

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

Local Switching Support (LSS) True-Up Data Due by December 31, 2007

Incumbent ETCs that filed for LSS in 2006 must file actual data for calendar year 2006 no later than **December 31, 2007**. If your LSS data is not timely filed, your 2006 LSS will be recovered, absent a waiver from the FCC.

You must submit the necessary data on an OMB-approved LSS form, which can be found on the [High Cost Forms](#) page. Average schedule companies should complete Form LSSa and cost companies should complete Form LSSc. You must also submit the required certification form, attached to the instructions, for the above forms.

If the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA) files LSS data on your behalf, NECA must submit the same data as required on the LSS forms. In addition, NECA must file your data with USAC no later than **December 31, 2007**.

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

Interstate Common Line Support (ICLS) True-Up Data Due by December 31, 2007

All incumbent Eligible Telecommunication Carriers (ETCs) that projected for ICLS for any part of calendar year 2006 must file actual ICLS data for that year with USAC by **December 31, 2007**. This data will be used to true-up ICLS for calendar year 2006. If ICLS actuals for calendar year 2006 are not timely filed, all

(Continued on page 3)

Low Income Program

Apply for Lifeline and Link Up

In an effort to maintain the most accurate and updated information available to consumers and other interested parties, USAC has revised its [Apply for Support](#) page to include information on how to apply for Lifeline and Link Up in each state, statewide applications and brochures (including those in other languages), and contact numbers for agencies that can answer more questions about the Lifeline and Link Up programs. If your state has a statewide Lifeline application or brochure that is not currently posted, please [e-mail USAC](#) so that we can add it to the page.

New Low Income Program Brochures

USAC develops and distributes numerous types of informational materials to educate consumers, eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs), and other stakeholders about basic program information, updates, and

(Continued on page 2)

Low Income Program

enhancements. Recently, USAC's Low Income team redesigned the Low Income Program brochures to better serve consumers and ETCs. One brochure is for ETCs and the other is for low-income consumers.

Low Income Program: An Overview for Eligible Telecommunications Carriers

This brochure is designed specifically for companies that are current ETCs or those that are seeking ETC designation. It includes information on each of the Low Income support components: Lifeline, Link Up, and Toll Limitation Service. Additionally, the brochure contains information on program requirements such as consumer eligibility, verification and certification, advertising, and claiming support.

Telephone Assistance Programs: For Low Income Consumers

This brochure is designed specifically for low-income consumers. It includes information on the discount amounts for Lifeline, Link Up, and Toll Limitation Service as well as information about the enhanced Lifeline and Link Up programs for residents of federally recognized tribal lands. The brochure also discusses the eligibility and application processes.

Both Low Income Program brochures, along with brochures for High Cost, Rural Health Care, Schools and Libraries, and USAC are available on USAC's [Brochures](#) page in the About USAC section of the USAC website.

Enhanced Link Up for Residents of Tribal Lands

Enhanced Link Up was created in 2000 as a supplement to the federal Link Up discount. In addition to a 50% discount on connection charges up to \$60, eligible customers residing on federal tribal lands can receive up to an additional \$70 in federal Link Up support for a total discount of \$100.

It is important to note that Enhanced Link Up does not waive installation charges for eligible consumers. The tribal consumer pays 50% of all connection charges up to \$60, and \$30 if the connection charges range between \$60 and \$130. If the connection charges exceed \$130, the customer pays \$30 plus 100% of all charges over \$130.

Enhanced Link Up can be applied towards initial connection or installation charges, facilities-based charges associated with extending lines to a home, and/or construction of facilities to initiate service for a qualifying customer. However, Link Up and Enhanced Link Up cannot be used to reduce charges on the consumer's side of the demarcation point (for example—jack installation). All Enhanced Link Up support should be claimed on Lines 11b-15b on FCC Form 497.

Examples of how to apply Enhanced Link Up:

Connection Costs	50% Discount on Charges Between \$0.00-\$60.00	100% Discount on Charges Between \$60.00 - \$130.00	Total Discount	Final Cost to Eligible Customer
\$40.00	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
\$125.00	\$30.00	\$65.00	\$95.00	\$30.00
\$130.00	\$30.00	\$70.00	\$100.00	\$30.00
\$150.00	\$30.00	\$70.00	\$100.00	\$50.00

High Cost Program

ICLS disbursed for that year will be recovered by USAC, absent an FCC waiver.

You must submit the data necessary to determine actual ICLS on OMB-approved Form 509, which can be found on the [High Cost Forms](#) page.

If the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA) files ICLS data on your behalf, NECA must submit the same data as required on Form 509. In addition, NECA must file your data with USAC no later than December 31, 2007.

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

Competitive ETCs Must File Quarterly Line Counts by December 31, 2007

All competitive eligible telecommunications carriers (CETCs), or their agents, must file line counts with USAC using Form 525 on a quarterly basis to qualify for high cost support as follows:

High Cost Loop, High Cost Model, Local Switching Support, & Interstate Common Line Support

Your next line count filing is due no later than **December 31, 2007** for the number of lines served as of June 30, 2007. Lines must be reported consistent with the disaggregation path(s) selected by the incumbent carrier(s) in whose service areas you serve lines. You may obtain copies of the appropriate disaggregation plans by calling USAC or view maps using the [Disaggregation Map Search](#) tool on the USAC website. In addition, ICLS lines must be reported by customer class (residential and single line business lines are reported separately from multi-line business lines). HCM lines must be reported by wire center.

Interstate Access Support

Your next line count filing is due by the last business day of the quarter, **December 31, 2007**, for the number of lines served as of September 30, 2007. Lines must be reported by UNE zone and customer class (residential and single line business lines are reported separately from multi-line business lines).

Form 525, with instructions, and other forms can be found on the [High Cost Forms](#) page.

Incumbent ETCs Must File Quarterly Line Counts by December 31, 2007

All incumbent ETCs, or their agents, with a competitive ETC filing line counts in their service area(s) are required to file line counts with USAC or the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA) on a quarterly basis. Incumbent ETCs must report line counts as follows:

THREE WAYS TO FILE YOUR LINE COUNT AND TRUE-UP DATA WITH USAC

You can file line count and other High Cost program data with USAC as follows:

Via Email: hcfilings@hcli.universalservice.org

Via Fax: 866-873-4666

Via Mail: Universal Service Administrative Co.
444 Hoes Lane
Piscataway, NJ 08854

Remember: Line count filings for all High Cost support components must be received by USAC no later than **December 31, 2007**.

LSS True-Up data and ICLS True-Up data must be received by **December 31, 2007**.

If a line count filing is received after the filing date, a petition for waiver will need to be filed with the FCC. Because USAC is not authorized to waive filing deadlines, only an FCC grant of a waiver will permit USAC to use late line counts to calculate high cost support.

(Continued on page 4)

High Cost Program

High Cost Loop, High Cost Model, Local Switching Support & Interstate Common Line Support

Your next line count filing is due no later than **December 31, 2007** for the number of lines served as of June 30, 2007. Lines reported must be consistent with the disaggregation path you selected. For ICLS, you must report lines using FCC Form 507, which is available on the [High Cost Forms](#) page. Lines for ICLS must be reported by customer class (residential and single line business lines are reported separately from multi-line business lines) and consistent with the disaggregation path you selected. For HCM, lines must be reported by wire center.

Interstate Access Support

Your next line count filing is due no later than the last business day of the quarter, **December 31, 2007**, for the number of lines served as of September 30, 2007. Lines must be reported by UNE zone and customer class (residential and single line business lines are reported separately from multi-line business lines).

IMPORTANT HIGH COST PROGRAM FILING DEADLINES

DEC. 30	RURAL & RATE-OF-RETURN	HCL, LSS, ICLS	VOLUNTARY*	QUARTERLY LINE COUNTS AS OF 6/30
	CETC		MANDATORY	
	NON-RURAL, CETC	HCM	MANDATORY	QUARTERLY LINE COUNTS AS OF 6/30
DEC. 31	RURAL	LSS	MANDATORY	ACTUAL DATA FOR PREVIOUS CALENDAR YEAR
	RATE-OF-RETURN	ICLS	MANDATORY	ACTUAL DATA (FORM 509) FOR PREVIOUS CALENDAR YEAR
DEC.**	PRICE-CAP, CETC	IAS	MANDATORY	QUARTERLY LINE COUNTS AS OF 9/30

High Cost Record Retention Recommendations Available on USAC's Website

The FCC adopted document retention requirements and administrative limitation periods for the high-cost, low-income, and rural health care universal service programs in an August 29, 2007 report and order (FCC 07-150).

The FCC requires recipients of universal service support for high-cost providers to retain all records that they may require to demonstrate to auditors that the support they received was consistent with the Act and the Commission's rules, assuming that the audits are conducted within five years of disbursement of such support.

In response to this order, the High Cost Program has made available a list of recommended documents that should be retained for audit purposes. [Follow High Cost Record Retention Recommendations](#) provides recommendations of documents to keep for incumbent carriers, average schedule incumbents, and component-specific recommendations for all program participants.

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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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