

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 timely information.

High Cost Program

Competitive ETCs Must File Quarterly Line Counts by December 29, 2006

All competitive eligible telecommunications carriers (CETCs), or their agents, must file line counts with USAC using Form 525 on a quarterly basis to qualify for high cost support. Form 525, with instructions, and other forms can be found on the [High Cost Forms](#) page.

Incumbent ETCs Must File Quarterly Line Counts by December 29, 2006

All incumbent ETCs, or their agents, with a competitive ETC filing line counts in their service area(s) are required to file line counts with USAC or the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA) on a quarterly basis.

DEC. 30	RURAL & RATE-OF-RETURN CETC	HCL, LSS, ICLS	VOLUNTARY*	QUARTERLY LINE COUNTS AS OF 6/30
	NON-RURAL, CETC	HCM	MANDATORY	QUARTERLY LINE COUNTS AS OF 6/30
DEC. 31	RURAL	LSS	MANDATORY	ACTUAL DATA FOR PREVIOUS CALENDAR YEAR
	RATE-OF-RETURN	ICLS	MANDATORY	ACTUAL DATA (FORM 509) FOR PREVIOUS CALENDAR YEAR
DEC.**	PRICE-CAP, CETC	IAS	MANDATORY	QUARTERLY LINE COUNTS AS OF 9/30

NOTE: Because December 30 and 31, 2006 fall on Saturday and Sunday, respectively, some filings are due on December 29, 2006 and the ICLS Form 509 filing is due on January 2, 2007.

**Due on last business day of the month.

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Low Income Program

New Tool Makes it Easy for Carriers to Post Information on Lifelinesupport.org

USAC has created a new online tool to assist carriers in providing information on the availability of Lifeline and Link Up support to low-income consumers. The new Online Lifeline Support tool allows carriers to submit or update information for consumers on USAC's consumer-oriented website, www.lifelinesupport.org.

In January, USAC will begin reaching out to carriers across the country about submitting or updating information on the availability of Lifeline and Link Up support and the eligibility criteria for low-income consumers in their states. This outreach initiative is designed to increase the number of carriers providing information to low-income consumers.

Over the next several months, USAC will contact all ETCs and state commissions to verify or provide

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Low Income Program

current eligibility criteria, links to any state Lifeline pages, and request all ETCs to submit information on their Lifeline and Link Up support for posting on www.lifelinesupport.org. For example, using the tool carriers can submit or update information on the type of services available to low-income consumers, how to apply, the rate or discount available, and whether your state uses program-based eligibility criteria, among other things.

To begin using the online tool, send an [e-mail](#) to USAC's Low Income team with your company's Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN) and Study Area Code (SAC) so you can obtain login information and begin posting your company's information.

The site includes [instructions](#) for submitting information to www.lifelinesupport.org and a [PowerPoint presentation](#) with details about the tool including screen shots.

Please Note: If you currently have data posted on www.lifelinesupport.org it will be transferred to USAC's archives on January 2, 2007 and remain there until July 2, 2007, at which time it will be removed. USAC has requested all companies to update their www.lifelinesupport.org data for each state **prior to July 2, 2007** so that your company's information is not removed.

General Company Information	
SPIN:	<input type="text"/>
SAC:	<input type="text"/>
Company Name:	<input type="text"/>
Contact Name:	<input type="text"/>
Email Address:	<input type="text"/>
State:	ALABAMA <input type="button" value="v"/>
Phone:	<input type="text"/> [ex: 111-111-1111]
Fax:	<input type="text"/>
Web Site Address:	<input type="text"/> [use: http://]
Store Locator	<input type="text"/> [use: http://]
Downloadable Application Link	<input type="text"/> [use: http://]
Customer Service Number	<input type="text"/> [ex: 111-111-1111]
Name of State Lifeline Program if it differs from the Federal Name	<input type="text"/>
Name of State Link Up Program if it differs from the Federal Name	<input type="text"/>

Carriers can update or submit general information about their companies.

The Online Lifeline Support Tool makes it easy for companies to provide information about Lifeline and Link Up support.

1. What type of service is available to Lifeline customers? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Landline Services <input type="radio"/> Wireless Service <input type="radio"/> Landline or Wireless Services
2. To apply, the easiest method for a customer would be? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Call to Apply <input type="radio"/> Call for an Application <input type="radio"/> To apply, stop by your nearest certified The Phone Company retail store <input type="radio"/> Contact your social services case worker to apply
3. Do your Lifeline customers pay a certain rate or do they receive a specific discount? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Pay \$ <input type="text"/> <input type="radio"/> Save up to \$ <input type="text"/>
4. What type of packages are available to Lifeline customers? <input type="checkbox"/> as measured service (including local usage) <input type="checkbox"/> as part of a bundled service <input type="checkbox"/> flat rate service

High Cost Program

Local Switching Support (LSS) True-Up Data Due by December 29, 2006

Incumbent ETCs that filed for LSS in 2005 must file actual data for calendar year 2005 no later than **December 29, 2006**. If your LSS data is not timely filed, your 2005 LSS will be recovered, absent a waiver from the FCC. You must submit the necessary data on an OMB-approved LSS form, which can be found on the [High Cost Forms](#) page. You must also submit the required certification form, attached to the instructions, for the LSS forms. If the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA) files LSS data on your behalf, NECA must submit the same data with USAC no later than **December 29, 2006**.

Interstate Common Line Support (ICLS) True-Up Data Due by January 2, 2007

All incumbent eligible telecommunication carriers (ETCs) that projected for ICLS for any part of calendar year 2005 must file actual ICLS data for that year with USAC by **January 2, 2007**. This data will be used to true-up ICLS for calendar year 2005. If ICLS actual data for calendar year 2005 are not timely filed, all ICLS disbursed for that year will be recovered by USAC, absent an FCC waiver. You must submit the data necessary to determine actual ICLS on OMB-approved Form 509, which can be found on the [High Cost Forms](#) page.

If you have questions, please contact USAC's customer service center at 877-877-4925.

THREE WAYS TO FILE YOUR LINE COUNT AND TRUE-UP DATA WITH USAC

You can file line count and other High Cost program data with USAC as follows:

Via Email: hcfilings@hcli.universalservice.org

Via Fax: 866-873-4666

Via Mail: Universal Service Administrative Co.
444 Hoes Lane
Piscataway, NJ 08854

Remember: Line count filings for all High Cost support components and LSS True-Up data must be received by USAC no later than **December 29, 2006**.

ICLS True-Up data must be received by **January 2, 2007**.

If a line count filing is received after the filing date, a petition for waiver will need to be filed with the FCC. Because USAC is not authorized to waive filing deadlines, only an FCC grant of a waiver will permit USAC to use late line counts to calculate high cost support.

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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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