

*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.

## High Cost Program

### Local Switching Support (LSS) True-Up Data Due by December 31, 2007

Incumbent ETCs that filed for LSS in 2006 must file actual data for calendar year 2006 no later than **December 31, 2007**. If your LSS data is not timely filed, your 2006 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 31, 2007**.

### Interstate Common Line Support (ICLS) True-Up Data Due by December 31, 2007

All incumbent eligible telecommunication carriers (ETCs) that projected for ICLS for any part of calendar year 2006 must file actual ICLS data for that year with USAC by **December 31, 2007**. This data will be used to true-up ICLS for calendar year 2006. If ICLS actual data for calendar year 2006 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.

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## Low Income Program

### Reminder—Lifeline Advertising Requirement

All eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) are required to publicize the availability of Lifeline in a manner reasonably designed to reach eligible households within its study area [47 C.F.R. §54.405\(b\)](#). The FCC has provided advertising guidelines for states and carriers:

States and ETCs should utilize outreach materials and methods designed to reach households that do not currently have telephone service.

- Post notices at public transportation, shelters, soup kitchens, public transportation agencies
- Run public service announcements
- Host information booths at central locations
- Provide customer service to disabled program participants on an equal basis by using telecommunications relay services (TRS), text telephone (TTY), and speech-to-speech (STS)

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## Low Income Program

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- services; and by providing outreach materials in Braille
- Do not rely on bill inserts and advertising in telephone books. These methods are not likely to attract individuals who do not have phone service
- Do not rely on Internet notices as the primary means of outreach
- Do not rely on hotlines as the primary means of outreach

States and ETCs should develop advertising that can be read by members of any sizeable non-English speaking populations.

- Offer the suggestions above in languages other than English
- Offer toll-free numbers in other languages
- Make available applications in other languages

States and ETCs should coordinate their outreach efforts with governmental agencies that administer any of the relevant government assistance programs, such as:

- Social service agencies
- Tribal organizations
- Community centers
- Public schools
- Nursing homes
- Organizations such as AARP, United Way, etc.

States and ETCs should use USAC as a resource.

- ETCs can post information on USAC's Low Income consumer website, [www.lifelinesupport.org](http://www.lifelinesupport.org)
- USAC works with carriers, associations, tribal organizations, and consumers

USAC has developed [Consumer Outreach Letters](#) that ETCs can customize to provide information about Lifeline and Link Up.

### Termination of Lifeline Benefits

Lifeline benefits should be terminated when a consumer is no longer eligible or cannot prove continued eligibility. In most states, consumers are required to notify their company when they cease being eligible for Lifeline. Additionally, a consumer's eligibility may be verified periodically by the carrier or a designated agency.

If a company has a reasonable basis to believe a consumer is no longer eligible, the company must send the consumer a Notification of Impending Termination. This must be sent as a letter separate from the consumer's bill. The consumer will have 60-days from the date of the letter to provide proof of continued eligibility consistent with applicable federal or state verification requirements.

Companies must cease providing Lifeline discounts to consumers who fail to provide proof of continued eligibility within the 60-day period. If the state has dispute resolution procedures in place, the company must comply with the applicable state requirements. Consumers who provide proof of continued eligibility after the 60-day period must reapply for Lifeline benefits.

These requirements are set out in the Federal Communications Commission's rules at 47 C.F.R. §54.405(c) and (d).

# High Cost Program

## Competitive ETCs Must File Quarterly Line Counts by December 31, 2007

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 as follows:

### High Cost Loop, High Cost Model, Local Switching Support & Interstate Common Line Support

Your next line count filing is due no later than **December 31, 2007** for the number of lines served as of June 30, 2007. Lines must be reported consistent with the disaggregation path(s) selected by the incumbent carrier(s) in whose service areas you serve lines. You may obtain copies of the appropriate disaggregation plans by calling USAC or view maps using the [Disaggregation Map Search](#) tool on the USAC website. In addition, ICLS lines must be reported by customer class (residential and single line business lines are reported separately from multi-line business lines). HCM lines must be reported by wire center.

### Interstate Access Support

Your next line count filing is due by the last business day of the quarter, **December 31, 2007**, for the number of lines served as of September 30, 2007. Lines must be reported by UNE zone and customer class (residential and single line business lines are reported separately from multi-line business lines).

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 31, 2007

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. Incumbent ETCs must report line counts as follows:

### High Cost Loop, High Cost Model, Local Switching Support & Interstate Common Line Support

Your next line count filing is due no later than **December 31, 2007** for the number of lines served as of June 30, 2007. Lines reported must be consistent with the disaggregation path you selected. For ICLS, you must report lines using FCC Form 507, which is available on the [High Cost Forms](#) page. Lines for ICLS must be reported by customer class (residential and single line business lines are reported separately from multi-line business lines) and consistent with the disaggregation path you selected. For HCM, lines must be reported by wire center.

### Interstate Access Support

Your next line count filing is due no later than the last business day of the quarter, **December 31, 2007**, for the number of lines served as of September 30, 2007. Lines must be reported by UNE zone and customer class (residential and single line business lines are reported separately from multi-line business lines).

### 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](mailto: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 must be received by USAC no later than **December 31, 2007**.

LSS True-Up data and ICLS True-Up data must be received by **December 31, 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.