

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.

High Cost Program

High Cost Site Visit Outreach Initiative Extended through 2007

The High Cost site visit initiative was approved for a second year at the last USAC quarterly Board meeting in July. This outreach initiative provides USAC with a valuable in-the-field perspective on the High Cost Program. Site reviewers have identified best practices, addressed carrier concerns, and identified areas for program improvement.

In November, USAC will have conducted over 50 site visits to incumbent and competitive eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) in over 25 states. Feedback from all participants has been positive and USAC is eager to continue meeting and learning about carrier participation in the program.

The 2007 site visits will begin in mid-November 2006 and scheduling will begin in the fall. If you are interested in participating in the site visit program,

IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

September 17-18—Visit USAC at NECA Expo (Booth 119).

September 17—Karen Majcher, VP of USAC High Cost and Low Income Division presents USAC Overview at NECA Expo at 10:30 a.m. in South Pacific E & F.

September 29—Rural ILECs serving 50,000 or fewer lines must file LSS projected data for 2007.

please contact HCInfo@usac.org.

In 2007, USAC will be visiting 50 carriers with a balanced distribution in terms of geography, carrier type, carrier size, etc. Unfortunately, not all requests for site visits can be accommodated.

For more information, see the [Site Visits](#) page of the High Cost Program section on USAC's website.

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Low Income Program

Illinois Commerce Commission Informs FCC that Illinois is not "Federal Default State"

Recently, the FCC released a public notice ([DA 06-1738](#)) stating Illinois is no longer a "federal default state" for purposes of the Low Income Program. As such, all ETCs in the state of Illinois must adhere to eligibility and verification procedures set forth by the Illinois Commerce Commission.

For more information, please contact the FCC's Telecommunications Access Policy Division or the [Illinois Commerce Commission](#) directly.

USAC to Host Information Booth at National Congress Of American Indians 63rd Annual Convention

As part of USAC's ongoing outreach initiative, USAC staff will host an information booth October 2-4, 2006 at the NCAI annual convention in Sacramento, Calif. USAC staff will be on hand to answer questions regarding the Lifeline, Link Up, and Toll Limitation Service components of Low Income support. For information about the convention, contact the [National Congress of American Indians](#) directly.

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High Cost Program

Local Switching Support Projection Filings for Rural ILECs Due on or before September 29, 2006

Rural incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs) serving 50,000 or fewer lines may submit a projection filing for Local Switching Support (LSS). LSS projections are due on October 1 each year for support in the following calendar year. Since October 1 is a Sunday, submissions **must be received on or before September 29, 2006**.

A "cost company" serving 50,000 lines or fewer must submit the *Local Switching Support Reporting Worksheet for Cost Companies* (Form LSSc) in order to qualify for local switching support. An "average schedule" company must submit the *Local Switching Support Reporting Worksheet for Average Schedule Companies* (Form LSSa) in order to qualify for LSS. The forms can be found on the [High Cost Forms](#) page. LSS filings can be sent:

Via **Mail**: USAC, 444 Hoes Lane, RRC 4A1060, Piscataway, NJ 08854

Via **Fax**: (866) 873-4695

Via **E-Mail**: hcfilings@hcli.universalservice.org

Note: If the National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA) files this LSS data on a carrier's behalf, the carrier does not need to file the data directly with USAC.

If you have any questions, call our Customer Service Center at 877-877-4925.

Low Income Program

LOW INCOME DEADLINES

October 31, 2006 – Lifeline Verification Updates

If an ETC in a federal default state does not receive replies from all of its sample recipients, the ETC should have noted the number of outstanding replies on its verification submission and should update the verification results when the consumer responds. Updates must be submitted to USAC by **October 31, 2006**. ETCs need only submit one update.

August 31, 2006 – **PAST DUE** – Lifeline Verifications & Low Income Certifications

An ETC in a state with its own state-based Low Income program must have submitted a certification, signed by an officer of the company, to USAC by **August 31, 2006**, attesting that the ETC has complied with the state verification procedures. All ETCs in federal default states must have also submitted their annual Lifeline verification survey results to USAC by **August 31, 2006**.

Check [USAC's Low Income Program](#) page to see if your verification or certification has been received.

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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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