

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.

New Mailing Address for High Cost and Low Income Filings

USAC now collects all High Cost and Low Income forms at its Washington, DC mailing address. High Cost and Low Income email addresses and fax numbers will remain the same.

(Continued on page 2)

High Cost Program

Actual ILEC Local Switching Support Data for 2008 is Due No Later than December 31, 2009

All incumbent Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (ETCs) that filed for Local Switching Support (LSS) for calendar year 2008 must file actual LSS data (true-up data) for calendar year 2008 with USAC **no later than December 31, 2009**. If your LSS actual data for calendar year 2008 are not timely filed, **all LSS disbursed for calendar year 2008 will be recovered by USAC**.

A "cost company" serving 50,000 lines or fewer must use the *Local Switching Support Reporting Worksheet for Cost Companies* (Form LSSc) to submit its actual LSS data. An "average schedule" company must use the *Local Switching Support*

NOTICE

POSTPONED— November 19th High Cost and Low Income Regional Workshop (Washington, DC)

More information coming soon.

Reporting Worksheet for Average Schedule Companies (Form LSSa) to submit its actual LSS data. The [High Cost Forms](#) page has both forms. Whether you are an average schedule or a cost company, you may submit your LSS Form to USAC via email, fax, or regular mail to USAC (see box on page 3).

(Continued on page 3)

Low Income Program

Online Form 497 Bulk Upload and Certification Overview

The Low Income Program held two webinars in October to help Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (ETCs) navigate the bulk upload and new bulk certification features of the [Online Form 497](#) (*Lifeline and Link Up Worksheet*). The webinar sessions covered logging into E-File, bulk uploads, and bulk certifications.

The main features and benefits of Bulk Upload and Bulk Certification include:

- Greater filing efficiency for larger carriers,
- The ability to submit one template for multiple Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN) - Study Area Code (SAC) combinations,

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

ETCs must send Low Income FCC Form 497 and High Cost Forms 507, 508, 509, 525, Local Switching Support forms, line count filings, CMT revenue filings, and any additional information to USAC at the address below:

NEW MAILING ADDRESS FOR HIGH COST/LOW INCOME
USAC Customer Operations 2000 L Street NW, Suite 200 Washington, DC 20036

To avoid interruption in form processing, USAC recommends that ETCs file FCC Forms 497 and 525 [online](#).

USAC will continue to receive High Cost and Low Income forms sent to USAC New Jersey until December 31, 2009. **After that date, USAC will not process any High Cost or Low Income data mailed to the old address.** For this reason, we strongly encourage you to change your records to indicate the new address or, if applicable, submit the Forms 497 and 525 [online](#).

CONTACT INFORMATION

HIGH COST PROGRAM	LOW INCOME PROGRAM
Toll Free: (877) 877-4925 Fax: (866) 873-4695 E-Mail: HC Questions	Toll Free: (866) 873-4727 Fax: (866) 873-4665 E-mail: LI Filings (497)

Low Income Program

- Built in validations for calculations (tier rates, calculations, etc), and
- The bulk certify feature may be used even if the bulk upload feature is not used.

To begin using the bulk upload feature, ETCs should request templates from USAC.

ETCs are encouraged to submit Forms 497 electronically using the [E-File System](#) rather than sending paper copies and faxes.

You may need to set up users in the E-File System with entitlements to access the Online Form 497. The [Form 497 Online Instructions](#) give detailed steps for setting up users, helpful tips, and an overview of the process. You also can view [Frequently Asked Questions](#) about the online form.

If you have questions about the Online Form 497 and its new features, contact Tanea Davis at tdavis@usac.org or call 202-776-0200.

USAC CONNECTION is published monthly by the Universal Service Administrative Company, 2000 L Street, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20036 Phone (202) 776-0200 Fax (202) 776-0080

You may download and print copies of USAC Connection on USAC's website. You may [subscribe](#) to or [unsubscribe](#) from this newsletter. For program information, please visit the USAC website at www.usac.org. Feel free to forward this newsletter to any interested parties.

Please do not reply to this email directly, as it was sent from an unattended mailbox.
© 1997-2009, Universal Service Administrative Company, All Rights Reserved.

High Cost Program

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. NECA also must file your data with USAC **no later than December 31, 2008**.

Please contact USAC's customer service center at **877-877-4925** if you have any questions.

Interstate Common Line Support (ICLS) True-Up Data Due by December 31, 2009

All incumbent ETCs that projected for ICLS for any part of calendar year 2008 must file actual ICLS data for that year with USAC by **December 31, 2009**. This data will be used to true-up ICLS for calendar year 2008. If ICLS actuals for calendar year 2008 are not timely filed, **all 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 FCC 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, 2009**.

Please contact USAC's customer service center at **877-877-4925** if you have any questions.

Competitive ETC Quarterly Line Count Due Dates

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. USAC recommends that CETCs use the [Online Form 525](#) to submit their line count data.

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

Your next line count filing is due no later than **December 30, 2009** for the number of lines served as of June 30, 2009. 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, 2009**, for the number of lines served as of September 30, 2009. 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 instructions can be found on the [High Cost Forms](#) page.

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: USAC
Customer Operations
2000 L Street, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036

Remember: Line count filings for all support components must be received by USAC no later than **December 30, 2009**, except IAS which is **December 31, 2009**.

LSS True-Up data and ICLS True-Up data must be received by **December 31, 2009**.

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

(Continued from page 3)

Incumbent ETC Quarterly Line Count Due Dates

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:

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

Your next line count filing is due no later than **December 30, 2009** for the number of lines served as of June 30, 2009. 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, 2009**, for the number of lines served as of September 30, 2009. Lines must be reported by UNE zone and customer class (residential and single line business lines are reported separately from multi-line business lines).

Please contact USAC's customer service center at **877-877-4925** if you have any questions.

USAC Information

FCC Announces Mandatory Electronic Disbursement of USF Support Payments

The FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau announced September 28 that all federal Universal Service Fund (USF) support payments must be made by electronic funds transfer (See Public Notice [DA 09-2126](#)).

The notice states that recipients of USF support payments shall provide their financial institution information and other relevant information on FCC Form 498, which is being updated to reflect these requirements. USAC encourages all service providers to update their Form 498 information using [USAC's E-File System](#). Once the updated 498 form is processed, all following support payments will be made electronically.

The Wireline Competition Bureau will issue a further public notice announcing the effective date of the electronic payment requirement. After the effective date, USAC will not make USF support payments to any entity that has not provided financial institution information sufficient to enable payment through electronic funds transfer.

Please note: Service providers in the Schools and Libraries Program that currently use the Billed Entity Applicant Reimbursement (BEAR Form 472) form will continue to receive check payments even if they provide electronic banking information until further notice.

For questions, please contact USAC Customer Support at **(888) 641-8722** or customerservice@bcd.universalservice.org.