



Audit Committee Quarterly
Briefing Book

Monday, January 26, 2026

3:20 p.m.-5:30 p.m. ET

Available for Public Use

Universal Service Administrative Company
700 12th Street, NW, Suite 900
Washington, DC 20005

Universal Service Administrative Company
Audit Committee
Quarterly Meeting
Agenda

Monday, January 26, 2026
3:20 p.m. –5:30 p.m. Eastern Time
VIRTUAL MEETING
USAC Offices
700 12th Street, N.W., Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 2000

OPEN SESSION		<i>Estimated Duration in Minutes</i>
Chair	a1. Consent Items (each item is available for discussion upon request): A. Approval of Audit Committee Meeting Minutes of October 27, 2025 B. Approval of moving all <i>Executive Session</i> items into <i>Executive Session</i>	5
Chair	a2. Recommendation for Election of Committee Chair and Vice Chair	5
Chair	a3. Review of the 2026 Audit Committee Charter (<i>Same as aBOD01D</i>)	10
Teleshia	i1. Audit and Assurance Division Business Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025 Operational Scorecard • 2025 Year in Review • Q1 2026 Plans • Roadmap • Appendices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A: BCAP Audits in Process B: BCAP Audits Aging Report C: SCAP Audits in Process D: PQA Assessments in Process E: Glossary of Terms 	40

EXECUTIVE SESSION Confidential – <i>Executive Session Recommended</i>		<i>Estimated Duration in Minutes</i>
Teleshia	a4. Approval of the USAC Audit and Assurance Division Strategic Plan and Key Performance Objectives	30
Teleshia	a5. Action on Two USAC Audit and Assurance Division Internal Audit Reports	10
Teleshia	a6. Approval of 2026 Internal Audit Plan	15

EXECUTIVE SESSION Confidential – <i>Executive Session Recommended</i>		<i>Estimated Duration in Minutes</i>
Chair	i2. Audit Committee <i>Executive Session</i> with USAC's Vice President of Audit and Assurance	15

Next Scheduled USAC Audit Committee Meeting

Monday, April 27, 2026 USAC Offices, Washington, D.C.
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Monday, April 27, 2026**USAC Offices, Washington, D.C.**

Universal Service Administrative Company
Audit Committee Meeting

ACTION ITEM

Consent Items

Action Requested

The Audit Committee (Committee) of the USAC Board of Directors (Board) is requested to approve the consent items listed below.

Discussion

The Committee is requested to approve the following items using the consent resolution below:

- A.** Committee meeting minutes of October 27, 2025 (see **Attachment A**)
- B.** Approval of moving all ***Executive Session*** items into ***Executive Session***:
 - (1) **a4.** Approval of the USAC Audit and Assurance Division Strategic Plan and Key Performance Objectives. USAC management recommends that this matter be discussed in ***Executive Session*** because discussion of the plan would relate ***to specific internal controls and/or confidential company data*** that could constitute a discussion of internal rules and procedures.
 - (2) **a5.** Action on Two USAC Audit and Assurance Division Internal Audit Reports. USAC management recommends that this matter be discussed in ***Executive Session*** because these reports relate ***to specific internal controls or confidential company data*** that would constitute a discussion of internal rules and procedures.
 - (3) **a6.** Approval of the 2026 Internal Audit Plan. USAC management recommends that this matter be discussed in ***Executive Session*** because discussion of the plan would relate ***to specific internal controls and/or confidential company data*** that could constitute a discussion of internal rules and procedures.
 - (4) **i2.** Audit Committee ***Executive Session*** with USAC's Vice President of Audit and Assurance. USAC management recommends that this matter be discussed in ***Executive Session*** pursuant to the guidelines in the approved Audit Committee Charter.

ACTION Item #aAC01
1/26/2026
Page 2 of 2

Upon request of a Committee member, the above items are available for discussion by the Committee.

Recommended USAC Audit Committee Action

APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLVED, that the Audit Committee of the USAC Board of Directors hereby approves: (1) the Committee meeting minutes of October 27, 2025; and (2) discussion in ***Executive Session*** of the items noted above.

**UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY
700 12th Street, N.W., Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20005**

**AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, October 27, 2025**

(DRAFT) MINUTES¹

The quarterly meeting of the Audit Committee (Committee) of the USAC Board of Directors (Board) was held at USAC's offices in Washington, D.C. on Monday, October 27, 2025. Ms. Julie Tritt Schell, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. Eastern Time, with a quorum of three of the five Committee members present.

Gregory, Amber
Kettwich, Dan
Schell, Julie Tritt – Chair

Mr. Ken Mason joined the meeting at 11:03 a.m. Eastern Time by telephone and voted on all items.

Members not present:

Polk, Stephanie

Other Board members and officers of the corporation present:

Beyerhelm, Chris – Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer
Butler, Stephen – Vice President of Shared Services
Chacko, Sheba – Member of the Board – *by telephone*
Chalk, Indra – Member of the Board
Davis, Criag – Vice President of Schools and Libraries
Delmar, Teleshia – Vice President of Audit and Assurance
Francisco, Dale – Chief Financial Officer (Interim)
Gaither, Victor – Vice President of High Cost – *by telephone*
Garber, Michelle – Chief Executive Officer (Interim), and Assistant Treasurer
Green, Anisa – Member of the Board
O'Brien, Tim – Vice President of Lifeline
Semmler, Kara – Member of the Board – *by telephone*
Siefer, Angela – Member of the Board
Sweeney, Mark – Vice President of Rural Health Care

¹ Draft resolutions were presented to the Committee prior to the Committee meeting. Where appropriate, non-substantive changes have been made to the resolutions set forth herein to clarify language, where necessary, or to correct grammatical or spelling errors.

Thompson, Mona – Member of the Board – *by telephone*
 Wade, Dr. Joan – Member of the Board
 Waller, Jeff – Member of the Board – *by telephone*
 Wein, Olivia – Member of the Board
 Wibberly, Dr. Kathy – Member of the Board – *by telephone*
 Williams, Erin – Vice President, General Counsel, and Assistant Secretary

Others present:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>
Benham, Cathy – <i>by telephone</i>	CSM Consulting, Inc.
Boakye-Gyan, Carol	USAC
Braxton-Johnson, Kianna	USAC
Chavis, Sherry Cathcart – <i>by telephone</i>	Cisco
Claxton, Naomi	USAC
Corra, Kristen – <i>by telephone</i>	SHLB
Dando, Gena – <i>by telephone</i>	Crown Castle
Goode, Vernell	USAC
Josephs, Fred – <i>by telephone</i>	CSM Consulting, Inc.
Keating, Megan – <i>by telephone</i>	Funds For Learning
King, Ryan	USAC
Krueger, Katie	KPMG
Kriete, Debra – <i>by telephone</i>	South Dakota Department of Education
Morgan, Meredith	USAC
Nuzzo, Patsy	USAC
Robinson, Crystal	USAC
Sadirkhanova, Sabina – <i>by telephone</i>	USAC
Santana-Gonzalez, Jeanette	USAC
Schrader, Theresa – <i>by telephone</i>	Broadband Legal Strategies, LLC
Smith, Chris	USAC
Staurulakis, Chresanthe	USAC
Troung, Linh	USAC
White, Stacey Ann – <i>by telephone</i>	USAC

OPEN SESSION

All materials from ***Open Session*** can be found on the [USAC website](#).

a1. Consent Items. Ms. Schell presented this item to the Committee.

- A. Approval of the Audit Committee meeting minutes of July 28, 2025.
- B. Approval of moving all ***Executive Session*** items into ***Executive Session***:

Action Item #aAC01 1/26/2026
Attachment A
Minutes of October 27, 2025
Page 3 of 6

- (1) **i2.** Audit and Assurance Division Business Update (*Continued*). USAC management recommends that this matter be discussed in ***Executive Session*** because ***specific internal controls or confidential company data or internal rules and procedures*** concerning the administration of the universal service support mechanisms, where discussion of the matter in open session would result in ***disclosure of confidential techniques and procedures*** that would compromise program integrity and ***relates to pre-decisional matters pending before the FCC***.
- (2) **a2.** Action on Two USAC Audit and Assurance Division Strategic Audit Reports. USAC management recommends that this matter be discussed in ***Executive Session*** because the report relates to ***specific internal controls and/or confidential company data*** that would constitute a discussion of internal rules and procedures.
- (3) **a3.** Review of the USAC Audit and Assurance Division External Peer Review Reports. USAC ***management*** recommends that this matter be discussed in ***Executive Session*** USAC management recommends that this matter be discussed in ***Executive Session*** because these reports relate to ***specific internal controls, and/or confidential company data*** that would constitute a discussion of internal rules and procedures.
- (4) **a4.** Review of the Audit and Assurance Division Charter. USAC ***management*** recommends that this matter be conducted in ***Executive Session*** because this matter relates to ***specific internal controls and/or confidential company data*** that would constitute a discussion of internal rules and procedures.
- (5) **i3.** Audit Committee Discussion for Strategic Audits in 2026. USAC management recommends that this matter be discussed in ***Executive Session*** pursuant to the guidelines in the approved Audit Committee Charter.
- (6) **i4.** Audit Committee ***Executive Session*** with USAC's Vice President of Audit and Assurance. USAC management recommends that this matter be discussed in ***Executive Session*** pursuant to the guidelines in the approved Audit Committee Charter.

C. Annual Assessment of the Independence and Financial Literacy of USAC Audit Committee Members. In accordance with Section II.A.1 of the Committee's Charter, the Committee members are required to meet established independence requirements (See **Attachment C**).

On a motion duly made and seconded and after discussion, the Committee adopted the following resolutions:

RESOLVED, that the Audit Committee of the USAC Board of Directors hereby approves: (1) the Committee meeting minutes of July 28, 2025; (2) discussion in ***Executive Session*** of the items noted above; and (3) the annual assessment of the independence and financial literacy of the USAC audit committee members and agrees that the Audit Committee consists of independent members and that there is a sufficient level of financial expertise.

i1. Audit and Assurance Division Business Update. Ms. Delmar presented a PowerPoint presentation including the following topics:

- Q3 2025 Accomplishments
- Q4 2025 Plans
- Roadmap
- Appendices A-D: Status of Various Audits and Assessments
- Appendix E: Glossary of Terms

At 11:20 a.m. Eastern Time, on a motion duly made and seconded, the Committee moved into ***Executive Session*** for the purpose of discussing confidential items. Only members of the Board and USAC staff were present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

i2. Audit and Assurance Division Business Update (*Continued*). Ms. Delmar presented a PowerPoint presentation on the following topics:

- Improper Payment Results
- Internal Quality Assessment Results

a2. Action on Two USAC Audit and Assurance Division Strategic Audit Reports. Ms. Delmar presented the Audit and Assurance Division's strategic audit reports for the USAC's Data Use and Vendor Payment Process to the Committee.

On a motion duly made and seconded, and after discussion, the Committee adopted the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the USAC Audit Committee, having reviewed the USAC Audit and Assurance Division's strategic audit reports of USAC's Data Use and Vendor Payment Process, accepts the recommendation of USAC management and hereby deems the reports final.

a3. Review of the USAC Audit and Assurance Division External Peer Review Reports. Ms. Delmar presented the external Peer Review Reports of the USAC Audit and Assurance Division's (AAD) compliance with required quality standards.

On a motion duly made and seconded, and after discussion, the Committee adopted the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Audit Committee of the USAC Board of Directors, having reviewed the external Peer Review reports submitted by Quality Assessment and Audit Services LLC, hereby deems the reports final.

a4. Review of the Audit and Assurance Division Charter. Ms. Delmar reviewed the recommended updates to the Audit and Assurance Division Charter to the Committee, noting that the changes were based on the outcome of the External Peer Review.

On a motion duly made and seconded, and after discussion, the Committee adopted the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Audit Committee of the USAC Board of Directors approves the recommended changes to the Audit and Assurance Division Charter.

i3. Audit Committee Discussion for Strategic Audits in 2026. Ms. Delmar presented this item to the Committee, noting that a plan for the newly named Internal Audit Plan for 2026 would be presented at the January 2026 Committee meeting and Committee members were encouraged to provide recommendations for consideration.

At 12:41 p.m. Eastern Time, the Committee continued in Executive Session with only non-staff members of the Board and Ms. Delmar present.

i4. Audit Committee *Executive Session* with USAC's Vice President of Audit and Assurance. Per the guidelines in the approved Audit Committee Charter, Ms. Delmar met with members of the Audit Committee and Board of Directors in a confidential *Executive Session*.

OPEN SESSION

At 1:08 p.m. Eastern Time, the Committee moved out of *Executive Session* and immediately reconvened in ***Open Session***, at which time Ms. Schell reported that, in *Executive Session*, the Committee acted on items a2-a4 and discussed items i2-i4.

Action Item #aAC01 1/26/2026
Attachment A
Minutes of October 27, 2025
Page 6 of 6

On a motion duly made and seconded, the Committee adjourned at 1:08 p.m. Eastern Time.

/s/ Erin Williams
Assistant Secretary

**Universal Service Administrative Company
Audit Committee Meeting**

ACTION ITEM

**Recommendation for Election of
Committee Chair and Vice Chair**

Action Requested

The USAC Audit Committee (Committee) is taking action to bring its Chair and Vice Chair nominations for consideration by the full Board of Directors (Board) at the Board meeting to be held on January 27, 2026.

Discussion

The pertinent resolution related to the election of committee chair and vice chair positions was adopted by the Board on January 25, 2000, and reads as follows:

RESOLVED, that the USAC Board of Directors accepts the recommendations of the USAC Nominating Committee that: (1) in addition to the annual election of officers, all Committee chairs and vice chairs shall also be elected annually; (2) the first election for Committee chairs and vice chairs shall occur at the election of officers at the January 2001 Board of Directors meeting; (3) there shall be no term limits imposed on officer and Committee chair and vice chair positions; and (4) there shall be no automatic succession of positions...¹

On January 28, 2025, the Board elected Julie Tritt Schell as Chair and Ken Mason as Vice Chair of the Audit Committee.

At their January 26, 2026 quarterly meetings, each committee of the Board (including the Audit Committee and each of the programmatic committees) will nominate Board members to serve as chair and vice chair of their respective committees. Those recommendations will be submitted to the Board at the Board meeting to be held on January 27, 2026.

Recommended USAC Audit Committee Action

APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

¹ USAC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, at 4 (Jan. 25, 2000), *available at* <https://www.usac.org/about/leadership/board-minutes/>.

RESOLVED, that the USAC Audit Committee recommends that the USAC Board of Directors elect _____ as Chair and _____ as Vice Chair of the Committee. The term for each position begins immediately upon the election to such position by the Board and ends at such time as the Chair or Vice Chair (as the case may be): (i) is replaced by a successor selected by the Board, (ii) resigns from the Committee or the Board, (iii) is removed by resolution of the Board, or (iv) is no longer a member of the Board (whichever comes first).

**Universal Service Administrative Company
Audit Committee Meeting**

ACTION ITEM

**Review of the 2026 Audit Committee Charter
(*Same as aBOD01D*)**

Action Requested

In accordance with USAC's Audit Committee Charter (Charter), Section III.A.1, the Audit Committee (Committee) of the USAC Board of Directors (Board) is required to review and reassess the adequacy of the Charter at least annually and recommend changes, as deemed necessary, to the Board.

Discussion

USAC Audit and Assurance Division (AAD) staff reviewed the current Charter to determine if any changes should be recommended to the Committee and the Board of Directors for consideration. AAD recommends a few changes to the Charter to align with the newly revised Global Internal Audit Standards and the recommendations resulting from the latest Peer Review.

Attachment A provides the existing Charter with recommended changes in redline, and **Attachment B** provides a clean version of the revised Charter.

The Committee is requested to recommend that the Board approve the revised Charter.

Recommended USAC Audit Committee Action

APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

RESOLVED, that the USAC Audit Committee, having reviewed the revised Audit Committee Charter presented by the USAC Audit and Assurance Division, recommends that the USAC Board of Directors approve the revised Audit Committee Charter.

UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER

January 2026

This charter is guided by the governance provisions in the Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards and the Global Internal Audit Standards.

I. Audit Committee Purpose, Duties, and Responsibilities.

- A. The Audit Committee (Committee) of the Board of Directors of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) shall assist the Board of Directors (Board) in fulfilling the Board's oversight responsibilities relating to corporate accounting, financial reporting practices, internal control over operations (internal controls), Universal Service Fund (USF) program integrity, and all aspects of corporate compliance with applicable law.
- B. The Committee's primary duties and responsibilities shall be as follows:
 1. Oversee management's efforts to maintain the reliability and integrity of USAC's accounting policies and financial reporting practices.
 2. Oversee management's efforts to establish, maintain, and review processes that assure that an adequate system of internal control is functioning within USAC through the execution of operationalinternal audits, Universal Service Fund Beneficiary and Contributor audits, Payment Quality Assessments⁵, Supply Chain Audit Program audits⁶, and the required annual financial statement audit and agreed upon procedures review.
 3. Oversee management's efforts to establish, maintain, and review processes that assure compliance by USAC with all applicable laws.
 4. Work with the head of the organization to ensure the Vice President, Audit and Assurance (i.e., Chief Audit Executive) reports ~~to a level within the organization (i.e., the Chief Executive Officer)~~functionally to the Audit Committee and administratively to the Chief Executive Officer ~~that to~~ allows the internal audit function to fulfill the internal audit mandate and ~~is be~~ provided with sufficient access and resources to achieve the audit plans while maintaining independence.
 5. Develop in consultation with the Vice President of Audit and Assurance and oversee the Strategic Internal Audit Plan to verify USAC's financial and operational integrity.

5.
6.

6. Provide insight and recommendations to establish cost-effective USF audit plans that include a focus on high-risk areas as identified through past audit results, ongoing organizational projects, risk management trends, and data analytics. -Also, assist USAC by recommending solutions to mitigate common audit findings and suggestions to build a more collaborative audit experience for USF participants.
7. Provide an avenue of communication between USAC's independent financial statement auditors, USAC management (including, but not limited to the Chief Executive Officer, the Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer, the Vice President and General Counsel, and the Vice President of each USAC programmatic division), the Vice President of Audit and Assurance, and the Board.

II. Audit Committee Composition, Appointment, and Meetings.

A. Composition

1. The Committee shall consist of five Board members:
 - a. At least one representative from each of the three programmatic committees of the Board (the High Cost & Low Income Committee, the Rural Health Care Committee, and the Schools & Libraries Committee). The Chairperson of the Audit Committee will serve as a member of the Executive Committee.
 - b. Two at-large Board members.
 - c. At least one Committee member shall have a background in financial reporting, accounting, or auditing, or other financial expertise.
2. Each member of the Committee shall meet each of the following independence requirements:
 - a. Is not and has not been employed in an executive capacity by USAC for at least five years prior to appointment to the Committee.
 - b. Is not an advisor or consultant to USAC and does not have a personal services contract or other business relationship with USAC.
 - c. Is not a spouse, parent, sibling, child, or in-law of any person described in the preceding two clauses of this paragraph or of any member of USAC management.

B. Appointment

1. The members of the Committee shall be appointed annually by the Board. Each member shall hold office until he/she resigns, is removed or until a successor is appointed by the Board.
2. The Board shall appoint one of the members of the Committee as Chair and another as Vice Chair.
 - a. The Chair or the Vice Chair shall have a background in financial reporting, accounting, or auditing, or other financial expertise.

C. Meetings

1. The Committee shall meet at least quarterly and at such other times as the Committee deems necessary.
2. The Committee shall, at least annually and at such other times as the Committee deems necessary, separately meet with USAC management, the Vice President of Audit and Assurance, and representatives of the independent financial auditing firm retained by USAC to discuss any matters that either the Committee or any of these groups believes should be discussed privately.
3. The Committee may direct any member of the Board, officer, or employee of USAC or advisor to USAC, including outside counsel or independent auditors, to attend a meeting of the Committee or to meet with any members of, or consultants to, the Committee. The Committee shall advise the Board of all such special meetings either prior to the meeting or promptly thereafter.

III. Responsibilities and Duties

A. Review of Documents, Reports, and Assessments

1. Review, at least annually, the adequacy of the Audit and Assurance Division Charter. Review and reassess, at least annually, the adequacy of the Committee Charter and make recommendations to the Board, as deemed necessary.
2. Review, in conjunction with management and representatives of the independent auditing firm retained by USAC, the annual financial statements and the audit reports included with those statements and the annual agreed upon procedures review report.
 - a. Discuss with management and the independent auditors significant issues regarding accounting principles, practices, and judgments.

- b. Discuss any significant judgments made in management's preparation of the financial statements and any significant difficulties encountered during the course of the review or audit, including any restrictions on the scope of work or access to required information.
- c. Discuss any significant exceptions in the agreed upon procedures review report.

3. Annually dDevelop in consultation with the Vice President of Audit and Assurance and approve a the annual Strategic Internal Audit Plan in consultation with the Vice President of Audit and Assurance. -In addition to projects outlined in the Strategic Internal Audit Plan, the Committee may from time to time request and / or approve additional specific operational and/or financial audits.

3.4. Develop in consultation with the Vice President of Audit and Assurance and approve, on a periodic basis, the Key Performance Objectives and Strategic Audit Plan.

4.5. Review USAC financial, operational and compliance audit reports prepared by the independent auditors or the Audit and Assurance Division and management's response thereto.

5.6. Review, at least annually, a summary report of common audit findings concerning Universal Service Fund beneficiary and contributor audits, supply chain audits, and payment quality assessments performed under the Universal Service Fund Beneficiary and Contributor Audit Program.

- a. Discuss audit results to highlight areas of high risk for consideration in developing future Universal Service Fund audit plans; identify FCC rules that may require revision to improve compliance among beneficiaries and contributors; and propose suggestions for improving audit efficiency among beneficiaries and contributors.
- b. Provide insight to the Audit and Assurance Division by providing suggested approaches to avoid common audit challenges and solutions to build a more collaborative audit experience for Universal Service Fund participants.

7. Review with management, the independent or external auditors, and the Vice President of Audit and Assurance any significant findings of the reports, management's response thereto, and any significant difficulties encountered during the course of the review or audit, including any restrictions on the objectives or scope of work or access to required information.

6.8. Review the results of both internal and external quality (peer review) assessments of AAD's compliance with the applicable audit standards.

Evaluate the corrective action plans developed to address any observations identified and monitor improvements.

B. Oversight of Independent Auditing Firm(s) Retained by USAC for the Annual Financial Statement Audit and Agreed-Upon Procedures Review

1. Initially select, periodically evaluate (at least annually), and replace as necessary the independent auditing firm(s) retained by USAC for the Annual Financial and Agree-Upon Procedures review, subject to the requirement to obtain the approval of the Board for expenditures in excess of the amount set forth in Section III.H.4. of this Audit Committee Charter, *provided*, however, that nothing herein shall affect the authority of the programmatic committees of the Board to select, evaluate, and replace independent auditing firms with respect to the audits of beneficiaries and contributors of the universal service support mechanisms when deemed necessary by the Committee or the Vice President of Audit and Assurance.
2. Oversee the independence of the independent auditing firm(s) retained by USAC by reviewing and discussing with each auditor a formal written statement concerning their independence and the nature of the relationship, if any, between the auditor and the USAC.
3. Approve any significant non-audit related services to be provided by an independent auditing firm retained by USAC.

C. Review and Oversight of USAC's Financial Reporting Process, Financial Statement Audit

1. Review the integrity of USAC's financial reporting process, at least annually, in consultation with: (i) the independent auditing firm(s) retained by USAC, (ii) the Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer, and (iii) the Chief Executive Officer.
2. Review significant changes to USAC's auditing and accounting principles and practices as suggested by an independent auditing firm retained by USAC, the Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer, or the Vice President of Audit and Assurance.
3. Require and timely review reports from the independent auditing firm(s) retained by USAC relating to the following:
 - a. All significant accounting policies and practices to be used.
 - b. All alternative disclosures and treatments of financial information within generally accepted accounting principles that have been discussed with management, including the ramifications of such alternative disclosures

and treatments and the treatment preferred by the independent auditing firm.

- c. Other written communications between the independent auditors and management, such as any management letter or schedule of adjusted differences.
- 4. Review and evaluate significant disagreements among USAC management and the independent auditing firm(s) retained by USAC and/or the Vice President of Audit and Assurance in connection with the preparation of the USAC financial statements and management's response thereto.
- D. Oversight of the Operational Reporting Process, Agreed-Upon Procedures Review
 - 1. In consultation with the independent auditing firm(s) retained by USAC and the Vice President of Audit and Assurance, review the integrity of internal controls and operating procedures and any exceptions identified in the agreed-upon procedures reviews.
 - 2. Review changes to USAC's internal controls or operating procedures and practices for consistency with suggestions of an independent auditing firm retained by USAC, management, or the Vice President of Audit and Assurance.
 - 3. Ensure and oversee timely reports from the independent auditing firm(s) retained by USAC to the Audit Committee.
 - 4. Review and evaluate significant disagreements among USAC management and the independent auditing firm(s) retained by USAC and/or the Vice President of Audit and Assurance in connection with the preparation of USAC's agreed upon procedures report and management's response thereto.
- E. Oversight of Audit and Assurance Division
 - 1. Review and approve the Audit and Assurance Division Charter, organizational structure, budget, activities, and significant changes to the Strategic Audit Plan, Key Performance Objectives, and Internal Audit Plan as needed.
 - 2. Review and approve the appointment, replacement, reassignment, or material changes in the role and/or responsibility of the Vice President of Audit and Assurance Division.
 - 3. Review the effectiveness of the internal audit activities, including compliance with Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS) as issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (as amended) and the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal

Auditing Global Internal Audit Standards issued by the Institute of Internal Auditors.

4. Review reports of whistleblower complaints received by the Vice President of Audit and Assurance. Such reports shall be prepared jointly by the Vice President of Audit and Assurance and USAC's Office of General Counsel.

F. Assessment of Internal Controls, Annual Report on Internal Controls

1. Review with management, the independent auditors, the Vice President of Audit and Assurance and the USAC Board of Directors, the effectiveness of the Company's process for assessing significant risks or exposures and the steps management has taken to minimize such risks and exposures to the Company.
2. Review with management, the independent auditors, and the Vice President of Audit and Assurance the adequacy of the Company's system of internal controls as noted in the Annual Report on Internal Controls as issued by the independent auditing firm.
3. Establish and maintain Monitor procedures for the following activities:
 - a. The receipt, retention, and treatment of complaints received by USAC regarding accounting, internal controls, operating procedures, or auditing matters.
 - b. The confidential, anonymous submission by employees of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.

G. Compliance With Applicable Law

1. In consultation with the Vice President and General Counsel, review at least annually any legal matters that could have a significant effect on the USAC's operations, financial statements, and reports received from regulators.
2. In consultation with the Vice President and General Counsel, review the processes established to assure compliance by USAC with all applicable laws.
3. Review the results of any investigations concerning waste, fraud, abuse, and/or accounting irregularities and make recommendations for remedial action, if appropriate.

H. Other Responsibilities of the Audit Committee

1. Periodically report to the Board through the Committee Chair or pursuant to other means acceptable to the Board.
2. Maintain minutes or other records of meetings and activities of the Committee.
3. Perform any other activities consistent with the Committee Charter, USAC's By-laws, and applicable laws, as the Committee or the Board deems appropriate.
4. When deemed appropriate by the Committee, the Committee will retain outside legal, accounting, or other advisors or consultants to advise and assist the Committee, without needing to seek approval for the retention of such advisors or consultants from the Board, *provided* that the cost is less than \$250,000 in any single calendar year. *-If the cost for such purpose exceeds \$250,000 in a calendar year, the Committee shall obtain Board approval before engaging or continuing to engage an outside advisor or consultant.*

IV. Limitations on Responsibilities and Duties of Audit Committee Members and Audit Committee

- A. The responsibility of the Committee is oversight. *-USAC management is responsible for the USAC financial statements as well as financial reporting processes, principles, and internal controls. The independent auditing firm(s) retained by USAC is/are responsible for performing audits of the annual financial statements, expressing an opinion as to the conformity of such annual financial statements with generally accepted accounting principles and other procedures.*
The independent auditing firm(s) is/also responsible for conducting the AUP review and reporting the results. The members of the Committee are not engaged in the accounting or auditing profession and, consequently, are not experts in matters involving auditing or accounting.
- B. Each member of the Committee shall be entitled reasonably to rely on the following:
 1. The integrity of those persons within USAC and the professionals and experts (such as the independent auditors) who provide professional advice and information to the Committee and/or USAC.
 2. The accuracy of the financial and other information provided to the Committee by such persons, professionals, or experts absent actual knowledge to the contrary.
- C. Pursuant to USAC By-Laws and FCC rules, the programmatic committees of the Board have the authority for the performance of audits of beneficiaries of the

respective support mechanisms and the full Board has the authority for the performance of audits of contributors to the Universal Service Fund and for Supply Chain audits. The Audit Committee shall provide advice and assistance to the programmatic committees in support of the primary role of the programmatic committees with respect to audits of beneficiaries and the Board with respect to audits of contributors.

V. Procedures for Discussing Matters in *Executive Session*

- A. In general, any USAC Board member may attend any meeting of the Committee, including ***Executive Sessions***, as an observer, even though the person is not a member of the Audit Committee. The exceptions to this general rule are as follows:
 1. Where the Board member is aware of an actual or potential conflict of interest with respect to a matter coming before the Committee in ***Executive Session***, he/she shall bring the matter to the attention of the Committee or, if the Committee is aware of the conflict of interest, the Committee or any member thereof may raise the issue for consideration. The Board member may self-recuse from the meeting or, upon the vote of the Committee, be excluded from the relevant portion of the ***Executive Session*** of the Committee meeting.
 2. Where a Board member seeking to attend an ***Executive Session*** of the Committee is aware of an actual or potential conflict of interest with respect to a matter coming before the Committee in ***Executive Session***, he/she shall bring the matter to the attention of the Committee or, if the Committee is aware of the actual or the potential conflict of interest, the Committee or any member thereof may raise the issue for consideration. Where disclosure and/or discussion of the specific issue or potential conflict of interest would compromise the integrity of the Universal Service Fund, the Committee shall exclude all persons other than Audit Committee members.
 3. Where the Committee wishes to meet with USAC's independent auditing firm, the Vice President of Audit and Assurance, the Vice President and General Counsel, the Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer, and/or other representatives to discuss or seek assurances concerning any significant difficulties encountered during the course of a review or audit, including any restrictions on the scope of work or access to required information, or matters of a similar nature, and/or engaged in the preliminary assessment of any investigation, the Committee may exclude Board members who are not members of the Committee from attending the relevant portion of the ***Executive Session*** of the Committee meeting.

**UNIVERSAL SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPANY
AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER**

January 2026

This charter is guided by the governance provisions in the Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards and the Global Internal Audit Standards.

I. Audit Committee Purpose, Duties, and Responsibilities.

- A. The Audit Committee (Committee) of the Board of Directors of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) shall assist the Board of Directors (Board) in fulfilling the Board's oversight responsibilities relating to corporate accounting, financial reporting practices, internal control over operations (internal controls), Universal Service Fund (USF) program integrity, and all aspects of corporate compliance with applicable law.
- B. The Committee's primary duties and responsibilities shall be as follows:
 1. Oversee management's efforts to maintain the reliability and integrity of USAC's accounting policies and financial reporting practices.
 2. Oversee management's efforts to establish, maintain, and review processes that assure that an adequate system of internal control is functioning within USAC through the execution of internal audits, Universal Service Fund Beneficiary and Contributor audits, Payment Quality Assessments, Supply Chain Audit Program audits, and the required annual financial statement audit and agreed upon procedures review.
 3. Oversee management's efforts to establish, maintain, and review processes that assure compliance by USAC with all applicable laws.
 4. Work with the head of the organization to ensure the Vice President, Audit and Assurance (i.e., Chief Audit Executive) reports functionally to the Audit Committee and administratively to the Chief Executive Officer to allow the internal audit function to fulfill the internal audit mandate and be provided with sufficient access and resources to achieve the audit plans while maintaining independence.
 5. Develop in consultation with the Vice President of Audit and Assurance and oversee the Internal Audit Plan to verify USAC's financial and operational integrity.
 6. Provide insight and recommendations to establish cost-effective USF audit plans that include a focus on high-risk areas as identified through past audit results, ongoing organizational projects, risk management trends, and data analytics. Also, assist USAC by recommending solutions to mitigate common

audit findings and suggestions to build a more collaborative audit experience for USF participants.

7. Provide an avenue of communication between USAC's independent financial statement auditors, USAC management (including, but not limited to the Chief Executive Officer, the Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer, the Vice President and General Counsel, and the Vice President of each USAC programmatic division), the Vice President of Audit and Assurance, and the Board.

II. Audit Committee Composition, Appointment, and Meetings.

A. Composition

1. The Committee shall consist of five Board members:
 - a. At least one representative from each of the three programmatic committees of the Board (the High Cost & Low Income Committee, the Rural Health Care Committee, and the Schools & Libraries Committee). The Chairperson of the Audit Committee will serve as a member of the Executive Committee.
 - b. Two at-large Board members.
 - c. At least one Committee member shall have a background in financial reporting, accounting, or auditing, or other financial expertise.
2. Each member of the Committee shall meet each of the following independence requirements:
 - a. Is not and has not been employed in an executive capacity by USAC for at least five years prior to appointment to the Committee.
 - b. Is not an advisor or consultant to USAC and does not have a personal services contract or other business relationship with USAC.
 - c. Is not a spouse, parent, sibling, child, or in-law of any person described in the preceding two clauses of this paragraph or of any member of USAC management.

B. Appointment

1. The members of the Committee shall be appointed annually by the Board. Each member shall hold office until he/she resigns, is removed or until a successor is appointed by the Board.
2. The Board shall appoint one of the members of the Committee as Chair and another as Vice Chair.

- a. The Chair or the Vice Chair shall have a background in financial reporting, accounting, or auditing, or other financial expertise.

C. Meetings

1. The Committee shall meet at least quarterly and at such other times as the Committee deems necessary.
2. The Committee shall, at least annually and at such other times as the Committee deems necessary, separately meet with USAC management, the Vice President of Audit and Assurance, and representatives of the independent financial auditing firm retained by USAC to discuss any matters that either the Committee or any of these groups believes should be discussed privately.
3. The Committee may direct any member of the Board, officer, or employee of USAC or advisor to USAC, including outside counsel or independent auditors, to attend a meeting of the Committee or to meet with any members of, or consultants to, the Committee. The Committee shall advise the Board of all such special meetings either prior to the meeting or promptly thereafter.

III. Responsibilities and Duties

A. Review of Documents, Reports, and Assessments

1. Review, at least annually, the adequacy of the Audit and Assurance Division Charter. Review and reassess, at least annually, the adequacy of the Committee Charter and make recommendations to the Board, as deemed necessary.
2. Review, in conjunction with management and representatives of the independent auditing firm retained by USAC, the annual financial statements and the audit reports included with those statements and the annual agreed upon procedures review report.
 - a. Discuss with management and the independent auditors significant issues regarding accounting principles, practices, and judgments.
 - b. Discuss any significant judgments made in management's preparation of the financial statements and any significant difficulties encountered during the course of the review or audit, including any restrictions on the scope of work or access to required information.
 - c. Discuss any significant exceptions in the agreed upon procedures review report.
3. Develop in consultation with the Vice President of Audit and Assurance and approve the annual Internal Audit Plan. In addition to projects outlined in the

Internal Audit Plan, the Committee may from time to time request and / or approve additional specific operational and/or financial audits.

4. Develop in consultation with the Vice President of Audit and Assurance and approve, on a periodic basis, the Key Performance Objectives and Strategic Audit Plan.
5. Review USAC financial, operational and compliance audit reports prepared by the independent auditors or the Audit and Assurance Division and management's response thereto.
6. Review, at least annually, a summary report of common audit findings concerning Universal Service Fund beneficiary and contributor audits, supply chain audits, and payment quality assessments.
 - a. Discuss audit results to highlight areas of high risk for consideration in developing future Universal Service Fund audit plans; identify FCC rules that may require revision to improve compliance among beneficiaries and contributors; and propose suggestions for improving audit efficiency among beneficiaries and contributors.
 - b. Provide insight to the Audit and Assurance Division by providing suggested approaches to avoid common audit challenges and solutions to build a more collaborative audit experience for Universal Service Fund participants.
7. Review with management, the independent or external auditors, and the Vice President of Audit and Assurance any significant findings of the reports, management's response thereto, and any significant difficulties encountered during the course of the review or audit, including any restrictions on the objectives or scope of work or access to required information.
8. Review the results of both internal and external quality (peer review) assessments of AAD's compliance with the applicable audit standards. Evaluate the corrective action plans developed to address any observations identified and monitor improvements.

B. Oversight of Independent Auditing Firm(s) Retained by USAC for the Annual Financial Statement Audit and Agreed-Upon Procedures Review

1. Periodically evaluate (at least annually) and replace as necessary the independent auditing firm(s) retained by USAC for the Annual Financial and Agree-Upon Procedures review, subject to the requirement to obtain the approval of the Board for expenditures in excess of the amount set forth in Section III.H.4. of this Audit Committee Charter, *provided*, however, that nothing herein shall affect the authority of the programmatic committees of the Board to select, evaluate, and replace independent auditing firms with

respect to the audits of beneficiaries and contributors of the universal service support mechanisms when deemed necessary by the Committee or the Vice President of Audit and Assurance.

2. Oversee the independence of the independent auditing firm(s) retained by USAC by reviewing and discussing with each auditor a formal written statement concerning their independence and the nature of the relationship, if any, between the auditor and the USAC.
3. Approve any significant non-audit related services to be provided by an independent auditing firm retained by USAC.

C. Review and Oversight of USAC's Financial Reporting Process, Financial Statement Audit

1. Review the integrity of USAC's financial reporting process, at least annually, in consultation with: (i) the independent auditing firm(s) retained by USAC, (ii) the Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer, and (iii) the Chief Executive Officer.
2. Review significant changes to USAC's auditing and accounting principles and practices as suggested by an independent auditing firm retained by USAC, the Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer, or the Vice President of Audit and Assurance.
3. Require and timely review reports from the independent auditing firm(s) retained by USAC relating to the following:
 - a. All significant accounting policies and practices to be used.
 - b. All alternative disclosures and treatments of financial information within generally accepted accounting principles that have been discussed with management, including the ramifications of such alternative disclosures and treatments and the treatment preferred by the independent auditing firm.
 - c. Other written communications between the independent auditors and management, such as any management letter or schedule of adjusted differences.
4. Review and evaluate significant disagreements among USAC management and the independent auditing firm(s) retained by USAC and/or the Vice President of Audit and Assurance in connection with the preparation of the USAC financial statements and management's response thereto.

D. Oversight of the Operational Reporting Process, Agreed-Upon Procedures Review

1. In consultation with the independent auditing firm(s) retained by USAC and the Vice President of Audit and Assurance, review the integrity of internal controls and operating procedures and any exceptions identified in the agreed-upon procedures reviews.
2. Review changes to USAC's internal controls or operating procedures and practices for consistency with suggestions of an independent auditing firm retained by USAC, management, or the Vice President of Audit and Assurance.
3. Ensure and oversee timely reports from the independent auditing firm(s) retained by USAC to the Audit Committee.
4. Review and evaluate significant disagreements among USAC management and the independent auditing firm(s) retained by USAC and/or the Vice President of Audit and Assurance in connection with the preparation of USAC's agreed upon procedures report and management's response thereto.

E. Oversight of Audit and Assurance Division

1. Review and approve the Audit and Assurance Division Charter, organizational structure, budget, activities, and significant changes to the Strategic Audit Plan, Key Performance Objectives, and Internal Audit Plan as needed.
2. Review and approve the appointment, replacement, reassignment, or material changes in the role and/or responsibility of the Vice President of Audit and Assurance Division.
3. Review the effectiveness of the internal audit activities, including compliance with Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS) as issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (as amended) and the Global Internal Audit Standards issued by the Institute of Internal Auditors.
4. Review reports of whistleblower complaints received by the Vice President of Audit and Assurance. Such reports shall be prepared jointly by the Vice President of Audit and Assurance and USAC's Office of General Counsel.

F. Assessment of Internal Controls, Annual Report on Internal Controls

1. Review with management, the independent auditors, the Vice President of Audit and Assurance and the USAC Board of Directors, the effectiveness of the Company's process for assessing significant risks or exposures and the steps management has taken to minimize such risks and exposures to the Company.

2. Review with management, the independent auditors, and the Vice President of Audit and Assurance the adequacy of the Company's system of internal controls as noted in the Annual Report on Internal Controls as issued by the independent auditing firm.
3. Monitor the following activities:
 - a. The receipt, retention, and treatment of complaints received by USAC regarding accounting, internal controls, operating procedures, or auditing matters.
 - b. The confidential, anonymous submission by employees of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.

G. Compliance With Applicable Law

1. In consultation with the Vice President and General Counsel, review at least annually any legal matters that could have a significant effect on the USAC's operations, financial statements, and reports received from regulators.
2. In consultation with the Vice President and General Counsel, review the processes established to assure compliance by USAC with all applicable laws.
3. Review the results of any investigations concerning waste, fraud, abuse, and/or accounting irregularities and make recommendations for remedial action, if appropriate.

H. Other Responsibilities of the Audit Committee

1. Periodically report to the Board through the Committee Chair or pursuant to other means acceptable to the Board.
2. Maintain minutes or other records of meetings and activities of the Committee.
3. Perform any other activities consistent with the Committee Charter, USAC's By-laws, and applicable laws, as the Committee or the Board deems appropriate.
4. When deemed appropriate by the Committee, the Committee will retain outside legal, accounting, or other advisors or consultants to advise and assist the Committee, without needing to seek approval for the retention of such advisors or consultants from the Board, *provided* that the cost is less than \$250,000 in any single calendar year. If the cost for such purpose exceeds \$250,000 in a calendar year, the Committee shall obtain Board approval before engaging or continuing to engage an outside advisor or consultant.

IV. Limitations on Responsibilities and Duties of Audit Committee Members and Audit Committee

- A. The responsibility of the Committee is oversight. USAC management is responsible for the USAC financial statements as well as financial reporting processes, principles, and internal controls. The independent auditing firm(s) retained by USAC is/are responsible for performing audits of the annual financial statements, expressing an opinion as to the conformity of such annual financial statements with generally accepted accounting principles and other procedures. The independent auditing firm(s) is/also responsible for conducting the AUP review and reporting the results. The members of the Committee are not engaged in the accounting or auditing profession and, consequently, are not experts in matters involving auditing or accounting.
- B. Each member of the Committee shall be entitled reasonably to rely on the following:
 1. The integrity of those persons within USAC and the professionals and experts (such as the independent auditors) who provide professional advice and information to the Committee and/or USAC.
 2. The accuracy of the financial and other information provided to the Committee by such persons, professionals, or experts absent actual knowledge to the contrary.
- C. Pursuant to USAC By-Laws and FCC rules, the programmatic committees of the Board have the authority for the performance of audits of beneficiaries of the respective support mechanisms and the full Board has the authority for the performance of audits of contributors to the Universal Service Fund and for Supply Chain audits. The Audit Committee shall provide advice and assistance to the programmatic committees in support of the primary role of the programmatic committees with respect to audits of beneficiaries and the Board with respect to audits of contributors.

V. Procedures for Discussing Matters in *Executive Session*

- A. In general, any USAC Board member may attend any meeting of the Committee, including ***Executive Sessions***, as an observer, even though the person is not a member of the Audit Committee. The exceptions to this general rule are as follows:
 1. Where the Board member is aware of an actual or potential conflict of interest with respect to a matter coming before the Committee in ***Executive Session***, he/she shall bring the matter to the attention of the Committee or, if the Committee is aware of the conflict of interest, the Committee or any member thereof may raise the issue for consideration. The Board member may self-

recuse from the meeting or, upon the vote of the Committee, be excluded from the relevant portion of the ***Executive Session*** of the Committee meeting.

2. Where a Board member seeking to attend an ***Executive Session*** of the Committee is aware of an actual or potential conflict of interest with respect to a matter coming before the Committee in ***Executive Session***, he/she shall bring the matter to the attention of the Committee or, if the Committee is aware of the actual or the potential conflict of interest, the Committee or any member thereof may raise the issue for consideration. Where disclosure and/or discussion of the specific issue or potential conflict of interest would compromise the integrity of the Universal Service Fund, the Committee shall exclude all persons other than Audit Committee members.
3. Where the Committee wishes to meet with USAC's independent auditing firm, the Vice President of Audit and Assurance, the Vice President and General Counsel, the Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer, and/or other representatives to discuss or seek assurances concerning any significant difficulties encountered during the course of a review or audit, including any restrictions on the scope of work or access to required information, or matters of a similar nature, and/or engaged in the preliminary assessment of any investigation, the Committee may exclude Board members who are not members of the Committee from attending the relevant portion of the ***Executive Session*** of the Committee meeting.

Audit Committee

Audit and Assurance Business Update

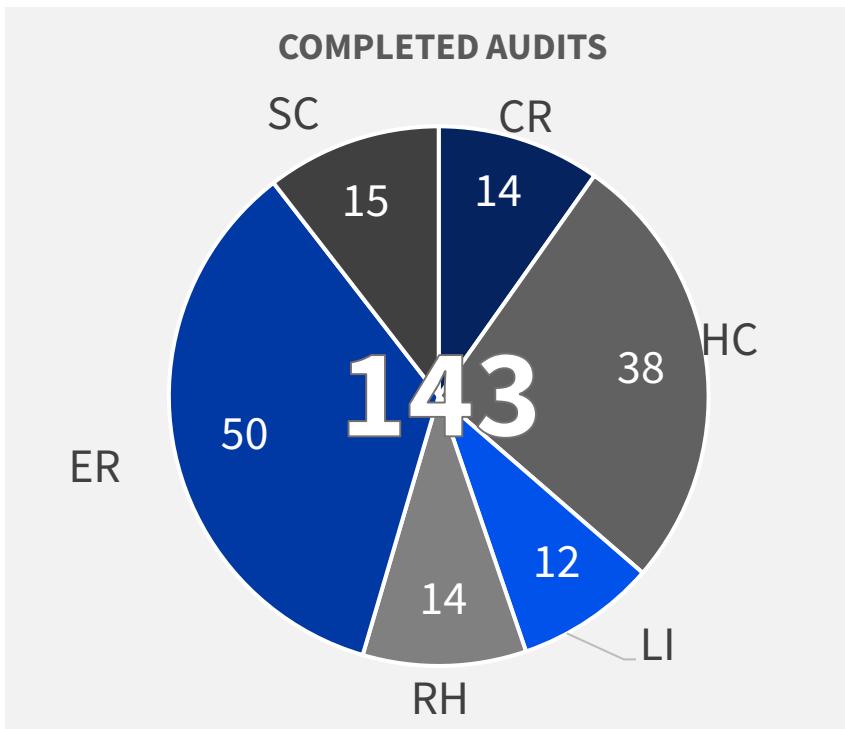
Open Session

January 26, 2026

Agenda

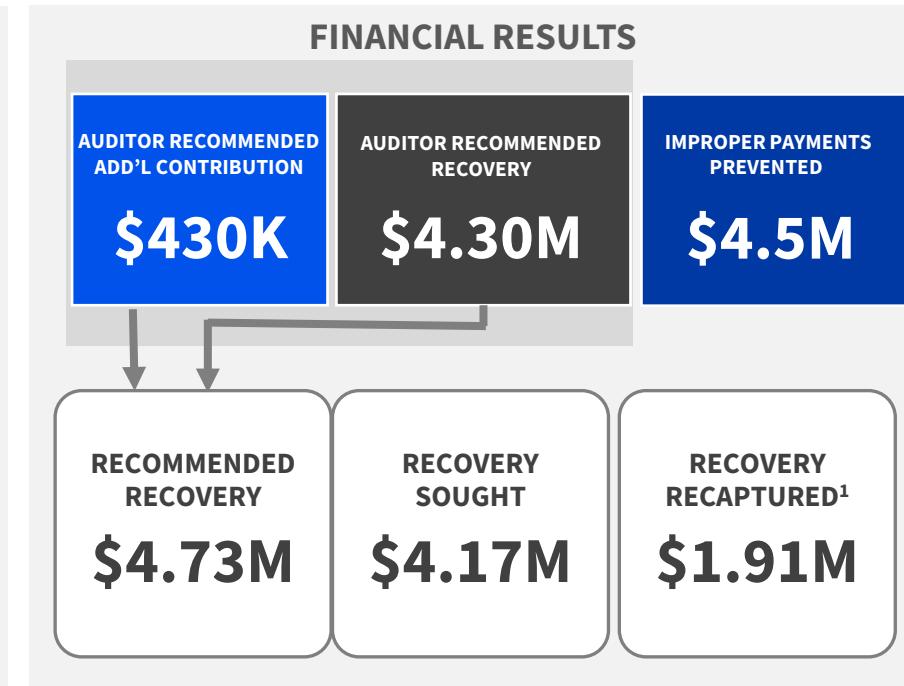
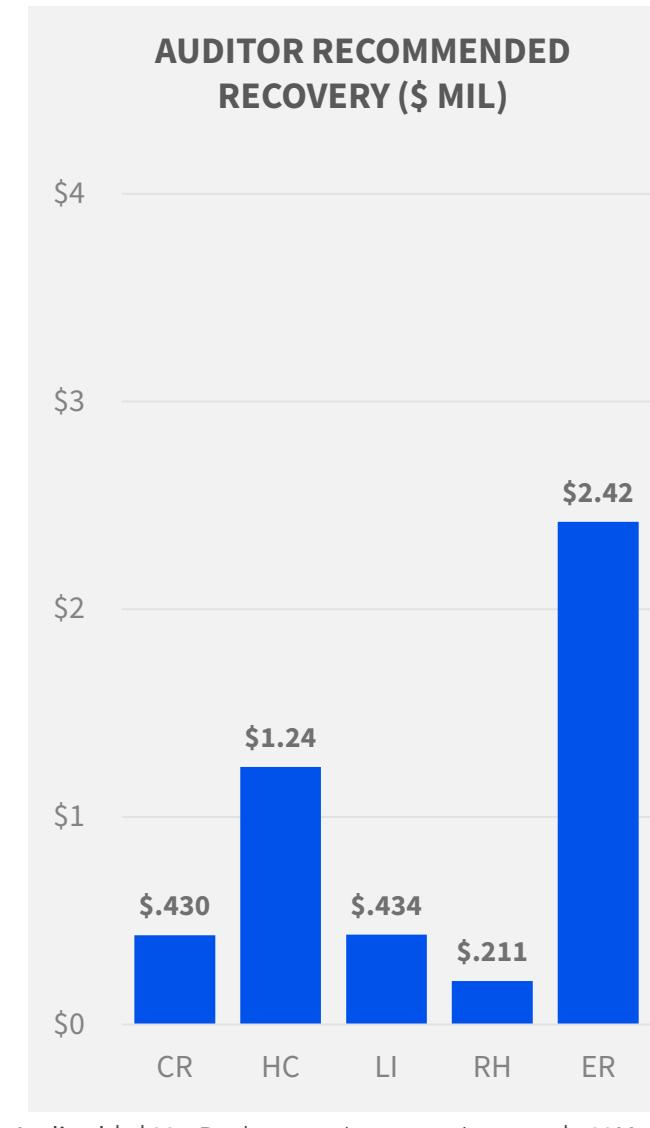
- 2025 Operational Results and Key Outcomes
- 2025 Year in Review
- 2026 Plans
- 2026 Audit Objectives
- Q1 2026 Plans
- Roadmap
- Appendices
 - A: BCAP Audits in Progress
 - B: BCAP Audits Aging Report
 - C: SCAP Audits in Progress
 - D: PQA Assessments in Progress
 - E: Glossary of Terms

Fiscal Year 2025 Operational Results



Supply Chain Disbursements Audited	
HC	\$128M
SL	\$5.2M
RHC	\$324K
2 Findings, \$0 Rec. Recovery	

Outsourced Costs	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 Closed Task Orders \$334K Savings to USAC due to oversight of vendors and in-depth invoice inspections 	



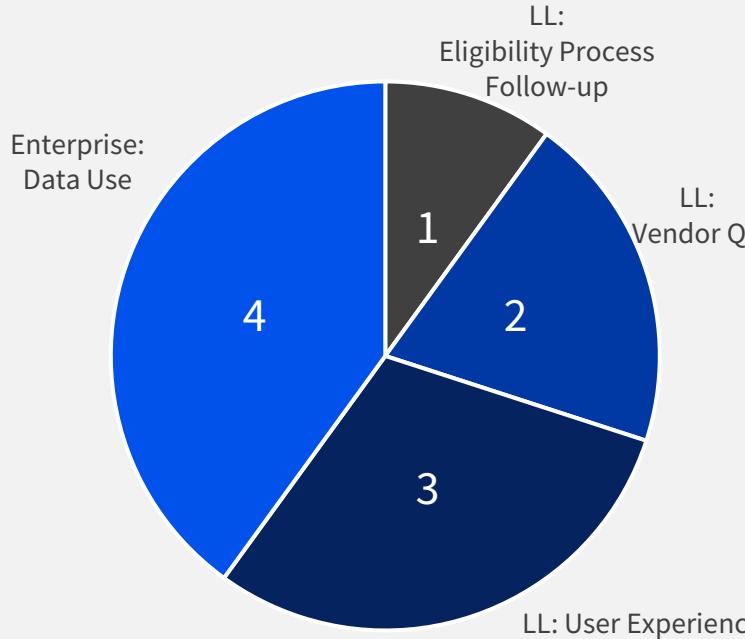
PQA IMPROPER PAYMENTS

Program	Assessments	Improper Payments
HC	150	\$2,236,629
LI	225	\$27,809
RH	N/A	N/A
E-Rate	N/A	N/A
Total	375	\$2,264,438

¹ \$1.693M collection in progress. \$112K appeal approved by USAC; thus, no recovery warranted. \$454K appeal in process. 3
Page 35 of 99

Calendar Year 2025 Key Outcomes

Number of Observations by Audit



Clean Audits (no audit findings)

Finance: Vendor Payment
Enterprise Process Improvement: Privacy Follow-up
High Cost: Manual Data Process

Data Use

- Implement a process for initiating and vetting new requests and follow up on completed requests to determine ongoing usage.
- Create policies and procedures to standardize the process for continuity.

Lifeline: Vendor QA Management

- Implement training for both USAC QA reviewers and BPO agents.
- Implement second-level supervisory review on a sample basis.

Lifeline: Eligibility Process Follow-Up

- Explore system enhancements that could be implemented related to duplicate address checking of pin-drop locations.

Lifeline: User Experience Follow-Up

- The remaining three corrective action plans relate to system enhancements that are included in the IT roadmap for 2026.

2025 Year in Review

Function	2025 Accomplishments
Beneficiary and Contributor Audit Program (BCAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Commenced 102 audits (14 CR, 30 HC, 15 LI, 1 ACP, 27 E-Rate, and 15 RHC).Completed 128 audits (14 CR, 38 HC, 12 LI, 50 E-Rate, and 14 RHC).<ul style="list-style-type: none">36 clean audits, 92 audits with findings (217 findings in total).Referrals to FCC EB/OIG: 1 – Lifeline.Submitted the Fiscal Year 2026 BCAP audit plan and updated audit procedures to the FCC.Attended SECA conference and E-Rate Fall Applicant Training to share key information about our BCAP and PQA processes, answer questions, and solicit feedback.Conducted webinars on the top common audit findings and provided key audit information for program integrity and outreach initiatives.Implemented Compliance and Audit Modernization Platform.Obtained a pass rating on the external Peer Review.Conducted GAGAS 2024 training for changes to the audit processes and updated policies and templates.

2025 Year in Review (Continued)

Function	2025 Accomplishments
Payment Quality Assurance (PQA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Completed fiscal year 2025 High Cost and Lifeline improper payment testing.Commenced fiscal year 2026 High Cost and Lifeline assessments.
Supply Chain Audit Program (SCAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Commenced 1 audit.Completed 15 audits.
Internal (IA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Completed all four primary audits and three follow-up audits on the 2025 Audit Committee (AC) approved Strategic Audit Plan.Coordinated the annual Agreed Upon Procedures (AUP).Coordinated the Peer Review of AAD's compliance with applicable audit standards.

2026 Plans

Function	2026 Plans
Beneficiary and Contributor Audit Program (BCAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Commence all audits in the fiscal year 2026 BCAP plan, including Connect America Fund (CAF) – Broadband Loop Support (CAF BLS) deployment obligation audits.Develop audit plan and procedures for Cybersecurity Pilot Program and CAF Phase II Auction audits.Revise audit procedures to address new FCC Orders and incorporate lessons learned for the 2027 BCAP plan.Conduct Annual Internal Quality AssessmentDevelop, train, and retain institutional knowledge.Q1 2026:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Complete 25 audits and commence 38 audits.Award three task orders and onboard BCAPx firms and statistical firm.Initiate sampling process for HC Modernized – CAF BLS audits.
Payment Quality Assurance (PQA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Complete improper payment testing for 148 High Cost assessments and 240 Lifeline assessments.Revise testing procedures to incorporate lessons learned for the 2027 PQA plan.Q1 2026<ul style="list-style-type: none">Announce the remaining 100 High Cost and 69 Lifeline assessments.

2026 Plans (Continued)

Function	2026 Plans
Supply Chain Audit Program (SCAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commence all audits in the fiscal year 2026 SCAP plan.• Q1 2026<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete 2 audits.• Award task order to audit firm and commence 10 audits.
Internal Audit (IA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commence all audits on the 2026 IA plan.• Coordinate the annual AUP.• Q1 2026<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish tracking mechanisms to monitor key performance objectives.

2026 Audit Objectives

The primary goal and objective of the Audit and Assurance Division is to preserve the integrity of the USF and USAC's corporate resources by conducting independent and objective audits, performing quality assessments, and evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness of USAC's operations.

Contributor Revenue

Continued focus on how filers classify assessable and non-assessable revenues on the FCC Form 499-A.

High Cost

Increase testing of deployment obligations/ performance and calculate the monetary effect of failures.
Commence audits for CAF BLS for deployment obligations.

Lifeline

Increase focus on how carriers identify, track, and report usage and ensure manual eligibility decisions are accurate.

E-Rate

Continued focus on testing Category 2 services, competitive bidding process, and invoicing.
Develop procedures for Cybersecurity Pilot Program.

Rural Health Care

Continued focus on rural and urban rates testing.

Supply Chain

Assess USF recipients' compliance with FCC requirements related to protecting the communication supply chain.

Internal Audit

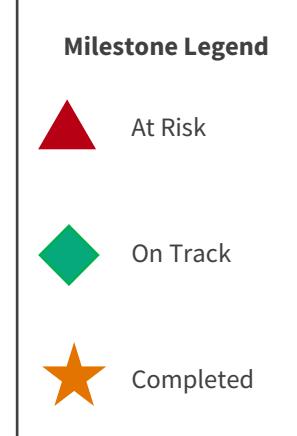
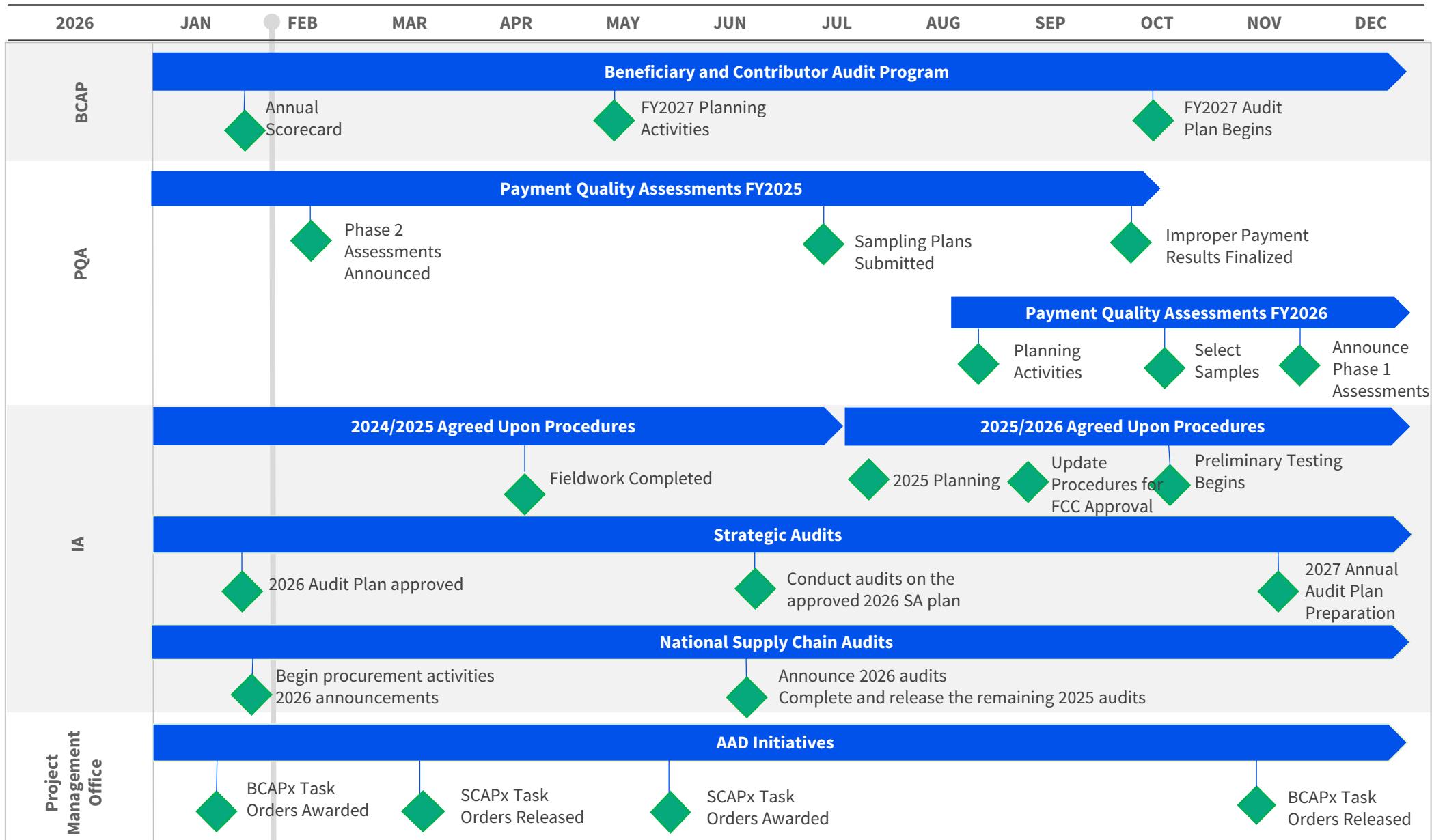
Evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of select USAC operations.
Assess compliance with FCC rules, laws, and policies and procedures.

Audit Modernization Tool

Consolidate systems, eliminate manual processes, support integrated data.

Roadmap

Available for Public Use



Appendix A: BCAP Audits in Process

The status of BCAP audits in process as of January 1, 2026

Program	Announced	Fieldwork	Reporting	Total
Contributor Revenue	0	13	15	28
High Cost	0	34	27	61
Lifeline	0	16	28	44
E-Rate	2	8	40	50
Rural Health Care	0	10	25	35
Total	2	81	135	218

Appendix B: BCAP Audits Aging Report

The aging report of BCAP audits in process as of January 1, 2026

Program	< 6 months	> 6 months	> 12 months	> 18 months	Total	Change from 10/01/2025
Contributor Revenue	8	6	4	10	28	5
High Cost	9	21	5	26	61	5
Lifeline	4	7	8	25	44	0
E-Rate	4	19	3	24	50	1
Rural Health Care	3	13	1	18	35	2
Total #	28	66	21	103	218	13
Total %	12.8%	30.3%	9.6%	47.2%	100.0%	
Reporting Phase	0	30	12	93	135	16

Note: For the 124 audits > 12 months, 2 are with the audited entity, 76 are with USAC (AAD, Program, General Counsel), 43 are with the FCC, and 3 are ready for the next release.

12

Appendix C: SCAP Audits in Process

The status of SCAP audits in process as of January 1, 2026

	Announced	Fieldwork	Reporting	Total
Supply Chain	0	7	4	11
Total	0	7	4	11

Note: Of the 11 entities audited, 3 received HC funds, 10 received E-Rate funds, and 6 received RHC funds. An entity may have received one or more types of USF funds.

Appendix D: PQA Assessments in Process

The status of PQA assessments in process as of January 1, 2026

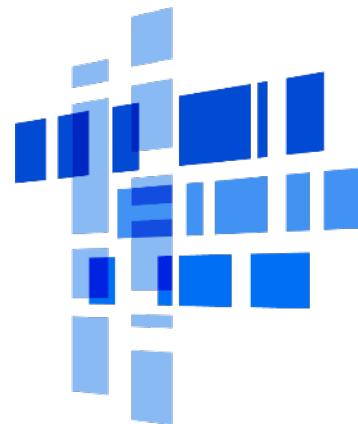
Program	Announced	Fieldwork	Completed	Total
High Cost	0	48	0	48
Lifeline	0	171	0	171
Total	0	219	0	219

Appendix E: Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
AAD	Audit and Assurance Division: An organization within USAC dedicated to preserving the integrity of universal service funds and USAC's corporate resources by conducting objective audits, performing payment quality assessments, and evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness of USAC's operations.
AUP	Agreed Upon Procedures: Annual review of USAC's operations conducted by an external audit firm.
BCAP	Beneficiary and Contributor Audit Program: BCAP assesses beneficiary and contributor compliance with Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules, orders, and program requirements (collectively, FCC Rules).
BCAPx or SCAPx	Beneficiary and Contributor Audit Program External Audits or Supply Chain Audit Program External Audits: BCAP or SCAP audits performed by outsourced (outside) audit firms.
CR	Contributor Revenue: Audits of Contributor Revenue filers.
E-Rate	Audits of E-Rate program participants.
HC	High Cost: Audits of High Cost program participants.
IA	Internal Audits: Internal Audits assess USAC's compliance with FCC Rules, policies and procedures, and the effectiveness and efficiency of internal operations.
LI	Lifeline: Audits of Lifeline program participants.

Appendix E: Glossary of Terms (Continued)

Term	Definition
PQA	Payment Quality Assurance: PQA assesses the accuracy of Universal Service Fund disbursements and determines whether improper payments exist and assists the FCC in meeting its reporting obligations subject to the Payment Integrity Information Act.
NECA	National Exchange Carrier Association. Created by the FCC to administer the FCC's access charge plan, which helps ensure telephone service remains available and affordable in all parts of the country.
RHC	Rural Health Care: Audits of Rural Health Care program participants.
SC or SCAP	Supply Chain or Supply Chain Audit Program: SCAP assesses program participant compliance with FCC rules, orders, and program requirements (FCC Rules) related to protecting the communications supply chain.
SECA	State E-Rate Coordinators' Alliance. Organization that provides training to schools and libraries.
USF	Universal Service Fund: The four universal service programs.



**Universal Service
Administrative Co.**