

*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 Common Line Support (ICLS) – Revenue Requirement Revisions for ILECs

Rate-of-return ILECs can make revisions to projected ICLS revenue data filed March 31 (for the upcoming ICLS program year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010) between **April 1 and June 30**.

Revisions to projected data for the ending ICLS program year (July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009) are due by **June 30**. Both filings are made on FCC Form 508, which can be found on the [High Cost forms](#) page.

### IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

April 1— June 30	ICLS Revenue Req. Revisions	FCC Form 508 for upcoming ICLS program year (7/1/09- 6/30/10)
June 30	ICLS Revenue Req. Revisions	FCC Form 508 for ending program year (7/1/08-6/30/09)
June 30	IAS Certification	Price-cap carriers; CETCs
June 30	ICLS Certification	Rate-of-return carriers; CETCs

### IAS Annual Self-Certifications due June 30, 2009

Each price-cap carrier, and CETCs serving lines in the service area of a price-cap carrier, must file an annual self-certification with USAC and the FCC **by June 30, 2009** to receive Interstate Access Support (IAS) for the upcoming program year (July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010). This self-certification must state that all IAS provided will be used **ONLY** for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services

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## Low Income Program

### Best Practices: Annual Lifeline Program Certification and Verification Process

Certification and verification are the processes by which telecommunications companies establish eligible consumers' qualification for Lifeline and Link Up discounts. Certification occurs at the time an individual applies to enroll in Lifeline and Link Up, while verification occurs on a periodic basis after the subscriber has already begun receiving discounted service from the company.

To ensure a problem-free certification and verification process, carriers should:

- Submit your Annual Certifications and Verification results to USAC by the August 31 deadline.
- Use the recently updated Annual Certification and Verification form, available on the [Low Income Certification and Verification](#) page.
- On the form, eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) serving a federal default state select box #1; ETCs serving in a non-federal default state select box #2; Carriers who have not claimed federal low income support for Lifeline in 2009 select box #3.

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- For companies in federal default states and states that require a statistically valid sample of customers surveyed or verified, make sure to complete columns D and E of the table on the form.
- Provide accurate contact information on the person completing the form.
- All submitted documents should contain the signature and name of an officer of the company.
- Submit the form to USAC using only **one** method:

**Fax:** (202) 776-0080  
**E-mail:** [LiVerifications@usac.org](mailto:LiVerifications@usac.org)  
**Mail to:** Low Income Program,  
2000 L Street, Suite 200, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20036

- Check the [Certification and Verification](#) page periodically to see if USAC has received your company's certification and/or verification results.

Contact Fadesola A. Adetosoye, Assistant Program Manager of Low Income, at the email address above, for any questions or concerns about the Annual Low Income Lifeline Certification and Verification Process.

### Changes to DTV Transition Notification

The DTV Delay Act, extending the analog to digital broadcast transition to June 12, 2009, was signed into law February 11, 2009. The FCC extended ETCs' outreach obligations via a February 20, 2009 order (see [FCC 09-11](#)).

**Background**—In March 2008, the FCC revised Part 54 of the Universal Service rules to include a section on DTV outreach (see [Public Notice](#)). 47 C.F.R. § 54.418 required all ETCs to notify their Lifeline and Link Up customers about the DTV transition using bill inserts or language on a monthly bill. In April 2008, the FCC released a reconsideration order ([FCC 08-119](#)), expanding its rules to include stand-alone outreach materials (brochures, postcards, etc.) to the ways ETCs could notify their Lifeline and Link Up customers of the DTV transition.

**New ETC requirements**—ETCs must continue to notify their Lifeline and Link Up customers of the impending DTV transition through June 30, 2009. All materials sent between April 1, 2009 and June 30, 2009 should convey, at a minimum, the following language (emphasis added by FCC):

**The nationwide switch to digital television broadcasting will be complete on June 12, 2009, but your local television stations may switch sooner. After the switch, analog-only television sets that receive TV programming through an antenna will need a converter box to continue to receive over-the-air TV. Watch your local stations to find out when they will turn off their analog signal and switch to digital-only broadcasting.** Analog-only TVs should continue to work as before to receive low power, Class A or translator television stations and with cable and satellite TV services, gaming consoles, VCRs, DVD players, and similar products.

Information about the DTV transition is available from **your local television stations**, [www.DTV.gov](http://www.DTV.gov), or **1-888-CALL-FCC (TTY 1-888-TELL-FCC)**, and from [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov) or **1-888-DTV-2009 (TTY 1-877-530-2634)** for information about subsidized coupons for digital-to-analog converter boxes.

All ETCs that receive federal USF support must include the above language on all Lifeline and Link Up related outreach materials in addition to the monthly bill inserts or stand-alone mailer (postcard, brochure, etc).

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for which the support is intended.

An IAS self-certification sample letter can be found on USAC's [High Cost Forms](#) page and may be filed by an authorized representative for the carrier. Be sure to reference CC Docket No. 96-45 and file the self-certification with USAC and the FCC. After you file, go to the [Certifications Search Page](#) to see if your self-certification was received. If your self-certification is filed late, absent a waiver from the FCC, you will be eligible for IAS as follows:

By **9/30/09**, eligible for 4Q09, 1Q10, 2Q10.

By **12/31/09**, eligible for 1Q10, 2Q10.

By **3/31/10**, eligible for 2Q10.

See [File Certifications for IAS](#) for more information or call our Customer Service Center at 877-877-4925.

## ICLS Annual Self-Certifications due June 30, 2009

Each rate-of-return carrier, and CETCs serving lines in the service area of a rate-of-return carrier, must file an annual self-certification **by June 30, 2009** in order to receive Interstate Common Line Support (ICLS) for the upcoming program year (July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010). This self-certification must be filed with USAC and the FCC, and must state that all ICLS provided will be used **ONLY** for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

### Addresses for Filing IAS and ICLS Self-Certifications

Karen Majcher  
Vice President, High Cost & Low Income Division  
Universal Service Administrative Company  
2000 L Street, NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20036

Marlene H. Dortch  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

An ICLS self-certification sample letter can be found on USAC's [High Cost Forms](#) page and may be filed by an authorized representative for the carrier. Be sure to reference CC Docket No. 96-45 and file the self-certification with both USAC and the FCC. After you file, go to the [Certifications Search Page](#) to see if your self-certification has been received. If your self-certification is filed late, absent a waiver from the FCC, you will be eligible for ICLS as follows:

By **9/30/09**, eligible for 1Q10, 2Q10.

By **12/31/09**, eligible for 2Q10.

After **12/31/09**, not eligible for ICLS.

See [File Certifications for ICLS](#) for more info or call our Customer Service Center at 877-877-4925.

## Upcoming Deadlines

All eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) have ongoing requirements to fulfill, usually on an annual or a quarterly basis, such as submitting certifications, updating line count information, and for incumbent local exchange carriers, filing certain cost and revenue information in order to receive proper support.

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## 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.

## 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

All price-cap carriers and CETCs serving lines in the service area of a price-cap carrier, or their agents, are required to file line counts for IAS with USAC **by June 30, 2009** for the number of lines served as of March 31, 2009. Lines must be reported by UNE zone and customer class.

## 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 12/31/08 **by July 31, 2009**. 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) 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)

If you have questions, please contact us at [hcinfo@usac.org](mailto:hcinfo@usac.org).

## Presentations from the May 2009 High Cost Low Income Workshop in Minneapolis

USAC's High Cost and Low Income Division held a training session May 21 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, that covered High Cost and Low Income program rules, audits, and support payment calculations. You can find all of the materials presented on the [High Cost and Low Income Workshop](#) page.

Also covered are important topics such as USAC's Form 499 and billing process and outreach and advertising best practices. It's a good idea to review these resources for the latest program information.

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