

*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

### Rural and Non-Rural Certifications Due on or before October 1, 2007

All eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) - rural, non-rural, and competitors - are subject to component-specific certification requirements that have a direct impact on those carriers' receipt of High Cost support.

State regulatory commissions typically submit ETC certifications for rural, non-rural, and competitive carriers that are eligible to receive High Cost support for High Cost Loop, High Cost Model, Local Switching Support, Safety Net Additive, or Safety Valve Support in the form of a letter to USAC and the FCC. These are **due annually on or before October 1**.

ETCs should work with their state commissions to ensure they are included in the certifications. Failure

### IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

October 1—State Commissions must file Rural and Non-Rural Use Certifications with USAC and the FCC. ETCs not subject to state jurisdiction must file directly with USAC and the FCC.

October 1—Rural ILECs serving 50,000 or fewer lines must file LSS projected data for 2007.

to timely file October 1 certifications affects ETC support as indicated in the table on the next page.

### *State Commission Certification Requirements*

In order for ETCs within a state to receive High Cost support (including HCL, HCM, LSS, SNA or SVS), the appropriate state public utilities commission must file an annual certification, by October 1 each year, with USAC and the FCC.

The certification must state that all federal High Cost

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## Low Income Program

### Deadline for Submitting Updated Verification Information is October 31

Eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) in federal default states were required to file the results of their annual Lifeline verification surveys with USAC by August 31. If an ETC submitted results indicating it had not received responses from all Lifeline customers surveyed, the company should complete the survey and submit updated results to USAC by **October 31**. Please submit updates to USAC using one of the following methods:

**Fax:** (202) 776-0080 Attention: Low Income Programs

**E-mail:** Submit scanned Adobe versions with signatures to [LiVerifications@usac.org](mailto:LiVerifications@usac.org)

**Mail:** USAC  
Low Income Programs  
2000 L Street, NW, Suite 200  
Washington, D.C. 20036

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# High Cost Program

support provided to rural and/or non-rural carriers and competitive ETCs within the state will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended. The certification must also reference CC Docket No. 96-45. If a state fails to certify an ETC, that ETC will not be eligible to receive support in the first quarter of the following calendar year.

Components	Certification filed by:	ETC Eligible For Support:
High Cost Loop	October 1	January 1 to December 31 of the following calendar year
Safety Net Additive	January 1	Second, third, and fourth quarters of the same year
Safety Valve Support	April 1	Third and fourth quarters of the same year
Local Switching Support	July 1	Fourth quarter of the same year
High Cost Model	After July 1	No support for the same year

[Rural Use Certifications](#) on USAC's website explains the certification filings that state commissions make for **rural ETCs** and **competitive ETCs** providing service in the areas of these companies.

[Non-Rural Use Certifications](#) on USAC's website explains the certification filings that state commissions make for **non-rural ETCs** and **competitive ETCs** providing service in the areas of these companies.

If an ETC is not subject to state jurisdiction, it must file a self-certification directly with USAC and the FCC. See [Filing requirements](#).

## Addresses for Filing October 1 Use Certifications and Self-Certifications

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### [Check if Your Certification was Received by USAC](#)

To see if USAC has received your October 1 Use Certification, visit the [certification checklist](#).

## Local Switching Support Projection Filings for Rural ILECs Due on or before October 1, 2007

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.

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, Piscataway, NJ 08854

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

Via **E-Mail**: [hcfilings@hcli.universalservice.org](mailto: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

## Lifeline Training Session Presentations Available for States with Low Participation Rates

USAC recently held training sessions on Lifeline, Link Up, and TLS for telephone companies and other interested parties in Alabama, Tennessee, and Louisiana. These states are targeted because their Lifeline participation rates were below 10% in 2006.

The training sessions were held via conference call and included discussions of USAC's role in administering the Low Income Program, consumer eligibility, verification and certification procedures, and advertising guidelines. The goal of these sessions is to raise awareness of Lifeline and share best practices concerning outreach to consumers.

The sessions were as follows:

Date	Event	PowerPoints
September 5, 2007, 2:00 p.m. ET	Alabama Lifeline Training Session	<a href="#">Alabama Presentation</a>
September 12, 2007, 2:00 p.m. ET	Tennessee Lifeline Training Session	<a href="#">Tennessee Presentation</a>
September 19, 2007, 2:00 p.m. ET	Louisiana Lifeline Training Session	<a href="#">Louisiana Presentation</a>

## Pro-rata Support

Line 9 of FCC Form 497 is designed to capture support ETCs provide to low-income subscribers who initiate or discontinue Lifeline service mid-month. The amount reported on Line 9 can be positive or negative, depending on whether there are more new subscribers added during the month or more subscribers disconnected during the reported month. Companies are reminded to pro-rate support on Line 9 if they have customers who received the Lifeline discount for only a portion of a month.

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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](mailto:erovetto@usac.org).

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