

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

All eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) have ongoing requirements to fulfill, usually on an annual or a quarterly basis. Below are upcoming filings.

Interstate Access Support – Required Filings

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

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

Feb. 6-7	NTCA EXPO 07	Visit USAC at Booth 107
March 30	HCL, HCM, LSS, ICLS, SVS, SNA	Line count as of 9/30/06
March 30	IAS	Line count as of 12/31/06
April 2	ICLS	Revenue projections for upcoming year (7/1/06-6/30/07)
April 2	All telecoms	Report revenue (Form 499-A)

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Low Income Program

ETCs Must File Form 497 Revisions for 2005 Low Income Support by March 31, 2007

March 31, 2007 is the last day to submit revisions to Form 497 (*Lifeline and Link Up Worksheet*) for 2005. USAC's administrative window for submitting revisions to Form 497 will close March 31, 2007, for all months prior to January 2006. 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 2004 is currently closed.

Because March 31 falls on a Saturday this year, we will accept submissions received on Monday, April 2, 2007.

You may submit FCC Form 497 via email or via fax to 866-873-4665. You may also mail Form 497 to the following address:

USAC Low Income Program
444 Hoes Lane
Piscataway, NJ 08854

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

Low Income Program

Post Your Lifeline Data on www.lifelinesupport.org

In January, USAC began contacting carriers about submitting or updating information on the availability of Lifeline and Link Up support as well as the eligibility criteria for low-income consumers in their states. This outreach initiative is designed to improve USAC's consumer-oriented website, www.lifelinesupport.org, by increasing the number of carriers posting company-specific Lifeline and Link Up information.

Over the next several months, USAC will continue to contact eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) to request that they submit information about their Lifeline and Link Up support programs for posting on www.lifelinesupport.org. Carriers can now use USAC's new online posting tool to 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.

Reminder: Support and Eligibility for Residents of Tribal Lands

Residents of federally recognized tribal lands who are eligible for the Lifeline and Link Up programs can receive enhanced Lifeline and Link Up support.

Tribal Lifeline Customers

Eligible residents of Indian reservations or tribal lands can receive up to an additional \$25 in Lifeline discounts, but must pay at least \$1 for basic monthly service. The maximum discount is \$35.

Tribal Link Up Customers

Eligible low-income consumers living on tribal lands are eligible for an additional discount of up to \$70 to cover 100% of the charges between \$60 and \$130. However, tribal customers must still pay 50% of the first \$60. The maximum discount is \$70.

Tribal Lands Eligibility

- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA) or Section 8
- Food Stamps
- Head Start (income eligible)
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Medicaid
- National School Lunch Program (free lunch program only)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Tribal TANF
- Total Household Income at or below [135% of the federal poverty guidelines](#)

In some states, a tribal resident may qualify for Lifeline, Link Up, and Toll Limitation Service if he or she meets the eligibility criteria established by the state.

Please contact USAC at telcolifeline@usac.org or (202) 776-0200 with any questions about Enhanced Lifeline and Link Up for tribal residents.

High Cost Program

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

All rate-of-return ILECs have **until April 2** 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, 2007 to June 30, 2008. Revisions to projected revenue data filed April 2 may be submitted **April 1 through July 2**. Revisions to projected data for the ending ICLS program year (July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007) are due by **July 2**. If the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA) acts as your agent, NECA will file this data on your behalf.

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 count data at the wire center level on a quarterly basis. Part 36 of the FCC rules outlines the filing requirements for ILECs. ILECs must report line counts as of 9/30/06 by **March 30** for HCL, HCM, LSS, ICLS, SNA, and SVS.

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 use [Form 525](#) (*Competitive Carrier Line Count Report*) to submit line count data to USAC. CETCs must report line counts as of 9/30/06 by **March 30** for HCL, HCM, LSS, ICLS, SNA, and SVS.

IAS line count information

A price-cap local exchange carrier must file the number of lines served as of 12/31/06 within each study area in which it serves **by March 30, 2007**.

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 9/30/06 **by April 2, 2007**. Carriers must file disaggregated line count data, if such zones have been established within the study area. If NECA acts as your agent, NECA will file this data on your behalf.

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

Universal Service Administrative Company
444 Hoes Lane
Piscataway, NJ 08854
Fax: (866) 873-4695
E-Mail: hcfilings@hcli.universalservice.org

Please call the Customer Service Center at 877-877-4925 if you have any questions about filings.

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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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