that receive federal universal service funds to provide information about the television broadcasting transition from analog to digital service (the "DTV Transition") to their Lifeline and Link Up customers. See [FCC 08-56](#), released March 3, 2008.

A March 28, 2008, FCC [Public Notice](#) announced that the effective date for the new rule was March 31, 2008. Accordingly, as of March 31, ETCs must begin using bill inserts or language on a monthly bill to notify their Lifeline and Link Up customers about the DTV transition.

However, the FCC released a reconsideration order ([FCC 08-119](#)) April 23 that expanded its rules

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Low Income Program

regarding the method in which ETCs must notify their Lifeline and Link Up customers of the February 2009 DTV transition. ETCs are now permitted to mail customers monthly stand-alone outreach materials (brochures, postcards, etc.) instead of including the notice as a monthly bill insert. The language that must be included on the mailer has not changed.

ETCs are still required to include DTV transition information on all Lifeline and Link Up outreach materials. These revised rules will be effective May 30, 2008. However, carriers may still use stand-alone mailers for the April 30 deadline.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has a number of outreach materials relating to the DTV transition, particularly the coupon program, available on its website at www.dtv2009.gov. Please contact NTIA directly to discuss co-branding printed materials or outreach methodology.

For more information on these requirements, please see USAC's March 19 [DTV Important Notice](#) or the [March 2008 High Cost & Low Income News](#).

Did You Know You Can Find Low Income Disbursement Information on USAC's Website?

The [Low Income Disbursement Tool](#) enables all companies that receive Low Income support to search and view disbursements, and to see how a particular disbursement was calculated. USAC pays companies Low Income support based on a projection, and then trues-up the disbursed amount once it enters the actual data submitted by the company for a particular month into the Low Income database. The tool shows a company's projection, actual support claim and true-up amount, which permits a company to reconcile its Low Income disbursement against the amount of support claimed on FCC Form 497.

SPIN:	<input type="text"/>
Study Area Code:	<input type="text"/>
Study Area Name:	<input type="text"/>
Year:	2007 <input type="button" value="v"/>
Month:	ALL <input type="button" value="v"/>
State:	IN <input type="button" value="v"/>
<input type="button" value="Find"/> <input type="button" value="Clear"/>	

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USAC appreciates feedback on this newsletter. For any questions or comments, please contact Ed Rovetto, Program Manager, External Relations, at erovetto@usac.org.

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High Cost Program

ICLS Annual Self-Certifications due June 30, 2008

Each rate-of-return carrier, and CETCs serving lines in the service area of a rate-of-return carrier, must file an annual self-certification **by June 30, 2008** in order to receive Interstate Common Line Support (ICLS) for the upcoming program year (July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009). This self-certification must be filed with USAC and the FCC, and must state that all ICLS provided will be used **ONLY** for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

An ICLS self-certification sample letter can be found on [USAC's High Cost Forms page](#) and may be filed by an authorized representative for the carrier. Be sure to reference CC Docket No. 96-45 and file the self-certification with both USAC and the FCC. After you file, go to the [Certifications Search Page](#) to see if your self-certification has been received. If your self-certification is filed late, absent a waiver from the FCC, you will be eligible for ICLS as follows:

By **9/30/08**, eligible for 1Q09, 2Q09.

By **12/31/08**, eligible for 2Q09.

After **12/31/08**, not eligible for ICLS.

See [File Certifications for ICLS](#) for more info or call our Customer Service Center at 877-877-4925.

Addresses for Filing IAS and ICLS Self-Certifications

Karen Majcher
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Universal Service Administrative Company
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Washington, DC 20036

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Price-Cap Carriers and CETCs Receiving IAS Must File Quarterly Line Counts by June 30, 2008

All price-cap carriers and CETCs serving lines in the service area of a price-cap carrier, or their agents, are required to file line counts for IAS with USAC **by June 30, 2008** for the number of lines served as of March 31, 2008. Lines must be reported by UNE zone and customer class.

CETCs are encouraged to use the new [online Form 525](#) (e525). Last month, USAC requested that CETCs confirm that all personnel filing High Cost line count data had access to USAC's [E-File](#) system. To ensure access, USAC recommended that CETCs update their [Form 498](#) (*Service Provider Identification Number and Contact Information Form*) information to gain access to the online e525. The online e525 allows you to certify online before submitting the form.

If the Form 525 is not filed online (e.g., on paper, by fax, or by e-mail), the signed certifications of the authorized persons still must be received by USAC by the due date. If filings, including certifications, are not received by the due date, you will need to seek a waiver from the FCC. USAC cannot waive the filing deadline. Only an FCC waiver will permit USAC to use your filings to calculate IAS. CETCs can send Form 525 to:

Universal Service Administrative Company
444 Hoes Lane
Piscataway, NJ 08854
By Fax: (866) 873-4666
By E-mail: hcfilings@hcli.universalservice.org

For questions about IAS line counts, call our Customer Service Center at (877) 877-4925.