

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

Interstate Access Support – Required Filings

A price-cap incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC) must file its Average Price Cap CMT Revenue and UNE data with USAC annually. Data as of December 31 each year is due **no later than April 16**.

ILECs must also submit revenue information; unbundled network element (UNE) zone rates, if UNE zones have been established; and UNE zone maps, if UNE zones have been established. ILECs must also notify USAC if no UNE changes have occurred.

IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

March 30	HCL, HCM, LSS, ICLS, SVS, SNA	Line count as of 9/30/09
March 31	IAS	Line count as of 12/31/09
March 31	ICLS	Revenue projections upcoming year (7/1/10-6/30/11)
April 1	All telecoms	Report revenue (Form 499-A)
April 16	Price-cap ILECs	CMT Revenue data

Subpart J of Part 54 of Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations (47 CFR 54.800 et seq.) defines the terms for the filing requirements. Price-cap carriers must provide:

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Low Income Program

ETCs Must File Form 497 Revisions for 2008 Low Income Support by March 31, 2010

March 31, 2010 is the last day to submit revisions to [Form 497](#) (*Lifeline and Link Up Worksheet*) for 2008. USAC's administrative window for submitting revisions to Form 497 will close March 31, 2010, for all months prior to January 2009. This applies to submission of data on Form 497, including original (first-time) submissions and revisions of previously submitted data. USAC's administrative window for submitting data for the year 2007 is currently closed.

Carriers are encouraged to submit 2008 and 2009 revisions through the [Online Form 497](#). Carriers may also submit FCC Form 497 via [email](#) or via fax to 866-873-4665.

You may also mail Form 497 to the following address:

USAC
Customer Operations
2000 L Street, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036

Please contact the Low Income Customer Service Center at **866-873-4727** if you have questions.

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Use the Online Form 497 to Make Filing Easier

The FCC Form 497 is available online through USAC's [E-File System](#) and makes it easier for ETCs to file their data online. The benefits of using the online 497 include:

- greater filing efficiency for larger carriers,
- the ability to submit one template for multiple Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN) – Study Area Code (SAC) combinations,
- built in validations for calculations, and
- bulk upload (**requires template from USAC**) and bulk certification features.

USAC's website has links to the [online form and user instructions](#). The instructions include directions for establishing new user accounts, updating existing accounts, completing the online Form 497, and contacting USAC.

ETCs are encouraged to submit Forms 497 electronically rather than sending paper copies and faxes.

If you want a template to use the Bulk Upload feature or have questions about the Online Form 497, contact [Tanea Davis](#) or go to the [Online Form 497 FAQ](#) page.

SPIN	Serving Area	State Reporting	Company Name	Data Month	Submission Date	Type Of Filing
		ALASKA		February 2010	01/09/2010	Original

Tier	Low-income Subscribers receiving federal Lifeline Support	# of Lifeline Subscribers	Lifeline Support per Subscriber	Total Lifeline Support
Tier 1	Low-income Subscribers receiving federal Lifeline Support	0	0.0	0
Tier 2	Low-income Subscribers receiving federal Lifeline Support	0	0.0	0
Tier 3	Low-income Subscribers receiving federal Lifeline Support	0	0.0	0
Tier 4	Low-income Subscribers receiving federal Lifeline Support	0	0.0	0

Check box to the right if partials or pro rata amounts are used. Partials Used Amount 0

Total Lifeline Support 0

Save Exit to 497 Search

USAC Information

Telecommunications Companies Must Report Revenues on Form 499-A by April 1

All telecommunications carriers providing international and interstate telecommunications services, providers of interstate telecommunications that offer interstate telecommunications for a fee on a non-common carrier basis, and payphone providers that are aggregators are required to contribute to universal service and file a [Form 499-A](#) (*Annual Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet*).

The [Fund Administration Video Tutorial](#) page has a tutorial for filing the Form 499-A and other E-File tutorials.

USAC encourages fund contributors to take advantage of its [online submission](#) capabilities using the E-File portal. Online users will be able to quickly [revise](#) Forms 499 by pulling up historical forms, editing and submitting your changes, and certifying online.

All paper Forms 499 (including prior-year forms) should be mailed to:

Universal Service Administrative Company
Form 499 Data Collection Agent
2000 L Street, N.W., Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036

See USAC's [Revenue Reporting](#) page for more details.

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- The Average Price Cap CMT Revenue per Line per month in a study area for each of its study areas,
- The rates established for UNE Loops and UNE Line Ports, by zone in those study areas where UNE Zones have been established as of the date of filing, and
- Make available information sufficient to determine the boundaries of each UNE Zone within each of its study areas where such zones have been established.

If there have been no changes since your previous filing, you may submit a statement that there have been no changes. But for study areas where UNE zones have been newly established since the last filing, the price cap local exchange carrier should report the information required above.

If you have questions, contact [Marcel Numa](#).

Interstate Common Line Support (ICLS) – Revenue Requirement Information for ILECs

All rate-of-return ILECs have **until March 31** of each year to submit their projected revenue requirement data on [Form 508](#) (*ICLS Projected Annual Common Line Revenue Requirement*) for the ICLS upcoming program year beginning July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.

The following data must be submitted by study area: projected common line revenue requirement; projected subscriber line charge (SLC) revenues; projected special access surcharges; and projected line port costs in excess of basic analog service.

Revisions to projected revenue data filed March 31 may be submitted **April 1 through June 30**. Revisions to projected data for the ending ICLS program year (July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009) are due by **June 30**.

Submitting Line Counts

Rural ILECs with competition in their study areas must submit line count information quarterly at the study area level or consistent with their [Disaggregation Plan](#). Rural ILECs without competition in their study areas may voluntarily submit updated quarterly information. Non-rural ILECs are required to submit updated line

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USAC, 2000 L Street, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036
Phone (202) 776-0200 Fax (202) 776-0080

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

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JOIN USAC AT CTIA WIRELESS 2010 IN LAS VEGAS MARCH 23-25

USAC personnel from the High Cost and Low Income Programs will be at the CTIA Wireless 2010 show in Las Vegas in **Booth 6736**.

Staff will be available to:

- Answer your questions,
- Provide new eligible telecommunications carriers with a packet of information, and
- Review Online Form 525 or Online Form 497 capabilities.

The booth is located in the North Hall next to the Cellebrite USA and Motorola Android exhibits.

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count data at the wire center level on a quarterly basis. Part 36 of the FCC rules outlines the filing requirements for ILECs.

Line count information for competitive carriers

Competitive ETCs (CETCs) must file line count data quarterly in the same manner as the ILEC in whose service area the CETC competes. CETCs can use the [online Form 525](#) (*Competitive Carrier Line Count Report*) to submit line count data to USAC.

IAS line count information

A price-cap local exchange carrier must file the number of lines served as of 12/31/2009 within each study area in which it serves **by March 31, 2010**.

ICLS line count information

ILECs with competition in their study areas must file line count information quarterly on [Form 507](#) (*Interstate Common Line Support Mechanism Line Count Report*) for each study area by customer class (residential/single-line business and multi-line business) as of 9/30/2009 **by March 30, 2010**. Carriers must file disaggregated line count data, if such zones have been established within the study area.

The Part 54 data filings (Forms 507, 508, 525, IAS line counts & CMT Revenue data) can be sent by mail, email, or fax to:

USAC
Customer Operations
2000 L Street NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036
Fax: (866) 873-4695
E-Mail: hcfilings@hcli.universalservice.org

If you have questions, please contact us at hcinfo@usac.org.

Tips for Using the Online Form 525 for CETCs

USAC strongly encourages CETCs to use the online Form 525 (e525) to ensure accurate data entry for calculating support payments. You can view video tutorials for the [Online Form 525](#) or how to use the [E-File System](#).

Your first step is to make sure you have access to E-File. It is critical that you identify your online users, update their information, and/or confirm their User IDs and passwords.

Your company Officer or General Contact as found on Form 498 (*Service Provider Identification Number and Contact Information Form*) should have received a User ID and password from USAC. If you need assistance with E-File, call USAC Customer Operations at **(888) 641-8722**.

Once an Officer and/or a General Contact has access to E-File, they can set up an "Authorized User" to enter the Form 525 data. Only the Officer and General Contact (they may be the same person) have the authority to submit the e525 until other "Authorized users" – such as company staff – are established.

In the case of agent-entered data, an authorized company representative must make a final certification that the agent is authorized for the e525. This can be done online using the e525.

Further information can be found in the [High Cost](#) section of USAC's website. If you have questions about the e525, please [e-mail](#) or call (202) 776-0200.