

A man and a child are standing in a field in front of a large wooden barn. The man is wearing a cap and a hoodie, and the child is wearing a denim jacket. The scene is set in a rural landscape with rolling hills in the background. The entire image has a blue color cast.

# FCC Form 481 Webinar: Program Year 2021 Updates

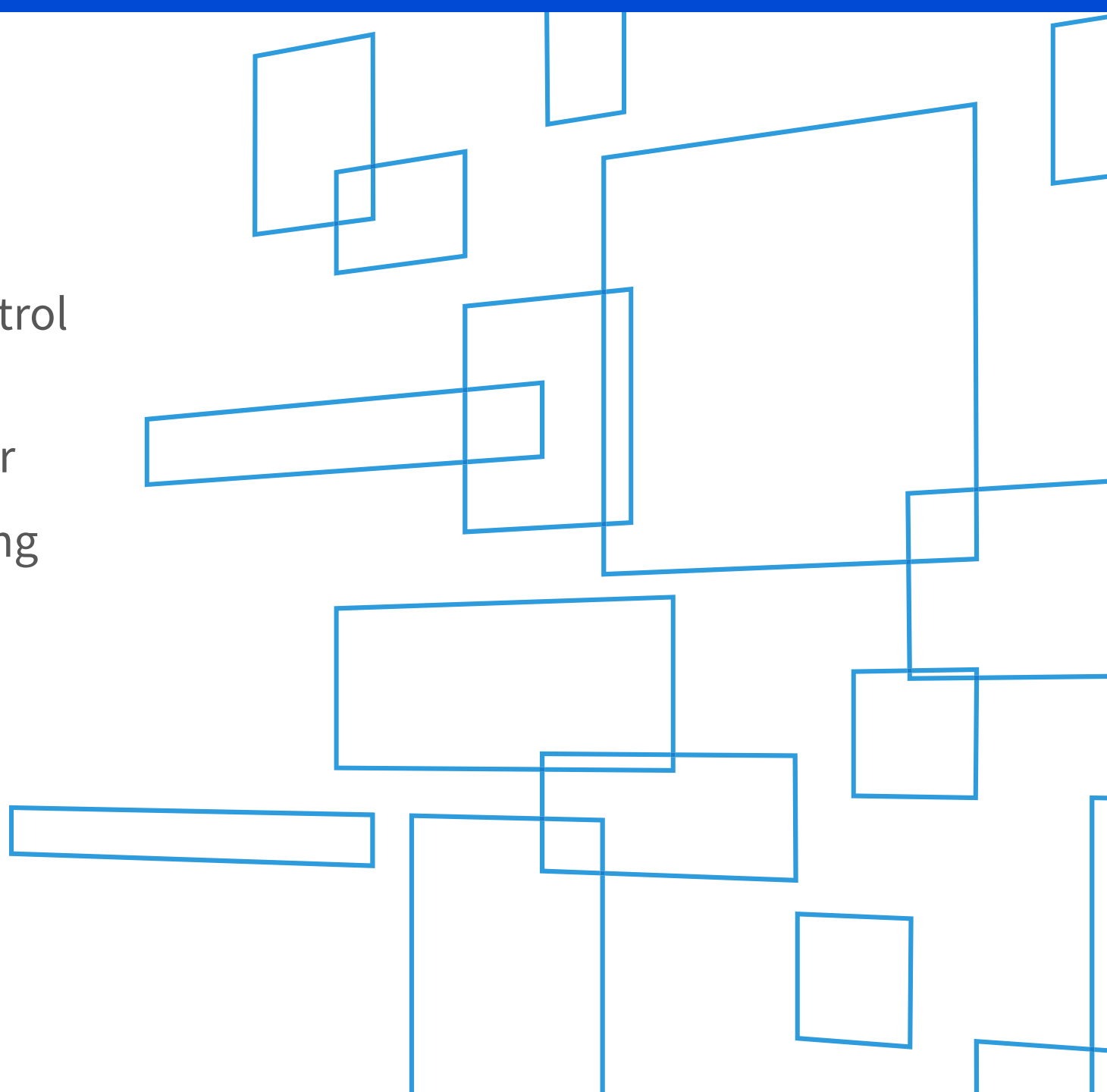
High Cost Program  
May 14, 2020



Universal Service  
Administrative Co.

## Housekeeping

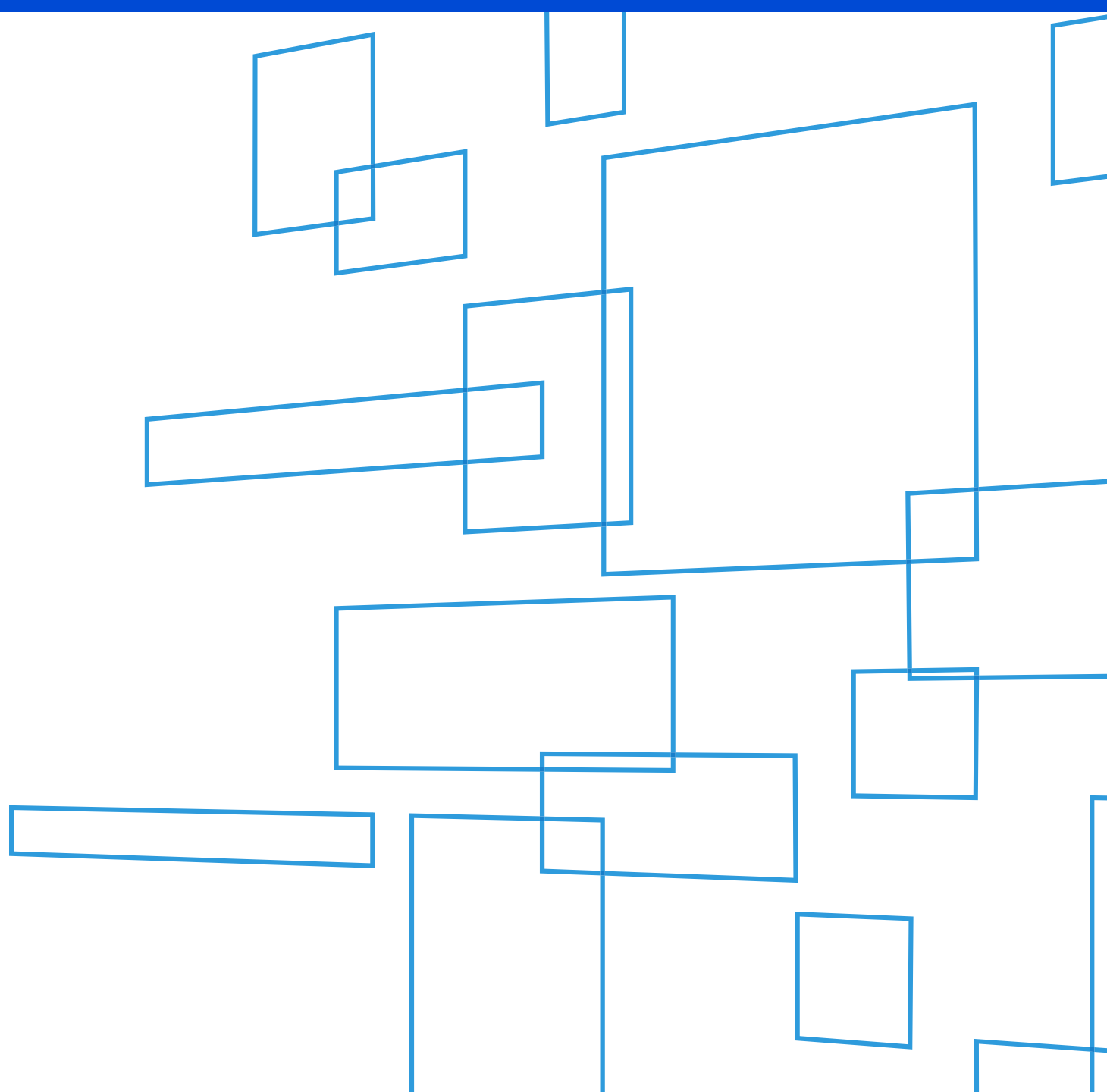
- Use the “Audio” section of your control panel to select an audio source
- Turn on your computer’s speaker, or
- Use the call-in instructions (including audio PIN)



# Welcome

Today's Speaker:

- **Elizabeth Pertsevoi**  
Senior Program Manager for User Support, High Cost



# 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 used to validate carrier support.
- Failure to file by the deadline may impact support. See 47 CFR 54.313.
- **Filing due date: July 1, 2020**

A man with a beard is shown in profile, looking at a tablet device. He is standing in a field of solar panels. The entire image has a blue color overlay. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

# FCC Form 481: New for Program Year 2021



Universal Service  
Administrative Co.

# Changes to Record Retention Policy

The record retention policy in the 481 system will be updated this year. The system will maintain all filings (Certified, Ready for Certification and Saved, Not Certified) for the current and previous two program years:

	Submission Period	Submitted Date	Status	Filing Period	Timeliness	Edit/Submit	View/Print	Download	Filing Number	Delete
[-]	2017 Submissions									
	2017	Apr 7, 2016	Certified	Open	On time	Revise			2	
	2017		Ready For Certification	Open		Update			4	
	2017		Saved Not Certified	Open		Update			6	Delete
	2017		Saved Not Certified	Open		Update			5	
[+]	2016 Submissions									

It will maintain only certified filings for earlier years. This policy will go into effect after the July 1, 2020 deadline so that carriers may save any filings they would like to maintain.

# NEW SECTION: (6005) Phase II Auction Reporting

---

- Recipients of Connect America Fund Phase II Auction (CAF II Auction) support, including carriers in New York, must complete section 6005.
- This section requires these carriers to:
  - submit the total amount of support, if any, used for capital expenditures in the previous calendar year, and
  - 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.

# NEW SECTION: (7005) Phase-Down Support Reporting

---

- Any price cap carrier or fixed competitive ETC receiving transition support that is being phased down must complete section 7005.
- Carriers that elected to continue receiving support pursuant to §54.312(d) or §54.307(e)(2)(iii) **must certify** that they used the-support received in the previous year to provide voice service throughout the high-cost and extremely high-cost census blocks where they have a public interest obligation to provide voice service at rates that are reasonably comparable to those in urban areas, pursuant to §54.201(d).



A man with a beard is shown in profile, looking at a tablet device. He is standing in a field of solar panels. The entire image has a blue color overlay.

# FCC Form 481: Resources to Assist Carriers



Universal Service  
Administrative Co.

# Form 481 Resources

---

**Resources to help carriers complete Form 481:**

<https://www.usac.org/high-cost/resources/forms-and-filing-deadlines/>

**Resources include:**

Online Filing User Guide

FAQs

Upload Templates

Filing Videos

# Form 481 Resources

---

<https://www.usac.org/high-cost/resources/forms-and-filing-deadlines/>

## FCC Form 481

[Log in to E-File](#)

[Form 481 Form Template !\[\]\(cbe80b694ebd74fcfe136a095b608235\_img.jpg\) – DRAFT](#)

[Form 481 Instructions !\[\]\(a03a7eb2f4046e1d3c76772003e549ea\_img.jpg\) – DRAFT](#)

[Form 481 User Guide !\[\]\(cbe2492b119e39e02a1dab2af4a4b296\_img.jpg\)](#)

[Form 481 Filing Guide !\[\]\(e474458956c9a37fbf9586ddb60a7fa1\_img.jpg\)](#)

[Form 481 FAQs](#)

[Form 481 Videos](#)

[Form 481 Upload Templates](#)

## Due Date

July 1, 2020

## Who Must File

All carriers

[Learn more](#)

# Form 481 Resources

---

## FCC Form 481 Online Filing User Guide

- Steps to start a new filing or continue a pre-existing filing
- Information on how to populate the form, including:
  - Overview of each line item and possible answers
  - Instructions on how to attach files and upload data using upload templates
  - Explanation of how to populate the dynamic tables manually
- Instructions on how to certify a filing

# Form 481 Resources



Introduction

1:06 minutes



Overview of the FCC Form 481 Online System

8:07 minutes



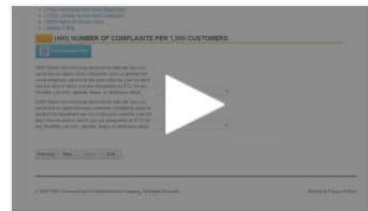
Carrier Contact Information

0:44 minutes



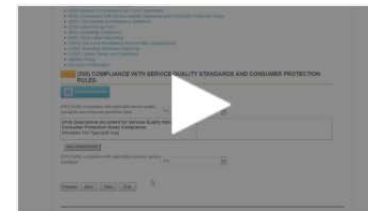
(200) Service Outage Reporting (Voice)

3:15 minutes



(400) Number of Complaints per 1,000

2:30 minutes



(500) Compliance With Service Quality Standards

1:06 minutes

[Load More](#)

# Form 481 Resources

## Form 481 Filing Guide

481 Section & Issue	High Cost Program Rule	Notes	Lifeline Program Rule	Lifeline Program Filers
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 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

# High Cost Support Center

---

1-844-357-0408

[HCQuestions@USAC.org](mailto:HCQuestions@USAC.org)

**Questions?**

