

A photograph of a man and a child standing in front of a large, weathered wooden barn. The man is wearing a dark hoodie and a baseball cap, and the child is wearing a denim jacket. They are standing in a field of tall grass. The entire image has a blue color cast.

FCC Form 481 Webinar: Program Year 2019 Updates

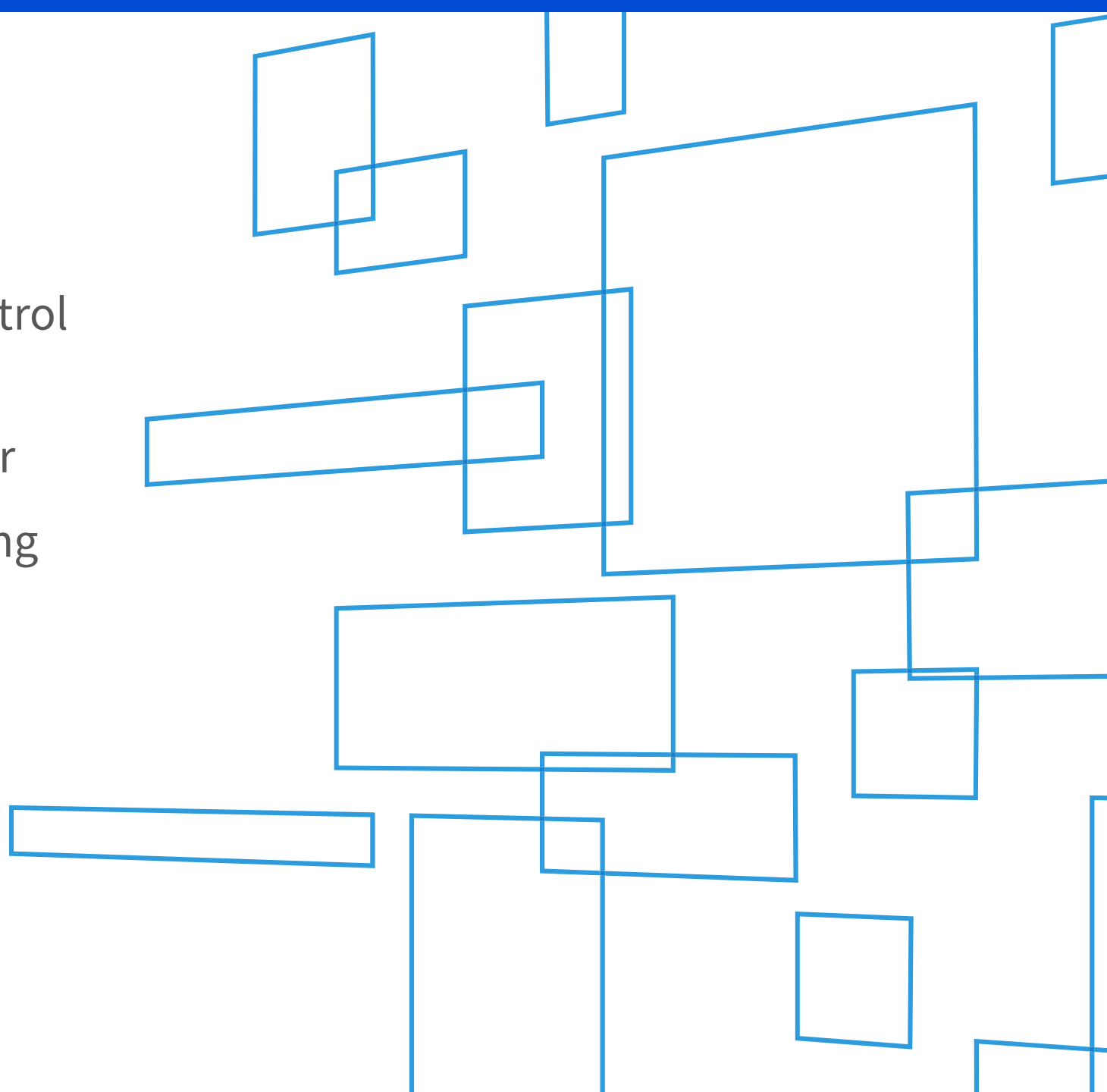
High Cost Program
April 25, 2018



Universal Service
Administrative Co.

Housekeeping

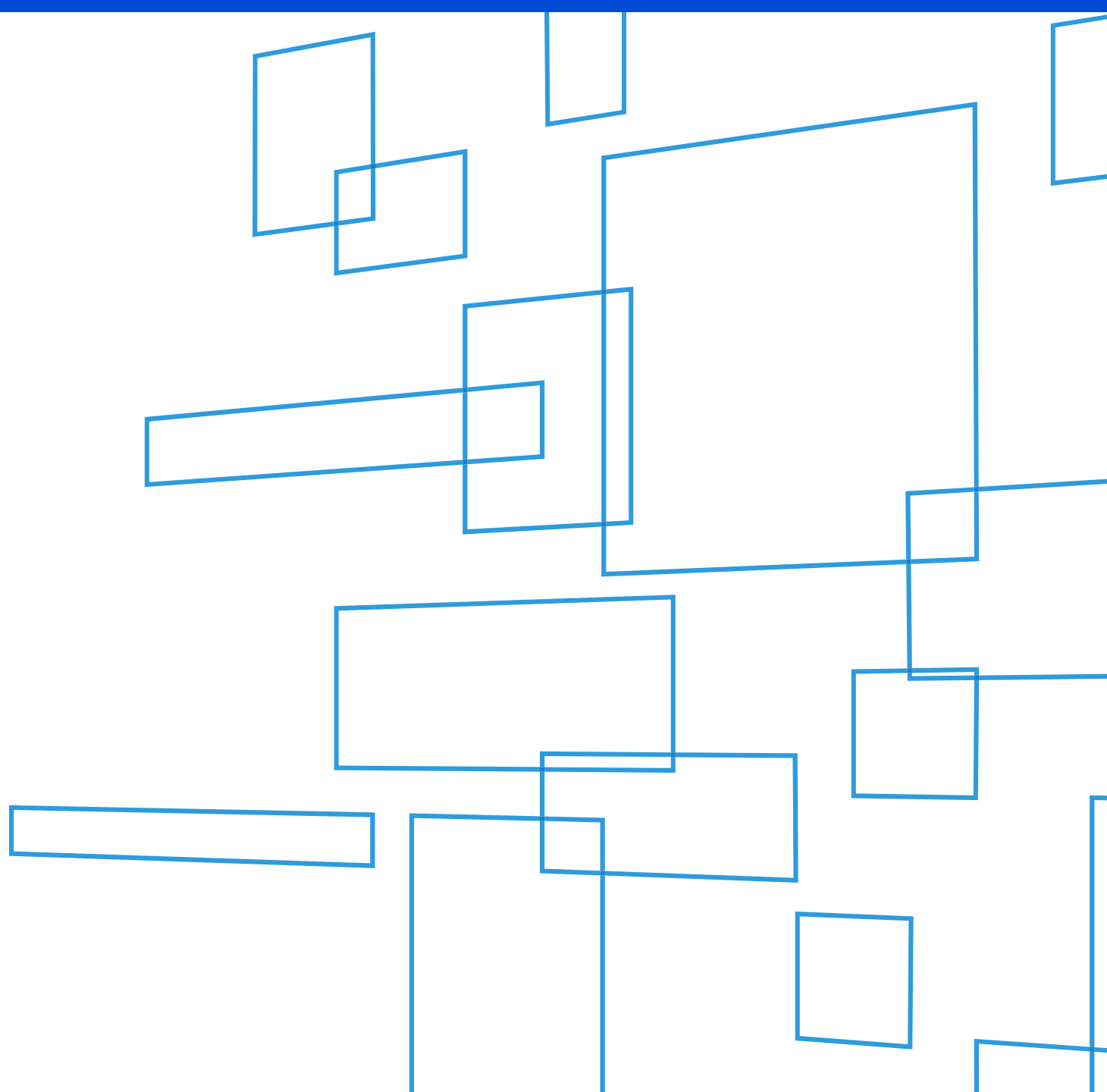
- Use the “Audio” section of your control panel to select an audio source
- Turn on your computer’s speaker, or
- Use the call-in instructions (including audio PIN)



Welcome

Today's Speakers:

- **Elizabeth Pertsevoi**
Senior Program Manager for User Support, High Cost
- **Brandon Ruffley**
Manager of Verifications and Compliance, High Cost



A man with a beard, wearing a dark t-shirt and a vest, stands in profile on the left side of the frame, looking at a tablet device. The background is a vast field of solar panels under a cloudy sky. The entire image has a blue color cast.

FCC Form 481: Changes to Existing Sections

Elizabeth Pertsevoi

Senior Program Manager for User Support, High Cost



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Form 481

- All eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) participating in the High Cost and/or Lifeline programs, with the exception of Mobility Fund Phase I participants, must file FCC Form 481 on an annual basis.
- The form collects financial and operations information, which will be used to validate carrier support.
- Filing due July 2, 2018

Changes Per FCC 17-87

The FCC released FCC 17-87 in July 2017

- Eliminates several rules that are either duplicative of other reporting requirements or are simply no longer necessary
- Reduces unnecessary regulatory reporting burdens on ETCs, particularly those that are small businesses.
- Carriers filing for 54.313 only or 54.313 and 54.422 are no longer required to file duplicate copies of Form 481 with the FCC and with states, U.S. Territories, and/or Tribal governments
 - Carriers filing 54.422 ONLY are still required to file with these entities

Sections Removed from the Form

Removed Completely

- Section 300: Unfulfilled Service Requests
- Section 700: Voice Price Offerings
- Section 710: Broadband Price Offerings

Sections Removed from the Form

No Longer Required for High Cost (54.313) or combined High Cost/Lifeline (54.313/54.422) Filings

- Section 200 – Outages
- Section 400 – Complaints per 1,000 carriers
- Section 500 – Service quality standards and consumer protection rules

These sections are still required for federally designated Lifeline recipients (54.422). Lifeline carriers will see changes to these sections:

- Section 400 no longer requests broadband complaints, only voice
- Section 500 has been reduced to a single line

Changes to Carrier Specific Sections

Section 2005 – Price Cap Carriers

- Removes lines associated with CAF I Incremental Support

Section 3005 – Rate-of-Return Carriers

- Adds lines for recipients of CAF-BLS support that are 80 percent or greater deployed in their study area
 - Indicates whether new locations were deployed in the previous calendar year and the number of locations deployed, if applicable
 - Only CAF-BLS carriers at least 80 percent deployed will see this line

Section 4005 – Rural Broadband Experiments Carriers

- Removes lines associated with location reporting (now done in HUBB)

Form 481 Resources

**Resources to aid carriers in completing Form 481
on the High Cost Website:**

<https://www.usac.org/hc/tools/forms.aspx>

Resources include:

Online Filing User Guide

FAQs

Upload Templates

Filing Videos

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FCC Form 481: New Section for Alaska Plan

Brandon Ruffley

Manager of Verifications and Compliance, High Cost



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New Section

Section 5005: Alaska Plan Participants

- This section is only required for participants in the Alaska Plan
- Carriers must indicate whether any terrestrial backhaul or additional satellite backhaul became commercially available in the previous calendar year in areas previously served exclusively by satellite backhaul
 - If yes, a table will appear for the carrier to provide a description of the new technology, the date it became available, and the number of locations or population served

High Cost Support Center

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