



## Guide to Telecom Rules

### CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

#### TITLE 47 – Telecommunications

#### PART 54 – Universal Service

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The NECA Guide to Telecom Rules is a companion document for use in conjunction with the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations. The GTR augments the e-CFR by providing:

##### **Summaries of significant actions**

This section includes all orders that changed this part. The initial date in each summary refers to the date the FCC released an order; effective dates are at the end of each summary. This section may also include relevant court orders and other significant decisions that may affect this part without changing any specific rules.

##### **Chronologies**

Each section title is accompanied by a chronology listing orders that changed the section. All dates refer to *release dates* of Orders that changed the rule. Clicking on any date sends you to the corresponding significant action summary where you will find effective dates, as well as links to the order for further details. (Some early orders are not available electronically and will not have a link.)

##### **Text of pending rules**

Rules that have been adopted by the FCC but are not yet effective because they are awaiting Federal Register publication or Office of Management and Budget approval, are indicated in the Chronologies section. Click on **(pending text)** to go to the text of the pending rules.

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## Significant Actions Affecting 47 C.F.R. Part 54

05/08/97 As mandated by the 1996 Act, the Commission changed its high-cost universal service program and added support programs for providing designated services to schools and libraries and rural health care providers. The Commission amended its rules regarding support for Lifeline and Link-Up programs, removing rules in Parts 36 and 69 and putting applicable rules into Part 54. The Commission provided for local switching support and long term support to be funded out of the “new” USF beginning 01/01/98, by moving DEM weighting and Long Term Support from Part 36 to Part 54. The Commission required all interstate telecommunications providers contribute to USF for high-cost, low-income, schools and libraries and rural health care programs, beginning 01/01/98, with contributions for high-cost, low-income programs based on interstate end-user telecom revenues; and contributions for schools, libraries and rural health care providers based on end-user interstate and intrastate telecom revenues; and the Commission permitted competitive LECs and other telecommunications providers to qualify for universal service support, with state commissions designating eligible carriers and service areas (beginning 01/01/98). The Commission also agreed with Federal-State Joint Board’s recommendation that universal service support be based on the forward-looking economic cost of constructing and operating the network facilities and functions used to provide supported services. The Commission determined that NECA should serve as temporary administrator of all universal service support programs. Federal-State Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, [Report and Order](#), 12 FCC Rcd 8776 (1997). Erratum, CC Docket No. 96-45, FCC 97-157 (rel. June 4, 1997), and Erratum, 12 FCC Rcd 24493 (1997). Effective 07/17/97, except Subpart E, which became effective 01/01/98. (New Part 54 Order).

07/10/97 The Commission reconsidered the New Part 54 Order, on its own motion, and amended 47 C.F.R. §§ 36.601, 36.621, 54.500 and 54.507. The Commission amended §§ 36.601 to clarify that high cost loop support is funded through the new universal service support mechanism beginning 01/01/98. The Commission concluded that a school or library eligible for discounts was not required to comply with competitive bidding requirement for any contract for telecommunications services signed after 11/08/96 and before competitive bidding system became operational, except if that contract covers only services provided to eligible school or library before 12/31/98. The Commission also concluded that eligible school or library could not receive federal universal service discount on services provided to it before 01/01/98. Federal-State Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, [Order on Reconsideration](#), 12 FCC Rcd 10095 (1997). Errata, (rel. Jul. 15, 1997), Errata (rel. Jul. 24, 1997). Effective 8/28/97, except for § 54.500 which became effective 07/30/97.

07/18/97 The Commission amended §§ 54.5, 54.504, 54.505, 54.507, 54.509, 54.516, 54.603, 54.609, 54.701 and added §§ 54.709, 54.711, 54.713, 54.715. Additionally, the Commission added §§ 69.600, 69.613 through 69.622 and amended § 69.603. The Commission directed NECA to create an independently functioning not-for-profit subsidiary that would be the temporary administrator responsible for administering universal service support mechanisms for high cost areas and low-income consumers, along with collection and disbursement functions associated with schools and libraries and rural health care programs. The Commission also directed NECA to create an unaffiliated, not-for-profit corporation to manage application and administrative processing of schools and libraries, rather than appointing a subcontractor to manage that process, and an unaffiliated, not-for-profit corporation to manage rural health care program. The new corporations were accountable to the Commission for their performance of functions relating to universal service support administration. The Commission established requirements for administrators to calculate quarterly Universal Service contribution factors, subject to Commission approval. Changes to the Board of Directors of the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc., CC Docket No. 97-21, and Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, [Report and Order and Second Order on Reconsideration](#), 12 FCC Rcd 18400 (1997). Erratum, 12 FCC Rcd 18400 (1997). Effective in part 08/08/97, remainder effective 09/02/97.

08/15/97 The Commission amended § 54.711 to reflect NECA assuming USAC’s duties as they related to distribution, receipt, and processing of Universal Service Worksheet until USAC was capable to do so. Changes to the Board of Directors of the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc., CC Docket No. 97-21, and Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, [Order on](#)

[Reconsideration, Second Report and Order, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#), 12 FCC Rcd 12444 (1997). Effective 08/15/97.

10/14/97 The Commission amended §§ 54.507(c) and 54.623 to establish a “window” period that would give equal priority to all schools, libraries, and rural health care applicants filing for funds within the window period. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, [Third Report and Order](#), 12 FCC Rcd 22485 (1997). Erratum, (rel. Oct. 15, 1997). Effective 11/28/97.

11/26/97 The Commission amended § 54.709(a)(4), and added § 54.709(a)(5) to allow universal service administrator to bill contributors monthly and require payment of contributions in equal monthly installments. Changes to the Board of Directors of the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc., CC Docket No. 97-21, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, [Second Order on Reconsideration in CC Docket No. 97-21](#), 12 FCC Rcd 22423 (1997). Effective 01/09/98.

12/16/97 The Commission amended § 54.507 (c) and § 54.623 (c) when it reconsidered, on its own motion, its decision regarding monies to be collected during first six months of 1998 for schools and libraries and rural health care support mechanisms and concluded that a downward adjustment in fund collections would not jeopardize sufficiency of support mechanisms. In this Order, the Commission directed administrator to collect no more than \$625 million during first six months of 1998 for schools and libraries universal service support mechanisms and no more than \$25 million per quarter for 1Q98 and 2Q98 for rural health care universal service support mechanism. FCC amended Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, [Third Order on Reconsideration](#), 12 FCC Rcd 22801 (1997). Effective 2/26/98.

12/30/97 The Commission amended §§ 54.101, 54.201, 54.301, 54.303, 54.307, 54.400, 54.401, 54.403, 54.500, 54.501, 54.502, 54.503, 54.504, 54.505, 54.506, 54.507, 54.511, 54.517, 54.603, 54.605, 54.609, 54.619, 54.623, 54.703, 54.705, and 54.709, and added §§ 54.518 and 54.519 to Subpart F, and §§ 54.604 and 54.625 to Subpart G. Additionally, the Commission amended §§ 36.125, 36.601, 36.612, 36.621, 36.622, 36.631 and §§ 69.153, 69.612, 69.616, 69.619. The Commission clarified its rules regarding eligibility of carriers and providers of supported services to receive universal service support, methods for determining levels of universal service support for carriers in rural, insular and high cost areas, support for low-income consumers, support disbursed under schools and libraries, and rural health care programs. The Commission also addressed the issues of which providers should contribute to new universal service support mechanisms and necessary changes concerning the administrator of these universal service programs. Additionally, the Commission affirmed use of indexed cap on high cost support. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45; Access Charge Reform, Price Cap Performance Review for Local Exchange Carriers, Transport Rate Structure and Pricing, End User Common Line Charge, CC Docket Nos. 96-262, 94-1, 91-213, 95-72, [Fourth Order on Reconsideration in CC Docket No. 96-45, Report and Order in CC Docket Nos. 96-45, 96-262, 94-1, 91-213, 95-72](#), 13 FCC Rcd 5318 (1998). Errata, CC Docket Nos. 96-45, 96-262, 94-1, 91-213, 95-72, 13 FCC Rcd 2372 (1998). Effective 02/12/98 as corrected by Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service. (1998 Fourth Order on Reconsideration).

06/22/98 The Commission determined that it was in public interest to change funding year from calendar year (January 1 – December 31) to fiscal year cycle (July 1 – June 30). The Commission concluded that transition to fiscal year approach should be implemented immediately and that applications submitted during initial 75-day filing window and approved for filing will be funded through 06/31/99, within fund caps set in this order. The Commission set maximum amounts that could be collected and disbursed during 1998 and first six months of 1999. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, [Fifth Order on Reconsideration and Fourth Report and Order in CC Docket No. 96-45](#), 13 FCC Rcd 14915 (1998). Effective 08/12/98.

07/17/98 The Commission referred six issues to Joint Board, including whether the Commission should take responsibility only for 25% of high cost funding, whether to apply federal universal service funds to reduce the cost of interstate access charges; an appropriate method for formulating and distributing high cost funds among the States; whether and to what extent the Commission should have a role in making intrastate support systems explicit; the revenue base for assessment; and

whether, to what extent, and in what manner providers should recover contributions to universal service through their rates. The Commission amended § 36.601 to specify that non-rural and rural carriers may continue to receive the expense adjustment for high cost loops until 07/01/99. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, [Order and Order on Reconsideration](#), 13 FCC Rcd 13749 (1998). Effective 12/23/98.

09/29/98 The Commission deferred the opening of the filing window from October 1, 1998 to December 1, 1998 for the federal support mechanism for schools and libraries, and directed the Schools and Libraries Corporation to determine the length of filing window and resolve other administrative matters necessary to implement the new filing window. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, [Seventh Order on Reconsideration in CC Docket No. 96-45](#), 13 FCC Rcd 19397 (1998). Effective 09/29/98.

11/17/98 The Commission amended Parts 54, 64 and 69 of its rules to permit the Administrator of the federal universal service support mechanisms to utilize TRS Fund data to verify the accuracy of revenue information provided on the Universal Service Worksheet by contributors to the universal service support mechanisms. Additionally, the Commission concluded that inside wiring maintenance did not constitute telecommunications or a telecommunications service because it did not involve “transmission” of information, and, therefore, Universal Service contributors were not required to include these revenues on the Universal Service Worksheet as part of its end-user telecommunications revenues. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, and Changes to the Board of Directors of the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc., CC Docket No. 97-21, [Second Report and Order in CC Docket No. 97-21, Third Order on Reconsideration in CC Docket No. 97-21, and Sixth Order on Reconsideration in CC Docket No. 96-45](#), 13 FCC Rcd 22908 (1999). Effective 01/04/99.

11/20/98 The Commission appointed USAC as permanent administrator of all USSMs and approved consolidation of SLC and RHCC into USAC, effective 01/01/99. As a result of the merger, USAC was now composed of three divisions: the High Cost and Low-Income, the Schools and Libraries and the Rural Health Care Divisions, which were overseen by three Committees made up of members of USAC’s Board of Directors. The Commission did not require USAC’s divestiture from NECA. The Commission made amendments to § 54.701 (a) through (h) to reflect this. Additionally, the Commission removed §§ 69.600 and 69.613 through 69.622 to reflect that administration of USF would be handled by USAC. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, [Third Report and Order in CC Docket No. 97-21, Fourth Order on Reconsideration in CC Docket No. 97-21 and Eighth Order on Reconsideration in CC Docket No. 96-45](#), 13 FCC Rcd 25058 (1998). Effective in part 12/01/98; § 54.721 became effective 08/18/03.

12/31/98 The Commission granted RHCC’s request to change funding year from calendar year to fiscal and amended 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.604 and 54.623. The Commission concluded that transition to fiscal year should be implemented immediately and that applications filed during initial 75-day filing window and approved for funding would be funded through 06/30/99. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, [Ninth Order on Reconsideration](#), 14 FCC Rcd 377 (1998). Effective 01/15/99.

04/02/99 The Commission amended §§ 54.507(b), 54.511, and 54.604 to allow schools, libraries, and rural health care providers with exiting contracts that expired prior to December 31, 1998 to extend or renew voluntarily those existing contracts without engaging in competitive bidding through June 30, 1999. Also amended rules to allow schools and libraries to use nonrecurring services for which the Administrator had approved a request for a discount for funding year 1998-1999, through September 30, 1999. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, [Tenth Order on Reconsideration](#), 14 FCC Rcd 5983 (1999). Effective 04/28/99.

05/28/99 The Commission amended §§ 54.507, and 54.725, and clarified that, when a funding window was in effect for the schools and libraries universal service support mechanisms, and demand exceeded total authorized support, the Administrator of the universal service support mechanism would allocate funds for discounts to schools and libraries for internal connections beginning with those applicants at the highest discount level, and to the extent funds remained, continued to allocate funds for discounts to applicants at each descending single discount percentage. The Commission

reconsidered, on own motion, its rule that prohibited the disbursement of funds during the pendency of an appeal of a decision issued by the Administrator. Changes to the Board of Directors of the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc., and Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45, [Fifth Order on Reconsideration in CC Docket No. 97-21, Eleventh Order on Reconsideration in CC Docket No. 96-45 and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#), 14 FCC Rcd 6033 (1999). Effective 06/24/99.

05/28/99 The Commission amended §§ 54.507 and 54.623, and reconsidered, on its own motion, its decision to cap funds to be collected for schools, libraries and rural health care providers during second six months of 1999 and first six months of 2000. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, [Twelfth Order on Reconsideration](#), 64 Fed. Reg. 30440 (1999). Effective 06/08/99.

05/28/99 The Commission adopted a framework that provided support for non-rural carriers' intrastate, forward-looking costs that exceeded both national cost benchmark and individual state's resources available to support those costs. The new support mechanism was used only to determine federal support amounts and would not obligate states to adopt intrastate support mechanisms or impose intrastate surcharges. Additionally, the Commission adopted "hold-harmless" approach under which amount of explicit support provided by new support mechanism would be no less than amount of explicit support provided under existing high-cost support mechanism. Additionally, the Commission amended § 36.601, replacing the implementation date of 07/01/99 with 01/01/00 for using a forward-looking cost model to determine high cost support. January Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, Access Charge Reform, CC Docket No. 96-262, [Seventh Report and Order and Thirteenth Order on Reconsideration in CC Docket No. 96-45, Fourth Report and Order in CC Docket No. 96-262 and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#), 14 FCC Rcd 8078 (1999). Effective 06/09/99.

07/14/99 The Commission consolidated four separate carrier reports into one single form - FCC Form 499-Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet. This satisfied the contributor reporting requirements associated with the interstate TRS Fund, federal USSMs, administration of the NANP, and shared costs of long-term LNP. The Commission amended §§ 54.708 52.16, 52.17, 52.32, 54.709, 54.711, 54.713, and 64.604. 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review – Streamlined Contributor Reporting Requirements Associated with Administration of Telecommunications Relay Services, North American Numbering Plan, Local Number Portability, and Universal Service Support Mechanisms, CC Docket No. 98-171, [Report and Order](#), 14 FCC Rcd 16602 (1999). Effective 08/30/99.

07/30/99 The US Court of Appeals, 5th Circuit, issued an opinion in consolidated cases seeking review of the Commission's New Part 54 Order. The court affirmed most of the Commission's decisions regarding implementation of the high-cost support system, including Commission proposals to base universal service support for non-rural carriers on forward-looking cost models. The Court reversed the Commission's requirement that ILECs recover their universal service contributions from access charges and the Commission's blanket prohibition on additional state eligibility requirements for carriers receiving high-cost support. The Court also reversed the Commission rule prohibiting local telephone service providers from disconnecting low-income subscribers for non-payment of toll charges. The Court remanded to the Commission for further consideration its decision to assess contributions from carriers based on both international and interstate revenues. Finally, the Court found that the Commission exceeded its jurisdictional authority when it assessed contributions for the schools and libraries programs and high cost support program on the combined intrastate and interstate revenues of telecommunications providers. [Texas Office of Public Utility Counsel, et. al. v. FCC](#), 183 F.3d 393 (5th Cir. 1999), cert. denied, 120 S. Ct. 2212 (2000) and 120 S. Ct. 2237 (2000); cert. granted, 120 S. Ct. 2214 (2000). (TOPUC).

10/08/99 The Commission amended its amended § 54.706(b) and (c), §§ 54.401, 54.709, and 69.4, and added § 54.706(d) to be consistent with the 5th Circuit's July 1999 decision in TOPUC. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, Access Charge Reform, CC Docket No. 96-262, [Sixteenth Order on Reconsideration in CC Docket No. 96-45, Eighth Report and Order in CC Docket No. 96-45, Sixth Report and Order in CC Docket No. 96-262](#), 15 FCC Rcd 1679 (2000). Effective 11/01/99.



10/13/99 The Commission denied petitioners requests for reconsideration of requirement that their contributions to USSMs be calculated on basis of their prior year revenues. The Commission emphasized that using prior year revenues to calculate USSM contributions was consistent with Congressional directive that all providers of interstate telecommunications services must contribute to the preservation and advancement of universal service on an equitable and nondiscriminatory basis. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Petitions for Waiver or Reconsideration of Sections 54.706, 54.709 and/or 54.711 of the Commission's Rules filed by Affinity Corporation, Hotel Communications, Inc., LDC Telecommunications, Inc., MobileTel, Inc., National Telephone Communications, Inc., Network Operator Services, Inc., Operator Communications, Inc., U.S. Network, Inc., CC Docket No. 96-45, [Memorandum Opinion and Order and Seventeenth Order on Reconsideration](#), 15 FCC Rcd 20769 (1999). Effective 10/13/99.

11/01/99 The Commission amended § 54.601 (b)(3) and (b)(4) and (c)(1), and affirmed its previous conclusion that, despite difficulties of allocating costs and preventing abuses, benefits of permitting rural health care providers to join consortia with other subscribers of telecommunications service outweighed the danger that such arrangements would lead to significant abuse of prohibition on resale. The Commission also amended §§ 54.609 and 54.613 to permit USAC to provide support for any commercially available telecommunications service, regardless of bandwidth and to require USAC to calculate support based upon all actual distance-based charges, unless the rural health care provider or carriers requested a more comprehensive support calculation and substantiated that request. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, [Sixth Order on Reconsideration in CC Docket No. 97-21, Fifteenth Order on Reconsideration in CC Docket No. 96-45](#), 14 FCC Rcd 18756 (1999). Effective 07/01/00.

11/02/99 The Commission adopted input values for forward-looking economic cost model, and revised procedures for certification as "rural" telephone companies. Federal-State Joint Board, Forward-Looking Mechanism for High Cost Support for Non-Rural LECs CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 97-160, [Tenth Report and Order](#), 14 FCC Rcd 20156 (1999). Effective 11/02/99.

11/02/99 The Commission amended § 54.307 to clarify universal service support that would be paid to a competitive ETC. Additionally, the Commission established a methodology to determine high-cost support for non-rural carriers, beginning 01/01/00. The Commission amended §§ 54.5, added §§ 54.309, 54.311 and 54.313, and amended §§ 36.601, 36.611, 36.612, 36.622, and 36.631 to allow states to ensure reasonable comparability of non-rural carriers' intrastate rates when adopting the new federal forward-looking high-cost support mechanism. The Commission explained that the new forward-looking cost model used a single national cost benchmark of 135% against which carriers' forward-looking costs of providing supported services were compared to determine their need for support. USSM would provide support for costs that exceed national benchmark. Under new USSM, support was "portable" among all ETCs, i.e., when local provider loses subscriber to competitor, competitor receives support for that customer's line. The Commission also adopted "hold-harmless" measure to prevent potential rate shocks and disruptions in state rate designs when new USSM took effect. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, [Ninth Report & Order and Eighteenth Order on Reconsideration](#), 14 FCC Rcd 20432 (1999). Effective 12/01/99.

11/03/99 The Commission reconsidered its conclusion in 05/08/97 New Part 54 Order that only Eligible Telecommunications Carrier may be credited by USAC for serving eligible rural health care providers pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 254(h)(1)(A). The Commission eliminated the requirement that only carriers that have been certified as ETCs could receive credit against their universal service contributions for providing telecommunications services to rural health care providers at the lower urban rates. Additionally, the Commission directed USAC to treat requests for support from eligible health care providers receiving telecommunications service from non-ETCs the same as it treats those from health care providers receiving telecommunications service from ETCs. The Commission amended § 54.201 (a)(3) to clarify that this does not apply to offset or reimbursement of support distributed pursuant to Subpart G of Part 54 and amended § 54.621 by removing § 54.621(b) and redesignating § 54.621 (a) as § 54.621. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Docket No. 96-45, [Fourteenth Order On Reconsideration](#), 14 FCC Rcd 20106 (1999). Effective 11/16/99.

12/17/99 The Commission made a procedural change to the new high-cost universal service support mechanism for non-rural carriers adopted in the 11/02/99 Ninth Report and Order and Eighteenth Recon. Order. Specifically, the Commission found that support payments targeted to the wire center level should be issued beginning with payments provided in the third quarter of 2000. This change affected only the targeting of support during the first and second quarters of 2000, and did not alter the January 1, 2000 effective date of the new mechanism or the aggregate amount of support provided to each non-rural carrier under the new mechanism. The Commission amended § 36.631 (c) to conform to changes made to forward-looking cost models to be used for high cost support for non-rural carriers. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, [Nineteenth Order on Reconsideration](#), 14 FCC Rcd 21664 (1999). Effective 12/30/99.

01/25/00 U.S. Court of Appeals, 5th Circuit issued a decision that addressed Petitions for Review of the Commission's 1998 Fourth Order on Reconsideration. In affirming the Commission's order, the Court found that Petitioners failed to show that the Commission violated the "sufficiency" requirement of the 1996 Act by using forward-looking costs to calculate universal service support, and by imposing a cap on universal service funding. The Court also found that the Commission's rules governing portability of support among exchange carriers did not violate the "predictability" requirement of the 1996 Act. The Court further found that the Commission acted within its discretion when it limited the amount of high cost support a company could receive for acquired exchanges to the per-line amount paid to the seller of the exchange. The Court also found that the Petitioners misconstrued the meaning of the 1996 Act's requirement that universal service support mechanisms be explicit, stating that the fact that the fund is subsidized by all telecommunications providers did not make it an implicit subsidy under § 254, even if it effectively redistributed resources among telecommunications carriers. Finally, the Court rejected the Petitioners "takings" claim as premature, since the Petitioners did not yet know what level of universal service funding each would receive, or under what circumstances the Commission would grant waivers. See [Alenco Communications, Inc., et. al. v. FCC and USA](#), 201 F.3d 608 (2000).

03/01/00 The Commission amended § 54.724 to clarify that the CCB may extend, for up to ninety days, the time period for taking action on a request for review of an Administrator's decision that is pending before the CCB or the Commission pursuant to § 54.724 of the Commission's rules. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Changes to the Board Of Directors of the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc., CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 97-21, [Order](#), 15 FCC Rcd 4840 (2000). Effective 03/08/00.

04/07/00 The Commission clarified the method by which quarterly line count data would be incorporated in the new high-cost mechanism for purposes of calculating and targeting support amounts. Additionally, the Commission explained that, until the Commission adopted new line count input values, forward-looking costs for universal service support purposes would be estimated using the line input values adopted in the Commission's Tenth Report and Order. Finally, the Commission clarified that high-cost support would be available on a regular quarterly basis for competitive eligible telecommunications carriers serving lines in areas served by non-rural ILECs. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, [Twentieth Order on Reconsideration](#), 15 FCC Rcd. 12070 (2000). Effective 05/08/00.

04/11/00 The Commission rejected challenges to its decision to include in the universal service contribution base those charges identified by carriers on end-user bills as recovering state or federal universal service contributions. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, Division Announces Release of Revised Universal Service Worksheet, FCC Form 457, CC Docket Nos. 96-45, 97-21, DA No. 98-1519, 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review – Requirements Associated with Administration of Telecommunications Relay Services, North American Numbering Plan, Local Number Portability, and Universal Service Support Mechanisms, CC Docket No. 98-171, [Twenty-First Order on Reconsideration in CC Docket No. 96-45, and Memorandum Opinion & Order in CC Docket Nos. 96-45, 97-21, and 98-171](#), 15 FCC Rcd. 12050 (2000). Effective 04/11/00.

05/22/00 The Commission amended 54.724(a) to clarify that a decision of the Administrator will not be deemed approved upon the running of the 90-day time period for taking action on requests for review that are pending before the Wireline Competition Bureau. Federal-State Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, Changes to the Board of Directors of the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc., CC Docket No. 97-21, [Order](#), 15 FCC Rcd 9336 (2000). Effective 05/30/00.

05/31/00 The Commission adopted the Coalition for Affordable Local and Long Distance Services (CALLS) proposal to overhaul the interstate access charge system. The changes adopted in this order included: 1) removal of \$650 million in common line costs from access charges, and the creation of an explicit, portable interstate access universal service support mechanism at the same level; 2) recovery of LEC universal service contributions directly from end users; 3) adjustment of the Lifeline Assistance universal service support mechanism to shield low-income customers from increases in the residential SLC; 4) elimination of the residential PICC; 5) increasing the primary residential and single-line business SLC caps, beginning at \$4.35 on July 1, 2000, and gradually increasing to \$6.50 on July 1, 2003; 6) targeting of an X-factor for switched access to switching and switched transport elements; 7) creating a separate X-factor for special access services; and 8) \$2.1 billion in reductions to switched access usage rates effective July 1, 2000. The Commission revised §§ 54.403, 54.701, 54.702, 54.705, 54.715, 54.800, 54.801, 54.802, 54.803, 54.804, 54.805, 54.806, 54.807, 54.808, 54.809, 61.3, 61.41, 61.42, 61.45, 61.46, 61.47, 61.48, 69.4, 69.115, 69.152, 69.153, 69.154, 69.155, 69.156, 69.157, and 69.158. The Commission removed §§ 69.201, 69.202, 69.203, 69.204, and 69.205, 69.206, 69.207, 69.208, and 69.209. Access Charge Reform, CC Docket No. 96-262, Price Cap Performance Review for Local Exchange Carriers, Low-Volume Long Distance Users, CC Docket No. 99-249, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service CC Docket No. 96-45, [Sixth Report and Order in CC Docket No. 96-262 and 94-1, Report and Order in CC Docket No. 99-249, Eleventh Report and Order in CC Docket No. 96-45](#), 15 FCC Rcd 12962 (2000). Errata (rel. June 14, 2000), petition for stay denied, 15 FCC Rcd. 13191 (2000). Effective 6/21/00.

06/30/00 The Commission amended §§ 54.400, 54.401, 54.405, 54.403, 54.409, 54.411, and 54.415, and removed § 54.417 to promote telecommunications subscribership and infrastructure deployment within American Indian and Alaska Native tribal communities. The amendments to universal service rules included: providing \$25 per month in additional federal Lifeline Assistance support to eligible telecommunications carriers serving these lands; providing up to \$70 per consumer in additional federal Link Up support; broadening the Lifeline and Link Up consumer qualification criteria and permitting tribal authorities and eligible telecommunications carriers that were not subject to rate regulation by a state commission to provide the local matching funds necessary to receive third-tier federal Lifeline support. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Promoting Deployment and Subscribership in Unserved and Underserved Areas, Including Tribal and Insular Areas, Western Wireless Corporation, Crow Reservation in Montana, Smith Bagley, Inc., Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority, western wireless Corporation, Wyoming, Cellco Partnership d/b/a Bell Atlantic Mobile, Inc., Petitions for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier and for Related Waivers to Provide Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, [Twelfth Report and Order, Memorandum Opinion and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#), 15 FCC Rcd 12208 (2000). Errata, DA 00-2128 (rel. Sept. 20, 2000). Effective 09/05/00.

08/31/00 The Commission stayed the implementation of the federal Lifeline and Linkup assistance rule amendments adopted in June 2000 to the extent that they applied to qualifying low-income consumers living near, not on, reservations. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Promoting Deployment and Subscribership in Unserved and Underserved Areas, Including Tribal and Insular Areas, CC Docket No. 96-45, [Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#), 15 FCC Rcd 17112 (2000). Effective 08/31/00.

12/08/00 The Commission adopted measures to phase down interim hold-harmless support, excluding LTS, through \$1.00 reductions in average monthly, per-line support beginning January 1, 2001, and every year thereafter until there was no more interim hold harmless support. The Commission amended § 36.601 and added paragraph (d) to § 54.311. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, [Thirteenth Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#), 15 FCC Rec 24422 (2000). Errata, DA 00-2128 (rel. Sept. 20, 2000). Effective 12/18/00.



04/05/01 The Commission added § 54.520 to implement the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). In order to receive discounts for Internet access and internal connections services under the USSM, school and library authorities had to certify that they were enforcing a policy of Internet safety that included measures to block or filter Internet access for both minors and adults to certain visual depictions. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Children's Internet Protection Act, CC Docket No. 96-45, [Report and Order](#), 16 FCC Rcd 8182 (2001). Erratum (rel. Apr. 19, 2001). Effective 04/20/01.

05/23/01 The Commission added §§ 54.314 and 54.315, §§ 36.602-605 and amended §§ 54.4, 54.305, 54.307, 54.313, 36.601, 36.611, 36.612, 36.621, and 36.622. Consistent with the recommendation of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, the Commission modified its rules for providing high-cost universal service support to rural telephone companies for five years, beginning July 1, 2001, based upon the proposal made by the Rural Task Force. Commission actions included: re-basing the high-cost loop support fund for rural telephone companies and retained the indexed cap on the fund; adopting a "rural growth factor" that allowed the high-cost loop support fund to grow based on annual charges to the Gross Domestic Product-Chained Price Index (GDP-CPI) and the total number of working loops of rural carriers; freezing the national average loop cost at \$240.00; revised the corporate operations expense limitation calculation so that the dollar values in the formula were re-based and indexed by the GDP-CPI; adopting a "safety net" additive so that a carrier would receive support for its incremental expense adjustments associated with new investment; adopting a "safety valve" that provided support for additional investment made in acquired exchanges; and adopting three paths for the disaggregation and targeting of high-cost support. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Multi Association Group (MAG) Plan for Regulation of Interstate Services of Non-Price Cap Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers and Interexchange Carriers, CC Docket No. 00-256, 96-45, [Fourteenth Report and Order, Twenty-Second Order on Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 96-45, and Report and Order in CC Docket No 00-256](#), 16 FCC Rcd 11244 (2001). Effective 06/05/01, except for §§ 36.605(c)(2), 36.611, 54.305(f), 54.307(b), 54.313(b) and (c), 54.314 and 54.315, which became effective 06/19/01.

06/29/01 The Commission amended § 54.507 to provide additional time for recipients under the schools and libraries USSM to implement contracts or agreements with service providers for non-recurring services. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, [Report and Order](#), 16 FCC Rcd 13510 (2001). Effective 07/23/01.

07/31/01 U.S. Court of Appeals, 10th Circuit, reversed and remanded the Ninth Report & Order and Eighteenth Order on Reconsideration. Among other things, the court explained that Commission failed to: define key statutory terms adequately, set forth a rational basis for the chosen benchmark, and adequately induce state mechanisms to support universal service. Additionally, the court affirmed the Commission's proxy model adopted in Tenth Report and Order. [Qwest Corp. v. FCC](#), 250 F. 3d 1191 (2001).

09/10/01 U.S. Court of Appeals, 5th Circuit, affirmed most of the CALLS Order, but remanded to the Commission for further explanation of \$650 million limit on the interstate access support mechanism. Texas Office of Public Util. Counsel et al. v. FCC, 265 F.3d 313 (5th Cir. 2001).

11/05/01 The Commission released its second biennial review of the accounting rules and the (ARMIS) reporting requirements that apply to ILECs. The review resulted in major accounting and reporting reforms including: consolidation and streamlining of Class A accounting requirements, the relaxation of certain aspects of the affiliate transaction rules, simplified cost allocation rules for major carriers and a reduction of the ARMIS reporting requirements for both large and mid-sized ILECs. The FCC amended numerous sections in Parts 32, 51, 54, 64, 65 and 69. 2000 Biennial Regulatory Review – Comprehensive Review of the Accounting Requirements and ARMIS Reporting Requirements for Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers: Phase 2, Amendments to the Uniform System of Accounts for Interconnection, Jurisdictional Separations Reform and Referral to the Federal-State Joint Board, Local Competition and Broadband Reporting, CC Docket Nos. 00-199, 97-212, 80-286, 99-301, [Report and Order in CC Docket Nos. 00-199, 97-212 and 80-286, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket Nos. 00-199, 99-301 and 80-286](#), 16 FCC Rcd 19911(2001). Erratum, 17 FCC Rcd 768 (2002). Effective 08/06/02. [Order on Reconsideration](#) (17 FCC Rcd 4766 (2002)) reinstated Account

3400 (§ 32.3400) and deferred the effective date of all other rule changes adopted in the 11/05/01 Report and Order until 01/01/03. The Commission subsequently suspended the effective date for rule changes consolidating § 32.5230 into § 32.5200, §§ 32.6621-6623 into § 32.6620, and §§ 32.6561-6565 into § 32.6560 pending further review by the Joint Conference (67 Fed. Reg. 77432 (2002); 68 Fed. Reg. 38641 (2003); 68 Fed. Reg. 75455 (2003); 69 Fed. Reg. 53645 (2004)). The Commission also made a correction to reinstate suspended rules that had been removed from 47 CFR Part 32 (69 Fed. Reg. 44607 (2004)).

11/08/01 The Commission amended §§ 69.2, 69.4, 69.104, 69.105, 69.106, 69.111, 69.124, 69.306, 69.307, 69.501, 69.502, 69.603, 69.609, 54.5, 54.307, 54.315, 54.701, 54.702, 54.705, and 54.715. Additionally, the Commission added subpart K to the part 54 rules, including §§ 54.901, 54.902, 54.903, and 54.904, and added §§ 69.130, 69.131, and 69.415 to reform the interstate access charge and universal service support system for ILECs subject to rate-of-return , regulation (non-price cap or rate-of-return carriers). Commission created Interstate Common Line Support (ICLS), a new universal service support mechanism, which would recover shortfalls between the common line revenue requirements of rate-of-return carriers and amounts recovered via subscriber line charges. Multi-Association Group (MAG) Plan for Regulation of Interstate Services of Non-Price Cap Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers and Interexchange Carriers, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Access Charge Reform for Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers Subject to Rate-of-Return Regulation, Prescribing the Authorized Rate of Return for Interstate Services of Local Exchange Carriers, CC Docket Nos. 00-256, 96-45, 98-77, 98- 166, [Second Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 00 256, Fifteenth Report and Order in CC Docket No. 96-45, and Report and Order in CC Docket Nos. 98-77 and 98-166](#), 16 FCC Rcd 19613 (2001). [Erratum](#) (rel. Jan. 25, 2002). Effective 12/31/01, except for §§ 54.307(b) and (c), and 54.315(a) and (f)(1) through (f)(4), 54.902(a) through (c), 54.903(a)(1) through (a)(4), 54904(a), (b) and (d), which became effective 01/08/02.

02/26/02 The Commission amended §§ 54.702, 54.706 and 54.709 in an effort to streamline and improve the current USF contribution system including eliminating the “circularity” in the current assessment methodology by excluding universal service contributions from the revenue base on which contributions were assessed; permitting affiliated contributors that function as a single unit to report revenue data on a consolidated basis; and increasing the threshold for the Commission’s limited international revenue exception from 8 to 12%. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review - Streamlined Contributor Reporting Requirements Associated with Administration of Telecommunications Relay Service, North American Numbering Plan, Local Number Portability, and Universal Service Support Mechanisms; Telecommunications Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Administration of the North American Numbering Plan and North American Numbering Plan Cost Recovery Contribution Factor and Fund Size, Number Resource Optimization, Telephone Number Portability and Truth-In-Billing Format, CC Docket Nos. 96-45, 98-171, 90-571, 92-237, 99-200, 95-116 and 98-170 and NSD File No. L-0072, [Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Report and Order](#), 17 FCC Rcd 3752 (2002). Effective 04/12/02.

03/14/02 The Commission created a Media Bureau, Wireline Competition Bureau and Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, by reorganizing the International Bureau and by further consolidating enforcement and consumer information functions. The Common Carrier Bureau was renamed the Wireline Competition Bureau and continued to be responsible for the policy programs of communications common carriers and ancillary operations (other than wireless telecommunications services). The Commission amended various sections of Parts 32, 51, 52, 54, 61, 64 and 65 of its rules to reflect the new structure. Establishment of the Media Bureau, the Wireline Competition Bureau and the Consumer Governmental Affairs Bureau, Reorganization of the International Bureau and Other Organizational Changes, [Order](#), 17 FCC Rcd 4672 (2002). Effective 03/25/02.

03/22/02 The Commission modified on its own motion the data collection and filing procedures for implementation of the ICLS mechanism, in order to ensure timely implementation of the ICLS mechanism on July 1, 2002 as adopted in the MAG Order. The Commission extended until April 18, 2002 the original March 31, 2002, deadline set forth in § 54.903(a) for the submission of projected line counts to USAC. Additionally, the Commission modified the requirement under § 54.903(a) that each carrier file its data with USAC in order to permit NECA to file the data for each member of the

common line pool for the purpose of this initial ICLS filing deadline. Multi Association Group (MAG) Plan for Regulation of Non-Price Cap Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers and Interexchange Carriers, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket Nos. 00-256, 96-45, [First Order on Reconsideration in CC Docket No. 00-256, Twenty-Fourth Order on Reconsideration in CC Docket No. 96-45](#), 17 FCC Rcd 5635 (2002). Effective 04/02/02. Commission amended § 54.903 in paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(3) by removing the date “March 31, 2002” and adding in its place “March 18, 2002” upon subsequent publication in the Federal Register. See 67 Fed. Reg. 15490 at 15493 (2002). Additionally, Commission issued a further correction on page 15493, in the first column, in amendatory instruction numbered 2, in the fourth line, wherein “March 18, 2002”, was corrected to read “April 18, 2002”. See 17 FCC Rcd 5635 (2002).

04/15/02 The U.S. Supreme Court denied the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates’ request that it review the CALLS Order. National Ass’n of State Utility Consumer Advocates v. FCC, et al., 122 S. Ct. 1537 (2002).

05/31/02 U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania overturned a law under Children's Internet protection Act (CIPA), which required schools and libraries to use internet filtering technology to block pornographic content in order to receive federal funds to pay for internet access finding that the requirement violated the First Amendment rights of libraries and their patrons. [American Library Ass'n, Inc., et al. v. United States, et al.](#), 201 F. Supp. 2d 401 (2002).

06/13/02 The Commission amended §54.303 of the Commission’s rules to permit LTS adjustments to projected revenues of carriers that participate in the NECA common line pool. The adjustment allowed the reduction of LTS as required to ensure that the sum of LTS and projected revenues from SLCs, other common line end-user charges, and transitional CCL charges did not exceed each carrier’s projected common line revenue requirement. In addition, the Commission waived the June 30, 2002 ICLS certification filing requirement. Commission determined that, in the initial ICLS funding year, the June 30th filing requirement duplicated the earlier filing required on April 18, 2002 and was therefore, unnecessary. Multi-Association Group (MAG) Plan for Regulation of Interstate Services of Non-Price Cap Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers and Interexchange Carriers, Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service, Docket Nos. 00-256, 96-45, [Order and Second Order on Reconsideration](#), 17 FCC Rcd 11593 (2002). Effective 06/24/02.

06/13/02 The Commission amended § 36.603 of its rules to provide that the amount of high-cost loop support available to rural carriers in 2002 be adjusted to account for mid-2001 implementation of the Commission’s rules adopted in the RTF Order. Commission estimated that this adjustment would raise the 2002 fund cap by approximately \$72 million and directed USAC to implement this rule amendment beginning in the 3rd Quarter of 2002, including making retroactive payments. Commission did not address “safety valve” support for the first year of investment in acquired exchanges, but announced that it intended to address this issue at a later date. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Multi-Association Group (MAG) Plan for Regulation of Interstate Services of Non-Price Cap Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers and Interexchange Carriers, Petitions for Reconsideration filed by: Coalition of Rural Telephone Companies, Competitive Universal Service Coalition Illinois Commerce Commission, National Telephone Cooperative Association, CC Docket Nos. 96-45, 00-256, [Order on Reconsideration](#), 17 FCC Rcd 11472 (2002). Effective 07/31/02.

06/13/02 The Commission amended § 54.507 of its rules, adopting a framework for the treatment of unused funds collected for the schools and libraries USSM. The Commission announced it would apply the unused funds to stabilize the universal service contribution factor through the 1st Quarter of 2003, pending resolution of the universal service contribution methodology proceeding in which the Commission was considering replacement of the existing revenue-based system with a connection-based mechanism. Commission determined that beginning no later than the 2nd Quarter of 2003, unused schools and libraries funds would be carried forward to increase disbursements to schools and libraries in subsequent years. Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism, CC Docket No. 02-6, [First Report and Order](#), 17 FCC Rcd 11521 (2002). [Errata](#) (rel. July 10, 2002). Effective 06/30/02.

06/28/02 The Commission adopted interim measures to ensure that implementation of the Children's Internet protection Act (CIPA) complied with the US District Court's decision, which determined that imposing specific conditions on libraries seeking discounts under the universal service support mechanisms was unconstitutional. Federal- State Joint Board on Universal Service: Children's Internet Protection Act, CC Docket No. 96-45, [Order](#), 17 FCC Rcd 12443 (2002). Effective 08/05/02.

12/13/02 The Commission amended §§ 54.706, 54.709 and 54.711 and added § 54.712. The Commission increased to 28.5 percent the current interim safe harbor that allowed cellular, broadband Personal Communications Service (PCS), and certain Specialized Mobile Radio (SMR) providers to assume 15 percent of their telecommunications revenues were interstate. The Commission also required wireless telecommunications providers to make a single election whether to report actual revenues or to use the revised safe harbor for all affiliated entities within the same safe harbor category. In addition, the Commission modified the existing revenue-based methodology to require universal service contributions based on contributor-provided projections of collected end-user interstate and international telecommunications revenues, instead of historical gross-billed revenues. Finally, the Commission concluded that telecommunications carriers could not recover their federal universal service contribution costs through a separate line item that included a mark-up above the relevant contribution factor beginning April 1, 2003. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review-Streamlined Contributor Reporting Requirements Associated with Administration of Telecommunications Relay Service, North American Numbering Plan, Local Number Portability, and Universal Service Support Mechanisms, CC Docket No. 98-171, Telecommunications Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, CC Docket No. 90-571, Administration of the North American Numbering Plan and North American Numbering Plan Cost Recovery Contribution Factor and Fund Size, CC Docket No. 92-237, NSD File No. L-00-72, Number Resource Optimization, CC Docket No. 99-200, Telephone Number Portability, CC Docket No. 95-116, Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format, CC Docket No. 98-170, [Report and Order and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#), 17 FCC Rcd 24952 (2002). Effective 01/29/03.

03/14/03 The Commission amended § 54.712, and clarified that ETCs may recover from Lifeline customers contribution costs associated with the provision of interstate telecommunications services that were not supported by the Commission's universal service mechanisms. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review-Streamlined Contributor Reporting Requirements Associated with Administration of Telecommunications Relay Service, North American Numbering Plan, Local Number Portability, and Universal Service Support Mechanisms, Telecommunications Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Administration of the North American Numbering Plan and North American Numbering Plan Cost Recovery Contribution Factor and Fund Size, Number Resource Optimization, Telephone Number Portability, Truth-in-Billing and Billing Format, Docket Nos. 96-45, 98-171, 90-571, 92-237, 99-200, 95-116, 98-170 and NSD File No. L-00-72, [Order and Second Order on Reconsideration](#), 18 FCC Rcd 0358 (2003). Effective 04/01/03.

03/26/03 The Commission amended § 54.717(f) of its rules to extend the filing deadline by which the independent auditor hired by USAC must submit its draft audit report to the WCB. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Changes to the Board of Directors of the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc., Petition for Rule Change of Section 54.717(f) of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 97-21, [Order](#), 18 FCC Rcd 6063 (2003). Effective 05/19/03.

04/30/03 The Commission amended §§ 54.500, 54.501, 54.503, 54.504, 54.507, 54.511, 54.515, 54.517, 54.701, 54.720, and 54.721, and added §§ 54.514 and 54.521 in an effort to simplify and streamline the operation of the universal service mechanism for schools and libraries, while reducing the likelihood of fraud, waste and abuse. The Commission clarified the statutory term "educational purposes" and explained that the rules prohibited the funding of discounts for duplicative services. The Commission further clarified the rules to ensure that wireless services were eligible for universal service to the same extent wireline services were eligible. In addition, the Commission modified its rules to make voice mail eligible for discounts and directed USAC to develop a pilot program to test an online list of internal connections equipment that would be automatically eligible for discounts. The Commission adopted a rule requiring service providers to give applicants the choice each funding year of paying the discounted price or paying the full price and then receive reimbursement through the

Billed Entity Applicant Reimbursement process. With regard to appeals, the Commission permanently extended the time limit for filing an initial appeal with SLD and the Commission from 30 to 60 days and concluded that all appeals should be treated as filed on the date that they are postmarked. As part of ongoing efforts to limit waste, fraud, and abuse the Commission concluded that anyone convicted of a criminal violation or found civilly liable for actions relating to this program would be debarred from participation for three years. Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism, CC Docket No. 02-6, [Second Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#), 18 FCC Rcd 9202 (2003). Effective 07/02/03.

05/08/03 The Commission amended §§ 54.307, 54.902 and 54.903 in an effort to resolve issues concerning the filing requirements for ICLS. The Commission moved the deadline for filing actual common line cost and revenue data for the prior calendar year from July 31 to December 31 of each year. The Commission also amended its rules to permit rate-of-return carriers to file updates of projected common line cost and revenue data on June 30 of each year. Multi-Association Group (MAG) Plan for Regulation of Interstate Services of Non-Price Cap Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers and Interexchange Carriers, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket Nos. 00-256 and 96-45, [Third Order on Reconsideration](#), 18 FCC Rcd 10284 (2003). Effective 06/27/03.

05/21/03 The Commission amended §§ 54.400 and 54.409 to provide additional, targeted universal service support to low income consumers on tribal lands and established a framework for the resolution of ETC designation. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Promoting Deployment and Subscriberhip in Unserved And Underserved Areas, Including Tribal and Insular Areas, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, CC Docket No. 96-45, [Twenty-Fifth Order on Reconsideration, Report and Order, Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#), 18 FCC Rcd 10958 (2003). Effective 05/21/03.

06/23/03 The U.S. Supreme Court found CIPA, on its face, constitutional. Specifically, the Court concluded that CIPA did not induce libraries to violate a patron's First Amendment rights, because public libraries' Internet filtering software could be disabled at the request of any adult user. U.S. v. American Library Ass'n, Inc. 123 S. Ct. 2297 (2003).

07/24/03 The Commission amended § 54.520 to conform with the revised timeline for the implementation of Section 254(h)(6) of the 1996 Act and to ensure that implementation of CIPA complied with the decision reached in U.S. v. American Library Ass'n, Inc. Specifically, the Commission lifted the suspension of enforcement of those sections of § 54.520 which implemented the section 254 (h)(6) requirement that libraries have internet filtering technology to receive discounts for internet access and internal connections under e-rate. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Children's Internet Protection Act, CC Docket No. 96-45, [Order](#), 18 FCC Rcd 16072 (2003). Effective 09/08/03.

10/03/03 The Commission amended §§ 54.702, 54.715 and 64.604 to require the administrators of the USF and TRS Fund to prepare financial statements for the Funds consistent with generally accepted accounting principles for federal agencies and to keep the Funds in accordance with the United States Government Standard General Ledger. Additionally, the Commission required the administrators to conduct audits of the Funds pursuant to generally accepted government auditing standards. Application of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles for Federal Agencies and Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards for Universal Service Fund, Application of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles for Federal Agencies and Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards to the Telecommunications Relay Services Fund, CC Docket No. 96-45, CG Docket No. 03-123, [Order](#), 18 FCC Rcd 19911 (2003). Effective 03/08/04.

10/27/03 The Commission amended §§ 54.309 and 54.316 in response to the decision of the U.S. Court of appeals for the 10th Circuit, Qwest v. FCC, 258 F.3d 1191 (10th Cir. 2001). The Commission modified the high-cost USSM for non-rural carriers and adopted measures to induce states to ensure reasonable comparability of rural and urban rates in areas served by non-rural carriers. Additionally, the Commission established a new cost benchmark at two standard deviations above the national average cost. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, [Order on Remand, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, and Memorandum Opinion and Order](#), 18 FCC Rcd 22559 (2003). Effective 01/14/04; § 54.316(a) and (c) became effective 06/07/04.



11/17/03 The Commission amended §§ 54.601, 54.603, 54.605, 54.609, 54.613, 54.619, 54.621 and 54.625 to improve the effectiveness of the rural health care support mechanism. Specifically, Commission expanded the scope of the entities eligible to receive discounts, provided support for Internet access, and modified the way in which telecommunications service discounts are calculated. The Commission also issued a FNPRM seeking comment on modifications to the definition of “rural area” for the rural health care support mechanism, whether additional modifications to Commission’s rules were appropriate to facilitate the provision of support to mobile rural health clinics for satellite services, and additional outreach efforts and measures to streamline further the application process. Comment cycle ended 04/07/04. Rural Health Care Support Mechanism, WC Docket No. 02-60, [Report and Order, Order on Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#), 18 FCC Rcd 24546 (2003). Effective 02/23/04; OMB approval pending for §§ 54.609(a)(2), 54.609(d)(2) and 54.621(a).

12/23/03 The Commission amended §§ 54.504, 54.506, 54.507, 54.509, 54.513, 54.516, and adopted §§ 54.522 and 54.523 to improve the administration of the Schools and Libraries e-rate program and to reduce waste, fraud, and abuse. Specifically, the Commission adopted rules that limit receipt of discounts on internal connections to twice every five funding years; prohibit transfer of equipment purchased with universal service discounts for a period of three years; create a formalized process for updating annually the list of services eligible for support; codify USAC’s current practices for allocating costs of services between eligible and ineligible components and USAC’s procedures for service substitutions; prohibit the provision of free services to entities receiving discounts; clarify existing requirements for eligibility of certain equipment and services; and implement carryover of unused funds for use in subsequent funding years. Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism, CC Docket No. 02-6, [Third Report and Order and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#), 18 FCC Rcd 26912 (2003). Effective 03/11/04; OMB approval pending for § 54.513(c).

01/16/04 The Commission deleted § 54.619(a)(4) which required USAC to submit an annual report on the rural health care program to the Commission in May of each year. The Commission determined that the submission of this report was unnecessary since USAC submits an annual report in March of each year detailing its activities and information for each of the support mechanisms, including the rural health care program. Rural Healthcare Support Mechanism, WC Docket No. 02-60, [Order on Reconsideration](#), 19 FCC Rcd 883 (2004). Effective 04/14/04.

02/26/04 The Commission amended §§ 54.303, 61.38, 61.41 and 69.123 to provide rate-of-return carriers greater flexibility to respond to changing marketplace conditions. Specifically, Commission modified the “all-or-nothing” rule to permit rate-of-return carriers to bring recently acquired price cap lines back to rate-of-return regulation; granted rate-of-return carriers the authority to provide geographically deaveraged transport and special access rates, subject to certain limitations; and merged LTS with ICLS. Commission issued a FNPRM seeking comment on two specific plans that propose establishing optional alternative regulation mechanisms for rate-of-return carriers and further modifications to the “all-or-nothing” rule that would permit a rate-of-return carrier to adopt an alternative regulation plan for some of its study areas, while retaining rate-of-return regulation for others. Multi-Association Group (MAG) Plan for Regulation of Interstate Services of Non-Price Cap Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers and Interexchange Carriers, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket Nos. 00-256, 96-45, [Report and Order and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#), 19 FCC Rcd 4122 (2004). [Errata](#) (19 FCC Rcd 6872 (2004)). Effective 06/07/04. § 61.38(b)(4), §§61.41(c), (d) and (e), and §69.123(a)(1), (a)(2), (c) and (d) became effective 02/23/05.

04/14/04 The Commission made several editorial corrections to §§ 54.303, 61.41, and 69.123 rule changes adopted in its 02/26/04 Order (19 FCC Rcd 4122 (2004)) in the MAG proceeding. The Commission also amended § 61.38 by deleting and reserving § 61.38(b)(4), explaining that this action was inadvertently omitted from the 02/26/04 order. Multi-Association Group (MAG) Plan for Regulation of Interstate Services of Non-Price Cap Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers and Interexchange Carriers, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket Nos. 00-256, 96-45, [Errata](#), 19 FCC Rcd 6872 (2004). Effective 06/07/04. § 61.38(b)(4), §§61.41(c), (d) and (e), and §69.123(a)(1), (a)(2), (c) and (d) became effective 02/23/05.

04/29/04 The Commission amended Part 54 – Subpart E – Universal Service Support for Low-Income Consumers (amending §§ 54.400, 54.401, 54.405, 54.409 and adding §§ 54.410, 54.416, and

54.417) to expand the default eligibility criteria for the Lifeline/Link-Up program in an effort to improve participation. The Commission added an income-based criterion to allow consumers with income at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines to receive benefits. The Commission also added the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program and the National School Lunch's free lunch program to the list of means-tested program-based criteria. The Commission established a requirement for states to set up procedures to certify consumer qualification for Lifeline/Link-Up and to verify consumers' continued eligibility for the low-income programs. The Commission clarified recordkeeping obligations for documentation of eligibility. The Commission established procedures for terminating Lifeline benefits, including written customer notification and a 60-day appeals window to allow customers to demonstrate continued eligibility. The Commission also made several minor rule changes to clarify and streamline its rules, including deletion of Part 36 – Subpart G – Lifeline Connection Assistance Expense Allocation (§§ 36.701, 36.711, 36.721, 36.731, and 36.741), which was superseded by Part 54 Subpart E as of January 1, 1998. In the Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, the Commission sought comment on whether to increase the income-based federal default eligibility criterion to 150% of the FPG and whether to adopt specific outreach requirements. Lifeline and Link-Up, WC Docket No. 03-109, [Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#), 19 FCC Rcd 8302 (2004). [Erratum](#) released 05/26/04 and on 01/31/05 (DA05-262). Effective 07/22/04; §§ 54.405(c), 54.405(d), 54.409(d), 54.409(d)(3), 54.410, 54.416 and 54.417 are effective 05/12/05.

08/13/04 The Commission amended §§ 54.504, 54.508, 54.516, in an ongoing effort to protect against waste, fraud and abuse in the schools and libraries universal service E-rate program. Measures adopted include establishing a framework for recovery of funds disbursed in violation of Commission rules; setting time frames for resolution of audit findings; strengthening document retention requirements for applicants and service providers; modifying rules regarding technology plan timing and content; and adding new certification requirements for Forms 470, 471, and 473. Schools and Libraries Universal Support Mechanism, CC Docket No. 02-6, [Fifth Report and Order](#), 19 FCC Rcd 15808 (2004). [Erratum](#) released 09/20/04. Effective 11/12/04.

12/09/04 The Commission modified the deadline for filing revisions to the Telecommunications Reporting Worksheet, Form 499-A, and adopted a 12-month deadline for filing revisions to Form 499-A resulting in a decreased contribution amount. Any revised 499-A that would result in decreased contributions must be submitted by March 31 of the year after the original filing due date. Because this Order will become effective after the filing deadline for the 2004 Form 499-A (which was April 1, 2004), contributors will be allowed to submit revisions to the 2004 Form 499-A up to twelve months following the effective date of this Order (01/10/06). Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review – Streamlined Contributor Reporting Requirements Associated with Administration of Telecommunications Relay Service, North American Numbering Plan, Local Number Portability, and Universal Service Support Mechanisms Changes to the Board of Directors of the National Exchange Carrier Associations, Inc., CC Docket Nos. 96-45, 97-21, 98-171, [Order](#), 20 FCC Rcd 1012 (2005), recon. pending. Effective 01/10/05.

12/17/04 The Commission revised §§ 54.5, 54.601, 54.609, 54.615, 54.619, 54.621, and 54.623, changing the definition of "rural" to conform to the OMB's Revised Standards for Defining Metropolitan Areas, and expanding funding for mobile rural health care services by subsidizing the difference between the rate for satellite service and the rate for urban wireline service with a similar bandwidth. The Commission also established a fixed deadline of June 30 for filing FCC Forms 466 and 466-A in order to receive RHC support. In addition, the Commission permitted rural health care providers in "entirely rural" states to receive support equal to 50% of the monthly cost of advanced telecommunications and information services that are related to the health care needs of the facility. Rural Health Care Support Mechanism, WC Docket No. 02-60, [Second Report and Order, Order on Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#), 19 FCC Rcd 24580 (2004). Effective 04/08/05; §§ 54.609(e) and 54.619 became effective 07/05/05.

01/10/05 The Commission amended § 54.305 so that it does not apply to transfers of exchanges between non-rural carriers after the phase-down of interim hold-harmless support. With this Order, rural carriers that acquire high-cost exchanges may receive safety valve support in the first year of operating the acquired exchange. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; National Telephone

Cooperative Association Petition for Reconsideration. CC Docket No. 96-45, [Order and Order on Reconsideration](#), 20 FCC Rcd 768 (2005). Effective 04/01/05.

02/23/05 The Commission denied AT&T's declaratory ruling request that its "enhanced" prepaid calling card phone service should be deemed an unregulated information service not subject to universal service or access charge assessments. Using an end-to-end analysis, the Commission concluded AT&T's service is an intrastate telecommunications service subject to USF assessment and access charges. AT&T was ordered to file corrected 499-A forms with USAC within 30 days after the effective date, and pay any retroactive contributions required. AT&T Corp. Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Enhanced Prepaid Calling Card Services, WC Docket Nos. 03-133, 05-68, [Order and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#), 20 FCC Rcd 4826 (2005). Effective 03/30/05.

03/17/05 The Commission amended §§ 54.202, 54.209, 54.307, 54.313, 54.314, 54.809, adopting minimum requirements for a telecommunications carrier to be designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC). The Commission added new eligibility requirements; clarified the public interest test; imposed an annual certification and reporting requirement; granted several rural ILEC service area redefinition petitions (but made no changes to the redefinition procedures); modified the annual high-cost and interstate access support certification procedures and line count filing deadlines; and delegated authority to USAC to develop standards for the submission of any maps that ETCs submit for purposes identifying where high-cost support should be targeted within a rural ILECs study area. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, [Report and Order](#), 20 FCC Rcd 6371 (2005). Effective 06/24/05; §§ 54.202 and 54.209 became effective 10/24/05.

06/06/05 The Commission granted the California Public Utilities Commission's request to extend the date (until March 1, 2006) to establish certification and verification procedures pursuant to the Commission's April 29, 2004 Lifeline Order (19 FCC Rcd 8302 (2004) until March 1, 2006. The Commission also declined suggestions to grant a blanket waiver of the June 22, 2005 certification and verification requirements deadline for all ETCs, but did indicate that it would review requests for waiver on a case-by-case basis. Lifeline and Linkup, WC Docket No. 03-109, [Order](#), 20 FCC Rcd 10459 (2005). Effective 06/06/05.

08/22/05 The Commission clarified certain aspects of its rules in light of the 1999 Fifth Circuit "TOPUC" decision which affirmed in part, remanded in part, and reversed in part the Commission's 1997 Universal Service Order. Specifically, the Commission clarified that Commercial Mobile Radio Services (CMRS) providers can recover their universal service fund (USF) contributions through rates charged for all of their services; and that the Commission's Remand Order applied the Fifth Circuit decision prospectively beginning November 1, 1999. Federal State-Joint Board on Universal Service, Access Charge Reform, Petition for Reconsideration and Clarification of the Fifth Circuit Remand Order of BellSouth Corporation, CC Docket Nos. 96-45, 96-262, [Order](#), 20 FCC Rcd 13779 (2005). Effective 08/22/05.

10/14/05 The Commission temporarily modified certain Universal Service Fund (USF) rules in response to Hurricane Katrina, and immediately made available \$211 million of targeted USF support to assist hurricane victims. The Commission adopted the following temporary measures: 1) provided support under the Lifeline program to provide households eligible for housing assistance with temporary wireless service; for those same households, the FCC provided support under the Link-Up program to help pay the costs of reconnecting households to the telecommunications network; 2) allowed rural and non-rural public and nonprofit health care providers in the affected areas, and areas where evacuees have relocated, to apply for a 50% discount off the monthly cost of advanced telecommunications and information services used for telemedicine applications; 3) opened a new application window to allow schools and libraries affected by the hurricane to re-submit E-rate funding requests; and 4) because the rules for the high-cost program do not explicitly address the use of high-cost funds for disaster relief and restoration purposes, the Commission clarified that carriers in the disaster area can use high-cost support funds to assist in reconstructing facilities that were damaged. Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Schools and Libraries Universal Support Mechanism, Rural Healthcare Support Mechanism; Lifeline and Link-up, CC Docket Nos. 02-6, 02-60, 03-109, 96-45, [Order](#), 20 FCC Rcd 16883 (2005). Effective 10/14/05.

03/01/06 The Commission extended (until September 30, 2006) the filing window for schools and libraries directly affected by Katrina to apply for 2006 funding for eligible services under the E-rate program; waived for affected schools in funding year 2006 the “two-in-five” rule, which bars applicants from receiving funds for internal connections for more than two out of every five funding years; and extended for three months the federal Katrina Lifeline Program, which was set to expire on March 1. Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service, Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism, Rural Healthcare Support Mechanism, Lifeline and Link-up, CC Docket Nos. 02-6, 02-60, 03-109, 96-45, [Order](#), 21 FCC Rcd 2803 (2006). Effective 03/01/06.

05/16/06 The Commission extended the Rural Task Force (RTF) plan until the Commission adopts new rules on rural high-cost universal service support. The RTF Plan was intended to remain in effect until June 30, 2006. (See 16 FCC Rcd 11244 (2001)). Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337, [Order](#), 21 FCC Rcd 5514 (2006). Effective 06/26/06.

06/23/06 The Commission amended § 54.709 by replacing “Wireline Competition Bureau” with “Office of the Managing Director,” and amended § 54.717 by replacing “Wireline Competition Bureau” with “Office of Inspector General,” and in subsection (k) replaced “Chief of the Wireline Competition Bureau” with “Inspector General.” This change was made to align oversight of the Universal Service Fund (“USF”) with the responsibilities of the Office of the Inspector General (“OIG”) and the Office of the Managing Director (“OMD”). Amendment of Part 54 of the Commission’s Rules, [Order](#), 21 FCC Rcd 7422 (2006). Effective 08/07/06.

06/27/06 The Commission amended §§ 54.5, 54.706, 54.708, and 54.712 to reflect an increase in the interim wireless safe harbor percentage for reporting interstate and international revenues from 28.5% to 37.1% of total wireless end-user telecommunications revenue, and the requirement that providers of interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service make universal service fund contributions at a safe harbor level of 64.9% of total VoIP service revenue. Wireless and VoIP carriers, however, retain the option to base contributions on their actual revenues or on traffic studies. Universal Service Contribution Methodology, Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service, 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review – Streamlined Contributor Reporting Requirements Associated with Administration of Telecommunications Relay Service, North American Numbering Plan, Local Number Portability, and Universal Service Support Mechanisms Telecommunications Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Administration of the North American Numbering Plan and North American Numbering Plan Cost Recovery Contribution Factor, and Fund Size Number Resource Optimization Telephone Number Portability Truth-in-Billing and Billing Format, CC Docket Nos. 04-36, 06-122, 90-571, 92-237, 95-116, 96-45, 98-170, 98-171, 99-200, [Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#), 21 FCC Rcd 7518 (2006). Effective 07/10/06.

06/30/06 The Commission amended §§ 54.706, 64.5000, and 64.5001 to reflect a ruling that all prepaid calling card providers are telecommunications services providers, and therefore must pay access charges and contribute to the federal USF, on a prospective basis. The Commission determined that menu-driven prepaid calling cards and prepaid calling cards that utilize IP transport to deliver all or a portion of the call are telecommunications services that are subject to regulation as telecommunications carriers. Providers who offer these services must contribute to the federal USF and pay access charges on a prospective basis only, but are exempted from paying the USF contribution requirement on those calling cards sold by, to, or pursuant to contract with the Department of Defense (DoD) or a DoD entity. Regulation of Prepaid Calling Card Services, WC Docket No. 05-68, [Declaratory Ruling and Report and Order](#), 21 FCC Rcd 7290 (2006). Effective 10/31/06; 64.5001(a), (b) and (c) are effective 02/08/07.

08/21/06 The Commission as part of its 2004 biennial regulatory review, and pursuant to Section 11 of the Communications Act, amended, modified and deleted various rules administered by the Wireline Competition Bureau. Section 11 requires the Commission to review biennially its regulations that apply to the operations and activities of any provider of telecommunications service, determine whether these regulations are no longer necessary in the public interest as the result of meaningful economic competition between providers, and if necessary, repeal or modify such regulations. The Commission amended or revised the following rules: §§ 36.2, 36.125, 36.126, 36.142, 36.152,

36.154, 36.156, 36.212, 36.214, 36.375, 36.377, 36.631, 51.213, 51.329, 51.515, 52.5, 52.11, 52.13, 52.15, 52.31, 54.201, 54.313, 54.507, 54.604, 54.623, 64.1330, and 64.1903. The Commission deleted: § 36.641, and certain terms and their definition in Part 36 Glossary, and §§ 51.211, 52.27, 52.29, 69.116, 69.117, 69.126, 69.127, and 69.612. Biennial Regulatory Review of Regulations Administered by the Wireline Competition Bureau, WC Docket No. 02-313, [Report and Order](#), 21 FCC Rcd 9937 (2006). [Erratum](#) (rel. 09/19/06). Effective 12/11/06.

01/18/07 The Commission, in response to the Call Home Act of 2006, forbears from applying USF and TRS contribution requirements to calls placed by U.S. Armed Forces personnel stationed or deployed outside the U.S. to their families or friends at home. The Commission also indicated it would release an NPRM seeking comment on additional steps to reduce the cost to military personnel calling home. Implementation of the Call at Home Act of 2006, WC Docket No. 07-2, [Order](#), 22 FCC Rcd 1030 (2007). Effective 01/18/07.

06/01/07 The DC Circuit Court ruled on Vonage's petition for court review of the Commission's order requiring interconnected VoIP providers to contribute to the Universal Service Fund (USF) (See Universal Service Contribution Methodology, 21 FCC Rcd 7518 (2006)). The court affirmed that the Commission does have the statutory authority to require VoIP providers to make USF contributions and that it acted reasonably in analogizing VoIP to wireline toll service for purposes of setting the presumptive percentage of VoIP revenues generated interstate and internationally. The court vacated the parts of the rule requiring the pre-approval of traffic studies and the suspension of the carrier's carrier rule, which prevents duplicative USF contributions at the wholesale and retail levels. [Vonage Holdings Corporation v. Federal Communications Commission](#), 489 F.3d 1232 (D.C. Cir. 2007).

08/29/07 The Commission amended sections 54.202, 54.417, 54.619, 54.702, 54.706, and 54.713, and renumbered section 54.521 as 54.8. It adopted measures in the following areas to further safeguard the Universal Service Fund from waste, fraud and abuse: stronger debarment rules for parties convicted of criminal violations or found civilly liable in connection with acts arising from participation in any of the four universal service programs; stronger oversight of the USF contributions and filing process, timely filing and payment requirements, increases in penalties for late payments and late filing, stronger audit requirements, document retention rules on all universal service programs and program contributors; and new performance measures for all USF mechanisms and the Administrator to improve the management and administration of the program. Comprehensive Review of the Universal Service Fund Management, Administration, and Oversight, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism, Rural Health Care Support Mechanism, Lifeline and Link-Up, Changes to the Board of Directors for the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc., WC Docket Nos. 02-6, 02-60, 03-109, 05-195, 96-45, 97-21, [Report and Order](#), 22 FCC Rcd 16372 (2007). Effective 10/24/07; §§ 54.202, 54.417, 54.619 and 54.706 became effective 01/23/08.

11/19/07 The Commission selected participants for the Rural Health Care Pilot Program who will be able to receive funding for up to 85% of the costs associated with the construction of 69 state or regional broadband health care networks. The available support is \$139 million per year for three years. Rural Health Care Support Mechanism, WC Docket No. 02-60, [Order](#), 22 FCC Rcd 20360 (2007). Effective 12/19/07.

01/24/08 The Commission granted [CTIA's](#) and [Cingular Wireless'](#) petitions for clarification of the definition of "toll services" for purposes of determining contribution obligations to the USF for wireless carriers. The Order granted both petitions to the extent that they asked the Commission to declare that the definition of "toll services" discussed in the [2006 Contribution Methodology Order](#) is the definition to be used on the FCC Form 499 for reporting revenues derived from toll service charges. The Commission also clarified that to the extent a USF contributor uses traffic studies to determine its contribution obligations, such studies must specifically account for the interstate or international nature of toll service revenues. Universal Service Contribution Methodology, Petition for Declaratory Ruling of Cingular Wireless LLC, WC Docket No. 06-122, [Declaratory Order](#), 23 FCC Rcd 1411 (2008). Effective 01/24/08.

02/14/08 The Commission amended 54.601, and extended for three years the Commission's prior determination to grandfather those health care providers who were eligible under the Commission's



definition of “rural” prior to the 2004 Order. Rural Health Care Support Mechanism, WC Docket No. 02-60, [Order on Reconsideration](#), 23 FCC Rcd 2539 (2008). Effective 05/12/08 .

03/03/08 The Commission added § 54.418, as well as making changes to certain sections in Parts 15, 27, 73, and 76. The Commission adopted several proposals relating to consumer education about the digital television (DTV) transition, including new rules requiring carriers that receive USF funding to put notices in their Lifeline/Linkup bills about the pending DTV transition. The notice must be provided as a “bill stuffer” or as part of an information section on the bill itself. It also must be noticeable, and state that on February 17, 2009, full-power analog broadcasting will end and analog-only televisions may be unable to display full-power broadcast programming unless the viewer takes action. The notice must also note that viewers can get more information by going to [www.DTV.gov](#), and more information about the converter box program by going to [www.dtv2009.gov](#) or calling the NTIA at 888-DTV-2009. ETCs that receive federal universal service funds must provide this same basic information as part of any other Lifeline or Link-Up publicity campaigns. The customer bill notice requirement and the publicity requirement will run from April 30, 2008 (the effective date of these rules) through March 2009. DTV Consumer Education Initiative, MB Docket No. 07-148, [Report and Order](#), 23 FCC Rcd 4134 (2008). Effective: 04/30/08.

04/23/08 The Commission revised § 54.418, reconsidered in part, sua sponte, the March 3, 2008 decision that adopted digital television (DTV) transition consumer education and outreach requirements for a number of industry participants, and clarified some of those requirements. In this order, the Commission gives carriers the option to use a monthly, stand alone notification, such as a post card or brochure, as a valid method to communicate with Lifeline or Link-Up customers about the switch to DTV, instead of a bill insert. The accompanying Further Notice asked whether the ETC obligation to provide monthly DTV transition notices to low-income subscribers should be expanded to require the provision of such notices to all subscribers, and whether multi-channel video programming distributors (MVPDs) should be required to provide on-air DTV transition education on their systems. DTV Consumer Education Initiative, MB Docket No. 07-148, [Order on Reconsideration and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#), 23 FCC Rcd 7272 (2008). Effective 05/30/08.

05/01/08 The Commission adopted an interim, emergency cap on total annual competitive eligible telecommunications carriers (CETC) support, set at the annualized march 2008 level for each state. The FCC adopted two exceptions: 1) a CETC will not be subject to the cap if it files cost data demonstrating that its costs meet the support threshold in the same manner as the incumbent LEC; and 2) the cap will not apply to CETCs service tribal lands or Alaska Native regions. To prevent unintended consequences for ILECs’ IAS support, the Commission also separately capped ILEC IAS support and CETC IAS support. The Commission also granted 22 pending ETC petitions for designation. High-Cost Universal Service Support, Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service, Alltel Communications, Inc., et al. Petitions for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier, RCC Minnesota, Inc. and RCC Atlantic, Inc., New Hampshire ETC Designation Amendment, CC Docket No. 96-45 and WC Docket No. 05-337, [Order](#), 23 FCC Rcd 8834 (2008). Effective 08/01/08.

02/20/09 The FCC amended 54.418, which requires carriers that receive USF funding to put notices in their Lifeline/Linkup bills about the pending DTV transition. This was a result of the DTV Delay Act, which was enacted into law on February 11, 2009. Implementation of the DTV Delay Act, MB Docket No. 09-17, DTV Consumer Education Initiative, MB Docket No. 07-148, Third Periodic Review of the Commission’s Rules and Policies Affecting the Conversion To Digital Television, MB Docket No. 07-91, Implementation of Short-term Analog Flash and Emergency Readiness Act; Establishment of DTV Transition ‘Analog Nightlight’ Program, MB Docket No. 08-255, Service Rules for the 698-746, 747-762 and 777-792 MHz Bands, WT Docket No. 06-150, Former Nextel Communications, Inc. Upper 700 MHz Guard Band Licenses and Revisions to Part 27 of the Commission’s Rules, WT Docket No. 06-169, Implementing a Nationwide, Broadband, Interoperable Public Safety Network in the 700 MHz Band, WT Docket No. 06-169, Development of Operational, Technical and Spectrum Requirements for Meeting Federal, State and Local Public Safety Communications Requirements Through the Year 2010, WT Docket No. 96-86, [Second Report and Order and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#), 24 FCC Rcd 2526 (2009). Effective: 04/01/09.

03/05/09 The Commission waived the limitation on the availability of uncapped high-cost universal service support for CETCs serving tribal lands or Alaska Native regions. The waiver’s duration is for the

length of the cap. The order waives the restriction in paragraph 33 of the May 2008 Interim Cap Order limiting the availability of uncapped per line support to competitive ETCs serving Alaska Native regions “to one payment per each residential account.” High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337, and Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, [Order](#), 24 FCC Rcd 3369 (2009). Effective 03/05/09.

12/02/09 The Commission modified its rules to include interconnected voice over internet Protocol (VoIP) and text messaging as eligible services under the schools and libraries universal service support mechanism (“e-rate program.”). It also clarified that the 2010 list of eligible services will include video on-demand servers, Ethernet, web hosting, wireless local area (LAN) controllers and virtualization software. Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism, CC Docket No. 02-6, [Report and Order](#), 25 FCC 6562 (2010). Effective 05/07/10.

03/18/10 The Commission addressed an inequitable asymmetry in its rules regarding receipt of local switching support (LSS) by small incumbent local exchange carriers (LECs). Modified rules permit incumbent LECs that lose lines to receive additional LSS when they cross a threshold. WC Docket No. 05-337, CC Docket 80-286, Report and Order and [Memorandum Opinion and Order](#), 25 FCC Rcd 3430 (2010). Effective 04/08/10.

09/28/10 The Commission revised its rules to upgrade its e-rate program by providing more flexibility to select and make available the most cost-effective broadband and other communications services. The order also adopts the eligible services list for funding year 2011. Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism and a National Broadband Plan for Our Future, CC Docket No. 02-6, GN Docket No. 09-5, [Sixth Report and Order](#), 25 FCC Rcd 18762 (2010). Effective 01/03/11.

06/21/11 The Commission adopted an interim rule to permit health care providers that are located in a “rural area” under the definition used by the Commission prior to July 1, 2005, and that have received a funding commitment from the rural health care program prior to July 1, 2005, to continue to be treated as if they are located in “rural” areas for purposes of determining eligibility for all universal service rural health care programs. Rural Health Care Support Mechanism, WC Docket No. 02-60, [Order](#), 26 FCC Rcd 9145 (2011). Effective 06/27/11.

06/21/11 The Commission revised its rules to address potential waste in the universal service Lifeline and Link Up program (Lifeline/Link Up or the program) by preventing duplicative program payments for multiple Lifeline-supported services to the same individual. Lifeline and Linkup Reform and Modernization, Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service, Lifeline and Linkup, WC Docket No. 11-42, CC Docket No. 96-45, WC Docket No. 03-109, [Report and Order](#), 26 FCC Rcd 9022 (2011). Effective 07/29/11.

08/11/11 The Commission revised its rules to adapt the statutory language from the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act regarding the education of students about appropriate online behavior to existing rules implementing the Children’s Internet Protection Act for the schools and libraries universal support mechanism (also known as the E-rate program). Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism and a Broadband Plan for Our Future, CC Docket No. 02-6 and GN Docket No. 09-51, [Order](#), 26 FCC Rcd 11819 (2011). Effective 10/13/11.

11/18/11 The Commission revised its rules to reform universal service and intercarrier compensation. The FCC created a new Connect America Fund with an annual budget of no more than \$4.5 billion, made mobile broadband an independent universal service objective for the first time in history, and dedicated support through a new separate Mobility Fund for wireless carriers. Revises §§ [54.5](#), [54.7](#), [54.101](#), [54.202](#), [54.301](#), [54.305](#), [54.307](#), [54.309](#), [54.313](#), [54.314](#), [54.702](#), [54.709](#), [54.715](#), [54.801](#) and [54.901](#). Removes §§ [54.303](#), [54.311](#), and [54.316](#). Adds §§ [54.302](#), [54.304](#), [54.312](#), [54.318](#), [54.320](#) and Subpart L – Mobility Fund. Connect America Fund; A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, WC Docket No. 10–90 et al., [Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#), 26 FCC Rcd 17663 (2011). [Erratum](#) (rel. 02/06/12). Part 54 rules effective 12/29/11, except as noted. Sections [54.312](#)(b)(3), [54.313](#)(b), [54.313](#)(h), [54.314](#) and [54.320](#)(b) are effective 05/08/12, following FR publication of OMB approval. Sections 54.1003; 54.1004(a), (c), and (d); 54.1005(a) and (b); 54.1006(a) through (e); 54.1007(a) and (b); and 54.1008(d) and (e); are effective 06/05/12, following FR publication of OMB approval. Section 54.304 is effective 06/14/12,

following FR publication of OMB approval. Sections 54.1008(d) and (e), 54.1009(a) through (c) and 54.1010 are effective 07/26/13, following FR publication of OMB approval. Sections [54.313](#)(a)(7) through (a)(10) and [54.313](#)(c) through (g) are effective 08/05/13, following FR publication of OMB approval. Section § [54.313](#)(a)(11) requires Office of Management and Budget approval; effective date will be published in the Federal Register after OMB approval.

12/23/11 The Commission revised one of its rules adopted in the USF/ICC Transformation Order which created a new Connect America Fund with an annual budget of no more than \$4.5 billion, made mobile broadband an independent universal service objective for the first time in history, and dedicated support through a new separate Mobility Fund for wireless carriers. Revises § [54.101](#). Connect America Fund; A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, WC Docket No. 10–90 et al., [Order on Reconsideration](#), 26 FCC Rcd 17633 (2011). Effective 01/11/12.

02/03/12 The Commission clarified certain rules in the USF/ICC Transformation Order which reforms universal service and intercarrier compensation. The order also modifies certain initial filing deadlines required to comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act requirements. Revises §§ [54.307](#)(e)(1)(ii), [54.318](#)(d), and [54.903](#)(a)(2); deletes §§ [54.301](#)(f) and [54.315](#). Connect America Fund; A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, WC Docket No. 10–90 et al., [Order](#), 27 FCC Rcd 605 (2012). Effective 04/09/12, except as noted. Sections §§[54.313](#)(a)(9) and (f)(2) are effective 08/05/13, following FR publication of OMB approval of the original text of these sections from FCC 11-161 (26 FCC Rcd 17663 (2011)).

02/06/12 The Commission comprehensively revised its Lifeline program to substantially strengthen protections against waste, fraud, and abuse; improve program administration and accountability; improve enrollment and consumer disclosures; initiate modernization of the program for broadband; and constrain the growth of the program in order to reduce the burden on all who contribute to the Universal Service Fund. Revises §§ 54.5, 54.101(a), 54.201(a)(1) and (h), 54.202, 54.400, 54.401, 54.403, 54.405, 54.407, 54.409, 54.410, 54.413, 54.416, and 54.417; deletes §§ 54.209, 54.411 and 54.415; adds §§ 54.404, 54.412, 54.414\*, 54.419, 54.420, and 54.422. Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Advancing Broadband Availability Through Digital Literacy Training, WC Docket Nos. 11–42, 03–109, 12–23 and CC Docket No. 96–45, [Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#), 27 FCC 6656 (2012). [Erratum](#) (05/16/12). Effective 04/02/12, except: 1) §§ 54.202(a), 54.401(d), 54.403, 54.405(c), 54.407, 54.416, 54.417, 54.420, and 54.422, which are effective 05/01/12; 2) §§ 54.411, 54.412, 54.413 and 54.414, which are effective 04/01/12; and 3) §§ 54.409 and 54.510 which are effective 06/01/12.

02/27/12 The Commission clarified certain rules in the USF/ICC Transformation Order which reforms universal service and intercarrier compensation. Clarifies § 54.5. Connect America Fund; A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, WC Docket No. 10–90 et al. [Order](#), 27 FCC Rcd 2142 (2012). Effective 05/07/12.

04/25/12 The Commission addressed several issues raised in petitions for reconsideration of certain aspects of the USF/ICC Transformation Order. It granted a request to permit carriers accepting incremental support in Phase I of the Connect America Fund (CAF) to receive credit for deploying broadband to certain unserved locations in partially served census blocks, and denied a number of other requests to modify the rules governing CAF Phase I. Revises § 54.312(b)(3). Connect America Fund; A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, WC Docket No. 10–90 et al., [Second Order on Reconsideration](#), 27 FCC Rcd 4648 (2012). Effective 06/28/12.

04/25/12 The FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau adopted a regression analysis methodology to limit rate-of-return carriers' capital and operations expenses for purposes of high-cost loop support. The methodology uses quantile regression analysis and NECA cost data to generate a set of limits for each rate-of-return cost company study area, and uses the regression-derived limits in NECA's formula for calculating loop cost. NECA was directed to modify the high-cost loop support universal service formula for average schedule companies annually to reflect the caps derived from the cost company data. HCLS benchmarks will be implemented beginning July 1, 2012, reductions in support will be phased in. Connect America Fund, High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket Nos. 10-90 and 05-337, [Report and Order](#), 27 FCC Rcd 4235 (2012). Order is effective 6/22/12 (no rule changes).

05/14/12 The Commission reconsidered and clarified certain aspects of the USF/ICC Transformation Order in response to various petitions for reconsideration and/or clarification. Revises §§ 54.5, 54.307(e), 54.313(h)(1), 54.313(j), and 54.318(a),(b),(c), and (f). Adds 54.318(h) and (i). Connect America Fund; A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, WC Docket No. 10–90 et al., [Third Order on Reconsideration](#), 27 FCC Rcd 5622 (2012). [Erratum](#) (03/01/13) corrects date in § 54.313(a)(9). Effective 06/25/12, except as noted. Section 54.313(a)(11) requires Office of Management and Budget approval. Effective date will be published in the Federal Register after OMB approval. Section 54.1009(a) is effective 07/26/13, following FR publication of OMB approval. Section 54.54.313(h)(2) is effective 08/05/13, following FR publication of OMB approval. Sections 54.313(a)(10), 54.313(c)(1)-(4), 54.313(d), 54.313(e)(3), and 54.313(f)(1) are effective 08/05/13, following FR publication of OMB approval of the original text of these sections from FCC 11-161 (26 FCC Rcd 17663 (2011)).

07/18/12 The FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau clarified certain rules relating to Phase I of the Connect America Fund, following informal inquiries from price cap companies on certain implementation aspects of the rules governing Connect America Fund Phase I. The Bureau also amended one of the Commission's rules to fix a clerical error relating to the support for carriers serving remote areas of Alaska. Revises §§ 54.307(e)(5)(v). Connect America Fund; A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, WC Docket No. 10–90 et al., [Order](#), 27 FCC Rcd 8141 (2012). Effective 10/01/12.

07/18/12 The Commission affirmed the Commission's adoption of a reverse auction mechanism to distribute Mobility Fund Phase I support; denied requests seeking changes to the eligibility requirements for Mobility Fund Phase I; rejected arguments that the Commission provide for bidding preferences to small or rural entities; extended eligibility for the Tribal lands bidding credit to entities that are not Tribally-owned or controlled; and declined to adopt a series of performance requirements concerning the upgradability of systems, roaming requirements and rates, and exclusive handset arrangements. Connect America Fund; A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, WC Docket No. 10–90 et al., [Fourth Order on Reconsideration](#), 27 FCC Rcd 8814 (2012). The Order is effective 09/13/12 (no rule changes).

10/19/12 The Commission revised its rules to reassign to the Office of Managing Director certain audit activities formerly assigned to the Office of Inspector General. The activities concern oversight of the annual audit of the Universal Service Administrative Company required by FCC rules. Revises §§ 54.717(a) – (d), (e)(1), (e)(2), (f) – (i) and (k). Commission's Rules Regarding the Office Of Managing Director and the Office of Inspector General, CC Docket No. 96-45, [Order](#), 27 FCC Rcd 13754 (2012). Effective 12/04/12.

11/16/12 The Commission reconsidered and clarified certain aspects of the USF/ICC Transformation Order in response to various petitions for reconsideration and/or clarification. This Order grants in part petitions related to the financial reporting obligations of eligible telecommunications carriers that are privately-held rate-of-return companies and provides additional guidance and clarifications regarding the standard and process for requests for waiver of universal service reforms. Revises § 54.313(f)(2). Connect America Fund; A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, WC Docket No. 10–90 et al., [Fifth Order on Reconsideration](#), 27 FCC Rcd 14549 (2012). [Erratum](#), 12/04/12. Effective 02/19/13 except section 54.313(f)(2)(i) through (iii) is effective 08/05/13, following FR publication of OMB approval.

12/21/12 The Commission reformed universal service support programs for health care, transitioning the existing Internet Access and Rural Health Care Pilot Programs into a new, efficient Healthcare Connect Fund. This fund will expand health care provider access to broadband, especially in rural areas, and encourage the creation of state and regional broadband health care networks. Extensively revises/adds/moves rules in Subpart G – Universal Service Support for Health Care Providers (§ 54.600 and following). Also revises the § 54.5 definition of rural area. Rural health care support mechanisms, WC Docket No. 02-60, [Report and Order](#), 27 FCC Rcd 16678 (2012). Effective 04/01/13 except: §§ 54.640(b) and 54.679 are effective 06/27/13, remaining sections are effective 09/09/13, following FR publication of OMB approval.

02/27/13 The Commission addressed Petitions for Reconsideration and Applications for Review of changes made to high-cost universal service support for rate-of-return carriers. The FCC reconsidered the benchmarking rule, which established limits on capital and operating expenditures eligible for high-



cost USF support for rate-of-return carriers, only insofar as it required the Wireline Competition Bureau to rerun the benchmark regression annually. It directed the Bureau to consider whether running the regression analyses less frequently will better serve the purposes advanced by the benchmarking rule, and clarified how support will be redistributed under that rule. The Commission directed the Bureau to develop a regression methodology that will generate a single total loop cost cap for each study area in 2014, combined the CapEx and OpEx caps for 2013, and modified the phase-in for 2013. The FCC also declined requests to reconsider the monthly \$250 per-line cap in total high-cost support for all telephone companies; reaffirmed the extension of the corporate operations expense cap to ICLS; and directed the Bureau to seek input from stakeholders and gather data on the effects of reforms, and to report to the Commission by 11/18/13 on implementation progress and the impact of reforms. Connect America Fund; High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket Nos. 10–90 and 05-337, [Sixth Order on Reconsideration](#), 28 FCC Rcd 2572 (2013). The Order is effective 03/19/13 (no rule changes).

03/05/13 The Wireline Competition Bureau addressed a petition for clarification and reconsideration, or in the alternative waiver, filed by the United States Telecom Association and CTIA, by clarifying and waiving certain aspects of the reporting requirements adopted in the USF/ICC Transformation Order for eligible telecommunications carriers relating to five-year build-out plans and broadband network testing. The Bureau clarified and revised §§ 54.313(a) and 54.313(a)(11). Connect America Fund; A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, WC Docket No. 10–90 et al., [Order](#), 28 FCC Rcd 2051 (2013). Order is effective 05/15/13. However Subsection 54.313(a)(11) is still awaiting OMB approval due to previous changes made in the USF/ICC Transformation Order (26 FCC Rcd 17663 (2011)). Section 54.313(a) is effective upon Federal Register publication of OMB approval. Section 54.313(a) is effective 08/05/13, following FR publication of OMB approval.

03/27/13 The FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau clarified and corrected certain CAF ICC rules. The Order harmonized inconsistent CAF ICC support eligibility certification and reporting filing deadlines so they coincide with the annual interstate access tariff filing dates. The Order also: corrected the rules governing the transition of rate-of-return carriers' intrastate switched access rates; clarified access charge rules on the treatment of LSS in the calculation of the line-side port costs shift to the Common Line category and the allocation of Transport Interconnection Charge costs among the various access charge expense categories; clarified the operation of the corporate operations expense limit and monthly \$250 per-line cap on universal service support; and corrected errors implementing the Eligible Recovery true-up adjustment mechanism. Revises §§ 51.909, 51.915, 54.917, 54.304, 54.901, 69.306 and 69.415. Connect America Fund; A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, WC Docket No. 10–90 et al., [Order](#), 28 FCC Rcd 3319 (2013). Effective 06/05/13.

05/22/13 The Commission provided for a second round of Connect America Fund incremental funding in 2013 to further leverage investment in rural America and accelerate broadband availability to consumers who lack access. Revises §§ 54.312(b), 54.313(b); adds §§ 54.312(c). Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10–90, [Report & Order](#), 28 FCC Rcd 7766 (2013). Effective 07/26/13, except for §§ 54.312(c)(4) through (c)(6), 54.312(c)(8) and 54.313(b) which are effective 07/25/13, following Federal Register publication of OMB approval.

06/25/13 The Commission addressed certain compliance requirements contained in its Lifeline Reform Order and its accompanying rules. This Order codified the requirement the eligible telecommunications carriers verify a Lifeline Subscriber's eligibility for Lifeline service before activating such service, pursuant the authority delegated in the Lifeline Reform Order. Revises § 54.410(a). Lifeline and Link Up Modernization and Reform, WC Docket No. 11–42, [Order](#), 28 FCC Rcd 9057 (2013). Effective 08/08/13.

07/16/13 The Commission reconsidered its May 22, 2013 Order which provided for a second round of Connect America Fund incremental funding in 2013. This Reconsideration Order now requires carriers to report updates to planned Phase I deployments to the Commission, relevant state commission, and relevant Tribal governments. Revises §§ 54.312(b)(3) and 54.312(c)(4). Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10–90, [Order on Reconsideration](#), 28 FCC Rcd 10488 (2013). Order is effective 08/09/13; rules are effective upon Federal Register publication of OMB approval.

07/26/13 The Commission's Wireline Competition Bureau clarified support amounts rate-of-return carriers will receive in 2014. The Bureau kept the FCC's approach for HCLS benchmarking it used in



2013 for another year, summing the CapEx and OpEx caps. The Bureau also delayed the phase-in of support reductions for one year, rather than making them fully effective in 2014, and waived the benchmarking rule for RoR study areas in Alaska for 2014. Connect America Fund, High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket Nos. 10–90 and 05-337, [Order](#), 28 FCC Rcd 10999 (2013). Order is effective 07/26/13. (No rule changes)

01/31/14 The FCC started the process for a diverse set of experiments and data collection initiatives that will allow it and the public to evaluate how customers are affected by the historic technology transitions that are transforming our nation's voice communications services – from a network based on time-division multiplexed (TDM) circuit-switched voice services running on copper loops to an all-Internet Protocol (IP) network using copper, co-axial cable, wireless, and fiber as physical infrastructure. Revises §§ 54.309 and 54.313; adds §54.310. Technology Transitions, AT&T Petition to Launch a Proceeding Concerning the TDM-to-IP Transition, Connect America Fund, Structure and Practices of the Video Relay Service Program, Telecommunications Relay Services And Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities, Numbering Policies for Modern Communications; WC Docket Nos. 10-90 and 13-97, GN Docket Nos. 13-5 and 12-353, CG Docket Nos. 10-51 and 03-123; [Order, Report and Order and Further Notice Of Proposed Rulemaking, Report and Order, Order and Further Notice Of Proposed Rulemaking, Proposal For Ongoing Data Initiative](#), 29 FCC Rcd 1443 (2014). Sections 54.309 and 54.310 effective 03/31/14; § 54.313 will become effective upon Federal Register publication of OMB approval.

06/10/14 The Commission took significant steps to continue implementation of the USF/ICC reforms adopted in 2011 to modernize universal service for the 21st century. The Order moved rules regarding HCLS and safety net additive, which currently are located in subpart F of Part 36, into a new subpart M in Part 54 in order to consolidate all high-cost rules in Part 54, and make conforming changes throughout Part 54. Connect America Fund, Universal Service Reform – Mobility Fund, ETC Annual Reports and Certifications, Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for Local Exchange Carriers, and Developing an Unified Inter-carrier Compensation Regime; WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 10-208, 14-58 and 07-135; CC Docket No. 01-92; [Report and Order, Declaratory Ruling, Order, Memorandum Opinion and Order, Seventh Order On Reconsideration, and Further Notice Of Proposed Rulemaking](#), 29 FCC Rcd 7051 (2014). Effective 08/08/14; § 54.310(e)(1) is effective 03/19/18.

07/23/14 The Commission took significant steps to modernize the Schools and libraries (E-rate) program, adopting three goals: 1) ensuring affordable access to high-speed broadband sufficient to support digital learning in schools and robust connectivity for all libraries; (2) maximizing the cost-effectiveness of spending for E-rate supported purchases; and (3) making the E-rate application process and other E-rate processes fast, simple and efficient. Modernizing the E-rate Program for Schools and Libraries; WC Docket No. 13-184; [Report and Order and Further Notice Of Proposed Rulemaking](#), 29 FCC Rcd 8870 (2014). [Erratum](#), 10/10/14; [Second Erratum](#), 10/21/14; [Third Erratum](#), 11.07.14. Effective 09/18/14, except for §§ 54.5, 54.500, 54.501(a)(1), 54.502(a), 54.504(d), 54.507(a)-(c) and (e), and 54.516(d), which will become effective on 07/01/2015; and §§ 54.504(f)(4) and (5) and 54.514(c), which will become effective on 07/01/2016. Sections 54.502(b)(3) and (5), 54.504(a) and 54.516(a) - (c) are effective 11/20/14, following publication of OMB approval in the Federal Register. Sections 54.503(c); 54.507(d) - (f); 54.514(a); and 54.720(a) are effective 12/18/14, following publication of correcting amendments in the Federal Register. Section 54.502(b)(2) is effective 01/05/15, following publication of OMB approval in the Federal Register.

12/18/14 The Commission took further action to implement a modernized universal service regime by finalizing the decisions necessary to proceed with the offer of support to price cap carriers in early 2015. For rate-of-return carriers, the Commission adopted its proposal to freeze the NACPL and use an adjustment factor on all recipients' High Cost Loop Support payments to satisfy the overall fund cap, and adopted a process for periodic determination of whether an unsubsidized competitor provides voice and broadband service across 100 percent of an RLEC service area and how support would be eliminated in those cases. The FCC required companies receiving CAF Phase II support for fixed broadband to provide at least 10/1 Mbps broadband service, increasing the required speed from the current 4/1 Mbps, made changes to the framework for the offer of model-based support to price cap carriers, and addressed where Phase II support will be available, both for the offer of model-based support to price cap carriers and the subsequent Phase II competitive bidding process. Connect

America Fund, ETC Annual Reports and Certifications, et al.; WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 14-58 and 14-258; [Report and Order](#), 29 FCC Rcd 15644 (2014). Effective 02/26/15, except for §§ 54.313(a) and (e) and 54.320(d) which will become effective upon FR publication of OMB approval.

12/19/14 The Commission took the next critical steps to modernize the Schools and Libraries (E-rate) program. The improvements seek to close the high-speed connectivity gap between rural schools and libraries and their urban and suburban counterparts, and provide sufficient and certain funding for high-speed connectivity to and within all eligible schools and libraries. Modernizing the E-rate Program for Schools and Libraries, Connect America Fund; WC Docket Nos. 13-184 and 10-90; [Second Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration](#), 29 FCC Rcd 15538 (2014). Effective March 6, 2015, except for: §§ 54.313(e)(2) and (f)(1), which will become effective upon Federal Register publication of OMB approval; §§ 54.308(b), 54.309(b), 54.505(b)(3) and (b)(3)(i), and 54.507(a) and (c), which will become effective 07/01/2015; and § 54.518 and paragraphs (b) introductory text, (c) and (f) of section 54.505, which will become effective on 07/01/2016. Section 54.503(c)(1) is effective 06/30/15, following Federal Register publication of OMB approval. Section 54.504(a)(1)(iii) is effective 12/24/15, following Federal Register publication of OMB approval.

03/31/15 The Wireline Competition Bureau clarified rules regarding subscriber usage of Lifeline-supported services established in the Commission's 2012 Lifeline Reform Order. Revises §§ 54.405(e)(3) and 54.407(c). Lifeline and Link Up Reform, WC Docket No. 11-42, [Order](#), 30 FCC Rcd 2801 (2015). Effective 07/22/15.

06/22/15 The Commission took actions to rebuild the current framework of the Lifeline program and continue its efforts from the 2012 Lifeline Reform Order to modernize the program so all consumers can use advanced networks. Revises §§ 54.201(a)(1), 54.401(a), 54.407(a) and (b), 54.410(b)(1)(ii) and (c)(1)(ii), and 54.417; adds §§ 54.400(k), 54.404(b)(11), and 54.410(b)(2)(iii) and (c)(2)(iii); deletes 54.410(b)(1)(iii) and (c)(1)(iii). Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support and Connect America Fund, WC Docket Nos. 11-42, 09-197 and 10-90, [Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Order on Reconsideration, Second Report and Order and Memorandum Opinion and Order](#), 30 FCC Rcd 7818 (2015). The Order on Reconsideration and Second Report and Order are effective 08/13/15. The amendments to §§ 54.201, 54.400, 54.401, 54.404, 54.407, 54.410, and 54.417 are effective 02/17/16, following publication in the Federal Register of OMB approval.

03/30/16 The FCC adopted rules reforming universal service support for rate-of-return carriers. The Order creates two paths for RoR carrier USF support: a model-based option and a Broadband Loop Support mechanism that will provide support for standalone broadband and replace ICLS. Neither type of support will be provided in census blocks where an unsubsidized competitor offers qualifying service. The Order contains broadband deployment milestones, service performance requirements, OpEx and CapEx limitations, as well as budget controls to maintain the \$2 billion per year budget. The Order also reduces the allowable rate of return from the current 11.25 percent to 9.75 percent, with a phased transition. Revises §§ 54.305(a), 54.308(a), 54.313, 54.319, 54.707, 54.901, 54.902, 54.903 and 54.1308; adds §§ 54.303, 43.311, 54.316 and 54.1310(d); deletes §54.301; removes and reserves Subpart J (54.800 – 54.809). Connect America Fund, ETC Annual Reports and Certifications, Developing a Unified Inter-carrier Compensation Regime; WC Docket Nos. 10-90 and 14-58, CC Docket No. 01-92; [Report and Order, Order, Order on Reconsideration, and FNPRM](#); [Erratum](#), 05/04/16; [Second Erratum](#) 06/07/16; [Third Erratum](#) 08.31.16. 31 FCC Rcd 3087 (2016). An [Order](#) released on 06/15/16 (DA 16-661) addressed several matters arising from implementation of the original order (no rule changes). [FR Notice correcting](#) previously revised rules, 82 FR 14338 (2017). Effective 05/25/16, except for §§ 54.303(b); 54.311(a); 54.313(a)(10), (e)(1), (e)(2) and (f)(1); 54.316(a)(b); 54.319(e); and 54.903(a), which require OMB approval. These rules will become effective upon Federal Register publication of OMB approval.

04/27/16 The Commission adopted reforms to focus the Lifeline program on broadband by encouraging broadband providers to offer supported broadband services that meet FCC-set standards to ensure ratepayers supporting the program are obtaining value for their contributions and Lifeline subscribers can participate fully in today's society. The FCC also took steps to improve the program's management and design by streamlining program rules and eliminating outdated program obligations with the goal of providing incentives for broadband providers to participate and increasing competition

and meaningful broadband offerings to Lifeline subscribers and to further combat waste, fraud, and abuse, including establishing a National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier that will remove the responsibility of determining Lifeline subscriber eligibility from providers. Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support, and Connect America Fund; WC Docket Nos. 11-42, 09-197 and 10-90; [Third R&O, Further R&O, and Order on Reconsideration](#), [Erratum](#), 05/06/16. [Erratum](#), 06/22/16 (DA 16-706). [Second Erratum](#), 06/22/16 (DA 16-714). 31 FCC Rcd 3962 (2016). Rule changes are effective as follows: 06/23/16: 54.201, 54.400 and 54.423; 10/03/16: 54.202(a)(6), (d) and (e), 54.205(c), and 54.400(l); 12/02/16: 54.101(a)-(e), 54.400(f),(j), and (m) through (o), 54.401(a)(2)-(c), (f), 54.403(a), 54.405(e)(1), (e)(3)-(e)(5), 54.407(a), (c)(2), (d), 54.408, 54.409(a)(2), 54.410(b)-(e), (g)-(i), 54.411, 54.416(a)(3), 54.420(b) and 54.422(b)(3); 01/01/17: 54.410(f).

05/26/16 The FCC adopted rules to implement a competitive bidding process for Phase II of the Connect America Fund. The Order also adopted rules to establish the framework for a Remote Areas Fund. Revises §§ 54.309(a), 54.310(c), 54.313(e), and 54.316(a) and (b); adds §§ 54.315 and Subpart J (Remote Areas Fund). Connect America Fund, ETC Annual Reports and Certifications, Rural Broadband Experiments; WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 14-58 and 14.259. [Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#), 31 FCC Rcd 5949 (2016). [Erratum](#), 06/13/16. [Second Erratum](#), 03/26/18. Rule changes are effective 08/08/16, except for §§ 54.313(e)(2); 54.315; 54.316(a)(4), (b)(4) and (5), and (c)(2); 54.804 (b) through (d); and 54.806, which are subject to OMB approval. Those sections will become effective following FR publication of OMB approval.

08/31/16 The FCC adopted a high-cost USF support plan for fixed and mobile voice and broadband service in high-cost areas of Alaska. The plan provides Alaskan carriers with the option of receiving fixed amounts of support over the next ten years. Alaskan rate-of-return carriers will now have the option of receiving support pursuant to the Alaska Plan, support calculated by A-CAM, or remaining on the reformed legacy RoR support mechanisms. Revises §§ 54.313, 54.316, 54.317, 54.320, 54.321, 69.104(s), 69.115(f), 69.130(b) and 69.132(c) and (d). Connect America Fund, Universal Service Reform – Mobility Fund, Connect America Fund – Alaska Plan; WC Docket Nos. 10-90 and 16-271; WT Docket No. 10-208. [Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#), 31 FCC Rcd 10139 (2016). [Erratum](#), 09/16/16. Rule changes are effective 11/07/16, except for §§ 54.316(a)(1), 54.316(a)(5)-(6), 54.316(b)(6), 54.320(d) and 54.321 which are effective 02/15/17 and §§ 54.313(f)(1)(i), 54.313(f)(3), 54.313(l) which are effective 07/17/18.

03/02/17 - The FCC set rules for the CAF Phase II reverse auction. The Order established bidding weights to compare bids across performance tiers set in 2016, explaining these weights account for the value of higher speeds, higher usage allowances, and low latency. The FCC declined to adopt specific preferences for certain states and tribal lands in the Phase II auction, and declined to adopt alternative interim deployment obligations for a subset of Phase II auction recipients. It did, however, adopt preferences that will be implemented in the Remote Areas Fund auction for states where the Phase II offer of model-based support was declined, subject to certain conditions. In the Order on Reconsideration, the FCC: denied a Petition for Reconsideration of the FCCs decision to score bids relative to the reserve price; granted a Petition for Reconsideration of the FCCs decision to retain the option to re-auction certain areas served by high latency bidders if a set subscription rate is not met; and granted a Petition for Reconsideration of the FCCs decision to require bidders in the above-baseline and gigabit performance tiers to offer an unlimited monthly usage allowance. Revised § 54.309(a). Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90, ETC Annual Reports and Certifications, WC Docket No.14-58, [Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration](#), 32 FCC Rcd 1624 (2017). [Erratum](#), rel. 03/26/18

03/07/17 The Commission released the Mobility Fund II and Tribal Mobility Fund II Report and Order and FNPRM. The Order allocates up to \$4.53 billion over the next decade for deployment of 4G LTE service in areas that are so costly the private sector has not yet deployed there and to preserve such service where it might not otherwise exist. The Commission also proposed a challenge process to supplement FCC coverage maps. It said it expects to release a list of presumptively eligible areas shortly, to finalize the challenge process in the coming months and to conclude the challenge process by January 31, 2018. The phase-down of legacy support is scheduled to commence in the first month following the close of the MF-II auction. Revises §§ 54.307, 54.313(k) and adds §§ 54.1011-1021 to Subpart L. Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90, Universal Service Reform – Mobility Fund,

WC Docket No. 10-208, [Report and Order and FNPRM](#), 32 FCC Rcd 2152 (2017). Effective 05/25/18 except for § 54.1016 (a)(1)(ii) which is subject to OMB approval.

06/08/17 The FCC implemented the Rural Healthcare Connectivity Act of 2016, which amended section 254(h)(7)(B) of the Communications Act of 1934 to include skilled nursing facilities amongst the list of health care providers eligible to receive Rural Health Care Program support. The FCC amended section 54.600(a) of its rules defining “health care provider” under the RHC Program to include SNFs as eligible health care providers. Rural Health Care Support Mechanism, WC Docket No. 02-60, [Memorandum Opinion and Order](#), 32 FCC Rcd 5260 (2017). Effective: 06/21/17

07/07/17 The FCC eliminated certain reporting requirements for ETCs that receive high-cost USF support that the FCC said are either duplicative of other reporting requirements or are no longer necessary. The FCC eliminated the requirement for: ETCs’ annual reports to include detailed information about any outages affecting voice service for at least 30 minutes that they have experienced in the prior calendar year; ETCs to report the number of service requests they receive but do not fulfill; ETCs annually to report the number of complaints per 1,000 subscribers for voice and broadband services; ETCs to report annually information regarding the pricing of their voice and broadband service offerings; and ETCs to certify their compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules. The FCC also eliminated, contingent upon USAC’s completion of the rollout of an online portal for recipients of high cost services, the requirement that ETCs file duplicate copies of Form 481 with the FCC and with states, U.S. Territories, and/or Tribal governments beginning in 2018. Connect America Fund, ETC Annual Reports and Certifications, WC Docket Nos. 10-90 and 14-58, [Report and Order](#), 32 FCC Rcd 1787 (2017). [Erratum](#) Effective upon OMB approval.

09/08/17 The Commission eliminated certain rules from which the Commission granted unconditional forbearance for all carriers in the 2013 USTelecom Forbearance Order, and eliminating references to telegraph service from certain sections of the Commission’s rules. This Order affects rules in Parts 36, 42, 54, 63, and 64. Modernizing Common Carrier Rules, WC Docket No. 15-33, [Report and Order](#), FCC Rcd 7132 (2017). Effective: 11/20/17.

12/01/17 - The Commission amended certain rules on measures to bridge the digital divide for Lifeline subscribers and reduce waste, fraud, and abuse in the Lifeline program. Revises §§ 54.403, 54.410, 54.413 and 54.414 and removes and reserves 54.411. Bridging the Digital Divide for Low-Income Consumers, Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization, and Telecommunications Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support, WC Docket Nos. 17-287, 11-42 and 09-197, [Fourth Report and Order, Order on Reconsideration, Memorandum Opinion and Order, NPRM and NOI](#), 32 FCC Rcd 10475(2017). §§54.403(b) and 54.410 are effective 30 days after publication in the FR; the removal and reservation of section 54.411 is effective 60 days after publication in the FR, and amendments to sections 54.403(a)(3), 54.413, and 54.414 are effective 90 days after announcement of OMB approval or on August 1, 2018, whichever occurs later.

01/31/18 The FCC issued the addressed the issues raised in challenges to the CAF Phase II Auction Order, including how to compare bids of different performance levels; standalone voice requirements; Phase II auction deployment and eligibility; and state-specific bidding weights, among other matters. The Commission also adopted a process by which a support recipient that sufficiently demonstrates it cannot identify enough actual locations on the ground to meet its Phase II obligations can have its total state location obligation adjusted and its support reduced on a pro rata basis, and modified the letter of credit rules by reducing the costs of maintaining a letter of credit. The Order also revised §54.315. Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90, ETC Annual Reports and Certifications, WC Docket No. 14,58, Rural Broadband Experiments, WC Docket No. 14-259 and Connect America Fund Phase II Auction, AU Docket No. 17-182, [Order on Reconsideration](#), 33 FCC Rcd 1380 (2018). Effective: 08/15/18. [Erratum](#), rel. 03/27/18

02/16/18 - The FCC reconsidered rules adopted in the March 2016 Rate-of-Return Reform [Order](#) relating to RoR LECs provision of consumer broadband-only loops. The FCC revised its rules to replace the surrogate cost method for determining the cost of CBOLs with rules employing existing separations and cost allocation procedures. The FCC also revised the rule requiring RoR carriers to impute on CBOLs an amount equal to the Access Recovery Charge that could have been assessed on a



voice or voice/broadband line to better implement its intent to maintain the balance between end user charges and universal service adopted in the USF/ICC Transformation Order. The FCC also clarified issues relating to reductions in CAF Broadband Loop Support due to competitive overlap. Revised §§ 51.917, 54.319, 69.311 and 69.416. Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90, ETC Annual Reports and Certifications, WC Docket No. 14-58 and Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime, CC Docket No. 01-92, [Second Order on Reconsideration and Clarification](#), 33 FCC Rcd 2399 (2018). Effective 30 days after publication in the Federal Register.

03/23/18 - The FCC codified rules prohibiting the use of federal high-cost support for expenses that are not used for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended; adopts rules prohibiting recovery of certain expenses via interstate rates; and offers additional high-cost support to RoR carriers that previously accepted A-CAM support. The Third Order on Reconsideration resolved or clarified certain issues raised in petitions for reconsideration of the March 2016 RoR Reform Order, including fully funding carriers affected by the high-cost budget control mechanism from July 2017 to June 2018, and adding the adjustment factor GDP-CPI to the OpEx limitation. The NPRM seeks comment on additional reforms to high-cost support, and asks, for example, whether to fully fund existing A-CAM support recipients, afford a new opportunity for legacy providers to elect model-based support, and establish a minimum threshold of support for legacy providers that would not be subject to a budget cap. Revised §§ 54.7, 54.303, 54.313, 54.901, 54.1305, 54.1308, 54.1310, 64.1000, 64.1001, and 64.1002. Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90, ETC Reports and Certifications, WC Docket No. 14-58, Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for Local Exchange Carriers, WC Docket 17-135 and Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime, CC Docket No. 01-92, [Report and Order, Third Order on Reconsideration, and NPRM](#), FCC 18-29. [Erratum](#), 04/26/18. Effective: 05/31/18; § 54.313(f)(4) is effective 06/17/19 and 54.1305(j) is subject to OMB approval.

04/05/18 - The FCC allowed certain rate-of-return carriers serving Tribal communities to recover higher levels of operational expenses. The FCC: increased the amount of OpEx that carriers who predominantly serve Tribal lands can recover from the USF for the period beginning January 1, 2017; declined to remove the OpEx limitation altogether, and instead raised the limitation to 2.5 standard deviations above the regression-determined amount for those carriers that qualify; and limited this relief to those carriers that have not deployed 10/1 Mbps to 90 percent or more housing units and do not have unsubsidized competitors serving the study area. Revised § 54.303. Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90, [Report and Order](#), 33 FCC Rcd 3602 (2018). Effective: 05/31/18

12/13/18 - The FCC offered additional funding to carriers that currently receive A-CAM support in exchange for deploying broadband at increased speeds, provides an opportunity for legacy carriers to transition to model-based support, and authorizes additional support for carriers remaining on the legacy rate-of-return support mechanisms in exchange for targeting higher broadband speeds. In the accompanying Order on Reconsideration, the FCC denied three petitions seeking reconsideration of the FCC's decision directing the Wireline Competition Bureau to offer additional A-CAM support up to \$146.10 per-location to all carriers that accepted the revised offers of A-CAM. In the accompanying FNPRM, the FCC seeks comment on implementing an auction mechanism for support in legacy areas that are overlapped by an unsubsidized competitor, addressing budgetary impacts as carriers transition to broadband-only lines, and applying the Tribal Broadband Factor from the A-CAM II offer to legacy carriers. Revised §§ 32.1410, 32.2680, 32.2681, 32.2682, 32.3400, 32.3410, 32.4130, 32.4200, 32.4300, 32.7500, 54.302, 54.303, 54.308, 54.311, 54.313, 54.316, 54.319, 54.643, 54.901, 54.903, 54.1310, and 65.450. Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90, ETC Annual Reports and Certifications, WC Docket No. 14-58, Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for Local Exchange Carriers, WC 07-135, and Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime, 01-92, [Report and Order, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order on Reconsideration](#), FCC 18-176. Effective 03/21/19, except for §§ 54.313 and 54.316 which are subject to OMB approval and §§ 32.1410, 32.2680, 32.2681, 32.2682, 32.3400, 32.3410, 32.4130, 32.4200, 32.4300, 32.7500, 54.643 and 65.450 which will become effective 01/01/20.

02/15/19 - The FCC established a schedule to end CAF Phase I support in price cap areas where winning bidders in the CAF Phase II auction will begin receiving Phase II support and in areas that were not eligible for the auction, while providing interim support in areas that did not receive any bids. The FCC, among other things, adopted a methodology for disaggregating support by employing the



Connect America Cost Model to account for the relative costs of providing service among areas in states where price cap carriers declined model-based CAF Phase II support. The FCC limited the allocated monthly support for any census block to \$146.10 per location. Revised §§ 54.307, 54.312 and 54.313. Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90, [Report and Order](#), FCC 19-8. Effective 04/10/19, except for 54.313 which is subject to OMB approval.

04/15/19 – The FCC eliminated the high-cost USF program's local service rate floor rule and the reporting obligations associated with the rate floor after July 1, 2020 - relieving carriers of the obligation to report residential local service rates. The Commission said maintaining this reporting obligation for one year will allow the Commission to monitor any unexpected and significant changes in residential local services rates reported by carriers in their July 1, 2019 and 2020 annual filings. Revised § 54.313 and removed and reserved 54.318. Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90, [Report and Order](#), FCC 19-32. Effective 06/06/19.

08/06/19 – The FCC established the Digital Opportunity Data Collection to collect geospatial broadband coverage data from fixed providers, adopting a “crowdsourcing” process on the accuracy of the maps, making targeted changes to the existing Form 477 to reduce filing burdens, and seeking comment on enhancing the new data collection. Added §§ 54.1400-54.1403. Establishing the digital Opportunity Data Collection, WC Docket No. 19-195, Modernizing the FCC Form 477 Data Program, WC Docket No. 11-10, [Report and Order and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#), FCC 19-79. Effective: 09/23/19, except for §§ 54.1401, 54.1402(b),(c), (d)(2), and (e), which are subject to OMB approval.

08/20/19 - The FCC revised Subpart G of the rules governing the Telecom Program to simplify calculation of the urban and rural rates; reforms competitive bidding to make it a more productive mechanism for health care providers to identify and select cost-effective service offerings available to them in rural areas; and adopts rules and procedures to simplify the application process for program participants, among other things. Promoting Telehealth in Rural America, WC Docket No. 17-310, [Report and Order](#), FCC 19-78. Amended §§ 54.600-54.633. Effective 30 days after publication in the Federal Register except for those rules subject to OMB approval.

09/30/19 - The FCC allocated \$950 million in fixed and mobile high-cost universal service support for stage 2 of the Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund and the Connect USVI Fund in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. It revised §§ 54.313 and 54.316, 316, and added a new Subpart N (54.1501-54.1515). The Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund and the Connect USVI Fund, WC Docket No. 18-143, Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90, ETC Annual Reports and Certifications, WC Docket No. 14-58, [Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration](#), FCC 19-95. Effective: December 9, 2019, except sections: 54.313, 54.316, 54.1503, 54.1505, 54.1508, and 54.1513 through 54.1515 which are subject to OMB approval.

10/30/19 – The FCC addressed several petitions for reconsideration and applications for review of the [2018 Performance Measures Order](#) and provided flexibility for smaller carriers by making targeted modifications to the testing procedures carriers must use to show their networks perform at the Commission's speed and latency standards. Amended § 54.320. Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90, [Order on Reconsideration](#), FCC 19-104. Effective: 30 days after publication in the Federal Register.

## Chronologies

Subpart A – General Information		
§ 54.1	Basis and purpose	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a>
§ 54.5	Terms and definitions	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">07/18/97</a> , <a href="#">11/20/98</a> , <a href="#">11/02/99</a> , <a href="#">05/23/01</a> , <a href="#">07/31/01</a> , <a href="#">11/08/01</a> , <a href="#">12/17/04</a> , <a href="#">06/27/06</a> , <a href="#">11/18/11</a> , <a href="#">02/06/12</a> , <a href="#">02/27/12</a> , <a href="#">05/14/12</a> , <a href="#">12/21/12</a> , <a href="#">07/23/14</a> , <a href="#">12/18/14</a> , <a href="#">12/19/14</a>
§ 54.7	Intended use of federal universal service support	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">11/18/11</a> , <a href="#">03/23/18</a>
§ 54.8	Prohibition on participation: suspension and debarment	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a>
Subpart B – Services Designated for Support		
§ 54.101	Supported services for rural, insular and high cost areas	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">12/30/97</a> , <a href="#">07/17/98</a> , <a href="#">11/02/99</a> , <a href="#">07/31/01</a> , <a href="#">11/18/11</a> , <a href="#">12/23/11</a> , <a href="#">02/06/12</a> , <a href="#">04/27/16</a>
Subpart C – Carriers Eligible for Universal Service Support		
§ 54.201	Definition of eligible telecommunications carriers, generally	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">12/30/97</a> , <a href="#">11/03/99</a> , <a href="#">08/21/06</a> , <a href="#">02/06/12</a> , <a href="#">12/18/14</a> , <a href="#">06/22/15</a> , <a href="#">04/27/16</a>
§ 54.202	Additional requirements for Commission designation of eligible telecommunications carriers	Adopted: <a href="#">03/17/05</a> , amended: <a href="#">08/29/07</a> , <a href="#">11/18/11</a> , <a href="#">02/06/12</a> , <a href="#">04/27/16</a>
§ 54.203	Designation of eligible telecommunications carriers for unserved areas ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )*	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> amended: <a href="#">03/26/18</a>
§ 54.205	Relinquishment of universal service	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , <a href="#">04/27/16</a> *
§ 54.207	Service areas	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">03/14/02</a>
Subpart D – Universal Service Support for High Cost Areas		
§ 54.301	Local switching support ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )*	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">12/30/97</a> , <a href="#">11/05/01</a> , <a href="#">03/14/02</a> , <a href="#">03/18/10</a> , <a href="#">11/18/11</a> , <a href="#">02/03/12</a> , <a href="#">03/30/16</a> *
§ 54.302	Monthly per-line limit on universal service support ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )*	Adopted: <a href="#">11/18/11</a> , amended: <a href="#">06/10/14</a> , <a href="#">03/20/17</a> , <a href="#">12/13/18</a> *
§ 54.303	Eligible Capital Investment and Operating Expenses ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )* ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )**	Adopted: <a href="#">03/30/16</a> *, amended: <a href="#">03/20/17</a> , <a href="#">03/23/18</a> , <a href="#">04/05/18</a> , <a href="#">12/13/18</a> **
§ 54.304	Administration of Connect America Fund Inter-carrier Compensation Replacement.	Adopted: <a href="#">11/18/11</a> , amended: <a href="#">03/27/13</a>
§ 54.305	Sale or transfer of exchanges ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )*	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">12/08/00</a> , <a href="#">05/23/01</a> , <a href="#">01/10/05</a> , <a href="#">11/18/11</a> , <a href="#">06/10/14</a> , <a href="#">03/30/16</a> *
§ 54.307	Support to a competitive eligible telecommunications carrier ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )*, ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )**	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">12/30/97</a> , <a href="#">11/02/99</a> , <a href="#">05/23/01</a> , <a href="#">07/31/01</a> , <a href="#">11/08/01</a> , <a href="#">05/08/03</a> , <a href="#">03/17/05</a> , <a href="#">11/18/11</a> , <a href="#">02/03/12</a> , <a href="#">05/14/12</a> , <a href="#">07/18/12</a> , <a href="#">03/07/17</a> *, <a href="#">02/15/19</a> **
§ 54.308	Broadband Public Interest Obligations for Recipients of High-Cost Support ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )* ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )**	Adopted: <a href="#">12/18/14</a> , amended: <a href="#">12/19/14</a> , <a href="#">03/30/16</a> *, <a href="#">03/20/17</a> , <a href="#">12/13/18</a> **
§ 54.309	Connect America Fund Phase II Public Interest Obligations	Adopted: <a href="#">01/31/14</a> , <a href="#">12/18/14</a> , <a href="#">12/19/14</a> , <a href="#">05/26/16</a> , <a href="#">03/02/17</a>

§ 54.310	Connect America Fund for Price Cap Territories - Phase II	Adopted: <a href="#">01/31/14</a> , amended: <a href="#">06/10/14</a> , <a href="#">12/18/14</a> , <a href="#">05/26/16</a>
§ 54.311	Connect America Fund Alternative-Connect America Cost Model Support <a href="#">(pending text)</a> * <a href="#">(pending text)</a> **	Adopted: <a href="#">01/31/14</a> , amended: <a href="#">06/10/14</a> *, <a href="#">12/18/14</a> , <a href="#">03/30/16</a> *, <a href="#">03/20/17</a> , <a href="#">12/13/18</a> **
§ 54.312	Connect America Fund for Price Cap Territories - Phase I <a href="#">(pending text)</a> *, <a href="#">(pending text)</a> **	Adopted: <a href="#">11/18/11</a> , amended: <a href="#">04/25/12</a> , <a href="#">5/22/13</a> , <a href="#">07/16/13</a> *, <a href="#">06/10/14</a> , <a href="#">02/15/19</a> **
§ 54.313	Annual reporting requirements for high-cost recipients <a href="#">(pending text)</a> *, <a href="#">(pending text)</a> ** <a href="#">(pending text)</a> ***, <a href="#">(pending text)</a> ****	Adopted: <a href="#">11/02/99</a> , amended: <a href="#">5/23/01</a> , <a href="#">07/31/01</a> , <a href="#">03/22/02</a> , <a href="#">03/17/05</a> , <a href="#">08/21/06</a> , <a href="#">11/18/11</a> , <a href="#">05/14/12</a> , <a href="#">11/16/12</a> , <a href="#">03/05/13</a> , <a href="#">05/22/13</a> , <a href="#">01/31/14</a> , <a href="#">06/10/14</a> , <a href="#">12/18/14</a> *, <a href="#">12/19/14</a> , <a href="#">03/30/16</a> , <a href="#">05/26/16</a> , <a href="#">08/31/16</a> , <a href="#">03/07/17</a> , <a href="#">07/07/17</a> , <a href="#">03/23/18</a> , <a href="#">12/13/18</a> ***, <a href="#">02/15/19</a> ****, <a href="#">04/15/19</a> , <a href="#">09/30/19</a> ****
§ 54.314	Certification of support for eligible telecommunications carriers	Adopted: <a href="#">5/23/01</a> , amended: <a href="#">03/17/05</a> , <a href="#">11/18/11</a> , <a href="#">06/10/14</a> , <a href="#">12/18/14</a>
§ 54.315	Application Process for Phase II Support Distributed through Competitive Bidding	Adopted: <a href="#">05/26/16</a> , amended: <a href="#">01/31/18</a>
§ 54.316	Broadband deployment reporting and certification requirements for high-cost recipients <a href="#">(pending text)</a> *, <a href="#">(pending text)</a> **	Adopted: <a href="#">03/30/16</a> , amended: <a href="#">05/26/16</a> , <a href="#">08/31/16</a> , <a href="#">03/20/17</a> , <a href="#">12/13/18</a> *, <a href="#">09/30/19</a> **
§ 54.317	Alaska Plan for competitive eligible telecommunications carriers serving remote Alaska	Adopted: <a href="#">08/31/16</a>
§ 54.318	[removed and reserved]	Adopted: <a href="#">11/18/11</a> , amended: <a href="#">02/03/12</a> , <a href="#">05/14/12</a> , <a href="#">06/10/14</a> , <a href="#">04/15/19</a>
§ 54.319	Elimination of high-cost support in areas with 100 Percent Coverage by an Unsubsidized Competitor <a href="#">(pending text)</a> *, <a href="#">(pending text)</a> ** <a href="#">(pending text)</a> ***	Adopted: <a href="#">06/10/14</a> , amended <a href="#">12/18/14</a> , <a href="#">03/30/16</a> *, <a href="#">03/20/17</a> ***, <a href="#">12/13/18</a> ***
§ 54.320	Compliance and record keeping for the high-cost program <a href="#">(pending text)</a> *, <a href="#">(pending text)</a> **	Adopted: <a href="#">11/18/11</a> , <a href="#">12/18/14</a> *, <a href="#">08/31/16</a> , <a href="#">10/31/19</a> **
§ 54.321	Reporting and certification requirements for Alaska Plan participants	Adopted: <a href="#">08/31/16</a>
<b>Subpart E – Universal Service Support for Low-Income Consumers</b>		
§ 54.400	Terms and definitions	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">12/30/97</a> , <a href="#">06/30/00</a> , <a href="#">05/21/03</a> , <a href="#">04/29/04</a> , <a href="#">02/06/12</a> , <a href="#">6/22/15</a> , <a href="#">04/27/16</a>
§ 54.401	Lifeline defined	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">12/30/97</a> , <a href="#">10/08/99</a> , <a href="#">06/30/00</a> , <a href="#">04/29/04</a> , <a href="#">06/21/11</a> , <a href="#">02/06/12</a> , <a href="#">6/22/15</a> , <a href="#">04/27/16</a>
§ 54.403	Lifeline support amount <a href="#">(pending text)</a> *	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">12/30/97</a> , <a href="#">05/31/00</a> , <a href="#">02/06/12</a> , <a href="#">04/27/16</a> , <a href="#">12/01/17</a> *
§ 54.404	The National Lifeline Accountability Database	Adopted: <a href="#">02/06/12</a> , <a href="#">6/22/15</a>
§ 54.405	Carrier obligation to offer Lifeline	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">06/30/00</a> , <a href="#">04/29/04</a> , <a href="#">06/21/11</a> , <a href="#">02/06/12</a> , <a href="#">03/31/15</a> , <a href="#">04/27/16</a>
§ 54.407	Reimbursement for offering Lifeline	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">02/06/12</a> , <a href="#">03/31/15</a> , <a href="#">6/22/15</a> , <a href="#">04/27/16</a>
§ 54.408	Minimum Service Standards	Adopted: <a href="#">04/27/16</a>
§ 54.409	Consumer qualification for Lifeline	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">06/30/00</a> , <a href="#">05/21/03</a> , <a href="#">04/29/04</a> , <a href="#">02/06/12</a> , <a href="#">04/27/16</a>

§ 54.410	Subscriber eligibility determination and certification	Adopted: <a href="#">04/29/04</a> , amended: <a href="#">02/06/12</a> , <a href="#">06/25/13</a> , <a href="#">6/22/15</a> , <a href="#">04/27/16</a> , <a href="#">12/01/17</a>
§ 54.411	[Reserved]	Adopted: <a href="#">04/27/16</a> , amended: <a href="#">12/01/17</a>
§ 54.412	Off reservation Tribal lands designation process	Adopted: <a href="#">02/06/12</a>
§ 54.413	Link Up for Tribal lands ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )*	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">02/06/12</a> , <a href="#">12/01/17</a>
§ 54.414	Reimbursement for Tribal Link Up ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )*	Adopted: <a href="#">02/06/12</a> , amended: <a href="#">12/01/17</a>
§ 54.416	Annual certifications by eligible telecommunications carriers	Adopted: <a href="#">04/29/04</a> , amended: <a href="#">02/06/12</a> , <a href="#">04/27/16</a>
§ 54.417	Recordkeeping requirements	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">06/30/00</a> , <a href="#">04/29/04</a> , <a href="#">08/29/07</a> , <a href="#">02/06/12</a> , <a href="#">6/22/15</a>
§ 54.418	Digital Television Transition Notices by Eligible Telecommunications Carriers	Adopted: <a href="#">03/03/08</a> , amended: <a href="#">04/23/08</a> , <a href="#">02/20/09</a>
§ 54.419	Validity of electronic signatures	Adopted: <a href="#">02/06/12</a>
§ 54.420	Low income program audits	Adopted: <a href="#">02/06/12</a> , <a href="#">04/27/16</a>
§ 54.422	Annual reporting for eligible telecommunications carriers that receive low-income support	Adopted: <a href="#">02/06/12</a> , <a href="#">04/27/16</a>
§ 54.423	Budget	Adopted: <a href="#">04/27/16</a>
<b>Subpart F – Universal Service Support for Schools and Libraries</b>		
§ 54.500	Terms and definitions	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">07/10/97</a> , <a href="#">12/30/97</a> , <a href="#">04/30/03</a> , <a href="#">08/11/11</a> , <a href="#">07/23/14</a>
§ 54.501	Eligibility for services provided by telecommunications carriers	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">12/30/97</a> , <a href="#">04/30/03</a> , <a href="#">09/28/10</a> , <a href="#">08/11/11</a> , <a href="#">07/23/14</a>
§ 54.502	Eligible services	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">12/30/97</a> , <a href="#">09/28/10</a> , <a href="#">07/23/14</a> , <a href="#">12/19/14</a>
§ 54.503	Competitive bidding requirements	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">12/30/97</a> , <a href="#">04/30/03</a> , <a href="#">12/02/09</a> , <a href="#">09/28/10</a> , <a href="#">08/11/11</a> , <a href="#">07/23/14</a> , <a href="#">12/19/14</a>
§ 54.504	Requests for services	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">07/18/97</a> , <a href="#">12/30/97</a> , <a href="#">11/20/98</a> , <a href="#">04/30/03</a> , <a href="#">12/23/03</a> , <a href="#">08/13/04</a> , <a href="#">12/02/09</a> , <a href="#">09/28/10</a> , <a href="#">08/11/11</a> , <a href="#">07/23/14</a> , <a href="#">12/19/14</a>
§ 54.505	Discounts	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">07/10/97</a> , <a href="#">07/18/97</a> , <a href="#">11/20/98</a> , <a href="#">09/28/10</a> , <a href="#">07/23/14</a> , <a href="#">12/19/14</a>
§ 54.506	[Reserved]	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">07/30/99</a> , <a href="#">12/13/03</a> , <a href="#">09/28/10</a>
§ 54.507	Cap	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">07/10/97</a> , <a href="#">07/18/97</a> , <a href="#">10/14/97</a> , <a href="#">12/16/97</a> , <a href="#">12/30/97</a> , <a href="#">6/22/98</a> , <a href="#">11/20/98</a> , <a href="#">04/02/99</a> , <a href="#">05/28/99</a> , <a href="#">06/29/01</a> , <a href="#">06/13/02</a> , <a href="#">04/30/03</a> , <a href="#">12/23/03</a> , <a href="#">08/21/06</a> , <a href="#">12/02/09</a> , <a href="#">09/28/10</a> , <a href="#">08/11/11</a> , <a href="#">07/23/14</a> , <a href="#">12/19/14</a>
§ 54.508	Technology plans	Adopted: <a href="#">08/13/04</a> , amended: <a href="#">09/28/10</a> , <a href="#">07/23/14</a>
§ 54.509	Adjustments to the discount matrix	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">07/18/97</a> , <a href="#">11/20/98</a> , <a href="#">12/23/03</a> , <a href="#">12/19/14</a>
§ 54.511	Ordering services	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">12/30/97</a> , <a href="#">11/20/98</a> , <a href="#">04/30/03</a> , <a href="#">09/28/10</a> , <a href="#">07/23/14</a>

§ 54.513	Resale and transfer of services	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">12/23/03</a> , <a href="#">09/28/10</a>
§ 54.514	Payment for discounted service	Adopted: <a href="#">04/30/03</a> , amended: <a href="#">07/23/14</a>
§ 54.515	Distributing support	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a>
§ 54.516	Auditing	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">07/10/97</a> , <a href="#">11/20/98</a> , <a href="#">12/23/03</a> , <a href="#">08/13/04</a> , <a href="#">07/23/14</a>
§ 54.517	[Reserved]	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">12/30/97</a> , <a href="#">04/30/03</a> , <a href="#">12/02/09</a> , <a href="#">09/28/10</a>
§ 54.518	Support for wide area networks	Adopted: <a href="#">12/30/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">09/28/10</a> , <a href="#">12/19/14</a>
§ 54.519	State telecommunications networks	Adopted: <a href="#">12/30/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">09/28/10</a>
§ 54.520	Children’s Internet Protection Act certifications required from recipients of discounts under the federal universal service support mechanism for schools and libraries.	Adopted: <a href="#">04/05/01</a> , amended: <a href="#">06/28/02</a> , <a href="#">07/24/03</a> , <a href="#">08/11/11</a>
§ 54.522	[Reserved]	Adopted: <a href="#">12/23/03</a> , amended: <a href="#">09/28/10</a>
§ 54.523	Payment for the non-discount portion of supported services	Adopted: <a href="#">12/23/03</a>

**Subpart G – Universal Service Support for Health Care Providers**

**DEFINED TERMS AND ELIGIBILITY**

§ 54.600	Terms and definitions *( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">12/21/12</a> , amended: <a href="#">06/08/17</a> , <a href="#">08/21/19</a> *
§ 54.601	Health care provider eligibility *( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">11/01/99</a> , <a href="#">11/17/03</a> , <a href="#">12/17/04</a> , <a href="#">02/14/08</a> , <a href="#">06/21/11</a> , <a href="#">12/21/12</a> , <a href="#">08/21/19</a> *
§ 54.602	Health care support mechanism *( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">12/21/12</a> , amended: <a href="#">08/21/19</a> *

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM**

§ 54.603	Consortia, telecommunications services, and existing contracts *( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">07/18/97</a> , <a href="#">12/30/97</a> , <a href="#">11/20/98</a> , <a href="#">11/17/03</a> , <a href="#">12/21/12</a> , <a href="#">08/21/19</a> *
§ 54.604	Determining the urban rate *( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">12/30/97</a> , <a href="#">11/20/98</a> , <a href="#">12/31/98</a> , <a href="#">08/21/06</a> , <a href="#">12/21/12</a> , <a href="#">08/21/19</a> *
§ 54.605	Determining the rural rate *( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">12/30/97</a> , <a href="#">11/20/98</a> , <a href="#">11/17/03</a> , <a href="#">12/21/12</a> , <a href="#">08/21/19</a> *
§ 54.606	Calculating support *( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">08/21/19</a> *

**HEALTHCARE CONNECT FUND PROGRAM**

§ 54.607	Eligible recipients *( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">08/21/19</a> *
§ 54.608	Eligible service providers *( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">08/21/19</a> *
§ 54.609	Designation of consortium leader *( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">07/18/97</a> , <a href="#">12/30/97</a> , <a href="#">11/20/98</a> , <a href="#">11/01/99</a> , <a href="#">11/17/03</a> , <a href="#">12/17/04</a> , <a href="#">12/21/12</a> , <a href="#">08/21/19</a> *
§ 54.610	Letters of Agency *( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">08/21/19</a> *
§ 54.611	Health care provider contribution *( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">08/21/19</a> *
§ 54.612	Eligible services *( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">08/21/19</a> *
§ 54.613	Eligible equipment *( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">11/01/99</a> , <a href="#">11/17/03</a> , <a href="#">12/21/12</a> , <a href="#">08/21/19</a> *



§ 54.614	Eligible participant-constructed and owned network facilities for consortium applicants *( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">08/21/19</a> *
§ 54.615	Off-site data centers and off-site administrative offices *( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">12/17/04</a> , <a href="#">12/21/12</a> , <a href="#">08/21/19</a> *
§ 54.616	Upfront payments *( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">08/21/19</a> *
§ 54.617	Ineligible expenses *( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">08/21/19</a> *
§ 54.618	Data collection and reporting *( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">08/21/19</a> *
<b>GENERAL PROVISIONS</b>		
§ 54.619	Cap *( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">12/30/97</a> , <a href="#">11/20/98</a> , <a href="#">11/17/03</a> , <a href="#">01/16/04</a> , <a href="#">12/17/04</a> , <a href="#">08/29/07</a> , <a href="#">12/21/12</a> , <a href="#">08/21/19</a> *
§ 54.620	Annual filing requirements and commitments *( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">08/21/19</a> *
§ 54.621	Filing window for requests and prioritization of support *( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">08/21/19</a> *
§ 54.622	Competitive bidding requirements and exemptions *( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">08/21/19</a> *
§ 54.623	Funding requests *( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">10/14/97</a> , <a href="#">12/16/97</a> , <a href="#">12/30/97</a> , <a href="#">11/20/98</a> , <a href="#">12/31/98</a> , <a href="#">12/17/04</a> , <a href="#">08/21/06</a> , <a href="#">12/21/12</a> , <a href="#">08/21/19</a> *
§ 54.624	Site and service substitutions *( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">08/21/19</a> *
§ 54.625	Service Provider Identification Number changes *( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">11/20/98</a> , <a href="#">11/01/99</a> , <a href="#">11/17/03</a> , <a href="#">12/21/12</a> , <a href="#">08/21/19</a> *
§ 54.626	Service delivery deadline and extension requests *( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">08/21/19</a> *
§ 54.627	Invoicing process and certifications *( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">08/21/19</a> *
§ 54.628	Duplicate support *( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">08/21/19</a> *
§ 54.629	Prohibition on resale *( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">08/21/19</a> *
§ 54.630	Election to offset support against annual universal service fund contribution *( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">12/21/12</a> ; amended: <a href="#">08/21/19</a> *
§ 54.631	Audits and recordkeeping *( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">12/21/12</a> ; amended: <a href="#">08/21/19</a> *
§ 54.632	Signature requirements for certification *( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">12/21/12</a> , amended: <a href="#">08/21/19</a> *
§ 54.633	Validity of electronic signatures and records *( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">12/21/12</a> , amended: <a href="#">08/21/19</a> *
<b>Subpart H – Administration</b>		
§ 54.701	Administrator of universal service support mechanisms	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">07/18/97</a> , <a href="#">11/20/98</a> , <a href="#">05/31/00</a> , <a href="#">11/08/01</a> , <a href="#">04/30/03</a>
§ 54.702	Administrator's functions and responsibilities	Adopted: <a href="#">11/20/98</a> , amended: <a href="#">05/31/00</a> , <a href="#">11/08/01</a> , <a href="#">02/26/02</a> , <a href="#">10/03/03</a> , <a href="#">08/29/07</a> , <a href="#">11/18/11</a>
§ 54.703	The Administrator's Board of Directors	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">12/30/97</a> , <a href="#">11/20/98</a> , <a href="#">03/14/02</a>
§ 54.704	The Administrator's Chief Executive Officer	Adopted: <a href="#">11/20/98</a>
§ 54.705	Committees of the Administrator's Board of Directors	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">11/20/98</a> , <a href="#">05/31/00</a> , <a href="#">11/08/01</a> , <a href="#">07/23/14</a>
§ 54.706	Contributions ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )*	Adopted: <a href="#">11/20/98</a> , amended: <a href="#">02/26/02</a> ,

		<a href="#">12/13/02</a> , <a href="#">06/27/06</a> , <a href="#">06/30/06</a> , <a href="#">08/29/07</a> , <a href="#">09/08/17</a> *
§ 54.707	Audit controls ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )*	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">03/30/16</a> *
§ 54.708	<i>De minimis</i> Exemption	Adopted: <a href="#">11/20/98</a> , amended: <a href="#">07/14/99</a> , <a href="#">06/27/06</a>
§ 54.709	Computations of required contributions to universal support mechanisms	Adopted: <a href="#">07/18/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">11/26/97</a> , <a href="#">07/14/99</a> , <a href="#">10/08/99</a> , <a href="#">02/26/02</a> , <a href="#">03/14/02</a> , <a href="#">12/13/02</a> , <a href="#">06/23/06</a> , <a href="#">11/18/11</a>
§ 54.711	Contributor reporting requirements	Adopted: <a href="#">07/18/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">08/15/97</a> , <a href="#">11/17/98</a> , <a href="#">07/14/99</a> , <a href="#">03/14/02</a> , <a href="#">12/13/02</a>
§ 54.712	Contributor recovery of universal service costs from end users	Adopted: <a href="#">05/08/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">12/13/02</a> , <a href="#">03/14/03</a> , <a href="#">06/27/06</a>
§ 54.713	Contributors' failure to report or to contribute	Adopted: <a href="#">07/18/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">07/14/99</a> , <a href="#">08/29/07</a>
§ 54.715	Administrative expenses of the Administrator	Adopted: <a href="#">07/18/97</a> , amended: <a href="#">11/20/98</a> , <a href="#">05/31/00</a> , <a href="#">11/08/01</a> , <a href="#">10/03/03</a> , <a href="#">11/18/11</a>
§ 54.717	Audits of the Administrator	Adopted: <a href="#">11/20/98</a> , amended: <a href="#">03/14/02</a> , <a href="#">03/26/03</a> , <a href="#">06/23/06</a> , <a href="#">10/19/12</a>
<b>Subpart I – Review of Decisions Issued by the Administrator</b>		
§ 54.719	Parties permitted to seek review of Administrator decisions	Adopted: <a href="#">11/20/98</a> , amended: <a href="#">07/23/14</a>
§ 54.720	Filing deadlines	Adopted: <a href="#">11/20/98</a> , amended: <a href="#">04/30/03</a> , <a href="#">07/23/14</a> , <a href="#">12/19/14</a>
§ 54.721	General filing requirements	Adopted: <a href="#">11/20/98</a> , amended: <a href="#">04/30/03</a>
§ 54.722	Review by the Wireline Competition Bureau or the Commission	Adopted: <a href="#">11/20/98</a> , amended: <a href="#">03/14/02</a>
§ 54.723	Standard of review	Adopted: <a href="#">11/20/98</a> , amended: <a href="#">03/14/02</a>
§ 54.724	Time periods for Commission approval of Administrator decisions	Adopted: <a href="#">11/20/98</a> , amended: <a href="#">03/01/00</a> , <a href="#">05/22/00</a> , <a href="#">03/14/02</a>
§ 54.725	Universal service disbursements during pendency of a request for review and Administrator decision	Adopted: <a href="#">11/20/98</a> , amended: <a href="#">05/28/99</a>
<b>Subpart J –Remote Areas Fund</b>		
§ 54.801	Use of competitive bidding for Remote Areas Fund	Adopted: <a href="#">05/26/16</a>
§ 54.802	Geographic areas eligible for Remote Areas Fund Support ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )*	Adopted: <a href="#">05/26/16</a>
§ 54.803	Provider eligibility	Adopted: <a href="#">05/26/16</a>
§ 54.804	Application process ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )*	Adopted: <a href="#">05/26/16</a> *
§ 54.805	Remote Areas Fund public interest obligations	Adopted: <a href="#">05/26/16</a>
§ 54.806	Remote Areas Fund reporting obligations ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )*	Adopted: <a href="#">05/26/16</a> *
<b>Subpart K – Interstate Common Line Support Mechanism for Rate-of-Return Carriers</b>		
§ 54.901	Calculation of Interstate Common Line Support ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )* ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )**	Adopted: <a href="#">11/08/01</a> , amended: <a href="#">11/18/11</a> , <a href="#">03/27/13</a> , <a href="#">03/30/16</a> *, <a href="#">03/20/17</a> , <a href="#">03/23/18</a> , <a href="#">12/13/18</a> **
§ 54.902	Calculation of Interstate Common Line Support for transferred exchanges ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )*	Adopted: <a href="#">11/08/01</a> , amended: <a href="#">05/08/03</a> , <a href="#">03/30/16</a> *

§ 54.903	Obligations of rate-of-return carriers and the Administrator Support ( <a href="#">pending text</a> ) * ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )**	Adopted: <a href="#">11/08/01</a> , amended: <a href="#">03/22/02</a> , <a href="#">05/08/03</a> , <a href="#">02/27/12</a> , <a href="#">06/10/14</a> , <a href="#">03/30/16*</a> , <a href="#">12/13/18**</a>
§ 54.904	Carrier certification ( <a href="#">pending text</a> ) *	Adopted: <a href="#">11/08/01</a> , <a href="#">03/30/16*</a>
<b>Subpart L – Mobility Fund</b>		
§ 54.1001	Mobility Fund-Phase 1	Adopted: <a href="#">11/18/11</a>
§ 54.1002	Geographic areas eligible for support	Adopted: <a href="#">11/18/11</a>
§ 54.1003	Provider eligibility	Adopted: <a href="#">11/18/11</a>
§ 54.1004	Service to Tribal Lands	Adopted: <a href="#">11/18/11</a>
§ 54.1005	Application process	Adopted: <a href="#">11/18/11</a>
§ 54.1006	Public interest obligations	Adopted: <a href="#">11/18/11</a>
§ 54.1007	Letter of credit	Adopted: <a href="#">11/18/11</a>
§ 54.1008	Mobility Fund Phase 1 disbursements	Adopted: <a href="#">11/18/11</a>
§ 54.1009	Annual reports	Adopted: <a href="#">11/18/11</a>
§ 54.1010	Record retention for Mobility Fund Phase 1	Adopted: <a href="#">11/18/11</a>
§ 54.1011	Mobility Fund – Phase II ( <a href="#">pending text</a> ) *	Adopted: <a href="#">03/07/17*</a>
§ 54.1012	Geographic Areas Eligible for Support ( <a href="#">pending text</a> ) *	Adopted: <a href="#">03/07/17*</a>
§ 54.1013	Provider Eligibility ( <a href="#">pending text</a> ) *	Adopted: <a href="#">03/07/17*</a>
§ 54.1014	Application Process ( <a href="#">pending text</a> ) *	Adopted: <a href="#">03/07/17*</a>
§ 54.1015	Public Interest Obligations ( <a href="#">pending text</a> ) *	Adopted: <a href="#">03/07/17*</a>
§ 54.1016	Letter of Credit ( <a href="#">pending text</a> ) *	Adopted: <a href="#">03/07/17*</a>
§ 54.1017	Compliance for Mobility Fund Phase II ( <a href="#">pending text</a> ) *	Adopted: <a href="#">03/07/17*</a>
§ 54.1018	Mobility Fund Phase II Disbursements ( <a href="#">pending text</a> ) *	Adopted: <a href="#">03/07/17*</a>
§ 54.1019	Annual Reports ( <a href="#">pending text</a> ) *	Adopted: <a href="#">03/07/17*</a>
§ 54.1020	Milestone Reports ( <a href="#">pending text</a> ) *	Adopted: <a href="#">03/07/17*</a>
§ 54.1021	Record Retention for Mobility Fund Phase II ( <a href="#">pending text</a> ) *	Adopted: <a href="#">03/07/17*</a>
<b>Subpart M –High Cost Loop Support for Rate-of-Return Carriers</b>		
§ 54.1301	General	Adopted: <a href="#">06/10/14</a>
§ 54.1302	Calculation of incumbent local exchange carrier portion of nationwide loop cost expense adjustment for rate-of-return carriers	Adopted: <a href="#">06/10/14</a>
§ 54.1303	Calculation of the rural growth factor	Adopted: <a href="#">06/10/14</a>
§ 54.1304	Calculation of safety net additive	Adopted: <a href="#">06/10/14</a>
§ 54.1305	Submission of information to the National Exchange Carrier Association ( <a href="#">pending text</a> ) *	Adopted: <a href="#">06/10/14</a> amended: <a href="#">03/26/18*</a>
§ 54.1306	Updating information submitted to the National Exchange Carrier Association	Adopted: <a href="#">06/10/14</a>
§ 54.1307	Submission of information by the National Exchange Carrier Association of Loop Costs for Expense Adjustment	Adopted: <a href="#">06/10/14</a>
§ 54.1308	Study area <b>total unseparated loop cost</b> ( <a href="#">pending</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">06/10/14</a> , amended <a href="#">03/30/16*</a> ,

	<a href="#">text</a> )*	<a href="#">03/26/18</a>
§ 54.1309	National and study area average unseparated loop costs	Adopted: <a href="#">06/10/14</a> , <a href="#">12/18/14</a>
§ 54.1310	Calculation of expense adjustment – Additional Interstate Expense Allocation ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )* ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )**	Adopted: <a href="#">06/10/14</a> , amended <a href="#">12/18/14</a> , <a href="#">03/30/16*</a> , <a href="#">03/26/18</a> , <a href="#">12/13/18**</a>
<b>Subpart N – The Digital Opportunity Data Collection</b>		
§ 54.1400	Purpose * ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">08/06/19*</a>
§ 54.1401	Frequency of reports * ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">08/06/19*</a>
§ 54.1402	Scope and content of filed reports * ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">08/06/19*</a>
§ 54.1403	Authority to Update the Digital Opportunity Data Collection * ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )	Adopted: <a href="#">08/06/19*</a>
<b>Subpart O – Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund and Connect USVI Fund</b>		
§ 54.1501	Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund and Connect SUVI Fund – Stage 2 for service to fixed locations ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )*	Adopted: <a href="#">09/30/19*</a>
§ 54.1502	Geographic areas eligible for Stage 2 fixed support ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )*	Adopted: <a href="#">09/30/19*</a>
§ 54.1503	Geographic area and locations to be serviced by Stage 2 fixed support recipients ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )*	Adopted: <a href="#">09/30/19*</a>
§ 54.1504	Term of Stage 2 fixed support and phase-down of legacy fixed support ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )*	Adopted: <a href="#">09/30/19*</a>
§ 54.1505	Stage 2 fixed support application process ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )*	Adopted: <a href="#">09/30/19*</a>
§ 54.1506	Stage 2 fixed support deployment milestones ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )*	Adopted: <a href="#">09/30/19*</a>
§ 54.1507	Stage 2 public interest obligations for service to fixed locations ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )*	Adopted: <a href="#">09/30/19*</a>
§ 54.1508	Letter of credit for Stage 2 fixed support recipients ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )*	Adopted: <a href="#">09/30/19*</a>
§ 54.1509	Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund and the Connect USVI Fund – Stage 2 for mobile service ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )*	Adopted: <a href="#">09/30/19*</a>
§ 54.1510	Stage 2 mobile carrier eligibility ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )*	Adopted: <a href="#">09/30/19*</a>
§ 54.1511	Appropriate uses of Stage 2 mobile support ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )*	Adopted: <a href="#">09/30/19*</a>
§ 54.1512	Geographic area eligible for Stage 2 mobile support ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )*	Adopted: <a href="#">09/30/19*</a>

§ 54.1513	Provision of Stage 2 mobile support ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )*	Adopted: <a href="#">09/30/19*</a>
§ 54.1514	Stage 2 mobile additional annual reporting ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )*	Adopted: <a href="#">09/30/19*</a>
§ 54.1515	Disaster preparation and response measures ( <a href="#">pending text</a> )*	Adopted: <a href="#">09/30/19*</a>