

*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

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. 12-13	NTCA EXPO 08	Visit USAC at Booth 1010
March 30*	HCL, HCM, LSS, ICLS, SVS, SNA	Line count as of 9/30/07
March 31	IAS	Line count as of 12/31/07
March 31	ICLS	Revenue projections for upcoming year (7/1/08-6/30/09)
April 1	All telecoms	Report revenue (Form 499-A)

\*Because March 30 falls on a Sunday this year, we will accept submissions received on Monday, March 31, 2008.

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## Low Income Program

### ETCs Must File Form 497 Revisions for 2006 Low Income Support by March 31, 2008

**March 31, 2008** is the last day to submit revisions to [Form 497](#) (*Lifeline and Link Up Worksheet*) for 2006. USAC's administrative window for submitting revisions to Form 497 will close March 31, 2008, for all months prior to January 2007. 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 2005 is currently closed.

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.

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# Low Income Program

## Tier 1 Rate Review

USAC is currently reviewing the Tier 1 rates claimed by all competitive ETCs. In accordance with 47 C.F.R. 54.403(a)(1), competitive ETCs must claim Tier 1 support in the amount equal to that of the End User Common Line Charge (EUCL) of the incumbent local exchange carrier serving the area in which the qualifying low-income consumer resides. Competitive ETCs should verify the current EUCL with the incumbent local exchange carrier, their state utility commission, or the FCC on a regular basis.

## Consumer Outreach

In 2007, more than 800 ETCs used the online Lifeline Support ETC Posting Tool to create a company page on [www.lifelinesupport.org](http://www.lifelinesupport.org) that includes outreach information for low-income consumers concerning the availability of Lifeline and Link Up. The website is designed to assist low-income consumers in their search for telephone service. The tool includes links to each company's home website, downloadable applications, and a customer service number to help consumers to find information about the Lifeline program easily and quickly.

Companies that would like to participate should use the following link to submit data:

**Online Tool:** [E-mail](#) the company's SPIN and SAC combination to USAC to receive login information.

**Instructions:** [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

The online tool permits updates to a company's page at any time without requiring the data to be reentered. Please contact USAC with any questions or comments via [E-mail](#).

## Did You Know?

The Low Income Disbursement Tool allows you to search and view disbursements, and to see how a particular disbursement was calculated. You can also view a company's support 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:	ALL <input type="button" value="v"/>
Month:	ALL <input type="button" value="v"/>
State:	ALL <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](mailto:erovetto@usac.org).

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# High Cost Program

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

All rate-of-return ILECs have **until March 31** 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, 2008 to June 30, 2009. 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, 2007 to June 30, 2008) are due by **June 30**. 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 9/30/07 by **March 31** 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 9/30/07 by **March 31** 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 12/31/07 within each study area in which it serves **by March 31, 2008**.

## 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 9/30/07 **by March 31, 2008**. 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](mailto:hcfilings@hcli.universalservice.org)

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