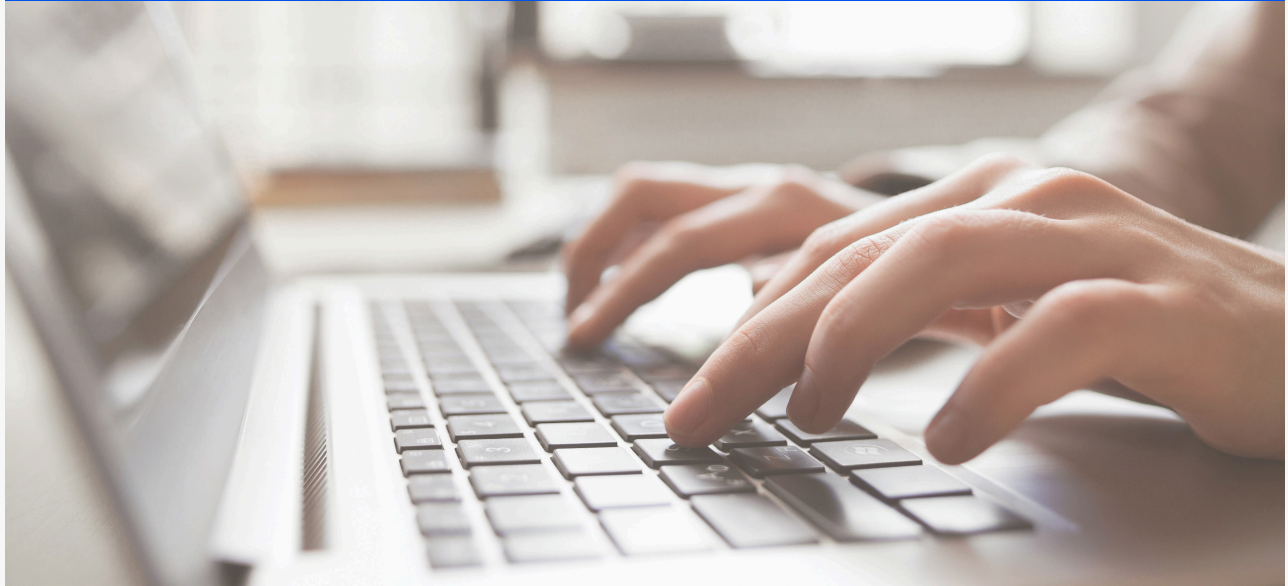




Lifeline

Lifeline Newsletter - January 2026

January 29th, 2026



Reminder: FCC Form 555 Submission Window Closing Soon

The 2025 FCC Form 555 (Annual Lifeline Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Certification Form) submission window will close at 11:59 p.m. ET on **Monday, February 2, 2026**. The form is available for completion in [One Portal](#) and must be submitted by providers by the designated deadline.

For more information on the FCC Form 555, providers can visit Lifeline's [Annual Filings](#) page.

Reminder: FCC Order on California Effective February 1

On November 20, 2025, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued an [Order](#) announcing that starting **February 1, 2026**, California Lifeline service providers will need to use the National Verifier to determine eligibility and the National Lifeline Accountability Database (NLAD) to enroll eligible consumers in the federal Lifeline program.

For additional details regarding the upcoming transition, service providers in California are encouraged to review the following training materials:

- [California FCC Order and USAC Systems Office Hours](#)
- [Representative Accountability Database \(RAD\) 101 Office Hours](#)
- [National Lifeline Accountability Database \(NLAD\) 101 Office Hours](#)

2026 Recertification to Begin in February

Recertification is an annual requirement that ensures active Lifeline subscribers are still eligible to receive the Lifeline benefit. USAC expects to initiate the 2026 recertification process for consumers around the third week of February. USAC will announce the official start date soon.

Once initiated, recertification will include subscribers in all states who qualified through the National Verifier process and are enrolled in NLAD. This includes California broadband only consumers who qualified through the National Verifier process and are enrolled in NLAD. USAC will announce at a later time when recertification will begin for the remaining California consumers who were previously determined eligible by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).

Recertification Subscriber Status Report Update

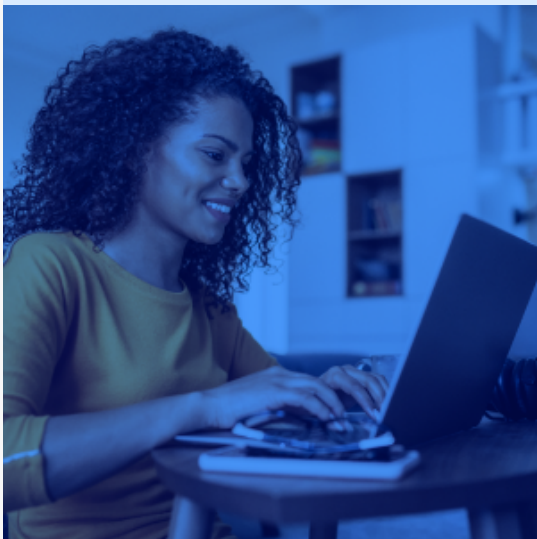
On January 27, USAC removed the 'Anniversary Date' column from the Recertification Subscriber Status Report in NLAD. Service providers will no longer be able to see this column, as recertification is no longer based on a subscriber's anniversary date.

To learn more about the recertification process, service providers should visit our [Recertification](#) page.



Lifeline Program Compliance Reminder: Commissions for Enrollment Representatives

Eligible Telecommunication Carriers (ETCs), under federal rules, may not offer or provide any commission or incentive pay to enrollment representatives or their direct supervisors based on the number of consumers who apply for or are enrolled in the Lifeline program with that ETC per [47 CFR § 54.406\(b\)](#).



February 2026 Webinar: Lifeline Claims System (LCS) 101

Join us on Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 3 p.m. ET for our next Lifeline program webinar exploring the Lifeline Claims System and the processes service providers must follow to successfully submit, certify, and revise claims.

[Register](#) for the February 2026 monthly webinar. Recordings of previous webinars are available on our [Webinars](#) page.

[Register](#)



February Maintenance Schedule

As part of continual system improvements, USAC conducts regular system maintenance. Scheduled maintenance dates are available on the [National Lifeline Accountability Database \(NLAD\) Maintenance Schedule](#) and the [National Verifier Maintenance Schedule](#) pages.

System Maintenance, February 20

National Verifier, NLAD, Lifeline Claims System (LCS), and Representative Accountability Database (RAD) will be unavailable due to scheduled monthly maintenance from **Friday at 10 p.m. until 3 a.m. ET on Saturday**.

Need Help? Contact Us!

For questions about Lifeline, including technical issues and program resources or rules, email LifelineProgram@usac.org. Review all appropriate program contacts on USAC's Lifeline [Contact Us](#) webpage.