

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

HCL, LSS, HCM, ICLS Line Counts Due July 31

Incumbent and competitive carriers must file line count data for High Cost Loop (HCL), Local Switching Support (LSS), High Cost Model (HCM), and Interstate Common Line Support (ICLS) **by July 31, 2007**. All carriers must report lines served as of December 31, 2006. Rural and non-rural ILECs must file line count data with the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA) with their annual cost data filings July 31, 2007.

Line count information for rural carriers

Rural ILECs must submit line count information at the study area level or consistent with the [Disaggregation Plan](#) adopted under the FCC's Rural Task Force Order. Rural ILECs without competition may voluntarily submit updated quarterly information. Rural incumbent carriers must file line count information with NECA.

Line count information for non-rural carriers

Non-rural ILECs are required to submit updated line

IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

June 29—IAS Line Counts due (report as of 3/31/07)
July 2—IAS Self-Certifications due at USAC & FCC
July 2—ICLS Self-Certifications due at USAC & FCC

count data at the wire center level on a quarterly basis. High Cost Model support is calculated and distributed at the wire center level. Non-rural ILECs must file HCM line count information with NECA.

Line count information for competitive carriers

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

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Low Income Program

Archived Pages of www.lifelinesupport.org to be Removed; Some ETCs Must Update Data by July 2, 2007

Recently, USAC unveiled a new online posting tool for eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) to submit data to be posted on USAC's consumer-oriented website www.lifelinesupport.org. USAC transferred pages not created using the new online tool to its archives on January 2, 2007. ETCs that posted data on www.lifelinesupport.org prior to the new online posting tool **must update their company's data by July 2, 2007**, at which time all archived pages will be removed. USAC encourages all companies to update their company information using the online tool prior to July 2, 2007 so that your company's page is not removed.

To post your company or update an existing or archived page, simply [e-mail](#) USAC's Low Income team with your company's Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN) and study area code (SAC) numbers so we can verify whether your company is a current ETC. Shortly thereafter, you will receive an e-mail with the online tool login information that you can use to update your information.

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For HCL and LSS, you must report lines consistent with the disaggregation plan selected by the incumbent carrier(s) in whose service area(s) you serve lines. For HCM, you must report lines by wire centers. For ICLS, you must file the number of working loops you serve in the service area of a rate-of-return incumbent carrier, disaggregated by the incumbent carrier's cost zones and customer class, if applicable.

If the Form 525 is filed electronically (e.g., by fax or e-mail), the signed certifications of the authorized persons still must be received by USAC by the due date. If an agent files on behalf of the company, the company must complete the top portion of the agent certification page and the agent is responsible for completing the bottom portion.

ICLS line count information

Rate-of-return carriers must submit line count data **by July 31, 2007** for each study area by customer class as of December 31, 2006 in the following categories: number of residential and single-line business access lines in service; number of multi-line business access lines in service; and total number of access lines in service. Carriers must file disaggregated line count data, if such zones have been established within the study area. You, or your agent, must use the [Interstate Common Line Support Mechanism Line Count Report](#) (Form 507) and file your ICLS line count information with USAC.

Notice to All Carriers About Filing Line Count Data in a Timely Manner

Remember that your line count filings must be received by USAC or NECA (as noted above) by July 31, 2007. If your line count filing is received after that date, you will need to file a petition with the FCC for a waiver of the line count filing rule in order for USAC to be permitted to use your line counts to calculate high cost support.

Line Count Forms

ILECs must submit Part 36 data to NECA and Part 54 data to USAC using the appropriate forms. The Part 54 data filings can be sent by mail, e-mail, or fax to:

Universal Service Administrative Company
444 Hoes Lane
Piscataway, NJ 08854

Fax: (866) 873-4695

E-Mail: hcfilings@hcli.universalservice.org

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

Low Income Program

2007 Lifeline Verification and Certification Deadlines Not Yet Established by FCC

The Federal Communications Commission has not yet established the 2007 deadline for eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) to submit their Lifeline certifications and verification results. Once the deadline is established, USAC will post a notice and sample verification and certification letters on its website. We will also send an e-mail to all ETCs and will note the deadline in a future issue of this newsletter.

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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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