



FCC Form 481 Filing Guide

ETCs receiving support from the High Cost and Lifeline programs must file the FCC Form 481 on or before July 3, 2023.

For ETCs with rates below the benchmark, report rates and lines on [Rate Floor Data Collection Report and Certification](#) (see 47 C.F.R. Sections 54.313(h) and 54.318).

Before filing, review the [FCC Form 481 Instructions](#) (revised 2020). ETCs should complete sections of the FCC Form 481 [electronically in One Portal](#) as follows:

481 Section & Issue	High Cost Program Rule	Notes	Lifeline Program Rule	Lifeline Program Filers
Section 200: Outages	N/A	File voice outages for 2022 Do not file broadband outages (see DA 13-332, footnote 46)	54.422(b)(1)	54.422 only filings where Lifeline ETC is FCC- designated
Section 400: Complaints	N/A	File voice complaints for 2022.	54.422(b)(2)	54.422 only filings where Lifeline ETC is FCC- designated
Section 500: Quality and Consumer Protection Certification	N/A	Certify for voice and for broadband service.	54.422(b)(3)	54.422 only filings where Lifeline ETC is FCC- designated

Section 600: Emergency certification	54.313(a)(1)	Certify for voice and for broadband service	54.422(b)(4)	54.422 only filings where Lifeline ETC is FCC- designated
Section 800: Affiliates and D/B/A	54.313(a)(4)	Complete FCC Form 481 affiliates worksheet. Verify whether the holding company per the FCC Form 477 is accurate.	54.422(a)(1)	All ETCs that receive Lifeline Program support
Section 900: Tribal Engagement	54.313(a)(5)	For ETCs serving Tribal lands, complete FCC Form 481 Tribal engagement worksheet.	N/A	N/A
Section 1000: Voice and Broadband Service Rate Comparability	54.313(a)(2) and (a)(3)	Certify that voice and broadband rates are reasonably comparable. Identify most recent wireline survey (see Section 1000 in FAQ for details).	N/A	N/A
Section 1100: Satellite Backhaul	54.313(g)	Carriers compelled to rely exclusively on satellite backhaul must certify annually that no terrestrial backhaul options exist and that they are offering 1 Mbps/256 kbps broadband service within that area.	N/A	N/A
Section 1200: Lifeline Terms and Conditions	N/A	Terms and conditions of plans offered to Lifeline Program subscribers.	54.422(a)(2)	All ETCs that receive Lifeline Program Support
Section 2005: Frozen Support	54.313(c)(4)	Price cap carriers that received frozen support must certify that all support received in 2022 was used to build and operate broadband-capable networks to offer broadband in areas substantially unserved by an unsubsidized competitor.	N/A	N/A

Section 2005: CAF ICC Support	54.313(d)	Price cap carriers that received ICC support must certify that all support received in 2022 was used to build and operate broadband-capable networks to offer broadband in areas substantially unserved by an unsubsidized competitor.	N/A	N/A
Section 2005: CAF Phase II Support	54.313(e)	Price cap carriers that received CAF Phase II support must submit capital expenditures and a list of any community anchor institutions newly served in 2022.	N/A	N/A
Section 3005: Milestone Certification	54.313(f)(1)(i)	Rate-of-return filers must certify that they have taken reasonable steps to provide upon reasonable request broadband service that meets the Commission's public interest obligations and that requests for such service were met within a reasonable amount of time.	N/A	N/A
Section 3005: Community Anchor Institutions	54.313(f)(1)(ii)	Rate-of-return filers must provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the ETC began offering broadband service in the preceding calendar year.	N/A	N/A
Section 3005: Privately- held Rate of Return Financials	54.313(f)(2)	Privately held rate-of-return carriers must file financial information.	N/A	N/A

Section 4005: RBE Public Interest Obligations	FCC 14-98	RBE participants must certify that they offer broadband meeting the requisite public interest obligations, including speed, latency, usage capacity, and rates that are reasonably comparable to rates in urban areas.	N/A	N/A
Section 4005: RBE Community Anchor Institutions	FCC 14-98	RBE participants must provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the ETC began offering broadband service in the preceding calendar year.	N/A	N/A
Section 5005: Alaska Plan	54.313(f)(3) and 54.313(l)	Rate-of-return as well as wireless/CETC participants in the Alaska Plan are required to report additional information in the event terrestrial backhaul or other satellite backhaul became commercially available in the prior calendar year.	N/A	N/A
Section 6005: Phase II Auction Reporting	54.313(e)(2)(i)(B) and 54.313(e)(2)(ii)	Recipients of Phase II Auction support, including carriers in New York that receive Phase II auction support, must submit the total amount of support, they used for capital expenditures in 2022 and certify that the recipient has available funds for all project costs that will exceed the amount of support that will be received for 2023.	N/A	N/A
Section 7005: Phase-down Support Reporting		Carriers receiving support pursuant to §54.312(d) or §54.307(e)(2)(iii) are required to certify that all such support the company received in 2022 was used to provide voice service throughout the high-cost and extremely high-cost census blocks where they continue to have the federal high-cost ETC carrier obligation to provide voice service pursuant to §54.201(d) at rates that are reasonably comparable to comparable offerings in urban areas.	N/A	N/A

Section 8005: Capital Expenditures	54.313(e)(2)(i)(B)	Recipients of Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund Stage 2 fixed support must submit the total amount of support, if any, the recipient used for capital expenditures in 2022.	N/A	N/A
Section 8005: Available Funds Certification	54.313(e)(2)(ii)	Recipients of Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund Stage 2 fixed support must certify that they have available funds for all project costs that will exceed the amount of support that will be received for the next calendar year.	N/A	N/A
Section 8005: Community Anchor Institutions	54.313(e)(2)(i)(A)	Recipients of Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund Stage 2 fixed support must attach a list containing the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the eligible telecommunications carrier newly began providing access to broadband service in 2022	N/A	N/A
Section 8005: FCC Form 470 Postings	54.313(e)(2)(i)(C)	Recipients of Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund Stage 2 fixed support must indicate whether they bid on category one telecommunications and Internet access services in response to all FCC Form 470 postings for eligible schools and libraries (as described in § 54.501) located within any area in a census block where the carrier is receiving support, and that such bids were at rates reasonable comparable to rates charged to eligible schools and libraries in urban areas for comparable offerings.	N/A	N/A
Section 8005: Post-Final Deployment Milestone	54.313(e)(2)(iii)	After the Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund Stage 2 fixed support recipient meets its final service milestone until the July 1st after the support recipient's support term has ended, the recipient must indicate whether the Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund Stage 2-funded network that the support recipient operated in 2020 meets the relevant performance requirements in 47 C.F.R. § 54.309.	N/A	N/A

Section 8005: Fixed Support Reimbursement Certification	54.313(n)	Recipients of Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund Stage 2 fixed support must certify whether the support was used for costs that are (or will be) reimbursed by other sources of support.	N/A	N/A
Section 8005: Fixed Disaster Preparedness and Response Documentation	54.313(n)	Recipients of Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund Stage 2 fixed support must indicate if the carrier is compliant with 54.313(n) as required by 54.1515(a)-(c). Fixed support recipients are also required to certify annually to USAC that they have recently reviewed the Disaster Preparation and Response Plan and considered whether any changes or revisions were necessary.	N/A	N/A
Section 8005: Mobile Support Reimbursement Certification	54.313(n)	Recipients of Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund Stage 2 mobile support must certify whether the support was used for costs that are (or will be) reimbursed by other sources of support.	N/A	N/A
Section 8005: Mobile Disaster Preparedness and Response Documentation	54.313(n)	Recipients of Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund Stage 2 mobile support must indicate if the carrier is compliant with 54.313(n) as required by 54.1515(a)-(c). Fixed support recipients are also required to certify annually to USAC that they have recently reviewed the Disaster Preparation and Response Plan and considered whether any changes or revisions were necessary.	N/A	N/A
Section 8005: Mobile Disbursements Certification	54.313(o)	Recipients of Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund Stage 2 mobile support must certify compliance with all requirements for receipt of such support to continue receiving Stage 2 mobile disbursements.	N/A	N/A
Section 9005: Capital Expenditures	54.313(e)(2)(i)(B)	Recipients of Connect USVI Fund Stage 2 fixed support must submit the total amount of support, if any, the recipient used for capital expenditures in 2022	N/A	N/A

Section 9005: Available Funds Certification	54.313(e)(2)(ii)	Recipient of Connect USVI Fund Stage 2 fixed support must certify that the recipient has available funds for all project costs that will exceed the amount of support that will be received for the next calendar year.	N/A	N/A
Section 9005: Community Anchor Institutions	54.313(e)(2)(i)(A)	Recipients of Connect USVI Fund Stage 2 fixed support must attach a list containing the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the recipient began providing access to broadband service in 2022.	N/A	N/A
Section 9005: FCC Form 470 Postings	54.313(e)(2)(i)(C)	Recipients of Connect USVI Fund Stage 2 fixed support must indicate whether they bid on category one telecommunications and Internet access services in response to all FCC Form 470 postings for eligible schools and libraries (as described in § 54.501) located within any area in a census block where the carrier is receiving support, and that such bids were at rates reasonable comparable to rates charged to eligible schools and libraries in urban areas for comparable offerings.	N/A	N/A
Section 9005: Post-Final Deployment Milestone Performance Certification	54.313(e)(2)(iii)	After the Connect USVI Fund Stage 2 fixed support recipient meets its final service milestone until the July 1st after the support recipient's support term has ended, the recipient must indicate whether the Connect USVI Fund Stage 2-funded network that the support recipient operated in 2020 meets the relevant performance requirements in 47 C.F.R. § 54.309.	N/A	N/A
Section 9005: Fixed Support Reimbursement Certification	54.313(n)	Recipients of Connect USVI Fund Stage 2 fixed support must certify that support was not used for costs that are (or will be) reimbursed by other sources of support.	N/A	N/A

Section 9005: Fixed Disaster Preparedness and Response Documentation	54.313(n)	Recipients of Connect USVI Fund Stage 2 fixed support must indicate if the carrier is compliant with 54.313(n) as required by 54.1515(a)-(c). Fixed support recipients are also required to certify annually to USAC that they have recently reviewed the Disaster Preparation and Response Plan and considered whether any changes or revisions were necessary.	N/A	N/A
Section 9005: Mobile Support Reimbursement Certification	54.313(n)	Recipients of Connect USVI Fund Stage 2 mobile support must certify that support was not used for costs that are (or will be) reimbursed by other sources of support.	N/A	N/A
Section 9005: Mobile Disaster Preparedness and Response Documentation	54.313(n)	Recipients of Connect USVI Fund Stage 2 mobile support must indicate if the carrier is compliant with 54.313(n) as required by 54.1515(a)-(c). Mobile support recipients are also required to certify annually to USAC that they have recently reviewed the Disaster Preparation and Response Plan and considered whether any changes or revisions were necessary.	N/A	N/A
Section 9005: Mobile Disbursements Certification	54.313(o)	Recipients of Connect US Virgin Islands Fund Stage 2 mobile support must certify compliance with all requirements for receipt of such support to continue receiving Stage 2 mobile disbursements.	N/A	N/A
Section 10010: RDOF Capital Expenditures	54.313(e)(2)(i)(B)	Starting the first July 1st after receiving support until the July 1st after the recipient's support term has ended, recipients of Rural Digital Opportunity Fund support must submit the total amount of support, if any, the recipient used for capital expenditures in the previous calendar year.	N/A	N/A

<p>Section 10011: RDOF Available Funds Certification</p>	<p>54.313(e)(2)(ii)</p>	<p>Any recipient of Rural Digital Opportunity Fund support must provide a response to this certification request that the recipient has available funds for all project costs that will exceed the amount of support that will be received for the next calendar year. This certification must be provided starting the first July 1st after receiving support until the recipient's penultimate year of support.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Section 10012A: Rural Digital Opportunity Fund - Community Anchor Institutions</p>	<p>54.313(e)(2)(i)(A)</p>	<p>Recipients of Rural Digital Opportunity Fund support must attach a list containing the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the eligible telecommunications carrier newly began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Section 10012B: Community Anchor Institutions</p>	<p>54.313(e)(2)(i)(A)</p>	<p>If recipients of Rural Digital Opportunity Fund support responded yes to 10012B, the recipient must attach a document that contains the community anchor institution details.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>

<p>Section 10013: Rural Digital Opportunity Fund - FCC Form 470 Postings</p>	<p>54.313(e)(2)(i)(C).</p>	<p>For the filing due July 1st following full implementation of this requirement, please provide a response to this certification request. Recipients of Rural Digital Opportunity Fund must respond affirmatively that they bid on category one telecommunications and Internet access services in response to all FCC Form 470 postings seeking broadband service that meets the connectivity targets for the schools and libraries universal service support program for eligible schools and libraries (as described in § 54.501) located within any area in a census block where the carrier is receiving Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, and that such bids were at rates reasonable comparable to rates charged to eligible schools and libraries in urban areas for Instructions for Completing FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986 (High-Cost) OMB Control No. 3060-0819 (Low-Income) November 2020 Page 44 comparable offerings. This certification will not be required until the July 1st following the E-Rate program year that this obligation has been fully implemented. Modernizing the E-Rate Program for Schools and Libraries et al., WC Docket. Nos. 13-184, 10-90, 29 FCC Rcd 15538, 15566-67, para. 72 (2014).</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Section 10014: Rural Digital Opportunity Fund - Post-Final Deployment Milestone Performance Certification:</p>	<p>54.313(e)(2)(iii).</p>	<p>Starting the first July 1st after a Rural Digital Opportunity Fund support recipient meets its final service milestone until the July 1st after the support recipient's support term has ended, the recipient must provide a response that the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund-funded network that the support recipient operated in the prior year meets the relevant performance requirements in 47 C.F.R. § 54.309.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>